

POLLING DISTRICTS, PLACES AND STATIONS REVIEW 2021 – PLYMPTON ST MARY WARD

Electoral Registration Team



RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

Introduction

A review of the polling districts and places in the Plympton St Mary ward is being recommended after receiving feedback from residents, school board, ward members, electors and polling staff following the 2021 local elections on the suitability of and access to Boringdon School as polling station for polling district RB.

It is also a standing policy of the council to limit the number of schools used as polling station and look for alternative polling station locations, wherever possible, within the ward.

A change of polling station in polling district RB and small alteration to the boundaries between polling districts RB and RC are being proposed.

Final decisions on the proposed recommendations will be used from May 2022 onwards.

Legal background

Local Authorities must comply with a number of legislative requirements regarding the location and accessibility of Polling Districts and Polling Places. The mandatory review process comprises a number of specified steps set out in Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983, which include a public consultation.

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. The next one must be started and completed between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025 (inclusive).

Between compulsory reviews, all polling places and polling stations used should be kept under consideration, and an evaluation of their suitability carried out after each election. If any changes are identified as being desirable, the same steps should be followed as for conducting the compulsory review.

The Council can carry out an interim review and change some of their polling districts and polling places before the end of the 5-year cycle, but the same processes should be undertaken for the affected areas as for the compulsory review. Without going through these processes, the Council will have difficulty evidencing their decision making and explaining how they took into consideration the views of disabled persons and the reasonable requirements of electors.

Scope of the review

Plympton St Mary ward is divided into 5 polling districts each associated with one of 5 polling stations. Polling districts, geographic subdivisions of each ward, as well as polling stations for each of those districts are within the scope of this review. The review is considering the continued suitability of the existing arrangements and, when necessary, will make proposals for:

- The creation or removal of districts
- “Change” or “no change” to the boundaries between districts,
 - “Change” or “no change” to the referencing of those districts,
 - “Change” or “no change” to the polling stations within those districts.

Not in scope

City ward boundaries and parliamentary constituency boundaries are not in scope of this review. The legislation requires that ward boundaries are reviewed by the Boundary Commission, not by Local Authorities themselves. We do not have a mandate to suggest alterations to the boundaries between the wards.

The review will not be able to consider comments regarding local authority boundaries, neighbouring parliamentary constituencies, the names of local authorities or other electoral areas within or bordering Plymouth City.

Glossary of terms

Polling District - A polling district is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area.

Polling Place - A polling place is the area in which the Returning Officer selects the polling station. In Plymouth, polling places represent the same area as the polling district to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be located.

Polling Station - The polling station is the room or building where the poll takes place.

Accessing information

In order to illustrate recommendations, maps of the existing arrangements as well as maps of our proposed arrangements are available on our polling station page:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/votingandelections/pollingdistrictreviewconsultation>

A full report on the Plympton St Mary Ward Interim Review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations can be found in the background papers of this report.

In the polling district information tables provided for each ward, the word “Electorate” refers to the total number of registered voters in the district, as of September 2021.

In the polling station information tables provided for each ward, the expression “Polling Station Electorate” refers to the total number of registered voters in the district who have opted to attend a polling station to vote, as of September 2021. This figure excludes electors from the district who may have opted to vote by other means. This figure informs us of the maximum number of electors who may attend the polling station on polling day.

Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Stations

Plympton St Mary Ward

Existing Polling Districts

| Polling district | Polling Station | Electorate | Recommendations |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| RA | Woodford Methodist Church | 2,173 | No change |
| RB | St. Peters Lutheran Church | 1,719 | Change of district boundaries |
| RC | Boringdon Primary School | 2,279 | Change of district boundaries |
| RD | Colebrook Community Centre | 1,903 | No change |
| RE | Plympton Fire Station | 2,106 | No change |

Polling Districts Recommendations

This review recommends the following alterations to polling districts RB and RC in Plympton St Mary ward:

PDI – District RB and RC – Alterations to district boundaries

In order to facilitate access to a polling station for most residents, a small alteration to the boundaries between district RB and RC is suggested.

The boundaries between polling district RB and RC would move westward to include more residents into ward district RC. The residents of the following streets would now vote at the Meeting Room, Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Vicarage Road in district RC:

- Meadow View Road
- Morley View Road
- Oakfield Road
- Plymbridge Road
- Plymouth Road (nos 40 – 50 even)
- St Marys Close
- St Marys Court
- Vicarage Road
- Woodland Road

Existing Polling Stations

| Polling district | Polling Station | Electorate | Disabled Access | Recommendations |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| RA | Woodford Methodist Church | 2,173 | Yes | No change |
| RB | St. Peters Lutheran Church | 1,719 | Yes | No change |
| RC | Boringdon Primary School | 2,279 | Yes | Change |
| RD | Colebrook Community Centre | 1,903 | Yes | No change |

| | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-------|-----|-----------|
| RE | Plympton Fire Station | 2,106 | Yes | No change |
|----|-----------------------|-------|-----|-----------|

Polling Station Recommendations

This review makes the following recommendations in relation to the polling station arrangements in polling district RC:

PS3 – Boringdon Primary School in district RC – Replacement of polling station

In order to minimise, wherever possible, the use of schools during elections, a change of polling station is proposed. The new proposed polling station would now be at Meeting Room, Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Vicarage Road. The Meeting Room is located on a residential street with adequate parking facilities and is situated close to a public transport link. The proposed polling station would be located in the main hall at the rear of the church building. There is level access throughout for disabled electors. The polling station is conveniently located for residents in district RC, located 0.6 miles away from the current polling station.

Summary of proposed new Polling Districts and Polling Stations

| New Polling district | New Polling Station | Address | Electorate* | Estimated Polling Station Electorate^ |
|----------------------|--|--|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| RA | Woodford Methodist Church | Greenway Avenue, Woodford, PL7 4RR | 2,173 | 1,782 |
| RB | St. Peters Lutheran Church | Larkham Lane, PL7 4PG | 1,426 | 1,160 |
| RC | Meeting Room, Our Lady of Lourdes Church | 17 Vicarage Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 4JU | 2,572 | 2,038 |
| RD | Colebrook Community Centre | 111 Newnham Road, Colebrook, PL7 4AU | 1,903 | 1,571 |
| RE | Plympton Fire Station | Conference Room/Leisure Room 3, Service Training Centre, PL7 2XT | 2,106 | 1,702 |

* Total number of registered electors in the district

^ Number of registered electors in the district who have opted to vote at a polling station.