

Birmingham City Council

Council Business Management Committee

12 March 2021



Subject: Changes to Polling Station venues 6th May 2021

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Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 To agree the changes to the polling station venues to be used at the Police and Crime Commissioner, West Midlands Combined Authority Mayoral and City Council by elections due to take place on Thursday 6th May 2021.
- 1.2 Due to the nature of the current pandemic, the Elections Office have had more difficulties than usual in securing suitable venues as polling stations. Whilst the usual practise is to consult with relevant parties and consider any feedback, that has had to be curtailed due to time constraints.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the polling station venue changes be agreed for the polls taking place on Thursday 6th May 2021.

3 Background

- 3.1 At each election there are changes to polling station venues for a variety of reasons – they are already booked, are undergoing building works or have closed down/changed usage. When alternatives are identified the usual practice is to

consult with ward Councillors, Members of Parliament, Political Group Offices and other interested parties so that they are aware of what is being proposed and can provide feedback, often putting forward alternative suggestions for consideration.

- 3.2 The Elections Office have had more difficulties this year in securing the usual polling station venues for a variety of reasons which have included, for example, venues are being used as a vaccination or testing centres or have simply been “shut down” for the duration of lockdown and therefore will not be available on polling day.
- 3.3 The issue around availability was further complicated following a letter from the Department for Education to all schools that schools should avoid closure on polling day, if at all possible.
- 3.4 As a result of that letter some schools confirmed that they would no longer be available, but where possible we have worked closely with them so they can remain open. Unfortunately, in a small number of cases, closure of a school has been unavoidable.
- 3.5 Unfortunately, due to the lateness of that letter (11th February) we found ourselves without venues and little time to source suitable alternatives.
- 3.6 However, I would like to say thank you to all schools who have worked with us in what I know is a very challenging time. Without their help and cooperation, I am not sure that I, nor my team, would be able to deliver the polls due to take place on the 6th.
- 3.7 Where possible we have attempted to keep the polling station in the same polling district but where that is not possible, we have sought to locate it in an adjoining district with as little disruption as possible for the elector.
- 3.8 With the imminent deadline for submitting poll card information to our printer (16th March), we have been unable to consult in the usual manner. Instead advisory letters are being sent to the usual parties as we are not able to act on all the feedback due to the time constraints.
- 3.9 Polling stations will revert back to their usual venues at future planned elections, though should the replacement work well, it can be considered for future use, but with the required consultation.

4 List of polling station changes by ward

4.1 Confirmed changes

Previously used	6th May 2021
ACOCKS GREEN WARD	
ACG6 Severne Junior & Infant (NC) School, Severne Road, B27 7HR	ACG6 St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Church, Lakey Lane B28 8QU (located in polling district ACG5)

ALLENS CROSS WARD	
ALC3 Merritts Brook EACT Academy, Trescott Road, B31 5QD	ALC3 Allens Cross Community Centre, (Foyer), Tinkers Farm Road, B31 1RH (located in ALC2 and used as a polling station for ALC2)
ALUM ROCK WARD	
ALR6 Parkfield Primary School, Parkfield Road, B8 3AX	ALR6 Our Lady of the Rosary & St Terese Church, Bridge Road, B8 3BB (located in the polling district)
BARTLEY GREEN WARD	
BAR1 Woodgate Valley Country Park Visitors Centre, Clapgate Lane, B32 3DS	BAR1 Woodgate Primary School, Trimpley Road, B32 3PN (located in polling district BAR5 and used as a polling station for BAR5)
BILLESLEY WARD	
BIL5 Kings Heath Boys School, Chamberlain Road, B13 0QP	BIL5 Kings Heath Cricket Club, Function Room, 247 Alcester Road South, B14 6DT (located in the polling district)
BIL8 Yardley Wood Community Primary School (New Sports Hall), School Road, B14 4ER	BIL8 Christ Church Centre, Christ Church, Yardley Wood, 153 School Road, B14 4EP (located in the polling district)
BIRCHFIELD WARD	
BIR1 United Reformed Church Hall Annexe, Wilton Road, B20 3RX	BIR1 Handsworth Seventh Day Adventist Church, Hutton Road, B20 3RD (located in the polling district)
BRANDWOOD AND KINGS HEATH WARD	
BKH3 Colmore Infant & Nursery School, Colmore Road, B14 6AJ	BKH3 Kings Heath Quaker Meeting House, 17 Colmore Road, B14 7PE (located in the polling district)
DRUIDS HEATH AND MONYHULL WARD	
DHM4 Maypole Youth and Community Centre, Idmiston Croft, B14 5NJ	DHM4 Druids Heath Library, 1 Idmiston Croft, B14 5NJ (located in the polling district)

GLEBE FARM AND TILE CROSS WARD	
GFT2YA Audley Primary School, Audley Road, B33 9HY	GFT2YA The Shilonite Gospel Church of Cherubim & Seraphim, 94 Audley Road, B33 9DX. (located in the polling district)
GFT3 Audley Primary School, Audley Road, B33 9HY	GFT3 Glebe Farm Library, Glebe Farm Road, B33 9NA (located in polling district GFT2YA).
HALL GREEN SOUTH	
HGS3 Chilcote Primary School, Chilcote Close, B28 0PB	HGS3 2 HUTS: Car Park Chilcote School, Chilcote Close, B28 0PB (double station)
HIGHTERS HEATH WARD	
HIH2 Yardley Wood Baptist Church, Yardley Wood Road, Birmingham B14 4LS	HIH2 Warstock Community Centre, 1 Daisy Farm Road, B14 4QA (located in the polling district)
LONGBRIDGE AND WEST HEATH WARD	
LWH5 Turves Green Primary School, Turves Green, B31 4BP	LWH5 West Heath Community Centre, Condoover Road, B31 3QY (located in polling district LWH7)
LWH8 St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, Alvechurch Road, B31 3PN	LWH8 St John Fisher Catholic Church, 1 Cofton Road, B31 1QT (located in polling district LWH7)
MOSELEY WARD	
MOS4 Moor Green Primary Academy, Moor Green Lane, B13 8QP	MOS4 Highbury Hall, 4 Yew Tree Road, B13 8QG (located in the polling district)
NORTH EDGBASTON	
NED1 Summerfield School, Cuthbert Road, B18 4AH	NED1 Summerfield Community Centre, Winson Green Road, B18 4EJ. (located in the polling district)

PYPE HAYES WARD	
PYP3 Gunter Primary School, Gunter Road, B24 0RU	PYP3 St Mary's Church Hall, Padstow Road, B24 0TB (located in the polling district)
QUINTON WARD	
QUI3 Woodhouse Primary Academy, Woodhouse Road, B32 2DL	QUI3 Quinborne Community Centre, Ridgacre Road, B32 2TW (located in the polling district)
STIRCHEY WARD	
STI3 Dads Lane Community Association, Pineapple Road, B30 2SY	STI3 St Andrews Methodist Church, Cartland Road, B30 2RD (located in polling district STI4)
SUTTON REDDICAP WARD	
SRE1 Hollyfield Primary School, Hollyfield Road, B75 7SG	SRE1 St Chads Church, Hollyfield Road, B75 7SN (located in the polling district)
SUTTON ROUGHLEY WARD	
SRO1 Little Sutton Primary School, Worcester Lane, B75 5NL	SRO1 Harvest Fields Centre, Harvest Fields Way, B75 5TJ (located in the polling district)
SRO3 AND SRO4 Lench's Trust Community Room, Tanners Close, off Whitehouse Common Road, B75 6DP	SRO3 AND SRO4 HUT: CAR PARK White Horse Pub, Whitehouse Common Road, B75 6HD (located in polling district SRO3).
WEOLEY AND SELLY OAK WARD	
WSO7 Our Lady and St Rose of Lima Primary School, Gregory Avenue, B29 5DY	WSO7 Our Lady and St Rose of Lima Church (Parish Hall), Gregory Avenue, B29 5DY. (located in the polling district)

4.2 Premises unavailable and unresolved (as at 11/03/2021)

Previously used	6 th May 2021
STOCKLAND GREEN WARD	
STG6 Brookvale Primary School, Mallard Drive, B23 7YB	STG6 George Road Baptist Church, Boulton Road) – initial contact only (located in polling district STG5)