

## 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.

**PLYMSTOCK DUNSTONE WARD****Existing Polling Districts**

<b>Polling district</b>	<b>Polling station</b>	<b>Electorate<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
UA	Mobile Unit at Holmwood Avenue	1,112	Merger with district UB
UB	Staddiscombe Club Function Room	1,687	Merger with district UA
UC	Goosewell Primary School	1,949	No change
UD	Elburton Methodist Church	2,220	No change
UE	Morley Youth & Community Centre	1,647	No change
UF	St. Matthews Church	1,177	No change

**Existing Polling Stations**

<b>Polling district</b>	<b>Polling station</b>	<b>Polling station electorate<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Disabled access</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
UA	Mobile Unit at Holmwood Avenue	933	Yes <sup>3</sup>	Decommissioning
UB	Staddiscombe Club Function Room	1,449	Yes – temporary ramp	No change
UC	Goosewell Primary School	1,459	Yes	No change
UD	Elburton Methodist Church	1,706	Yes	No change
UE	Morley Youth & Community Centre	1,302	Yes	No change
UF	St. Matthews Church	942	Yes	No change

<sup>1</sup> Total number of registered electors in the district.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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 UA and UB – Merger of the districts

The residents on Holmwood Avenue currently have access to a mobile polling station. One of the criteria for the review was to explore, whenever possible, the possibility to reduce the number of mobile polling stations. Therefore, the merger of district UA and UB and the relocation of the polling station to the Staddiscombe Club on Staddiscombe Road are proposed. This would result in the creation of a large ward, served by a double polling station at the Staddiscombe Club Function Room.

Residents of the following streets would now vote at the Staddiscombe Club Function Room:

- Paddock Close
- Great Orchard Close
- Southgate Avenue
- Southgate Close
- Basinghall Close
- Tudor Close
- Holmwood Avenue
- Hurst Close
- Arnison Close
- Budleigh Close and
- Marlow Gardens
- Cophorn Gardens
- Goosewell Road
- Goswela Gardens
- Long Park Close
- Gowela Close

The Staddiscombe Club is already the polling stations for district UB. There is capacity at the club to cater for the needs of this enlarged ward, with spacious parking facilities and existing arrangements to improve access for people with reduced mobility. There are existing public transport connections to this polling station from both district UA and district UB. Paddock Close, which is the furthest away from the proposed polling station, is a 0.7 miles walking distance away from the Staddiscombe Club.

**Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations**

<b>New Polling district</b>	<b>New Polling Station</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Estimated Electorate<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Estimated Polling station electorate<sup>2</sup></b>
UA	Staddiscombe Club Function Room	Staddiscombe Road, PL9 9LT	2,799	2,382
UB	St. Matthews Church	Sherford Road, PL9 8DQ	1,177	942
UC	Goosewell Primary School	Furzehatt Villas, PL9 9HD	1,949	1,459
UD	Elburton Methodist Church	Springfield Road, PL9 8PR	2,220	1,706
UE	Morley Youth & Community Centre	Off Stentaway Drive, PL9 8TU	1,647	1,302

<sup>1</sup> Total number of registered electors in the district.

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