

Polling District Review 2013

Returning Officer's Report on Representations and Proposals.

Date: 18 November 2013

INTRODUCTION

The statutory review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2013 commenced in Trafford on 1 October 2013 and is due to be completed in January 2014 following approval from full Council on 22 January 2014. Any changes in polling districts will be reflected in the Electoral Register when it is published on 17 February 2014.

The consultation started on 1 October 2013 and the following steps have been conducted during the consultation process:

- Displayed a notice on the Council's website to advertise the Polling Station Review
- Advertised the Polling Station Review in the local press.
- Contacted Councillors and local political parties.
- Contacted disability groups.
- Invited representations and comments from any electors.
- Contacted colleagues in Planning Department to check on the potential impact on Polling Districts of population increase.
- Contacted Sir Howard Bernstein the (Acting) Returning Officer for the Wythenshawe and Sale East Constituency.

Interested persons or organisations had until Friday 8 November 2013 to put forward comments and suggestions.

The responsibility for designating polling districts is for the Council to determine. In drawing up polling district boundaries the Council must ensure that all electors in the area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

The Council must also designate a polling place for every polling district. It is expected that this should usually be within the boundary of the polling district.

In designating polling places, the Council must:

- 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 needs of disabled persons.

The polling station is the actual area where the voting takes place i.e. the room or area where electors cast their vote. The Returning Officer is responsible for designating the polling station which must be within the polling place agreed by the Council.

In drawing up recommendations for polling stations the Returning Officer has undertaken the guidance of the Electoral Commission that there is a minimum of one polling station e.g. Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk, for every 2,500 electors in person.

REVIEW OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

It is proposed that changes are made to eight ward polling stations. These changes are listed in Appendix 1.

There were a number of responses received during the consultation period. These have been considered and have formed the review. Responses received as part of the review are summarised in appendix 2.

It is also proposed that changes are made to three polling districts due to increase in the size of the electorate. It is proposed that the following polling districts are amended.

- Broadheath – Amendments to polling districts within the ward and identify a new polling place which is more centrally located to the residents who live within the Stamford Brook area of Broadheath.
- Davyhulme East – Creation of an additional polling district, due to the large electorate in the current polling district 2DEA. An additional polling district has been created and a new polling building at Urmston Masonic Hall, Westbourne Road, Urmston has been added.
- Stretford – Amendments to polling districts within the ward and identify a new polling place which is more centrally located to the residents within The Meadows Estate due to the residents previously crossing the A56 to cast their vote.

The changes will mean that the polling stations in the Polling Station Review are now fully accessible to all electors. There is one mobile polling station which is situated in Polling District 3BLB within the Brooklands Ward. Mobile polling stations are particularly challenging for residents with disabilities as access is less than favourable and each mobile station is £1,500.00.

If the proposed Polling Station Review was approved there would include a financial saving of £1880.00.

NEXT STEPS

If you wish to comment on the Returning Officer's report or suggest any alternative solutions please contact the Elections Office, by Post or e-mail at: Electoral Services, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0TH elections@Trafford.gov.uk no later than 12 December 2013.

COMPLETION OF THE REPORT

A report will be submitted to the Council meeting on 22 January 2014, where Councillors will consider the proposals and representations received before reaching their decisions.

Any changes will be implemented upon the publication of the revised Electoral Register. This register will be published by 17 February 2014.

The Electoral Registration Officer will monitor the actual elector increases on a yearly basis following the conclusion of the annual canvass.

Theresa Grant

Returning Officer