



General Purposes Committee
29 January 2015

Report from the Chief Executive

For Action

Wards affected:
ALL

Review of Polling Places 2015

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 It is normal practice prior to any election to carry out a review of polling places in the borough based on experience at the previous election and investigation into the availability of premises for the forthcoming election. This report describes the outcome of the review and asks members to approve my recommendations for polling station arrangements at the General Election in May 2015.

2.0 Recommendations:

- 2.1 that Bethel Community Centre, 197 Ealing Road, HA0 4LW replace Alperton Community School as the polling place for polling district NAL3;
- 2.2 that Christ for the World Mission, Clifford Way, NW10 1AN replace the hut at St Catherine's Church, Dudden Hill Lane as the polling place for polling district CDU2;
- 2.3 that Holy Innocents Church Hall, Bacon Lane, NW9 0PG replace the hut outside Father O'Callaghan Centre NW9 0NG as the polling place for polling district NFR1;
- 2.5 that Oliver Goldsmith School, Coniston Gardens, NW9 0BD replace the hut outside 195-197 Edgware Road as the polling place for polling district NFR5;
- 2.6 that John Keble CE School, Crownhill Road, NW10 4DR replace St Matthew's Church, St Mary's Road as the polling place for polling district CHA4;

- 2.7 that the Roundwood Club, 49 Longstone Avenue, NW10 3UN replace John Keble CE School, Crownhill Road as the polling place for polling district CKG1;
- 2.8 that Hazel Community Centre, Hazel Road, NW10 4PP replace Harlesden Assembly, Purves Road as the polling place for polling district CKG6;
- 2.9 that the meeting room at Haridham Hindu Swaminarayan Temple, Woodcock Hill, HA3 0JH replace St Gregory's Science College, Donnington Road as the polling place for polling district NKE4;
- 2.10 that the Royal British Legion, 15 Peel Precinct, NW6 5DT replace the OK Club, Neville Close as the polling place for polling district HKI4;
- 2.11 that Wembley Christian Centre, Carlton Avenue East, HA9 8LX replace Preston Manor High School, Carlton Avenue East as the polling place for polling district NPR3;
- 2.12 that St Joseph's Wembley Pastoral Centre, 339 High Road, HA9 6AG replace the former Brent House One Stop Shop as the polling place for polling district NWC1;
- 2.13 that the polling place for polling district NWC4 be confirmed at the meeting in the light of updated information;
- 2.14 that the polling places approved at this meeting be adopted for the General Election on 7 May 2015;
- 2.15 that in the event of any polling place becoming unavailable before the May 2015 elections, authority be delegated to the Democratic Services Manager to make any further changes required to polling places for these elections in consultation with the leaders of the political groups on the Council.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 In 2013 a review of polling districts and places was conducted, notice of which was given to interested parties, including organisations with a particular interest and expertise in advising on access to buildings for people with different types of disability. This formed the basis of the arrangements made for the 2014 elections. This report is confined to proposing changes to polling places used in 2014 in the light of availability and increased efficiency.

- 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 A copy of the proposals in the report have been sent to all councillors and local MPs. Comments where received have been included in the report.

3.4 **Alperton Ward**

The arrangements for Alperton ward were considered to be satisfactory for electors; however, it is now understood that Alperton Community School will undergo building works in 2015 and may not be available. For the 2014 Elections, the Music Room at the front of the site was used to comply with safeguarding concerns. While the room was an improvement in terms of space, access involved crossing a tarmac path that was found to be slippery after rain and also there was restricted access to WC facilities for staff throughout the day and evening. In addition a ramp had to be built at considerable cost.

Alternative premises have been identified directly opposite the school, Bethel Community Centre, part of the Church of God of Prophecy on Ealing Road. The room is larger than the school music room and disabled access is excellent with an integrated ramp down into the room.

I am therefore recommending that Bethel Community Centre, 197 Ealing Road, HA0 4LW be the polling place for Polling District NAL3 for the 2015 and future elections.

3.5 **Barnhill Ward**

The old Brent Town Hall remains under development and cannot be used as a polling place in 2015. Temporary huts were placed in the vicinity of the town hall for 2014 and though not ideal it is proposed that this arrangement continue for 2015. Suggested alternatives, the Sattavis Patidar Centre on Forty Avenue and the Chalkhill Community Centre on Chalkhill Road, fall outside of the polling district and are not conveniently located for electors, with the latter requiring voters to cross Forty Lane. A further possible location, Robert Hartlee Centre, owned by BHP at the end of Kings Drive, was visited but found not to be large enough to accommodate two polling stations.

3.6 **Brondesbury Park Ward**

Temporary huts were placed at Queen's Park Community School for 2014 as the school was unavailable due to planned building works. These works are now complete and the school is available for use in the 2015 elections.

3.7 **Dollis Hill Ward**

The arrangements for Dollis Hill ward are considered to be satisfactory for electors and no changes to polling places are proposed.

3.8 **Dudden Hill Ward**

Historically voters in polling district CDU2 have voted in a temporary hut outside St Catherine's Church. There have traditionally been problems in positioning the hut given the location's proximity to a busy roundabout. Alternative premises have been identified in Clifford Way, Christ for the World Mission which is under new management. The new premises are more central to the polling district and the occupiers have agreed to put in place adaptations to improve disabled access. I am therefore recommending that Christ for the World Mission be the polling place for district CDU2.

In recent years the polling place for CDU6 has been a temporary hut located opposite Cassandra Court, on Station Parade, near Willesden Green Station and, in view of the wish to avoid the use of temporary polling stations and concerns over the positioning of the temporary ramp, consideration was given to recommending the use of the Pakistan Community Centre, Marley Walk NW2 4PU as an alternative.

Comments from Councillor Carr, while expressing support and respect for the centre and staff, expressed strong concerns over the use of the centre on the grounds of the political and social neutrality of the space.

The Returning Officer has a responsibility to find polling places that are regarded as neutral and accessible to all and as such I recommend the continued use of a temporary polling station to be placed in as suitable location as can be found in the vicinity of Station Parade.

3.9 Fryent Ward

At the time of the last review, the polling place for NFR1, the Father O'Callaghan Centre was undergoing major refurbishment and a temporary hut was located outside the centre for elections held in 2014. Unfortunately, the Father O'Callaghan Centre remains unavailable for 2015 and as no alternative permanent location has been identified, I am recommending that for 2015 the polling place for NFR2, the Holy Innocents Church Hall, also be used for NFR1. This venue is capable of accommodating an additional polling station. Consideration may be given at the next review as to whether this adjustment should become permanent.

I also recommend that the current polling place for NFR7, Oliver Goldsmith Primary, also serve as the polling place for NFR5, removing the requirement to place a temporary hut outside 205-209 Edgware Road. There is sufficient space at Oliver Goldsmith Primary School to comfortably accommodate two polling stations.

3.10 Harlesden Ward

In 2014, St Matthew's Church was used as the polling place for CHA4, as the Church Hall was unavailable. Though appropriate as a temporary option, use of the Church building in the future is not sustainable. As St Matthew's Church Hall remains unavailable for 2015 and no other potential venues have been identified, I am recommending the use of John Keble Primary School as a permanent polling place for CHA4. The school is an established polling place and is well situated for electors across the polling district. My recommendation is subject to the transfer of the polling place for CKG1 from John Keble

Primary School to the Roundwood Club on Longstone Avenue, as proposed below.

3.11 Kensal Green Ward

As described above it was necessary to identify a new permanent alternative polling place for CHA4. It is therefore recommended that the Roundwood Club on Longstone Avenue be used as the polling place for CKG1 instead of John Keble Primary School. The Roundwood Club is a well-known and well used community facility and is no less conveniently located for elector access.

Following the 2014 elections, a suggestion was received from a ward member that the Hazel Road Community centre, Hazel Road, NW10 4PP should be considered as an alternative to the Harlesden Assembly, 29-31 Purves Road the current polling place for CKG6, where the disabled access proved to be inadequate. Having visited Hazel Community Centre and found it to be a well situated community building with good accessibility, I am supporting this suggestion and recommend that the Hazel Road Community centre be used as the polling place for CKG6.

3.12 Kenton Ward

St John's United Reform Church in Woodcock Hill, a longstanding polling place, was unavailable in 2014 and St Gregory's School was approved as a suitable replacement. The former St John's United Reform Church is under new ownership and is now the Haridham Hindu Swaminarayan Temple, Woodcock Hill, HA3 0JH. The new owners have confirmed the availability of the premises and I am recommending that the polling place for NKE4 revert to the Haridham Hindu Swaminarayan Temple where a meeting room is available.

3.13 Kilburn Ward

Currently, we locate two stations at the OK Club for polling district HKI4. As a well-used community facility, internal space at the OK Club has become increasingly limited over the years. I am concerned about the capacity of the premises to continue to accommodate two stations. The Royal British Legion (Kilburn), 15 Peel Precinct, NW6 5DT is now situated in the former Sir Robert Peel Public House which is immediately opposite the OK Club. These premises have recently been refurbished by the Royal British Legion and could comfortably accommodate two stations. I am therefore proposing that the Royal British Legion replace the OK Club as the polling place for HKI4.

3.14 Mapesbury Ward

The arrangements for Mapesbury ward are considered to be satisfactory for electors and no changes to the boundaries or polling places are proposed.

St Gabriel's Hall has in recent years been the polling place for two districts in the ward, CMA3 and CMA4. There have been concerns expressed in the past about its capability to accommodate the three polling stations required. I am pleased to report that there has been refurbishment works carried out which should allay those concerns.

3.15 Northwick Park Ward

Sudbury Pavilion underwent refurbishment in 2014 and was unavailable for use at last year's elections. Temporary huts placed at the front of the building were used to replace the pavilion. The works have now been completed and it is recommended that Sudbury Pavilion again be used as the polling place for NNP4.

3.16 Preston Ward

Feedback from polling staff and voters regarding Preston Manor High School suggested that the polling station was awkwardly situated within the school site for voter access. The site has been developed over the years and there are now a number of additional buildings which have affected routes of access across the site. Adjacent to the school lies the Wembley Christian Centre. This building is immediately visible from the road and from the school and would be a good alternative location for a polling station. I am therefore recommending that the Wembley Christian Centre, corner of Carlton Avenue East and Forty Avenue be used as the polling place for NPR3, in place of Preston Manor High School.

3.17 Queen's Park Ward

The polling station for HQP5 prior to 2014 was Moberly Sports & Education Centre in Kilburn Lane. Due to planned building works, the site was not available for use in 2014 and though just outside the polling district, ARK Franklin Academy (formerly Kensal Rise Primary School) on Harvist Road was considered a viable and suitable alternative. It is now known that Moberly Sports & Education Centre will be demolished in 2015 and I am therefore recommending that ARK Franklin Academy be retained as a permanent polling place for HQP5. ARK Franklin also accommodates a polling station for HQP3 and there is sufficient space for both stations at the site.

3.18 Queensbury Ward

The arrangements for Queensbury ward are considered to be satisfactory for electors and no changes to the polling places are proposed.

3.19 Stonebridge Ward

The arrangements for Stonebridge ward are considered to be satisfactory for electors and no changes to the polling places are proposed.

3.20 Sudbury Ward

The arrangements for Sudbury ward are considered to be satisfactory for electors and no changes to the boundaries or polling places are proposed.

3.20 Tokyngton Ward

The arrangements for Tokyngton ward are considered to be satisfactory for electors and no changes to the boundaries or polling places are proposed.

3.22 Welsh Harp Ward

The arrangements for Welsh Harp ward are considered to be satisfactory for electors and no changes to the polling places are proposed.

3.23 Wembley Central Ward

The former Brent House One Stop Shop which was the polling place in 2014 for NWC1 is no longer available. St Joseph's Wembley Pastoral Centre, 339 High Road, HA9 6AG on the High Road and very close to the Brent House has been identified as a suitable replacement polling place. I am therefore recommending that the Pastoral Centre be the polling place for polling district NWC1.

Ealing Road Methodist Church Hall, Ealing Road has been used as a polling place for polling district NWC4 for a number of years however there has been a longstanding disabled access problem. A new replacement door has not solved the problems as the UPVC door threshold makes wheelchair access awkward and the council has to provide a ramp.

Alternative premises had been identified at the former Douglas Avenue Resource Centre, Douglas Avenue, Wembley HA0 4DT, which has been refurbished and is shortly to be opened as a bulge class for nearby Lyon Park primary school. The property is accessed by a service road and there are a few parking spaces. In addition to being fully wheelchair accessible, any charge will be negligible compared to the Church Hall hire charge.

Comments from Ward Councillor Krupa Sheth were not in support of the new proposed location which she felt was not well known in the community. Clear signposting would have been in place to direct voters from the High Road and the premises would have been in use as a bulge class for a number of months so should be better known by Election Day.

In view of Councillor Sheth's comments efforts will be made to identify a more permanent solution to the disabled access problems at the Methodist Church the outcome of which will be reported to the meeting.

3.24 Willesden Green Ward

The arrangements for Willesden Green ward are considered to be satisfactory for electors and no changes to the polling places are proposed.

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. In the current financial climate it is expected that efforts are made to look for where economies in the cost of holding elections can be made.

4.2 The total cost for the hire of premises at the combined European Parliamentary and Council elections in 2014 was £25,933 plus £25,421.90 for temporary huts. Temporary huts averaged out at £1210 each.

- 4.3 The recommendations in this report make a net reduction of eight temporary huts, four of which are due to premises returning to use following building works which will create an estimated saving of around £9,680 at current prices. The recommendations also reduce the overall number of polling places by three providing a marginal saving in the cost of hiring premises.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the council to divide every parliamentary constituency or part thereof within its area into polling districts and that these be kept under review. The council must also ensure that all electors are given such facilities for voting as may be reasonable in the circumstances.

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. The accessibility of premises for all electors is taken into consideration as a matter of normal procedure.

Background Papers

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

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CHRISTINE GILBERT
Chief Executive

Ward	Polling District	Current Polling Place	Parliamentary Electorate as at 01/12/14	No of Polling Stations	Recommendation
Alperton	NAL1	Lyon Park Infants School	1816	2	No change
Alperton	NAL2	Alperton Baptist Church Hall	3140	3	No change
Alperton	NAL3	Alperton Community School Annexe	2425	2	Bethel Community Centre, 197 Ealing Road, HA0 4LW
Alperton	NAL4	Abbey Estate Community Centre	1394	1	No change
Barnhill	NBA1	Preston & Mall Y&C Centre	1239	1	No change
Barnhill	NBA2	Hut at Preston Road Car Park	1408	1	No change
Barnhill	NBA3	Parish Hall, Church of the Ascension	1603	2	No change
Barnhill	NBA4	Huts at Former Brent Town Hall	2812	2	No change
Barnhill	NBA5	Chalk hill Primary School	1164	1	No change
Barnhill	NBA6	English Martyrs Church Hall	1534	1	No change
Brondesbury Park	HBP1	George Furness House	1435	1	No change
Brondesbury Park	HBP2	Stember Hall Scouts Hut	1087	1	No change
Brondesbury Park	HBP3	Huts at Queen's Park Community School	2120	2	Queen's Park Community School
Brondesbury Park	HBP4	North West London Jewish School	1764	2	No change
Brondesbury Park	HBP5	Landau House Community Centre	1212	1	No change
Dollis Hill	CDO1	Braintcroft School	2966	2	No change
Dollis Hill	CDO2	Kingfisher Y&C Centre	960	1	No change
Dollis Hill	CDO3	Our Lady of Grace Junior School	2442	2	No change
Dollis Hill	CDO4	Our Lady of Grace Infants School	1308	1	No change

Dudden Hill	CDU1	Christ Embassy (Former Neasden Library)	1135	1	No change
Dudden Hill	CDU2	Hut at St Catherine's Church,	972	1	Christ for the World Mission, Clifford Way, NW10 1AN
Dudden Hill	CDU3	Northview School	670	1	No change
Dudden Hill	CDU4	Gladstone Park School	2532	2	No change
Dudden Hill	CDU5	Hut in Car Park, St Mary's Church	1627	1	No change
Dudden Hill	CDU6	Hut opposite Cassandra Court	1221	1	Temporary polling station on Station Parade
Fryent	NFR1	Hut at former Father O'Callaghan Centre	1325	1	Holy Innocents Church Hall, Bacon Lane, NW9 0PG
Fryent	NFR2	Holy Innocents Church Hall	927	1	No change
Fryent	NFR3	Hut outside Pizza Hut, Kingsbury Rd	1027	1	No change
Fryent	NFR4	St Robert Southwell School	1209	1	No change
Fryent	NFR5	Hut outside 205-209 Edgware Rd	1029	1	Oliver Goldsmith Primary School, Coniston Gardens, NW9 0BD
Fryent	NFR6	Fryent Primary School	1490	1	No change
Fryent	NFR7	Oliver Goldsmith Primary School	1014	1	No change
Harlesden	CHA1	Church End & Roundwood Centre	1402	1	No change
Harlesden	CHA2	Leopold Primary School	1104	1	No change
Harlesden	CHA3	St Joseph's RC Primary School	1588	1	No change
Harlesden	CHA4	St Matthew's Church	2031	2	John Keble CE School, Crownhill Road, NW10 4DR
Harlesden	CHA5	Harlesden Primary School	2283	2	No change
Kensal Green	CKG1	John Keble Primary School	792	1	Roundwood Club, 49 Longstone Avenue, NW10 3UN
Kensal Green	CKG2	Newman Catholic College	1461	1	No change
Kensal Green	CKG3	All Souls' Church Hall	993	1	No change
Kensal Green	CKG4	Furness Primary School	1754	2	No change

Kensal Green	CKG5	St Mark's Church Hall	1210	1	No change
Kensal Green	CKG6	Harlesden Assembly	1553	1	Hazel Road Community Centre, Hazel Road, NW10 4PP
Kenton	NKE1	Lindsay Park Baptist Church Hall	1661	1	No change
Kenton	NKE2	Claremont High School	1483	1	No change
Kenton	NKE3	Uxendon Manor Primary School	1067	1	No change
Kenton	NKE4	St Gregory's Science College	2674	2	Hall at rear of Haridham Hindu Swaminarayan Temple (formerly St John's United Reform Church), Woodcock Hill, HA3 0JH
Kenton	NKE5	Mount Stewart Infant School	1639	1	No change
Kilburn	HKi1	Christchurch School	1738	2	No change
Kilburn	HKi2	Kilburn Square Housing Co-op	2224	2	No change
Kilburn	HKi3	Kilburn Square Housing Co-op	1412	1	No change
Kilburn	HKi4	The OK Club	2807	2	The Royal British Legion, 15 Peel Precinct, NW6 5DT
Kilburn	HKi5	Marian Community Centre	1248	1	No change
Mapesbury	CMA1	Mora Primary School	2101	2	No change
Mapesbury	CMA2	Anson Primary School	1744	2	No change
Mapesbury	CMA3	St Gabriel's Hall	1013	1	No change
Mapesbury	CMA4	St Gabriel's Hall	2105	2	No change
Mapesbury	CMA5	Watling Gardens Community Centre	1305	1	No change
Northwick Park	NNP1	Hut opposite 86 Northwick Avenue	644	1	No change
Northwick Park	NNP2	St Cuthbert's Church Hall	2771	2	No change
Northwick Park	NNP3	Byron Court Primary School	1600	1	No change
Northwick Park	NNP4	Hut at Sudbury Court Pavilion	1892	2	Sudbury Court Pavilion
Northwick Park	NNP5	St George's Church Hall	1615	2	No change
Preston	NPR1	Preston Park Primary School	2918	2	No change
Preston	NPR2	Huts on Pellatt Road	1736	2	No change

Preston	NPR3	Preston Manor High School	1335	1	Wembley Christian Centre, Carlton Avenue East, HA9 8LX
Preston	NPR4	Wembley Primary School	2975	2	No change
Queen's Park	HQP1	Manor Special School	1810	2	No change
Queen's Park	HQP2	Princess Frederica School	1133	1	No change
Queen's Park	HQP3	ARK Franklin Academy	1947	2	No change.
Queen's Park	HQP4	Salusbury Primary School	2508	2	No change
Queen's Park	HQP5	ARK Franklin Academy	1368	1	No change
Queensbury	NQY1	Queensbury Methodist Church Bdg	2788	2	No change
Queensbury	NQY2	Hut outside Mecca Club	914	1	No change
Queensbury	NQY3	White Cross Hall	1371	1	No change
Queensbury	NQY4	Kingsbury Library Plus	1140	1	No change
Queensbury	NQY5	Roe Green Primary School	1809	2	No change
Queensbury	NQY6	Kingsbury Resource Centre	1405	1	No change
Stonebridge	CST1	Children's Centre	2114	2	No change
Stonebridge	CST2	Mitchell Brook School	759	1	No change
Stonebridge	CST3	Leopold Primary School Annexe (formerly Centre for Staff Development)	2756	2	No change
Stonebridge	CST4	Brentfield Primary School	1307	1	No change
Stonebridge	CST5	Stonebridge Hub	2469	2	No change
Stonebridge	CST6	Church Hall, Brentmead Gardens	294	1	No change
Sudbury	NSU1	Sudbury Methodist Church Hall	2064	2	No change
Sudbury	NSU2	LNER Sports & Social Club	939	1	No change
Sudbury	NSU3	Sudbury Baptist Church Hall	1955	2	No change
Sudbury	NSU4	Sudbury Primary School	2111	2	No change
Sudbury	NSU5	St John's Community Centre	1854	2	No change
Tokyngton	CTO1	Hut on North End Road	380	1	No change
Tokyngton	CTO2	Brent Civic Centre	2614	2	No change
Tokyngton	CTO3	Oakington Manor Primary School	2019	2	No change

Tokington	CTO4	St Michael's Church Hall	2212	2	No change
Tokington	CTO5	Elsley Primary School	1774	2	No change
Welsh Harp	CWH1	Hut on Mallard Way	1042	1	No change
Welsh Harp	CWH2	Fryent Primary School	1161	1	No change
Welsh Harp	CWH3	St Andrew's New Church Hall	1223	1	No change
Welsh Harp	CWH4	Wykeham Primary School	1143	1	No change
Welsh Harp	CWH5	St Margaret's RC School	1434	1	No change
Welsh Harp	CWH6	Hut on Crispian Close	665	1	No change
Welsh Harp	CWH7	Woodfield School	1019	1	No change
Wembley Central	NWC1	Former Brent House One Stop Shop	2768	2	St Joseph's Wembley Pastoral Centre, 339 High Road, Wembley HA9 6AG
Wembley Central	NWC2	Ealing Road Library	2538	2	No change
Wembley Central	NWC3	Barham Primary School	1993	2	No change
Wembley Central	NWC4	Ealing Road Methodist Church Hall	1885	2	Ealing Road Methodist Church Hall Or Douglas Avenue Resource Centre
Willesden Green	CWG1	St John & St Francis School	2136	2	No change
Willesden Green	CWG2	St Mary Magdalen's School	2506	2	No change
Willesden Green	CWG3	Kings Hall	2643	2	No change

