

Heath Town

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

There are currently 8315 electors registered to vote in Heath Town 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 4 stations. There are currently 7 stations and 7 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 Heath Town 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 |
|------------|------------------|--|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Heath Town | DBA | St Stephen`s School, Woden Road | 676 | 8315 | 8.13% |
| Heath Town | DJA | St Patrick`s RC Primary School, Graiseley Lane | 903 | 8315 | 10.86% |
| Heath Town | DCA | The Hope Family Centre, Chervil Rise | 1,121 | 8315 | 13.48% |
| Heath Town | DGA | St Patrick's RC Church Hall, | 1,264 | 8315 | 15.20% |
| Heath Town | DAA | Woden Primary School, Springfield Road | 1,425 | 8315 | 17.14% |
| Heath Town | DEA | Holy Trinity Church Hall Bushbury Road | 1,428 | 8315 | 17.17% |
| Heath Town | DHA | Wodensfield Primary School, Woden Avenue | 1,498 | 8315 | 18.02% |

Proposal Heath Town 1

See Heath Town – Proposal Map

- Send the voters at the student accommodation, Victoria Halls, in the west of DAA to a newly proposed polling place at the University of Wolverhampton in the St Peter’s ward (RIA) – see Proposal 11.

| Polling Districts affected in Heath Town | Number of registered voters | Proportion of ward registered to vote |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| DAA – Woden Primary School | 1425 | 17.14% |

Reason

As part of this proposal student residence in the west of DAA will allocated a polling place on the University of Wolverhampton’s campus (RIA). This would allow the student vote in Wolverhampton to predominantly vote on campus. The university has had conversations with the Local Authority about potentially working together to run a campaign encouraging more students to vote, which will maximise the benefits of this proposal. A result of this measure would be that the number of voters from DAA (1425) would be lower, as the student vote would be removed from this figure. However, it is our hope that this will help increase turnout for younger people.

Proposal Heath Town 2

See Heath Town – Proposal Map

- Remove the polling station The Hope Family Centre polling place in DCA.
- Create a new polling station at Harvest Temple Church Hall.
- Redraw the DBA and DCA boundaries to create one district (DCB).

| Polling Districts affected in Heath Town | Number of registered voters | Proportion of ward registered to vote |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| DBA – St Stephen’s School DCA – The Hope Family Centre | 676 1121 = 1797 | 8.13% 13.48% |

Reason

There are a relatively small number of registered electors in both DBA and DCA. It would be more cost efficient to merge these two polling places to create a better return for money. However another pressing reason is that the Hope Family Centre station is likely to be demolished within the next 24 months. For this reason, a new polling place needs to be identified to accommodate this change, particularly as building work is not predictable. If a new station is not identified, there is a risk that work could commence when the station is required in future, as this is not a council owned building.

On the other side of the dual carriageway from the family centre, there is a church owned building (Harvest Temple Church Hall) that has capacity to accommodate the optimum number of residents. Whilst there is a busy road between the proposed and existing site, there are three safe ways of crossing the road: two zebra crossings and one footbridge over the road. The church hall would also have capacity to absorb voters from the DBA district whilst causing minimal issues. This building is a far superior location for voters with parking, disabled access and lots of space. Moving from St Stephen’s would also follow governmental advice to avoid using school buildings where possible.