

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.

BUDSHEAD WARD**Existing Polling Districts**

| Polling district | Polling Station | Electorate ¹ | Recommendations |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| EA | Mobile Unit at Canterbury Drive | 1,415 | No change |
| EB | St. Peters RC Primary School | 1,447 | No change |
| EC | Bethany Evangelical Church | 1,066 | No change |
| ED | Salvation Army Community Hall | 1,410 | No change |
| EE | Mobile Unit at Kirkwall Road | 739 | No change |
| EF | Manadon Masonic Hall | 854 | No change |
| EG | Derriford United Reformed Church Hall | 2,690 | No change |

Existing Polling Stations

| Polling Station | Polling district | Polling station electorate ² | Disabled access | Recommendations |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------|-----------------|
| Mobile Unit at Canterbury Drive | EA | 1,143 | Yes ³ | No change |
| St. Peters RC Primary School | EB | 1,204 | Yes - ramped | No change |
| Bethany Evangelical Church | EC | 881 | Yes | No change |
| Salvation Army Community Hall | ED | 1,117 | Yes | No change |
| Mobile Unit at Kirkwall Road | EE | 554 | Yes ³ | Replacement |
| Manadon Masonic Hall | EF | 684 | Yes | No change |
| Derriford United Reformed Church Hall | EG | 2,153 | 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.

³ Although mobile polling stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to inherent characteristics of mobile units, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area.

Recommendations**District EC and ED – Alterations to district boundaries**

In order to facilitate access to a polling station for most residents, a small alteration to the boundaries between district EC and ED are suggested.

The residents of the south eastern side of Taunton Avenue, in the portion of the road between Woodfield Primary School and the junction with Lancaster Gardens would now vote at Bethany Evangelical Church in district EC.

Mobile Unit at Canterbury Drive in district EA – No change

This review investigates opportunities to remove mobile polling stations whenever circumstances allow. However, this must be balanced against the necessity to provide accessible and convenient polling stations that meet the specific needs of each ward. This mobile polling stations serves a substantial number of electors in a part of the ward where no alternatives could be identified. The review therefore does not recommend a change unless alternative polling arrangements are put forward.

Mobile Unit at Kirkwall Road in district EE - Replacement of polling station

Although mobile polling stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to inherent characteristics of mobile units, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area. The review therefore investigates opportunities to remove mobile polling stations whenever circumstances allow. However, this must be balanced against the necessity to provide accessible and convenient polling stations that meet the specific needs of each ward.

An alternative polling station has been identified and will be further investigated at the Crownhill Community Centre. The Centre is within the polling district, 0.6 miles away from the current polling station. The centre is located on the north east side of Budshead Road. Electors from the south side of Budshead Road would have to cross this main road to access this proposed polling station. The Centre is accessible by public transport and by car, and offers excellent facilities, including disabled car parking spaces.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations

| New Polling district | New Polling Station | Address | Estimated Electorate ¹ | Estimated Polling station electorate ² |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| EA | Mobile Unit at Canterbury Drive | At junction with Budshead Road, PL5 4HH | 1,415 | 1,143 |
| EB | St. Peters RC Primary School | Brentford Avenue, PL5 4HD | 1,447 | 1,204 |
| EC | Bethany Evangelical Church | Budshead Road, PL5 4DT | 1,078 | 891 |
| ED | Salvation Army Community Hall | Whitleigh Court, PL5 4AA | 1,397 | 1,106 |
| EE | Crownhill Family Centre | Crownhill Fort Road, PL6 5BX | 739 | 554 |
| EF | Manadon Masonic Hall | Tavistock Road, PL6 5EL | 854 | 684 |
| EG | Derriford United Reformed Church Hall | Powisland Drive, PL6 6AB | 2,690 | 2,153 |

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.