

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.

SUTTON AND MOUNT GOULD WARD

Existing Polling Districts

Polling district	Polling Station	Electorate ¹	Recommendations
OA	Mount Gould Methodist Church	1,505	No change
OB	Salisbury Road Primary School	1,488	No change
OC	Salisbury Road Baptist Church Hall	1,482	No change
OD	Tothill Community Centre	1,268	No change
OE	Plymouth & District Table Tennis League HQ	1,067	Merger with district OF
OF	Prince Rock Primary School	1,722	Merger with district OE
OG	Tresillian Street Centre	852	Merger with district OH
OH	Tresillian Street Centre	371	Merger with district OG

Existing Polling Stations

Polling district	Polling Station	Polling station electorate ²	Disabled access	Recommendations
OA	Mount Gould Methodist Church	1,316	Yes	No change
OB	Salisbury Road Primary School	1,313	Yes	No change
OC	Salisbury Road Baptist Church Hall	1,291	Yes	No change
OD	Tothill Community Centre	1,047	Yes	No change
OE	Plymouth & District Table Tennis League HQ	942	Yes*	Replacement
OF	Prince Rock Primary School	1,414	Yes	No change
OG	Tresillian Street Centre	726	Yes	No change
OH	Tresillian Street Centre	258	Yes	No change

* Although this polling stations is equipped to enable access for all voters a recent inspection visit brought about a concern regarding the accessibility of this polling station to electors with disabilities.

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 OG and OH – merger of the districts

District OG and OH are small adjacent districts which both use the **Tresilian Street Centre** as a polling place, following the closure of the previous polling station in district OH in 2017. There is a possibility to merge district OG and OH and to retain the Tresilian street centre as the polling station for this district.

In order to facilitate access to this polling station, a redrawing of the boundaries of this district is proposed. The new boundary for district OG would now follow Gdynia Way and the Laira Bridge Road. Residents south of these streets would now vote at the Tresillian Street Centre.

Districts OE and OF – merger of the districts

A recent inspection visit brought about a concern regarding the accessibility of the **Plymouth & District Table Tennis League HQ** to electors with disabilities. A suitable alternative polling station could not be identified in this district. There is a possibility to merge district OE and OF and to continue using Prince Rock Primary School as a double polling station for an enlarged district. Prince Rock Primary School is already a polling station for district OF. It would be conveniently located in the centre of the proposed new district with good public transport links.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations

New Polling district	New Polling Station	Address	Estimated Electorate ¹	Estimated Polling station electorate ²
OA	Mount Gould Methodist Church	Faringdon Road, PL4 7NW	1,505	1,316
OB	Salisbury Road Primary School	Salisbury Road, PL4 8QZ	1,488	1,313
OC	Salisbury Road Baptist Church Hall	Rosebery Avenue, PL4 8SX	1,482	1,291
OD	Tothill Community Centre	Knighton Road, PL4 9DA	1,268	1,047
OE	Prince Rock Primary School	Embankment Road, PL4 9JF	2,789	2,356
OF	Tresillian Street Centre	Tresillian Street, PL4 0QP	1,223	984

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.