



**Ealing Borough Council
Town Hall
New Broadway
London W5 2BY**

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Boundaries Panel

Venue: Committee Room 2, Town Hall, New Broadway, W5 2BY

Date: Tuesday, 13 February 2018 at 17:30

MEMBERS: Councillors Jones (Chair), Ball, Mason, Padda, Sabiers, and Young

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Urgent Matters**
- 3 Matters to be Considered in Private**
- 4 Declarations of Interest**
- 5 Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2016.

	Minutes - 9 February 2016	3 - 10
6	Polling Place Changes Local Government Elections and West Ealing Centre Neighbourhood Plan (WECNP) Business Referendum 3 May 2018 Paul Najsarek, Chief Executive, 5 February 2018	11 - 28

*Please note that in the event of an emergency your attention is drawn to the evacuation instructions displayed on the wall by the entrance to the committee room.
First Aid advice can also be found there.*

Boundaries Panel

Thursday 9 February 2016 at 6 pm

PRESENT: Councillors McCartan (chair), Ball, Sabiers, Shaw and Young.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Mason.

2. Matters to be Considered in Private

There were none.

3. Urgent Matters

There were none.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

5. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the last meeting of the Boundaries Panel held on 5 March 2015 be agreed as a true and correct record.

6. Polling Place Changes – Greater London Authority Elections – 5 May 2015

The Panel considered the proposals for alternative locations for polling places in polling districts AHA, CDA, JE, KA, KB, MB, MF, QF, UB and WA.

Resolved:

- i) That the amendments to the locations for polling stations, as set out in the attached appendix A, be agreed as follows:
- ii) That the agreed changes be implemented from 5 May 2016.
- iii) That the agreed changes to polling stations are indicated on the relevant electors' poll cards from 21 March 2016.
- iv) That the arrangements approved for AHA, KA, MB, QF and UB apply to the GLA election on 5 May 2016 and any possible European Union referendum held in 2016. Alternative locations would be investigated for future elections and recommendations would be brought to the Boundaries Panel for consideration.
- v) That the arrangements approved for JE, KB, MF and WA apply to all future parliamentary, European, GLA, local elections and referenda on or after 5 May 2016.
- vi) The Panel delegated authority to the Head of Elections to determine whether the grassy area to the eastern side of Beaconsfield Road was a suitable alternative location for the temporary polling place CDA for the GLA election on 5 May 2016 and any possible European Union referendum held in 2016 (arising from a suggestion from Cllr Malcolm).
- vii) If the grassy area to the eastern side of Beaconsfield Road was not deemed suitable then the Panel agreed that the temporary polling place should be located on Cleveland Road, London W4, as recommended in the report, and used as a polling place for CDA for the GLA election on 5 May 2016 and any possible European Union referendum held in 2016.

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- x) That signage be placed at previous polling stations directing electors to the new polling station locations.
- xi) That consideration be given to undertaking a full polling district review in 2017.

Reason for Decision and Options Considered

The polling place changes are recommended as a matter of urgency in order to facilitate the forthcoming GLA Elections 5 May 2016, and any European Union Referendum to be held in 2016, for the reasons set out in the Appendix attached.

Councillor McCartan (Chair)

The meeting ended at 6:35pm

APPENDIX – POLLING PLACE CHANGES

PD	WARD	EXISTING POLLING PLACE	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE	COMMENTS
AHA	East Acton	Syrian Orthodox Church Hall 7-11 Armstrong Road London W3 7JL	King Fahad Academy Bromyard Avenue London W3 7 HD	<p>The existing polling place is unavailable because of refurbishment issues associated with the premises next door, which are owned by the church (former Centre for Deaf People).</p> <p>The proposed polling place is in polling district AFA but on the border with AHA. The polling station is segregated from the main academy and their staff will be present to ensure that there is no contact between children and voters during school hours. The academy is very keen to serve the community and is providing their staff and excellent polling facilities free of charge. It is recommended for the GLA election in May or any possible European Union referendum held in 2016 - RECOMMENDED</p> <p>Also investigated were:</p> <p>Virgin Active Health Club on Bromyard Avenue in polling district AFA – no suitable polling area available here – NOT RECOMMENDED</p> <p>Shepherds Bush Cricket Club on Bromyard Avenue, in polling district AFA – this had multiple trip hazards on premises en-route to entrance hall – NOT RECOMMENDED</p>

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Boundaries Panel – 9 February 2016

CDA	Southfield	Carlton Day Centre 8-10 Carlton Road London W4 5DY	<p>Temporary Polling Place grassy area to the eastern side of Beaconsfield Road, London W4</p> <p>or</p> <p>Temporary Polling Place Cleveland Road, London W4</p>	<p>The existing polling place is closed down, scheduled to be sold, not available.</p> <p>No other suitable fixed premises can be found in this polling district.</p> <p>Therefore the proposed polling place is the former polling place for this polling district and is recommended for all future elections and referenda – RECOMMENDED</p> <p><u>At the meeting</u> the alternative location of Beaconsfield Road was suggested.</p> <p>The Panel delegated authority to the Head of Elections to determine whether the grassy area to the eastern side of Beaconsfield Road was a suitable alternative location for the temporary polling place CDA for the GLA election on 5 May 2016 and any possible European Union referendum held in 2016 (arising from a suggestion from Cllr Malcolm).</p> <p>If the grassy area to the eastern side of Beaconsfield Road was not deemed suitable then the Panel agreed that the temporary polling place should be located on Cleveland Road, London W4, as recommended in the report, and used as a polling place for CDA for the GLA election on 5 May 2016 and any possible European Union referendum held in 2016.</p>
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Boundaries Panel – 9 February 2016

JE	Perivale	Perivale Primary School Federal Road Greenford UB6 7AP	St Nicholas Church Federal Road Greenford UB6 7AP	The church is the usual polling place for this polling district. The school was used temporarily while the church was being redeveloped. The redevelopment works are now complete. It has excellent polling facilities and it is proposed to revert to it for all future elections and referenda - RECOMMENDED
KA	Cleveland	Ealing Liberal Synagogue Lynton Avenue London W13 0EB	Ealing Liberal Synagogue Lynton Avenue London W13 0EB	<p>The former polling place for this polling district (St Lukes Hall) remains unavailable due to ongoing redevelopment plans for the building.</p> <p>For the 2015 Parliamentary Elections this panel approved use of the synagogue for one election only, the synagogue is also the polling place for polling district KC.</p> <p>Further investigatory work to find an alternative fixed site in the polling district of KA has failed to identify any other suitable alternatives.</p> <p>The following two sites were investigated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aya Samaj Hindu Temple, 69 Argyle Road London, W13 0LY. This has good polling facilities, but management declined the hire – NOT RECOMMENDED 2. West Middlesex Lawn Tennis Club, 6 Berners Drive, London, W13 0JS. Unsuitable premises due to size and significant DDA compliance issues – NOT RECOMMENDED 3. Drayton Green Primary School. Suitable premises but discounted by this panel due to the disruption to pupils. School would have to be closed if used – NOT RECOMMENDED

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Boundaries Panel – 9 February 2016

				Therefore the recommendation to this panel is to continue use of the synagogue for the GLA election in May and any possible European Union referendum held in 2016. However as the polling place is not located in KC it is also recommended that finding an alternative site is kept under review - RECOMMENDED
KB	Cleveland	Hathaway Primary School Hathaway Gardens London W13 0DH	Thames Valley University Sports Pavilion Argyle Road London W13 8EL	<p>The Sports Pavilion was the usual polling place for this polling district. It was vandalised a number of years ago and became unavailable.</p> <p>In its place the polling station was moved to the school.</p> <p>The Sports Pavilion is now operational and has good polling facilities. Therefore it is proposed to revert to the pavilion for all future elections and referenda - RECOMMENDED</p>
MB	Greenford Green	Greenford Community Centre 170 Oldfield Lane South Greenford UB6 9JS	Royal British Legion Club 182 Oldfield Lane South Greenford UB6 9JS	<p>The management of the community centre cannot agree to the booking of this venue as they are unsure on its future. There are reports that the community centre may close in April.</p> <p>Therefore it is proposed to move the polling station to the Royal British Legion Club for the GLA election and any possible European Union referendum in 2016. It has good polling facilities and is very near the existing polling place - RECOMMENDED</p>
MF	Greenford Green	St John Ambulance HQ Adj 545 Oldfield Lane North Greenford	Greenford Gospel Church 439 Oldfield Lane North Greenford	The existing polling place is being sold and therefore unavailable.

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Boundaries Panel – 9 February 2016

			UB6 0BB	<p>The proposed polling place has good polling facilities, is within the polling district, and is recommended for all future elections and referenda – RECOMMENDED</p> <p>Also investigated Oldfield Free Church (Baptist), Malden Avenue, Greenford, UB6 0DJ, however management declined its use.</p>
QF	Northolt Mandeville	Ken Acock Community Centre Carr Road Northolt UB5 4RQ	Northolt Leisure Centre Eastcote Lane North Northolt UB5 4AB	<p>The existing polling place is being refurbished and is therefore unavailable</p> <p>Whilst the proposed polling place is located in polling district QD, it is situated on the border with QF. It has good polling facilities and is recommended for use at the GLA election to be held on 5 May 2016 and any possible European Referendum in 2016 - RECOMMENDED</p>
UB	Elthorne	Jubilee Hall Green Man Gardens London W13 0SE	St Johns Primary School Felix Road London W13 0NY	<p>The existing polling place has been demolished.</p> <p>The proposed polling place is the former polling place used for this polling district. It has excellent polling facilities and it is proposed to use at the GLA election to be held on 5 May 2016 and any possible European Referendum in 2016 – RECOMMENDED</p> <p>No other suitable fixed premises can be found in this polling district.</p>
WA	Northfield	Lindsey House South Road London W5 4RX	Temporary Polling Place Chilton Avenue London W5	<p>Lindsey House was approved for use as a polling place at the Boundaries Panel meeting of 29/1/2015 for a trial period of one year.</p> <p>Whilst polling facilities were adequate there were</p>

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Boundaries Panel – 9 February 2016

				<p>strong objections from Sheltered Housing management and residents, and their clear preference was for the building not to be used again.</p> <p>Issues and complaints included loss of the residents common room for the entire day, damage to furnishings, disruption to residents, and security concerns.</p> <p>It is therefore reluctantly proposed to revert to the former Temporary Polling Place it for all future elections and referenda – RECOMMENDED</p>
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**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

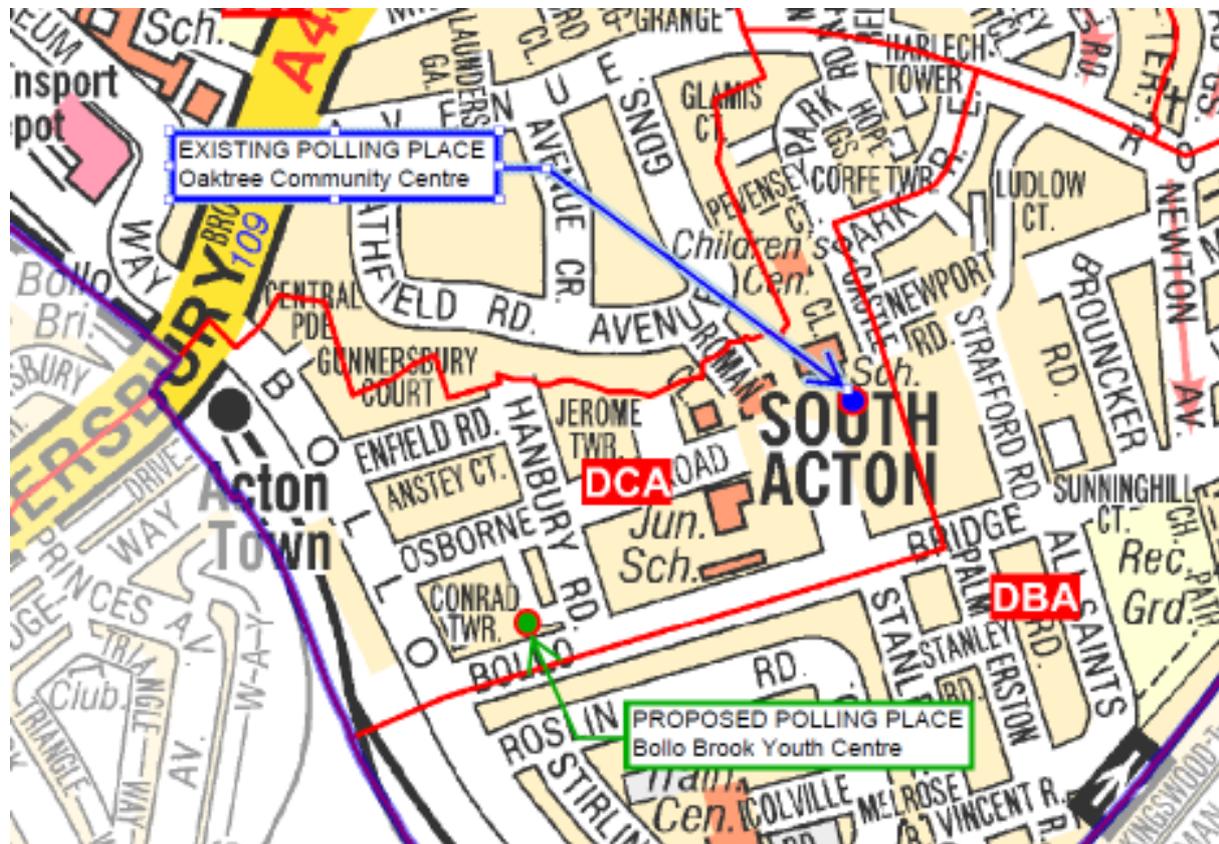
Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries: Ross Jackson
	First and surname, job title: Head of Elections

APPENDIX 1 – POLLING PLACE CHANGES

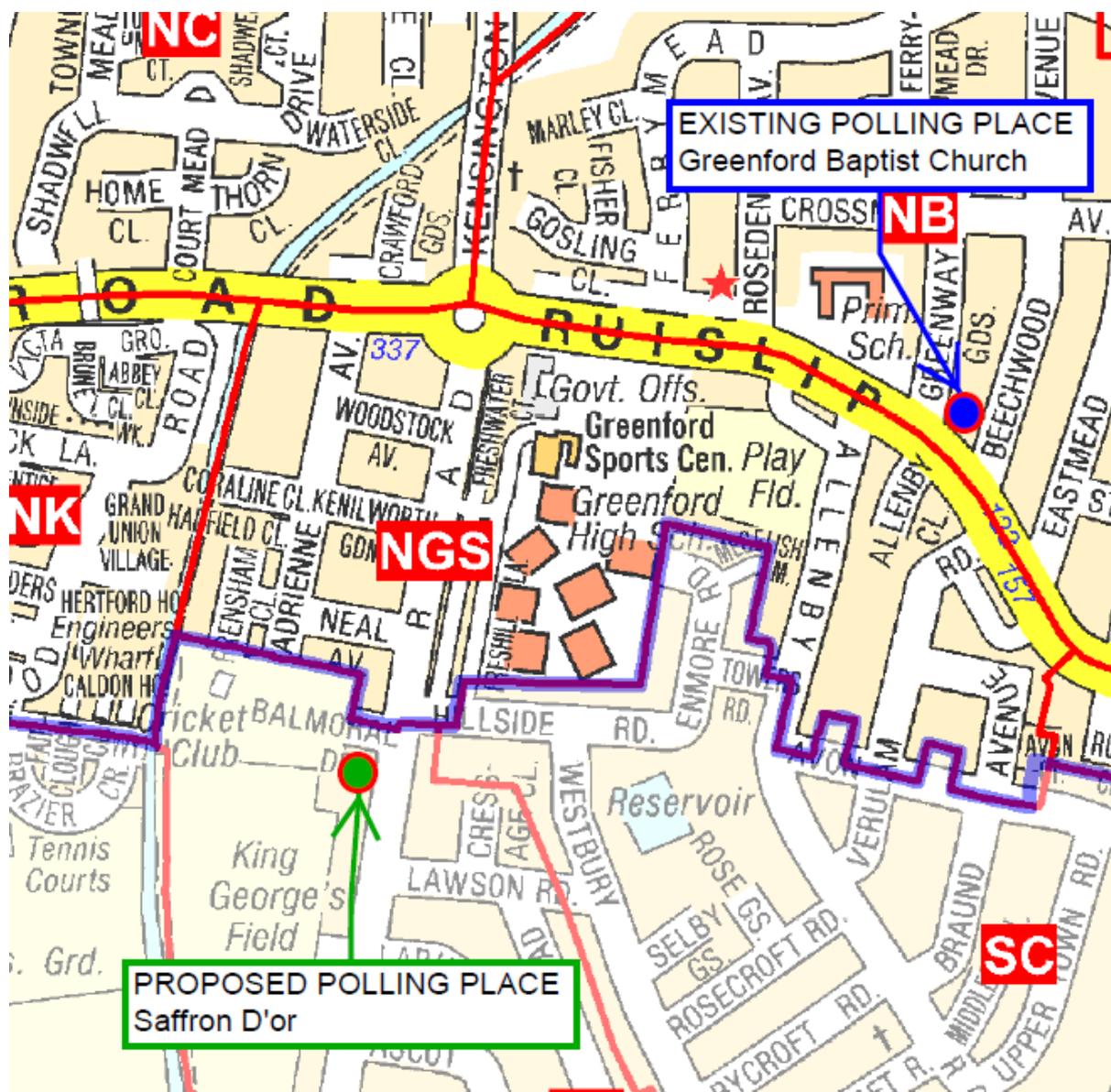
PD	WARD	EXISTING POLLING PLACE	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE	COMMENTS
DCA	South Acton	Oaktree Community Centre Osborne Road W3 8TY	Bollo Brook Youth Centre 272 Osborne Road W3 8SR	Existing polling place is closed because of regeneration in the area. Proposed polling place was investigated following suggestion 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

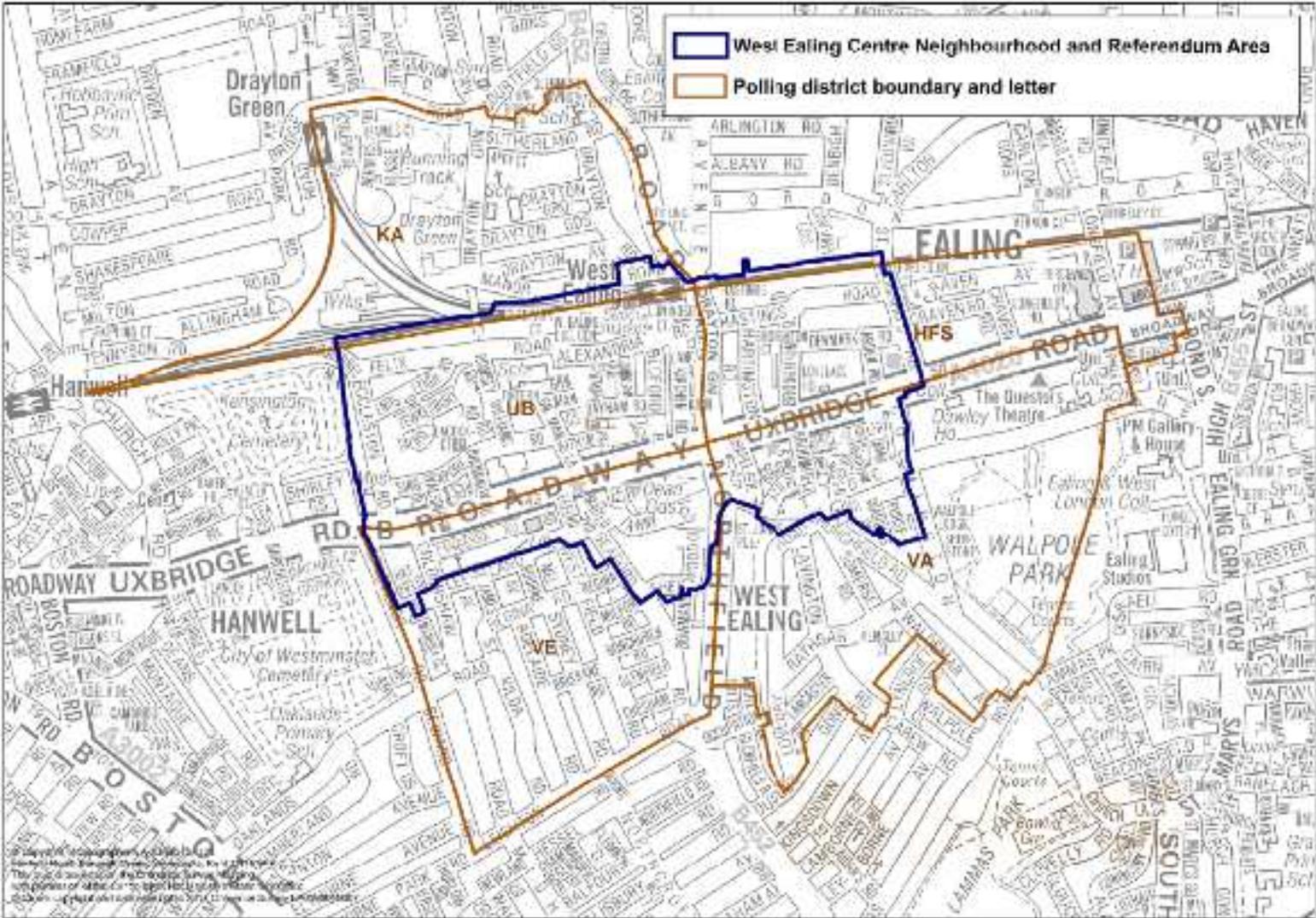
DCA – Existing and Proposed Polling Places



NGS – Existing and Proposed Polling Places



APPENDIX 2



Appendix 1

Local Government Boundaries Commission for England Review of Council Size and Ward Boundaries. Overview of Activity

- 1.1 Members will be aware of the Review. OSC had an initial discussion on this issue on 11th January – the papers can be read from the link below
<http://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/5553/Committee/34/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>
- 1.2 The LGBCE is currently undertaking an information-gathering exercise. They addressed London Councils on 20th October, and met the Leader, the Chief Executive, and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services on 20th November.
- 1.3 The LGCBE then met relevant officers on 17th January.
- 1.4 After that we distributed their guide to the Review to all Members of the Council.
- 1.5 On 19th February the Commissioner will meet the Party leaders followed by a session in the Council Chamber, at 18.00 where all members will have a chance to hear the commissioner speak and ask her questions
- 1.6 On 8th March OSC will consider this topic again and come up with an initial view on Council size.
- 1.7 On 21st June OSC will consider their previous view as well as any new data
- 1.8 On 26th June the General Purposes Committee will formally agree the Council representation.
- 1.9 By 10th July this representation has to be submitted to the LGBCE.
- 1.10 The LGBCE will then make its judgment on council size by considering three broad areas:
- They will look at the **governance arrangements** of the council and how it takes decisions across the broad range of its responsibilities. The LGBCE aims to ensure that councils have the right number of councillors to take decisions and manage the business of the council in an effective way now and in the future.
 - The LGBCE will look at the council's **scrutiny functions** relating to its own decision making and the council's responsibilities to outside bodies. Every local authority has mechanisms to scrutinise the executive functions of the council and other local bodies. They also have significant discretion over the kind (and extent) of activities involved in that process. In considering council size, the

LGBCE will want to satisfy itself that these responsibilities can be administered in a convenient and effective way.

- They will also consider the **representational role of councillors in the local community** and how they engage with people, conduct casework and represent the council on local partner organisations.

The LGBCE understands that there is no single approach to representation and members will represent and provide leadership to their communities in different ways. However, they are interested in hearing about the extent to which members routinely engage with communities and how this affects workload and responsibilities.

Note that the LGCBE will consider written representations from the council and any other party who makes a written submission to them within the time period allowed.

1.11 On 28th August the LGCBE will inform us of their decision on Council size- i.e. how many councillors there should be in Ealing.

1.12 This opens an intensive period of discussion on the actual ward Boundaries. This will take place during September and October noting that the formal deadline for submission is 5th November. This can include submissions from the public or political parties. The LGBCE is able to propose any pattern of wards that it believes best meets its statutory criteria. This is usually a mixture of single-, two- and three-member wards.

1.13 The Statutory criteria are:

- **Delivering electoral equality for local voters** – this means ensuring that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters so that the value of your vote is the same regardless of where you live in the local authority area.
- **Interests and identities of local communities** – this means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, avoid splitting local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.
- **Effective and convenient local government** – this means ensuring that the wards can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole, including both the council size decision and warding arrangements, allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.

1.13.1 On 8th January 2019 the LGCBE will publish their draft proposals for consultation. All views on the draft proposals have to be submitted by 18th March 2019

- 1.14 In May 2019 the LGCBE publish their final recommendations- these then go to Parliament in June. Parliament can only accept or reject the recommendations, it cannot modify them
- 1.15 Assuming the ward boundaries are accepted the 2022 elections will be contested with these boundaries

