## **Public Document Pack**



# **General Purposes Committee**

Tuesday, 22 November 2011 at 6.30 pm

Committee Room 4, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, HA9 9HD

## Membership:

Members first alternates second alternates

Councillors: Councillors: Councillors:

John (Chair) McLennan Mistry Butt (Vice-Chair) Jones Kabir

Beswick Arnold Mrs Bacchus
Brown Beck Sneddon
Kansagra Colwill HB Patel
Long Al-Ebadi Naheerathan

Lorber Leaman Castle Matthews Sneddon Allie

J Moher Chohan S Choudhary

Thomas Van Kalwala Aden

**For further information contact:** Bryony Gibbs, Democratic Services Officer 020 8937 1355, bryony.gibbs@brent.gov.uk

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit:

www.brent.gov.uk/committees

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting



# **Agenda**

Introductions, if appropriate.

Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

**Item** Page

### 1 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant financial or other interest in the items on this agenda.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

1 - 2

- 3 Matters arising (if any)
- 4 Deputations (if any)
- 5 Market Factor Supplement Payment approved Mental Health 3 14 Practitioners

The purpose of this report is to highlight the importance of reinstating the allowance as a Market Factor Supplement Payment for approved mental health practitioners as set out in the business case.

Wards Affected: Contact Officer: Alison Elliott, Director

of Adult Social Services

All Wards Tel: 020 8937 4230

alison.elliott@brent.gov.uk

### 6 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

15 - 46

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 and the subsequent Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Regulations 2006 require each electoral registration authority in England, Scotland and Wales to carry out a review of both its polling district boundaries and its polling places every four years. The first such review took place in 2007. This report informs members of feedback to the Polling District and Polling Stations Review undertaken within Brent this year and asks that a decision be reached on the future electoral arrangements for Brent.

Wards Affected: Contact Officer: Peter Goss,

Democratic Services Manager

peter.goss@brent.gov.uk

### 7 Appointments to Sub-Committees / Outside Bodies

### 8 Any Other Urgent Business

Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Democratic Services Manager or his representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 64.



Please remember to **SWITCH OFF** your mobile phone during the meeting.

- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.
- Toilets are available on the second floor.
- Catering facilities can be found on the first floor near The Paul Daisley Hall.
- A public telephone is located in the foyer on the ground floor, opposite the Porters' Lodge





### LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE Thursday, 18 August 2011 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor John (Chair), Councillor Butt (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Beswick, Kansagra, Long, Lorber and Van Kalwala (alternate for Thomas)

Apologies were received from: Councillors Brown, Matthews, J Moher and Thomas

1. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

None.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

**RESOLVED:-**

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 June 2011 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising (if any)

None.

4. Deputations (if any)

None.

5. Future Customer Services: delivering change to the council's customer services

Toni McConville, Director of Customer and Community Engagement introduced the report which set out the changes proposed as part of the One Council Future Customer Services project. The Director advised members that a key element of the changes was the establishment of a new division, Corporate Customer Services, which would bring together the existing One Stop Service and Revenues and Benefits service. There would then be a phased transition of customer contact from within other service areas into Corporate Customer Services. She continued that the first step in the process was the appointment of the Assistant Director for the Corporate Customer Services, hence the report sought the creation of this post, the deletion of the Head of Revenues and Benefits post and the implementation and timetable arrangements as set out in the appendix attached to the report.

Members heard that as the proposals would impact on staffing and structures across the council, an extensive consultation with staff had commenced which was intended to be completed by 10 October 2011. The Director added that a separate consultation process on the wider staffing implications of setting up Corporate Customer Services which also commenced on 3 August 2011 was expected to be completed by 10 October 2011, with implementation by January 2011. In response to Councillor Lorber's enquiry, Toni McConville clarified that in accordance with the council's managing change scheme, three members of staff had been matched with the posts and that there would be no need to seek external applicants unless none of the internal candidates was successful.

### **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the implementation timetable as set out in section 4 and Appendix 1, table 1 of the report be agreed;
- (ii) that the job description for Assistant Director of Corporate Customer Services as set out in Appendix 2 be agreed.

6.	Appointments to S	Sub-Committees	/ Outside	<b>Bodies</b>
----	-------------------	----------------	-----------	---------------

None.

### 7. Any Other Urgent Business

None.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm

A JOHN Chair



# **General Purposes Committee**22 November 2011

# Report from the Director of Adult Social Services

# Market Factor Supplement Payment – Approved Mental Health Practitioners (AMHPs)

### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Approved Mental Health Practitioners (AMHPs) had until October received an annual allowance of £1542 (the difference between Inner and Outer London Weighting) in recognition of the additional training and levels of responsibility they undertake in pursuance of the Council's statutory obligations under the Mental Health Act. The Market Factor Supplement is therefore not a new payment but requested in order to re-instate this allowance which was withdrawn as part of the current pay harmonisation. The AMHP role involves working in highly volatile situations with high levels of client-risk and extended/unsocial working hours. The allowance is to retain the nationally-scarce AMHP role within Brent in order to meet Brent's statutory responsibilities and to attract new staff to Brent to meet the increase in statutory work. The allowance had also been considered a due recognition of their commitment to maintaining a service to high standards and of their loyalty to Brent. Other local boroughs pay more and Brent needs to be competitive in order to retain its current AMHP workforce and be able to recruit new staff in order to maintain the service.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to highlight the importance of reinstating the allowance as a Market Factor Supplement Payment as set out in the attached business case (Appendix 1)

### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the annual allowance of £1542 be reinstated to the Council's AMHPs as a Market Factor Supplement Payment in recognition of the issues summarised below.

### 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The loss of the current allowance would have a negative impact on the recruitment and retention of AMHPs. It is likely that a number of the existing staff would either take early retirement, since many staff are close to retirement, or move to other neighbouring boroughs where the pay for AMHPs is higher, e.g. Westminster, Camden, Kensington and Chelsea. As such Brent would incur additional costs in recruiting replacement staff, who for the most part would be inexperienced and newly-qualified, leaving a much less experienced, skilled and legally knowledgeable workforce, which may also be more susceptible to legal challenges arising from their practice.
- 3.2 There is a national shortage of AMHPs due to being a more highly-qualified role requiring considerable experience as a social worker before training as an AMHP. The London Council Survey shows that AMHPs are in the extreme difficulty category for both recruitment and retention. Nationally, the majority of AMHPs are above 45 years and tend to remain in posts and therefore less available in the job market.
- 3.3 Since July 2007 Brent has lost 13 permanent AMHPs and has only been able to recruit two permanent staff, having to use 9 locum staff. This has been extremely costly to the Council with agency rates often 1.5 times the normal salary. Furthermore locums tend to move on rapidly to more lucrative opportunities with other boroughs and are also time-consuming to induct.
- 3.4 There has been an increase in AMHP assessments of 30% nationally since the implementation of the new Mental Health Act (MHA) 4 years ago. Brent has seen a significant increase in MHA assessments and AMHP work, particularly through increased use of Community Treatment Orders, Guardianship and revisions to the Code of Practice, which has led to an increase in Section 2. The loss of existing Brent AMHPs would put at risk the Council's ability to meet its statutory obligations under the MHA.
- 3.5 It is therefore cost effective for Brent to pay the Market Factor Supplement to ensure that the existing experienced AMHP workforce is retained and future recruitment to vacant posts is not jeopardised.

### 4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The full year cost of the £1542 Supplement for each of the existing 24 AMHPs is £37,008. However there is no net increase for 2011/12 as this has been accommodated within the 2011/12 operational budget.

### 5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The loss of the existing Allowance and failure to replace with the Market Supplement could lead to the loss of a number of the existing workforce and would potentially impact on the Council's ability to meet its statutory responsibilities under the Mental Health Act.

### 6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 There are no diversity implications.

## 7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 These are contained in the body of the report.

## **Background Papers**

Market Factor Supplement Business Case - Appendix 1 attached.

### **Contact Officers**

Alison Elliott, Director of Adult Social Care

This page is intentionally left blank

# **Application for a Market Factor Supplement Payment**

Department:	Adult Social Community care			
Business Unit:	Mental Health			
Service Director:	David Dunkley			
Application Authorised by:	Alison Elliott			
Post(s) for which a payment is required:	Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP)			
Date job description was last reviewed:	2002			
Current job evaluated grade of post:	PO3			
	Spinal Point 40- 43			
Annual value of the proposed payment:	£1542			
Method of payment (e.g. yearly lump sum, monthly payment, etc.):	Monthly			
Date payments will commence:	To be backdated to November 2011			

### Has this post been advertised previously unsuccessfully?

#### Yes

[if yes, provide details of number of adverts, applicants, short-listed, appointed]

At least 8 adverts for AMHPs in the last 2 years-often up to 6 vacancies needing to be filled at any one time. Only on one occasion was an AMHP able to be shortlisted (and subsequently appointed) and this person had previously worked in Brent and was returning to work in this borough after a period away.

Otherwise social workers are recruited and we will train them ourselves to be AMHPs. However on 2 rounds of adverts the posts were not able to be filled even by a social worker whom we could have trained-up after 3 years, let alone an AMHP.

There is a national shortage of AMHPs, due to being a more highly-qualified role which requires considerable experience as a social worker before training as an AMHP. Nationally, the majority of AMHPs are above 45 years and tend to remain in posts – they are less available in the job-market.

This is of particular concern as there has been an increase in AMHP assessments of 30% nationally since the new Mental Health Act 2007. In Brent we have seen a significant increase in MH Act assessments and AMHP work -particularly through increased use of Community Treatment Orders, Guardianship and revisions to the Code of Practice which has led to an increase in Section 2. We therefore require more AMHPs to do this work.

The London Council Survey shows that AMHPs are in the extreme difficulty category for both recruitment and retention.

### Has this post experienced high turnover over the last twelve months?

### Yes

[If yes, attach turnover and any exit interviews details]

Over the last 4 years since July 2007 we have lost 13 permanent AMHPs. We have only been able to recruit 2, one of which was returning from previously having worked with us.

We have had to use 9 locum AMHPs across the last 4 years. This was very costly as the agency rates are often 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  times the normal salary, they tend to move on rapidly to more lucrative opportunities with other boroughs and are time-consuming to induct.

Over the At least 4 permanent AMHPs have left to go to become locums as the pay was better.

Due to this high turnover it would be cost-effective for Brent council to retain the allowance for AMHPs.

Page 8

2

### Is the Brent salary for this post below the market rate for equivalent jobs?

#### Yes

(if yes, attach evidence of salary/benefits packages in comparable organisations. If no see next box)

### London Borough of Brent - up to £35000

London Borough of Richmond – up to £42,466

London Borough of Hounslow – up to £41,000

London Borough of Hillingdon – up to £40,961

London Borough of Enfield – up to £42,000

London Borough of Harrow – up to £41,610

Neighbouring boroughs pay higher for the substantive posts. Additionally neighbouring boroughs of Westminster, Camden, Kensington and Chelsea pay Inner London Weighting whereas Brent pays OLW. Locum work through agencies is more highly paid in neighbouring boroughs.

The Market Supplement requested is not a new allowance but is being requested in order to re-instate the allowance which has been withdrawn through the current pay harmonisation.

# If the Brent salary for this post is comparable with the market for equivalent jobs, what is the basis for paying a supplement?

[e.g. If non-pay benefits/conditions of employment offered by other boroughs are better than those of Brent provide details to support this]

Brent is not comparable with the market for equivalent jobs.

Are there any other posts in the service and/or department which may be affected by the award of the payment?

No

# What benefit to the service/department will result from application of the market supplement?

[Include details of any proposals to reduce use of agency staff and overtime payments]

Brent would be able to retain existing AMHPs and more—easily attract new AMHPs. Without the market supplement, Brent would not be able to fulfil its statutory responsibilities and meet the current increase in statutory work.

Page 9

3

### What are the financial implications of making the payment?

£1542 Market Pay Supplement would be payable for each of the AMHPs (currently 24) – a total of £37,008 on current AMHP staffing level.

It would be cost effective to pay this supplement to ensure that we retain the existing experienced AMHP workforce and improve recruitment to vacant posts. The loss of the allowance will have a negative impact on both recruitment and retention, increasing operational costs as a result since we would need to recruit temporary locum staff to ensure the Council's statutory MHA obligations continue to be met.

We would have to spend more money on recruiting and training staff- who would for the most part be inexperienced and newly-qualified.

We would also have to train more of our existing social workers to become AMHPs, though the current workforce is such that only one person might be ready for training in this role starting in the next academic year (Sept 2012) as there are currently virtually no existing social workers with the required experience or length of employment needed. An AMPH course costs approximately £4,000 and lasts 26 weeks on average due to it being a very comprehensive training programme taking up to half a year with subsequent probationary period for development support during the following year. Backfill in the team would be required for the length of the training which can cost upwards of £18000 as is usually by locums who are more expensive.

Many of the AMHPs are close to retirement - we do not want to lose them prematurely through the loss of the allowance as they are the most experienced- and it would leave a much less experienced, skilled or legally knowledgeable workforce, who may also be more susceptible to legal challenges arising from their practice which would also be costly.

There would also be fewer experienced AMHPs to train-up the AMHP trainees to provide the essential placement facility during training.

### What arrangements are proposed for reviewing the payment?

Payment would be reviewed after 18 months.

# How will you measure the success of any improvements that are put into place? Who will be responsible for measuring the success?

We would measure the service's ability respond to our statutory obligations in supplying sufficient numbers of AMHPs to maintain the service.

The Lead Social Worker will review progress regarding retention, maintaining delivery of the statutory responsibilities and the filling of vacancies.

Signed: (Not applicable) ...... Date: 11/11/11

**Job Title: Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP)** 

# Application for a Market Factor Supplement Payment Equality Impact Assessment

The impact of the proposed market supplement should be assessed with reference to the relevant target groups:

Gender

Disability

Religion or Belief

Main Occupational Groups

Race

Sexual Orientation

· Age

Part time staff

Department and Division:	Adult Social Care – Mental health services		
Head of Service:	David Dunkley		
Officer completing assessment:	Irfan Khan		
Details of others involved in the assessment - auditing team/peer review:	John Young/Judy Jones		
Date:	11 <sup>th</sup> November		

### **Brief description of market supplement**

Market Supplement would be a monthly allowance equivalent to the difference between the Outer and Inner London Weighting allowances.

### Aims

Aim is to reduce turnover in the AMHP role and attract new AMHPs.

### **Objectives**

The objective is to have a fully staff-resourced AMPH service in order to meet Brent Council's statutory requirements and responsibilities under the Mental Health Act.

Page 11

5

### What is the justification for taking these measures?

Other local boroughs pay more. Brent needs to be competitive in order to retain AMHPs and be able to recruit new staff in order to maintain the service.

AMHPs previously received an allowance due to the additional training and levels of responsibility they undertake as part of their role, usually involving highly volatile situations involving a high level of client-risk and extended-hours work. The allowance had been considered a due recognition of their commitment to maintaining a service to high standards and of their loyalty to Brent.

### Are the aims consistent with the council's Comprehensive Equality Policy?

Yes.

### Does a third party provide the function or service?

We have to rely on agency cover as we cannot retain or recruit AMHP-qualified staff.

Is there an adverse impact around race/gender/disability/faith/sexual orientation/health etc? Could the proposals affect people differently so that some groups may not have equal and fair access to rewards? What are the reasons for this adverse impact?

None. AMHPs come from all sectors of the community and our aim is to continue to ensure we maintain the current staff levels.

We also may lose current AMHPs from specific sectors that may leave to go to other boroughs or agencies so active recruitment of AMHPs from all sectors of the community is essential.

Describe the evidence (qualitative or quantitive) you have used to make your judgement. Please supply us with the evidence separately by race, gender, disability etc?

AMHPs come from all sectors of the community. Our AMHP service includes people who are male and female, and are from all groups including different cultures and backgrounds, religions, sexualities orientations, ages and disabilities.

How do the proposals take into account what might be different needs across different groups of people?

Not applicable. See above.

Page 12

### Have you conducted consultations/satisfaction surveys with employees?

Yes. Current staff have stated that they will leave or retire early if they lose the previous allowance and it is not replaced by a Market Supplement. AMHPs consider they will be impacted if they do not retain the current allowance, as they would experience it as an effectual 'pay loss' of £1542.

They also consider they will feel the loss of the allowance would amount to a 'downgrade' as already they will have experienced the public sector's 'no inflationary adjustment', and other boroughs are paying more.

This loss is additionally difficult as the previous allowance gave due recognition of the complexity of the task, and of their commitment to Brent. The lure of enhanced pay through locum AMHP work with other boroughs who pay more, would be more pressing

# Have you analysed the result of these consultations/surveys to identify any trends across different groups of people? If not, why was the consultation/survey undertaken?

AMHPs across the board feel this way as the Market Supplement application is based on a positive retention, recruitment and -role-recognition issue, not on an equalities issue.

If number of responses to consultation/survey has been low, what steps have you taken to ensure a reasonable sample size e.g. taking results over a longer period or conducting surveys over the telephone?

Not applicable.

Who will be responsible for monitoring the impact and success of the scheme?

Lead Social Worker

Page 13

This page is intentionally left blank



# **General Purposes Committee 22 November 2011**

# Report from the Democratic Services Manager

FOR ACTION

Wards Affected: ALL

# **Review Of Polling Districts And Polling Places**

### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 and the subsequent Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Regulations 2006 require each electoral registration authority in England, Scotland and Wales to carry out a review of both its polling district boundaries and its polling places every four years. The first such review took place in 2007.
- 1.2 This report informs members of feedback to the Polling District and Polling Stations Review undertaken within Brent this year and asks that a decision be reached on the future electoral arrangements for Brent.

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 that Atlip Road, 6 Mount Pleasant and those properties in Ealing Road between the corner of Mount Pleasant and the Piccadilly underground line (Hayes Court, Windsor Court and a small number of other properties) be transferred from polling district NAL2 to NAL3 in Alperton ward.
- that those properties in Allington Road and Kilburn Lane, currently in polling district HQP3 in Queen's Park ward, be transferred into polling district HQP5.
- 2.3 that polling districts NWC1 and NWC5 in Wembley Central ward, both of which use Copland School as a polling station, be merged into a single district.
- 2.4 that St Andrew and St Francis School replace the Learie Constantine Centre as the polling station for polling district CWG1 in Willesden Green ward.

- 2.5 that consideration be given as to whether polling districts CTO1 and CTO2 in Tokyngton ward be merged.
- 2.6 that polling districts CST5 and CST6 in Stonebridge ward on Hillside be merged and that the Stonebridge Hub be designated polling place for the new polling district.
- 2.7 that a new polling district be created in Stonebridge ward to include the properties in Abbey Road, Agate Close, Toucan Close and Twyford Abbey Road.
- 2.8 to note that an alternative to the Neasden Library building in polling district CDU1in Dudden Hill ward may be required.
- 2.9 that the polling places approved at this meeting be adopted for the Greater London Authority and London Mayor elections in May 2012.
- 2.10 that in the event of any polling station becoming unavailable before the May 2012 elections, authority be delegated to the Democratic Services Manager to make any further changes required to the polling places and stations for these elections in consultation with the leaders of the three political groups on the Council.

### 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 and the subsequent Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Regulations 2006 require each electoral registration authority in England, Scotland and Wales to carry out a review of both its polling district boundaries and its polling places every four years. Members are asked to make a decision on new electoral arrangements in time for any changes to be incorporated into the Revised Register for Brent being published on 1 December 2011.
- 3.2 Polling districts, polling places and polling stations may be defined as follows:

A **polling district** is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area, i.e. a UK Parliamentary constituency, a European Parliamentary electoral region, a ward or an electoral division.

A **polling place** is a geographical area in which a polling station is located. However, as there is no legal definition of what a polling place is, the geographical area could be defined as tightly as a particular building or as widely as the entire polling district. Most commonly in Brent, it has been defined as the premises inside which voting takes place.

A **polling station** is the actual area where the process of voting takes place, and must be located within the polling place designated for the particular polling district.

3.3 The Council was obliged to give notice of the review and to consult with interested parties, including organisations with a particular interest and expertise in advising on access to buildings for people with different types of disability.

- 3.4 Notice of the consultation was sent to all members of the Council and to local political parties. In addition, Brent Association for Disabled People was invited to submit comments on the Council's existing electoral arrangements and, if they wished, to suggest alternatives. The consultation period ran from 1 August to 30 September 2011.
- 3.5 As part of the review, the Returning Officer for Brent was also obliged to prepare a report on arrangements for the authority. Following consultation with and visits to each existing polling station location, he has completed his report and his recommendations have been posted on the Council's website at http://www.brent.gov.uk/home.nsf/News/LBB-1462
- 3.6 The Returning Officer's report noted a growing disparity in the size of polling districts ranging from 371 to 3939 electors as at 1 June 2011. Moreover Brent has a larger than average number of polling stations per elector in comparison with other London boroughs. Appendix A shows the ratio of electors per polling station for all London boroughs.
- 3.7 His report made recommendations for some of the smaller districts and indeed larger ones which are beginning to outgrow the capacity of the polling station location. A summary of the Returning Officer's proposals and comments received during the consultation period follow.

### 3.8 Alperton Ward

While the existing polling stations are considered suitable, polling district NAL2 currently has 3970 electors. It is considered prudent to transfer the following properties into the neighbouring district NAL3 whose electors vote at Alperton Community School:

Atlip Road (186 properties)
6 Mount Pleasant (1 property)

Those properties in Ealing Road between the corner of Mount Pleasant and the Piccadilly underground line (Hayes Court, Windsor Court and a small number of other properties (81 properties)

Although electors will have to cross Ealing Road to reach their new polling station, no elector will have further to travel as a result of the change.

No comments have been received in response to this proposal from the Returning Officer and it is recommended that it be put into effect.

### 3.9 **Barnhill Ward**

The current electoral arrangements for Barnhill ward are considered to be satisfactory and no changes to boundaries or polling stations are being proposed. No comments about the ward were received during the consultation.

### 3.10 **Brondesbury Park Ward**

The current electoral arrangements for Brondesbury Park ward are considered to be satisfactory and no changes to boundaries or polling stations are being proposed. No comments about the ward were received during the consultation.

### 3.11 **Dollis Hill Ward**

The current electoral arrangements for Dollis Hill ward are considered to be satisfactory and no changes to boundaries or polling stations are being proposed. No comments about the ward were received during the consultation.

#### 3.12 **Dudden Hill Ward**

The current electoral arrangements are considered to be for the most part satisfactory. The Returning Officer's statement commented on the relatively small sizes of districts CDU2 and CDU3 whose polling stations are a temporary hut at St Catherine's Church, at the corner of Dudden Hill Lane and Tanfield Avenue, and Northview School. Turnout tends to be low at the school which may be the result of its location.

The Returning Officer suggested that these two districts might be merged. One of the ward Councillors, Councillor Hirani, has however argued for the retention of the existing arrangements. He has written that "to remove any [polling stations] would introduce a further barrier to democratic participation. We should be encouraging people to vote in elections and removing any polling stations in areas would have the reverse effect."

Clearly any alteration that would deter electors from voting should be avoided and members may feel that the present arrangement should remain.

Neasden Library has been used as a polling station in CDU1 polling district in recent elections. If the building is not available for use at future elections, the option is a temporary but will be situated adjacent to the library building.

### 3.13 Fryent Ward

The current electoral arrangements for Fryent ward are considered to be satisfactory and no changes to boundaries or polling stations are being proposed. Councillor Jim Moher, a ward councillor, has responded to the consultation agreeing that the existing arrangements are suitable.

### 3.14 Harlesden Ward

The current electoral arrangements for Harlesden ward are considered to be satisfactory and no changes to boundaries or polling stations are being proposed. No comments about the ward were received during the consultation.

### 3.15 Kensal Green Ward

The current electoral arrangements for Kensal Green ward are considered to be satisfactory and no changes to boundaries or polling stations are being proposed. No comments about the ward were received during the consultation.

### 3.16 Kenton Ward

The current electoral arrangements for Kenton ward are considered to be satisfactory and no changes to boundaries or polling stations are being proposed. No comments about the ward were received during the consultation.

### 3.17 Kilburn Ward

The current electoral arrangements for Kilburn ward are considered to be satisfactory and no changes to boundaries or polling stations are being proposed. No comments about the ward were received during the consultation.

### 3.18 Mapesbury Ward

The current electoral arrangements for Mapesbury ward are considered to be satisfactory and no changes to boundaries or polling stations are being proposed. No comments about the ward were received during the consultation.

### 3.19 Northwick Park Ward

The current electoral arrangements for Northwick Park ward are considered to be satisfactory and no changes to boundaries or polling stations are being proposed. Councillor Baker has stated that he believes the current boundaries and polling station locations are suitable.

### 3.20 Preston Ward

The current electoral arrangements for Preston ward are considered to be satisfactory and no changes to boundaries to polling stations or boundaries are being proposed. No comments about the ward were received during the consultation.

### 3.21 Queen's Park Ward

The current electoral arrangements are considered to be satisfactory. The Returning Officer suggested that polling districts HQP3 (polling station Kensal Rise School) and HQP5 (Moberley Sports Centre) could be merged. The merger has been supported by the Acting Returning Officer for Hampstead and Kilburn constituency, which includes the wards of Brondesbury Park, Kilburn and Queen's Park, who is of the view that polling district sizes in Brent are in many cases too small.

A local resident has counter-proposed that the districts should remain separate except that those properties in Allington Road and Kilburn Lane, currently in HQP3, be transferred into HQP5. Voting at Moberley would be more convenient for electors in these two roads who currently pass Moberley on their way to their own polling station. This suggestion is considered to be

a more suitable arrangement and is being recommended to members in preference to the Returning Officer's original proposal.

The same resident has also proposed reinstating Mapes House on Winchester Avenue as a polling station for electors living near that location. While those electors are undoubtedly having to travel further to vote, the current polling station, Salusbury School on Salusbury Road, being in the centre of the district, is suitably located for all electors. Mapes House was not entirely suitable as a polling station because of problems with accessibility for wheelchair users as well as being at the northern end of the district. While undoubtedly convenient for electors in the vicinity of Mapes Hose, it would clearly be less so for other electors benefitting from the more central location of Salusbury School.

### 3.22 Queensbury Ward

The current electoral arrangements for Queensbury ward are considered to be satisfactory and no changes to boundaries to polling stations or boundaries are being proposed.

The ward councillors have referred to the ongoing building works at the Village School in Grove Park (polling district NQY6). The school has however confirmed that accessible accommodation will be available for use as a polling station until the new school is built.

### 3.23 Stonebridge Ward

Two proposals are being made for this ward. Councillor Long and a member of the public have asked that Stonebridge Hub be used instead of Stonebridge Primary school on Shakespeare Avenue. The Hub is willing for their premises to be used as a polling station and the school would no longer need to close on polling days.

Secondly, there are new properties around Toucan Close and Agate Close in polling district CST6. The current polling station for electors in these properties, Stonebridge Primary School, is more than 2 miles away. A church hall has been identified as a suitable alternative polling place. This venue in Brentmead Gardens, while actually in the London Borough of Ealing, is less than half a mile away from the properties under consideration. The Returning Officer at Ealing Council has been consulted and has no objection to the venue's use by Brent.

A third proposal mooted by the Returning Officer was the merger of polling districts CST5 and CST6 whose respective polling districts, Bridge Park and currently Stonebridge Primary School, are not far apart. Moreover CST5 has less than 700 electors and a merger would be reasonable in terms of the number of electors. No comments have been received in response to this proposal and it is proposed that the merger proceed.

### 3.24 Sudbury Ward

The current electoral arrangements for Sudbury ward are considered to be satisfactory and no changes to boundaries to polling stations or boundaries

are being proposed. No comments about the ward were received during the consultation.

### 3.25 **Tokyngton Ward**

The Returning Officer has proposed the merger of polling districts CTO1 and CTO2. CTO1 includes Danes and Empire Courts and will now include the new student accommodation being built at the College of North West London. While the current electorate numbers just 430 electors, the area is slightly cut off from the rest of the ward by the stadium and surrounding businesses.

It was considered by the Returning Officer that a merger with CTO2, whose electors vote at St Joseph's Social Club, would not be unreasonable for electors as the distance to the club would be 0.8 miles. However a ward councillor, Councillor Butt, has asked that the districts remain separate on the grounds that residents in CTO1 are unlikely to travel to St Joseph's Social Club and that they will effectively be deterred from voting.

Given the presence of the new student accommodation and the wish to encourage voting by young people whom research shows vote in smaller numbers, members may wish to retain the existing arrangement.

### 3.26 Welsh Harp Ward

The Returning Officer suggested the break-up of polling district CWH1, whose electors currently vote at a temporary hut in Mallard Way, by moving streets into CWH2 and CWH3.

Councillor Kataria, writing of behalf of the Welsh Harp councillors, has requested that the current arrangement should remain and that the suggested break up of CWH1 not proceed. CWH1 is a viable district with just under 1200 electors and electors have long been accustomed to voting at Mallard Way. In view of this, no change is proposed for this ward.

### 3.27 Wembley Central Ward

The Returning Officer has proposed the merger of polling districts NWC1 and NWC5, both of which have a polling station at Copland School. The division serves no useful purpose and removing it would achieve a net reduction of one polling station in the ward.

No comments have been received in response to this proposal and it is recommended that the two districts be merged.

### 3.28 Willesden Green Ward

The current boundaries in this ward are considered to be suitable. The Returning Officer reported that feedback after previous elections had favoured the use of St Andrew and St Francis School be used instead of the Learie Constantine in view of the former's more central location for electors. It is recommended that this change be approved.

No comments have been received in response to this proposal.

### 4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost of Council elections and by elections is met by the local authority. For all other elections, funding is provided either by the government or the Greater London Authority.
- 4.2 The total cost for the hire of premises at this year's referendum was almost £43,000. Temporary huts averaged out at £1020 each. In addition each polling station obviously has to be staffed by at least two persons and, in the case of huts, power, toilet facilities and ramps have to be provided. The total costs associated with the provision of polling stations in 2011 amounted to a little under £207,000, the average cost per polling station being £1335.50.
- 4.3 The recommendations in this report propose a net reduction of two polling districts which will create an estimated saving of around £2,700 at current prices in the cost of elections.in the authority.

### 5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The review referred to in this report is a legal requirement placed on the authority by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2006.

### 6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 The purpose of the review is to ensure that no elector is discouraged from voting because of any inconvenience placed in his or her way by the choice of polling station location in their area.

### 7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 None specific.

### **Background Papers**

Documents submitted during the consultation period of the Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts.

### **Contact Officer**

### Sean O'Sullivan, Electoral Services Manager

Tel: (020) 8937 1370

E-mail: s.osullivan@brent.gov.uk

Peter Goss Democratic Services Manager

APPENDIX A

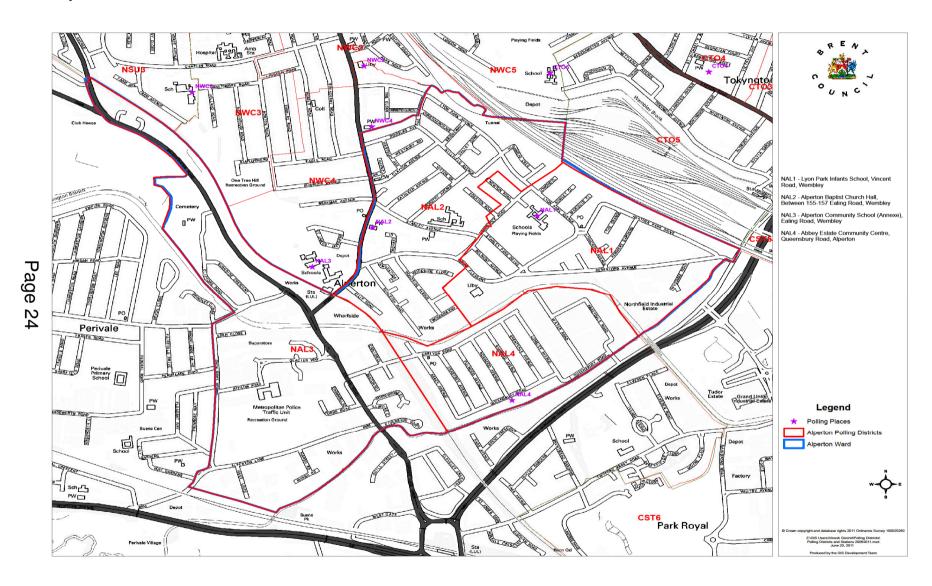
RATIO OF POLLING STATIONS TO ELECTORATE IN LONDON

London Borough	Electorate	No of polling stations	No of temporary huts used as	Electors per polling station	Rank
			polling stations	poming common	
Barking & Dagenham	120,716	127	0	951	1
Barnet	226,581	160	10	1416	19
Bexley	172,086	122	10	1411	17
Brent	200,094	164	17	1220	7
Bromley	234,899	185	2	1270	9
Camden	148,155	84	0	1764	31
City of London	6,502	4	0	1626	27
Croydon	247,915	147	6	1687	29
Ealing	228,133	171	17	1334	15
Enfield	205,157	175	7	1172	3
Greenwich	163,388	124	10	1318	11
Hackney	147,904	78	0	1896	33
Hammersmith & Fulham	123,635	93	1	1329	13
Haringey	164,112	101	10	1625	26
Harrow	169,474	120	0	1412	18
Havering	180,074	132	0	1364	16
Hillingdon	192,921	154	1	1252	8
Hounslow	176,906	109	15	1623	25
Islington	139,814	95	0	1472	22
Kensington & Chelsea	104,021	96	4	1084	2
Kingston upon Thames	113,564	94	5	1208	5
Lambeth	206,892	121	0	1710	30
Lewisham	181,185	109	6	1662	28
Merton	141,710	117	1	1211	6
Newham	188,497	125	0	1508	24
Redbridge	194,191	135	2	1438	21
Richmond upon Thames	134,222	90	4	1491	23
Southwark	189,882	107	1	1775	32
Sutton	136,487	95	0	1437	20
Tower Hamlets	156,661	119	3	1316	10
Waltham Forest	174,281	131	0	1330	14
Wandsworth	225,920	171	0	1321	12
Westminster	141,643	120	0	1180	4
Totals	5,537,622	3,975	132	1393	

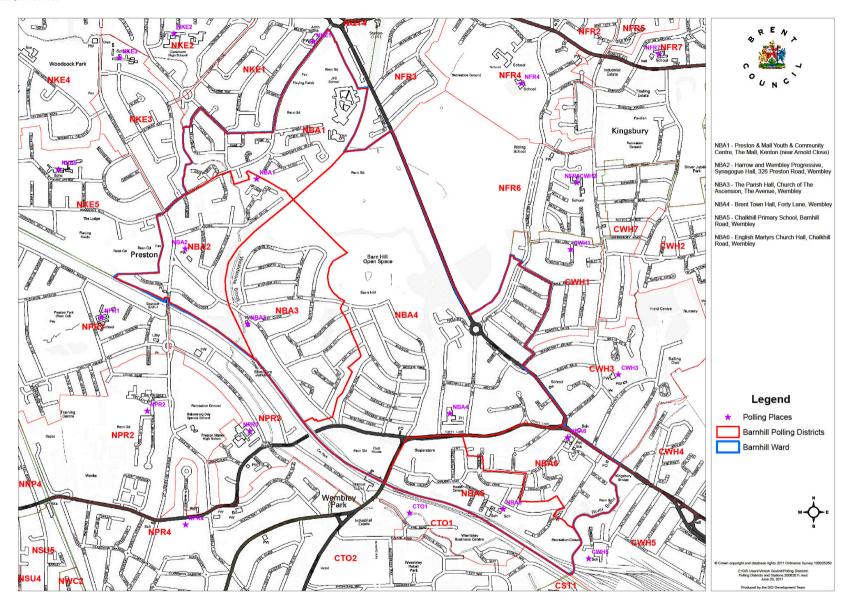
Source: Figures collated by the government to calculate funding for local authorities conducting the 2011 referendum

### Appendix B

## Alperton

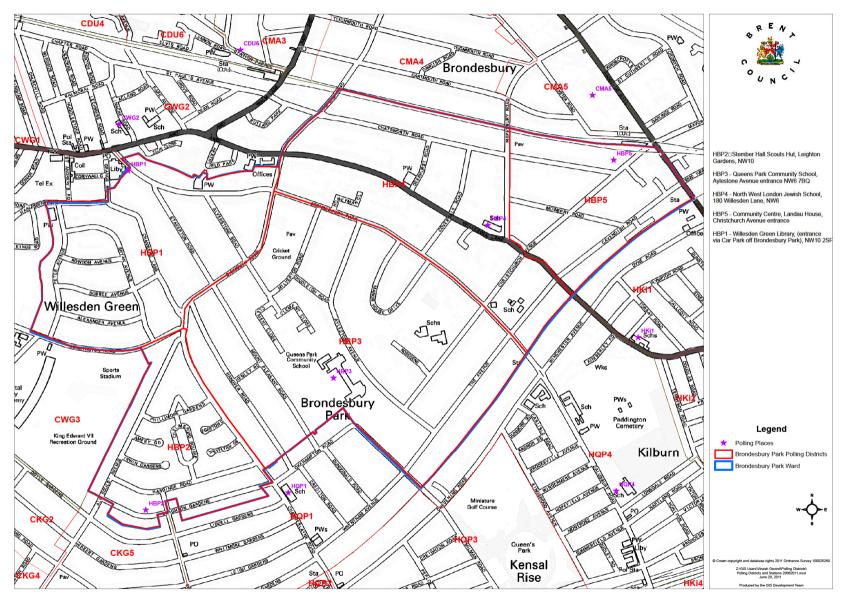


### Barnhill

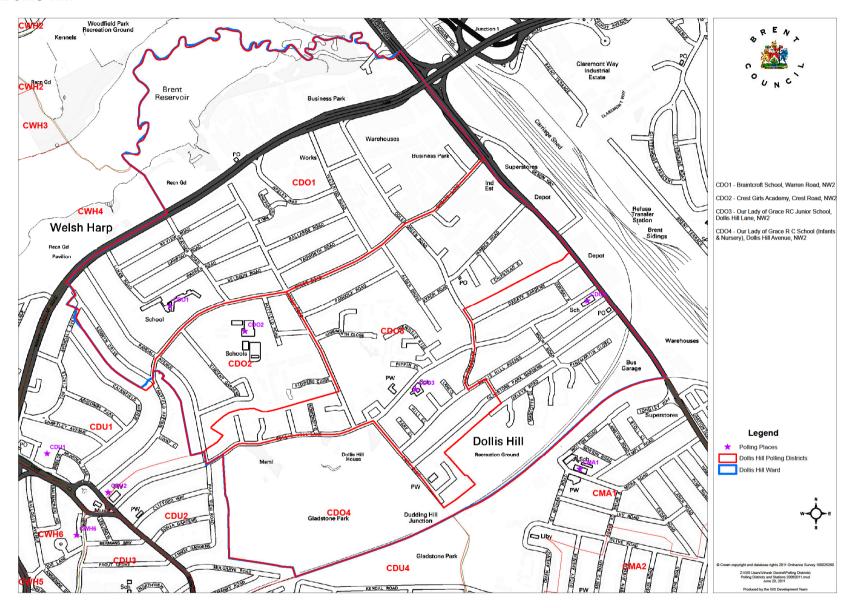


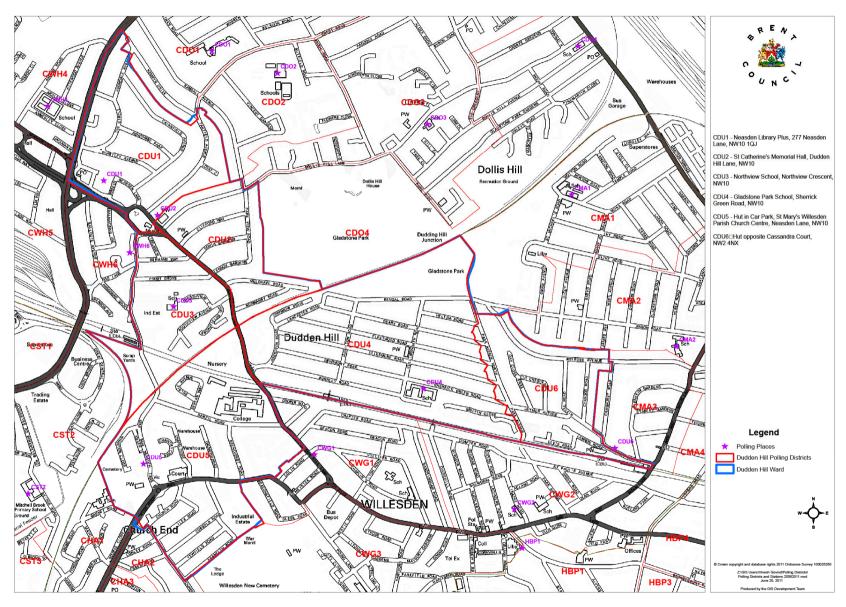
Page 26

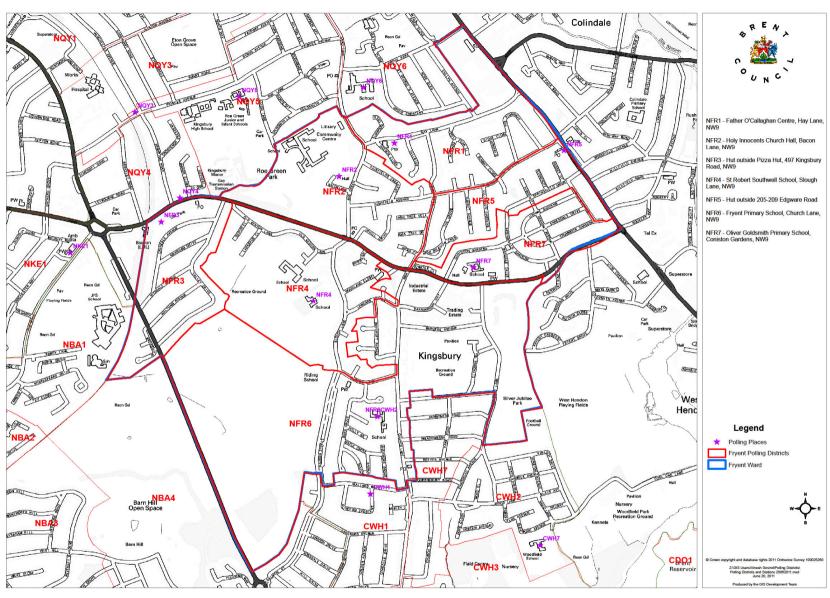
## **Brondesbury Park**



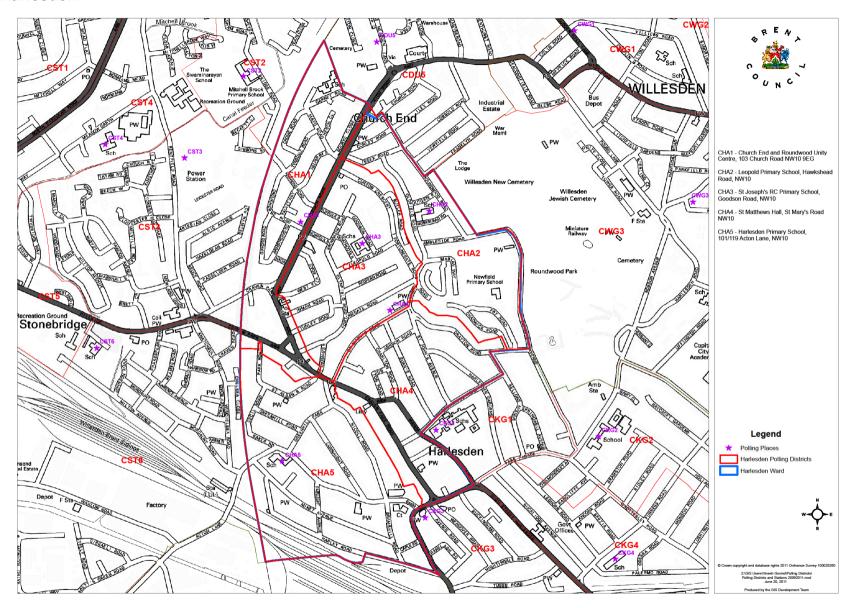
### **Dollis Hill**



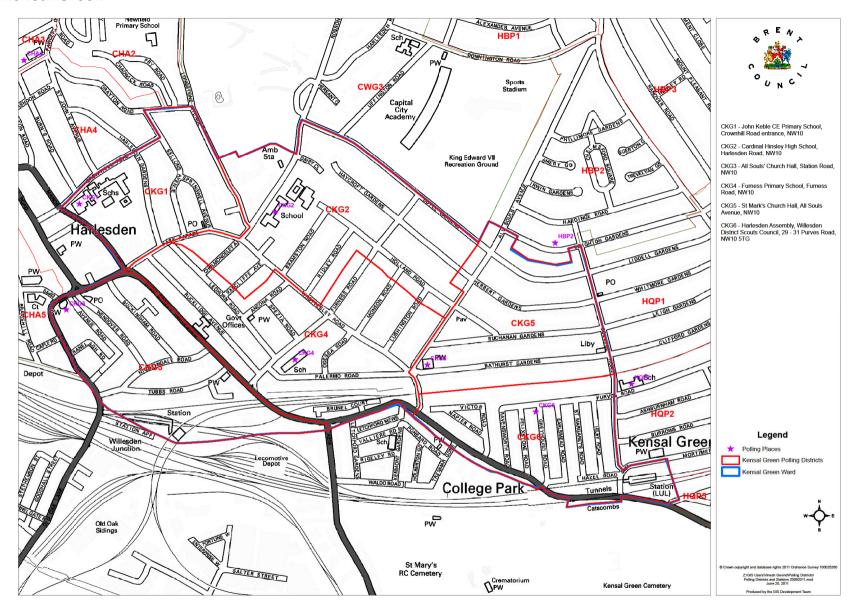


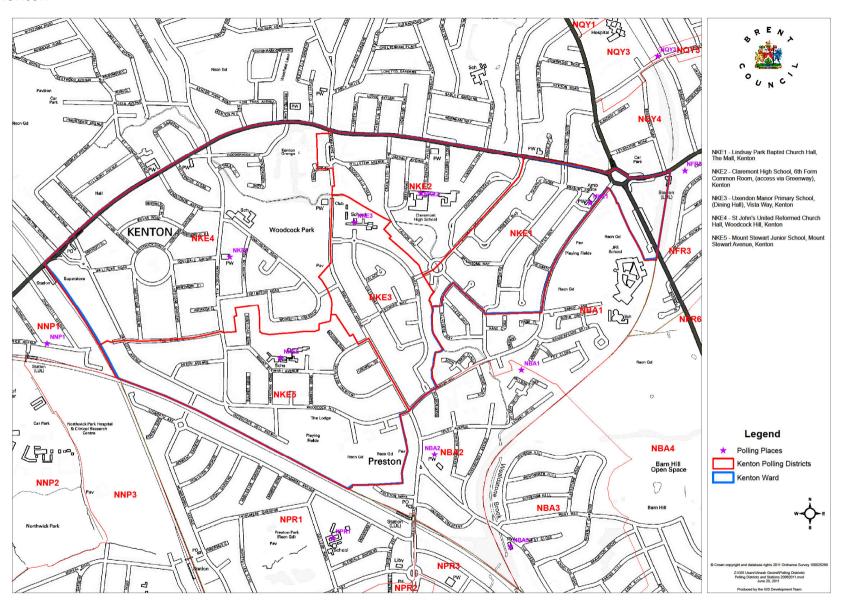


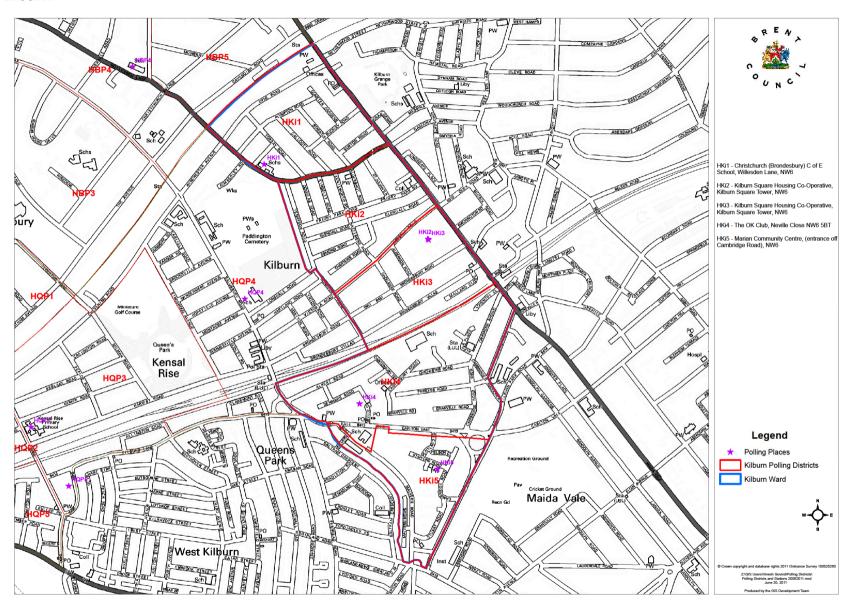
### Harlesden

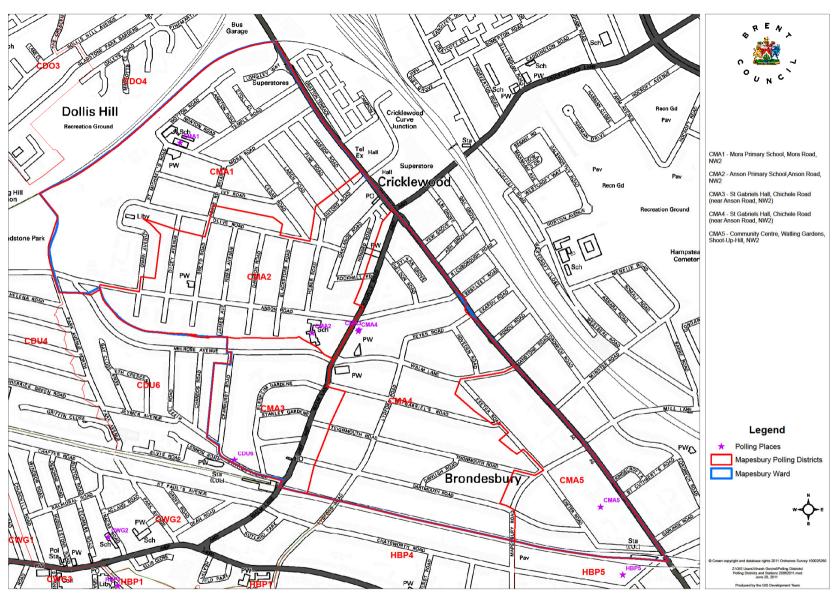


### **Kensal Green**

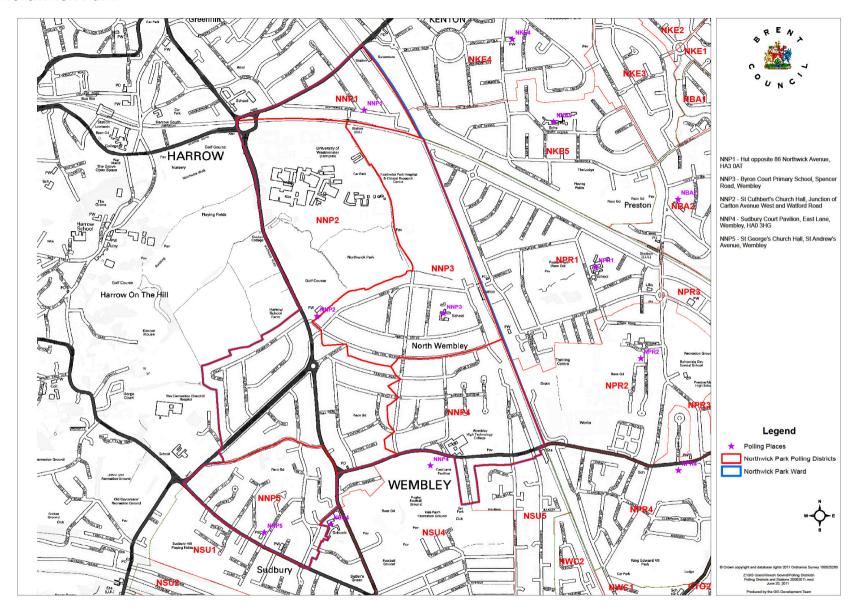


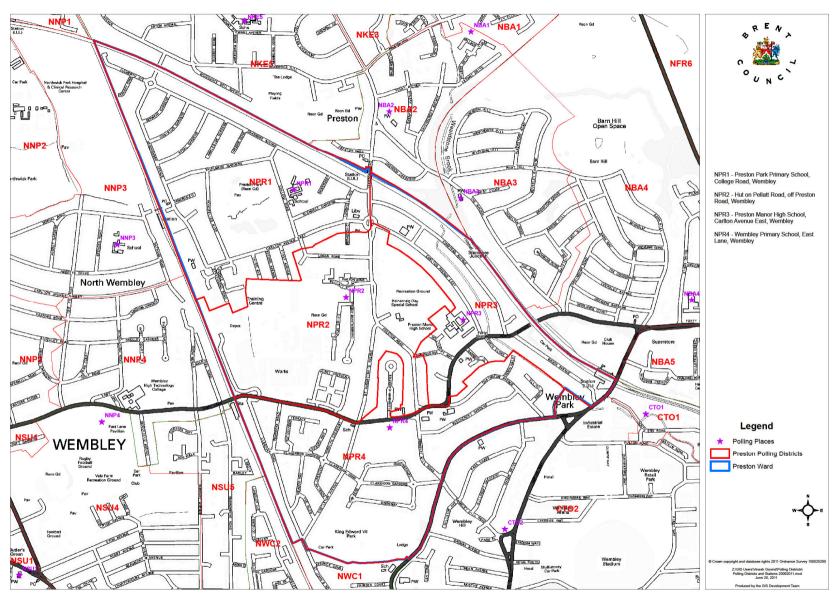




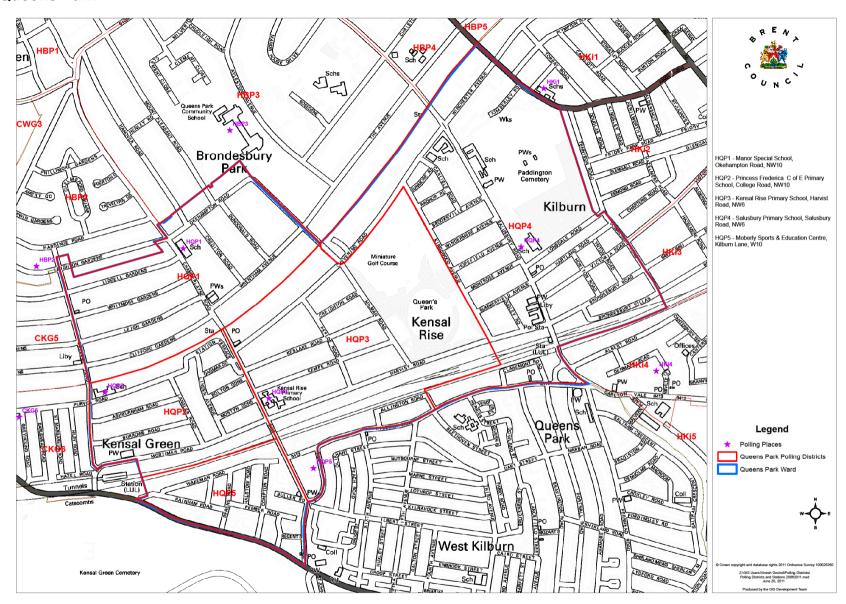


#### **Northwick Park**

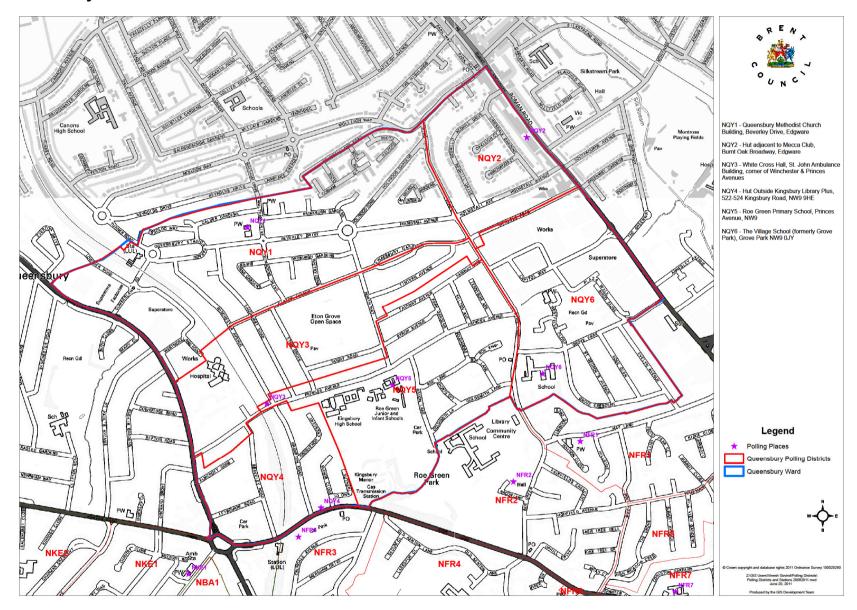




### **Queens Park**

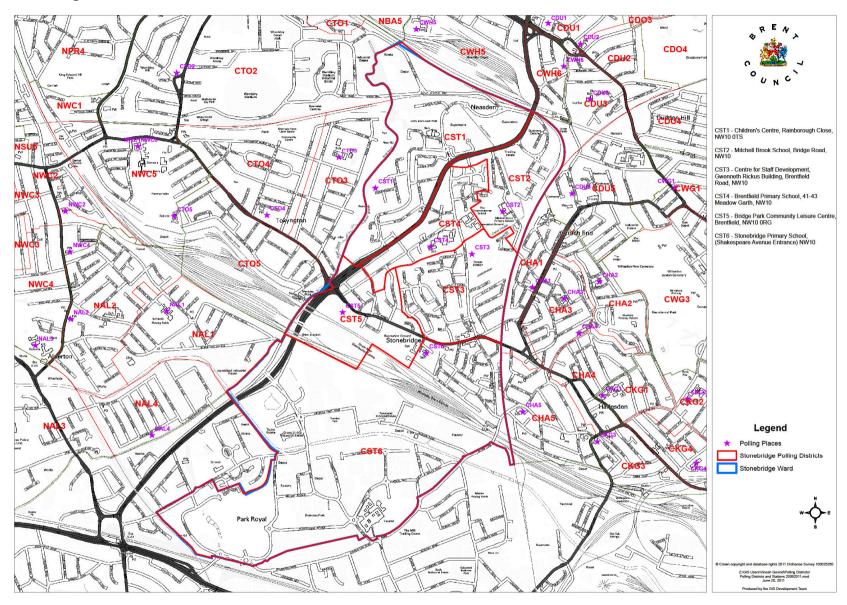


# Queensbury

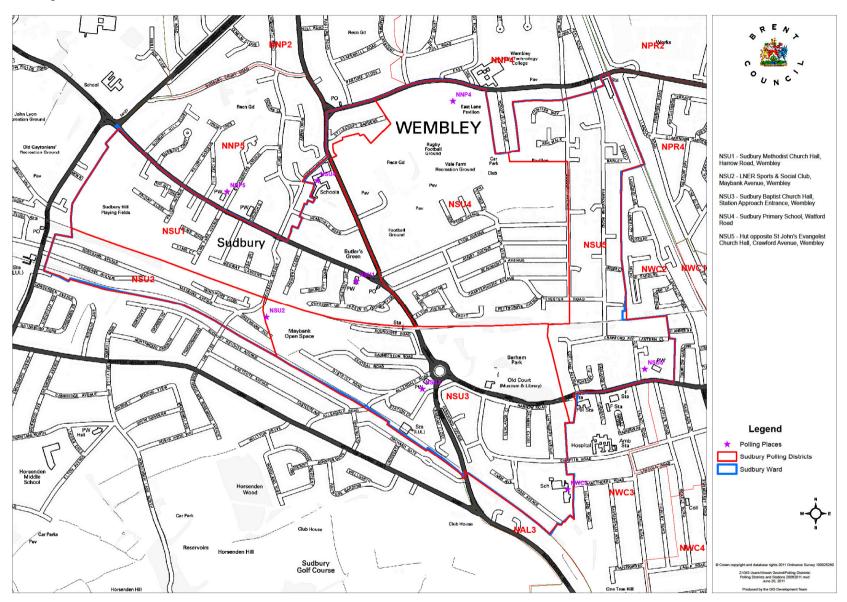


Page 39

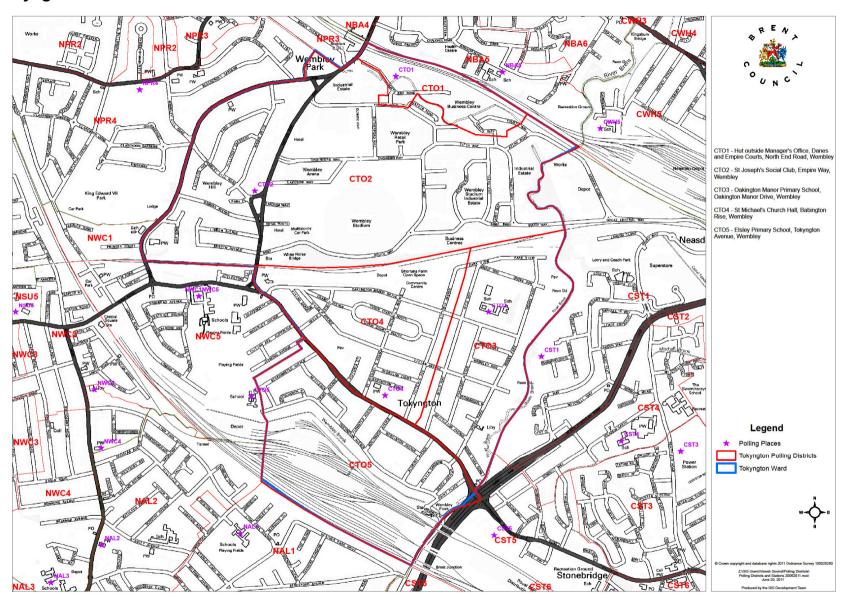
# Stonebridge



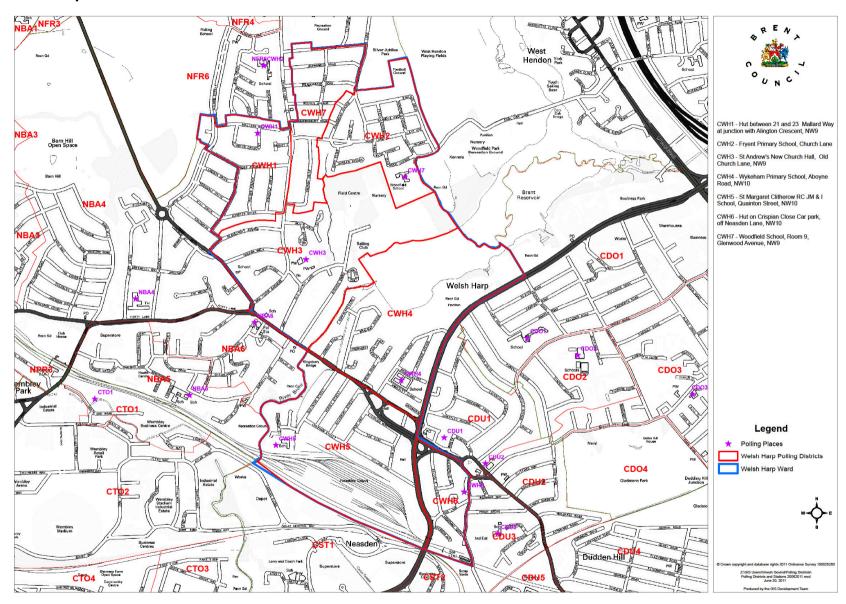
# **Sudbury**



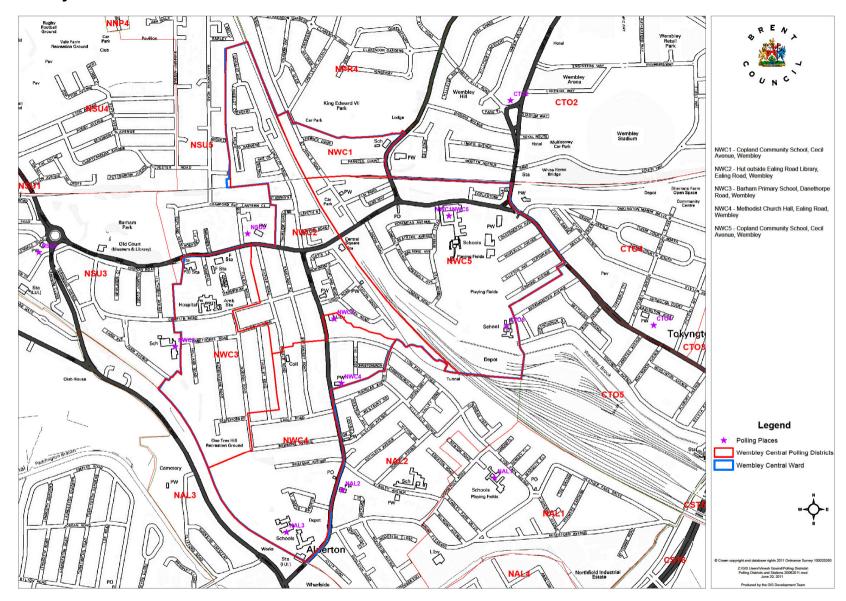
# **Tokyngton**



### Welsh Harp



# **Wembley Central**



### Willesden Green

