

**Cross party working group - polling district review**

**Date: Thursday, 25 July 2019**

**Time: 17:00**

**Venue: Westwick room, City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH**

**Committee members:**

**Councillors:**

Carlo  
Fulton-McAlister (M)  
Giles  
Kendrick  
Schmierer  
Stutely  
Wright

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## Agenda

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1	<b>Apologies</b> To receive apologies for absence	
2	<b>Minutes</b> To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2019	3 - 4
3	<b>(Acting) Returning Officer for Norwich South Final Proposals – 2019 Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review</b> <b>Purpose</b> - To consider the Acting Returning Officer's report and make a recommendation for each polling district which will form the next phase of public consultation.	5 - 22

Date of publication: **Monday, 22 July 2019**



**Polling District Review Group**

**17:00 to 18:45**

**27 June 2019**

Present: Councillors Giles (chair following election), Kendrick (vice chair following election), Carlo, Driver (substitute for Councillor Fulton-McAlister (M)), Maxwell (substitute for Councillor Stutely) and Schmierer.

Apologies: Councillors Fulton-McAlister (M), Stutely and Wright.

**1. Appointment of chair**

**RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Giles as chair.

**2. Appointment of vice-chair**

**RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Kendrick as vice-chair.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Polling Places and Districts Review 2019**

The democratic and elections manager presented the proposals of the (Acting) Returning Officer (ARO) and went through the report which outlined the timetable and consultation process.

The review started on 14 June 2019 and must be completed by 29 August 2019.

The democratic and elections manager said there was a requirement to publicise the review and seek input from key stakeholders such as:

- the public
- disability groups
- community groups
- political parties
- councillors (city/county)
- (Acting) Returning Officer for Norwich

In response to member questions about the ARO proposals the democratic and elections manager stated that individual and group responses could be taken through the contact methods listed on the review page on the council's website. The working group would consider any responses and the ARO proposals at the next meeting of the polling places and district review group.

There was a further discussion about potential alternative venues to existing or former polling stations. The democratic and elections manager noted these and informed the group that he would be visiting potential and existing venues in July.

**RESOLVED** to note the polling district and polling places review report and Acting Returning Officer's proposals.

## **5. Dates of future meetings**

**RESOLVED** to note the following dates for future meetings of the polling district review group:

Thursday 25 July 2019 at 17:00

Thursday 05 September 2019 at 14:00

CHAIR



**(Acting) Returning Officer for  
Norwich South Final Proposals –  
2019 Polling Districts, Places and  
Stations Review**

## Bowthorpe Ward (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
BO1	Chapelbreak Village Hall, Harpsfield	1694
BO2	Clover Hill Village Hall, Humbleyard	2564
BO3	Fourways Centre, Stevenson Road	1037
BO4	Bowthorpe Church Centre, Bowthorpe Hall Road	1487

### ARO Initial proposal

It is proposed that the polling stations in Bowthorpe remain the same. All four are established in the local community.

It is suggested that a minor change is made to the boundary between BO2 and BO3 moving the boundary so that the Fourways Centre is placed within the BO3 polling district. It is also suggested that properties 638 to 656 Dereham Road are moved from BO2 to BO3 as these properties very close to the Fourways Centre.

### ARO further proposal

No change to initial proposal.

### Public Consultation

One comment received regarding the signage at Clover Hill Village Hall. The ARO will ensure that a suitable level of signage is available both outside and within the venue.

## Catton Grove (Norwich North constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
CG1	Greenfields Community Centre, Ives Road	2176
CG2	<b>The Box, 15 Woodcock Road</b>	649
CG3	Catton Grove Community Centre, Jewson Road	1485
CG4	Oak Grove Chapel, 70 Catton Grove Road	1972
CG5	Shipfields Community Centre, Shipfield	1758

### ARO Initial proposal

No change is suggested to the CG1 polling district. The boundary is clearly defined on Mile Cross Road.

Catton Grove Primary School is no longer available so the boundaries between have been amended to give as many residents as possible access to an established polling station. A new CG2 polling district has been created along the Aylsham Road opening up the opportunity to find a venue on the eastern side of the road. The area around Copenhagen Way has been included to give the new district a viable number. In addition to moving voters in Copenhagen Road, it is suggested moving voters from the south of Woodcock Road and west of Weston Road to the new CG2 polling district

The vast majority of the electorate in the current in CG2 are east of Weston Road. It is suggested that this area uses the Oak Grove Chapel in a new expanded CG4 polling district. In addition it is proposed moving those residents who live on western side of Western Road to CG4. To keep the number of electors within recommended levels, it is recommended that the boundary between CG4 and CG5 moves west to the middle of St Clements Hill.

A new venue is required to in the proposed CG2 but no other changes are suggested to the other venues in ward.

### ARO further proposal

It is recommended that The Box, 15 Woodcock Road is used as the polling station for CG2.

### Public Consultation

A resident commented on the use of Catton Grove Primary school as a polling station and suggested we did not use the school due to having to find childcare. This venue is no longer available and not being used.

The Norwich City Council Labour Group, Norwich Labour Party and Clive Lewis MP proposed that the boundary of the CG2 polling district between the CG2 and CG4 polling districts should be from north to south, run down the middle of Beech Drive until it runs parallel with the north east corner of Catton Grove Primary School. It

should then run along the northern boundary of Catton Grove Primary School until it reaches the middle of Weston Road nearest to the north western boundary of Catton Grove Primary School, then run southwards down the middle of Weston Road.

The boundary between CG2 and CG3 along the Aylsham Road should be by the public footpath running to Palmer Road, thereby keeping Copenhagen Way within the CG3 polling district.



## Crome (Norwich North and Norwich South constituencies)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
CR1	Pilling Park Community Centre, 23 Pilling Park Road	1512
CR2	Fugill Green Sheltered Housing Scheme, Fugill Green	2211
CR3/CR3(S)	Plumstead Road Library, Plumstead Road	1740/3
CR4	St Francis Church, 100 Rider Haggard Road	1769
CR5(S)	The Community Room, Don Pratt Court	1090

### ARO Initial proposal

It is proposed that no boundary changes are made to Crome Ward. It is important to note that residents in CR3(S) along Britannia Road will be asked to vote at Don Pratt Court at a UK Parliamentary Election or at a Thorpe Hamlet county (By) election. Voters in CR5(S) are also in the Thorpe Hamlet county division but the location would remain the same for all elections.

### ARO further proposal

No change to initial proposal.

### Public Consultation

One response agreeing with the current arrangements at Plumstead Library.

## Eaton (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
EA1	Eaton Park Community Centre, South Park Avenue	2036
EA2	United Reformed Church, Ipswich Road	1286
EA3/EA3A	Eaton Parish Hall, Colman Road	1261/481
EA4	The Church of the Latter Day Saints, Greenways	2648

### ARO Initial proposal

In terms of electorate, Eaton ward can be easily be administrated through 4 polling stations and currently there are circumstances where voters are have to pass a polling station to get to the one allocated to them. It is proposed that the boundaries are simplified and reduced by one.

It is proposed that EA1 is expanded to include the area north of Newmarket Road and east of Bluebell Road. This allows residents easier access to the Eaton Park Community Centre polling station which services residents particularly around Norvic Drive and Leng Crescent.

EA2 is expanded southwards to cover Marston Lane allowing the residents to vote on Ipswich Road rather than crossing past the golf course. .  
The existing EA5/EA5A is renamed EA3/EA3A and is slightly modified to cover both side of Judges Walk.

EA4 is expanded to cover the area south of Newmarket Road but also including the area around Bluebell Road and Poplar Avenue. This is because residents in this area are able easily to cross under the A11 and towards Church Lane.  
Under the proposed the boundary changes in EA4 we needed to decide whether to use either Eaton St Andrews Church on Church Lane or the The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints on Greenways. It is proposed that the venue on Greenways offers better access for most residents in the area.

Please note that voters in EA3A will be required to vote at the East Anglia Tennis and Squash Club, Lime Tree Road at a Town Close division county (by) election.

### ARO final proposal

No change to initial proposal.

### Public Consultation

One response agreeing with the current arrangements at Eaton Parish Hall.

## Lakenham (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
LA1	Tuckswood Library, Robin Hood Road	2030
LA2/LA2A	Old Lakenham Community Centre, 71-75 Harwood Road	1331/78
LA3/LA3A/LA3B	<b>Arkwrights Social Club, Hobart Square (TBC)</b>	1545/225/202
LA4	Jubilee Centre, Long John Hill	2277

### ARO Initial proposal

There are no changes proposed to the LA1 polling district, the area is clearly defined and the polling station is well known to the local community.

There are also no changes proposed to the boundaries in LA2/LA2A. The polling station is at the centre of the polling district and well known.

It is proposed that the area around the Jubilee Centre in LA3 is moved to LA4. This will ensure that those residents continue to vote at Jubilee Centre once a new venue in LA3/LA3A/LA3B is found. This includes all the residents on Lindley Street and also the area around Meadowbank and Stratford Drive.

A new venue is sought for the rest of the residents in LA3/LA3A/LA3B. The (Acting) Returning Officer welcomes any suggestions and will continue to seek alternative arrangements.

Please note that residents in LA3A will vote at a venue in the Mancroft division at a county (by) election.

Residents in LA2A and LA3B will vote at Wensum Lodge, King Street at a Thorpe Hamlet division county (by) election.

### ARO final proposal

It is recommended that Arkwrights Social Club, Hobart Square is used as the polling station for LA3/LA3A/LA3B. This is subject to a site visit on 22 July 2019

### Public Consultation

The Norwich City Council Labour Group, Norwich Labour Party and Clive Lewis MP commented recommending a polling station in the LA3 polling district.

## Mancroft (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
MA1	Russell Street Community Centre, Russell Street	1381
MA2	<b>Norwich Central Baptist Church, Duke Street</b>	1228
MA3	Chantry Hall, Chantry Road	1656
MA4/MA4A	<b>Davis Room, Wensum Lodge, King Street (TBC)</b>	535/717
MA5	<b>Alive Church (Citygates Centre), Cowgate</b>	1359

### ARO Initial proposal

It is proposed that no boundary changes are made to Mancroft Ward. It is proposed that a new venue is sought in the MA4/MA4A polling district. Wensum Lodge in TH1 Thorpe Hamlet was used for the local elections in 2019 but it would be preferable to use a venue within the polling district. The (Acting) Returning Officer welcomes any suggestions and will continue to seek alternative arrangements.

Please note residents in MA4A will use Wensum Lodge, King Street at a Thorpe Hamlet division county (by) election.

### ARO final proposal

Due to electorate size and potential development in the area, it is now proposed that MA2 polling district is split into two separate polling districts. The proposed MA2 will be the area south of St Crispins Road and the polling station will be the Norwich Central Baptist Church on Duke Street/St Mary's Plain. A new MA5 polling district will be the area of the ward north St Crispins Road using the Alive Church, Citygates Centre on Cowgate.

Although the ARO is continuing to seek a new polling station in MA4/MA4A, a separate room in a separate building at Wensum Lodge has been found and can be used, separating the polling station from the Crown Room used for Thorpe Hamlet Ward.

### Public Consultation

A resident commented that the arrangements at Wensum Lodge were not satisfactory. They stated that the entrance which is shared with Thorpe Hamlet was too narrow for two polling stations. It was also stated that it became very crowded with up to 4 tellers at the venue. The ARO responded stating that a new venue was being sought but it would use a different room at Wensum Lodge if no alternative was found.

The Norwich City Council Labour Group, Norwich Labour Party and Clive Lewis MP commented that the MA4 Polling District has its own separate polling station. They also stated that the MA2 polling district should be split into two along the inner ring road, with a polling station within each new polling district.

## Mile Cross (Norwich North constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
<b>MX1/MX1A/MX1B</b>	St Lukes Church Centre, Aylsham Road	2786/14/7
<b>MX2</b>	Norman Centre, Bignold Road	2352
<b>MX3</b>	<b>Temporary station, Sloughbottom Park Car Park, Hellesdon Hall Road</b>	1167
<b>MX4</b>	St Catherines Church Hall, Mile Cross Road	1435

### ARO Initial proposal

It is proposed that MX1 is expanded west. This includes the area around Drayton Road up to Junction Road. This takes in part of the current MX3 and MX4 districts. This allows those residents to vote in the polling station nearest to them at the St Lukes Church Centre.

MX2 is reduced in size to take account of the guidance on polling district size from the Electoral Commission. It is proposed that the area south of Margaret Paston Avenue and the Galley Hill moves into MX3 so that the MX2 electorate size is reduced.

A new venue is sought for the residents in MX3. The (Acting) Returning Officer welcomes any suggestions and will continue to seek alternative arrangements.

It is proposed that MX4 includes those residents living on the western side Mile Cross Road north of Margaret Paston Avenue. This includes those roads in the area around Kirkpatrick Road. This allows residents to vote in the St Catherines Church polling station opposite. It is also suggested that the residents in at the Showmans Guilds site near Swanton Road are moved to MX4 so they vote at a venue on Mile Cross Road.

Residents in MX1A and MX1B will vote at Catton Grove Community Centre at a Catton Grove division county (by) election.

### ARO final proposal

A temporary polling station in MX3 is being sought at the car park at Sloughbottom Park. This will allow the voters around Drayton Road and west of Mile Cross Road, a venue closer than the Norman Centre. This will also allow residents at the Showmans Guild access to the venue, so it is now proposed that those residents remain in MX3 rather than being moved to MX4.

### Public Consultation

A resident commented that MX4 St Catherines Church Hall was always warm and had good access and facilities for disabled voters. Two residents in MX2 commented that the Norman Centre should be continued to be used as polling station.

The Norwich City Council Labour Group, Norwich Labour Party and Clive Lewis MP commented that they would like if possible a polling station located within the MX3 Polling District. They also proposed that the area south of the Drayton Road and east of Mile Cross Road should be included within the MX1 polling district.

## Nelson (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
NE1/NE1A	Belvedere Centre, Belvoir Road	1833/324
NE2	Recreation Sports Centre, Recreation Road	1966
NE3	Trinity United Reformed Church, 1 Unthank Road	1806
NE4	St Peters Jessopp Road Church, Jessopp Road	1339
NE5	Community Lounge, Douro Place	774

### ARO Initial proposal

There are no boundary changes proposed to the NE1/NE1A. The polling station is well known in the area with good access arrangements.

It is proposed that the whole of Recreation Road and the area south of the Avenues from Recreation Road to Mill Hill Road is moved to into NE2. This allows residents to vote in their nearest polling station.

It is suggested that NE3 is expanded due to its low electorate. It is proposed that it will include Lincoln, Portland, Dover Street and the whole of Warwick Street. It is also suggested moving the whole of Mill Hill Road, West Parade and the south eastern part of Park Lane to NE3. There is good access to the polling station on Unthank Road from these properties either via Park Lane or Earlham Road.

Currently NE4 has a large electorate and usually has a very high turnout at an election. This in the past has caused pressure on the St Peters Church Jessopp Road polling station which is shared with UN5/UN5A in University Ward. The NE4 polling district register is currently split at the polling station allowing two teams of staff. Reducing the size of NE4 will mean only requiring one team to work in the St Peters Church Jessop Road polling station alongside the team from UN5/UN5A. There is no change to NE5 polling district

Residents in NE1A will vote at the Wensum Community Centre at a Wensum division county (by) election.

Residents in NE5 are in the Mancroft county division but the location would remain the same for all elections.

### ARO final proposal

No change to initial proposal.

### Public Consultation

There were two residents who commented that they agreed with the use of St Peters Church, Jessopp Road in NE4. The Norwich City Council Labour Group, Norwich Labour Party and Clive Lewis MP suggested a polling station located within the NE4 Polling District possibly at the Heigham Park pavilion.

*There was comment from the Norwich Green Party. The Green Party supports the new boundaries between NE2, NE3 and NE4. The proposals are a good rationalisation and serve to make the three districts more equal in size. In addition we would suggest that the stretch of houses on the North side of Earlham Road between Edinburgh Road and up to the boundary with UN5A be moved from NE1 to NE2. This is because the NE2 polling station in Recreation Road is much nearer them than the Belvedere Centre. There is also one house, newly converted for residential use, The South Lodge, which has an Earlham Road address, up the Cemetery driveway which might also appropriately be included.*



## Sewell (Norwich North constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
SE1	Rosebery Road Methodist Church, Rosebery Road	1567
SE2	Christchurch Centre, Magdalen Road	1909
SE3	Silver Road Community Centre, Silver Road	1873
SE4	<b>St Mary Magdalene Church, Silver Road</b>	2371

### ARO Initial proposal

There are proposed changes to all the polling districts in Sewell. It is suggested that SE1 is reduced in size due to the geographical situation of the polling district and electorate size.

It is proposed SE2 includes the area of the existing SE1 polling district around Waterloo, Temple and Albany Road. It is suggested that Magdalen Road north of Shipstone Road is included in SE2. It also proposed that Bell Road, the northern side Branford Road and the western side of Silver Road north of Branford Road is also included in SE2 rather than SE4. A minor amendment is to move the SE2 boundary westward around Sewell Park Academy to the middle of St Clements Hill.

It is proposed that SE3 includes the area from Shipstone Road southwards to Magpie Road. This creates a polling district in the south of the ward which looks south and east to the Silver Road Community Centre and the city beyond.

The proposal for SE4 is to move residents between in the southern part of Branford Road to the northern part of Beaconsfield Road to this polling district. This will allow these residents to be able to use potential venues on the eastern side of Silver Road.

A new venue is sought for residents in SE4. The (Acting) Returning Officer welcomes any suggestions and will continue to seek alternative arrangements.

### ARO final proposal

It is suggested that the St Mary Magdalene Church on Silver Road is used for the polling station for SE4. This is preferable to the Mousehold Hub due to disabled access and the availability of off-street parking.

### Public Consultation

A resident in SE4 commented that they would like to use a polling station in the polling district and not the Silver Road Community Centre. The ARO confirmed that this change was being proposed.

## Town Close (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
TC1	Community Lounge Melbourne Cottages, Union Street	2477
TC2	Cambridge Street Hall, Cambridge Street	1703
TC3	St Albans Church Hall, Grove Walk	1989
TC4	East Anglian Squash Club., Lime Tree Road	489
TC5	St Albans Church Hall, Grove Walk	1221

### ARO Initial proposal

It is proposed that a minor change is made between the boundary of TC1 and TC2. This is to include the whole of Beaumont Place with the rest of TC2.

No changes are proposed to TC4.

The current TC3 often has a larger electorate than recommended by the Electoral Commission (no more than 2500 electors voting at a polling station). The current arrangement is to split the register alphabetically and have 2 teams at the polling station. Following the Electoral Commission guidance, it is proposed that a TC5 polling district is created east of the middle of the Lakenham Way footpath and then including the whole of Brazen Gate. The boundary will then continue to include the whole of Southwell Road north of Rowington Road and include Langham Place and the eastern side Grove Road north of Southwell Road.

It is proposed that St Albans Church Hall is continued to be used for both the TC3 and TC5 polling districts for the time being but this will allow the Acting returning Officer to seek an alternative venue in the future.

### ARO final proposal

No changes to initial proposal.

### Public Consultation

A resident in TC3 agreed with the use of St Albans Church Hall. The Norwich City Council Labour Group, Norwich Labour Party and Clive Lewis MP responded requesting a polling station in the proposed TC5 polling district.

## Thorpe Hamlet (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
TH1	Wensum Lodge, King Street	1366
TH2	Maids Head Hotel, Tombland	1440
TH3	The Norwich Hotel, Thorpe Road	1872
TH4	St Matthews Church, Telegraph Lane West	2441

### ARO Initial proposal

It is proposed that there are no changes to polling districts and stations in Thorpe Hamlet Ward.

### ARO final proposal

No changes to initial proposal.

### Public Consultation

One resident responded praising the use of the Maids Head Hotel in regards to its location and accessibility.

## University (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
UN1/UN1A/UN1B	St Marys Church Hall, Hutchinson Road	789/554/264
UN2	The Green Room, UEA	913
UN3	George Carver Court, Northfields	1569
UN4/UN4A	St Annes Church Hall, Colman Road	952/336
UN5/UN5A	St Peters Jessopp Road	1280/114
UN6/UN6A	West Earlham Community Centre	188/980

### ARO Initial proposal

It is proposed to change UN1 to UN1A, UN1A to UN1, also to change UN6 to UN6A and UN6A to UN6. This is a technical change which allows a consistent approach across Norwich where those polling districts coded with an A or B are those areas in a different county division to the rest of the ward.

It is proposed that there is a minor change between the proposed UN2 and UN6 polling districts ensuring that all the UEA residences on Wilberforce Road vote at the Green Room, UEA in UN2.

It is also suggested that the boundary between UN2 and the proposed UN1 changes so that the residents at The Gardens, 530-532 Earlham Road, Earlham School House and St Annes Vicarage vote at St Marys Church Hall rather than at the UEA.

Please note that residents in UN1A will vote at the West Earlham Community Centre at a Bowthorpe division county (by) election.

It is proposed that there are no changes to polling districts UN3, UN4/UN4A and UN5/UN5A

Residents in UN1B and UN4A will vote at the Cadge Road Community Centre at a Wensum division county (by) election.

Residents in UN5A will vote at Wensum Community Centre at a Wensum division county (by) election.

Voters in UN6A are in the Bowthorpe county division but the location would remain the same for all elections.

### ARO final proposal

No changes to initial proposal.

## Public consultation

There was one comment from a University Ward councillor stating a preference for St Mary's Church Hall over West Earlham Community Centre and the former should be used for all elections.

There were four public responses, two comments praised the use of St Peters Church, Jessopp Road and St Annes Church Hall respectively. There were two comments regarding George Carver Court. One comment suggested that *Public Transport means travelling from Five Ways Roundabout into the City and then back out again and then a walk. Bus services are limited .There is no street parking now that parking permits are required within the area and there is residents parking only - limited - at George Carver Court.* The second comment stated *Can never find it - badly located inside a sheltered housing community*

The ARO responded stating that George Carver Court is in the middle of the polling district but would ensure extra signage would be available on polling day.

## Wensum (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
WE1	Marlpit Community Centre, Hellesdon Road	2406
WE2/WE2A	Waddington Court Sheltered Housing Scheme, Waddington Court	302/1297
WE3	Wensum Community Centre, Hotblack Road	1485
WE4	Cadge Road Community Centre, Cadge Road	2872

### ARO Initial proposal

It is proposed that there are no changes to polling districts and stations in Wensum Ward.

### ARO final proposal

No changes to initial proposal.

### Public consultation

There was one comment from a resident regarding the location of the polling station on Cadge Road and suggested that a new venue was found. The ARO responded stating that the Cadge Road Community Centre was located at the heart of the community and excellent access and parking facilities.