

Report of: (Acting) Returning Officer

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Audit	5 October 2021	All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report sets out proposed changes to polling districts and polling places
- 1.2 This change will take effect for the Local elections which will be held in May 2022 and all elections for four years thereafter.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the changes set out in the report as detailed on the ward maps (Appendices 1 and 2) in relation to the polling districts and polling places for the new wards

3. Background

- 3.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK parliamentary polling districts and polling places. The last compulsory review had to be started and completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020 inclusive.

- 3.2 Since then, the Local Government Boundary Commission has reviewed all of the wards within the London Borough of Islington, which has subsequently seen the number of wards increase from 16 to 17 wards.
- 3.3 These changes have resulted in the need to undertake a review of all of the polling districts and polling places within all of the wards.
- 3.4 The Returning Officers final report will seek agreement from the audit committee of the council which has delegated powers to designate polling places at a meeting of the committee on 5 October 2021.
- 3.5 **Proposed polling districts and polling stations**

Arsenal ward

Arsenal is a new ward and is mostly made of the districts that used to sit in Highbury West ward which no longer exists following the Local Boundary Review. Part of the old Highbury West ward district NHWA has moved into Finsbury park ward and part of the Highbury West district NHWC has moved into the new Highbury ward.

Polling Districts and Places for Highbury West ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NHWA	St. Thomas' Church Hall, St. Thomas' Playgroup, Monsell Road, London, N4 2QY	2
NHWB	St. John's Highbury Vale School, Conewood Street, London, N5 1DL	2
NHWC	Aubert Court Community Centre, Avenell Road, N5 1BT	2
NHWD	Hind House Community Room, Harvist Estate, Hornsey Road, N7	1
NHWE	Great Hall, LondonMet, Holloway Road, London, N7 8DB	1

Proposed changes

With the electorate numbers within Arsenal ward we could have decreased the number of districts to 3 from 5 but because of the shape of the ward and because the Arsenal stadium sits in the centre of the ward we are proposing that 4 districts created as only 3 districts would mean that residents would have to travel around the stadium to get to their polling station.

Proposed Polling Districts and Places for Arsenal ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NARA	St. Thomas' Church Hall, St. Thomas' Playgroup, Monsell Road, London, N4 2QY	1
NARB	Great Hall, LondonMet, Holloway Road, London, N7 8DB	1
NARC	Aubert Court Community Centre, Avenell Road, N5 1BT	2
NARD	Hind House Community Room, Harvist Estate, Hornsey Road, N7	1

Barnsbury Ward

Changes to ward lines has meant that Barnsbury ward has absorbed some of Caledonian ward polling district SCAB and has given away part of polling district SBAC to Caledonian ward.

Existing Polling Places for Barnsbury ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SBAA	Lift Hub, 45 White Lion Street, N1 9PW	2
SBAB	Thornhill School, Thornhill Road, London, N1 1HX	2
SBAC	Half Moon Crescent Community Hall, 183 Wynford Road, N1 9TZ	2

Proposed changes

It is proposed that the streets which have moved into Barnsbury ward are split between SBAB and SBAC. Ideally all of the streets would have moved to SBAB but the electorate in that district is already large and close to the maximum for a double station so we are proposing to move some of the streets to SBAC instead, as that polling station is still in close proximity to the streets effected.

It is proposed that we continue to use the same polling stations as previously used as all of the buildings are suitable and accessible and we want to minimise changes to avoid confusion amongst voters.

Bunhill ward

Due to the predicted increase in electorate projected in Bunhill ward the ward has decreased in size following the Local Government Boundary review so it has lost the majority of SBUC district to the new St Peter's and Canalside ward along with a small number of properties which have moved into Clerkenwell ward.

Existing Polling Places for Bunhill ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SBUA	Vibast Community Centre, 167 Old Street, EC1V 9NH	2
SBUB	Islington Museum, Finsbury Library St. John Street, EC1V 4NB	2
SBUC	St Lukes Community Centre, 90 Central Street, EC1V 8AJ	2

Proposed changes

Since 2019, Tompion Hall has been undergoing building works so electors in SBUB have been voting at the Islington Museum which is part of Finsbury Library on St John's Street in Clerkenwell ward. Now that the building works at Tompion Hall are complete it is proposed that electors in SBUB go back to using Tompion Hall. It is also proposed that as the SBUC district has decreased so substantially in size that some of the electors from SBUB move to SBUC to equal out numbers in preparation for the predicted increase in electorate within the ward.

Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places for Bunhill ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SBUA	Vibast Community Centre, 167 Old Street, EC1V 9NH	2
SBUB	Tompion Hall, 40 Percival Street, EC1V	1
SBUC	St Lukes Community Centre, 90 Central Street, EC1V 8AJ	1

Caledonian ward

There have been significant changes in Caledonian ward. Half of SCAA along with its designated polling station has moved to the new Laycock ward, part of SCAB has moved to Barnsbury ward and SCAC has absorbed part of the the SBAC district from Barnsbury ward.

Existing Polling Places for Caledonian ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SCAA	Westbourne Community Centre, 43 Roman Way, London, N7 8XF	2
SCAB	Jean Stokes Community Centre, Carnoustie Drive, Bemerton Estate N1 0DX	2
SCAC	York Way Community Centre, Ground Floor, Tiber Gardens, London, N1 0XF	1

Proposed changes

As Westbourne Community Centre now sits in another ward it is proposed that it is replaced by Nailour Hall Community Centre as the designated polling station for SCAA. It is also recommended that the district line remains unchanged. The train tracks create a natural boundary. As SCAC has increased in size it will have to move from a single station to a double station, but unfortunately York Way Community Centre is too small and cannot accommodate this. It is proposed that it is replaced by Hugh Cubitt Community Centre. It is proposed that Jean Stokes remains as the polling station for SCAB but that the Polling District line moves down slightly to the Canal as this creates a more natural boundary.

Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places for Caledonian ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SCAA	Nailour Hall Community Centre, Blundell Street, N7 9BH	1
SCAB	Jean Stokes Community Centre, Carnoustie Drive, Bemerton Estate N1 0DX	2
SCAC	Hugh Cubitt Community Centre, 48 Collier Street, N1 9QZ	2

Canonbury ward

There have been minimal changes to the polling districts in Canonbury ward. The SCNA and SCNC districts remain exactly the same while SCNB has absorbed some of the SSPA district from the old St Peter's ward.

Existing Polling Places for Canonbury ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SCNA	Walter Sickert Community Centre, Canonbury Crescent, London, N1 2FB	2
SCNB	Almorah Community Centre, 58 Almorah Road, London, N1 3EU	2
SCNC	New River Green Children's Centre, Ramsey Walk, London, N1 2PT	2

Proposed Changes

It is proposed that SCNA and SCNC remain unchanged and SCNB absorbs the streets from St Peter's ward.

It is proposed that the polling stations remain the same.

Clerkenwell ward

There are minimal changes to Clerkenwell ward which sees a small gain in properties from the SBUB district in Bunhill ward and a small increase in properties from the new St Peter's and Canalside ward.

Existing Polling Places for Clerkenwell ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SCWA	Hugh Myddelton Primary School, Myddelton Street, London, EC1R 1YJ	2
SCWB	Finsbury Library, St. John Street, London, EC1V 4NB	2
SCWC	Vernon Hall, Vernon Square, King's Cross Road, London, WC1X 9EP	1

Proposed Changes

It is proposed that the properties from Bunhill ward are moved to SCWB district.

It is proposed that all polling stations remain the same as above.

Finsbury Park ward

Finsbury Park has seen significant change with almost all of NFPB moving to Tollington ward and almost half of the NHWA District from Highbury West ward moving into the ward.

Existing Polling Places for Finsbury park ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NFPA	Pakeman School, Pakeman Street, London, N7 6DU	2
NFPB	Bennett Court Tenants Hall, Axminster Road, London, N7 6BN	2
NFPC	Andover Estate Community Centre, Corker Walk, London, N7 7RY	1
NFPD	New Life Centre, 8-10 Lennox Road, London, N4 3NW	1

Proposed Changes

We propose that the remaining properties that used to go to Bennet Court Community Centre (NFPB) polling station and the properties absorbed from NHWA move to NFPA.

Proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Places for Finsbury park ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NFPA	Pakeman School, Pakeman Street, London, N7 6DU	2
NFPB	New Life Centre, 8-10 Lennox Road, London, N4 3NW	2
NFPC	Andover Estate Community Centre, Corker Walk, London, N7 7RY	1

Highbury

The new Highbury ward consists mainly of the districts which used to sit within the old Highbury East ward which no longer exists following the Local Government Boundary review. Whilst NHEA and NHEB remain unchanged NHEC has lost some streets to Mildmay ward. The new Highbury ward also includes the majority of the NHWC district which used to sit in the old Highbury West ward.

Existing Polling Places for Highbury East ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NHEA	The Crescent Suite, 70 Ronalds Road, London, N5 1XA	2
NHEB	Birchmore Hall, Highbury Quadrant Estate, London, N5	2
NHEC	St Joan of Arc Community Centre, Kelross Road, London, N5 2QN	2

Proposed Changes

It is proposed that apart from the District names NHEA and NHEC are unchanged while NHEB absorbs the properties from NHWC.

Proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Places for Highbury ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NHIA	The Crescent Suite, 70 Ronalds Road, London, N5 1XA	2
NHIB	Birchmore Hall, Highbury Quadrant Estate, London, N5	2
NHIC	St Joan of Arc Community Centre, Kelross Road, London, N5 2QN	2

Hillrise ward

Hillrise has seen some change following the Local Government Boundary review. While it has gained a small section of the NTOA district and three quarters of the NTOC district from Tollington ward it has lost part of its NHRB district to Junction ward.

Existing Polling Places for Hillrise ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NHRA	Hornsey Lane Community Centre, Hornsey Lane Estate, Hazellville Road, London, N19 3YJ	1
NHRB	Caxton House, 129 St. John's Way, London, N19 3RQ	2
NHRC	St. Mary's Church, Ashley Road, London, N19 3AD	2

Proposed Changes

As the electorate size for Hillrise ward has substantially increased it is proposed that Hillrise increases the number of districts from 3 to 4. It is proposed that NHRA remains the same, as it is already at full capacity for a single station and cannot accommodate a double station. As NHRB loses some streets to Junction ward we think that it should absorb some of the streets from NTOA while the remaining streets should go to NHRC. As NHRB is already a large district we also suggest that some of the streets are moved to NHRC as St Mary's church polling station is closer and easier to travel to for the residents effected. As a consequence of these changes it is also proposed that some of the streets are moved from NHRC to NHRD as the polling station for that district is closer and easier to get to.

Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places for Hillrise ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NHRA	Hornsey Lane Community Centre, Hornsey Lane Estate, Hazellville Road, London, N19 3YJ	1
NHRB	Caxton House, 129 St. John's Way, London, N19 3RQ	2
NHRC	St. Mary's Church, Ashley Road, London, N19 3AD	2
NHRD	Brickworks Community Centre, Crouch Hill, London, N4	1

Holloway

Holloway has seen a reduction in size with most of SHYC moving to the new Laycock ward while SHYA and SHYB remain unchanged.

Existing Polling Places for Holloway ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SHYA	Lorraine Estate Community Centre, Lorraine Estate, London, N7 9UE	2
SHYB	Goodinge Community Centre, North Road, London, N7 9GZ	2
SHYC	Ringcross Community Centre, 60 Lough Road, London, N7 8RH	2

Proposed Changes

Although Holloway has reduced significantly in size it is too large to only have two polling districts so it will need to remain as three districts. As the ward has lost one of its polling stations to Laycock ward it is proposed that SHYA remains unchanged, SHYB absorbs the streets that used to go to Ringcross polling station and that SHYB is then split to create a new polling district.

Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places for Holloway ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SHYA	Lorraine Estate Community Centre, Lorraine Estate, London, N7 9UE	2
SHYB	Goodinge Community Centre, North Road, London, N7 9GZ	2
SHYC	Williamson Street Community Centre, Parkhurst Road, N7 0FF	1

Junction ward

Junction ward has seen minimal changes. All three districts remain the same but a few streets from Hillrise ward have moved into Junction ward.

Existing Polling Places for Junction ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NJUA	St. John's Upper Holloway School, Pemberton Gardens, London, N19 5RR	2
NJUB	Whittington Community Centre, Yerbury Road, London, N19 4RS	2
NJUC	Harry Rice Hall, 72-74 Hargrave Park, London, N19 5JN	2

Proposed Changes

It is proposed that NJUA and NJUB remain unchanged while NJUC absorbs the streets from Hillrise ward.

It is recommended that the polling stations remain the same.

Mildmay

Mildmay remains largely unchanged with NMIA and NMIB staying the same while NMIC loses and gains some streets from the old Highbury East ward polling district NHEC.

Existing Polling Places for Mildmay ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NMIA	Mildmay Community Centre, Mayville Estate, Woodville Road, London N16 8NS	2
NMIB	Mildmay Junior Library, 21-23 Mildmay Park, London, N1 4NA	2
NMIC	Highbury Quadrant School, Highbury New Park, London, N5 2DP	2

Proposed Changes

It is proposed that NMIA and NMIB stay as they are and NMIC absorbs the streets from NHEC.

Polling stations should stay as they are.

St Marys and St James

St Mary's and St James is a new ward which is made up of parts of polling districts SSMB and SSMC from the old St Mary's ward and parts of districts SSPA and SSPB from St Peter's ward.

Existing Polling Places for St Marys ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SSMA	Laycock PDC, Laycock Street, London, N1 1TH	2
SSMB	St. Mary's Neighbourhood Centre, St. Mary's Church, Upper Street, N1 2TX	2
SSMC	The Assembly Hall, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD	2

Proposed Changes

Due to the size and shape of the ward it is proposed that there are 4 polling districts as opposed to 3. Due to the electorate size in each of the existing districts it is difficult to merge any of the existing districts without redrawing all of the lines, therefore it is proposed that

polling district lines stay as they are which will create smaller districts but will keep continuity and reduce voter confusion.

Proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Places for St Mary's and St James ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SSMA	New North Academy, 32 Popham Road, London, N1 8SJ	2
SSMB	St. Mary's Neighbourhood Centre, St. Mary's Church, Upper Street, N1 2TX	2
SSMC	The Assembly Hall, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD	1
SSMD	St. James' Hall, 11 Prebend Street, London, N1 8PF	1

St Peters and Canalside

St Peter's and Canalside is a new ward which consists of SSPC district and part of SSPB district from the old St Peter's ward and most of the district SBUC from Bunhill ward

Existing Polling Places for St Peter's ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SSPA	New North Academy, 32 Popham Road, London, N1 8SJ	2
SSPB	St. James' Hall, 11 Prebend Street, London, N1 8PF	2
SSPC	Hanover Primary School, Noel Road, London, N1 8BD	1

Proposed changes

It is proposed that the part of the ward that has been inherited from Bunhill ward becomes a district on its own and the remaining section of the ward which is made up of SSPB and SSPC is split down the middle to make two separate districts.

Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Stations for St Peter's and St James' ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SSPA	Kings Square Community Centre, Blackwell House, Pankhurst Terrace, EC1V	2
SSPB	St. Johns RC Church, 39 Duncan Terrace, N1	1
SSPC	Hanover Primary School, Noel Road, London, N1 8BD	2

Tollington ward

Tollington ward has seen some changes with parts of NTOA and NTOC moving to Hillrise ward and almost all of NFPC district moving into Tollington ward from Finsbury Park ward

Existing Polling Places for Tollington ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NTOA	Duncombe School, Sussex Way, London, N19 4JA	2
NTOB	Newcourt Christian Centre, 1-3 Regina Road, London, N4 3PT	2
NTOC	Brickworks Community Centre, Crouch Hill, London, N4	1

Proposed changes

There have been significant changes within Tollington ward and the movement of ward lines has meant that it has lost two of the existing polling stations to Hillrise ward. It is for the reason that it is proposed that the NTOB district absorbs the remaining streets left from NTOC, that the district from Finsbury park becomes the new NTOC district and that the new Polling station for NTOA is Cornwallis Adventure Playground. It is also proposed that the district lines between NTOA and NTOC are adjusted slightly to even out the number of electors going to each place.

Existing Polling Places for Tollington ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NTOA	Cornwallis Adventure Playground, Cornwallis Road, London N19	2
NTOB	Newcourt Christian Centre, 1-3 Regina Road, London, N4 3PT	2
NTOC	Bennett Court Tenants Hall, Axminster Road, London, N7 6BN	2

Tufnell Park

Tufnell Park is a new ward by name but is actually St George's ward. The ward and district lines are unchanged.

Existing Polling Places for St Georges ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NSGA	St. George's Church Centre, Crayford Road, London, N7 0ND	1
NSGB	St. George's Church Centre, Crayford Road, London, N7 0ND	2
NSGC	Hilldrop Community Centre, Community Lane, Hilldrop Road, London, N7 0JE	2

Proposed Changes

It is proposed that all district lines remain the same with the only changes being the district names

Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places for Tufnell Park ward

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
NTUA	St. George's Church Centre, Crayford Road, London, N7 0ND	1
NTUB	St. George's Church Centre, Crayford Road, London, N7 0ND	2
NTUC	Hilldrop Community Centre, Community Lane, Hilldrop Road, London, N7 0JE	2

Laycock ward

Laycock is a new ward which is made up of several wards. It consists of the whole of SSMA district, parts of SSMB and SSMC districts from the old St Mary's ward, half of SCAA district from Caledonian ward and the majority of SHYC from Holloway ward.

Proposed Changes

It is proposed that the small sections of SSMB and SSMC are merged with SSMB and that a few of the existing streets from SSMB are moved to the district absorbed from Holloway Ward as they are closer to Ringcross Community Centre. It is proposed that the section of the ward that was inherited from Caledonian ward becomes a district on its own.

Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places for

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Polling Stations
SLAA	Ringcross Community Centre, 60 Lough Road, London, N7 8RH	1
SLAB	Westbourne Community Centre, 43 Roman Way, London, N7 8XF	2
SLAC	Laycock PDC, Laycock Street, London, N1 1TH	2

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

The costs of the polling districts and polling places review will be met from within existing budgets.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The Representation of the People Act 1983 section 18B requires that local authorities designate the polling places within their Parliamentary constituencies. Under Representation of the People Act 1983, Returning Officers have the right to use certain public buildings (including schools that receive public funds) for use as polling stations at elections.

Section 18B (4) of the RPA 1983 states that in conducting a review of polling places the authority

- 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 need disabled persons.

In addition, the polling place for a polling district must be within the area of the district unless circumstances make it desirable to designate an area either wholly or partly outside of the district.

4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:

No implications

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

Electoral Services considered a review of all possible polling places and used a suitability and access checklist. This was drawn largely from the recommendations in Scope's Poll Report 4 published following the 2005 General Election. One checklist has been completed for each existing poll place and all proposed new polling places.

All polling staff receives equalities training as part of the induction for working on the election.

5. Reason for recommendations

- 5.1 Following the Local Government Boundary Review we are required to appoint new polling districts, places and stations.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Map of new wards with old districts
- Appendix 2 – Map of new wards with new districts

Background papers: None.

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Director of Law and Governance

Date: 9 August 2021

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A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed because when looking at existing and potential polling places, Electoral Services used an accessibility and suitability checklist as recommended by Scopes poll report 4 following the 2005 General Election.