

RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Local Authorities must comply with a number of legislative requirements regarding the location and accessibility of Polling Districts and Polling Places. The mandatory review process comprises a number of specified steps set out in Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983, which include a public consultation.

The last review for Plymouth City Council was conducted in 2013. A full polling place and polling district review will now be conducted over the next 16 months.

The review will consider any representations from local residents and stakeholders in the city, including any issues regarding access to premises or facilities for persons with disabilities. Any elector can make their views known and the process for doing so will be publicised. In addition, the review will consider the impact of the next four years' worth of planned residential developments on existing electoral arrangements.

In encouraging views, it is of course the case that the availability of suitable polling places is the key determining factor in the makeup of polling districts. Therefore, in asking for comments, we will request that alternative proposals should include suggestions for polling station locations.

It is the Returning Officer's role to select the polling stations. It will be Full Council which will make the decisions on any proposed changes to polling districts or polling places. The final scheme for polling arrangements will be adopted by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Council's constitution.

The polling districts, polling places and polling stations finally decided on will be used for the May 2020 local and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

Scope of the review

Plymouth is divided into 116 polling districts each associated with one of 114 polling stations (two of those polling stations are double). Polling districts, geographic subdivisions of each ward, as well as polling stations for each of those districts are within the scope of this review. The review is considering the continued suitability of the existing arrangements and, when necessary, will make proposals for:

- The creation or removal of districts,
- "Change" or "no change" to the boundaries between districts,
- "Change" or "no change" to the referencing of those districts,
- "Change" or "no change" to the polling stations within those districts.

Not in scope

City ward boundaries and parliamentary constituency boundaries are not in scope of this review. The legislation requires that ward boundaries are reviewed by the Electoral Commission, not by Local

Authorities themselves. We do not have a mandate to suggest alterations to the boundaries between the wards.

The review will not be able to consider comments regarding local authority boundaries, neighbouring parliamentary constituencies, the names of local authorities or other electoral areas within or bordering Plymouth City.

Glossary of terms

Polling District - A polling district is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area.

Polling Place - A polling place is the area in which the Returning Officer selects the polling station. In Plymouth, polling places represent the same area as the polling district to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located.

Polling Station - The polling station is the room or building where the poll takes place.

Accessing information

The report presents information for each ward of the city. These are presented in alphabetical order and are listed in a contents table on page 3.

In order to illustrate those recommendations for each ward, maps of the existing arrangements as well as maps of our proposed arrangements are available on our polling station page:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/votingandelections/pollingdistrictreview2018>

In the polling district information tables provided for each ward, the word “Electorate” refers to the total number of registered voters in the district, as of August 2018.

In the polling station information tables provided for each ward, the expression “Polling Station Electorate” refers to the total number of registered voters in the district who have opted to attend a polling station to vote, as of August 2018. This figure excludes electors from the district who may have opted to vote by other means. This figure informs us of the maximum number of electors who may attend the polling station on polling day.

ST PETER AND THE WATERFRONT WARD**Existing Polling districts**

| Polling district | Polling Station | Electorate ¹ | Recommendations |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| NA | St. Jude's Church Hall | 656 | Change of boundaries with district NB |
| NB | The Burgess Hall | 2,408 | Change of boundaries with district NA |
| NC | St. Andrew's C of E Primary School | 1,662 | Change of boundaries with district NG |
| ND | St. Paul's Church Hall | 1,008 | No change |
| NE | High Street Primary Academy | 1,736 | No change |
| NF | Howesons in St. Peter's Church | 1,284 | Merger with district NG |
| NG | Frederick Street Centre | 1,041 | Merger with district NF |
| NH | Pilgrim Primary School | 1,347 | Change of boundaries with district NB |

Existing Polling Stations

| Polling district | Polling Station | Polling station electorate ² | Disabled access | Recommendations |
|------------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| NA | St. Jude's Church Hall | 554 | Yes | Replacement |
| NB | The Burgess Hall | 1,931 | Yes | No change |
| NC | St. Andrew's C of E Primary School | 1,293 | Yes | No change |
| ND | St. Paul's Church Hall | 800 | Yes | No change |
| NE | High Street Primary Academy | 1,425 | Yes | Replacement |
| NF | Howesons in St. Peter's Church | 1,095 | Yes | No change |
| NG | Frederick Street Centre | 822 | Yes | Decommissioning |
| NH | Pilgrim Primary School | 1,157 | Yes | No change |

¹ Total number of registered electors in the district.

² Number of registered electors in the district who have opted to vote at a polling station.

Recommendations**District NA and NB – Change of district boundaries****St Jude's Church Hall – Replacement of Polling Station**

The polling station at St Jude's Church Hall is outside of ward boundaries, which is a situation that must be avoided unless in extreme circumstances. Currently, the polling station caters for a small number of electors. Suitable alternative are being investigated in the new district. We welcome suggestions from residents for alternative polling stations in the new district.

The district is very small, and is adjacent to one much larger. In order to balance the number of electors between the two districts, and to cater for a likely increase of population in both wards, a change of district boundaries is proposed.

The current district NA would merge with the north of district NB. A new polling station in the current district NB would need to be identified and secured, but this part of the district presents many opportunities to identify an accessible polling station.

The new boundaries of an enlarged district NA would run along Exeter Street and Royal Parade to the south. The boundary to the west of the new district NA would run along western approach, Market Avenue and Raleigh Street. The north boundary would follow Cobourg Street, Regent Street and Tothill Avenue. The eastern boundary would follow St Jude's Road.

Residents of the following streets would now join district NA and vote at a location yet to be identified in the new district:

- Courtenay Street,
- New George Street,
- Cornwall Street,
- Mayflower Street and
- Old Town Street.

High Street Primary Academy – district NE – Replacement of Polling Station

In order to minimise, wherever possible, the use of schools during elections, a change of polling station is proposed. The new proposed polling station would now be the Millfield Trust's HQ Business Centre on Union Street. The Millfield Trust's HQ Building is conveniently located on a main road, with excellent public transport link, and a car park with disabled spaces. The proposed polling station would be located on the first floor of the building. A lift is available for residents with restricted mobility. This venue is central to the district, located less than 0.3 miles away from the current polling station.

District NG and NH - Change of district boundaries

To facilitate access to a polling station to residents on the south eastern side of Western Approach, a change of district boundaries is proposed. Residents of the following streets would now join the current district NH and vote at Pilgrim Primary School:

- Colin Campbell Court,
- Morley Court
- Harwell Court and
- any residents in the flats adjacent to the Colin Campbell Court car park.

District NG and NC – Change of district boundaries

To facilitate access to a polling station to residents on the south side of Union Street, a change of district boundaries is proposed between district NG and NC. Residents of the following streets would now join district NC and vote at St Andrews C of E Primary School:

- Martin Street,
- the east of Sawrey Street,
- Bath Lane,
- Bath Place and
- the east of Millbay Road.

District NG and NF – Merger of the two districts

In order to minimise the number of polling stations, the merger of district NG and NF are recommended. The polling station for current district NF, Howesons in St Peter's Church would be retained as the polling station for this enlarged district.

The resulting district would now be referenced NF.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations

| New Polling district | New Polling Station | Address | Estimated Electorate ¹ | Estimated Polling station electorate ² |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| NA | Alternative Polling Stations are being investigated as a replacement to St Jude's Church | | 703 | 598 |
| NB | The Burgess Hall | Notte Street, PL1 2HG | 2,349 | 1,877 |
| NC | St. Andrews C of E Primary School | Citadel Road, PL1 3AY | 1,657 | 1,287 |
| ND | St. Pauls Church Hall | Durnford Street, PL1 3QW | 1,008 | 800 |
| NE | The Millfield Trust HQ Business Centre | Union Street, PL1 3HQ | 1,736 | 1,425 |
| NF | Howesons in St. Peters Church | Wyndham Square, PL1 5EG | 2,133 | 1,795 |
| NG | Pilgrim Primary School | Oxford Street, PL1 5BQ | 1,530 | 1,261 |

¹ Total number of registered electors in the district.

² Number of registered electors in the district who have opted to vote at a polling station.