

Council Meeting

4 November 2015

Time 5.45 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Full Council

Venue Council Chamber - Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Membership (Quorum for this meeting is 15 Councillors)

Mayor Cllr Ian Brookfield (Lab)

Deputy Mayor Cllr Barry Findlay (Con)

Labour

Cllr Ian Angus
Cllr Harbans Bagri
Cllr Harman Banger
Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Philip Bateman
Cllr Payal Bedi
Cllr Peter Bilson
Cllr Alan Bolshaw
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Ian Claymore
Cllr Craig Collingswood
Cllr Claire Darke
Cllr Bishan Dass
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Steve Evans

Cllr Val Evans
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Val Gibson
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Keith Inston
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Andrew Johnson
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Roger Lawrence
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Elias Mattu
Cllr Lorna McGregor
Cllr Lynne Moran

Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr John Rowley
Cllr Judith Rowley
Cllr Sandra Samuels
Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Martin Waite
Cllr Daniel Warren

Conservative

Cllr Mark Evans
Cllr Christopher Haynes
Cllr Christine Mills
Cllr Patricia Patten
Cllr Arun Photay
Cllr Paul Singh
Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Andrew Wynne
Cllr Jonathan Yardley

Liberal Democrat

Cllr Richard Whitehouse

UKIP

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

Contact Adam Hadley
Tel/Email 01902 555043 or adam.hadley@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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Agenda

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
- 3 **Minutes of previous meeting** (Pages 5 - 12)
- 4 **Communications**
[To receive the Mayor's announcements]

DECISION ITEMS

- 5 **Petition 148-15 Save Elderly Care in Wolverhampton** (Pages 13 - 22)
[To receive a petition, the response of the Cabinet Member for Adults and to determine how the Council should respond to the petition.]
- 6 **Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations** (Pages 23 - 54)
[To agree the polling stations to be employed for the 2016 City Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.]
- 7 **Special Appointments Committee**
[To establish a Special Appointments Committee for the purpose of appointing to the position of Service Director – City Environment and that the following membership be approved with the option of nominating substitute councillors if required:

Councillor Steve Evans (Labour)
Councillor Johnson (Labour)
Councillor Lawrence (Labour)
Councillor Paul Singh (Conservative)
Councillor Sweet (Labour)
Councillor Sweetman (Labour)
Councillor Thompson (Conservative)]
- 8 **Executive Business** (Pages 55 - 56)
[To receive the summary of executive business and for Cabinet Members to answer any questions thereon.]

9

Questions to Cabinet Members

Business Week and Small Business Saturday

Councillor Wendy Thompson to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Lawrence:

Can the Leader of the Council indicate how the authority intends to mark Small Business Saturday on 5th December 2015, this being an excellent opportunity for all public institutions to celebrate the role of small businesses in our local economies, and also to set out the outcomes so far from the recent Business Week held in the city in terms of the extra inward investment that has been secured as a direct result of the preparatory work done to organise that week of events?

West Midlands Combined Authority

Councillor Wendy Thompson to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Lawrence:

Can the Leader of the Council give an update on the position with the West Midlands Combined Authority, and progress with moving towards a bid for a Devolution Deal for the West Midlands?

BME Community in Teaching in Wolverhampton

Councillor Paul Singh to ask the Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Claire Darke:

Given that between 35% and 40% of Wolverhampton's population are from a BME background, could the Cabinet Member indicate the number of BME teachers in Wolverhampton schools and what percentage of the teaching profession in Wolverhampton this constitutes?

Meeting of the Council

Minutes - 23 September 2015

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Ian Brookfield (Lab)
Deputy Mayor

Labour

Cllr Ian Angus
Cllr Harbans Bagri
Cllr Harman Banger
Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Philip Bateman
Cllr Payal Bedi
Cllr Peter Bilson
Cllr Alan Bolshaw
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Ian Claymore
Cllr Craig Collingswood
Cllr Claire Darke
Cllr Bishan Dass
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Steve Evans

Cllr Val Evans
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Cllr Val Gibson
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Keith Inston
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Andrew Johnson
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Roger Lawrence
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Elias Mattu
Cllr Lorna McGregor
Cllr Lynne Moran

Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Phil Page
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr John Rowley
Cllr Judith Rowley
Cllr Sandra Samuels
Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Bert Turner
Cllr Martin Waite
Cllr Daniel Warren

Conservative

Cllr Christine Mills
Cllr Patricia Patten
Cllr Arun Photay
Cllr Paul Singh

Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Andrew Wynne
Cllr Jonathan Yardley

Liberal Democrat

Cllr Richard Whitehouse

UKIP

Cllr Malcolm Gwinnett

Employees

Keith Ireland
Kevin O'Keefe
Mark Taylor
Tony Ivko
Tim Johnson
Shelley Jones
Alison Dennett

Managing Director
Director of Governance
Director of Finance
Service Director - Older People
Strategic Director - Place
Events and Marketing Officer
Interim Democratic Support Manager

The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. *Title*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Findlay, Councillor Mark Evans and Councillor Haynes

2 Declarations of interest

Councillors Reynolds and Bilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item eight, the Black Country Growth Hub.

Alison Dennett, Interim Democratic Support Manager declared a pecuniary interest in Item 10, questions to Cabinet Members, relating to interim or agency staff.

3 Minutes of previous meeting

The Mayor proposed, Councillor Lawrence seconded and it was resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting on 15 July 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

4 Communications

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second

The Mayor reported Her Majesty the Queen became the longest reigning British monarch in history on September 9 and that he had attended a special service of Evensong at St Peter's Church at the request of Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands. He thanked everyone who was able to attend stating it was a lovely service and very befitting of the occasion. The Mayor further reported Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands had sent loyal greetings to Her Majesty on behalf of the City Council.

In addition to the church service, the Mayor hosted a tea party for 50 children at Bantock House on Saturday 12 September 2015.

On behalf of the people of Wolverhampton, the Mayor stated he would like to add congratulations to the many messages her Majesty will have already received on the special occasion.

Wolverhampton City Marathon

The Mayor reported the Eighteenth Carver Wolverhampton City Marathon was held on Sunday 6 September 2015 and reported that the event was a huge success featuring events for athletes of all ability, including; the City marathon, half marathon, Banks's 10k, Cousins 20k cycle ride, Callprint 3k walk and a childrens' run.

He reported since 1998 the Carver Marathon events have raised over £320,000 to help local charities and that this year proceeds would benefit; Samaritans Wolverhampton, Compton Hospice, Beacon Centre for the Blind and his own charity fund.

He stated on behalf of the Council, he would like to congratulate the organising committee, the sponsors, the many volunteers, the participants, spectators and everyone concerned in staging a very successful event.

Remembrance Services

The Mayor reported the Annual Festival of Remembrance would take place on Sunday, 1 November 2015, at 2pm in the Wulfrun Hall and that all proceeds from the event would benefit Mayoral charities.

The Mayor reported Remembrance Sunday was taking place on 8 November 2015 to which all councillors had been invited and gave details of the arrangements of the civic procession and the services at Drumhead and St Peter's Church and he requested that as many Councillors as possible support both of the two remembrance events in the City.

The Mayor congratulated Cllr Daniel Warren on his recent graduation from the University of Wolverhampton.

5 Combined Authority governance review and scheme

Councillor Lawrence outlined the current draft of the Combined Authority Governance Review and Scheme for the West Midlands and the West Midlands authorities' statutory governance review, which included the authority taking a wider corporate vehicle role including the work of the Integrated Transport Authority and partnership working.

Councillor Thompson indicated that whilst having some reservations, the report gave a really good message and she indicated support of the controlling group in taking the process forward. Councillor Gwinnett highlighted some reservations about how Wolverhampton would benefit from the arrangements.

Councillor Lawrence responded and clarified that the Combined Authority was about collaborative working for the benefit of all authorities across the wider area and that the local Councils would continue to be responsible for services at a local level.

It was proposed by Councillor Lawrence, seconded by Councillor Bilson and resolved:

1. That Council approve the current draft of the scheme (Appendix 1) and Governance Review (Appendix 2).
2. That Council approve delegation for the final approval of the Governance Review Scheme to the Leader of the Council (to allow timescales to be achieved).
3. That Council note a paper outlining the Devolution Deal progress to date (appendix 3).

6 Audit Committee Annual Report - 2014/15

Councillor Collingswood introduced the Audit Committee Annual Report 2014/15 and stated that it has been a successful year for the Audit Committee. He thanked the councillors who serve on the committee, together with the external and internal auditors.

It was proposed by Councillor Collingswood, seconded by Councillor Christine Mills, and resolved:

That Council receive the 2014/15 Audit Committee Annual Report.

7 Treasury Management - annual report 2014/15 and activity monitoring quarter one 2015/16

Councillor Johnson outlined details of the treasury management activities carried out in 2014/15, together with performance against the prudential indicators previously approved by Council.

Councillor Johnson advised that treasury management was playing an important role and he placed on record his thanks to the Director of Finance and his team responsible for delivering optimum use of resources:

1. That the Council note that the Council acted within the approved Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators, and also within the requirements set out in the Council's approved Treasury Management Statement during 2014/15.
2. That the Council note that revenue savings of £12.3 million for the General Fund and £6.0 million for the Housing Revenue Account were generated from the treasury management activities in 2014/15.
3. That the Council note that revenue savings of £1.8 million for the General Fund and £2.3 million for the Housing Revenue Account are forecast from treasury management activities in 2015/16.

8 Black Country Growth Deal - Grants to third parties

Councillor Reynolds outlined the position on grants to third parties to enable continuation of delivery of the Black Country Local Growth Fund monies, as part of the Culture Capital programme. He clarified that the £400,000 grant to the Grand Theatre had been match funded by the Grand Theatre itself, a total of £800,000 to carry out the changes to the building. It was noted that the Grand Theatre was a Council owned building.

Councillor Thompson spoke in respect of the working relationship between the Grand Theatre and small businesses and to the good utilisation of Government funding.

It was proposed by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Bilson, and resolved:

That Council approve the recommendations from Cabinet on grants to third parties to enable continuation of delivery of the Black Country Growth Hub and a grant to fund improvement works at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre to be funded through Black Country Local Growth Fund monies, as part of the Cultural Capital Programme.

9 **City Centre Area Action Plan - submission**

Councillor Bilson outlined the recommendation from Cabinet relating to the key issues raised during consultation on the Publication City Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) September and the submission of the Publication City Centre AAP and proposed minor modifications to the Secretary of State.

Councillor Bilson advised that the AAP will form a framework document concerning the potential of Wolverhampton over the next 20 years once adopted in April 2016.

Councillor Thompson queried how the implementation of the AAP related to Wolverhampton retail property.

Councillor Bilson welcomed comments made by Councillor Thompson, and clarified that the i10 building had been commissioned by the Council, and highlighted that other key developments were also underway as part of the AAP, such as the Youth Zone and the refurbishment of the Wulfruna Centre to reinvigorate the City Centre.

It was proposed by Councillor Bilson, seconded by Councillor Lawrence, and resolved:

That the Council approves the recommendations from Cabinet on 16 September on the submission of the Publication City Centre AAP and proposed minor modifications to the Secretary of State.

10 **Questions to Cabinet Members**

City Centre Bench

Councillor Thompson asked the following question:

Can the Cabinet Member advise Council upon the rationale for a stone bench sourced in China costing around £20,000 to be placed in the City Centre?

Councillor Bilson advised that planning permission for the Princess Street Scheme had been approved in July 2008. He confirmed that the stone bench art work was included in the scheme at no cost to the Council and had been individually designed and manufactured for incorporation in Princess Street as part of the City Centre Transport and Movement Scheme. He advised that the new bench was to be included to add distinctiveness to the square and making a significant contribution to the City Centre public art provision.

Councillor Thompson queried the five year delay to the scheme and whether the material for the artwork could have been sourced from suppliers in Ironbridge.

Councillor Bilson clarified that the stone masons were commissioned by the developers under the Section 106 agreement and that it was the developers' decision to use black granite from China.

City Centre Highways Layouts

Councillor Thompson asked the following question:

Can the Cabinet Member advise Council upon what criteria are being used to evaluate the outcomes of the new highway layout in the City Centre?

Councillor Bilson advised the City Centre Transport and Movement Scheme was being delivered in a phased approach which was illuminating frequently used shortcuts in the City but that it was too early in the process to evaluate the outcomes. He advised that success would be measured on the contribution the highway layouts make to the City centre as a shopping and leisure destination and would also lead to fewer traffic casualties.

He referred to recent engagement with stakeholders and investors to the City relating to the emerging connective places strategy and of the anticipated improvements to the Scheme through consultation.

Waste Recycling Centres:

Cllr Paul Singh asked the following question:

Can the Cabinet Member advise Council upon the full-year saving likely to be made through the current opening hours of the waste recycling centres at Shaw Road and Anchor Lane, when compared to the opening hours that applied before they were originally shortened?

Councillor Steve Evans confirmed that household waste recycling was under review and that amending opening hours of waste recycling sites may recognise savings of £38,000. He paid tribute to the way in which Amey management and employees worked with the Council to improve waste services.

Councillor Paul Singh referred to 2,500 reported fly-tipping incidents last year and asked if the likelihood of an increase in fly tipping as a result of reduced waste recycling site opening hours had been taken into account.

Councillor Steve Evans advised that a review of fly tipping had been requested to establish where and what was being tipped. He advised that there were two recycling centres available and that there should be no excuse for tipping litter. He advised that a cleaner and greener environment is a corporate priority and that action would be taken with fines of up to £20,000 for any tipping offence.

Interim or Agency Staff

Councillor Thompson asked the following question:

Can the Cabinet Member advise Council on the number of posts within the authority filled by interim or agency employed staff, at a cost to the authority of more than £600 per day or equivalent, and how many of these have been employed by the authority on that basis for more than six months?

Councillor Johnson advised that during the delivery of the transformation programme there was a need for specialist advice on a short term and temporary basis which was considered best provided by interim staff who were employed under temporary employment conditions. He advised that there were 12 interim members of staff employed at a cost of £600 or more a day and confirmed that eight of those had been employed for more than six months.

Councillor Thompson asked a supplementary question relating to careful monitoring of the interim staff and the specialist skills they provide. She requested that this issue was not lost and recognised that the Council was going through transformation and that specialist skills would be required.

Councillor Johnson advised that the Director of Finance held a senior officer group meeting to review spend across the Council and that this group closely managed spend on interim staff.

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Meeting of the City Council

4 November 2015

Report title	Petition 148-15 Save Elderly Care in Wolverhampton	
Referring body		
Councillor to present report	Councillor Elias Mattu	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Elias Mattu Cabinet Member for Adults	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, People	
Originating service	Commissioning, Older People	
Accountable employee(s)	Paul Smith Tel Email	Head Of Commissioning - Older People 01902 555318 Paul.Smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be considered by	Cabinet	11 November 2015

Recommendation for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Formally receive the petition
2. Agree that the petition should be taken into account as part of the analysis of the outcome of the consultation exercise on Better Care Technology which ended on 26 October 2015 and which will be separately reported to Cabinet on 11 November 2015.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 On 14 July 2011, the Council approved revisions to its petitions scheme to make it compliant with new statutory guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government. One of the principal changes to the Council's scheme was the setting of a threshold for triggering a full Council debate where a petition contains a significant level of support. A threshold of 2,500 signatures was approved for this purpose.
- 1.2 A petition has been received from Mr Adrian Turner containing 5,637 signatures from residents of the City. The petition opposes the recommendations made in the Cabinet report of 22 July 2015, Better Care Technology and Strengthening Support at Home.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council is progressing an ambitious development of its services in line with the Care Act policy drivers. The objective will be to intervene and support people earlier, reduce, defer and delay the need for more intensive support by having better information, increased alternatives of less intensive care to help our people maintain their lives.
- 2.2 Prior to approval at Cabinet in July the report was presented for a pre decision scrutiny to the Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel on 14 July 2015. The report received cross party agreement and the panel supported all the recommendations in the report.
- 2.3 In July 2015 Cabinet approved the following recommendations;
 - The transformation of community based services and the creation of a new community offer, with the delivery and development extended and enhanced Reablement and other services, including telecare, to support people to live independently in their own homes.
 - The formal consultation process on the proposal to decommission services at Merryhill House and Nelson Mandela House and transfer to external market providers.
 - The formal consultation process on the proposal to decommission services at Woden Resource Centre and re-provide high dependency day care in the external market through a personalised approach.
 - The progression of the externalisation of community reablement and the commissioning of a specialist dementia reablement service.
 - The development an ambitious telecare offer at scale to increase the independence of vulnerable people in Wolverhampton and to agree to be a national pilot for a proactive telephone service to reduce isolation and enhance wellbeing.

- 2.4 The consultation has been undertaken relating to the following in-house services;
- Merryhill House – residential long stay and residential respite
 - Nelson Mandela House - residential long stay and residential respite
 - Woden Resource Centre - residential rehabilitation (up to a period of six weeks) and high dependency day care
- 2.4.1 Based on an average occupancy rate of 61%, the average cost of a long stay residential placement at the council run residential care homes is on average £1,013 per week. This compares with the independent sector which has an average cost of £419 per week.
- Placements in council run care homes account for 1.7% of all residential placements funded by the Council
 - Taking the average cost of a long stay residential placement, council run placements account for 4.3% of total residential care spend
- 2.5 The consultation was completed on the 26 October 2015. The Cabinet report on 11 November 2015 will outline the outcome of the consultation, provide further analysis and recommendations and the progress made to date on the development of the Better Care Technology offer across the City.
- 2.6 It is recognised that these services are valued by service users, carers and citizens. The opportunity for engagement and feedback on these proposals to all stakeholders has been extensive and widely publicised through a range of marketing and media channels.
- 2.7 There have been seventeen consultation events, attended by service users relatives, the public and external stakeholders. Two provider engagement meetings have been held. A number of employee sessions have been facilitated which have included representation from Unison and at which employees were represented in large numbers.
- 2.7.1 The stakeholder meeting was well attended by a range of partner organisations and individuals. Attendance at the three public meetings consisted of a combined total of nine members of the public.
- 2.8 In addition to the meetings held, 95 feedback forms have been received and 35 responses received through an online survey.
- 2.9 The emerging themes that have been expressed during the consultation will be included in the Cabinet paper on 11 November 2015.
- 2.10 Two reports have been submitted as part of the consultation. The Association for Public Excellence (ASPE) were commissioned on behalf of Unison. Woden Resource Centre has submitted their own proposals for alternative options for the provision of preventative and rehabilitation services at Woden Resource Centre.

- 2.11 This petition will be included in the analysis of the outcome of the consultation exercise that will be reported to Cabinet on 11 November 2015. The concerns of the petitioners will then be given due regard alongside other comments and concerns expressed by other respondents to the consultation exercise before Cabinet decides on how it wishes to proceed.
- 2.12 These proposals will be an integral part of the transformation of older people's services, from 'care home to care at home', providing increased choice and control for service users and carers and assist in meeting the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

3.0 Details of the Petition

- 3.1 A petition was received on the 15 October 2015 from Mr Adrian Turner, Branch Secretary for Unison. The petition, containing 5,637 signatures, from residents of the City opposes the recommendations made in the Cabinet report of 22 July 2015, Better Care Technology and Strengthening Support At Home.
- 3.2 The petition states that

'Save Elderly Care in Wolverhampton'

We the undersigned call on Wolverhampton City Council to oppose the recommendations made in the Cabinet report of July 22nd 'Better Care Technology and strengthening support at home'. We believe the citizens of Wolverhampton value the high standard of care currently delivered at Merry Hill House, Nelson Mandela House, Woden House and Bradley Resource Centre which already best meet the needs of service users including the provision of residential care, respite, rehabilitation, CICT, HARP and day care.

Therefore, we oppose any move to close these establishments and/or outsource elderly care provision to the private sector and call on our elected members to do the same.

The Councils proposals to restructure elderly service provision in Wolverhampton are not based on improving the service but to make financial savings, the dismantling of what we believe are excellent services in the pursuit of savings is counterproductive and not in the best interests of the older people of the city'.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The subject of this petition is linked to a savings proposal included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 'Reducing costs within in-house services for older people of £2.3 million'.
- 4.2 A further savings proposal linked to this subject of £820,000 for 'Re-shaping older people services' was approved for further development as part of the Draft Budget and Medium

Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 – 2018/19 report approved by Cabinet on 22 July 2015 and 21 October 2015 (Draft Budget 2016/17).

[AS/22102015/L]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 Whilst there are no immediate legal implications arising from the petition the Council is required to consult regarding changes to these services.

[RB/26102015/P]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 A full equality analysis will be undertaken, following the outcome on the consultations on Merryhill House, Nelson Mandela House and Woden Resource Centre and will be reported back in the report presented to Cabinet on the 11 November 2015.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 There are human resource implications associated with this report, if approval is given. The recommendations will be implemented in line with the Council's Human Resources Policies and Procedures following consultations with employees and Trade Unions. If any of these services are subject to TUPE implications there may be associated costs.

[HR/JF/TI/007]

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 Corporate landlord is actively involved in the assessment of the asset implications relating to the service model proposals in this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 Appendix One – Schedule of consultation meetings

Appendix 1 Schedule of consultation meetings

Date	Venue	Participants	Numbers attended
Monday 8 th August 2015	Civic Centre, CR3	9.30 Provider forum	0
		11.30 Provider Forum	2
Tues 25 th August 2015	Nelson Mandela House	9.30 – 10.15 Employees	20
		10.30 Service users and family/carers	24
Tues 25 th August 2015	Merry Hill House	1.30 – 2.15 Employees	18
		2.30 Service users and family/carers	29
Weds 26 th August 2015	Woden Resource centre	9.30 – 10.15 staff	22
		10.30 - 11.15 Service users and family/carers	7
		11.30 – Day care users and family/carers	10
Thurs 27 th August 2015	Bradley Resource Centre	9.30 – 10.15 Employees	21
		10.30 Service users and family/carers	9
Mon 28 th Sept 2015	Civic Centre, public meeting	10.30 public meeting	6
Tues 6 th October 2015	Civic Centre - Stakeholder meeting	2.00 – stakeholders	21
Tues 13 th October 2015	Civic Centre – public meeting	5.30 – public meeting	1

Thurs 15thOctober 2015	Warstones Resource Centre	2.00 – All staff	17
Tuesday 20th October 2015	Civic Centre – public meeting	7.00 – public meeting	2
Wednesday 21st October 2015	Woden Resource Centre	2.00 – staff meeting	Included above in previous Woden staff meeting

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Wolverhampton City Council



PUBLIC PETITION

(For official use only)
PUBLIC PETITION NO.

Should you wish to submit a public petition for consideration by the Petitions Committee, please refer to the guidance leaflet **Petitions and E-Petitions Scheme** and the **Guidance Notes** at the back of this form.

1. NAME OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER

(If applicable, please specify the name of the organisation on whose behalf the petition is raised)

ADRIAN TURNER

2. PETITION TITLE

SAVE ELDERLY CARE IN WOLVERHAMPTON

3. PETITION TEXT

SAVE ELDERLY CARE IN WOLVERHAMPTON

WE THE UNDERSIGNED CALL ON WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL TO OPPOSE THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE CABINET REPORT OF 22 JULY 2015 (*BETTER CARE TECHNOLOGY AND STRENGTHENING SUPPORT AT HOME*).

WE BELIEVE THE CITIZENS OF WOLVERHAMPTON VALUE THE HIGH STANDARD OF CARE CURRENTLY DELIVERED AT/FROM **MERRY HILL HOUSE, NELSON MANDELA HOUSE, WODEN RESOURCE CENTRE AND BRADLEY RESOURCE CENTRE** WHICH ALREADY BEST MEETS THE NEEDS OF SERVICE USERS INCLUDING, RESIDENTIAL CARE, RESPITE, REHABILITATION, CICT, HARP AND DAY CARE.

THEREFORE, WE OPPOSE ANY MOVE TO CLOSE THESE ESTABLISHMENTS AND/OR OUTSOURCE ELDERLY CARE PROVISION TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND CALL ON OUR ELECTED MEMBERS TO DO THE SAME.

UNISON RAISED THIS PETITION AT THE REQUEST OF OUR CONCERNED MEMBERS.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)	
Name	UNISON WOLVERHAMPTON GENERAL
Address	CIVIC CENTRE ST PETERS SQUARE WOLVERMA
Telephone nos.	Home: 01902 554096. Mobile:
E-mail address	Adrian.Turner@wolverhampton.gov
No. of petition signatures	
STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE: Should the Committee consider it necessary, in order to broaden its understanding of the petition, it may invite a petitioner to appear before and give an oral presentation and answer question. Would you wish, if invited, to appear?	
YES <u>YES ✓</u>	NO
SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER: When satisfied that your petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Petitions and E-Petitions Scheme, the principal petitioner should sign and date below.	
Signature <u>A. Turner</u>	
Date <u>15/10/15</u>	
Completed forms should be returned to— Democratic Support Section Delivery Directorate Wolverhampton City Council St Peter's Square Wolverhampton WV1 1SH Email: democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk Tel: 01902 550181	



Meeting of the City Council

4 November 2015

Report title	Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations	
Referring body	Special Advisory Group, 20 October 2015	
Councillor to present report	Cllr Paul Sweet Governance	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Cllr Paul Sweet Governance	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
Originating service	Electoral Registration	
Accountable employee(s)	Martyn Sargeant Tel Email	Group Manager - Corporate Administration 01902 555045 martyn.sargeant@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Special Advisory Group	20 October 2015

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

Approve the polling stations to be employed for the 2016 City Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Council of the responses received during the consultation period.
- 1.2 To detail proposal for the polling stations and polling districts for the 2016 local elections and the Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 A statutory review of polling stations was conducted between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015 in response to the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, which changed the timing of compulsory reviews of polling districts, polling places and polling stations. At the time of the review, it was agreed by Councillors that a further review of polling stations would continue in 2015 after the General Election.
- 2.2 As part of the further review, the Council must comply with specified access requirements, as follows:
 - (a) seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
 - (b) seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

3.0 Formulating the proposals

- 3.1 Employees from Electoral Services conducted a review of polling arrangements across the City. An initial analysis of the number of registered voters at all polling stations in Wolverhampton was conducted, which was then followed by consideration for other factors.
- 3.2 As part of the initial analysis, polling stations were ranked and banded into quartiles according to the number of voters registered to a station as a proportion of the ward. The stations with fewest registered voters were primarily, although not exclusively, assessed to determine whether improved use of stations could be achieved. As can be seen from the proposals, the vast majority of stations under consideration are ones that fall into this category. The data collected for the numbers of registered voters included postal voters who are generally unlikely to use a polling station. This meant the data analysed was conservative.
- 3.3 Other factors were considered as part of the proposal formations, which included consideration of accessibility, suitability of premises, future availability, cost of provision and convenience for voters. Feedback from previous elections was also taken into account, as were Presiding Officers' polling station reports from the 2015 General Election.

- 3.4 Guidance from the 2010 Scope report was considered when identifying appropriate polling stations, particularly the recommendation that the maximum distance a resident should travel to a station is 1,500m (approximately one mile). For each ward affected by the proposals, a half mile walking distance map was created to show the walking route radius from each of the existing polling stations. Given that national guidance is twice as far as the measurement used, allowance for the distance factor was generous. When considering these maps, where there was an overlap of walking radius, the review considered it reasonable for a voter to travel to either station.
- 3.5 The Returning Officer is required to comment on both existing polling stations and the polling stations that would likely be used if any new proposals were accepted. These comments are included in each of the appendices relating to the individual wards, which are listed below:
- Appendix 1: Bilston East.
 - Appendix 2: Bilston North.
 - Appendix 3: Blakenhall.
 - Appendix 4: Bushbury North.
 - Appendix 5: East Park.
 - Appendix 6: Ettingshall.
 - Appendix 7: Heath Town.
 - Appendix 8: Merry Hill.
 - Appendix 9: Penn.
 - Appendix 10: St Peter's.
 - Appendix 11: Tettenhall Regis.
- 3.6 Copies of the appendices can be found online at:
- <http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=165>
- 3.7 The comments on existing polling stations and proposals for change were considered by the Special Advisory Group at its meeting on 20 October 2015. A revised proposal relating to Tettenhall Regis was tabled at the meeting, copy attached at appendix 1.
- 3.8 The Advisory Group recommended:-
1. That further discussions take place with the ward Councillors for Penn and Tettenhall Regis on the proposals for polling stations and thereafter and the Chair of the Advisory Group in consultation with Cllr Mrs Thompson and the Director of Governance be authorised to approve the proposals relating to Penn and Tettenhall Regis to be presented to Full Council for approval.
 2. That subject to (1) above, the proposals arising from the review of polling stations to be employed for the 2016 city council and the Police and Crime Commissioner elections be referred to Full Council for approval.
- 3.9 Further to the recommendations in 3.8 above, no further changes were made to the proposals for Tettenhall Regis. With regard to Penn ward, it is proposed that Penn Christian Church not be used, with Springdale Methodist Church absorbing its voters;

and for St Bartholomew's Church to continue to be used with a redrawn district boundary. The relevant appendices for this discussion are now attached at appendix 2.

4.0 Consultation stage

4.1 A public consultation ran from 16 September 2015 to 13 October 2015. The consultation was uploaded onto the Council's online consultation database to enable the general public to comment on the proposals. Local press coverage also raised the profile of the consultation to citizens in the City. The following groups, which 'have specific experience of assessing access for persons with different disabilities', were contacted to submit comments:

- Arthritis Care
- Age UK Wolverhampton
- SCOPE
- 'One Voice' Action for Disability
- Beacon Centre for the Blind
- Hearingloss
- Limbless Association – Wolverhampton DSC
- SHINE
- Spinal Injuries Association

4.2 As part of the consultation, a series of meetings were held with Councillors from wards affected by the proposals. Comments from these meetings can be seen in the table below.

Ward	Comment	Returning Officer's Response
Bilston East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bert Williams Centre would be a good polling station for the HMA and HAA district; however, it would be unsuitable for HEA due to distance and demographic. • To increase the number of voters at Loxdale Primary School, the HEA district boundary should incorporate voters from HIA; this would also be a more convenient station for those voters. • Voters north of Highfield Road and Salop Street in HFA would be more likely to travel in the direction of Bert Williams Leisure Centre. It would be preferable for them to vote there, rather than be expected to travel south to vote. • Removing St Martin's Church Centre would mean some residents had too far to travel to Bradley Methodist Church. However, Bradley Senior Citizens Centre would be a possible central polling station should the HJA and HFA districts merge. 	<p>The HAB district boundary was redrawn to remove HEA and incorporate additional areas in HFA. These areas will vote at Bert Williams Leisure Centre, which is a central location.</p> <p>Loxdale Primary School will remain a polling place rather than be removed; however, the HEA district will absorb additional areas from HIA, which will increase the number of registered voters using the station.</p> <p>The HAB district has been extended to accommodate these areas.</p> <p>Bradley Senior Citizens Centre was judged to be an appropriate future polling place for the following reasons: its central location, good accessibility and facilities, and ample parking.</p>

Ward	Comment	Returning Officer's Response
Bilston North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal for IAB would mean that some elderly residents may have further to walk to the new station, Stowlawn Primary School. It would be preferable to keep Stowlawn Primary School as a station if only one could be kept in the district. It would not be unreasonable for many voters from what was IHA to vote at Portobello Community Centre. A Hindu place of worship on Dilloways Lane, which used to be Long Acres pub, could be a future polling place for the east of the ward. Improving disabled access at Villiers Primary would be beneficial for future elections to facilitate elderly and disabled voters. 	<p>Although the distance will increase for a small number of residents, it will still be well within the recommended maximum distance of one mile</p> <p>Dilloways Lane was considered as an alternative polling place; however, due to the current locations of stations, it was not felt it would result in a significant improvement at present. With regard to Villiers Primary School, future key holders and Presiding Officers will be notified to open a second door to the premise to help elderly and less mobile electors enter the site.</p>
Blakenhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors had no objections to the proposals. 	
Bushbury North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors had no objections to the proposals. 	
East Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be reasonable to remove Wolverhampton Seventh Day Adventist Church in KLA . Two of three Councillors felt removing St Joseph's Church Catholic Club would be a reasonable proposal. The other felt it 	<p>With regard to the KIA district, there is not currently an appropriate alternative arrangement that would be an improvement on the current situation.</p>

Ward	Comment	Returning Officer's Response
	<p>would be quite far for voters to walk to Portobello Community Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be beneficial to encourage more voters to use a postal vote. • It would be preferable to reinstate a station in KIA rather than use Memorial Hall in Ettingshall. 	
Ettingshall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be unreasonable for voters in LJA to have to travel to Springvale Sports Club due to restricted access out of the estates in LJA. • It would be beneficial to research an alternative arrangement for All Saints Apostolic Church due to concerns about parking and access at the station. A possible alternative would be the Windsor Centre, which is a very short distance from the church. • The merging of the LAA and LLA districts was a sensible use of resources. 	<p>In the light of concerns raised about LJA/LIA, a proposal has been withdrawn.</p> <p>A site visit and evaluation of the Windsor Centre was conducted. The centre was found to be an appropriate future station, with excellent facilities, parking and disabled access. For this reason a proposal has been put forward to replace the Apostolic Church with the centre.</p>
Heath Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors had no objections to the proposals. 	
Merry Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment was received from one Councillor who expressed no issues with the proposal. 	
Penn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be reasonable to merge the QBA and QCA districts; however, Springdale Methodist Church would be the preferable polling place, not Penn 	<p>The proposal has been rewritten to remove Penn Christian Centre rather than Springdale Methodist. Given that Penn Church is currently shared with the OJA district in Merry Hill, this will mean that Springdale Methodist will now become a</p>

Ward	Comment	Returning Officer's Response
	<p>Christian Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were mixed feelings about closing St Bart's Church: one Councillor commented it would be difficult for residents who vote at St Bart's to travel to Penn United due to a large hill; the other felt it would be a reasonable change. 	<p>shared station with Merry Hill.</p> <p>With regard to St Bart's, it is not felt it is overly unreasonable for voters to use Penn United Church. Concerns about St Bart's being a shared station with South Staffordshire can be alleviated as the church is rented separately by each Council.</p>
St Peter's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With regard to the REA and RDA districts merging, on balance it would be preferable to use Gloucester Street as the central polling station. There were concerns about access and parking at Dunstall Hill Community Centre, and on balance it was felt that Gloucester Street would be a better location. Moving the Boscobel Estate Tenants' Meeting Room to the University Chaplaincy building was not unreasonable. Previous concerns about elderly residents having to cross two busy roads were alleviated due to the chaplaincy's location. Moving the Civic Centre polling station to the university was deemed reasonable, with the caveat that initially it should be on the library side of the university where voters will easily find it. 	<p>The proposal to merge REA and RDA was re-written in the light of the Councillors' feedback, with Gloucester Street Community Centre being kept as the polling place.</p> <p>The proposal to use the university chaplaincy has remained due to the significant improvement it is felt the station will bring. The university has expressed an interest in volunteering groups being involved to help transport elderly voters from Boscobel should they wish. On balance, given the levels of support being offered and the minimal increase in distance for Boscobel Tenants (less than 0.2 miles), it is not unreasonable to move to what is a significantly better polling station.</p> <p>The station created at the University of Wolverhampton will be clearly signposted for voters who have used the old location at the Civic for many years.</p>

Ward	Comment	Returning Officer's Response
Tettenhall Regis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently a lack of balance in the ward, with a 'super polling station' at the King's School in the west and five stations in the east of the ward. • There are concerns about the King's School due to congestion and access at peak times, such as school opening and closing. It is also quite far for voters in the extremities of the districts. • Removing St Michael's Parish Centre would make it difficult for elderly residents in SGA to vote at St Michael's CE School due to a steep incline on the road called 'the Rock'. • Tettenhall Cricket Club could be a more central station for the SGA area. • Note was made of the close proximity of three polling stations in the north of the ward: Palmer's Cross Primary, Christ the King Church and Claregate Primary. • Voters on Wergs Road would be likely to drive to a polling station. To alleviate pressure on the Kings School they could vote at another station due to their transport access. 	<p>The King's School is a reasonable central location, with capacity to accommodate a large number of voters in the west of the City. Electoral Services are aware of the concerns raised, but have not located a better polling station for the area. Extra staff will be on shift for peak times to try streamlining the voting process for residents.</p> <p>A proposal will be presented at the SAG meeting following updated ward councillor feedback. This proposal will aim to address the concerns raised by Councillors.</p>

5.0 Changes

Listed in the table below are the proposed changes in numbers of polling stations in the wards affected as part of this review.

Ward	Previous number of stations	Proposed number of stations
Bilston East	10 stations and 9 premises	7 stations and 7 premises
Bilston North	8 stations and 6 premises	6 stations and 4 premises
Blakenhall	6 stations and 5 premises	6 stations and 4 premises
Bushbury North	7 stations and 7 premises	7 stations and 7 premises
East Park	7 stations and 6 premises (plus one station used by Bilston North)	6 stations and 4 premises (plus one station used by Bilston North)
Ettingshall	8 stations and 8 premises	7 stations and 7 premises
Heath Town	7 stations and 7 premises	6 stations and 6 premises
Merry Hill	7 stations and 5 premises	7 stations and 5 premises
Penn	9 stations and 7 premises	7 stations and 5 premises
St Peter's	8 stations and 8 premises	7 stations and 7 premises
Tettenhall Regis	7 stations and 6 premises	6 stations and 5 premises
Total	85 stations and 75 premises	72 stations and 62 premises

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 The Council is responsible for funding the cost of local elections, but is reimbursed by the government for its reasonable costs incurred in the administration of national and European elections and referenda.
- 6.2 Any reduction in the number of polling stations creates savings by reducing hire costs and the number of polling staff. The actual saving associated with each polling station removal varies, but the average is around £500. The proposed reduction of thirteen stations would generated an estimated saving of £6,500. [GE/08102015/W]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 The Council is legally required under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 to conduct a review of polling districts, places and stations every five years, within a set 16 month period. The Council is then responsible for determining the polling places in between the quinquennial reviews, subject to appropriate consultation where changes will arise. [TS/07102015/E]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 An initial screening has been conducted, the result of which indicated that a full analysis was not needed. The key mitigating action was to ensure voters would not be required to walk further than one mile, which is the maximum distance recommended by Scope. Polling station employees are also trained to assist disabled people to vote if required, for

example through the use of tactile voting aids or disabled access polling booths. Community groups with 'specific experience of assessing access for persons with different disabilities' were directly contacted for comment about the review. There were no objections or representations from these groups.

9.0 Environmental implications

9.1 There are no significant environmental implications arising from this report.

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 There are no human resources implications.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 There are no corporate landlord implications

12.0 Schedule of background papers

12.1 n/a

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Tettenhall Regis

This is the proposal document for Tettenhall Regis. Within this document there is district and ward data relating the number of registered voters (ward/district context), and the reasons for proposal.

There are currently 9388 electors registered to vote in Tettenhall Regis ward. A station operates at its optimum level at approximately 2500 voters. Therefore to operate at an optimum level, in numerical terms this ward requires no more than 5 stations, assuming that the number of voters could fluctuate to over 10,000. There are currently 7 stations and 6 buildings in the ward, which is not an optimum use of resources. Reduction of a station would make a saving of £500 per election.

Ward/District Context

The table below ranks the polling stations in Tettenhall Regis according to the proportion of the registered electors in the ward that use the stations. The percentage is colour coded according to the performance quartile the station fits into across the City.

- Lowest quartile: **0% - 11.03%**
- Lower middle quartile: **11.30% -14.40%**
- Upper middle quartile: **14.47% – 17.17%**
- Upper quartile: **17.21%- 31.18%**

Ward	Polling District	Station	Registered Electors	Ward Size	Proportion of ward
Tettenhall Regis	SGA	St Michael`s Parish Centre	505	9396	5.37%
Tettenhall Regis	SBA	Palmers Cross Primary School, Windermere Road	1,161	9396	12.36%
Tettenhall Regis	SHA	St Michael`s CE School, Lower Street	1,171	9396	12.46%
Tettenhall Regis	SCA	Christ The King Church, Pendeford Avenue	1,535	9396	16.34%
Tettenhall Regis	SJA	The King`s School, Regis Road	1,635	9396	17.40%
Tettenhall Regis	SIA	The King`s School, Regis Road	1,650	9396	17.56%
Tettenhall Regis	SEA	Claregate Primary School, Chester Avenue	1,739	9396	18.51%

Proposal Tettenhall Regis 1

See Tettenhall Regis – Proposal Map

- Redraw the SGA boundary to absorb parts of Wergs Road in SJA and areas at the top of the Tettenhall Rock in SHA.

Polling Districts affected in Tettenhall Regis	Number of registered voters	Proportion of ward registered to vote
SGA – St Michael's Parish Centre	505	5.37%
SHA – St Michael's CE School	1171	12.46%
SJA – The King's School	1635	17.40%
SIA – The King's School	1650	17.56%

Reason

St Michael's Parish Centre (SGA) has a very small number of registered voters and therefore does not reflect efficient use of resources. An initial proposal was put to ward Councillors to remove this station and for its voters to travel to the King's School and St Michael's CE School. However, feedback indicated this would be a somewhat problematic option: voters travelling to St Michael's CE would have to traverse down a steep road and voters going to the King's School may put additional strain on an already busy station.

Following consultation feedback, a new proposal was written. The new proposal suggests expanding the area in SGA for three reasons: firstly, to increase the number of registered voters using the station; secondly, to alleviate some pressure from the King's School; and thirdly, to reduce the numbers of electors traversing down the Rock by moving them from SHA to SGA.

Proposal Tettenhall Regis 2

See Tettenhall Regis – Proposal Map

- Merge the SBA and SCA districts
- Remove Palmer's Cross Station
- Redraw district boundaries for SEA and SHA to more appropriately distribute voters.

Polling Districts affected in Tettenhall Regis	Number of registered voters	Proportion of ward registered to vote
SBA – Palmer's Cross Primary	1161	12.36%
SCA – Christ the King Church	1171	16.34%
SEA – Claregate Primary	1739	17.56%
SHA – St Michael's CE School	1171	12.46%

Reconsideration has been given to the position of the three stations in the north of the ward, Palmers Cross School, Christ the King Church and Claregate Primary. In terms of reasonable walking distance, one of these stations is superfluous. By redrawing district boundaries it is possible to achieve a distribution of voters that would allow for just two of these stations to maintain, whilst also resulting in optimum usage of stations.

Palmers Cross could be removed due to its position, number of voters and guidance advocating that councils avoid using schools where possible. SEA would extend considerably into SCA meaning that in terms of registered voters Christ the King and Claregate would be operating at what is determined to be the optimum level of 2000-2500 registered voters.

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Tettenhall Regis - Proposal

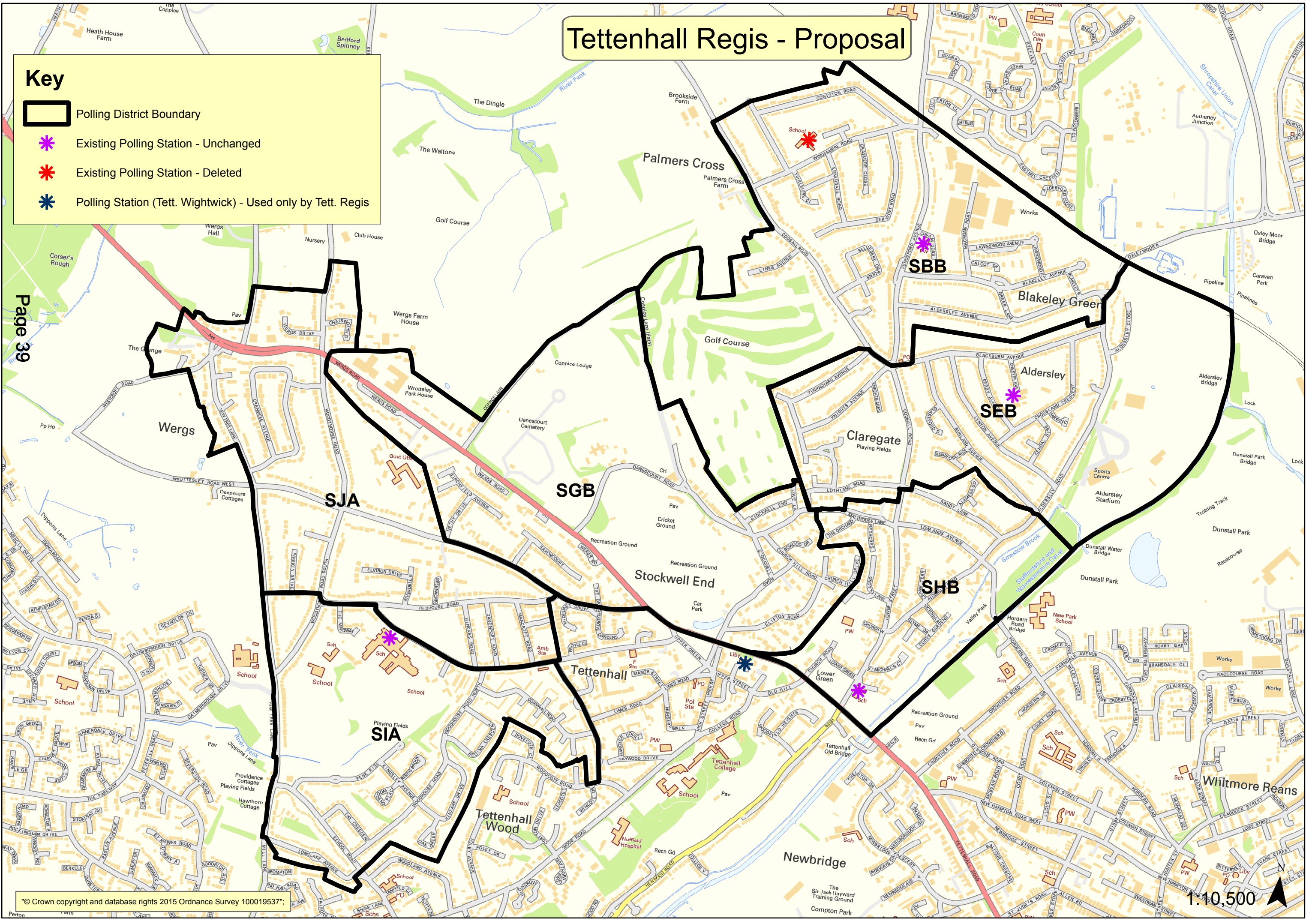
Key

Polling District Boundary

Existing Polling Station - Unchanged

Existing Polling Station - Deleted

Polling Station (Tett. Wightwick) - Used only by Tett. Regis



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Tettenhall Regis

Key

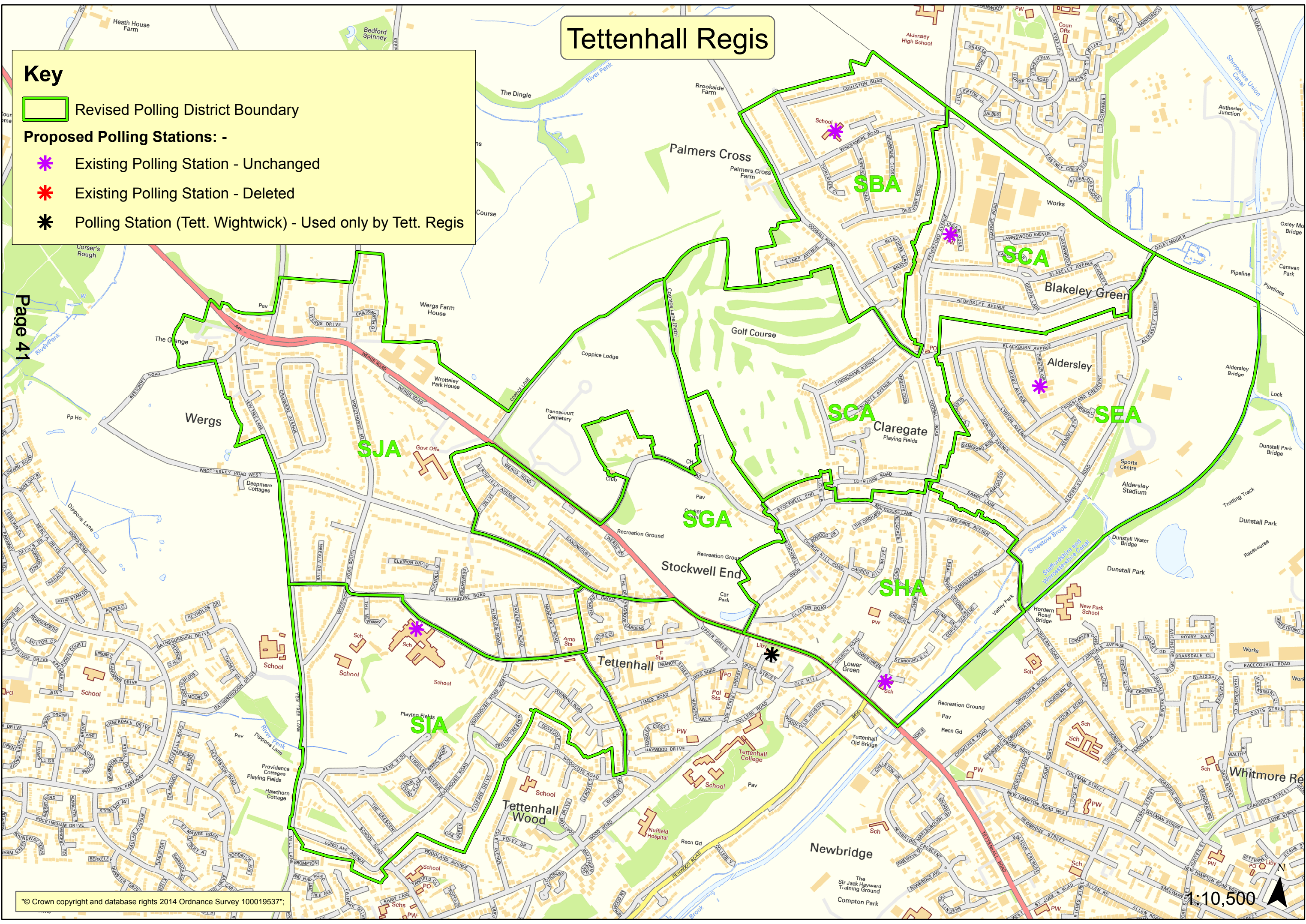
Revised Polling District Boundary

Proposed Polling Stations: -

Existing Polling Station - Unchanged

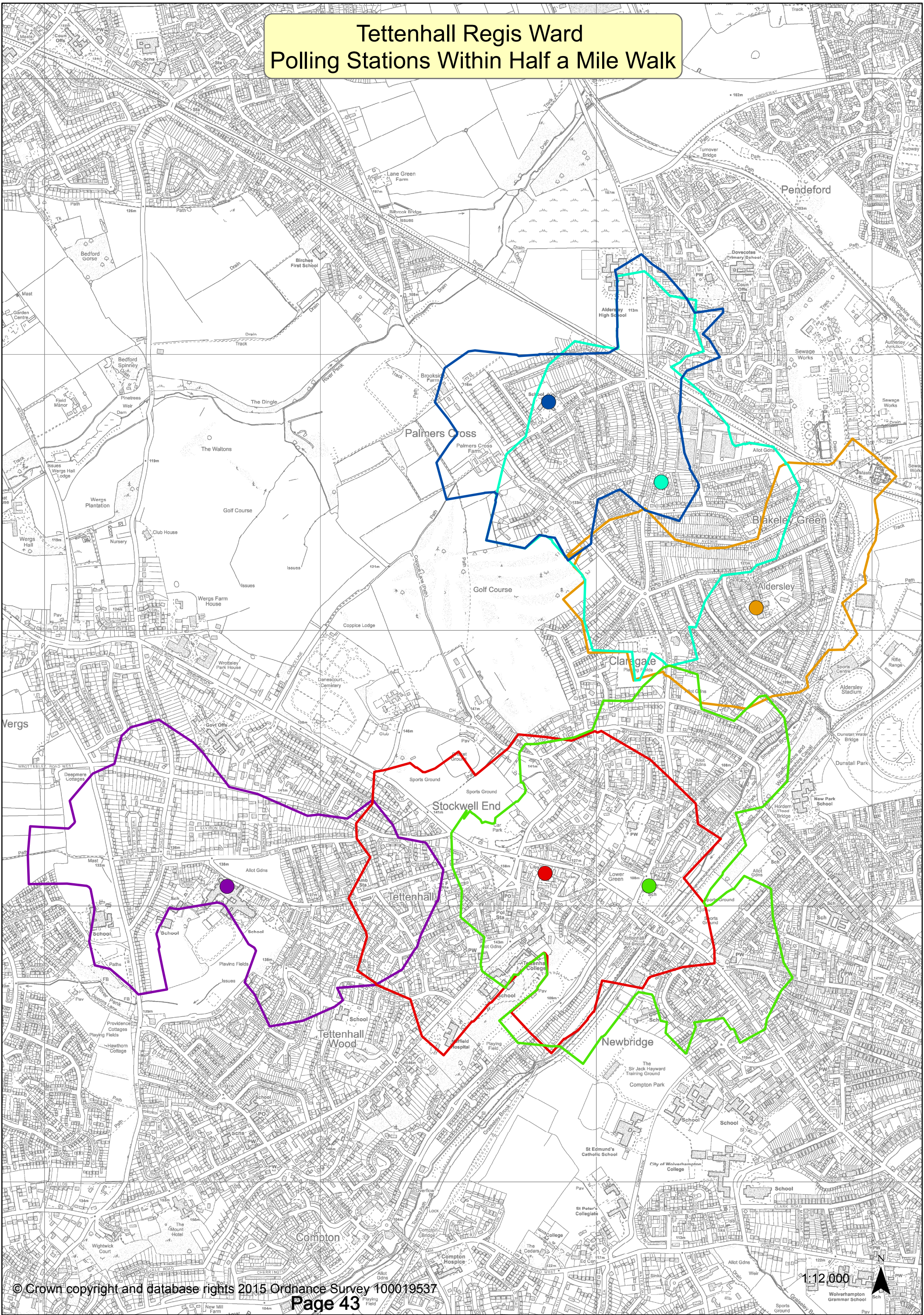
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Tettenhall Regis Ward
Polling Stations Within Half a Mile Walk



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Merry Hill/Penn and Penn

This is the proposal document for Penn, with one proposal having implications for Merry Hill. Within this document there is district and ward data relating the number of registered voters (ward/district context), and the reasons for two proposals.

There are currently 10083 electors registered to vote in Penn ward. A station operates at its optimum level at approximately 2500 voters. Therefore to operate at an optimum level, in numerical terms this ward requires no more than 5 stations. There are currently 9 stations and 7 buildings in the ward, which is not an optimum use of resources. Reduction of a station would make a saving of £500 per election.

Ward/District Context

The table below ranks the polling stations in Penn according to the proportion of the registered electors in the ward that use the stations. The percentage is colour coded according to the performance quartile the station fits into across the City.

- Lowest quartile: **0% - 11.03%**
- Lower middle quartile: **11.30% - 14.40%**
- Upper middle quartile: **14.47% – 17.17%**
- Upper quartile: **17.21%- 31.18%**

Ward	Polling District	Station	Registered Electors	Ward Size	Proportion of ward
Penn	QCA	Penn Christian Centre, Warstones Road	624	1008 3	6.19%
Penn	QKA	St Bartholomew's Church Hall, Vicarage Road	721	1008 3	7.15%
Penn	QEA	Woodfield Junior School, Woodfield Avenue	903	1008 3	8.96%
Penn	QBA	Springdale Methodist Church Hall	1,219	1008 3	12.09%
Penn	QAA	Warstones Primary School, Warstones Road	1,299	1008 3	12.88%
Penn	QDA	Penn United Reformed Church Hall, Penn Road	1,430	1008 3	14.18%
Penn	QJA	Penn United Reformed Church Hall, Penn Road	1,613	1008 3	16.00%
Penn	QFA	x2 - St Aidan's Church, Mount Road	2,274	1008 3	22.55%

Merry Hill / Penn

See Merry Hill – Proposal Map and Penn – Proposal Map

- Merge the QCA and QBA boundaries, to create one district (QBB)
- Remove the Penn Christian Centre (QCA) polling station
- Create a joint polling station at Springdale Methodist Hall, used by QCA, QBA and OJA in Merry Hill.
- Redraw the old QCA boundary so that voters in the Button's Farm Estate join the QKA district and vote at St Bart's Church.

Polling Districts affected in Penn	Number of registered voters	Proportion of ward registered to vote
QCA – Penn Christian Centre QBA – Springdale Methodist Hall	624 1219 = 1853	6.19% 12.09%
St Bart's Church	721	7.15%
Polling Districts affected in Merry Hill	Number of registered voters	Proportion of ward registered to vote
OJA – Penn Christian Centre	1174	12.53%

Reason

There are a relatively small number of registered electors at QCA and it would be a better use of resources for this district to merge with another, namely QBA. As can be seen from the 0.5 miles walking distance map, having both QCA and QBA is somewhat unnecessary as for many residents the two stations are virtually equidistant. Performance in this part of the ward would be significantly improved as a result of this change, representing better value for money.

Whilst Electoral Services initially proposed to remove Springdale Methodist Church and use Penn Christian Centre as a joint QCA/QBA polling place due to its central location, Penn ward Councillors have commented that the facilities at Penn Christian Centre are less favourable than Springdale Methodist Hall. This is an accurate assessment: Springdale is better equipped to cope with an increase in registered voters, noting its superior parking and access. On reflection this does outweigh the benefits of a more central station.

As part of this proposal there would be an impact on voters in OJA of Merryhill who would be allocated a new polling place; namely, Springdale Methodist Hall

rather than Penn Christian Centre. However, there is no suggestion of reducing numbers of stations in Merry Hill.

Evidence would suggest that in terms of distance this proposal would be more than feasible, with the vast majority of voters in the OJA district falling within 0.5 miles walking distance of the station – national guidelines by SCOPE suggest that one mile would be reasonable. Similarly it is also felt that the significantly improved access, parking and facilities at Springdale will also make the voting process smoother for residence, as arguably the station would be an upgrade.

Following consultation with Councillors from Penn, it would be reasonable for voters in the Button's Farm Estate to be absorbed by St Bart's Church in the QKA district. This will help improve the viability of the station and is within a reasonable walking distance for the voters affected.

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Key

- Proposed Polling District Boundary
- New Shared Polling Station - Merry Hill
- Existing Polling Station - Unchanged
- Existing Polling Station - Deleted

Penn n Fields

Goldthorn Hill

QAB Avenue Playing Fields

QEA

QFA

QDA

QBB

QJA

QKA

Spring Hill

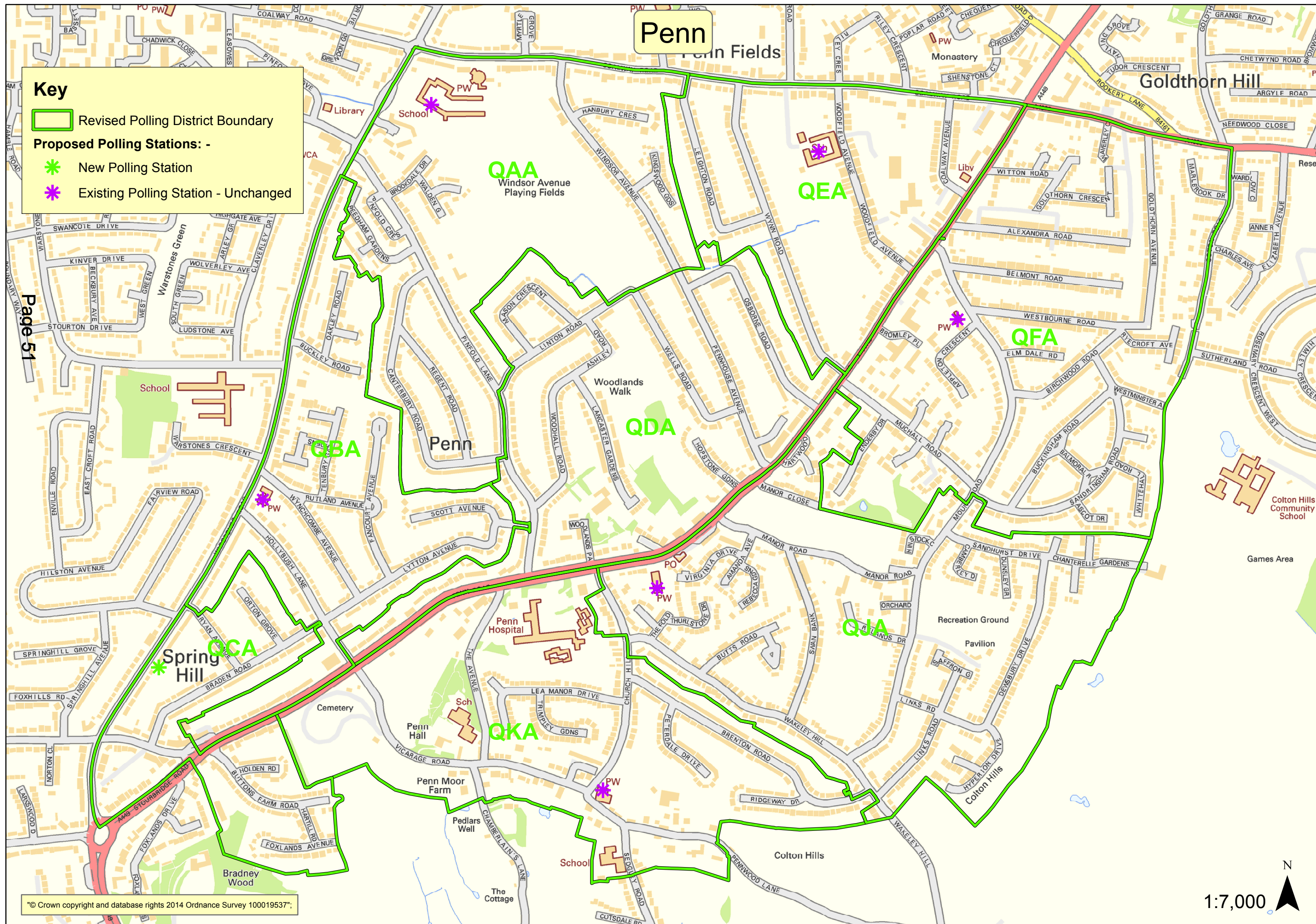
Penn Moor Farm

Colton Hills

N

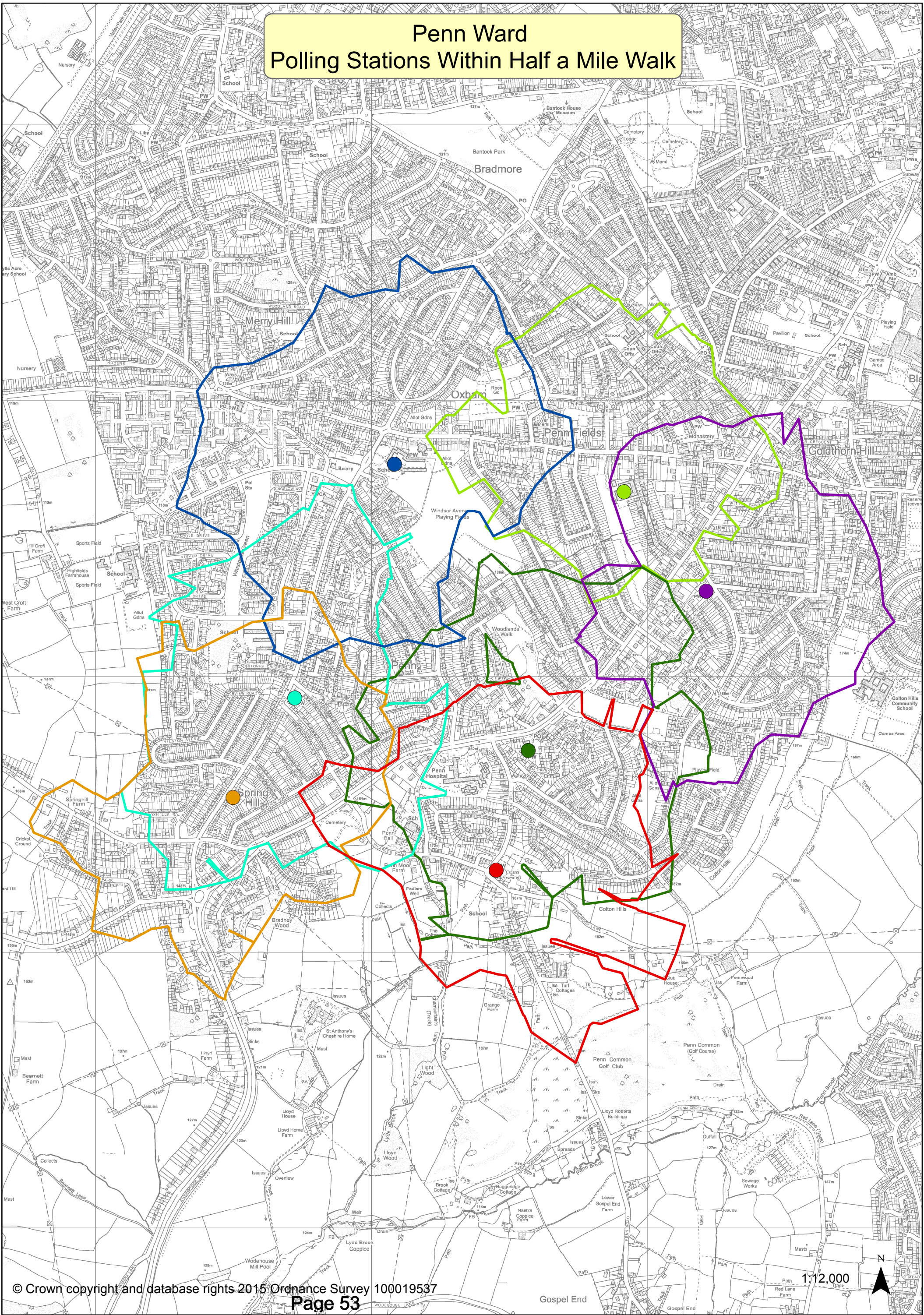
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Penn Ward
Polling Stations Within Half a Mile Walk



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Meeting of the City Council

4 November 2015

Report title	Executive Business	
Referring body	Cabinet – 21 October 2015	
Councillor to present report	Cllr Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All	
Cabinet members with lead responsibility	Cllr Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders, People	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	Dereck Francis Tel Email	Democratic Support Officer 01902 555835 dereck.francis@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Cabinet	21 October 2015

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Council is recommended to:

Receive the summary of executive business and for Cabinet Members to answer any questions thereon.

**Executive business including
Policy development/operational issues**

**Cllr Val Gibson
Children and Young People**

- **Wolverhampton Youth Justice Plan**
 - Cabinet has formally approved the adoption of the local Youth Justice Plan previously approved by the Youth Offending Team (YOT) Management Board.
 - The plan sets out how Youth Justice services are provided and resourced in Wolverhampton which has a strong track record of delivery and improvement against government targets. Underpinning the plan is an action plan which is regularly reviewed and monitored by the YOT Management Board which meets quarterly with membership from the Council, West Midlands Police, the Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust, Recover Near You (substance misuse service), National Probation Service and the Chair of the Black Country Youth Court Bench.
 - Some of the successes contained within the plan are that:
 - In respect of reoffending rates, Wolverhampton sustains a good level of performance against national comparators, with both the binary and frequency rates being ahead of national average.
 - Efforts to improve service user participation in shaping services is progressing and an electronic feedback system that young people can utilise to routinely share their feedback with the service has been put in place.
 - The YOT has been a key player both strategically and operationally in the delivery of our 'Troubled Families' programme contributing to the successful completion of the Phase One programme.
 - The YOT has continued to respond to the growing need for diversionary schemes to constructively occupy young people and provide positive choices.
 - The YOT contributed to the regional approach to reviewing restorative justice delivery. Locally we are improving the diversity of its indirect reparation offer but also looking to improve the number of face to face victim/offender encounters.