

<b>Committee:</b>  General Purposes Committee	<b>Date:</b>  15 November 2007	<b>Classification:</b>  Unrestricted	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>Agenda Item No:</b>
<b>Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services)</b>  <b>Originating Officer:</b> Isabella Freeman Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services)		<b>Title:</b> Review of Polling Places and Districts  <b>Ward(s) Affected:</b> All		

### Summary

1. This report sets out the Returning Officer's proposals for the review of review of polling districts and polling places, describes the process of the review including the consultation undertaken and makes recommendations.

### Recommendations

2. That the Committee;
  - (1) note the consultative process and the responses received;
  - (2) consider the Returning Officer's revised representations set out in appendix A and recommend that they be adopted by the Council and the polling districts and polling be places be formally designated;

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#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 (SECTION 97)

#### LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background papers"	Tick if copy supplied for register	If not supplied, name and telephone number of holder
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None

## Background

3. In reports to previous meetings on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 25<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007, members were advised about the review of polling districts and places which must be completed by the end of 2007 under the new legislation (section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006) and authorised the Interim Electoral Services Manager to take all the necessary steps to achieve this. This report sets out the steps taken in accordance with statutory requirements and the Committee's instructions and brings forward the Returning Officer's representations for the Committee's consideration. Subject to the Committee's views these proposals will be submitted to the Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2007 for final decision.

## Definitions

4. To ensure clarity in discussing issues arising from the review the following definitions are used:

**polling district;** a geographical sub-division of an electoral area ie a UK parliamentary constituency, a European parliamentary electoral region, a ward or an electoral division.

**polling place;** a geographical area in which a polling station is located. however, as there is no legal definition of what a polling place is, the geographical area could be defined as tightly as a particular building or as widely as the entire polling district.

**polling station;** the actual area where the process of voting takes place, and must be located within the polling place designated for the particular polling district.

## Process

5. Following the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007 formal notice of the commencement of the review was published at the Town Hall, at other venues where official council notices are published and on the website and in East End Life on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007. The Returning Officer's (RO) representations were published on 30<sup>th</sup> May and were made available on the website, at Ideas stores, libraries, one stop shops, local housing offices and Town Hall reception. In drawing up the representations the following criteria were used:

- approximately 1,500 electors per polling station; so there were proposals to have additional polling stations at some venues where space permitted or use of another venue;
- anticipated growth in the electorate; based on residential units in construction in each current polling district the growth in the electorate was estimated. This was not an exact science but clearly some polling districts & indeed wards will have large increases in their electorates;

- known changes to current venues; ie Cheviot House & Southern Grove will not be available in future;
- alternatives to current venues where there is a better alternative;
- projected increases in the population of LBTH assuming that the same % as at present are eligible to go on the register; ONS projections for the next four years are:

2008	222,700
2009	225,600
2010	228,400
2011	231,200

It was therefore prudent to plan for a steady increase in the electorate.

- an increase in the return rate on the canvass would result in an increase in the electorate.
  - views put forward previously and by ward councillors.
6. Consultation on the ROs representations took place with ward councillors, local Members of Parliament, the constituency GLA elected representative, political parties, election agents, the metropolitan police service and groups representing people with disabilities. The authority was required to seek representations from such persons as it thinks have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability. Such persons must have had an opportunity to make representations and to comment on the returning officer's representations. The review was also discussed at the Tower Hamlets Access Group on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2007. Electors generally were invited to comment through East End Life and the website. Consultation also took place internally within the authority particularly with Children's Services regarding the use of schools. The consultation period extended until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007.

## **Response to consultation**

7. The following responses were received:

*Blackwall & Cubitt Town councillors;* additional polling place and reorganisation of polling districts to deal with increased electorate.

*Tower Project;* no objections to the proposals.

*Disability Coalition – Tower Hamlets;* comments on Electoral Commission's guidance that although generally helpful for wheelchair users in particular, there is insufficient coverage of a wider range of disabilities. Sight impaired and blind people require good lighting not just in the polling hall itself but also outside by the entrance, inside along corridors, doorways etc. Signage needs to be in large, clear type in colours and backgrounds that are easier

understood – similarly any instructions in the polling booths. Where polling takes place in schools etc where people have to walk along corridors to reach the polling booths, a couple of chairs need to be placed part way along corridors so that those who do not use wheelchairs but have limited mobility can sit down and rest. It is not stated whether induction loops are used in the polling hall so that instructions can be heard by the hearing impaired. Nor is it clear if written instructions are available for the deaf.

*Colin Brooking*; use Shadwell FE Centre or Bluegate Fields School as alternative to portacabin at St Katherine's Foundation, Butchers Row (Shadwell ward).

*Elaine King*; use Ogilvie Community Hall as alternative to portacabin at St Katherine's Foundation, Butchers Row (Shadwell ward).

*Cllr Marc Francis*; use Francis Lee Community Centre as alternative to portacabin at Winford House and consider use of Tredegar Centre, Morville Street as alternative to Bow Community Hall (Bow East ward).

## Revised representations

8. Having taken into account the responses made and also having reviewed polling arrangements in Shadwell ward following the by-election on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2007 the RO proposes the following arrangements (see Appendix A; changes highlighted):

***Bromley-by-Bow***; an additional polling station at Clara Grant Primary School to deal with an increased electorate (polling district BBB2) but otherwise no change to the current arrangements.

***Blackwall & Cubitt Town***; creation of new polling district BCT5 voting at Tower Hamlets Town Hall, reallocation of electors between BCT1, BCT2, BCT3 & BCT 4, and additional polling stations at Llic Centre and St Luke's CE Primary School. The revised polling district boundaries and polling places are set out in appendix B.

***Bow East***; use the Francis Lee Community Centre, Clare House as an alternative to a portacabin at Winford House (polling district BE1), the Tredegar Centre, Morville Street as an alternative to Bow Community Hall (polling district BE3) and additional polling station at Bow Secondary School to deal with an increased electorate (polling district BE4). The revised polling places are set out in Appendix C.

***Bethnal Green North***; no changes proposed.

***Bethnal Green South***; reallocation of electors between polling stations at John Scurr Primary School. No other changes proposed.

***Bow West***; additional polling station at Malmesbury Primary School to deal with an increased electorate (BW4).

**East India & Lansbury;** additional polling stations at St Saviours Primary Scholl, Chrisp Street (EIL1) , Brownfield Senior Citizens Club, Burcham Street (EIL3) and Teviot Centre, Wyvis Street (EIL5) to deal with increased electorates.

**Limehouse;** additional polling stations at Stepney Greencoat Primary School (LI1) and Hind Grove Community Centre (LI2) to deal with increased electorates.

**Mile End East;** Professional Development Centre, English Street as an alternative to 60 Southern Grove which will no longer be available (MEE1). The revised polling places are set out in Appendix D.

**Mile End & Globetown;** polling place for MGT1 to be the new Bonner Primary School (two polling stations).

**Millwall;** two additional polling stations at Seven Mills Primary School (MI1) to deal with the anticipated increase in the electorate.

**St Dunstan's & Stepney Green;** create new polling district (SDS4) voting at Halley Street Primary School, reallocate some electors from Cayley Primary School (SDS2) to SDS4 and additional polling station at sir John Cass Foundation & Redcoat Secondary School (SDS3). The revised polling district boundaries are set out in appendix E.

**Shadwell;** new polling station at Bluegate Fields Primary School for polling district SH1B reducing number of polling stations at Bigland Primary School from three to two. Redraw boundaries of SH2, SH3 & SH4 around acceptable polling stations at St Mary & St Michael Church Hall, Glamis Tenants Hall and Ogilvie Community Hall. Investigate possibility of using St Katherine's Foundation for part of existing SH4. The revised polling district boundaries and polling places are set out in Appendix F.

[polling district boundaries to be redrawn & ward councillors consulted]

**St Katherine's & Wapping;** no changes proposed.

**Spitalfields & Banglatown;** no changes proposed.

**Weavers;** New polling station at St Matthias CE Primary School to replace William Davis Primary School and to deal with increased electorate (WE3). Polling places are set out in Appendix G.

**Whitechapel;** additional polling station at Kobi Nazrul Primary School to deal with increased electorate (WH1), new polling station for WH2 at Tower Hamlets Community Housing, 285 Commercial Road to replace Cheviot House which will no longer be available & two new polling stations at Smithy Street Primary School (WH3) to replace Stepney Library which has closed. The revised polling places are set out in Appendix H.

### **Comments of Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services)**

9. It is a legal requirement to carry out the review of polling places this year before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 and thereafter every four years in accordance with the requirements of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (see appendix I).

### **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

10. The costs of the review will be met from within budget.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

11. It is essential that disabilities issues are taken into account in election matters particularly in the polling station review.

### **Anti Poverty Implications**

12. There are no implications in this report.

### **Sustainable Action for a Greener Environment**

13. Within the constraints of the suitability and availability of the accommodation, polling places are located so as to minimise the distance electors need to travel to cast their vote.

### **Appendices**

- A Returning Officer's proposals
- B Blackwall & Cubitt Town revised polling districts & polling places
- C Bow East revised polling places
- D Mile End East revised polling places
- E St Dunstan's & Stepney Green revised polling districts & polling places
- F Shadwell revised polling districts & polling places
- G Weavers revised polling places
- H Whitechapel revised polling places
- I Schedule A1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983

REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES & POLLING DISTRICTS 2007 – RETURNING OFFICER'S PROPOSALS

appendix A

BBB1	Bromley-By-Bow	1167	Old Palace Primary School, St Leonards Street	no change
BBB1	Bromley-By-Bow	1183	Old Palace Primary School, St Leonards Street	no change
BBB1	Bromley-By-Bow	1022	Old Palace Primary School, St Leonards Street	no change
BBB2	Bromley-By-Bow	1693	Clara Grant Primary School, Knapp Road Entrance	) additional polling station to be
BBB2	Bromley-By-Bow	1688	Clara Grant Primary School, Knapp Road Entrance	) accommodated here; increased electorate
BBB3	Bromley-By-Bow	1191	Marner Primary School, Devas Street	no change
BCT1	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	2114	Llic CENTRE 316 Poplar High St, Ditchburn St Entrance	) additional polling station to be accommodated here;
BCT1	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	1306	Llic CENTRE 316 Poplar High St, Ditchburn St Entrance	) reallocate some electors to BCT2 & new BCT5
BCT2	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	1073	The Gallery Jack Dash House, 2 Lawn House Close	) reallocate electors between polling stations; anticipated
BCT2	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	1060	The Gallery Jack Dash House, 2 Lawn House Close	) significant increase in electorate
BCT3	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	1550	Cubitt Town Infants School, Manchester Road	) reallocate some electors to BCT4
BCT3	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	1530	Cubitt Town Infants School, Manchester Road	)
BCT4	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	1638	St.Luke's C.E. Primary School, Saunders Ness Road	additional polling station
BCT5	Blackwall & Cubitt Town		Tower Hamlets Town Hall	new polling district & polling place; increased electorate
BE1	Bow East	2203	Francis Lee Community Centre	to replace portacabin at Winford House
BE2	Bow East	1190	Old Peoples` Club, 41 Wrights Road	no change
BE2	Bow East	1154	Old Peoples` Club, 41 Wrights Road	no change
BE3	Bow East	1738	Tredegar Centre, Morville Road	more suitable venue to replace Bow Community Hall
BE4	Bow East	1886	Bow Sec. School (Paton Close), Bow Road Entrance	additional polling station; space available
BGN1	Bethnal Green North	1165	Pritchards Rd Day Centre, Pritchards Rd Marion Place	no change
BGN2	Bethnal Green North	1510	St.Elizabeth`s R.C.Primary School, Bonner Road	no change
BGN2	Bethnal Green North	1494	St.Elizabeth`s Primary School, Bonner Road	no change
BGN3	Bethnal Green North	976	Lawdale Primary School, Mansford Street	no change
BGN3	Bethnal Green North	943	Lawdale Primary School, Mansford Street	no change
BGN4	Bethnal Green North	1333	Oaklands Secondary School, Old Bethnal Green Rd	no change
BGN4	Bethnal Green North	1311	Oaklands Secondary School, Old Bethnal Green Rd	no change
BGS1	Bethnal Green South	1456	Hague Primary School, Wilmot Street	no change

BGS2	Bethnal Green South	1471	John Scurr Primary School, Cephas Street	)
BGS2	Bethnal Green South	1537	John Scurr Primary School, Cephas Street	) reallocate electors between polling
BGS2	Bethnal Green South	1321	John Scurr Primary School, Cephas Street	) stations if necessary
BGS3	Bethnal Green South	1204	Stewart Headlam Primary School, Tapp Street	no change
BGS3	Bethnal Green South	906	Stewart Headlam Primary School, Tapp Street	no change
BGS4	Bethnal Green South	1198	Whitechapel Sports Centre, Durward Street	no change
BW1	Bow West	1395	Chisenhale Primary School, Chisenhale Road	no change
BW1	Bow West	1381	Chisenhale Primary School, Chisenhale Road	no change
BW2	Bow West	1235	Olga Primary School, Lanfranc Road	no change
BW2	Bow West	1170	Olga Primary School, Lanfranc Road	no change
BW3	Bow West	1182	Central Foundation Sec. School, College Terrace	no change
BW4	Bow West	1751	Malmesbury Primary School, Coborn Street	additional polling station; space available
EIL1	East India & Lansbury	2052	St.Saviour's Primary School, Chrisp Street	additional polling station, space available
EIL2	East India & Lansbury	1184	Bygrove Primary School, Bygrove Street	no change
EIL3	East India & Lansbury	1627	Brownfield Senior Citizens Club, 96 Burcham Street	additional polling station if space allows
EIL4	East India & Lansbury	1087	Culloden Primary School, Dee Street	no change
EIL4	East India & Lansbury	1017	Culloden Primary School, Dee Street	no change
EIL5	East India & Lansbury	1647	Teviot Centre, Wyvis Street	additional polling station
LI1	Limehouse	1552	Stepney Greencoat Primary School, Norbiton Road	additional polling station
LI2	Limehouse	1676	Hind Grove Community Centre, 18 Stainsby Road	) additional polling station if space allows
LI2	Limehouse	1456	Hind Grove Community Centre, 18 Stainsby Road	)
LI3	Limehouse	914	Holy Family School, Wades Place	no change
LI3	Limehouse	860	Holy Family School, Wades Place	no change
LI4	Limehouse	1603	Cyril Jackson Primary School, 51 Three Colts Street	no change
LI4	Limehouse	1520	Cyril Jackson Primary School, 51 Three Colts Street	no change
MEE1	Mile End East	1620	Professional Development Centre, English Street	60 Southern Grove no longer available
MEE2	Mile End East	1106	Wellington Primary School, Wellington Way	no change
MEE2	Mile End East	1053	Wellington Primary School, Wellington Way	no change
MEE3	Mile End East	992	St.Pauls with St. Lukes School, Leopold Street	no change
MEE3	Mile End East	815	St.Pauls with St. Lukes School, Leopold Street	no change



MEE4	Mile End East	1051	Stebon Primary School, Burdett Estate	no change
MEE4	Mile End East	1004	Stebon Primary School, Wallwood St, Burdett Estate	no change
MGT1	Mile End & Globetown	1419	New Bonner Primary School, Hartley Street	) new venue; space available for 2 polling
MGT1	Mile End & Globetown	1400	New Bonner Primary School, Hartley Street	) stations
MGT2	Mile End & Globetown	1686	The Tramshed, Digby Street	additional polling station; anticipated increase in electorate
MGT3	Mile End & Globetown	1347	Harpley Secondary School, Globe Road	no change
MGT3	Mile End & Globetown	1346	Harpley Secondary School, Globe Road	no change
MGT4	Mile End & Globetown	991	Latimer Congregational Hall, Ernest Street	no change
MGT4	Mile End & Globetown	966	Latimer Congregational Hall, Ernest Street	no change
MI1	Millwall	2691	Seven Mills Primary School, Malabar Street	) 2 additional polling stations; space available
MI1	Millwall	2476	Seven Mills Primary School, Malabar Street	) significant increase in electorate anticipated
MI2	Millwall	1221	St.Edmund's RC Primary School, 297 Westferry Road	no change
MI2	Millwall	1326	St.Edmund's RC Primary School, 297 Westferry Road	no change
MI2	Millwall	1077	St.Edmund's RC Primary School, 297 Westferry Road	no change
MI3	Millwall	1492	Harbinger Primary School, Cahir Street	no change
MI3	Millwall	1409	Harbinger Primary School, Cahir Street	no change
SDS1	St Dunstan's & Stepney Grm	1172	Stepney Green Secondary School, Ben Jonson Road	no change
SDS1	St Dunstan's & Stepney Grm	1082	Stepney Green Secondary School, Ben Jonson Road	no change
SDS2	St Dunstan's & Stepney Grm	1960	Cayley Primary School, Aston Street	retain polling places but reallocate some electors to SDS4
SDS2	St Dunstan's & Stepney Grm	1890	Cayley Primary School, Aston Street	as additional polling station cannot be accommodated
SDS3	St Dunstan's & Stepney Grm	1970	Sir John Cass Foundation & Redcoat Secondary School	) additional polling station, if practicable
SDS3	St Dunstan's & Stepney Grm	1749	Sir John Cass Foundation & Redcoat Secondary School	)
SDS4	St Dunstan's & Stepney Grm		Halley Street Primary	additional polling district SDS4 as Cayley Primary cannot accommodate extra station; anticipated increase in electorate
SH1	Shadwell	984	Bigland Green Primary School, Bigland Street	no change
SH1	Shadwell	908	Bigland Green Primary School, Bigland Street	no change
SH5	Shadwell	1550	Bluegate Fields Primary School, St David's Lane	moved from Bigland Green Primary School
SH2	Shadwell	1856	St.Mary & St. Michael Church Hall, Lukin Street	) two polling stations; moved from St Mary & St Michael
SH3	Shadwell	1602	Glamis Tenants Hall, 414 Cable Street	) School; revised polling district boundaries
				) revised polling district boundaries

SH4	Shadwell	1871	Portacabin, Royal Foundation of St Katharine's, private access road	) revised polling district boundaries
SH6	Shadwell		Ogilvie Community Hall	) new polling station; revised polling district boundaries
SK1	St Katharine's & Wapping	1131	St. Paul's Primary School, Wellclose Square	no change
SK1	St Katharine's & Wapping	954	St. Paul's Primary School, Wellclose Square	no change
SK2B	St Katharine's & Wapping	1429	St. Peter's Primary School, Garnet Street	no change
SK2B	St Katharine's & Wapping	899	St Peter's Primary School, Garnet Street	no change
SK3	St Katharine's & Wapping	1467	John Orwell Sports Centre, Tench Street	no change
SK3	St Katharine's & Wapping	1437	John Orwell Sports Centre, Tench Street	no change
SK4	St Katharine's & Wapping	1742	Hermitage Primary School, Vaughan Way	additional polling station; space available
SPB1	Spitalfields & Banglatown	979	Christ Church Primary School, 47A Brick Lane	no change
SPB1	Spitalfields & Banglatown	891	Christ Church Primary School, 47A Brick Lane	no change
SPB2	Spitalfields & Banglatown	1383	Osmani Primary School, Vallance Road	no change
SPB2	Spitalfields & Banglatown	892	Osmani Primary School, Vallance Road	no change
SPB3	Spitalfields & Banglatown	1254	Canon Barnett Primary School, Gunthorpe Street	no change
SPB3	Spitalfields & Banglatown	1182	Canon Barnett Primary School, Gunthorpe Street	no change
WE1	Weavers	1221	Columbia Primary School, Columbia Road	no change
WE1	Weavers	1152	Columbia Primary School, Columbia Road	no change
WE2	Weavers	1247	Virginia Primary School, Hocker Street Entrance	no change
WE2	Weavers	1178	Virginia Primary School, Hocker Street Entrance	no change
WE3	Weavers	1824	St Matthias Primary, Bacon Street	) new polling place with additional polling station to cope
WE3	Weavers	1605	St Matthias Primary, Bacon Street	) with increased electorate; replaces William Davis Primary
WH1	Whitechapel	1721	Kobi Nazrul Primary School, Settles Street	additional polling station; space available
WH2	Whitechapel	1719	Tower Hamlets Community Housing, 285 Commercial Road	to replace Cheviot House which will no longer be available
WH3	Whitechapel	2670	Smithy Street Primary	to replace Stepney Library which has closed (2 stations)
WH4	Whitechapel	1515	Harry Gosling Primary School, Fairclough Street	no change
WH4	Whitechapel	1449	Harry Gosling Primary School, Fairclough Street	no change