

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 BUDEAUX WARD**Existing Polling Districts**

Polling district	Polling Station	Electorate¹	Recommendations
CA	Tamar View Community Resource Centre	1,901	No change
CB	The Barn, Kit Hill Crescent	1,605	No change
CC	St. Boniface Church Hall	1,913	No change
CD	Plaistow Hill Infant and Nursery School	830	Merger of district CD and CE
CE	Kings Tamerton Community Centre	2,009	Merger of district CD and CE
CF	St. Pauls Church Hall - St Budeaux	1,589	No change

Existing Polling Stations

Polling district	Polling Station	Polling Station Electorate²	Disabled Access	Recommendations
CA	Tamar View Community Resource Centre	1,703	Yes - Ramped	No change
CB	The Barn, Kit Hill Crescent	1,249	Yes	No change
CC	St. Boniface Church Hall	1,588	Yes	Replacement
CD	Plaistow Hill Infant and Nursery School	644	Yes	Replacement or no change
CE	Kings Tamerton Community Centre	1,595	Yes - ramped	No change
CF	St. Pauls Church Hall - St Budeaux	1,286	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

Districts CD and CE

Two options have been identified with regards to district CD and CE.

Option 1 – No change

Although district CD is smaller than others in the ward, the topography of the district has been a decisive factor in the design of this district. The school is the only suitable location in this district.

Plaistow Hill Primary School provides an accessible polling station to residents in the north of the ward at the top of a steep hill. The school provides good access to residents with reduced mobility, and car parking facilities.

Option 2 - Merger of districts CD and CE

The number of polling station electors in district CE is currently 2,009 which makes it the largest in the ward. It is adjacent to district QA which is smaller than the recommended size of electorate per district.

District CD is substantially smaller than other districts in the ward. To remove the need to use Plaistow Hill infant school as a polling station, the merger of district CD with district CE is proposed. The proposed new district would grow to a size of 2839 electors, which is larger than the maximum number of electors recommended by the electoral commission.

St Boniface Church Hall in district CC - Replacement of polling station

The 2017 elections brought about a comment about the poor accessibility of this polling station, due to its location at the bottom of a very steep hill, thus preventing access for residents with mobility issues.

The replacement of St Boniface Church Hall is proposed. Alternative locations in the ward are being investigated. We would welcome suggestions from residents as to suitable alternative polling stations.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations

Option 1 No change of district boundaries

New Polling district	New Polling Station	Address	Estimated Electorate ¹	Estimated Polling station electorate ²
CA	Tamar View Community Resource Centre	Poole Park Road, PL5 IDD	1,901	1,703
CB	The Barn, Kit Hill Crescent	Barne Barton, PL5 IEJ	1,605	1,249
CC	Alternative Polling Stations are being investigated as replacement for St Boniface Church Hall		1,913	1,588
CD	Plaistow Hill Infant and Nursery School	Roman Way, PL5 2DT	830	644

CE	Kings Tamerton Community Centre	Trevithick Road, PL5 2BH	2,009	1,595
CF	St. Pauls Church Hall - St Budeaux	Pemros Road, PL5 1NE	1,589	1,286

Option 2 Merger of districts CD and CE

New Polling district	New Polling Station	Address	Estimated Electorate ¹	Estimated Polling station electorate ²
CA	Tamar View Community Resource Centre	Poole Park Road, PL5 1DD	1,901	1,703
CB	The Barn, Kit Hill Crescent	Barne Barton, PL5 1EJ	1,605	1,249
CC	Alternative Polling Stations are being investigated as replacement for St Boniface Church Hall		1,913	1,588
CD	St. Pauls Church Hall	Pemros Road, PL5 1NE	1,589	1,286
CE	Kings Tamerton Community Centre	Trevithick Road, PL5 2BH	2,839	2,239

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.