

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 RADFORD WARD**Existing Polling Districts**

Polling district reference	Polling place	Electorate ¹	Recommendations
TA	Oreston Methodist Church	1,543	Change of district boundaries
TB	Hooe Baptist Church	3,761	Change of district boundaries
TC	Goosewell Primary School	1,120	Change of district boundaries
TD	Plymstock Sports Pavilion	2,305	Change of district boundaries
TE	Pomphlett Methodist Church Hall	2,072	No change

Existing Polling Stations

Polling district reference	Polling place	Polling station electorate ²	Disabled access	Recommendations
TA	Oreston Methodist Church	1,256	Yes	No change
TB	Hooe Baptist Church	3,002	Yes	No change
TC	Goosewell Primary School	889	Yes - temporary ramp	Replacement
TD	Plymstock Sports Pavilion	1,792	Yes - temporary ramp	No change
TE	Pomphlett Methodist Church Hall	1,775	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 TB and TC – change of boundaries between districts**

The number of polling station electors in district TB is currently 3,002, which is higher than the recommended 2,000 electors by district. It is adjacent to district TC which is smaller than the recommended size of electorate per district.

A change of district boundaries between district TB and TC is proposed in order to balance the electorate across both wards, and facilitate access to a polling station to the greatest number of residents. An alternative polling stations in Radford Park is proposed for the new district TC.

The east of district TB would now be combined with district TC. The following streets would now be included into district TC:

- Homer Park,
- Homer Park Lane,
- Furland Close,
- Broom Park,
- Westcombe Crescent,
- Reddicliff Road,

- Reddicliff Close,
- Rowland Close,
- Barnwood Close,
- White Lady Road,
- Badger View and
- Mitchell Close.

The Beckly Centre near Radford Park is proposed as the new polling station for district TC, as a replacement to Goosewell Primary School.

Districts TD and TA – change of boundaries between districts

In order to even out the electorate between ward TD and TA and improve accessibility to residents some changes of boundary are proposed. Residents of the following streets could join district TA and now vote at Oreston Methodist Church instead of the Plymstock Sports Pavillion:

- Dean Park Road,
- Quarry Park Road and
- Quarry Park Avenue.

District TC and TD – change of boundaries between districts

To improve accessibility to residents, moving the boundary between the north of district TC and the south of district TD is proposed.

Residents on both sides of Burrow Hill would move from TC to TD and now vote at the Plymstock Sports Pavillion.

Cobb Lane, and the portion of Furzehatt Road parallel to it would be removed from district TC and included to district TD. Residents of Cobb Lane and this short stretch of Furzehatt Road would now vote at the Plymstock Sports Pavillion.

Goosewell Primary School in district TC – replacement of polling station

The last election brought about some comments from members of the public about the suitability of using this school to hold elections. Goosewell Primary School currently hosts a double polling station, which is inconvenient and confusing for electors. In addition, this polling station is currently out of the boundaries of this ward, which should be avoided unless in extreme circumstances.

The Beckly Centre near Radford Park is proposed as the new polling station for district TC, as a replacement to the school. This change is subject to the changes of district boundaries being approved.

The Beckly Centre is location near the junction between Hooe Road and White Lady Road. Although this is not a central location, this is accessible to all residents of the new district. There are car parking facilities near the centre. There are existing public transport connections to this polling station from across district TC. The west side of Staddon Park Road, which is the furthest away from the proposed polling station, is a 0.7 miles walking distance away from the Beckly Centre.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations

New Polling district	New Polling Station	Address	Estimated Electorate¹	Estimated Polling station electorate²
TA	Oreston Methodist Church	Plymstock Road, PL9 7LL	1,659	1,340
TB	Hooe Baptist Church	Hooe Road, PL9 9RS	2,897	2,337
TC	The Beckly Centre	Mayers Way, PL9 9DF	1,878	1,460
TD	Plymstock Sports Pavilion	Dean Cross Road, PL9 7AZ	2,234	1,725
TE	Pomphlett Methodist Church Hall	Pomphlett Road, PL9 7BL	2,065	1,762

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.