



**Report for:
ACTION**

Item Number:

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO
Title	Polling Place Changes Local Government Elections and West Ealing Centre Neighbourhood Plan (WECNP) Business Referendum 3 May 2018
Responsible Officer(s)	Helen Harris, Director of Legal & Democratic Services
Author(s)	Ross Jackson, Head of Elections
Portfolio(s)	Leader of the Council
For Consideration By	Boundaries Panel
Date to be Considered	13 February 2018
Implementation Date if Not Called In	N/A
Affected Wards	South Acton, Ealing Broadway, Greenford Broadway, Elthorne
Keywords/Index	Polling Places, Polling Districts, Neighbourhood Planning Referendums

Purpose of Report:

To agree the replacement of FOUR polling places in preparation for the forthcoming Local Government Elections 3 May 2018, and to agree the use of a single polling place for the West Ealing Centre Neighbourhood Plan (WECNP) Business Referendum 3 May 2018.

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Panel agree to:

- (i) Change polling places for polling districts DCA, HES, NGS and UB for the purposes of the Local Government Elections 3 May 2018, and for any future elections and referenda.
- (ii) The use of one polling place, St Johns Primary School, Green Man Gardens, W13 0SE, the proposed polling place for UB, for the purposes of the West Ealing Centre Neighbourhood Plan (WECNP) Business Referendum 3 May 2018.

2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

- (i) The polling place changes for DCA, HES, NGS and UB are recommended as a matter of urgency in order to facilitate the forthcoming Local Government Elections to be held on 3 May 2018, for the reasons set out in Appendix 1.
- (ii) The WECNP referendum area covers five polling districts (HFS, KA, UB, VA and VE), UB in its entirety and the other four in part, straddling four wards. A map showing the neighbourhood plan referendum area is attached at Appendix 2.

All five polling places for the above mentioned polling districts will be used for the WECNP Residential Referendum. Approval of the Boundaries Panel is sought to use only one central polling place for the WECNP Business Referendum, this to reduce costs and unnecessary administration. The polling place recommended is the proposed polling place for UB.

Business voter polling station turnout at the recent Central Ealing Neighbourhood Plan (CENP) Business Referendum equated to just two votes cast in person at each of the Business Polling Places. Over 90% of business registrants chose to vote by post.

3. Key Implications

The proposed polling place changes for the Local Government Elections and the reasons for change are set out in Appendix 1.

4. Financial

a) Financial impact on the budget

- (i) The proposed changes for polling places changes DCA, HES, NGS and UB will be cost neutral.
- (ii) In the past there has been no specific budget approved or set aside for the purposes of preparing a neighbourhood plan or, where appropriate, for conducting a referendum. The costs of advising, supporting and preparing the plan, in particular staffing resources, have been largely borne by the Planning Service.
- (iii) This will be supplemented in part by drawing down additional specific grants from government through the Neighbourhood Planning Grant regime (amounting to £30k) and this money has been ring-fenced for

the purposes of supporting work around neighbourhood planning. The grant covers most of the costs of the procuring an Examiner for the plan and will make contribution towards the costs of running the referenda (up to £10k).

- (iv) It is estimated that the cost of administering these referendums will be £10k and costs will be expected to be met within the grant from central government. These estimated costs incorporate a £20k saving due to the proposals to hold both referendums on the same day as the Borough Council elections. If Boundaries Panel disagrees to the use of only one central polling place for the Business Referendum then costs will rise by a further £5k (or 50% of the total estimated cost). Business voter polling station turnout at the recent CENP Business Referendum equated to just two votes cast in person at each of the Business Polling Places. 90% of business registrants chose to vote by post.
- (v) If there are any shortfalls, these will be met through the £75k corporate budget available in the 2018/19 MTFS for Neighbourhood Planning referenda

5. Legal

By virtue of section 18 of the Representation of People Act 1983 every electoral region is to be divided into polling districts with a polling place designated for each district. The places so designated are to be those designated for Local and Parliamentary elections and referenda.

Each polling district must have sufficient and suitable designated Polling Places that provide 'such reasonable facilities for voting that are practicable in the circumstances' including accessibility for electors with disabilities.

6. Value For Money

Administering the WECNP referendums stand-alone would cost an estimated £30k. In combining with the Local Government Elections on 3 May 2018, and applying value for money principles, and using one central business polling place, it will result in savings of £20k.

7. Sustainability Impact Appraisal

N/A

8. Risk Management

A thorough risk assessment is undertaken of all Council and private premises used as polling places.

9. Community Safety

All the recommended polling places have been checked for safety and disabled access.

10. Links to Strategic Objectives

- **Safer**
- **Fairer**
- **Accessible**

11. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion

(a) Seek to ensure that all the electors in the area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances

(b) Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, polling places are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place we must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

12. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:

Where possible, fixed buildings are used as polling places. This achieves the best value for money, greatest level of control and certainty over the provision of polling stations.

13. Property and Assets

See 11

14. Any other implications:

None.

15. Consultation

The Returning Officer and Election Project Board have been consulted and have agreed the proposed changes.

16. Timetable for Implementation

The polling place changes need to be implemented in time for the forthcoming Local Government Elections in May 2018.

17. Appendices

Appendix

18. Background Information
See 17

Consultation (Mandatory)

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent to consultee	Date received from consultee	Comments appear in report paragraph:
Internal				
Helen Harris	Director of Legal & Democratic Services	30/01/18	30/01/18	
External				

Report History

Decision type:	Urgency item?
Non-key decision	No

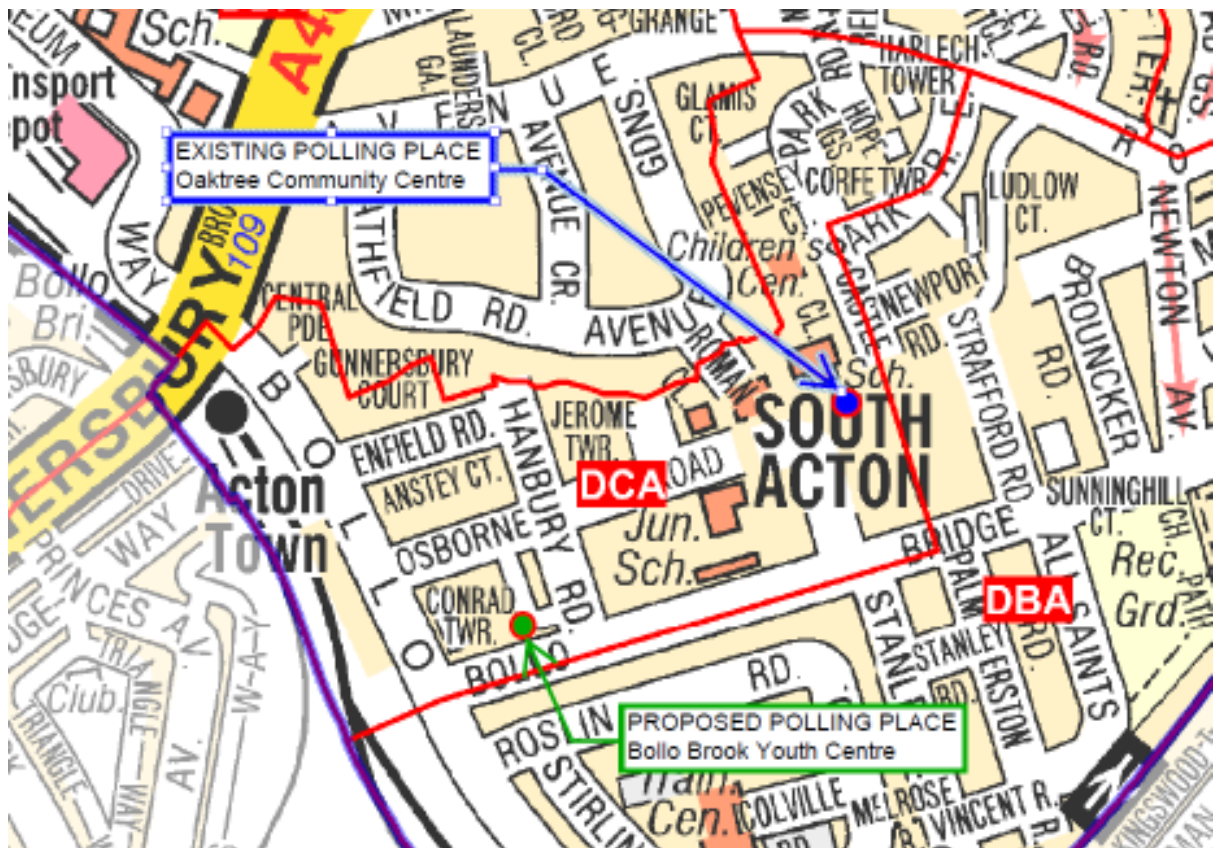
Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries: Ross Jackson
	First and surname, job title: Head of Elections

APPENDIX 1 – POLLING PLACE CHANGES

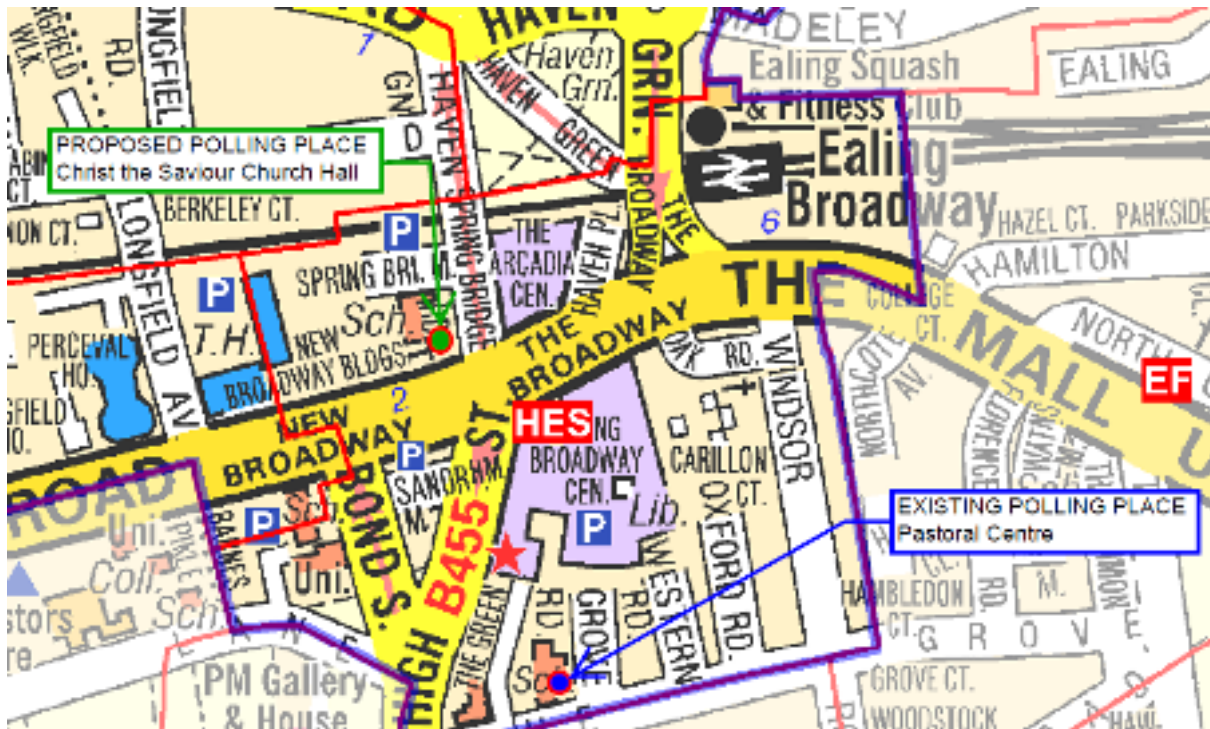
PD	WARD	EXISTING POLLING PLACE	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE	COMMENTS
DCA	South Acton	Oaktree Community Centre Osborne Road W3 8TY	Bollo Brook Youth Centre 272 Osborne Road W3 8SR	Existing polling place is closed because of regeneration in the area. Proposed polling place was investigated following suggestion from Cllr Sabiers. It has very good polling facilities. RECOMMENDED
HES	Ealing Broadway	Pastoral Centre The Clergy House The Grove W5 5DX	Christ the Saviour Parish Church Hall New Broadway London W5 2XA	Existing polling place is too small to accommodate the increase in electorate due to new housing developments built on Dickens Yard. Proposed polling place is larger, has very good polling facilities and will be able to accommodate the increased electorate. RECOMMENDED
NGS	Greenford Broadway	Greenford Baptist Church Beechwood Avenue Greenford UB6 9UA	Saffron D'or 447 Lady Margaret Road Southall Middlesex UB1 2QB	Existing polling place is shared between polling districts NB and NGS. It is located within NB and therefore outside NGS. Voters from NGS have to cross a main road to reach it. Greenford Sports Centre was investigated as an alternative, but was ruled out on the grounds that it will cause disruption to Greenford High School. Proposed polling place is located on the border

				with polling district SB and has very good polling facilities. RECOMMENDED
UB	Elthorne	St Johns Primary School Felix Road London W13 0NY	St Johns Primary School Green Man Gardens London W13 0SE	Existing school has been demolished; new school built on adjacent site. Proposed polling place is approached from a different road and has very good polling facilities RECOMMENDED

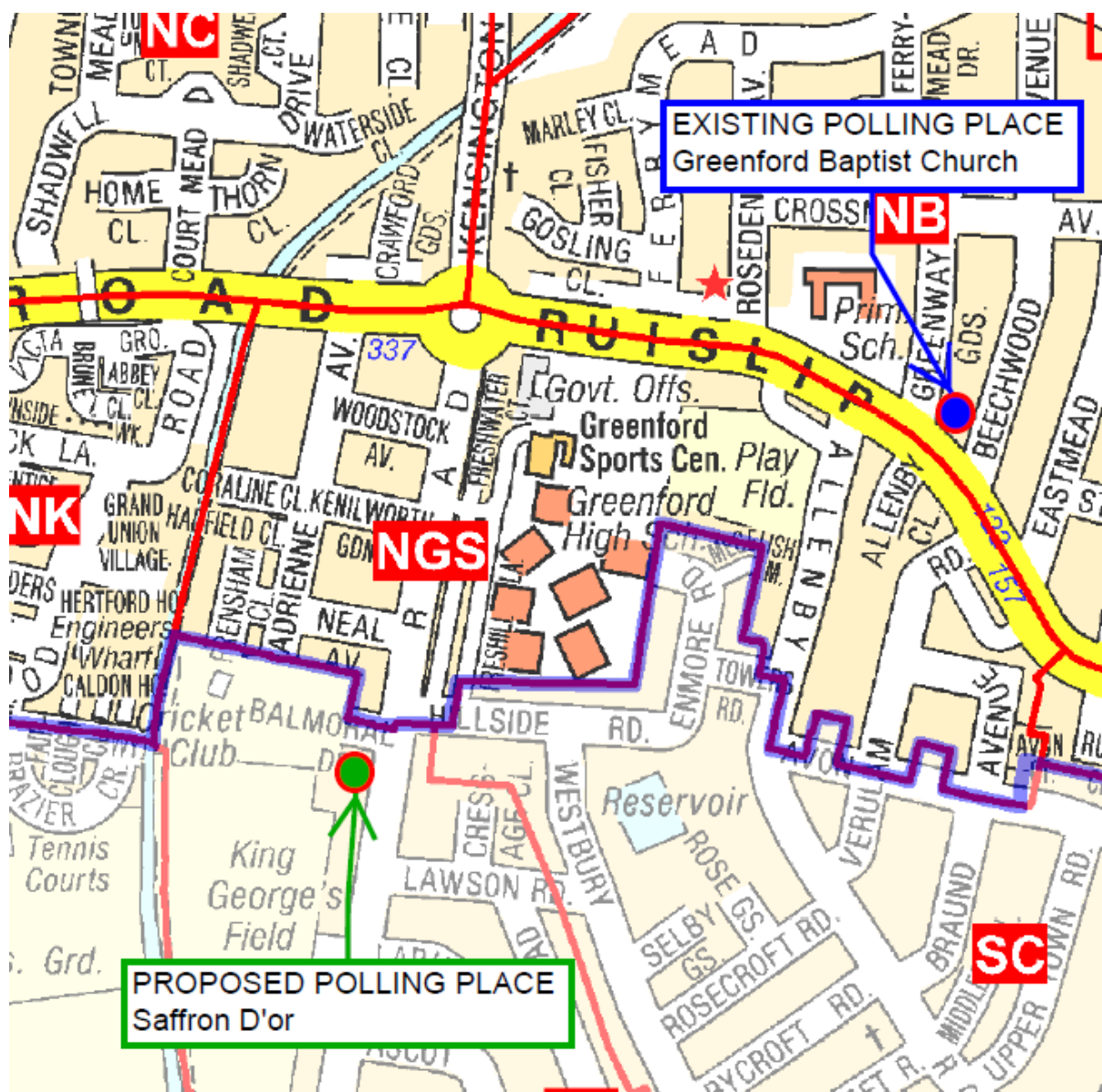
DCA – Existing and Proposed Polling Places



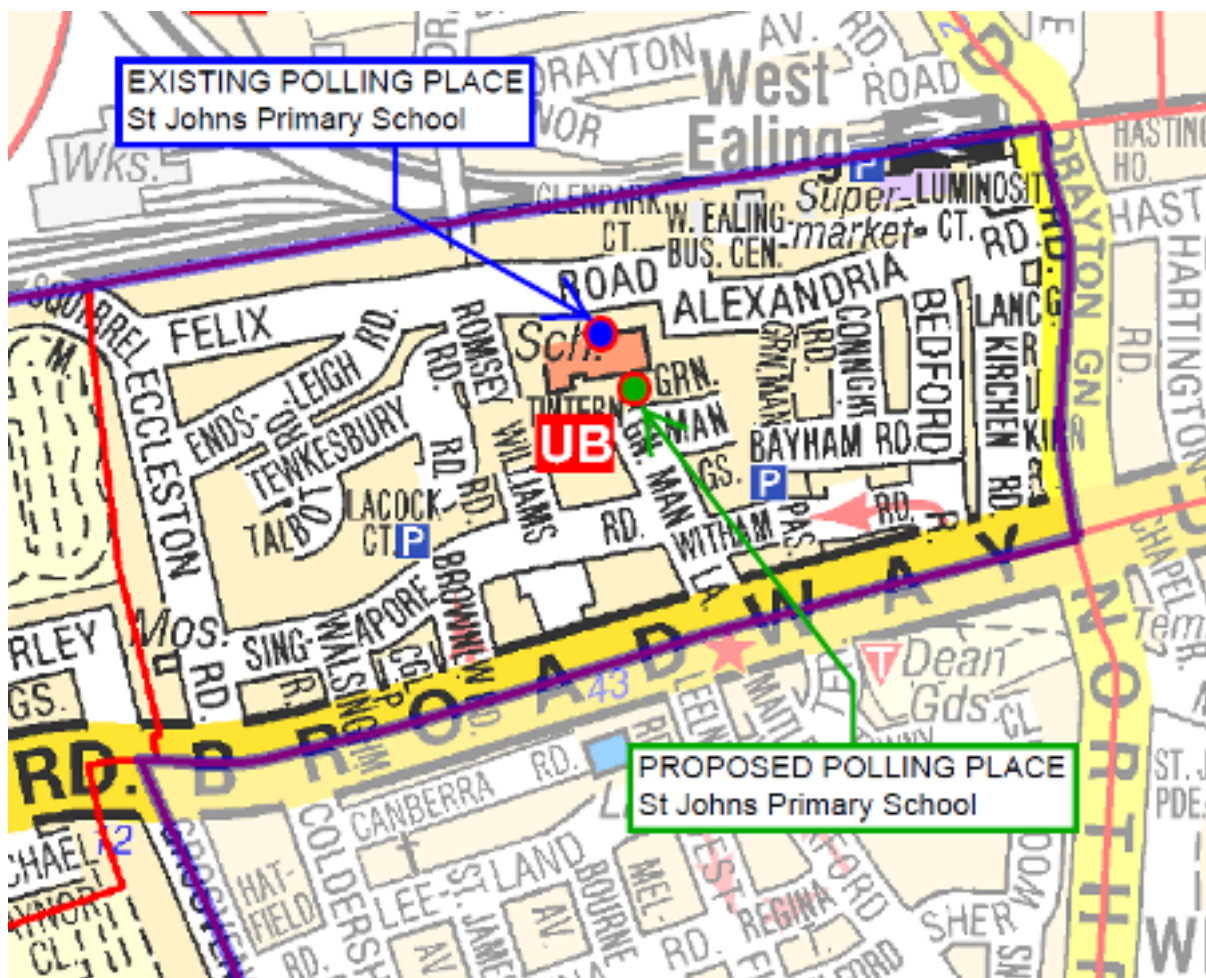
HES – Existing and Proposed Polling Places



NGS – Existing and Proposed Polling Places



UB – Existing and Proposed Polling Places



APPENDIX 2

