



NORWICH City Council

Committee name: Council

Committee date: 30/01/2024

Report title: Review of Polling Places and Districts

Portfolio: Councillor Kendrick, Cabinet member for resources

Report from: Elections Team Leader

Wards: All wards

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

Purpose

To approve proposals for the polling places and polling district review 2023-24

Recommendation:

To approve the amended polling scheme as recommended by the polling district and places working at appendix A.

Policy framework

The council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

This report meets the Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city corporate priority.

Report details

1. In accordance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, Norwich City Council is required to complete a full review of all polling districts and polling places every five years.
2. A polling district review working group made up of elected members met at the end of the consultation period to help formulate a polling district and polling places scheme. The working party was politically balanced and consists of four Labour councillors, two Green Party councillors and one Liberal Democrat councillor.
3. The Acting Returning Officer (ARO) set out her proposals at appendix A to this report.
4. The timetable was published as follows:-
 - a. Notice of review published 2 October 2023
 - b. Publication of Acting Returning Officer's (ARO's) proposals and public consultation – 17 October 2023 – 16 November 2023
 - c. A meeting of a members polling district review group to view suggested ARO changes/consultation responses – 5 December 2023
 - d. Consultation on (revised) ARO's proposals as agreed by the Polling District Review Working Group – 6 December 2023 – 4 January 2024
 - e. Polling District Review Working Group to agree polling district review to recommend changes to council – 8 January 2024
 - f. Report for approval by full council on 30 January 2024
5. The members polling district and polling place working party met on 8 January 2023 to agree recommendations for council.
6. Members were asked to agree the proposed polling scheme, and those recommendations are listed in appendix A.
7. The working group were also tasked with considering any other proposals or consultation responses. This could include responses from residents, organisations, political parties, elected representatives and other key stakeholders. There were responses from the Norwich labour party, Norwich City Council Labour group, and from the MP for Norwich South, which was considered by the working group.
8. The Acting Returning Officer for Norwich North was invited to respond to the consultation as the review includes polling districts and places in that constituency.
9. As Acting Returning Officer, the Chief Executive has a statutory duty to ensure free and fair elections. In discharging these duties, the Acting Returning Officer will take account of the recommendations made by the polling district review working party as set out in a report to council but will retain the right to make changes if deemed appropriate for reasons of practicality and/or other

circumstances which may influence the location and use of polling stations within Norwich. As far as possible, the Acting Returning Officer will seek to consult with the working party on any such changes.

10. The recommendations are to be considered at a meeting of council on 30 January 2024
11. This will allow and polling station changes to be in place in time for the election on 2 May 2024.
12. Once approved, the electoral register will be republished on 1 February 2024 to reflect the new boundaries

Consultation

13. A public consultation has taken place and the responses to that consultation were submitted to the members working group and are available on the council's website.
14. Responses were received from the Norwich City Council Labour group, the Norwich Labour group and the MP for Norwich South.

Implications

Financial and resources

15. Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2022-26 and budget.
16. There are no proposals in this report that would reduce or increase resources

Legal

17. The review is in accordance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, Norwich City Council is required to complete a full review of all polling districts and polling places every five years.

Statutory considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and diversity	All polling stations which will be secured will be fully accessible.
Health, social and economic impact	No direct implications.
Crime and disorder	No direct implications.
Children and adults safeguarding	No direct implications.
Environmental impact	No direct implications.

Risk management

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Not securing suitable venues	Voter turnout could be affected.	Suitable venues will be sought.

Other options considered

18. All options considered are outlined within this report. Members of the working group are invited to comment and make recommendations to council.

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

19. Norwich City Council is required to complete a full review of all polling districts and polling places every five years.

Background papers: None

Appendices:

ARO proposals and working group recommendations – Appendix A

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NORWICH
City Council

**(Acting) Returning Officer (A)RO for
Norwich South Proposals – 2023-24
Polling Districts, Places and
Stations Review**

Bowthorpe Ward (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate at Polling Station
BO1	Chapelbreak Village Hall, Harpsfield	1120
BO2	Clover Hill Village Hall, Humbleyard	1724
BO3	Compkey Healthcare Centre, Stevenson Road	760
BO4	Bowthorpe Church Centre, Bowthorpe Hall Road	1530

(A)RO proposal

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

We are not recommending any changes to polling district boundaries.

Public Consultation

No responses were received for Bowthorpe Ward in the first or second consultation.

Catton Grove (Norwich North constituency)

Proposal

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate at Polling Station
CG1	Greenfields Community Centre, Ives Road	1530
CG2	Catton Grove Community Centre, Jewson Road	1478
CG3	Oak Grove Chapel, 70 Catton Grove Road	1637
CG4	Shipfield Community Room, Shipfield	1972

(A)RO proposal

It is proposed that the existing CG2 is removed. The areas west of Weston Road to be added to CG3, the area east of Weston Road to be added to CG4.

The existing CG3 to be renamed CG2, existing CG4 to be renamed CG3 and the existing CG5 to be renamed CG4

No other changes to polling stations in the ward.

Public Consultation

Responses were received to the first public consultation from Norwich Labour Party and Norwich City Council Labour Group:-

We support the proposal to abolish the CG2 polling district, and as such re-naming the current CG3, CG4 and CG5 the new CG2, CG3 and CG4. We agree with moving the area to the east of Weston Road in the current CG2 to the new CG3 (current CG4). We agree with moving the rest of the current CG2 to the new CG2 (current CG3).

No additional responses were received to the second consultation.

Crome (Norwich North Constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
CR1	Pilling Park Community Centre, 23 Pilling Park Road	1290
CR2	Frere Road Community Centre, Frere Road	1701
CR3/CR3A	Plumstead Road Library, Plumstead Road	1086/1
CR4	St Francis Church, 100 Rider Haggard Road	1165
CR5	Norwich Judo Club, Heathgate	841

(A)RO proposal

It is proposed that no boundary changes are made to Crome Ward.

Due to UK Parliamentary Boundary Review moving the existing CR3(S) and CR5(S) to the Norwich North Constituency, it is suggested that these polling districts are renamed CR3A and CR5.

It is proposed that the polling stations in Crome remain the same. All five venues are established in the local community.

Public Consultation

Responses were received to the first public consultation from Norwich Labour Party and Norwich City Council Labour Group:-

We support moving the electors at the current CR3(S) (new CR3A to align with new parliamentary constituency boundaries) to the Heathgate Judo Club polling station. We support the re-naming of the current CR5(S) CR5 to align with the new parliamentary constituency boundaries.

Response from Clive Lewis, MP for Norwich South:-

I support moving the electors at the current CR3(S) (new CR3A to align with new parliamentary constituency boundaries) to the Heathgate Judo Club polling station. I support the re-naming of the current CR5(S) CR5 to align with the new parliamentary constituency boundaries.

No additional responses were received to the second consultation.

Eaton (Norwich South constituency)

Proposed

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
EA1	Eaton Park Community Centre, South Park Avenue	1452
EA2	United Reformed Church, Ipswich Road	698
EA3/EA3A	Eaton Parish Hall, Colman Road	779/383
EA4	Eaton St Andrews Church Hall	1589

(A)RO proposal

It was proposed that the polling stations in Eaton remain the same. All four venues are established in the local community.

However, since the initial report, the elections office was informed that The Church of the Latter Day Saints, Greenways, is no longer available to Norwich City Council to be used as a polling station. The (A)RO is recommending that we use Eaton St Andrews Church Hall as the replacement. Eaton St Andrews Church Hall had been used as a polling station until 2019 and was only not used due to its proximity to The Church of the Latter Day Saints.

We are not recommending any changes to polling district boundaries.

Please note that residents in EA3A will vote at a venue in the Town Close division at a standalone county (by) election.

Public Consultation

No responses were received for Eaton Ward in the first or second consultation.

Lakenham (Norwich South constituency)

Proposed

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
LA1	Tuckswood Library, Robin Hood Road	1460
LA2/LA2A	Old Lakenham Community Centre, 71-75 Harwood Road	975/39
LA3/LA3A/LA3B	Carrow House	1008/210/160
LA4	Jubilee Centre, Long John Hill	1662

(A)RO 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 Carrow House, King Street is used as the polling station for LA3/LA3A/LA3B. The Flint Rooms, the venue used in 2022 and 2023, had a number of issues reported with accessibility and therefore the decision had been made not to use again.

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

Residents in LA2A and LA3B will vote at a venue in the Thorpe Hamlet division at a standalone county (by) election

Public Consultation

Responses were received to the first public consultation from Norwich Labour Party and Norwich City Council Labour Group:-

We would like to find a polling station within LA3 if at all possible or on the opposite side of Hall Road to the polling district. Jubilee Community Centre is a long walk for some parts of the ward following the City Council boundary changes in 2019. No proposed polling station for LA3B in the event of a Thorpe Hamlet County Council by-election before May 2025.

Response from Clive Lewis, MP for Norwich South:-

I would like to find a polling station within LA3 if at all possible or on the opposite side of Hall Road to the polling district. Jubilee Community Centre is a long walk for some parts of the ward following the City Council boundary changes in 2019.

No additional responses were received to the second consultation.

Mancroft (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
MA1	Russell Street Community Centre, Russell Street	1115
MA2	Norwich Central Baptist Church, Duke Street	933
MA3	Chantry Hall, Chantry Road	1272
MA4/MA4A	The Julian Centre, Rouen Road	732/603
MA5	St Augustines Church Hall	1052

(A)RO proposal

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

We are not recommending any changes to polling district boundaries.

Please note residents in MA4A will vote at a venue in the Thorpe Hamlet division at a standalone county (by) election.

Public Consultation

No responses were received for Mancroft Ward in the first or second consultation.

Mile Cross (Norwich North constituency)

Proposed

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
MX1/MX1A/MX1B	St Lukes Church Centre, Aylsham Road	1844/9/5
MX2	Norman Centre, Bignold Road	1780
MX3	Community Room, Larners Way	1081
MX4	St Catherines Church Hall, Mile Cross Road	1117

(A)RO proposal

It is proposed that the polling stations in Mile Cross remain the same. Larners Way Community Centre was a new venue in 2023. The other polling stations are established in the local community.

It is proposed that the area west of the pathway next to Belmont Roofing to be removed from MX1 and placed in MX3. This would add Havers Road, Hemming Way, Old Farm Lane, Bobbin Road and the eastern part of Mile Cross Lane to MX3. This would allow electors in this area to vote in their nearest venue.

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

Public Consultation

Responses were received to the first public consultation from Norwich Labour Party and Norwich City Council Labour Group:-

We support the proposal to remove the following from MX1 and move into MX3: Havers Road; Hemming Way; Old Farm Lane; Bobbin Road; and the southern side of Mile Cross Road.

No additional responses were received to the second consultation.

Nelson (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
NE1/NE1A	Belvedere Centre, Belvoir Road	1341/271
NE2	St Thomas Parish Hall	1560
NE3	Trinity United Reformed Church, 1 Unthank Road	1380
NE4	St Peters Jessopp Road Church	959
NE5	Douro Place Chapel, Douro Place	612

(A)RO proposal

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

We are not recommending any changes to polling district boundaries.

Please note residents in NE1A will vote at a venue in a Wensum division at a standalone county (by) election.

Public Consultation

No responses were received for Nelson Ward in the first or second consultation

Sewell (Norwich North constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
SE1	Rosebery Road Methodist Church, Rosebery Road	1107
SE2	Christchurch Centre, Magdalen Road	1457
SE3	Silver Road Community Centre, Silver Road	1465
SE4	St Mary Magdalene Church, Sliver Road	1827

(A)RO proposal

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

We are not recommending any changes to polling district boundaries.

Public Consultation

No responses were received for Sewell Ward in the first or second consultation

Thorpe Hamlet (Norwich South constituency)

Proposed

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
TH1	Dragon Hall, King Street	1542
TH2	St Martin At Palace Church	1103
TH3	Canary Social Cub	1454
TH4	St Matthews Church	1770

(A)RO proposal

It is proposed that Dragon Hall, King Street is used for TH1 Polling District. The elections office had approached The Kings Centre and Carrow Road to enquire about availability for next year. The Kings Centre was unavailable, and a response was not received from Carrow Road.

It is proposed that the polling stations for TH2, TH3 and TH4 in Thorpe Hamlet remain the same. All four venues are established in the local community.

We are not recommending any changes to polling district boundaries.

Public Consultation

Responses were received to the first public consultation from Norwich Labour Party and Norwich City Council Labour Group:-

Possible new polling stations for TH1 are the Kings Centre or a room at Norwich City Football Club.

Response from Clive Lewis, MP for Norwich South:-

Possible new polling stations for TH1 are the Kings Centre or a room at Norwich City Football Club.

No additional responses were received to the second consultation.

Town Close (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
TO1	Jenny Lind Community Room, Suffolk Square	1836
TO2	Holy Trinity Church Hall (formerly Cambridge Street Hall)	1362
TO3	St Albans Church Hall	1399
TO4	East Anglian Tennis & Squash Club	275
TO5	St Albans Church Hall	934

(A)RO proposal

It is proposed that the polling stations in Town Close remain the same.

No suitable alternative to using St Albans Church Hall has been identified. Will continue to use St Albans Church Hall until further notice. The (A)RO will continue to welcome suggestions for a new permanent venue

We are not recommending any changes to polling district boundaries.

Public Consultation

No responses were received for Town Close Ward in the first or second consultation

University (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
UN1/UN1A/UN1B	St Marys Church Hall	576/454/200
UN2	The Hive, UEA	684
UN3/UN3A	St Annes Church Hall	1811/215
UN4/UN4A	St Peters Jessopp Road Church	978/259
UN5/UN5A	West Earham Community Centre	139/838

(A)RO proposal

It is proposed that the polling stations in University remain the same. All five venues are established in the local community.

We are not recommending any changes to polling district boundaries.

Please note residents in UN1A and UN5A will vote at a venue in a Bowthorpe division at a standalone county (by) election.

Please note residents in UN1B, UN3A and UN4A will vote at a venue in a Wensum division at a standalone county (by) election.

Public Consultation

No responses were received for University Ward in the first or second consultation

Wensum (Norwich South constituency)

Polling District	Polling Station	Electorate
WE1	Marlpit Community Centre, Hellesdon Road	1576
WE2/WE2A	Alive House, Nelson Street	202/1039
WE3	Wensum Community Centre, Hotblack Road	1034
WE4	Cadge Road Community Centre, Cadge Road	2023

(A)RO proposal

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

We are not recommending any changes to polling district boundaries.

Please note residents in WE2A will vote at a venue in a Mancroft division at a standalone county (by) election.

Public Consultation

No responses were received for Wensum Ward in the first or second consultation

