



**COUNCIL MEETING DATE:** 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**Report of:** Stephen McNamara, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer

**Title:** Polling Station and Polling District Review in Eastville Ward

**Ward:** Eastville

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Following the review of polling stations and polling districts in Eastville Ward that:

- 1) The boundary between polling districts EEA and EEB be realigned to include Shannaways Close in district EEB.
- 2) The boundary between EEB and EEC be realigned and moved west so the whole of Thingwall Park, Ridgeway Road, Huyton Road, Redhill Drive, Redhill Close, Oakdene Avenue, Ashdene Avenue, Elmhurst Avenue and Park Avenue will be in EEB.

**Summary:**

Bristol City Council undertook a review of polling districts and polling stations in Eastville Ward between 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009. This resulted from a request following political agents evaluation of the June 2009 elections.

This report is a result of the consultation.

**The significant issues in the report are:**

1. The Council is responsible for the designation of polling districts whilst polling stations are selected by the Returning Officer.
2. There is no prescribed size in terms of area or number of electors for polling districts.

**1. Consultation****Internal:**

- Elected ward members for Eastville Ward – Bristol City Council
- Labour, Liberal Democrat, Conservative Party Whips and Councillor Bolton.
- Eamon McClelland, Strategic Access Officer, Equalities

**External:**

- MEPs and MPs representing Bristol
- The public were asked to comment via:
  - The council web site
  - Notice posted in the ward
  - Notice posted at the Council House
  - Notice posted at Electoral Services in Corn Street.

In Bristol there is only one polling station significantly in excess of one mile to voters homes. The polling station in EEA polling district has, by road, a distance to polling station from parts of Trendlewood estate of 1.1 mile. Kerry McCarthy MP and Ann

Godfrey (Labour agent for the ward at the last elections) suggested the creation of a new polling district for the Trendlewood Park area.

Ward Councillor Steve Comer suggested moving the boundary between EEA and EEB so electors in Shannaways Close could vote at The Link, Grove Road which is much closer than their current polling station in Park Road, Stapleton.

Cllr Comer also suggested moving the boundary between EEB and EEC so residents in Thingwall Park, Ridgeway Road, Huyton Road, Redhill Drive, Redhill Close, Oakdene Avenue, Ashdene Avenue, Elmhurst Avenue and Park Avenue could vote at The Link, Grove Road. This would enable them to vote at a marginally closer polling station without the need to cross the busy Fishponds Road. These proposals appear sensible and bear no cost, so are therefore recommended.

However, we recommend that no new polling district be created because the current distance is not excessively outside other distances in Bristol and it would contain a small number of electors.

### **3. Context**

1. Bristol City Council undertook a consultation as part of a review of polling stations and polling districts in Eastville Ward between 7<sup>th</sup> September and 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009 as a result of a request from Kerry McCarthy MP and Ann Godfrey, Labour Party agent.
2. The purpose of the review is to ensure that electors continue to have reasonable facilities to vote at accessible polling stations, as far as practicably possible.
3. This is not a review of constituency and ward boundaries as they fall within the remit of the Boundary Commission and Boundary Committee for England respectively.
4. The Council is responsible for the designation of polling districts whilst polling stations are selected by the Returning Officer.
5. There is no prescribed size in terms of area or number of electors for polling districts. The average number of polling districts per ward is 3 to 4 with 6% of wards having 5 or 6 for geographic reasons eg disparate population or major roads. Where a polling district has an above-average number of

electors, arrangements are made to ensure that the number of polling staff and the premises used are sufficient to cope. Feedback from election reviews suggests that these measures work well.

## **Proposal**

### **Polling Stations**

It is proposed that the polling stations for the three polling districts affected by this review remain the same; ie Holy Trinity Church Hall for EEA, The Link for EEB and May Park Primary School for EEC.

### **Polling Districts**

The boundary between polling districts EEA and EEB be realigned to include Shannaways Close in district EEB where they will be much nearer to the polling station.

The boundary between EEB and EEC be moved west so the whole of Thingwall Park, Ridgeway Road, Huyton Road, Redhill Drive, Redhill Close, Oakdene Avenue, Ashdene Avenue, Elmhurst Avenue and Park Avenue will be in EEB.

## **Equalities Impact Assessment**

As there is no proposed change to the polling stations, there would be no impact on access issues.

## **Legal and Resource Implications**

**Legal:**                    **Legal advice given by** Stephen McNamara,  
Head of Legal Services

The Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006, introduced a duty for all polling districts and polling places to be reviewed at least every 4 years and as necessary during the intervening period. The review is the function of the council.

**Financial:** None

**Financial advice given** by Stephen Skinner, Finance Business Partner, Resources, Transformation and DCX.

**Appendices:**    A: Map of proposed changes to Eastville Ward polling stations and polling district boundaries.

## **ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Background papers:** None



# Eastville Polling Districts

Key  
 + + EXISTING BOUNDARY  
 ... PROPOSED BOUNDARY  
 ● POLLING STATION

