

Governance Committee

18 October 2019

Report title	Review of polling places and districts	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE Governance	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Mark Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee(s)	Martyn Sargeant	Head of Governance
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Report to be/has been considered by	Council	6 November 2019

Recommendations for decision:

The Governance Committee is recommended to:

1. Recommend that the Council approves the designation of polling places and districts for 2020-2025.
2. Recommend that the Council should delegate to the Returning Officer, following consultation with the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition, authority to designate such alternative polling stations or arrangements as may be required for operational reasons.

Recommendation for noting:

The Governance Committee is asked to note:

1. That this review is separate to the work being carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, although these arrangements will have to be reviewed in the context of any changes the Commission may require in 2021.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the outcomes from the statutory quinquennial review of polling places and districts.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 changed the timing of compulsory reviews of polling districts, polling places and polling stations. They must now be completed every five years within a specified 16 month period, the latest of which is between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020.

2.2 The review must consider the following areas:

- Polling district: the area created by the division of a constituency, ward or division into smaller parts, within which a polling place can be determined which is convenient to electors.
- Polling place: the building area in which polling stations will be selected by the Returning Officer.
- Polling station: the room or building where the poll takes place.

2.3 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. This considered factors such as accessibility and suitability of premises, future availability, cost of provision and convenience for voters. The review used feedback from Councillors, voters and polling station staff to assess the suitability of current facilities. Mapping technology was used to calculate the number of residents that would use each station.

3.2 Guidance from the disability charity, Scope, was taken into account 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).

3.3 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 the detailed analysis attached as appendix A. Copies of the ward maps relating to each set of proposals can be obtained from Electoral Services (electoral.registration@wolverhampton.gov.uk or 01902 555050).

3.4 There were three particular priorities for the review:

- (1) To identify ways to reduce the number of schools in use as polling stations, to minimise the impact on children's education.
- (2) To avoid the use of expensive and unsuitable temporary polling stations where possible.
- (3) To aim to achieve a more even distribution of voters across polling districts to optimise polling station usage.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 Consultation was conducted in three stages:

Autumn 2018	Informal discussions with ward Councillors to identify issues with existing arrangements.
August 2019	Public consultation to gather feedback from residents and special interest groups to inform the development of the Council's proposals.
Sept/October 2019	Public consultation on the Council's proposals for 2020 and beyond.

4.2 A summary of the feedback received from the public consultation is attached as Appendix B.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 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.

5.2 Any reduction in the number of polling stations creates savings by reducing hire costs and the number of polling staff. The proposed reduction of polling stations under this review will facilitate cost reductions in the region of £4,000.

[GE/09102019/F]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 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 consultation and review process is stipulated within the Electoral Commission's guidance and has been adhered to throughout.
[TS/07102019/R]

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 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 (NB: as an operational principle, the Council actually aims for half a mile as the maximum distance). 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. There were no objections or representations from these groups.

8.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1 There are no climate change and environmental implications arising from this report.

9.0 Human resources implications

- 9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

11.0 Health and Wellbeing implications

- 11.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

- 12.1 None.

Polling Place Review Proposals: 2018 – 2020 review

Overall summary: The priorities of the review have been to reduce use of schools that have to close and temporary polling stations, whilst keeping all polling stations accessible and convenient for electors. At best, if all changes are accepted, the review would see a reduction of two temporary stations and seven fewer schools being used as polling stations.

The proposals for each ward are outlined in turn, listing the proposed change and no change for each polling district and polling station within the ward. The proposals have been shaped by data analysis of electorate size and feedback on polling station suitability following the last few elections.

The data is from the elections management system (express) and is correct as at 1 September 2018. The data reflects the number of electors per polling district and includes postal voters, therefore it is a maximum figure as postal voters are less likely to use the polling station. The electorate will vary slightly throughout the review process, as electors are added and removed from the register, however it will not be by a significant number. Population projections over the next four years have been factored in where there are significant housing developments (over 100 homes).

The guidance from the Electoral Commission is that a polling station should not exceed 2,500 electors. In Wolverhampton, the optimum electorate should be between 1,500 – 1,750 and we strive to ensure that polling stations are within 0.5 miles of all electors in the district, to balance the cost of running a polling station with ease of voting and accessibly for electors. Electoral Commission staffing guidance requires an extra poll clerk for polling stations with between 1,000 – 1,750 electors and three poll clerks for stations with between 1,750 – 2,500 electors. Therefore, it is more efficient from a cost perspective to keep stations at the optimum electorate. The proportion of the ward that use each polling station has been included to give an impression of use of facilities. The optimum range would be between 15% – 25%.

- Lower quartile: **0% - 9%**
- Lower middle quartile: **10 - 14%**
- Upper middle quartile: **15 - 17%**
- Upper quartile: **18 - 25%**

This proportional figure is calculated by dividing the number of registered voters in a district by the total number of registered electors in the ward. It therefore means smaller wards haven't been unfairly focussed on for having a smaller number of registered voters.

It is also important to draw a distinction between a polling place and polling station. A polling place is the designated building, whereas the polling station is the specific room within that building, e.g. Committee Room in the Civic Centre. The polling station is determined by the Returning Officer, and the polling place is determined by the Local Authority. Some stations in the lower quartiles may be a double station, so efficiencies would be achieved with one rent cost.

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The following proposals do not take into consideration actual voter turnout, as this could fluctuate from year to year depending on political trends and fashions.

All polling districts will be subject to a new district reference to make it easier to pinpoint the polling district to a ward at a glance.

Bilston East		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
9,999 (943 postal)	<p>HEB BED (8%) – Loxdale primary school (849 electors)</p> <p>HNA BEH (3%) – Temporary Polling Station, Horning Drive (302 electors)</p>	<p>HAB BEA (14%) – Bert Williams Leisure Centre, Nettlefolds Way (1,441 electors)</p> <p>HBA BEB (13%) – Holy Trinity Catholic School, Fraser Street (1,310 electors)</p> <p>HCA BEC (16%) – The Lunt Community Centre, Lunt Road (1,555 electors)</p> <p>HIA BEE (8%) – Lower Bradley Community Centre, Wallace Road (<i>double station with HLA</i>) (832 electors)</p> <p>HJB BEF (18%) – Bradley Senior Citizens Centre, Wallace Road (1,756 electors)</p> <p>HLA BEG (20%) – Lower Bradley Community centre, Wallace Road (<i>double station with HIA</i>) (1,959 electors)</p>
<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEB – change of polling station to Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Oxford Street • HNA – change of polling station to Rainbow Street Community Centre. 		
<p>Reason:</p> <p>Loxdale Primary School is moving location in September 2019 to Dudley Street which is in the HAB district. The proposed polling station at Holy Trinity Church is in a good location in the district. It has a parish hall and good parking facilities. As well as keeping the polling station in the district, it would also reduce having to use a school which is a key priority of this review.</p> <p>There are no suitable buildings in the HNA district, therefore a temporary station has been used. It is a priority to reduce the number of temporary polling stations. The community centre is outside of the district and Wolverhampton but is 0.7 miles from where the temporary station is currently placed –a three-minute drive away, and there are a lot of households with cars in the area. Although, to walk it would take about 15-20 mins and is over a bridge/hill. The centre is used as a polling station by Dudley council.</p>		

There is a small room available for Wolverhampton to use as a polling station. Every elector could also be invited to **apply for a postal vote**.

In the 2018 local election, 76 voters turned out to vote – a 19% turnout. The cost per vote was £30 which is not cost effective. This proposal would save £1,635 as the cost of using rainbow street would be approximately £200 compared to £1,835 for temporary unit.

Although Bilston East has the highest number of polling districts in the city, and many operating at below the optimum level, these proposals do not include a suggestion to reduce the number due to the Bilston Urban Development programme which will increase the electorate. This will deliver an additional 431 houses up to 2023/4 in the HAB district with an expected increase in electorate to 1,077 taking HAB up to 2,500. The recommendation is to keep this under review and changes can be made as part of the next polling place review – potentially to redraw HAB and HNA around the Bilston Urban Village to more evenly distribute electorate between these two districts.

Bilston North		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
8,708 (886 postal)	IDA (4%) – Portobello Community Centre, Hill Road (<i>double station with IIB/ KGB</i>) (309 electors) IIB BNC – (18%) - Portobello Community Centre, Hill Road (<i>double station with IIB/IDA</i>) (1,532 electors) IAB BNA (22%) – Stowlawn Primary School, Green Park Avenue (2,106 electors) IFA BND (14%) – Villiers Primary School, Prouds Lane (<i>double station with ICA</i>) (1,257 electors)	ICA BNB (18%) – Villiers Primary School, Proud Lane (<i>double station with IFA</i>) (1,530 electors) IGB BNE (23%) – St Chad's Church Hall, Connaught Road (1,986 electors)
Proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove IDA district – IDA to become part of IIB. • IAB – Move part of Prouds Lane to IIB (north of Fieldside Walk). • IFA – Move Fieldside Walk and Moseley road to IBB. 		
Reason: IDA is in the lowest quartile for usage given the small number of electors, and although this is not technically counted as its own district (as there is not a separate ballot paper account for it), for simplicity it makes sense to remove it and include it as part of the IIB district. Taking in three roads from IAB and IFA helps with redrawing the boundaries to accommodate IDA. There are no other alternative buildings in the middle of the district, so this centre is preferable to keep as the polling station, and it remains a convenient location for the electors that would be affected by the move from IAB and IFA. These changes would take IIB up to 2,000.		

Blakenhall		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
8,365 (935 postal)	<p>JAA BOA (23%) – Bob Jones Community Hub, Bromley Street (1,918 electors)</p> <p>JMA BOE (6%) – St Theresa’s Primary School, Malins Road (530 electors)</p> <p>JHA (15%) – Phoenix Nursery School, Phoenix Street (1,270 electors)</p>	<p>JBA BOB (15%) – Royal Air Force Association Club, Goldthorn Road (1,228 electors)</p> <p>JIA BOC (20%) – Goldthorn Park Primary School, Ward Road (<i>double station with JKA</i>) (1,642 electors)</p> <p>JKA BOD (21%) – Goldthorn Park Primary School, Ward Road (<i>double station with JIA</i>) (1,784 electors)</p>
<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JAA – take in roads north of Curzon street from JHA (Curzon Street, Birmingham Road, Elm Farm Road, Johnson Street, Cartwright Street and Cousins Street, Part of Dudley Street north of Curzon Street, Grove Street) • JMA – take in roads south of Curzon street from JHA (Byrne Road, Napier Road, Arthur Street, Phoenix Street, Hailes Park Close, Barnard Place, Part of Dudley road south of Curzon Street) • JMA-Proposed Station-St Johns Methodist Church, Wolverhampton Road East, WV4 6AA • JHA – remove this district and associated polling station. Distribute the streets between JAA and JMA. 		
<p>Reason:</p> <p>This would achieve a reduction of two schools used as polling stations which is a key priority of the review. It also makes more optimum use of polling stations by effectively removing one district.</p> <p>The streets proposed to move from JHA to JAA have approximately 419 electors which takes JAA up to 2,337 electors but is still within range. The streets proposed to move from JHA to JMA have approximately electors so brings up the electorate for JMA. The proposed polling stations are still within the recommended distance for all elections. Room 2 (smaller of rooms but would still accommodate a double station) is available.</p>		

Bushbury North		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
8,984 (1,088 postal)	ACA BUB (12%) – Elston Hall School, Stafford Road (1,039 electors) ADA BUC (11%) – Fordhouses Methodist Church Hall, Winchester Road (952 electors) AEA (12%) – Fordhouses and Oxley Community Centre (1,038 electors) AGA BUE (13%) – Northwood Park Primary School, Collingwood Road (1,182 electors) AHA (19%) – Collingwood Library, Broadway Gardens (1,717 electors)	AAA BUA (21%) – Church of St James, Taunton Avenue (1,904 electors) AFA BUD (13%) – Northcote Farm, Underhill Lane (1,160 electors)
Proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA – merge with AEA and use Fordhouses Baptist Church on Winchester Road as the polling station. • AEA – merge with ADA and use Fordhouses Baptist Church on Winchester Road as the polling station. • AGA- merge with AHA and use Collingwood Library, Broadway Gardens • ACA – Proposed station Temple Baptist Church- 30 Three Tuns Lane, take in roads from AGA (Lincoln Green, Grosvenor Road, Grosvenor Close, Grosvenor Crescent, Moreton Road, Alleston Road, Alleston Walk, Wood Lane, School Lane, Short Road) 		
Reason: There are a high number of polling districts in this ward for the electorate size, comparatively with the rest of the city. Other wards with a similar electorate have an average of six polling districts. ADA is largely industrial with a total of 952 electors. A merge would bring the total electorate up to 2,000. The Fordhouses Baptist Church on Winchester Road is more centrally located between the existing AEA and ADA district – There are groups using rooms on Thursday but could use the large worship room in the building.		

For ACA The Temple Baptist Church-Three Tuns Lane is still central location and will remove the use of Elston Hall Primary school as a polling station. Moving the proposed roads into this polling district will bring the electorate up to 1801.

Councillors have suggested to leave as is.

200 homes will be built in AHA on former Northicote secondary school site up to 2021 which would take electorate up to slightly over 2,000 but still within appropriate range.

Bushbury South and Low Hill		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
10,141 (1,080 postal)	<p>BAA BYA (26%) – Good Shepherd Centre, Second Avenue (<i>double station with BGA</i>) (2,629 electors)</p> <p>BGA BYD (12%) - Good Shepherd Centre, Second Avenue (<i>double station with BAA</i>) (1,205 electors)</p>	<p>BDA BYB (16%) – Low Hill Community Hub, Kempthorne Avenue (<i>double station with BEA</i>) (1,585 electors)</p> <p>BEA BYC (16%) – Low Hill Community Hub, Kempthorne Avenue (<i>double station with BDA</i>) (1,642 electors)</p> <p>BHA BYE (9%) – Tenants Meeting Room, Coven Lodge (912 electors)</p> <p>BIA BYF (12%) – Bushbury Triangle Management Centre, Stanley Road (1,206 electors)</p> <p>BJA BYG (10%) – Bushbury Lane Academy, Ripon Road (973 electors)</p>
<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAA – Move industrial area, Guy Avenue, Willington Road and Luce Road to BGA • BGA – take in industrial area, Guy Avenue, Willington Road and Luce Road from BAA 		
<p>Reason:</p> <p>BAA electorate is well above the optimum range at 2,629, and BGA is under at 1,205. Although they share a polling station, this would help to fairly distribute electorate in these districts.</p> <p>There are 150 homes planned to be built on the Tap works site up to 2022 which will increase electorate slightly in BDA but still within the appropriate range.</p> <p>There are 230 homes planned to be built on the goodyear tyre factory site from 2020-2023 which will increase electorate in BJA and will make better use of the facilities for this polling station.</p>		

East Park		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
8,820 (844 postal)	<p>KHB EPE (21%) – East Park Library and Neighbourhood Centre, Hurstbourne Crescent (1,862 electors)</p> <p>KLA (3%) – All Saints Community Centre, All Saints Road (<i>double station with LAB</i>) (234 electors)</p>	<p>KAA EPA (15%) – East Park Methodist Church Hall, Brooklands Parade (<i>double station with KDB</i>) (1,313 electors)</p> <p>KBA EPB (16%) – Eastfield Community Centre, Colliery Road (1,387 electors)</p> <p>KDB EPC (17%) – East Park Methodist Church Hall, Brooklands Parade (<i>double station with KAA</i>) (1,521 electors)</p> <p>KGB EPD (22%) – Portobello Community Centre, Hill Road (1,906 electors)</p> <p>KIA EPF (7%) – Memorial Hall, George Street (<i>double station with LEA</i>) (601 electors)</p>
<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KLA - merge with KHB and use Mount Shiloh Apostolic Church, Hickman Avenue as polling station Or the school next door. • KHB – merge with KLA and use Mount Shiloh Apostolic Church as polling station 		
<p>Reason:</p> <p>East Park is a geographically challenging ward for splitting in to polling districts and finding suitable polling stations in those locations as certain districts are largely industrial and there is a lack of suitable buildings. KLA is such a small electorate and it is not cost effective to have a separate polling district and polling station for this area. Therefore, it has been proposed to merge with KHB and to move the polling station location so that it is more central to these districts.</p>		

Ettingshall		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
9,933 (954 postal)	<p>LCA ETB (12%) – St Martins Church Hall, Parkfield Grove (1,220 electors)</p> <p>LJA ETE (7%) – Bilston Primary School, Albany Crescent (674 electors)</p> <p>LIA (8%) – Temporary Polling Station, Millfield’s Road (806 electors)</p> <p>LAB ETA (26%) - All Saints Community Centre, All Saints Road (<i>double station with KLA</i>) (2,540 electors)</p>	<p>LEA ETC (18%) – Memorial Hall, George Street (<i>double station with KIA</i>) (1,773 electors)</p> <p>LFA ETD (18%) – Windsor Centre, Parkfield Road (1,758 electors)</p> <p>LKA ETF (12%) – Temporary Polling Station, Overfield Drive (1,166 electors)</p>
<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCA – to use the larger room in St Martin’s Church Hall and to take in Kent Road, Pond Dale, Pond Crescent, Bradley Road, Major Street, Banstead Close and Carshalton Road from LAB. • LJA – merge with LIA and use Bilstons People Centre as the polling station • LIA – merge with LJA and use Bilstons People Centre as the polling station. • LAB – move Kent Road, Pond Lane, Pond Crescent, Bradley Road, Major Street, Banstead close and Carshalton Road to LCA 		
<p>Reason:</p> <p>LCA – there were complaints from electors over last few years that the room used at St Martins Church hall was too small and had inadequate facilities. We are able to book the large room going forward. The only other option is Parkfield Primary School which is not preferable. The other church in district (St Theresa’s church does not have a church hall).</p> <p>LJA and LIA each have a small electorate, and this would bring this up to 1,480. LIA currently has to use a temporary polling station. There may be a potential to use a nurse’s or sports building on the new Springvale development site. However, there is Bilston’s People Centre and Excel Church which are well located in LJA and close to LIA which would be suitable and reduce the need for using a school and temporary station.</p> <p>The LAB electorate is high at 2,540, and the LCA electorate is small at 1,220. Taking in these streets would help to even up the electorate and bring LAB down to 2,000 and LCA up to 1,700. LAB district is also scheduled to have 638 homes built between 2019 and 2024 between Cable Street/Steelhouse Lane and the Royal Hospital site, so this will have to be monitored until next review.</p>		

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There are 375 homes to be built in the LEA district up to 2022, which could increase electorate up to the maximum, so will have to monitor for the next review.

Fallings Park		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
8,761 (895 postal)	<p>CAA FPA (7%) – Berrybrook Primary School, Greenacres Avenue (597 electors)</p> <p>CBA (14%) – Neil Dougherty Education and Resource Centre, Masefield Road (1,250 electors)</p>	<p>CDA FPB (16%) – Fallings Park Methodist Church Hall, Wimbourne Road (1,362 electors)</p> <p>CEA FPC (17%) – D'Eyncourt Primary School, Mullett Road (1,465 electors)</p> <p>CGA FPD (17%) – St Gregory the Great Church Hall, Blackhalve Lane (1,508 electors)</p> <p>CIA FPE (15%) – Long Knowle Community Hub, Wood End Road (1,337 electors)</p> <p>CKA FPF (14%) – Fallings Park Primary School, Old Fallings Lane (1,250 electors)</p>
<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAA – merge with CBA and use Neil Dougherty Education and Resource Centre as polling station • CBA – merge with CAA and use Neil Dougherty Education and Resource Centre as polling station 		
<p>Reason:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The combined electorate would be 1,900 which is still within the optimum range. It would also reduce the use of school, which is in the lowest quartile for use. (currently use main hall – just half with folding door as service users access other half of hall – it's a big space). 		

Graiseley		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
8,232 (1,121 postal)	<p>NAA GRA (20%) – Brickklin Community Centre, Cherry Street (1,670 electors)</p> <p>NDA GRB (23%) – Bantock Primary School, Aston Street (1,919 electors)</p>	<p>NGA GRC (17%) – United Reform Church Centre, Lea Road (1,439 electors)</p> <p>NHA GRD (14%) – Bradmore Community Centre, Birches Barn Road (1,134 electors)</p> <p>NIA GRE (12%) – Beckminster Methodist Church, Birches Barn Road (1,020 electors)</p> <p>NJA GRF (13%) – St Philips Church, Church Road (1,061 electors)</p>
<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAA – Take in the Tower Works industrial estate and Pelham street from NDA • NDA – Move the Tower Works industrial estate and Pelham Street to NAA 		
<p>Reason:</p> <p>77 homes are due to be built on the Tower Works industrial estate between 2019 – 2021. From an elector’s perspective, the most accessible polling station to them will be at Brickklin Community Centre in NAA. This is a minor change and will help to achieve an even electorate across NDA and NAA.</p>		

Heath Town		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
<p>8,605 (977 postal)</p>	<p>DMB (0.4%) – Civic Centre Training Room, St Peter’s Square (<i>double station with RIA</i>) (36 electors)</p> <p>DAA HTA (17%) – Woden Primary School, Springfield Road (1,437 electors)</p>	<p>DCB HTB (22%) – Harvest Temple Church Hall, Wolverhampton Road (1,901 electors)</p> <p>DEA HTC (18%) – Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bushbury Road (1,545 electors)</p> <p>DGA HTD (16%) – St Patricks Church Hall, Wolverhampton Road (1,336 electors)</p> <p>DHA HTE (17%) – Wodensfield Primary School, Woden Avenue (1,434 electors)</p> <p>DJA HTF (11%) – St Patricks Primary School, Graiseley Lane (926 electors)</p>
<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMB – merge with DAA and to use Woden Primary School as polling station • DAA – merge with DMB and to use Woden Primary School as polling station • DJA – use Wednesfield community hub as the polling station (share with Wednesfield south) 		
<p>Reason:</p> <p>DMB is located within the DAA district and as it is largely a student area, over the last few elections, the polling station for this district was trialled at the Civic Centre, being central to the city centre to encourage voter turnout. At the last local election, only one voter turned out and 30 voters at the general election. Although turnout figures are not generally taken in to account, felt it pertinent to highlight given extremely low turnout. Even though the civic centre will still be used as polling station, this would be efficient and would reduce the paperwork including ballot paper account that needs to be completed for this station. Woden primary school is only 0.5 miles which is well within the recommended distance. All voters in DMB could be given a postal vote to help encourage turnout.</p> <p>There are 247 homes planned to be built up to 2022 in the DCB district, which has a high electorate but could accommodate up to 600 more electors to take to the maximum electorate. This could be monitored and reviewed in the next review.</p>		

Merry Hill		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
9,203 (1,232 postal)	OEA MHC (26%) - St Joseph's Church Hall, Coalway Road (<i>double station with QGA</i>) (2,393 electors) OCA MHB (8%) – Swanmore Community centre, Swanmore Close (755 electors)	OAA MHA (19%) – Uplands Junior School, Finchfield Road West (1,787 electors) OGA MHD (19%) – St Joseph's Church Hall, Coalway Road (<i>double station with OEA</i>) (1,790 electors) OIA MHE (15%) – Springdale Junior School, Warstones Drive (1,350 electors) OJA MHF (13%) – Springdale Methodist Church Hall, Warstones Drive (<i>double station with QBB</i>) (1,155 electors)
Proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OEA – Move streets east of Coppice road to OCA (Fir Tree Road, Woodland Crescent, Tiberton Close, Langley Gardens, Trysull road, Brandon park, Rowan Crecent and Laurel Grove) • OCA – Take in streets from OAE (Fir Tree Road, Woodland Crescent, Tiberton Close, Langley Gardens, Trysull road, Brandon park, Rowan Crecent and Laurel Grove) 		
Reason: The electorate in OCA is significantly below the optimum range, and the electorate in OEA is higher as a percentage of the ward distribution of electors. This proposal would achieve a greater optimum range of electors in both polling districts, and the OCA polling station is well within the 0.5 miles for electors to travel. This would mean moving approximately 500 electors to OCA, taking electorate up to 1,250 and reducing OEA to 1,885. This would also help to reduce the combined electorate of OGA and OEA that use St Joseph's Church Hall as a double polling station.		

Oxley		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
8,888 (1,096 postal)	<p>ECA OXB (32%) – Rakegate Primary School, Rakegate Close (2,842 electors)</p> <p>EFA OXC (9%) – Polish Catholic Centre, Stafford Road (<i>double station with RAA</i>) (760 electors)</p>	<p>EAA OXA (25%) – Dovecotes Primary School, Ryefield (2,208 electors)</p> <p>EGA OXD (18%) – Priory Green Community Hub, Whitburn Close (<i>double station with EHA</i>) (1,633 electors)</p> <p>EHA OXE (16%) - Priory Green Community Hub, Whitburn Close (<i>double station with EHA</i>) (1,455 electors)</p>
<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECA – Move streets to EFA (Beech Road, Eccleshall Avenue, Churchfield Road and beech close). • EFA – Take in streets from ECA (Beech Road, Eccleshall Avenue, Churchfield Road and Beech Close). 		
<p>Reason:</p> <p>ECA is significantly above the optimum electorate at 2,842 and EFA is significantly below at 760. Moving some streets from ECA to EFA would fairly distribute the electorate and bring ECA down to 2,529 and EFA up to 1,073. These streets have close access to Stafford road which makes it easier to get to the Polish Catholic Centre polling station. Even with changes there is still quite high electorate in ECA. EFA taking in Oxley Moor Road would remove another 363 electors however it would add an additional mile in travel to the new station.</p> <p>EAA- After the review we should consider possibility of using Dovecotes Community Centre or Pendeford Seventh-day Adventist Church or Dove Centre (due to school having to shut for elections)</p>		

Park		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
7,924 (931 postal)		<p>PAA PKA (18%) – Tenants Meeting Room, Upper Vauxhall (1,464 electors)</p> <p>PBA PKB (23%) – St Judes Church Hall, St Judes Road (1,834 electors)</p> <p>PDA PKC (15%) – St Judes Primary School, Paget Road (1,220 electors)</p> <p>PFA PKD (13%) – Zion City Tabernacle, Compton Road (1,004 electors)</p> <p>PGA PKE (16%) – Bantock House, Bantock Park (1,303 electors)</p> <p>PIA PKF (14%) – St Andrew’s Primary School, Coleman Street (1,128 electors)</p>
Proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change 		
Reason: <p>There is a fair distribution of electors, and there is a polling station within each district. The arrangement is working well.</p>		

Penn		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
<p>9,974 (1,315 postal)</p>		<p>QAB PNA (15%) – Warstones Primary School, Warstones Road (1,497 electors)</p> <p>QBB PNB (14%) – Springdale Methodist Church Hall, Warstones Road (<i>double station with OJA</i>) (1,410 electors)</p> <p>QDA PNC (14%) – Penn United Reformed Church Hall, Penn Road (<i>double station with QJA</i>) (1,406 electors)</p> <p>QEA PND (9%) – Woodfield Infant School (854 electors)</p> <p>QFA PNE (23%) – St Aidan’s Church, Mount Road (2,310 electors)</p> <p>QJA PNF (16%) – Penn United Reformed Church Hall, Penn Road (<i>double station with QDA</i>) (1,606 electors)</p> <p>QKB PNG (9%) – St Bartholomew’s Church Hall, Vicarage Road (922 electors)</p>
<p>Proposal:</p> <p>No change</p>		
<p>Reason:</p> <p>There is a fair distribution of electors, and there is a polling station within each district. The arrangement is working well.</p>		

Spring Vale		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
8,696 (930 postal)	<p>MFA SVD (28%) – Hill Avenue Academy, Hill Avenue (2,423 electors)</p> <p>MJA SVE (9%) – Hurst Hill Methodist Church, Hurst Road (758 electors)</p> <p>MCA SVB (13%) – Springvale Primary School, Kenilworth Crescent (1,138 electors)</p>	<p>MAA SVA (16%) – Hilton Hall Community Centre, Hilton Road (1,425 electors)</p> <p>MDA SVC (20%) – Holy Trinity Church Hall, Farrington Road (1,717 electors)</p> <p>MKA SVF (14%) – Manor Primary School, Ettingshall Road (1,240 electors)</p>
<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFA – Move some streets to MJA (Woodcross Lane, Woodcross Street, Watson Road, Sherwin Avenue, Bellevue Street and Waddell Close) • MJA – Take some streets in from MFA (Woodcross Lane, Woodcross Street, Watson Road, Sherwin Avenue, Bellevue Street and Waddell Close) • MCA – Use Springvale Library as polling station 		
<p>Reason:</p> <p>MFA has a high electorate at 2,423 and MJA has a low electorate at 758. Moving these streets from MFA to MJA would bring MFA down to 2,013 and MJA up to 1,168, whilst keeping it convenient for electors to access polling station.</p> <p>Springvale Primary School closes on polling day. Moving it to Springvale Library would help to reduce the use of schools which is a key priority of this review. There isn't a room available at the library but the whole library could be used as it is closed on a Thursday.</p>		

St Peter's		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
7,475 (801 postal)		<p>RAA SPA (7%) – Polish Catholic Centre, Stafford Road (<i>double station with EFA</i>) (551 electors)</p> <p>RBA SPB (24%) – Tenants Meeting Room, Firsbrook House, Firsbrook Close (1,817 electors)</p> <p>RCA SPC (14%) – Christian Pentecostal Church Hall, Gorsebrook Road (1,077 electors)</p> <p>RDB SPD (28%) – Gloucester Street Community Centre, Gloucester Street (2,094 electors)</p> <p>RGA SPE (15%) – Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street (1,087 electors)</p> <p>RHA SPF (6%) – University of Wolverhampton, Chaplaincy Building, Molineux Street (459 electors)</p> <p>RIA SPG (5%) – Training room, Civic Centre, St Peters Square (<i>double station with DMB</i>) (396 electors)</p>
Proposal:		
No change		
Reason:		
<p>Due to nature of city centre geography, it is difficult to redraw suitable polling district boundaries to fairly distribute the electorate. To date, the arrangements have worked well, and there are no complaints.</p>		

Tettenhall Regis		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
<p>9,292 (1,493 postal)</p>		<p>SBB TRA (24%) – Christ The King Church, Pendeford Avenue (2,197 electors)</p> <p>SEB TRB (21%) – Claregate Primary School, Chester Avenue (1,939 electors)</p> <p>SGB TRC (10%) – St Michaels Parish Centre, Upper Street (964 electors)</p> <p>SHB TRD (11%) – St Michaels School, Lower Street (1,049 electors)</p> <p>SIB TRE (17%) – The Kings School, Regis Road, alternating with Tettenhall Wood School each year (<i>double station with SJB</i>) (1,594 electors)</p> <p>SJB TRF (17%) - The Kings School, Regis Road, alternating with Tettenhall Wood School each year (<i>double station with SIB</i>) (1,578 electors)</p>
<p>Proposal:</p> <p>No change</p>		
<p>Reason:</p> <p>There is a fair distribution of electors, and the arrangement is working well.</p>		

Tettenhall Wightwick		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
8,970 (1,697 postal)	TKA TWF (25%) – St Columbas Church Hall, Castlecroft Road (2,287 electors) TCA TWB (19%) – Compton Youth Centre, Henwood Road (1,698 electors)	TBA TWA (13%) – Church Hall Newman Centre, Haywood Drive (1,131 electors) TEA TWC (14%) – Tettenhall Wood United Reformed Church, Mount Road (1,226 electors) TGA TWD (13%) - Endeavour Academy, Tinacre Hill (1,167 electors) THA TWE (17%) – Church of the Good Shepherd, Windmill Lane (1,491 electors)
Proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA-Move Nuffield Health Accommodation into TBA • TCA - Find an alternative to Compton Youth Centre proposed use of Temporary Polling Station at Martham Drive as in previous years. • TKA- Increase in Polling Booths 		
Reason: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA - No currently registered electors, however these are residential premises for health workers and as TBA has a lower current electorate it will help to reduce the imbalance. • TCA – Compton Youth Centre building in poor state of repair. It is a leased building – assets are going to review – get update in new year, • TKA – To ease congestion on polling day. 		

Wednesfield North		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
8,624 (1,091 postal)		<p>FAA WNA (20%) – Wood End Primary School, Wood End Road (1,709 electors)</p> <p>FBA WNB (17%) – Ashmore Park Community Hub, Griffiths Drive (<i>double station with FCA</i>) (1,433 electors)</p> <p>FCA WNC (20%) – Ashmore Park Baptist Church, Griffiths Drive (<i>double station with FBA</i>) (1,767 electors)</p> <p>FFA WND (12%) – St Alban’s Primary School, St Alban’s Close (1,053 electors)</p> <p>FHA WNE (13%) - Ashmore Park Baptist Church, Griffiths Drive (1,129 electors)</p> <p>FIA WNF (18%) – Oak Meadow, Primary School, Ryan Avenue (1,533 electors)</p>
Proposal:		
No change		
Reason:		
There is a fair distribution of electors and the arrangement is working well.		

Wednesfield South		
Electorate	Polling district - changes	Polling districts – no change
<p>8,749 (1,145 postal)</p>		<p>GAA WSA (17%) – Seventh Day Adventist Church, Lichfield Road (1,461 electors)</p> <p>GBA WSB (10%) – St Thomas Primary School, Mattox Road (886 electors)</p> <p>GCA WSC (16%) – Edward the Elder Primary School, Moathouse Lane East (1,395 electors)</p> <p>GFA WSD (16%) – Perry Hall Primary School, Colman Avenue (1,431 electors)</p> <p>GGA WSE (10%) – Mount Peniel Church Hall, Stubby Lane (906 electors)</p> <p>GHA WSF (17%) – Wednesfield Christian Centre, Broad Lane South (1,555 electors)</p> <p>GIA WSG (13%) – Wednesfield Community Centre, Well Lane (1,115 electors)</p>
<p>Proposal:</p> <p>No change</p>		
<p>Reason:</p> <p>There is a good distribution of electors and the existing arrangements are working well.</p> <p>There are plans for 266 homes to be built from 2018 – 2023 on the Wednesfield High School Playing Fields Site in GAA district, and even with this increase, the district can accommodate more electors.</p>		

Feedback from Consultation

STAGE ONE

7 August-28 August

Ward	Polling Station	Category	Suitability of Polling Station	Other suitable Locations
Merry Hill	Springdale Methodist Church Hall, Warstones Road, WV4 4LF	Voter	Suitable	Can't think of any
Merry Hill	Springdale Methodist Church Hall, Warstones Road, WV4 4LF	Voter	I have voted at this location several times. Parking was good. My wife is disabled - specifically walking is difficult - but the external and internal ramps have made entry quite easy. Good central location.	N/A
Penn	Woodfield Infant School, Woodfield Avenue, WV4 4AG	Voter	No significant concerns	N/A
Penn	Penn United Reformed Church Hall, Penn Road, WV4 5QF	Voter	Yes seems fine. A shame not used by the local community more often.	Penn Bowling Club St Barts Primary
St Peter's	Gloucester Street Community Centre,	Voter	The venue and access to the venue seems to be pretty much perfect for the role(s) it is	The venue itself is fine. The voting booths could be

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	Gloucester Street, WV6 0PT		designed for. The only issue that I can see is the voting booths themselves. Voting is supposed to be a personal choice that is free from any possible outside influence. The booths are a Three sided pedestal with no privacy. It is well known for the heads of some families to instruct or encourage other members to vote a certain way. This is obviously undemocratic.	arranged into individual booths by a wall maybe.
Park	St Andrew's CE Primary School, Coleman Street, WV6 0RH	Voter	Its fine, parking is very good, not much walking and all on the flat so accessible for husband without wheelchair.	N/A
Tettenhall Regis	Claregate Primary School, Chester Avenue, WV6 9JU	Voter	Why are we closing a school for polling day? It needs to be a community hall or centre?	Maybe Aldersley school of Arts, by the tennis courts.
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Can I suggest using community centres, church halls libraries or such like. Children should not be missing school. If a child was on holiday parents would be fined. It would be a good statement for the LA to state they do not close schools for elections

STAGE 2

12 September - 2 October

Ward	Polling Station	Category	Suitability of Polling Station	Other suitable Locations	District line changes
East Park	Memorial Hall, George Street, WV2 2LY	Voter	So for me personally, the nearest voting office is at some memorial community room/centre near the priest field tram station, and, I must say that is convenient. it's easily accessible if your disabled, location is easy to get too and the lighting is adequate to see the ballot stations.	Keep one at the memorial building.	It's dreadful, like Love Island. I do not understand why I or other people on bottom of Stow Heath Lane (which a lot of people living in the area are 75+ and would take them a week to get there) would have to walk 20 minutes to a ballot station. It's much easier and quicker to get a flight on Virgin Space and go to the moon for breakfast, than walk all over the other side of East Park.
Graiseley	St Philip's Church, Church Road, Bradmore, WV3 7EN	Voter	Fine	N/A	N/A

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Wednesfield North	Wood End Primary School, Wood End Road, WV11 1YQ	N/A	It's an inconvenience to have the polling station in the schools due to the children having to have a day off. When this happens it's hard for working families to be able to find child care. There is a church across the road also there is a community centre also on woodend rd. Thank you"	Community centre	
N/A		Voter	I think there should be appropriate parking provision, disabled access, lighting and security. However, I don't agree with schools being used at any location. Children should be allowed to have their education, uninterrupted by political matters.	N/A	N/A
Fallings Park	D`Eyncourt Primary School, Mullett Road, WV11 1DD	Other	Not suitable - The council should fine itself for using schools as polling stations. Governors should hang their heads in shame in approving the use of their schools. There are enough other buildings you could use if you really put some effort in to it. Come on practice what you preach about children missing days of education.	Why not have polling stations set up in places where people actually go? Supermarkets, pubs, local post offices, universities, gyms?	Less stations to avoid school use. If it means you have to walk a few more steps fine. Most probably use a car anyway.

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N/A		Voter	<p>As a Labour member I have door knocked on polling day in various wards of Wolverhampton. Changing polling station locations should be resisted if at all possible. Quite often people are unable to find their polling card and rely on the polling station being at the same place as the last time they voted. Wolverhampton already has very low voter turnout, with one ward recently making it into the lowest ten turnouts in the entire country as reported by the BBC. It is a constant battle to get people to vote. Changing polling station location is likely to have some voter suppression effect. People are more likely to do something they have done before.</p> <p>Particular attention should be paid to Wolverhampton's marginal wards, which are currently Bushbury North (margin of only 7 in 2019), Penn (margin of only 21 in 2018) and Merry Hill (margin</p>	Church halls Wimborne road - St Gregory's church - red lion pub - libraries- empty shops on fairview- use a portacabin - Lidl car park - pub car park -	N/A
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			<p>of only 14 in 2016) where vote suppression is likely to change the result, but voter engagement is also a general problem in wards like Bushbury North, Failings Park and Bushbury South & Low Hill.</p> <p>It's disturbing that the priority of this review seems to be not closing schools rather than encouraging people to engage in the democratic process, when Wolverhampton has wards with shockingly abysmal voter turnouts.</p>		
Fallings Park	Wodensfield Primary School, Woden Avenue, Wednesfield, WV11 1PW	N/A	Parking is all on street and not fit for purpose. I also very strongly object to the closure of the school for the purpose of a voting station. My objection applies to the use of all schools in the City. The education of children should not be impacted on so that a handful of people can vote, especially as there are ample other sites available.	N/A	N/A

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N/A		N/A	Could consideration be given to using more portacabins in lieu of closing schools for a day. I worked previously in a school that did close, and still does, and know the headache it causes parents for child care for one day. I'm now at a school that doesn't have to close fortunately.	Community Centre's, Church Hall's, Business premises may be willing to supply space, etc	N/A
N/A		N/A	My wife is disabled and can only walk a short distance. For the first time in 50 years she can no longer vote. The polling station at Claregate school is too small. E.g. at the last national election the road was crowded with cars and the entrance blocked repeat. There are other good venues such as the Claregate Playing field. Am I right in thinking (as many do) that we are not encouraged to vote?	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	I complained earlier this year about the Voting Situation at Elston Hall Primary School. My complaint centred around: pupils being in	N/A	N/A

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			<p>school (I do not think they should be, for all sorts of reasons), ease of entry to the building for disabled people (no ramp or rails to and poor signage to the side of the school building. I do not know all the requirements for 'safe secure' voting facilities. However, Community Halls and Centres, Wolverhampton Facilities such as Bentley Bridge, Aldersley Stadium? I apologise that I cannot think of more places, however, I am sure that you will get it sorted for everyone.</p>		
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