

## St Peter's

This is the proposal document for St Peter's. 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. It should be noted that two of the proposals in this review have the intention of improving turnout in the ward as a way of addressing the low number of registered voters.

There are currently 7570 electors registered to vote in St Peter's 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 8 stations and 8 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 St Peter's 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
St Peter's	RIA	The Registrar's Office, Civic Centre	337	7549	<b>4.46%</b>
St Peter's	RHA	Tenants Meeting Room, Boscobel Estate, North Road	520	7549	<b>6.89%</b>
St Peter's	RDA	Dunstall Hill Community Centre, Dunstall Avenue	524	7549	<b>6.94%</b>
St Peter's	RAA	Polish Catholic Centre, Stafford Road	584	7549	<b>7.74%</b>
St Peter's	RCA	Christian Pentecostal Church Hall, Gorsebrook Road	1,073	7549	<b>14.21%</b>
St Peter's	RGA	Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street	1,293	7549	<b>17.13%</b>
St Peter's	REA	Gloucester Street Community Centre, Gloucester Street	1,559	7549	<b>20.65%</b>
St Peter's	RBA	Tenants Meeting Room, Firsbrook House	1,659	7549	<b>21.98%</b>

# Proposal St Peter's 1

## See St Peter's Proposal - Map

- Redraw the REA and RDA boundaries to make one district.
- Remove the Dunstall Hill Community Centre (RDA) polling place.

Polling Districts affected in St Peter's	Number of registered voters	Proportion of ward registered to vote
RDA – Dunstall Hill Community Centre	524	<b>6.94%</b>
REA – Gloucester St Community Centre	1559	<b>20.65%</b>

## Reason

The number of electors registered to Dunstall Hill Community Centre (RDA) reflects neither good value for money or good usage of a station. As can be seen in the 0.5 miles walking distance map, not only is RDA's station is very close to REA's, the areas covered in by the two stations are almost the same. This would suggest that there is a superfluous station.

It would not pose a significant issue to amalgamate the two districts and have just one station. Gloucester St (REA) has a much number of elected registers, and Dunstall Hill Community Centre (RDA) has issues relating to access and ongoing building work. Therefore it would be a better use of resources to dissolve the station at RDA and send voters in both areas to the station in Gloucester St Community Centre (REA).

## Proposal St Peter's 2

### See St Peter's Proposal – Map

- Move the RIA polling place from the Civic Centre to the University of Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Courtyard.

Polling Districts affected in St Peter's	Number of registered voters	Proportion of ward registered to vote
RIA – Civic Centre	337	4.46%

### Reason

Moving the RIA station at the Civic Centre to the University of Wolverhampton would not majorly dissuade current voters, as the current parking arrangements and central location would maintain. However, allocating a polling place to the Wulfrun Courtyard could dramatically increase turnout, particularly if the university runs its own voting campaign and publicity. The natural footfall for the courtyard is high, with students accessing this area to use the library and other amenities.

As part of this proposal the university accommodation, Victoria Halls, in the Heath Town ward, would be designated a 'mini polling district' for which the polling place would be at the university. This would enable the 'student vote' to be mobilised at the university, which is a logical station for them to use. The Dean of Students estimates that over 80% of the residence in this accommodation attend the University of Wolverhampton, and would pass through the courtyard on a daily basis.

This proposal would be beneficial for involving younger people in the democratic process and developing a stronger partnership with the university. It would also make much better use of the city centre polling place, which has a historically low turnout.

\*Consideration must be given to how this proposal links with the Heath Town district, which will send student voters in Victoria Halls to the University of Wolverhampton in St Peter's ward (RIA).

## Proposal St Peter's 3

### See St Peter's Proposal - Map

- Upgrade the RHA polling place by relocating from Boscobel Estate.
- Create a new polling place at University of Wolverhampton Chaplaincy Building.

Polling Districts affected in St Peter's	Number of registered voters	Proportion of ward registered to vote
RHA - Tenant's Meeting Room (Boscobel Estate)	520	<b>6.89%</b>

### Reason

The number of electors at RHA is very low and relatively speaking the station does not represent an efficient use of resources. The Presiding Officer's report and feedback for the General Election also indicated that this station did not meet the required standard for a polling station. Complaints were made about the condition of the property and available space, which was deemed inadequate by the PO.

The University of Wolverhampton is enthusiastic to develop partnerships with the council with a view to improving student turnout. On the university's campus there is a Chaplaincy building, which is used for community meetings as well as for religious purposes. This building has excellent facilities, disabled access and is less than 0.2 miles from the Boscobel Estate. This location would be an upgrade on the current polling place. This location would not require elderly electors to cross a main road to access the site and has a community centre ambience despite being a university property.

The added benefit of this location is that it is likely to improve student elector turnout. The Chaplaincy is next to student accommodation and would represent the ideal location for students to vote at. At previous elections, students have generally refrained from using the Boscobel Estate Meeting Room as they are advised by the university not to treat this area as part of the university campus.

The university has expressed an interest in developing greater citizenship amongst its students, and has suggested that a student volunteering programme could be run to help transport tenants from Boscobel Estate to the Chaplaincy on election days. This would not only boost overall turnout, but would also be an excellent opportunity to forge stronger inter-community relationships between the university, council and residents.