

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2015**

**OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW: DECISIONS OF THE RETURNING OFFICER/ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE CHAIR OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The General Purposes Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 received a report from the Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer on the review of polling districts and polling places that was underway in accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.
- 1.2 In order to enable the review to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 as required by the legislation, the General Purposes Committee delegated authority to the Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer to agree the final arrangements following consultation with the Chair of the Committee. The final proposals were also to be copied to the other members of the General Purposes Committee.
- 1.3 Following the General Purposes Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> December and in accordance with the legislation, the representations of the Returning Officer on the review were published for consultation, including information on the location of polling stations (existing or proposed) within polling places (existing or proposed). The consultation ended on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**2. OUTCOME OF THE REVIEW**

- 2.1 The representations received during the consultation period and the proposals for polling districts and polling places to apply with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 are set out below and in the attached schedule.

**3. POLLING DISTRICTS**

- 3.1 The Electoral Commission guidance states that the following should be considered as part of the assessment of the suitability of polling district boundaries:
  - Are the boundaries well-defined? For example, do they follow the natural boundaries of the area? If not, is it clear which properties belong in the polling district?
  - Are there suitable transport links within the polling district, and how do they relate to the areas of the polling district that are most highly populated? Are there any obstacles to voters crossing the current polling district and reaching the polling place e.g., steep hills, major roads, railway lines, rivers?
- 3.2 Further to the review and consideration of the representations received during consultation, consideration has been given to a number of matters in connection with polling districts as follows. With the exception of the changes recommended below,

no other amendments are proposed to the existing polling districts within the borough.

### **Blackwall and Cubitt Town Ward – Polling districts BC1 & BC2**

Representations were received to move all of New Providence Wharf and Ontario Tower into polling district BC2. This suggestion was welcomed by the Returning Officer. **Outcome of review:- all of New Providence Wharf and Ontario Tower to be moved into polling district BC2.**

### **Blackwall and Cubitt Town Ward – Polling districts BC2 & BC3**

During consultation on the Returning Officer's proposals, representations were received to move the houseboats on the north side of Blackwall Basin (currently Arpad, Noelle, Maid of Steel and Jessica) into polling district BC2 because access to the boats is via Boardwalk Place. This suggestion is proposed for agreement. **Outcome of review:- the houseboats on the north side of Blackwall Basin to be moved into polling district BC2.**

### **Bethnal Green Ward – Polling district BG5**

Representations were received to split the polling district BG5 so as to create a separate district in the east of the existing area, specifically for the Queen Mary University campus. This suggestion was welcomed by the Returning Officer. **Outcome of review:- Polling district BG5 to be split so as to create a separate district in the east of the existing area, specifically for the Queen Mary University campus.**

### **Canary Wharf Ward – Polling districts CW1 & CW2**

Representations were received to amend the boundary on the west of Westferry Road to include the whole of the Millennium Harbour development within CW1, thereby making the boundary run to the south of Edison and Vanguard Buildings. This suggestion was welcomed by the Returning Officer. **Outcome of review:- The boundary on the west of Westferry Road to be amended to run to the south of Edison and Vanguard Buildings, to include the whole of the Millennium Harbour development within polling district CW1.**

### **Canary Wharf Ward – Polling districts CW2 and CW3**

Representations were received to amend the boundary between the two polling districts above but no detailed suggestions were provided. **Outcome of review:- No change to existing boundary between polling districts CW2 and CW3.**

### **St Katharine's and Wapping Ward – Polling districts SK1 and SK2**

Representations were received to revise the boundary between these districts to run north/south along Garnet Street, rather than east/west as at present. The Returning Officer did not support this suggestion as he considered that it would result in an

increase in the number of electors having to vote at a polling station other than the one closest to their home. **Outcome of review:- No change to existing boundary between polling districts SK1 and SK2.** The Returning Officer however noted the representations made during consultation on his proposals that this boundary, which currently splits in two the Riverside Estate, could be reconsidered in the future.

### **St Peter's Ward – Polling districts SP2 and SP3**

Representations were received to move the boundary between these polling districts so that it continues along Old Bethnal Green Road rather than through the middle of the Mansford Estate. The Returning Officer welcomed this suggestion. **Outcome of review:- The boundary between polling districts SP2 and SP3 to be moved so that it continues along Old Bethnal Green Road rather than through the middle of the Mansford Estate.**

### **Whitechapel Ward – Polling district WH3**

Representations were received to split WH3 into two polling districts, using Backchurch Lane as the boundary between the two new polling districts. The Returning Officer welcomed the suggestion to split polling district WH3 but proposed that the boundary should run through Gowers Walk and not Backchurch Lane, as the residents in Backchurch Lane are very close to Harry Gosling Primary School.

During consultation on the Returning Officer's proposals, representations were received to support this proposal but further suggesting that at the southern end of Gowers Walk, the boundary should turn east along Hooper Street and then south along Backchurch Lane to the southern boundary of the existing polling district. This proposal was included in the initial draft decision note for consultation with the Chair of the General Purposes Committee. However, following further detailed examination of the area, officers identified that this would leave the properties in the small area bounded by Hooper Street, Backchurch Lane, the railway line and Lemman Street potentially having to walk further to a new polling station than to the one they are familiar with, and in addition they would have to cross Lemman Street. An alternative solution was therefore proposed to amend the boundary to instead run from the southern end of Gowers Walk, west along Hooper Street to the junction with Lemman Street and then south along that street.

Late representations were subsequently received, proposing that polling district WH3 should not be divided at all but should remain as at present. This proposal was considered during the final consultation stage. On balance for reasons of elector convenience, accessibility and efficient management of the venues, it is proposed that division of the polling district should proceed. **Outcome of review:- Polling district WH3 to be split into two polling districts, using Gowers Walk as the boundary between the two new polling districts and at the southern end of Gowers Walk, the boundary to turn west along Hooper Street and then south along Lemman Street to the southern boundary of the existing polling district.**

**Note: Ward name**

3.3 Alongside the above, the Returning Officer has received representations that the name of the Canary Wharf Ward should be amended to 'Millwall' to reflect its history and geographical location. The Returning Officer does understand that this is not a unanimous view and that other local residents may support retaining the current name for reasons of continuity and stability. In any case, this is not a matter for which the Returning Officer has responsibility or which can be taken forward as part of the current review. There is provision in law for the Council to change the name of a ward by a two-thirds majority vote at a Council meeting called for the purpose, but if such a decision were to be made within five years of the most recent (2013) electoral review, the prior agreement of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England would be required.

#### 4. PROPOSALS – POLLING PLACES

- 4.1 In relation to polling places, the Electoral Commission advises that factors including location, size, availability and accessibility should be considered when reviewing existing polling places or when assessing new polling places.
- 4.2 The Council must have particular regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons and as part of the consultation exercise the authority actively sought representations from persons with particular expertise in relation to access to premises, or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability. Each proposed venue is inspected and assessed for suitability, safety and compliance with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Acts (DDA).
- 4.3 Further to the review and consideration of the representations received during consultation, consideration has been given to a number of matters in connection with polling places as follows. With the exception of the changes recommended below, no other amendments are proposed to the existing polling places within the borough.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Current Polling Place</b>	<b>Considerations and Proposed Polling Place(s)</b>
BC2	Portakabin on Prestons Road, near Secure Self Storage Office	<p>Representations were received that the current polling place was not suitable. The Returning Officer agreed and was keen to identify an alternative polling place. During consultation on the Returning Officer's proposals, a suggestion was received for a possible alternative location for the Portakabin (car park at the southern end of Fairmont Avenue).</p> <p>However, during site visits a potentially suitable permanent building was identified and discussions are underway with the proprietors of the <b>Radisson Blu Edwardian Hotel, New Providence Wharf</b> regarding use of that venue as a polling place.</p>
BG5 (amended to exclude)	Harpley Inclusion Support Centre	<b>Harpley Inclusion Support Centre</b>

Queen Mary University Campus		
New BG6 (eastern section of current BG5)	Harpley Inclusion Support Centre	<b>The Student Union Hub, Queen Mary University Campus</b>
BN3	Old Palace Primary School, St Leonards Street.	<p>The school requested that an alternative location be used. The Returning Officer proposed two possible alternative venues – the Bromley-by-Bow Centre, St Leonards Street, E3 or Kingsley Hall Community Centre, Powis Road, E3.</p> <p>During consultation on the Returning Officer’s proposals, representations were received that for reasons of layout, location and likely availability Kingsley Hall may be preferable.</p> <p>However, following site visits by officers, two hall spaces (‘The Barn’) have been identified on the premises of the Bromley-by-Bow centre which would provide particularly suitable accommodation for a double polling station, enabling separate areas to be used by each station. The <b>Bromley-by-Bow Centre</b> is therefore proposed as the new polling place.</p>
CW1	Portakabin in car park of West India Dock Impounding Station	<p>Representations were received that the current polling place was not suitable. The Returning Officer agreed and was keen to identify an alternative polling place. He received representations and proposed the use of East Wintergarden, Canary Wharf.</p> <p>During consultation on the Returning Officer’s proposals, representations were received that East Wintergarden would not be suitable as the location is remote for all residential areas of the polling district. Two alternative locations for a portable polling station were suggested.</p> <p>Following site visits by officers the initial draft decision note proposed that the polling place be a portable structure on the paved area at the western end of Cuba Street, near West India Pier. However, further representations were received that this would be unsuitable for reasons of inaccessibility and location. Following consultation with the Chair of the</p>

		General Purposes Committee the decision has been taken, as previously proposed, to use <b>East Wintergarden, Canary Wharf.</b>
LI1	Portakabin on Northey Street, E14	The Cruising Association, Northey Street, E14 8BT
SP2 (amended boundary)	Lawdale Junior School	The Returning Officer initially proposed the use of St Peter's Bethnal Green Church. However, following a site visit this venue was found not to be entirely suitable.  An alternative venue – the Club House on the Zander Court Estate, E2 - was identified and found to be suitable and is now proposed for use as a polling place.
SP3 (amended boundary)	Former school site on St Jude's Road	Lawdale Junior School
WH3 (amended to exclude western section)	Harry Gosling Primary School	Harry Gosling Primary School
New WH4 (Western section of current WH3)	Harry Gosling Primary School	English Martyrs Catholic Primary School (North Tenter Street entrance - the building proposed has easy access from the road and will avoid the need to close the school on election day).

4.4 The table attached at Appendix 'A' sets out the final proposals of the review for polling places within each of the proposed polling districts in the borough (proposed changes are shaded, all other entries are unchanged from those that applied in May 2014). Maps showing the proposed new polling districts and polling places may be viewed at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/elections](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/elections).

## 5. REGISTER OF ELECTORS

5.1 The revised Register of Electors 2015 will be amended to reflect the changes to the polling districts agreed as a result of this review and the amended register will apply in respect of the UK parliamentary election to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

John Williams  
Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer  
London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2015

**APPENDIX A: OUTCOME OF REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES: POLLING PLACES TO BE USED AT THE UK PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Comments</b>
BG1	St James the Less Church Hall, St James's Avenue, London, E2 9JD	
BG2	Bonner Primary School [Bethnal Green], Stainsbury Street, London, E2 0NF	
BG3	The Tramshed, Digby Street, London, E2 0LS	
BG4	John Scurr Primary School, Cephas Street, London, E1 4AX	
BG5	Harpley Inclusion Support Centre, 21 Tollet Street, London, E1 4EE	Revised boundary of polling district
BG6	The Student Union Hub, Queen Mary University campus.	New polling district (east section of current BG5)
BC1	Portakabin by East India DLR, Blackwall Way, London, E14 9PS	Revised boundary of polling district
BC2	Radisson Blu Edwardian Hotel, New Providence Wharf, E14 9PQ	Revised boundaries of polling district
BC3	The Gallery, Jack Dash House, 2 Lawn House Close, London, E14 9YQ	Revised boundary of polling district
BC4	Cubitt Town Infants School, Manchester Road, London, E14 3NE	
BE1	Francis Lee Community Centre, Clare House, 10 Hawthorn Avenue, London, E3 5PY	
BE2	Stour Space Exhibition Area, 7 Roach Road, London, E3 2PA	
BE3	Eastside Youth Centre, 6 Parnell Road, Bow, London, E3 2RB	
BE4	Tredegar Centre, 333 Morville Street, London, E3 2DZ	
BE5	Our Lady and St Catherine of Siena Parish Hall, 179A Bow Road, London, E3 2SH	
BW1	Chisenhale Primary School, Vivian Road Entrance, London, E3 5QY	
BW2	Olga Primary School, Lanfranc Road, London, E3 5DN	
BW3	Gateway Housing Association Meeting Room, 409-413 Mile End Road, London, E3 4PB	
BW4	Malmesbury Primary School, Coborn Street, London, E3 2AB	
BN1	Wellington Primary School, Archibald Street Entrance, London, E3 4NE	
BN2	Bow Cross Community Centre, Rear Entrance on Rainhill Way, London, E3 3EY	
BN3	Bromley By Bow Centre, 1 St Leonards Street, E3 3BT	

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<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Comments</b>
BS1	Clara Grant Primary School, Knapp Road Entrance, London, E3 4BU	
BS2	Lighthouse Baptist Church Hall, Brock Place Entrance, London, E3 3QX	
BS3	Marnar Centre, Devas Street, London, E3 3LL	
CW1	East Wintergarden, Bank Street, Canary Wharf, E14 5AB	Revised boundary of polling district
CW2	Seven Mills Primary School, Malabar Street, London, E14 8LY	Revised boundary of polling district
CW3	Tiller Leisure Centre, Tiller Road, London, E14 8PX	
IG1	St Edmund's RC Primary School, 297 Westferry Road, London, E14 3RS	
IG2	Harbinger Primary School, Cahir Street, London, E14 3QP	
IG3	St Luke`s CE Primary School, Saunders Ness Road, London, E14 3EB	
LA1	St Saviour's CE Primary School, Chrisp Street, London, E14 6BB	
LA2	Bygrove Primary School, Bygrove Street, London, E14 6DN	
LA3	Teviot Community Hall, 156 St Leonards Road, London, E14 0QZ	
LA4	Culloden Primary School - an Academy, Dee Street, London, E14 0PT	
LA5	Teviot Neighbourhood Centre, Wyvis Street, London, E14 6QD	
LI1	The Cruising Association, Northey Street, E14 8BT	
LI2	Cyril Jackson Primary School (South Building), Limehouse Causeway, London, E14 8AQ	
ME1	Bonner Primary School [Mile End], English Street, London, E3 4TA	
ME2	St Paul with St Luke CE Primary School, Leopold Street, London, E3 4LA	
ME3	Stepney Greencoat CE Primary School, Norbiton Road, London, E14 7TF	
ME4	Stebon Primary School, Burdett Estate, Masjid Lane, London, E14 7AD	
ME5	Hind Grove Community Centre, 18 Stainsby Road, London, E14 6JP	
PO1	Holy Family RC Primary School, Wades Place, London, E14 0DE	
PO2	Woolmore Primary School, Woolmore Street, London, E14 0EW	



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<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Comments</b>
SH1	Bigland Green Primary School, Bigland Street, London E1 2ND	
SH2	Blue Gate Fields Junior School, King David Lane Entrance, London, E1 0EH	
SH3	Ogilvie Community Hall, Ogilvie House, Stepney Causeway, London, E1 0JP	
SB1	Christ Church CE Primary School, 47A Brick Lane, London, E1 6PU	
SB2	Canon Barnett Primary School, Gunthorpe Street, London, E1 7RQ	
SB3	St Anne's RC Primary School, Underwood Road, London, E1 5AW	
SB4	Whitechapel Sports Centre, Durward Street, London, E1 5BA	
SD1	Latimer Congregational Church Hall, Ernest Street, London, E1 4LS	
SD2	Alice Model Nursery School, 14 Beaumont Grove, London, E1 4NQ	
SD3	Ben Jonson Primary School, Harford Street, London, E1 4PZ	
SD4	Cayley Primary School, Aston Street, London, E14 7NG	
SK1	St Paul's Institute, 302 The Highway, London, E1W 3DH	
SK2	St Peter's London Docks Primary School, Garnet Street, London, E1W 3QT	
SK3	John Orwell Sports Centre, Tench Street, London, E1W 2QD	
SK4	Hermitage Primary School, Vaughan Way, London, E1W 2PT	
SP1	Pritchards Road Day Centre, Marian Place, Pritchards Road, London, E2 9AX	
SP2	The Club House, Zander Court Estate, E2	Revised boundary of polling district
SP3	Lawdale Junior School, Mansford Street, London, E2 6LS	Revised boundary of polling district
SP4	Hague Primary School, Wilmot Street, London, E2 0BP	
SP5	Mowlem Primary School, Bishops Way Entrance, London, E2 9HE	
SG1	Smithy Street Primary School, Smithy Street, London, E1 3BW	
SG2	Exmouth Hall, Brayford Square Entrance, London, E1 0PW	
SG3	Redcoat Youth Centre, 260 Stepney Way, London, E1 3DW	
WE1	Virginia Primary School, Hocker Street Entrance, London, E2 7NQ	

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<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Comments</b>
WE2	Columbia Primary School, Columbia Road, London, E2 7RG	
WE3	St Matthias Primary School, Bacon Street, London, E2 6DY	
WH1	Kobi Nazrul Primary School, Settles Street, London, E1 1JP	
WH2	John Smith Sure Start Children`s Centre, 90 Stepney Way, London, E1 2EN	
WH3	Harry Gosling Primary School, Henriques Street, London, E1 1NB	Revised boundary of polling district
WH4	English Martyrs Catholic Primary School, North Tenter Street entrance, E1 8DJ	New polling district (west section of current WH3)
WH5P	Shapla Primary School, Wellclose Square, London, E1 8HY	Retitled polling district (previously WH4P). Boundaries and polling place unchanged