

## Bilston East

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

There are currently 9846 electors registered to vote in Bilston East. A station operates at its optimum level at approximately 2500 voters. Therefore to operate at an optimum level, in purely numerical terms this ward would require no more than 5 stations – assuming that the number of voters could fluctuate to over 10,000. There are currently 10 stations and 9 buildings in the ward, which is not an optimum use of resources. Reduction of a station will make a saving of £500 per election.

### Ward/District Context

The table below ranks the polling stations in Bilston East according to the proportion of the registered electors in the ward that use the stations. The percentage is colour coded in relation 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 |
|--------------|------------------|--|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Bilston East | HNA              | Temporary Polling Station, Horning Drive, (Off Broadmoor Road)           | 299                 | 9846      | <b>3.04%</b>       |
| Bilston East | HAA              | Gazebo Theatre, The Town Hall, Church Street                             | 323                 | 9846      | <b>3.28%</b>       |
| Bilston East | HMA              | Bilston Resource Centre, St Michael's Mission Hall, Wolverhampton Street | 341                 | 9846      | <b>3.46%</b>       |
| Bilston East | HEA              | Loxdale Primary School, Chapel Street                                    | 587                 | 9846      | <b>5.96%</b>       |
| Bilston East | HJA              | Bradley Methodist Church, Hallgreen Street                               | 965                 | 9846      | <b>9.80%</b>       |
| Bilston East | HIA              | Lower Bradley Community Centre, Wallace Road, Bilston                    | 1164                | 9846      | <b>11.82%</b>      |
| Bilston East | HBA              | Holy Trinity Catholic School, Fraser Street                              | 1320                | 9846      | <b>13.41%</b>      |
| Bilston      | HFA              | St Martin`s Church Centre,   | 1410                | 9846      | <b>14.32%</b>      |

|              |     |   |      |      |        |
|--------------|-----|---|------|------|--------|
| East         |     | Slater Street   |      |      |        |
| Bilston East | HCA | The Lunt Community Centre, Lunt Road                  | 1556 | 9846 | 15.80% |
| Bilston East | HLA | Lower Bradley Community Centre, Wallace Road, Bilston | 1881 | 9846 | 19.10% |

## Proposal Bilston East 1

### See Bilston East – Proposal Map

- Redraw the HAA and HMA boundaries to make one district (to be called HAB).
- Remove polling stations at Gazebo Theatre, Town Hall (HAA) and Bilston Resource Centre (HMA)
- Create a new central polling place at Bert Williams Leisure Centre to replace the removed stations.
- For voters north of Highfields Road/Salop Street (in HFA) to become part of the new HAB district, and then vote at Bert Williams Leisure Centre.

| Polling Districts affected in Bilston East | Number of registered voters | Proportion of ward registered to vote |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| HAA – Gazebo Theatre, Town Hall            | 323                         | 3.28%                                 |
| HMA – Bilston Resource Centre              | 341                         | 3.46%                                 |
| HFA – St Martin’s Church Centre            | 1410                        | 14.32%                                |

### Reason

There are two districts in the west of the ward (HAA and HMA), which have an exceptionally small number of electors registered to them; in this respect they represent a poor use of resources for the ward. To provide wider perspective, these two stations rank as the third (HAA) and fifth (HMA) least efficient stations across the entire city.

It would be preferable to amalgamate these stations at a central point to pool together the number of registered voters. Collectively these stations would then form one station that accounted for approximately 7% of the ward, which is still in the lowest quartile, but an improvement nonetheless. The combined amount of voters using a central point would represent a far greater value for money for the Council as well as simplifying the polling station logistics management. In addition Councillors

have commented some electors in the HFA district have expressed an interest in voting in the area around the market and Leisure Centre as they are more likely to be travelling in this direction. They have suggested that voters north of Highfields Road and Salop Street should be able to vote at Bert Williams.

Bert Williams Leisure Centre has been identified as a well located central hub for voters in HMA, HAA and parts of HFA, and is next to both a large supermarket and local market, which have a naturally high footfall. It is an ideal location for a polling station for other reasons:

- It is council owned, which would be beneficial in providing greater control for the logistics of running a polling station.
- It would also follow governmental recommendations about avoiding using schools where possible due to the disruptions caused by having a polling station on site.
- It has capacity to absorb a large number of voters, should the number of registered voters dramatically increase.
- The current 0.5 miles walking distance shows a lot of overlap (particularly in HMA and HAA), which suggests a need for relocating polling stations.

## Proposal Bilston East 2

### See Bilston East – Proposal Map

- Create a new central polling place at Bert Williams Leisure Centre where voters in the north of HFA can vote at (see BE 1).
- Merge HJA and HFA to create one district (to be named HJB).
- Remove both existing stations in HFA and HJA.
- Create a new central polling place at the Wilkinson Citizen Centre in HJB,

| Polling Districts affected in Bilston East | Number of Registered electors | Proportion of ward registered to vote |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| HJA – Bradley Methodist Church             | 965                           | <b>9.80%</b>                          |
| HFA – St Martin’s Church Centre            | 1410                          | <b>14.32%</b>                         |

### Reason

This proposal links to Proposal BE 1, which suggests using the Bert Williams Leisure Centre as a central polling station for the HAA, HMA and parts of the HFA districts.

The current polling places at Bradley Methodist Church and St Martin’s Church Centre do not currently represent a particularly good use of resources. Not only this, but a large amount of cross over on the walking distance map indicates that in terms of distance a station is superfluous as many residents can walk less than half a mile to either station.

Given that the removal of elected voters from the HFA district as part of Proposal BE 1 (who would now be voting at Bert Williams) it would be all the more logical, in terms of the number of registered voters, to merge the two stations. Ward Councillors have provided useful information about the demographic of the districts and have suggested that a polling place at Wilkinson Citizen Centre would be a suitable location for a central HJB polling place.

This would not only create more efficient use of on a polling station, but would also perhaps be a better location for some residents given their preferred direction of travel.

## Proposal Bilston East 3

### See Bilston East – Proposal Map

- Redraw the HEA district boundary to absorb voters in the north of HIA.

| Polling Districts affected in Bilston East | Number of Registered electors | Proportion of ward registered to vote |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| HEA - Loxdale Primary School               | 587                           | <b>5.96%</b>                          |
| HIA – Lower Bradley Community Centre       | 1164                          | <b>11.82%</b>                         |

### Reason

Councillors have commented that voters in the Bay Avenue area (in the north of HIA) are somewhat divided from the rest of the district due to street design. They have suggested that these residents could vote at Loxdale Primary. This would help improve use of resources at the school, would be a simple change to make and potentially improve the voting experience of the electors in question.