



General Purposes Committee
21 January 2019

**Report from the Chief Executive and
(Acting) Returning Officer**

**Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling
Stations**

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	Four: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maps outlining the existing arrangements and proposed changes• Maps outlining the current arrangements for all wards• Summary of the (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals• Comments received in response to the consultation
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 In accordance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, every local authority in England and Wales must undertake and complete a review of all polling districts and polling places in its area within a 16 month period commencing from 1 October 2018 to 31 January 2020.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 A review of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations of the London Borough of Brent has taken place and the resulting recommendations are included in this report.

2.2 Consultation on the review findings took place between 1 October and 31 October 2018. As part of the review representations were sought from all elected representatives for Brent, agents from the May/June polls affiliated with a political party, the (Acting) Returning Officer for the London Borough of Camden, the Brent Connects database, the Brent Disability Forum, members of the public and all existing polling stations.

2.3 Summary of recommendations:

Brondesbury Park ward:

2.3.1 For polling district HBP5, it is recommended that Landau House Community Centre polling place be replaced by the Brondesbury Bowling Club Pavilion, Chatsworth Road.

Dudden Hill ward:

2.3.2 It is recommended that the polling districts CDU1 and CDU2 be merged and that St Catherine's Church be used as the polling place for the new polling district (CDU1). The remaining polling districts CDU3-CDU6 would be renamed CDU2-CDU5.

Harlesden ward:

2.3.3 It is recommended that the properties in Bridge Court, 41 Craven Park be moved from polling district CHA1 into CHA5.

2.3.4 That the properties in Fig Tree Close be moved from polling district CHA3 into CHA5.

Northwick Park ward:

2.3.5 It is recommended that a new polling district be created to serve the University of Westminster Halls of Residence and the Northwick Park Hospital nursing accommodation. This polling district would be named NNP2 and the polling place would be the Northwick Park Hospital Social Club. The existing polling districts NNP2-NNP5 would be renamed NNP3 - NNP6.

Preston ward:

2.3.6 It is recommended that the properties in Fernleigh Court be moved from polling district NPR2 into NPR1.

Queens Park ward:

2.3.7 It is recommended that the properties in Mortimer Road be moved from polling district HQP3 into HQP2.

Queensbury ward:

- 2.3.8 It is recommended that polling districts NQY5 and NQY6 be merged and that Roe Green Primary School be used as the polling place for the new polling district.

Stonebridge ward:

- 2.3.9 It is recommended that the boundary between polling districts CST5 and CST6 be moved to the railway line.

Sudbury ward:

- 2.3.10 It is recommended that the properties on East Lane, Stilecroft Gardens and Watford Road be moved from polling district NSU1 into NSU4.

Tokington ward:

- 2.3.11 It is recommended that the boundaries for polling districts CTO1 and CTO2 be completely redrawn and that Brent Civic Centre be used as the polling place for CTO1 and that the Yellow Pavilion, Harbutt Road be used as the polling place for CTO2.

- 2.3.12 Maps outlining the existing arrangements and proposed changes for these wards are attached at Appendix A.

Remaining wards

- 2.3.13 No changes are proposed to the following wards, and no responses to the consultation were received in respect of them: Alperton, Barnhill, Dollis Hill, Fryent, Kensal Green, Kenton, Kilburn, Mapesbury, Welsh Harp, Wembley Central, and Willesden Green.

- 2.4 A response supporting the current arrangements from the (Acting) Returning Officer for the London Borough of Camden was received in respect of the Hampstead and Kilburn Parliamentary Constituency. It is therefore proposed that no further changes are made to the existing polling districts or polling places in these wards other than outlined above.

- 2.5 Maps outlining the current arrangements for all wards make up Appendix B.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires 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 five 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 republished on 1 March 2019.

- 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 usually 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.

In accordance with Electoral Commission guidance, no more than 2,500 electors should be allocated to a polling station.

- 3.3 The Council is required 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 The consultation period ran from 1 October to 31 October 2018. Notice of the consultation was sent to all elected members of the Council, to local MPs, MEPs and the GLA member for Brent and Harrow. All existing and proposed polling stations were contacted. Furthermore, a presentation was given at the Brent Disability Forum. In addition, the consultation was publicised through the Council's consultation portal. The (Acting) Returning Officer for the London Borough of Camden, who is responsible for the Hampstead and Kilburn parliamentary constituency, was also invited to comments on proposals.
- 3.5 The following people and organisations were directly invited to comment as part of as part of the review:
 - All Elected Representatives for Brent.
 - All agents from the May/June 2018 Local elections who are affiliated with a political party.
 - London Borough of Camden (Acting) Returning Officer.
 - All members of the Brent Connects database.
 - Brent Disability Forum.
 - All current polling stations.
- 3.6 As part of the review, the (Acting) Returning Officer for Brent prepared a report on proposed arrangements for the authority. That report has been posted on the Council's website at www.brent.gov.uk/pdreview. All elected representatives for Brent were notified of the report when it was posted on the website.
- 3.7 The (Acting) Returning Officer's report has made recommendations for alternative polling station locations where existing venues have become unavailable and some adjustments to polling district boundaries where districts have outgrown the capacity of the polling station location. A summary of the

(Acting) Returning Officer's proposals make up Appendix C. Comments received in response to the consultation make up Appendix D.

Brondesbury Park Ward

- 3.8 Landau House Community Centre is currently unavailable to be used as a polling station. Brondesbury Bowling Club Pavilion, Chatsworth Road nearby to the current polling station location, is the recommended replacement.
- 3.9 The (Acting) Returning Officer for Hampstead and Kilburn constituency, in which Brondesbury Park ward lies, has indicated his approval of the recommended arrangements.

Dudden Hill Ward

- 3.10 Since the last review, the site of the former Neasden Library has been acquired by new owners who are now reluctant to allow the continued use of the building as a polling place. As no other premises could be found in the polling district in advance of the elections in 2017, it was decided that the polling station be relocated to St Catherine's Church.
- 3.11 As this arrangement worked well it is proposed that the polling districts CDU1 and CDU2 are merged and that St Catherine's Church be used as the polling place for the new polling district. The remaining polling districts CDU3-CDU6 would also be renamed CDU2-CDU5

Harlesden Ward

- 3.12 The arrangements for Harlesden ward are considered to be generally satisfactory for electors. However the boundary between polling districts CHA1, CHA3 and CHA5 is skewed. It is therefore proposed that the boundary is redrawn following the centre of Craven Park and intersecting with Church Road.

Northwick Park Ward

- 3.13 The nursing accommodation and the University of Westminster Halls of Residence are cut off from the remainder of the polling district, so it is proposed that a new polling district is created. Under the proposal the boundary that runs behind Norval Road would intersect with the ward boundary at centre of Watford Road adjacent to 269. It is further proposed that the Social Club, Northwick Park Hospital be used as the polling place for the new NNP2.
- 3.14 This proposal would require the existing southern part of NNP2 be renamed as NNP5 and the existing NNP5 be renamed NNP6.

Preston Ward

- 3.15 The arrangements for Preston ward are generally considered to be satisfactory for electors. However Fernleigh Court is currently split between two polling districts, it is therefore proposed to move the affected properties in the polling district NPR2 into NPR1.

Queens Park Ward

- 3.16 Under the current arrangements the boundary between polling districts HQP2 and HQP3 appears illogical as Mortimer Road is separated from the remainder of HQP3 by Chamberlayne Road. It is proposed that Mortimer Road be moved into HQP2 by extending the boundary that currently runs through the centre of Chamberlayne Road to the railway line and intersects with the current boundary for HQP5.
- 3.17 The (Acting) Returning Officer for Hampstead and Kilburn constituency, in which Queens Park ward lies, has indicated his approval of the recommended arrangements.

Queensbury Ward

- 3.18 Brent River College was previously a Council building (Kingsbury Resource Centre). Brent River College is Pupil Referral Unit, and the head teacher has asked if we could find an alternative location as its use as a polling station causes significant disruption. Further, this polling station falls outside of the ward, in Fryent ward.
- 3.19 It is therefore proposed that polling districts NQY5 and NQY6 are merged and Roe Green Primary School be used as the polling place for the merged district.

Stonebridge Ward

- 3.20 Currently the boundary between polling districts CST5 and CST6 is adjacent to the edge of Park Royal. The industrial estate now has some residential properties in it. Residents in those properties currently have to go some distance and cross the railway to get to their polling station.
- 3.21 It is therefore proposed that the boundary between CST5 and CST6 be redrawn using the railway line as the boundary.

Sudbury Ward

- 3.22 Following a comment from a member of the public, it is proposed that the properties on East Lane, Stilecroft Gardens and Watford Road that are currently in polling district NSU1 district be moved into NSU4.

Tokyington Ward

- 3.23 The electorate for polling district CTO2 is now very large (6,279), and will be increasing in size as the new developments are completed. While I am aware that this will need to be revisited after the new ward boundaries come into force this is an issue that needs addressing in the short term.
- 3.24 It is proposed that the existing boundary between polling districts CTO1 and CTO2 is completely redrawn. The new boundary would run through the centre of Olympic Way, along Wembley Splay to Engineers Way continuing behind the Montana and Dakota buildings. It would then carry on along Engineers Way to

Wembley Boulevard to Royal Route before meeting Wembley Hill Road and running to the existing boundary.

- 3.25 The polling place for the new polling district CTO1 would be Brent Civic Centre and the polling place for the new polling district CTO2 would be the Yellow Pavilion.

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 Any increase in the amount of polling stations would incur additional costs in terms of building hire, equipment and polling station staff. The cost incurred from using Council maintained buildings is limited to covering heating, lighting and cleaning costs. These costs are met by the Council only when used for Council elections or by-elections.

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 Equality 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.

7.0 Consultation with ward and stakeholders

- 7.1 As outlined above, the consultation period ran from 1 October to 31 October 2018. Notice of the consultation was sent to all members of the Council, to local MPs, MEPs and the GLA member for Brent and Harrow. All existing and proposed polling stations were contacted. A presentation was given at the Brent Disability Forum. In addition, the consultation was publicised through the Council's consultation portal.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources or property implications.

Report sign off:

CAROLYN DOWNS

Chief Executive and (Acting) Returning Officer