

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.

PEVERELL WARD**Existing Polling Districts**

Polling district	Polling stations	Electorate ¹	Recommendations
KA	St. Gabriel The Archangel Church	2,675	Alterations to district boundaries
KB	St. Edwards Church Hall	2,021	Alterations to district boundaries
KC	Montpelier Primary School	2,378	Alterations to district boundaries
KD	Pennycross Methodist Church Hall	2,193	Alterations to district boundaries
KE	Trinity United Reformed Church Hall	1,157	Alterations to district boundaries

Existing Polling Stations

Polling district	Polling stations	Polling station electorate ²	Disabled access	Recommendations
KA	St. Gabriel The Archangel Church	2,191	Yes	No change
KB	St. Edwards Church Hall	1,674	Yes – temporary ramp	No change
KC	Montpelier Primary School	1,850	Yes	Replacement
KD	Pennycross Methodist Church Hall	1,855	Yes	Replacement
KE	Trinity United Reformed Church Hall	931	Yes – temporary ramp	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 KA and KB – changes to district boundaries**

The boundary between district KA and KB would move northwards to include more residents into district KB. Residents of the following streets would move to district KB and vote at St Edward's Church on Home Park Avenue:

- Elim Terrace,
- Hawkers Lane,
- Trelorin Gardens and
- Verden Close.

Residents of the whole of Weston Park Road would remain in district KB.

Residents of Wesley Avenue and Wesley Cottages would remain in district KA and vote at St Gabriel the Archangel on Peverell Terrace.

District KB and KD – changes to district boundaries

The boundary between district KD and KB would move northwards to include more residents into district KB. Residents of Bickham Park Road and Burleigh Park Road would move to district KB and vote at St Edwards' Church Hall. Residents of Torr View Avenue, Pounds Park Road and St Martin's Avenue would remain in district KD and vote at Holy Family Church on Beacon Park Road.

District KB and KE – changes to district boundaries

The boundary between district KE and KB would move northward to include more residents into district KB. Residents of Pine Gardens would now join district KB and vote at St Edward's Church on Home Park Avenue.

District KC and KD – changes to district boundaries

In order to ensure the new polling stations are central to the districts, the following alterations to the district boundaries are suggested.

The boundaries between ward district KC and KD would move southwards to include more residents into ward district KD. Residents of the following streets would move to district KD and vote at Holy Family Church on Beacon Park Road:

- Beaconfield Road,
- Elmcroft,
- Birchfield Avenue,
- Oakcroft Road,
- Fircroft Road,
- Cedarcroft Road,
- Beehcroft Road,
- St Boniface Drive,
- Beacon Park Rd (No. 186 to No. 200),
- Belair Villas,
- St Boniface Close and
- Vaughan Close.

Residents of Montpelier Road, Elphinstone Road and all road adjacent to these would remain in district KD and vote at Holy Family Church on Beacon Park Road.

Residents of Northdown Road, Parker Road, Lyndhurst Road, and all roads south of these would remain in district KC and vote at St Bartholomew on Outland Road.

District KD and KE – changes to district boundaries

The boundary between district KD and KE would move northwards to include more residents into districts KE. The new boundary would now run along the west side of West Park Road. Residents of Limetree Road and Chestnut Road would now join district KE and vote at the Trinity United Reformed Church on Torr Lane.

Montpelier Primary School in district KC - Replacement of polling station

The last elections brought about comments regarding the continued suitability of this polling station due to the limited size of the polling room and the impact of the poll on the running of the school.

This report proposes to move the polling station to St Bartholomew on Outland Road in the south of the district. St Bartholomew is located 0.5 miles away from the current polling station. Although this proposed polling station is not central to the district, it is very accessible by car, on foot and by public transport. The venue provides good facilities and a car park.

Pennycross Methodist Church Hall in district KD - Replacement of polling station

The 2017 elections brought about a comment about the poor accessibility of this polling station, due to its location in a narrow cul-de-sac, and the shortage of amenities for elections staff.

This reports proposes to move the polling station to Holy Family Roman Catholic Church on Beacon Park Road in the north of the district. Holy Family Church is located 0.2 miles away from the current polling station on a main road. Although this proposed polling station is out of the current district boundaries, it provides ramped access throughout and offers good facilities. A redrawing of the district boundaries will be necessary to ensure this station is central to the new district.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations

New Polling district	New Polling Station	Address	Estimated Electorate ¹	Estimated Polling station electorate ²
KA	St. Gabriel The Archangel Church	Peeverell Terrace, PL3 4JJ	2,515	2,058
KB	St. Edwards Church Hall	Home Park Avenue, PL3 4PG	2,370	1,942
KC	St Bartholomew Church	Outland Road, PL2 3BZ	1,688	1,291
KD	Holy Family Catholic Church	Beacon Park Road, PL2 3JR	2,507	2,100
KE	Trinity United Reformed Church Hall	Torr Lane, PL3 5NY	1,313	1,065

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.