

**LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**  
**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 11 AUGUST 2003**  
**REPORT FROM THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR**

**FOR ACTION**

**POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW**

**1.0 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report concerns arrangements for polling districts and polling places in Brent East in preparation for the parliamentary by election in that constituency.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1.1 That a new polling district EKG8 be created in Kensal Green ward to distinguish a small number of properties in Brent East constituency from the remainder of the existing polling district SKG5 which is in Brent South.
- 2.1.2 That the whole of Belton Road be included in polling district EWG2 of Willesden Green ward.
- 2.1.3 That the existing boundary for polling district EWG5 be retained
- 2.1.4 That the attached list of polling places for each polling district in Brent East constituency be approved.
- 2.1.5 That in the event of any unforeseen changes between now and the forthcoming by election in Brent East, authority be delegated to the Democratic Services Manager to designate polling places in consultation with the Leaders of the three political groups.

**3.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None.

**4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

**5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Under Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, it is the responsibility of the Council to determine the polling districts and polling places for parliamentary elections with a view to giving all electors reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the

circumstances. In particular, the Council shall as far as is reasonable and practicable designate as polling places only places which are accessible to electors who are disabled.

- 5.2 The Returning Officer shall provide a sufficient number of polling stations and shall allot the electors to the polling station in such manner as he thinks most convenient.
- 5.3 If the recommended changes are agreed by members, then the Electoral Registration Officer will amend the register accordingly and such amendment shall take effect on the date on which he publishes the required statutory notice stating that such amendments have been made.

## **6.0 DETAIL**

### **New Polling District**

- 6.1 Members will recall that in August 2002 the General Purposes Committee approved the creation of new polling districts in a number of wards. The purpose of this change was to alter those districts that straddled parliamentary constituency boundaries and instead make each district wholly contained within one single constituency.
- 6.2 Unfortunately, when this exercise was undertaken, eight properties in Kensal Green ward, nos. 143-159 College Road, were overlooked. These properties are in polling district SKG5 which is otherwise entirely within Brent South.
- 6.3 It is important that this change is made as soon as possible in view of the anticipated by election in Brent East constituency. A further report will be submitted to members in the future on polling station arrangements throughout the borough for next year's elections for the Greater London Mayor and Assembly and the European Parliament.
- 6.4 In response to consultation by the Electoral Services Manager after last year's Council elections, a ward councillor for Willesden Green ward has suggested alternative boundaries for two polling districts in that ward.

### **EWG2 District**

- 6.5 The first proposal is to move the boundary dividing polling districts EWG1 and EWG2 so that the whole, rather than one side, of Belton Road is in the same district EWG2. This seems sensible and is recommended.

## **EWG5 District**

- 6.6 The second proposal is to divide polling district EWG5 into two districts in view of the remoteness of the polling station for some voters in this district.
- 6.7 While it is true that the polling station is at one end of the district, officers have not been able to identify a suitable venue for a second station in the western area of the existing district. The only alternative venue in this district is Kings Hall which is a former polling place. However this building is also in the east of the district and it would be difficult to divide the district in a way that would create roughly equally sized districts. For this reason, officers do not recommend making any change to the boundaries in this district at this stage.
- 6.8 Maps of polling districts EWG2 and EWG5 are attached as appendices 1 and 2 respectively. A large scale map of the ward will be available at the meeting.
- 6.9 Also attached as appendix 3 is a list of all polling places that the Acting Returning Officer proposes to use in the forthcoming by election. Members are asked to approve this list, subject to any necessary late changes being made by the Democratic Services Manager in consultation with the Leaders of the three political groups.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Response by ward councillor to consultation on polling district and polling station arrangements.

Any person wishing to inspect this document may do so by contacting Sean O'Sullivan on (020) 8937 1370 or in writing to him at Electoral Services, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley HA9 9HD or by e-mail to [s.osullivan@brent.gov.uk](mailto:s.osullivan@brent.gov.uk)

TERRY OSBORNE  
BOROUGH SOLICITOR