

Report to:	COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Report of:	HEAD OF ELECTORAL SERVICES
Date of Decision:	19th November 2018
SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICT AND PLACES
Wards affected:	ALLENS CROSS, EDGBASTON, NEWTOWN, NORTHFIELD, SHELDON, SOHO AND JEWELLERY QUARTER AND YARDLEY EAST

1. Purpose of report:
1.1 To consider amendments to the boundaries of Polling Districts within the wards in line with the feedback received following the May 2018 poll.

2. Recommendations :
<p>2.1 That the suggested alterations to Polling Districts within:</p> <p> Allens Cross Edgbaston Newtown Northfield Sheldon Soho and Jewellery Quarter Yardley East </p> <p>2.2 Wards be approved with effect from publication of the annual revised Register of Electors on 1 December 2018</p>

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3. Relevant background/chronology of key events :

- 3.1 The new Ward scheme came into effect at the City Council elections on 3 May 2018. The Council has a duty to keep the Polling Districts (PDs) under review and undertook a citywide review in 2017 to bring them into line with the new ward boundaries
- 3.2 Following the May 2018 poll, the split of polling districts and the suitability of polling station venues was reviewed taking into account any feedback received from elected Members, MPs, candidates, main party agents / organisers.
- 3.3 Comments were received in respect of 7 wards, and the Acting Returning Officer has identified some suggested improvements in respect of these 7 wards.
- 3.4 These new suggestions were circulated to all Members, MPs, main party agents / organisers for feedback.
- 3.5 All comments were considered before final decisions made.
- 3.6 In deciding on the suitability of suggestions, the Acting Returning Officer has tried to take all relevant factors into account. There are no prescribed or fixed rules and each case is taken on its merits. The following are the main (informal) guidelines:
 - A policy of “minimal disruption” has been followed
 - All electors should be given reasonable facilities for voting.
 - Replacements for temporary porta cabins should be found if possible
 - Ideally, the polling station should be within its own Polling District, unless there is no reasonable alternative available
 - Up to 2,000 electors may be allocated to one polling station (if the premises are suitable two polling stations - up to 4,000 electors – may be provided, etc.) based on Electoral Commission guidance
 - No polling district to have less than 1000 electors – unless a natural boundary makes this a necessity, or the polling district must be kept separate in order to identify the streets contained as being part of a different constituency from the rest of the ward
 - No polling station should be shared by more than one ward – unless no other suitable polling venue is available
 - Any new premise/polling stations identified should have good access for people with disabilities
 - Where possible, natural boundaries are to be used e.g. railways, major roads, waterways etc.

- The Acting Returning Officer has a preference to use, wherever possible, any room in a school maintained or assisted by a local education authority, or a school in respect of which grants are made out of monies provided by Parliament to the person or body responsible for the management of the school (this includes Academies). This use of schools guarantees that rooms are available each year, even at short notice, and are free of charge, though extra charges for heating, lighting and caretakers etc. are met by the Acting Returning Officer. Schools have good access and are usually in a prominent position within the polling district and are well known landmark buildings.

3.7 Council Business Management Committee now needs to decide on the final polling district boundaries for the aforementioned wards.

3.8 When agreed the proposals will come into effect from 1st December 2018 when the new annual register of electors is published.

3.9 Allens Cross Ward

Proposal

Following feedback from voters at the local elections in May 2018 regarding the distance to their allocated polling station, it is recommended that polling district ALC1 is split along the pathway to the south of Meadow Brook Road at Merritts Brook. Electors to the south of this revised boundary would continue to cast their vote at Bellfield Infant School on Vineyard Road, whilst electors to the north of the boundary would cast their vote at Shenley Lane Community & Sports Association, 472 Shenley Lane.

Should such an amendment take place then the electorate at the station would be as follows:

Polling District	Polling Station	Current Electorate	New Electorate	No of Stations
ALC1	Bellfield Infant School	2288	1238	1
ALC4 New PD	Shenley Lane Community & Sports Association, 472 Shenley Lane.		1050	1

Shenley Lane Community & Sports Association is not only outside of the newly created polling district, it is also outside of the Allens Cross ward, however, we have been unable to locate anything suitable that would create a more accessible and natural passage for these electors within the polling district. The venue has been used previously as a polling station prior to the Boundary Review and it provides good access and facilities. Whilst it is now situated outside of the Allens Cross Ward, it is the most accessible place for a polling station for the residents of Shenley Lane, Meadow Brook Road, Spiceland Road and nearby roads.

Views on the Proposal

Views on the proposal have been sought from the MP, the Ward Councillors and the agents/organisers of the main political parties. No adverse comments have been received to date. Any responses will be reported at the meeting. The proposal is supported by EMMF (Electoral Matters Members Forum).

Necessary Alterations

Move the following streets currently in polling district ALC1 into the newly created polling district ALC4.

Bramble Close	Merritts Hill
Brookside	Old Park
Coln Close	Paxford Way
Clun Road	Shenley Lane
Cutsdean Close	Spiceland Road
Gentian Close	Verbena Road
Kerry Close	Wirral Road
Long Mynd Road	Wisteria Close
Meadow Brook Road	

3.10 Edgbaston Ward

Proposal

Following feedback from residents in Vincent Drive, Roman Way, Leasow Drive and Bullace Croft regarding the distance to the polling station when voting at the local elections in May 2018, it is recommended that polling district EDG4 is split using the back of the buildings on Hospital Drive as the boundary line. Newman House would be retained for the streets to the north and the TMO Office, 27 Underwood Close would be used as the polling station to the south. This venue has previously been used as a polling station.

Should such an amendment take place then the electorate at the station would be as follows:

Polling District	Polling Station	Current Electorate	New Electorate	No of Stations
EDG4	Newman House	1834	1572	1
EDG8 (New PD)	TMO Office 27 Underwood Close		262	1

Whilst this change does create a very small polling district, the area is surrounded on both sides by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham University and the ward boundaries, affording little choice for electors as both Newman House and the polling station in the adjoining EDG7 polling district, St Francis Hall, Edgbaston Park Road, are some distance away. Many of the residents in this area are elderly and would benefit from this proposed change.

Views on the Proposal

Views on the proposal have been sought from the MP, the Ward Councillors and the agents/organisers of the main political parties. No adverse comments have been received to date. Any responses will be reported at the meeting. The proposal is supported by EMMF (Electoral Matters Members Forum).

Necessary Alterations

Move the following streets currently in polling district EDG4 into the new polling district EDG8 –

Bullace Croft	Mindelsohn Way
Hospital Drive	New Fosse Way
Leasow Drive	Roman Way
Metchley Lane	Underwood Close
Metchley Park Road	Vincent Drive (part)

3.11 Newtown Ward

Proposal

Following feedback after the local elections in May 2018, it is recommended that polling district NEW3 is split using Newtown Row as the boundary line. Electors to the west of Newtown Row will continue to cast their vote at Chilwell Croft Academy, whilst electors to the east of Newtown Row would cast their vote at Calvary Church of God in Christ, 1 Burlington Street.

Should such an amendment take place then the electorate at each station would be as follows:

Polling District	Polling Station	Current Electorate	New Electorate	No of Stations
NEW3	Chilwell Croft Academy	2296	1671	1
NEW 5 (New PD)	Calvary Church of God in Christ		625	1

Whilst this change does create a small polling district, Newtown Row is a natural barrier and electors to the east of this major road would find it easier to cast their vote at the proposed venue.

Views on the Proposal

Views on the proposal have been sought from the MP, the Ward Councillors and the agents/organisers of the main political parties. No adverse comments have been received to date. Any responses will be reported at the meeting. The proposal is supported by EMMF (Electoral Matters Members Forum).

Necessary Alterations

Move the following streets currently in polling district NEW3 into the new polling district NEW5 –

Allesley Street	Moorsom Street
Aston Brook Street	Newtown Middleway (part)
Bourn Mill Drive	Park Lane (part)
Boxhill Close	Parliament Street
Bracebridge Street	Phillips Street
Burlington Street	Potters Lane
Chilworth Close	Rudgewick Croft
Dunsford Croft	Salstar Close

Elkington Street	Shefford Road
Galena Way	St Stephens Street
High Street	Sutton Street
Leatherhead Close	Thomas Street
Miller Street	

3.12 Northfield Ward

Proposal

Following feedback from parents and the Head Teachers at St Laurence Infant School and St Laurence Junior School after the local elections in May 2018, it is recommended that polling district NOR1 is split using Victoria Common as the boundary line. Electors to the north of Victoria Common would cast their vote at St Laurence Junior School, whilst electors to the south of Victoria Common would cast their vote at St Laurence Infant School.

Should such an amendment take place then the electorate at the station would be as follows:

Polling District	Polling Station	Current Electorate	New Electorate	No of Stations
NOR1	St Laurence Junior School	3071	1002	1
NOR5 (New PD)	St Laurence Infant School		2069	1

Whilst this change will involve the use of both schools, using only one school in May 2018 created safeguarding issues as both schools share the same site entrance. This meant that there was no clear separation between electors using one school and pupils attending the other. By using both schools, both will be closed addressing both the safeguarding issues and inconvenience/confusion to parents with children at both schools.

Views on the Proposal

Views on the proposal have been sought from the MP, the Ward Councillors and the agents/organisers of the main political parties. No adverse comments have been received to date. Any responses will be reported at the meeting. The proposal is supported by EMMF (Electoral Matters Members Forum).

Necessary Alterations

Move the following streets currently in polling district NOR1 into the new polling district NOR5 –

Bristol Road South (part)	Hole Farm Road
Bunbury Road (part)	Innage Road
Cornfield Road	Maryland Drive
Dinmore Avenue	St Joseph's Avenue
Garland Way	St Laurence Road
Heath Road South	

3.14 Sheldon Ward

Proposal 1

Following feedback after the local elections in May 2018, it is recommended that electors in SHE5 who currently cast their vote at The Sheldon Ivy Leaf Sports Club, would find it more convenient to cast their vote at St Thomas More RC Church, 130 Horse Shoes Lane, B26 3HU. This venue has been used previously as a polling station and provides good access and facilities.

Should such an amendment take place then the electorate at the station would be as follows:

Polling District	Current venue	Proposed venue	Electorate	No of Stations
SHE5	The Sheldon Ivy Leaf Sports Club, 2296 Coventry Road	St Thomas More RC Church, 130 Horse Shoes Lane, B26 3HU	3375 (subject to change in proposals 2 and 3)	2

Views on the Proposal

Views on the proposal have been sought from the MP, the Ward Councillors and the agents/organisers of the main political parties. No adverse comments have been received to date. Any responses will be reported at the meeting. The proposal is supported by EMMF (Electoral Matters Members Forum).

Necessary Alterations

To relocate the polling station venue from The Sheldon Ivy Leaf Sports Club to St Thomas More RC Church.

Proposal 2

Following feedback after the local elections in May 2018, it is recommended that 605 electors currently in the far western end of polling district SHE5 (part of Coventry Road, New Coventry Road and Wagon Lane) are moved into polling district SHE2. These electors would cast their vote at St Thomas More RC Church (see proposed change of venue in Proposal 1), but it would be more convenient for them to cast their vote at the polling station for SHE2, Lyndon Green Infant School.

Should such an amendment take place then the electorate at the station would be as follows:

Polling District	Polling Station	Current Electorate	New Electorate	No of Stations
SHE5	St Thomas More RC Church, 130 Horse Shoes Lane, B26 3HU (see Proposal 1)	3375	2770	2
SHE2	Lyndon Green Infant School	3173	3778	2

Views on the Proposal

Views on the proposal have been sought from the MP, the Ward Councillors and the agents/organisers of the main political parties. No adverse comments have been received to date. Any responses will be reported at the meeting. The proposal is supported by EMMF (Electoral Matters Members Forum).

Necessary Alterations

Move the following streets currently in polling district SHE5 into existing polling district SHE2 –

Coventry Road (part)
Keswick Road (part)
New Coventry Road
Wagon Lane (part)

Proposal 3

Following feedback after the local elections in May 2018, it is recommended the boundary between polling districts SHE4 and SHE5 is redrawn splitting the area vertically from Westley Brook down to Coventry Road. Electors to the east of the boundary would vote at Mapledene Primary School and those to the west would cast their vote at St Thomas More RC Church, 130 Horse Shoes Lane, B26 3HU.

Should such an amendment take place then the electorate at the station would be as follows:

Polling District	Polling Station	Current Electorate	New Electorate	No of Stations
SHE4	Mapledene Primary School	2551	2924	2
SHE5	St Thomas More RC Church, 130 Horse Shoes Lane, B26 3HU (see Proposal 1)	2770 (after proposal 2)	2397	2

Views on the Proposal

Views on the proposal have been sought from the MP, the Ward Councillors and the agents/organisers of the main political parties. No adverse comments have been received to date.

Necessary Alterations

Move the following streets currently in polling district SHE5 into existing polling district SHE4 –

Ann Croft	Marian Croft
Arden Oak Road	Olorenshaw Road
Coventry Road (part)	Sheldonfield Road
Gillman Close	Shepherd Road
Glencroft Road	The Glade
June Croft	

And

Move the following streets currently in polling district SHE4 into existing polling district SHE5 –

Cranes Park Road (part)	Salcombe Avenue
Dovercourt Road (part)	The Laurels
Forest Hill Road	Warmington Road
Ivydale Avenue	Whitcroft Road (part)
Morestead Avenue	

3.15 Soho and Jewellery Quarter Ward

Proposal 1

Following feedback after the local elections in May 2018, it is recommended that polling district SHQ2 is split using the Midland Metro tram line as the boundary line. Electors to the south of the tram line would continue to cast their vote at the United Reform Church, whilst electors to the north of the tram line would cast their vote at St Michael's CE JI School.

Should such an amendment take place then the electorate at the station would be as follows:

Polling District	Polling Station	Current Electorate	New Electorate	No of Stations
SHQ2	United Reform Church Lodge Road (corner of Lees Street)	2866	1616	1
SHQ8 (New PD)	St Michael's CE JI School, Piers Road		1250	1

Whilst this creates the need for an extra polling station venue, it is accepted that the Midland Metro tram line is a barrier and that electors to the south of the line would find it easier to cast their vote at the proposed venue.

Views on the Proposal

Views on the proposal have been sought from the MP, the Ward Councillors and the agents/organisers of the main political parties. No adverse comments have been received to date. Any responses will be reported at the meeting. The proposal is supported by EMMF (Electoral Matters Members Forum).

Necessary Alterations

Move the following streets currently in polling district SHQ2 into the new polling district SHQ8–

Allens Road	Park Avenue
Ashwin Road	Park Road (part)
Bacchus Road (part)	Piers Road
Benson Road (part)	Queens Avenue, Factory Road
Claremont Road	Radnor Road
Dover Street	Richmond Road
Factory Road	Scholars Close
Harris Court, Park Avenue	Soho Avenue

Newton Place	South Road
North Western Terrace	St Michaels Road
Oak Bank	Vicarage Road

Proposal 2

Following feedback after the local elections in May 2018, it is recommended that polling district SHQ3 is split using Birmingham Canal as the boundary line. Electors to the north of the canal would continue to cast their vote at Oasis Academy Foundry, whilst electors to the south of the canal would cast their vote at Church of God of Prophecy, Aberdeen Street.

Should such an amendment take place then the electorate at the station would be as follows:

Polling District	Polling Station	Current Electorate	New Electorate	No of Stations
SHQ3	Oasis Academy Foundry	1886	1502	1
SHQ9 (New PD)	Church of God of Prophecy, Aberdeen Street		384	1

Whilst this change does create a very small polling district, Birmingham Canal is a natural barrier and that electors to the south of the canal would find it easier to cast their vote at the proposed venue.

Views on the Proposal

Views on the proposal have been sought from the MP, the Ward Councillors and the agents/organisers of the main political parties. No adverse comments have been received to date. Any responses will be reported at the meeting. The proposal is supported by EMMF (Electoral Matters Members Forum).

Necessary Alterations

Move the following streets currently in polling district SHQ3 into the new polling district SHQ9–

Aberdeen Street	Lansdowne Street
Ansbro Close	Magdala Street
Blackford Street	Norman Street
Bryant Street	Peel Street
Carlisle Street	Wellington Street (part)
Clinton Street	Western Road
Dudley Road (part)	Winson Green Road (part)

3.16 Yardley East Ward

Proposal

Following feedback after the local elections in May 2018, it is recommended that the boundary between polling districts YAE2 and YAE3 is redrawn to run along Church Road, then across the back of the playing field and sports ground towards the ward boundary. The 652 electors to the east of Church Road including Blakemere Avenue, Dove Close, Croft Close and Oakhurst Drive would find it more convenient to travel to the polling station currently in polling district YAE2 - St Edburgha's Church Hall.

The 434 electors to the north of the playing fields and sports ground – the Vibart Road and Farnol Road area would find it more convenient to access St Edburgha's Church Hall in comparison to their current station at United Reform Church in Moat Lane.

Should such an amendment take place then the electorate at the station would be as follows:

Polling District	Polling Station	Current Electorate	New Electorate	No of Stations
YAE2	St Edburgha's Church Hall, School Lane	1984	3070	2
YAE3	United Reformed Church, Moat Lane	4084	2998	2

Whilst this change will increase the number of polling stations at St Edburgha's Church Hall, the venue is large enough to accommodate the increased electorate and has good access and facilities.

Views on the Proposal

Views on the proposal have been sought from the MP, the Ward Councillors and the agents/organisers of the main political parties. No adverse comments have been received to date. Any responses will be reported at the meeting. The proposal is supported by EMMF (Electoral Matters Members Forum).

Necessary Alterations

Move the following streets currently in polling district YAE3 into YAE2.

Blakemere Avenue	Jennifer Walk
Blakesley Road (part)	Malthouse Grove
Church Road (part)	Queens Road (part)
Cockshut Hill (part)	Sedgemere Road (part)
Croft Close	Stoney Lane (part)
Dove Close	The Cedars
Farnol Road	Vibart Road
Gayhurst Drive	

Signatures of approval to submit the report to Committee:

Signed:

Title:

Dated:

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:

Feedback on the arrangements in place for the May 2018 poll from Councillors, members of the public and Head Teachers.