



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

COUNCIL

29 JANUARY 2014

REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS AND POLLING DISTRICTS

Report of the Returning Officer - Jane West

Open Report

Classification - For Decision
Key Decision: No

Wards Affected: All

Accountable Executive Director: Jane West, Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Governance

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To approve new polling arrangements for the borough.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the polling place for CPD polling district be Brickfields Hall, Shinfield Street, W12.
- 2.2. That the polling place for HBC polling place be the Macbeth Centre, Macbeth Street, W6.
- 2.3. That the polling place for PGB polling district be Holy Cross School, Basuto Road, SW6.
- 2.4. That the polling place for WWB polling district be the White City Community Centre, India Way, W12.
- 2.5. That polling arrangements for other polling districts remain unchanged.
- 2.6. That the boundaries of all polling districts remain unchanged.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide the borough into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district. It also has to keep these arrangements under review.
- 3.2. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a cycle of regular statutory reviews.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1. The second statutory review of polling arrangements will take place during the second half of 2014. Ahead of that major review, the Returning Officer prefers to keep any changes to a minimum.
- 4.2. Four existing polling stations will be unavailable for this year's elections, due to building works or demolition.

5. COLLEGE PARK AND OLD OAK WARD

- 5.1. The current polling station for CPD polling district is the Pioneer Way Community Centre, Du Cane Road, W12. It is believed that this building is to be redeveloped as flats. This polling district consists of several communities over a fairly wide geographical area, and any chosen building will not be an ideal site for all residents. The construction of the Imperial College campus at 80 Wood Lane, includes the new Brickfields Hall in Shinfield Street. The Returning Officer believes this offers the most suitable premises for a replacement polling station.

6. HAMMERSMITH BROADWAY WARD

- 6.1. The current polling station for HBC polling district is the Irish Centre, Blacks Road, W6. The Centre is due to have building works and will be unavailable in 2014.
- 6.2. The Returning Officer considered part of the reception area at 145 King Street, but this will be unsuitable as several services for vulnerable residents will need to remain open. Hammersmith Town Hall would be right on the western boundary of the polling district, but all ground floor rooms will be required for other election purposes, such as postal vote opening. The only alternative is the Macbeth Centre, Macbeth Street, W6. It should be possible to return to the Irish Centre after 2014.

7. PARSONS GREEN AND WALHAM WARD

- 7.1. The current polling station for PGB polling district is Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green, SW6. The main hall is having building works and will be unavailable in 2014. The only other suitable building on Parsons Green is St Dionis Church. However, this is actually in Town Ward, and its use would undoubtedly cause confusion for many residents in this part of TWA polling district. The only other suitable building in PGB district is Holy Cross School, Basuto Road, SW6.

8. WORMHOLT AND WHITE CITY WARD

- 8.1. The current polling station for WWB polling district is the Fatima Community Centre, Commonwealth Avenue, W12. This centre is due to have building works, as part of the redevelopment of Pope John School. The White City Community Centre, India Way, W12 is a very suitable replacement building; it is within a few yards of the old polling station, so this will be very convenient for voters.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1. All appropriate ward councillors, electoral leads for the two council groups, and local party organisations have been consulted. There have been no objections to the proposals.

10. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. There is level and excellent access to Brickfields Hall, Holy Cross School and White City Community Centre. At the Macbeth Centre a temporary ramp for wheelchair and other users will be provided at the main entrance, although there is level access using another door.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. These are referred to in the report.
- 11.2. Implications provided by : Tasnim Shawkat. Tel: 020 8753 2700.

12. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1. There will be a small saving on hire fees by using the Macbeth Centre instead of Irish Centre, and there will be no need to employ a security officer at Lady Margaret School.
- 12.2 Implications provided by : Jane West. Tel: 020 8753 1900.

13. RISK MANAGEMENT

13.1. There are no additional risks associated with the recommendations.

14. PROCUREMENT AND IT STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

14.1. There are no relevant implications.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT**

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	Polling Arrangements Review 2013	Martina Reid x 1132	FCS, Electoral Services, Room 28 Hammersmith Town Hall