Report to Council Item

29 January 2019

Report of Polling District Review Working Group

Subject Interim Polling District and Places Review 2018

Purpose

To consider the recommendations proposed by the Polling District Working Group on new ward boundaries.

Recommendations

To approve the proposed changes to polling districts as set out the report.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority a fair city

Financial implications

No additional budget impact

Ward/s: All Wards

Chair of Polling District Review Group: Councillor Fullman

Cabinet member: Councillor Kendrick - Resources

Contact officers

Stuart Guthrie Democratic and elections manager 01603 212055

Background documents

None

Report

Background

- 1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published its final recommendations on new ward boundaries following its review of the electoral arrangements for the city council on 6 November 2018. Subsequently a statutory order to implement the ward boundary changes was laid before Parliament in December 2018. The existing ward arrangements remain in place until the local elections on 2 May 2019. Local elections will then be held on new ward boundaries.
- 2. An interim polling districts and polling places review was required to be carried out to ensure the new electoral arrangements are in place for the local elections on 2 May 2019. As this was an interim review, there will be still be a requirement for a full parliamentary polling district and places review to be completed no later than 31 January 2020.
- 3. Once the new ward boundaries were known, new polling districts were needed to be created within certain wards. The council needed to conduct an interim polling district and polling places review to determine these new arrangements. Maps detailing existing boundaries can be found at appendix 1 to this report and maps showing new boundaries can be found at appendix 2.
- 4. There is also a requirement to publicise the review and actively seek input from key stakeholders, on the proposed polling districts and polling stations to be used for any elections in the city council area. The key stakeholders were:
 - a) the public
 - b) disability groups
 - c) community groups
 - d) political parties
 - e) councillors (city/county)
 - f) Returning Officers from South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils
- 5. A cross party polling district and polling places working group met during the consultation period to help formulate a polling district and polling places scheme for wards affected by the changes. The working group was politically balanced. Minutes of the meetings of the group can be found at Appendix 3.
- 6. A proposed polling scheme developed by the democratic and elections manager on behalf of the (Acting) Returning Officer ((A)RO) was presented to the working group and the public for comments as part of the consultation stage of the review.
- 7. The council can carry out an interim review and change some of its polling districts and polling places before the end of the five year polling scheme cycle. The (A)RO decided to hold an interim review rather than a full parliamentary polling district and places review due to the tight timetable given between the publication of the new ward boundaries by the LGBCE

on 6 November and the requirement to have new polling districts approved by council in time to republish the electoral register on 1 March 2019.

- 8. The democratic and elections manager supported by the working group and the (A)RO developed the proposed polling district and places scheme for the elections in May 2019. At its final meeting on 13 December 2018 the working group met to approve the recommendations for council to consider The recommendations are detailed at the end of this report.
- 9. Although the working group considered polling station venues as part of the review (particularly in regards to access for disabled voters), it should be noted that most existing polling stations had already been booked for the election in 2019. The (A)RO wanted to limit changes to polling stations where boundary changes have made this absolutely necessary. Again a further review of polling stations will take place during the full review in May 2019 and all venues will be consulted upon during that review. A copy of the proposed scheme for the elections in 2019 can be found at appendix 5.
- 10. Should council decide to adopt the scheme, the electoral register will be republished using the new wards and polling district boundaries on 1 March 2019 and elections on these boundaries will take place on 2 May 2019.
- 11. The timetable for each stage of the review was:

Activity	Date
Boundary review: Draft recommendations published	3 July 2018
Members input on current polling stations	11 October 2018
Site visits of current polling stations/provisional bookings of existing stations for May 2019	October – December 2018
Preliminary meeting of the working group	18 October 2018
Final recommendations from the LGBCE on ward boundaries published	6 November 2018
Public consultation period.	6 November – 5 December 2018
Meeting of the working group.	15 November 2018
(Acting) Returning Officers proposals on polling districts and places published.	15 November 2018

Activity	Date
Meeting of the working group.	29 November 2018
Electoral register published on current boundaries	1 December 2018
The (Norwich) Electoral Changes Order 2019 laid before parliament	12 December 2018
Final meeting of working group to approve recommendations for council.	13 December 2018
Council decision on new polling district and polling places scheme	29 January 2019
Republish the electoral register on new boundaries ward and polling district boundaries	1 March 2019
Notice of election	26 March 2019
Close of nominations for local election	4pm 3 April 2019
Local elections on new ward boundaries	2 May 2019
Full parliamentary polling district and places review	May 2019 - December 2019

Consultation

- 12. The public consultation period started on Tuesday 6 November 2018 for 4 weeks and finished on Wednesday 5 December 2018. The (A)RO published her proposed scheme during the consultation period on 13 November 2018. This was publicised on the council's website, in city hall and on social media.
- 13. The council received 6 responses from political parties and residents. These were sent to the democratic and elections manager who shared these with the working group. A copy of the consultation document can be found at Appendix 4.

Conclusion

- 14. If approved by council on 29 January 2019, the recommended changes will come into effect at the election on 2 May 2019.
- 15. After the election the (A)RO will hold a full parliamentary polling district and places review to be completed no later than 31 January 2020. This will take into account the changes made at the interim review and also any lessons learned at the election on 2 May 2019. The (A)RO will be writing to stakeholders after the election to seek views and comments.
- 16. The cross party working group considered the (A)ROs proposals, representations from the consultation and information from the LGBCE and formulated the recommendations below.

Recommendations to council

- (1) Bowthorpe Ward Due to boundary changes made at the LGBCE ward review, move the area south Earlham Green Lane to the proposed BO3 polling district and to rename the current BO5 polling district BO4.
- (2) Catton Grove Ward Due to boundary changes made at the LGBCE ward review, make a minor amendment to the boundary between CG3 polling district and Mile Cross Ward to include all electors in Eglington Mews and Boston Street in Mile Cross Ward.
- (3) Crome Ward- Remove the current CR5 polling district and split the area between the proposed CR2 and CR4 polling districts along the middle of Frere and Watling Road. Due to changes made at the LGBCE ward review, create CR3(S) and CR5(S) polling districts for the areas of Crome Ward which have moved from the current Thorpe Hamlet Ward.
- (4) Eaton Ward move the parts of Osborne Road and Pettus Road and all of Hurd Road in the current EA3 polling district to the proposed EA1 polling district. Move parts of Sunningdale and Rosslare and all of Fulford Close in the current EA2 polling district to the proposed EA3 polling district. Move the part of Greenways which is currently in EA3 polling district to the proposed EA4 polling district with the rest of Greenways. Due to changes made at the LGBCE ward review, add the area from the current Town Close Ward around Mount Pleasant to the proposed EA5 polling district.
- (5) Lakenham Ward Combine the current LA1 and LA2 polling districts and rename as LA1 polling district and rename the current LA5 polling district as LA2 polling district. Due to changes made at the LGBCE ward review, add the area from the current Thorpe Hamlet Ward around Richmond Hill and north of Bracondale to the proposed LA3 polling district and move the rest of the current part of Thorpe Hamlet Ward around Bracondale Millgate to the proposed LA2 polling district.
- (6) Mancroft Ward Due to changes made at the LGBCE ward review, combine the current MA3 polling district and the remaining parts of the current MA4 polling districts and rename as a new MA1 polling district. Also due to changes made at the LGBCE ward review, create a new MA4 polling district from parts of the current MA5 polling district south of All Saints

- Green, adding the area from the current Thorpe Hamlet ward west of King Street. Create a new MA3 polling district from the remaining part of the current MA5 polling district.
- (7) Mile Cross Ward Due to boundary changes made at the LGBCE ward review, make a minor amendment to the boundary between Catton Grove Ward and MX1 polling district in Mile Cross Ward to include all electors in Eglington Mews and Boston Street in MX1 polling district.
- (8) Nelson Ward Due to boundary changes made at the LGBCE ward review, create a NE5 polling district adding the area of the current Mancroft Ward north of Earlham Road and east of Heigham Road, add the part of the current Wensum Ward around Bond Street and Merton Street to NE1 polling district.
- (9) Sewell Ward A minor amendment to land on the boundary with Crome Ward west of Gurney Road and the proposed SE4 polling district
- (10) Thorpe Hamlet Ward Due to boundary changes made at the LGBCE ward review, create a new TH1 polling district from part of the current TH3 polling district and part of the current TH5 polling district south of Koblenz and Carrow Road. The remaining part of the current TH5 polling district will be renamed TH3 polling district. Also due to boundary changes made at the LGBCE ward review, the small area of the current TH1 polling district which is not moving to Crome ward will move to the proposed TH2 and TH4 polling districts.
- (11) Town Close Ward Move the north side of Town Close Road in the current TC1 polling district and the area east of Ipswich Road, south of Cecil Road in the current TC3 polling district to the proposed TC4 polling district.
- (12) University Ward Due to boundary changes made at LGBCE ward review, create a new UN1 polling district north of Earlham Road, west of Gipsy Lane and east Wilberforce Road and Larkman Lane, taking in parts of the current Bowthorpe and Wensum wards. Move the boundary between UN3 and UN4 taking in all of George Borrow Road and Earlham Road and also adding the area from the current Wensum Ward east and south of the middle of Gipsy Lane. Add to the proposed UN5 polling district, the area on Earlham Road around Hadley Drive and Fairhaven Court from the current Wensum Ward. Also due to boundary changes made at the LGBCE ward review, create a new UN6 polling district taking in part of the current UN1 polling district and an area of the current Bowthorpe Ward around Wilberforce Road and Calthorpe Road.
- (13) Wensum Ward Due to boundary changes made at the LGBCE ward review, create a new WE2 polling district from part of the current WE2 polling district north of Dereham Road, east of the middle of Northumberland Street and the area of the current Mancroft Ward west of Old Palace Road. Also due to boundary changes made at LGBCE ward review, create a new WE3 polling district from parts of the current WE2 and WE3 polling districts east of the middle of Guardian Road and west of the middle of Northumberland Road.

Integrated impact assessment

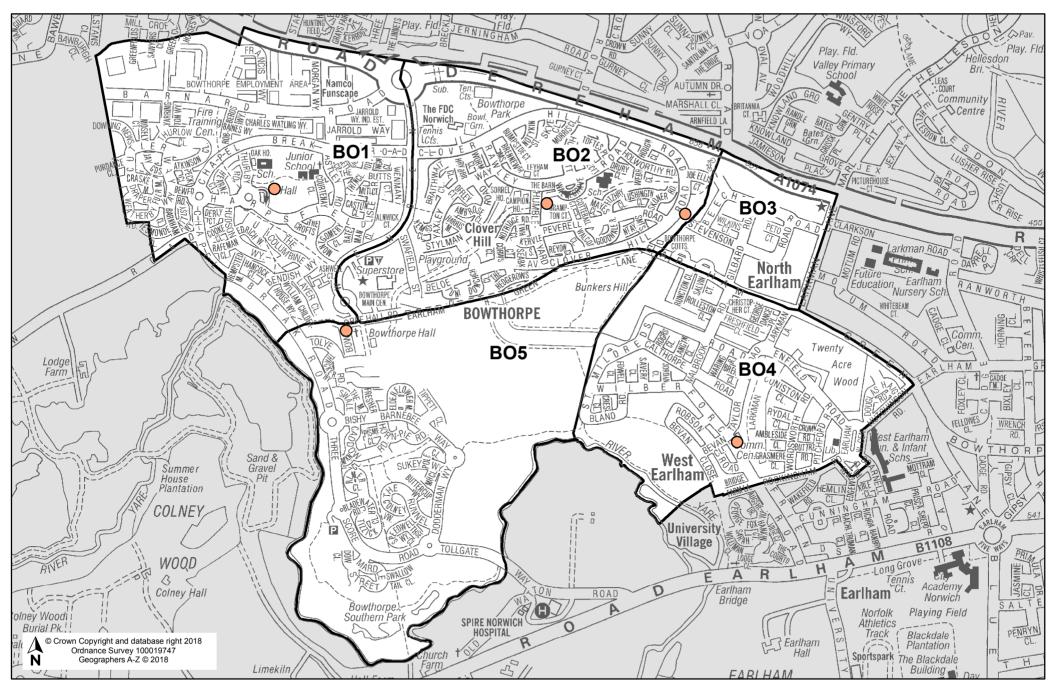


Report author to complete	
Committee:	Council
Committee date:	29 January 2019
Director / Head of service	Anton Bull
Report subject:	Interim polling district and places review 2018
Date assessed:	14 January 2019

	Impact				
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments	
Finance (value for money)					
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact					
ICT services					
Economic development					
Financial inclusion					
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments	
Safeguarding children and adults					
S17 crime and disorder act 1998					
Human Rights Act 1998	\boxtimes				
Health and well being					

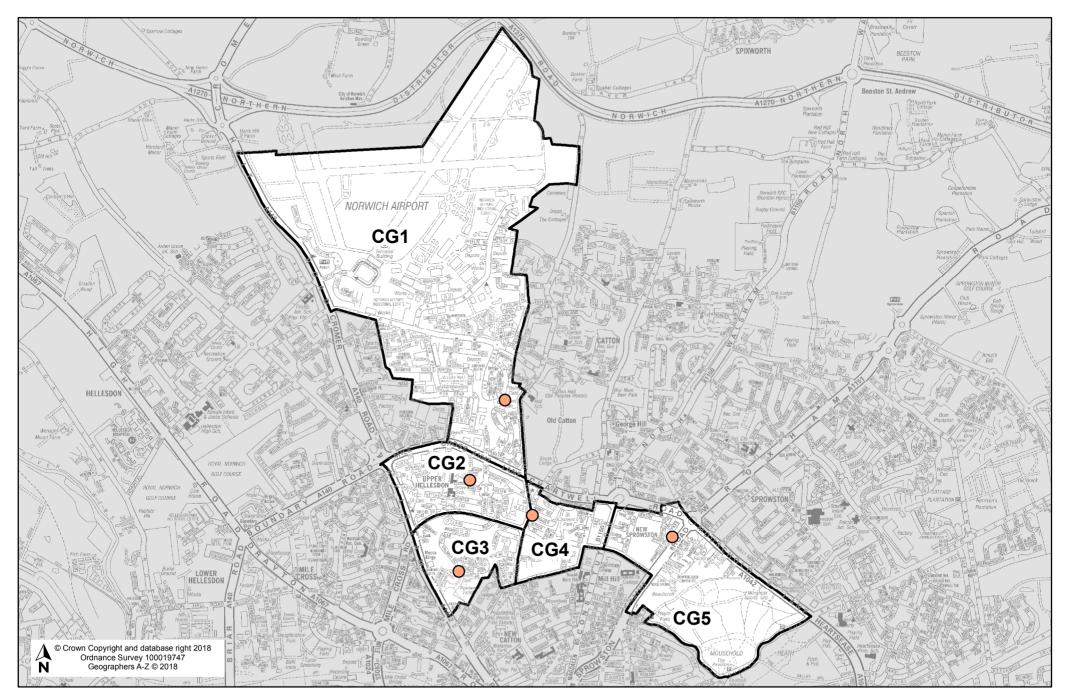
	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)				
Eliminating discrimination & harassment				
Advancing equality of opportunity				
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation				
Natural and built environment				
Waste minimisation & resource use				
Pollution				
Sustainable procurement				
Energy and climate change				
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management				

APPENDIX 1



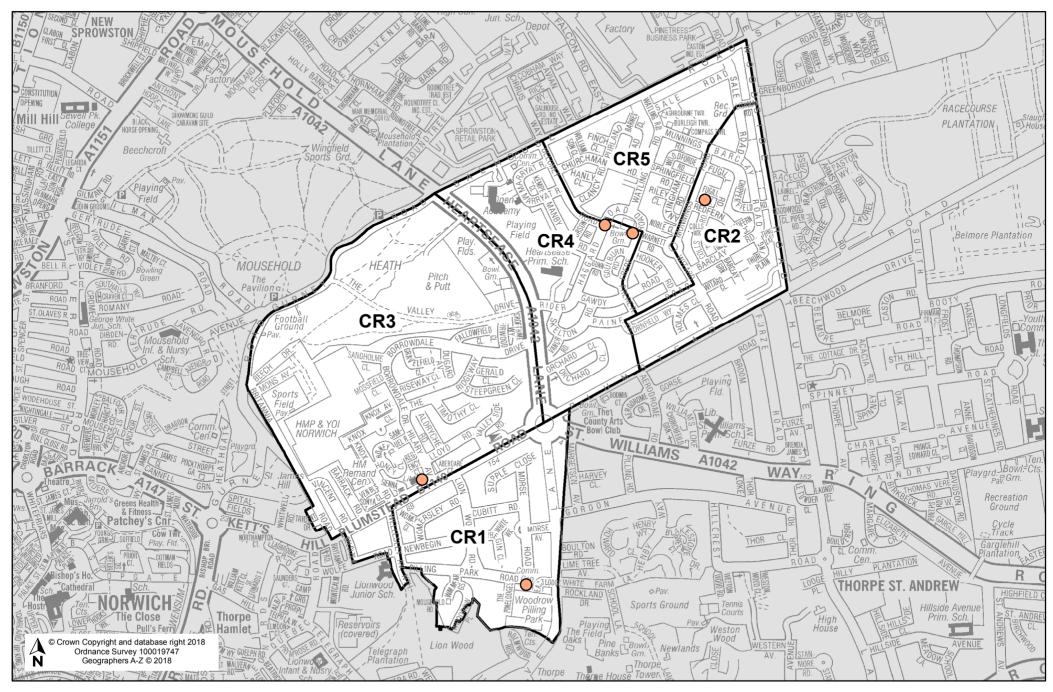
Bowthorpe Ward with Polling Districts and Polling Stations





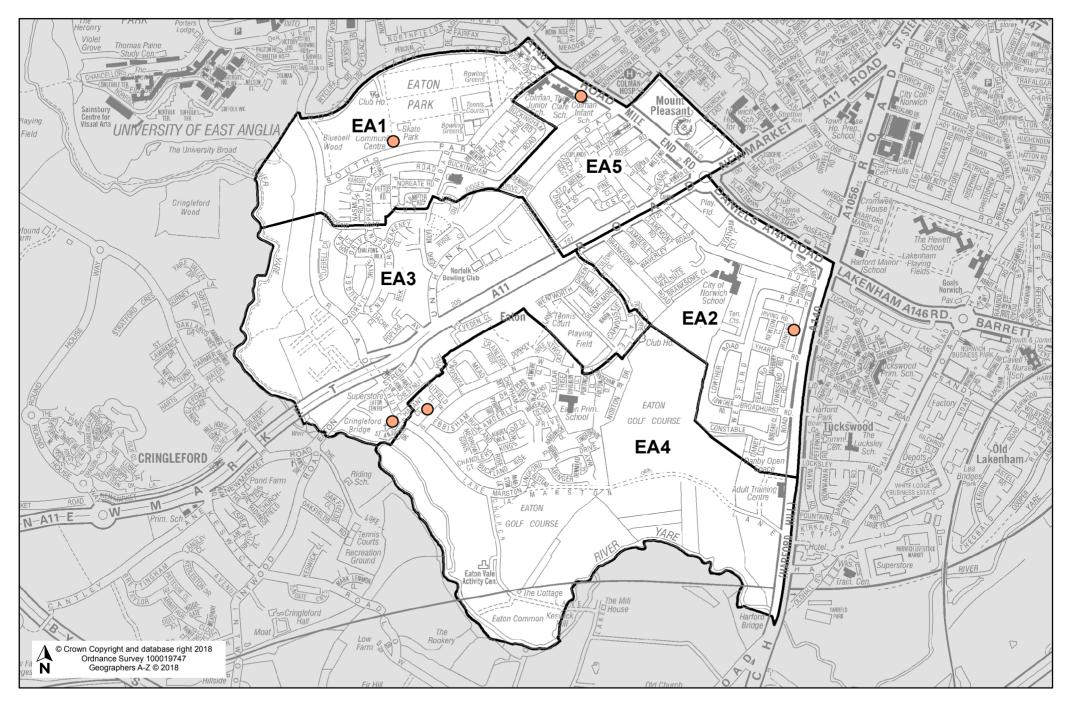






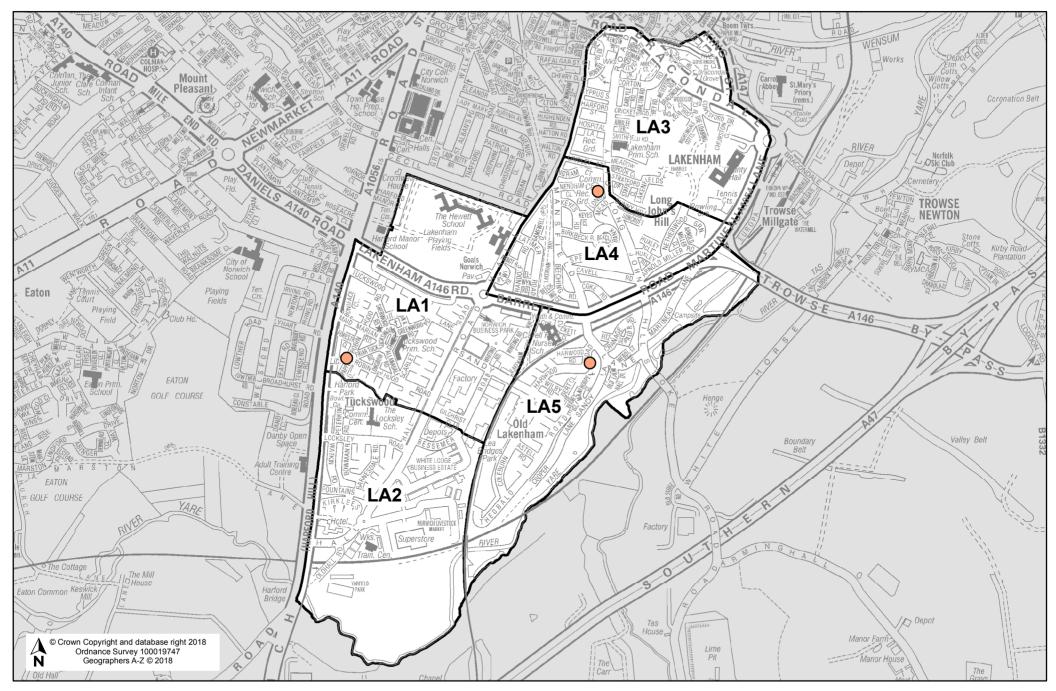






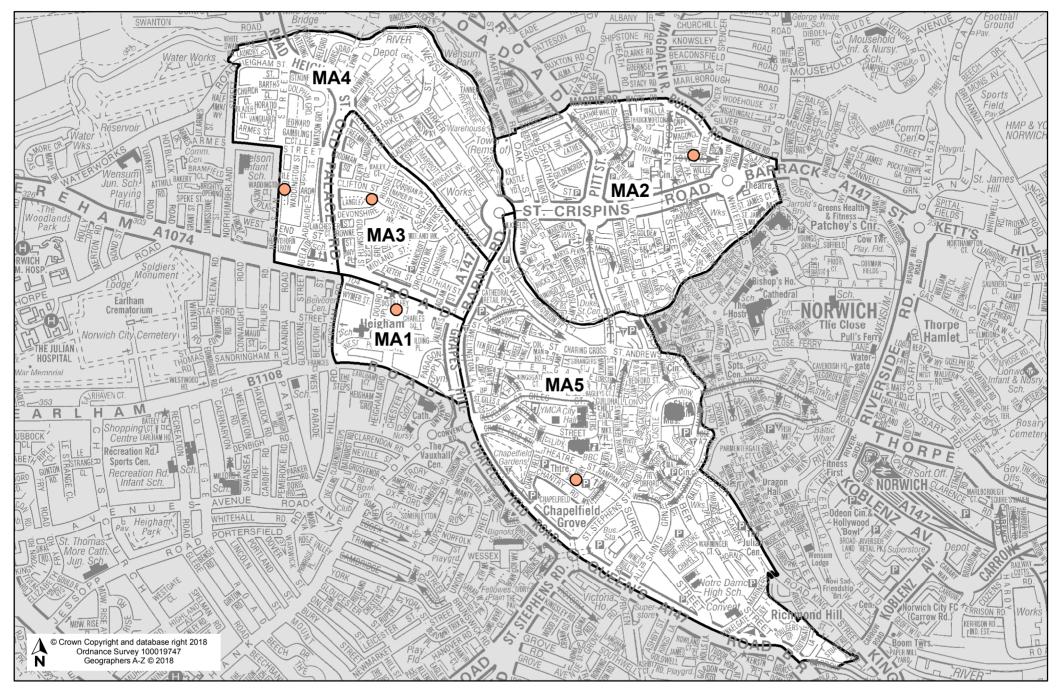






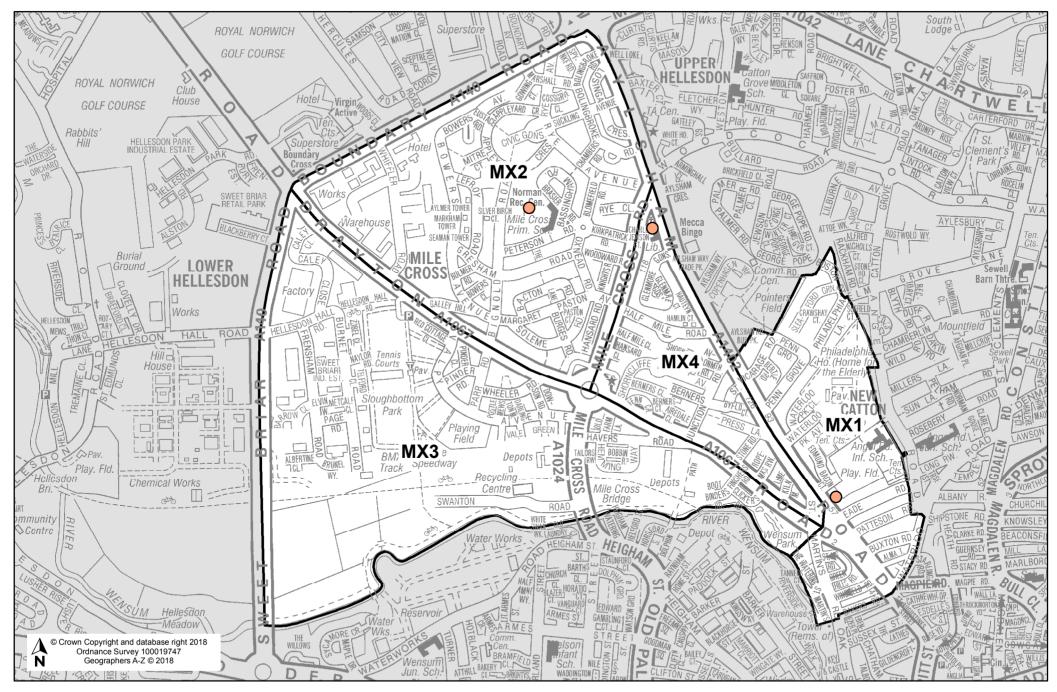






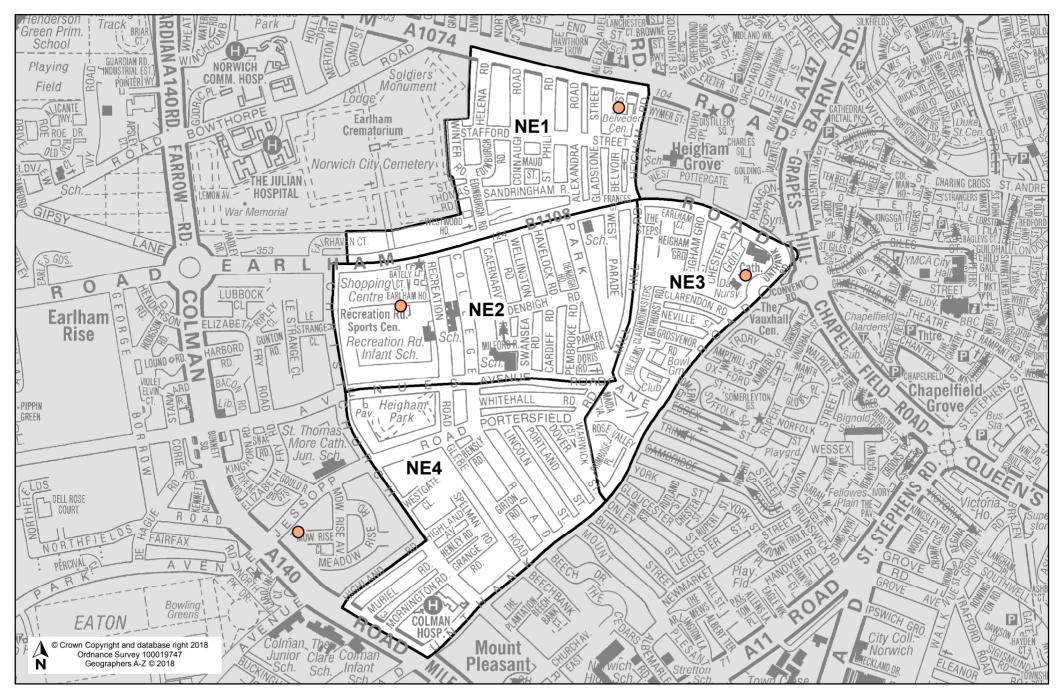






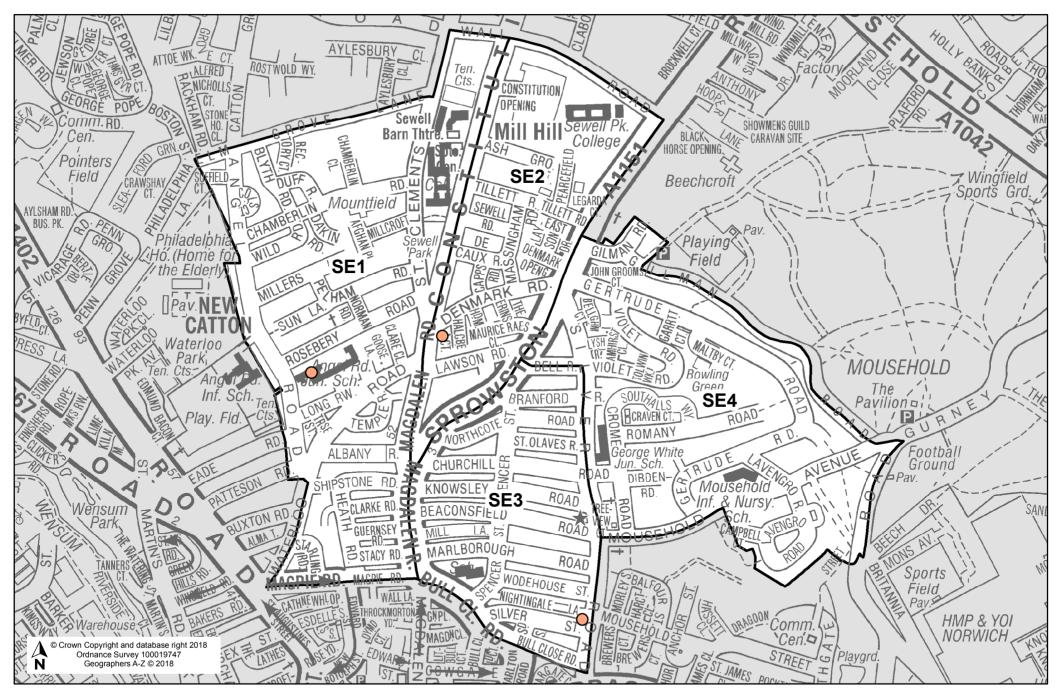






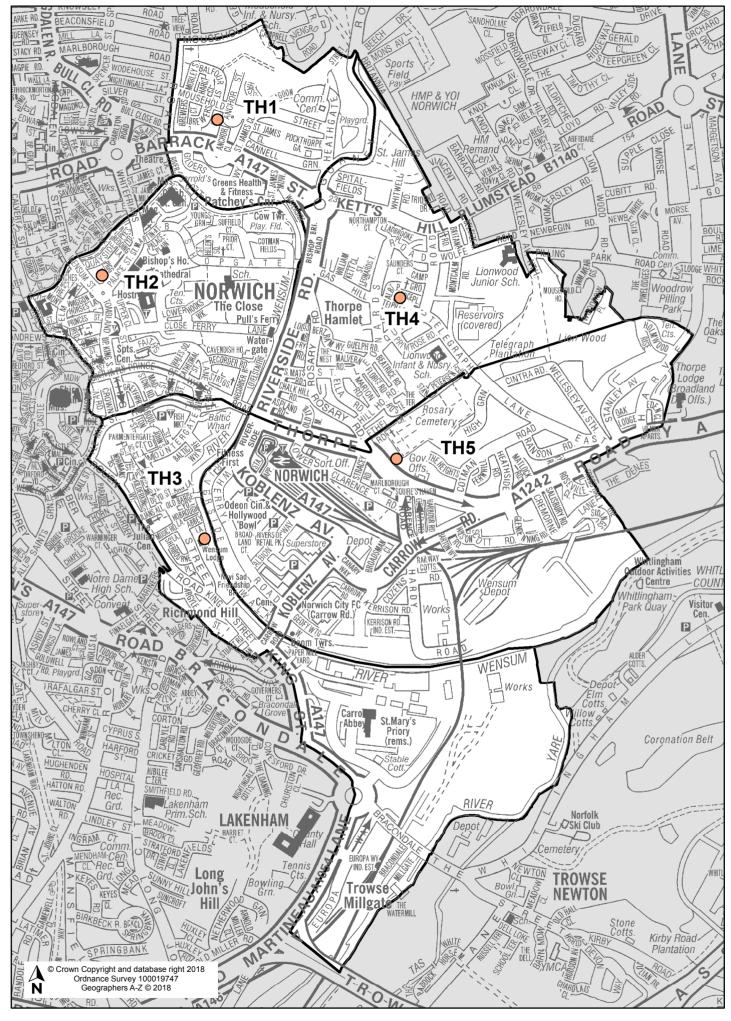




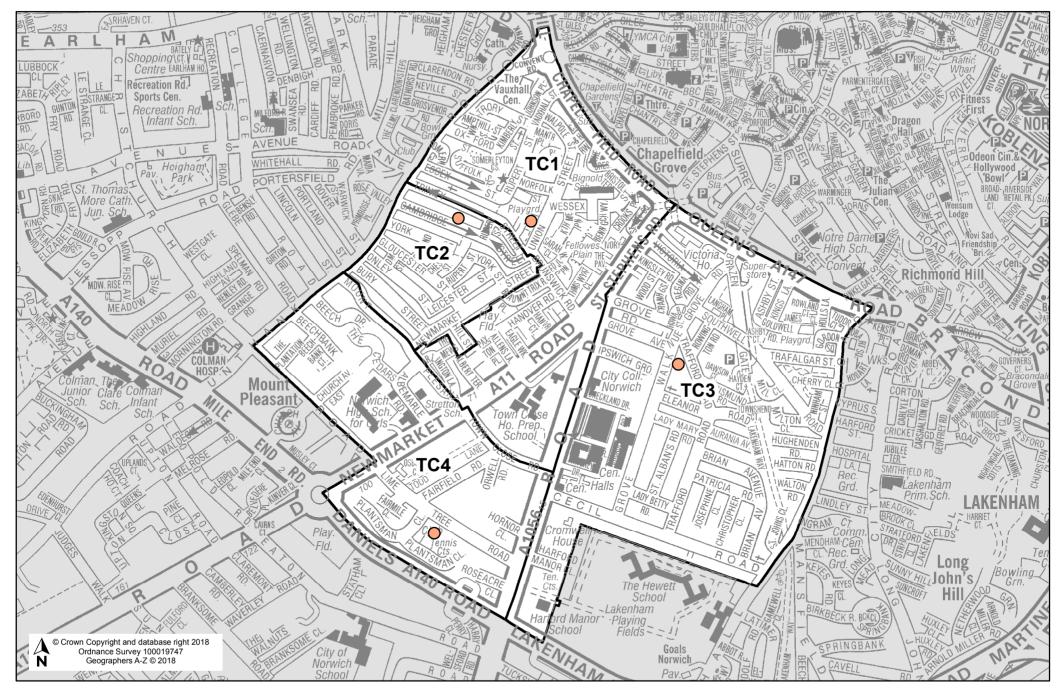






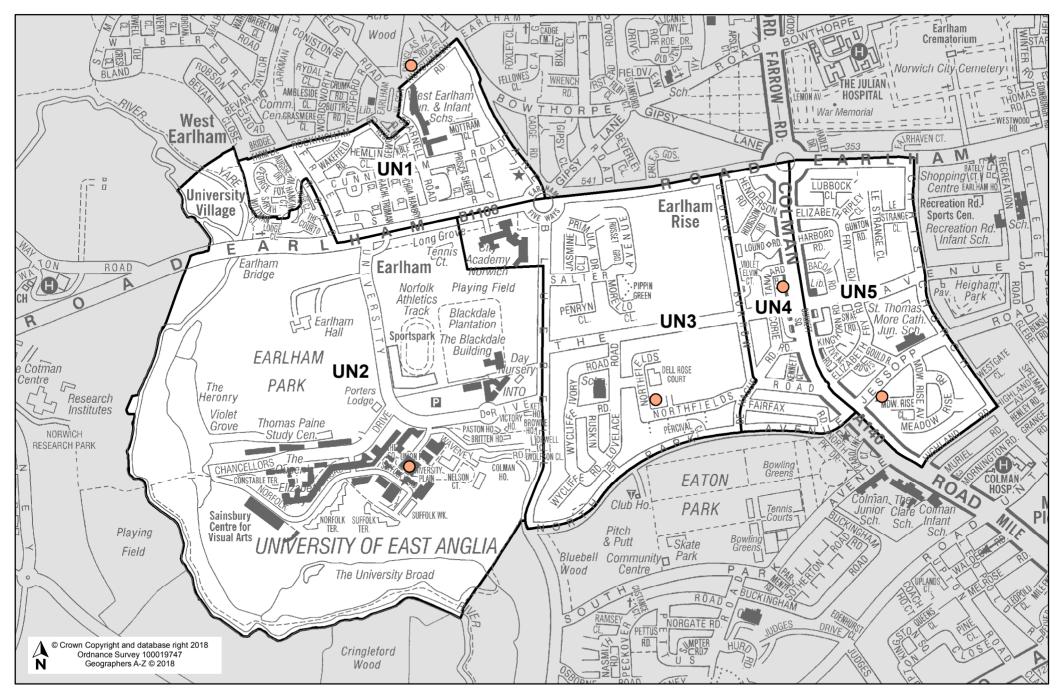






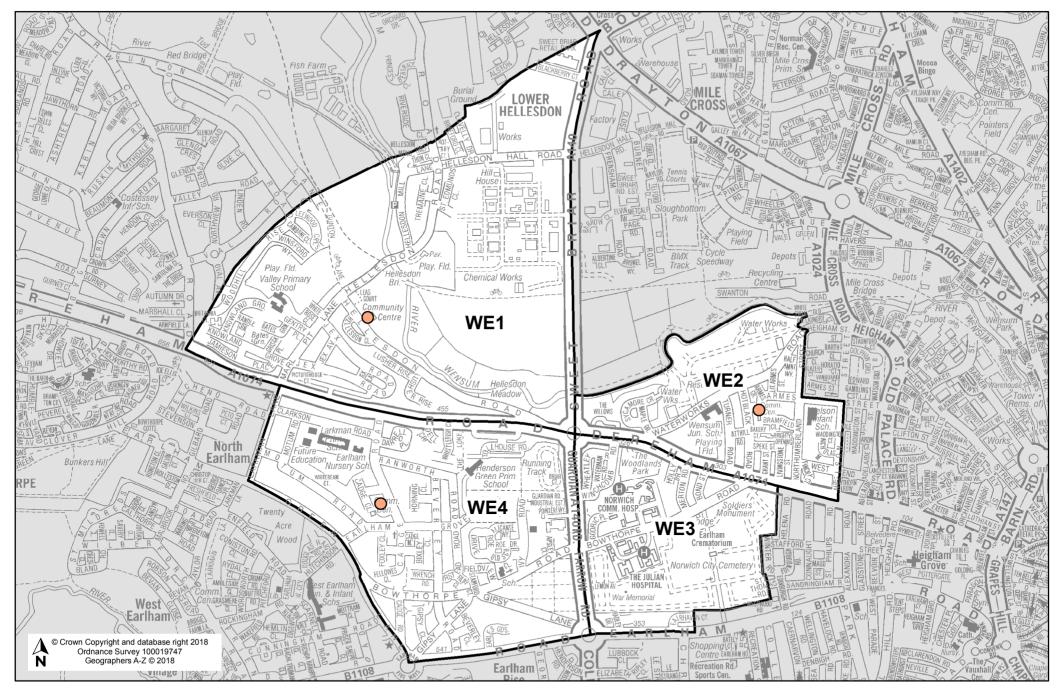








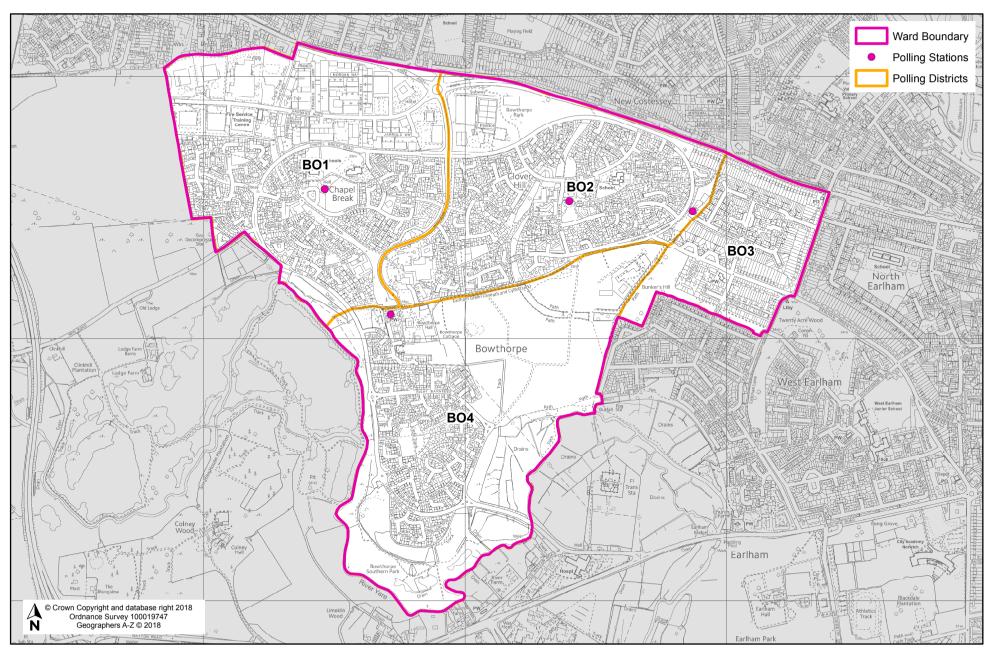






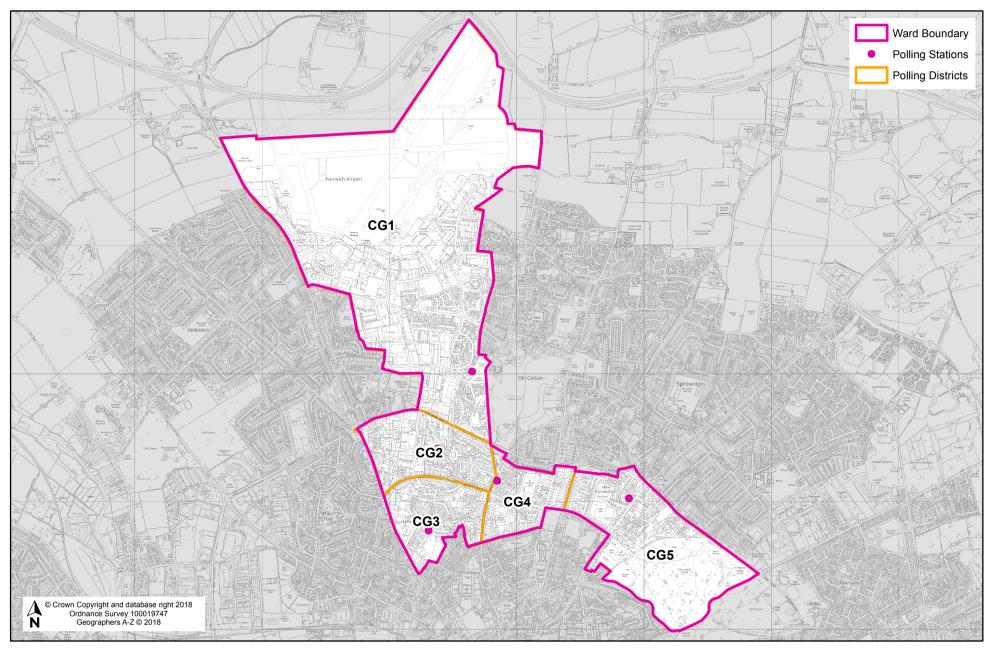


APPENDIX 2



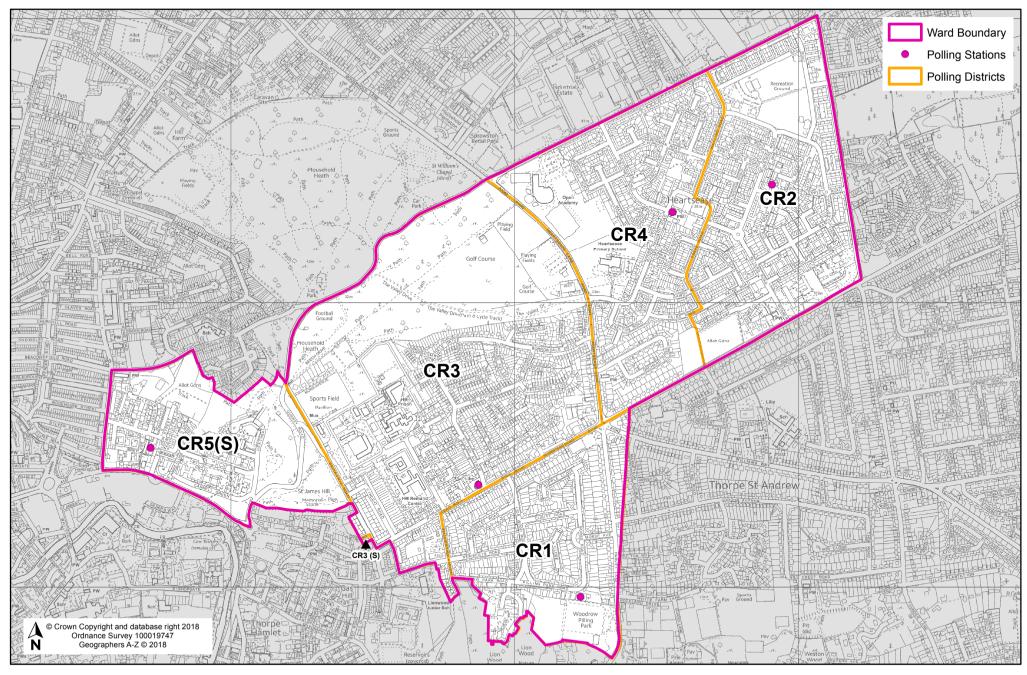
Bowthorpe Ward





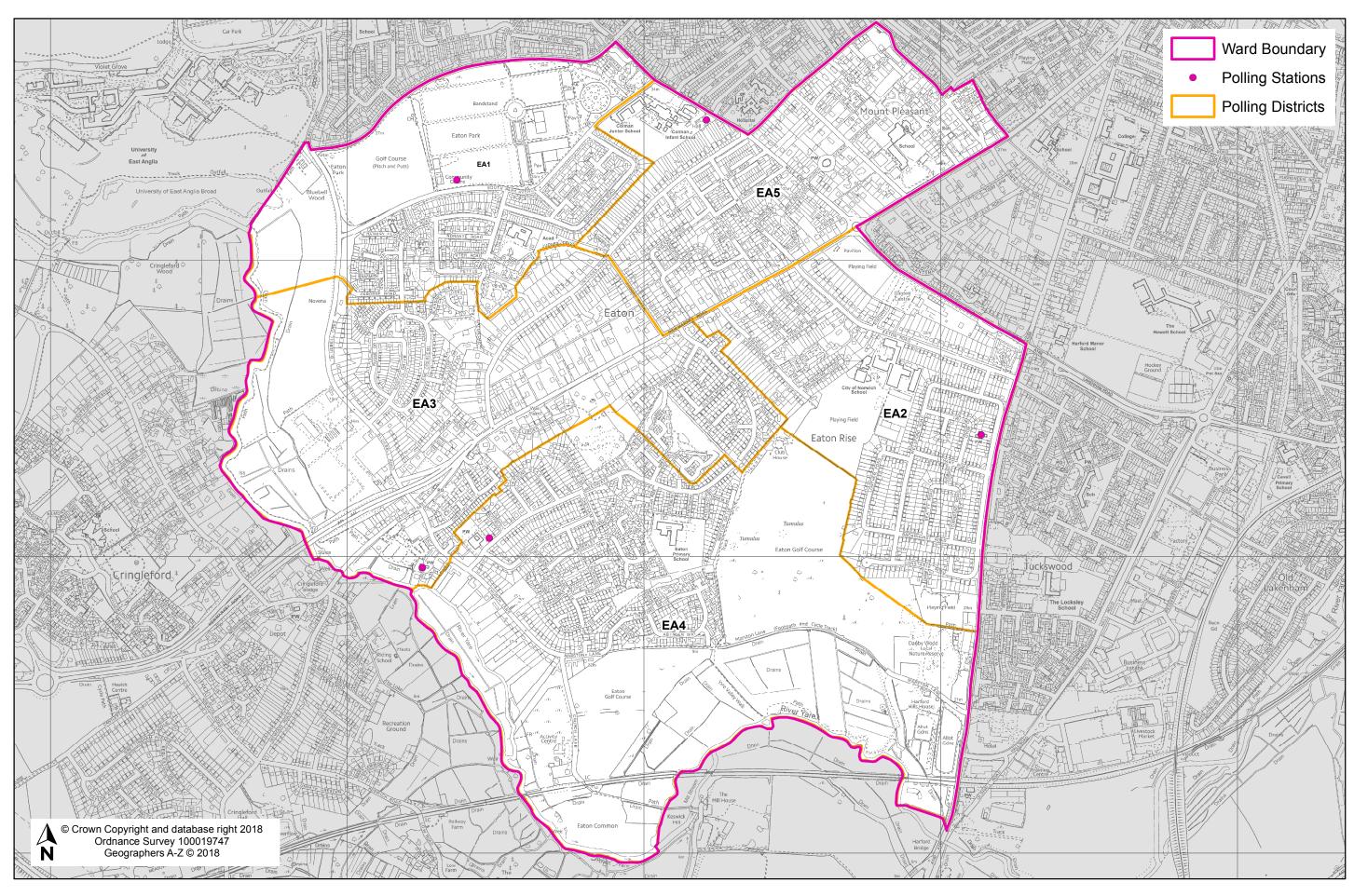






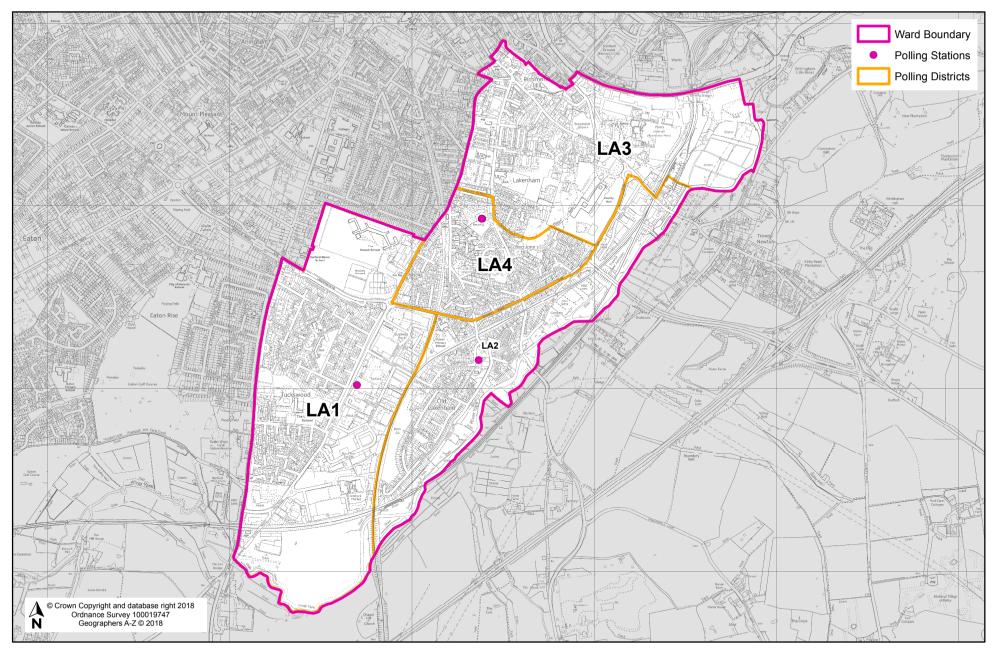






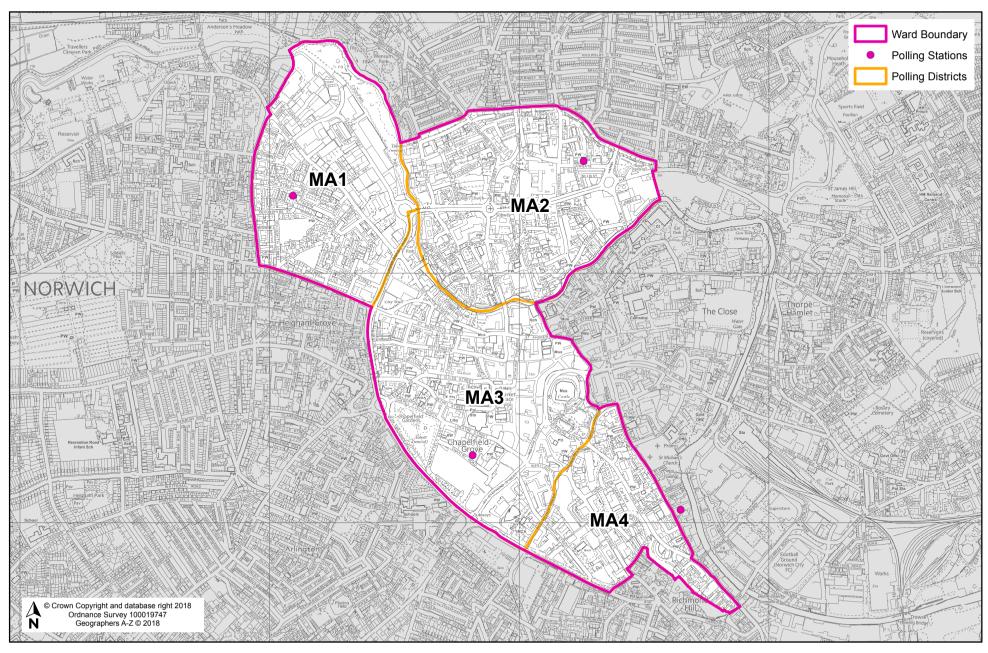
Eaton Ward





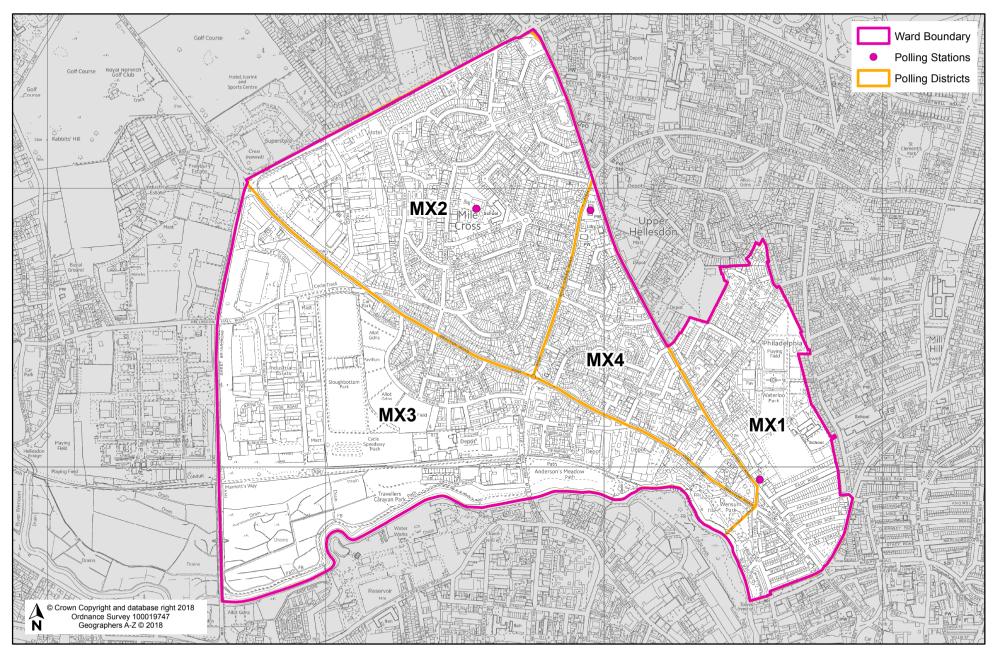






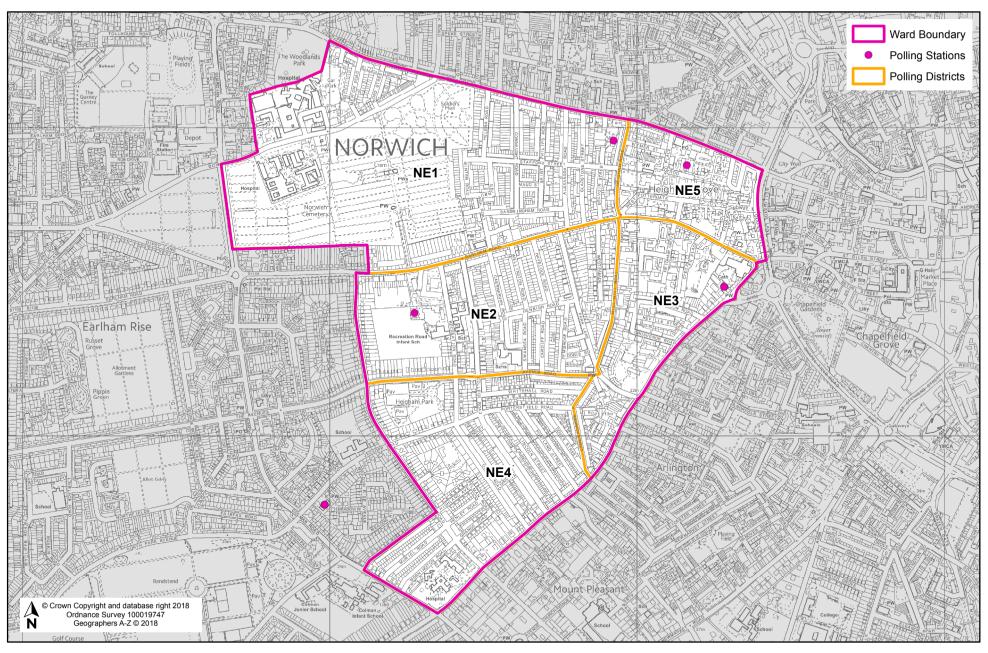






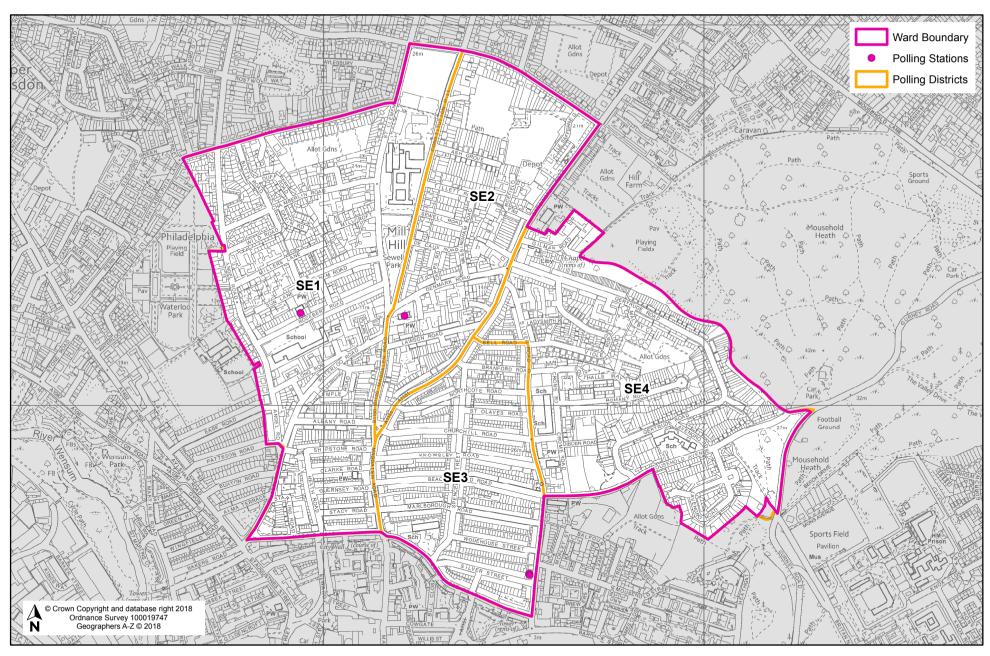






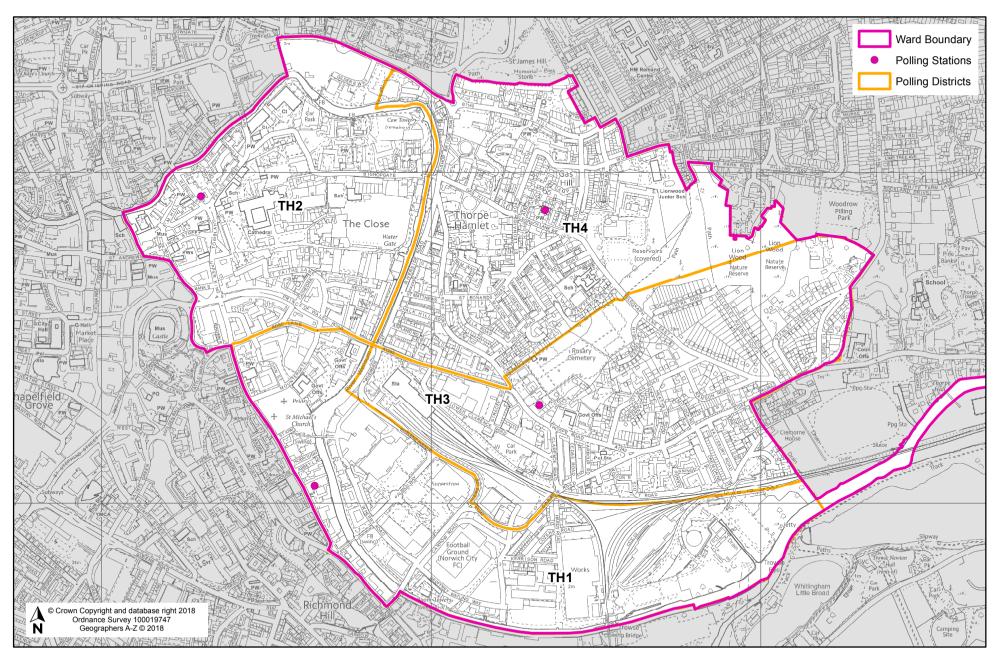
Nelson Ward





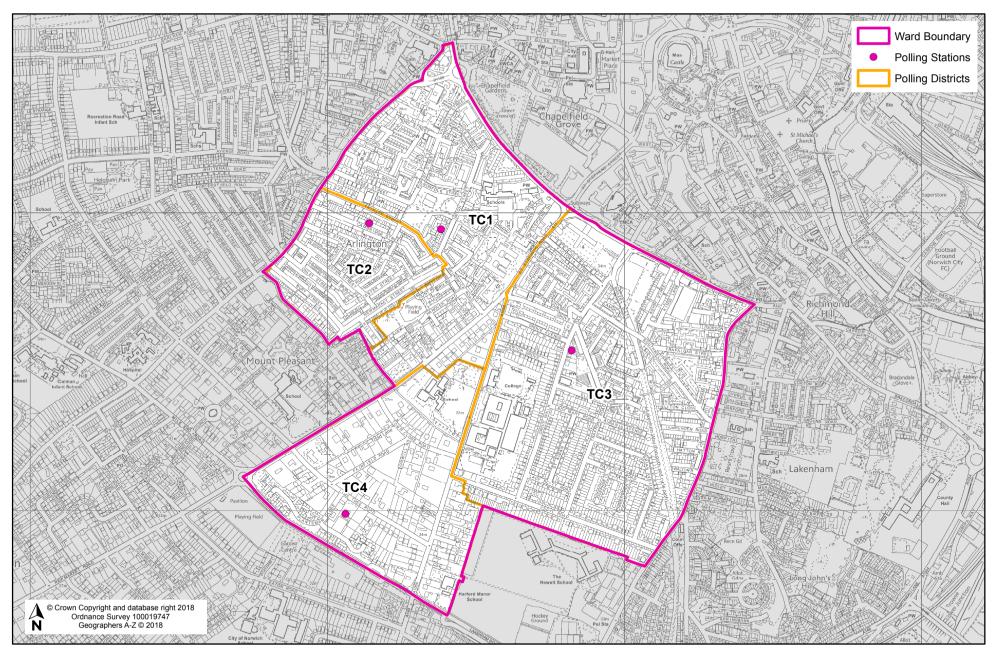
Sewell Ward





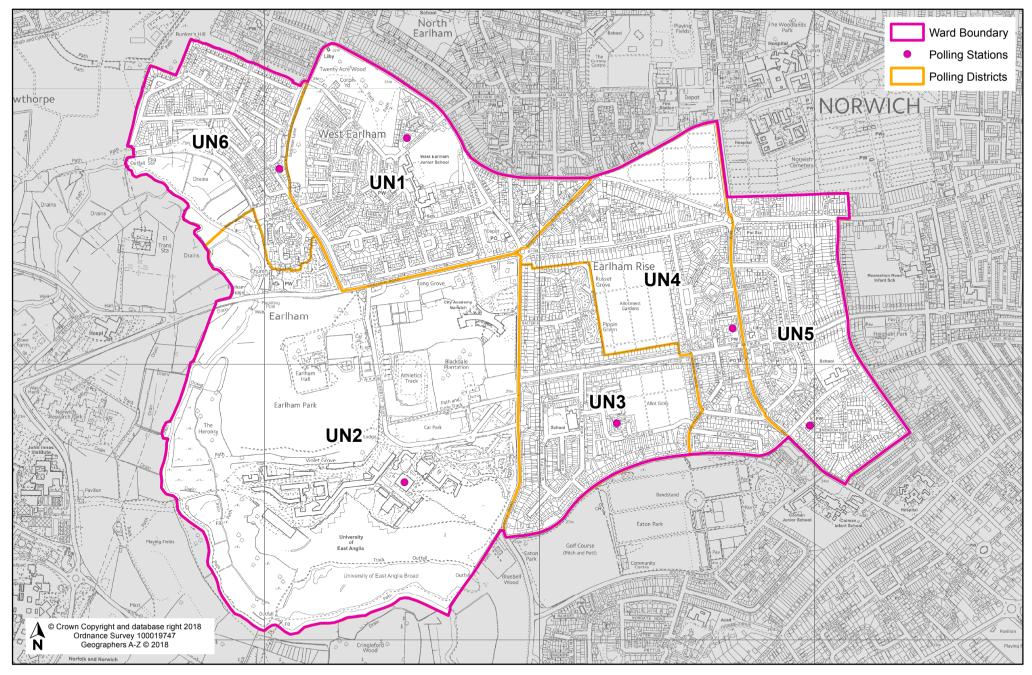






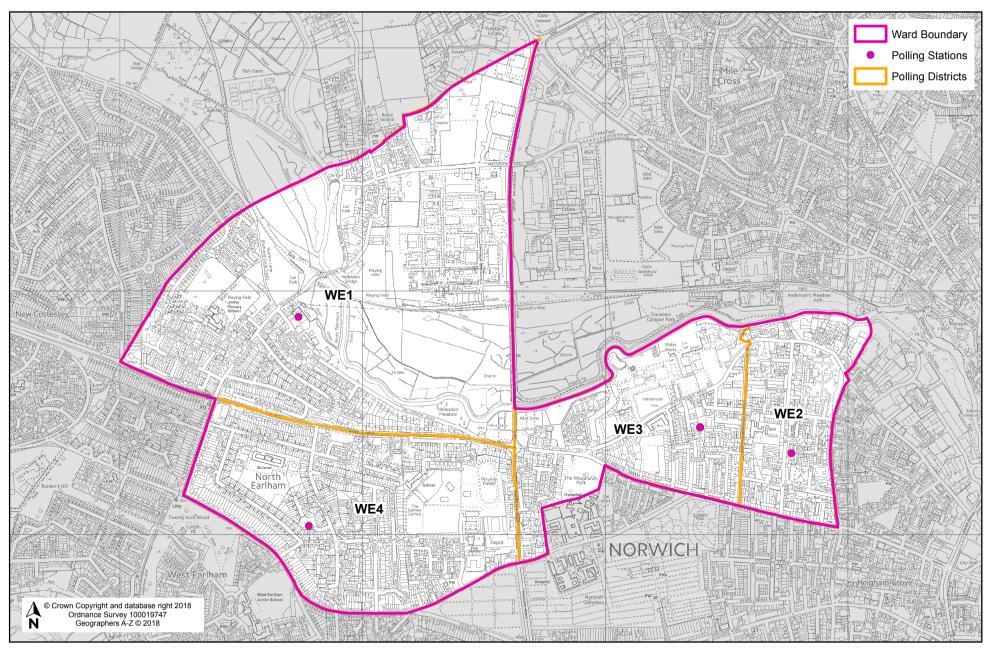












Wensum Ward





Polling District Review Group

14:05 to 15:05 18 October 2018

Present: Councillor Fullman (chair), Stutely (vice chair), Carlo, Kendrick and

Wright

Apologies: Councillor Stewart

1. Appointment of chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Fullman as chair.

2. Appointment of vice-chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Stutely as vice-chair.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Polling Places and District Review 2018

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. He highlighted that this was an interim review. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was due to publish its final recommendations following its review of the electoral ward arrangements for the city council on 6 November 2018. After this the polling districts would be reviewed to ensure they adhered to any changes to the ward boundaries.

There was a short amount of time in which to conduct the review. By the 1 March 2018 the outcome was required to be published. A full review would start after the local elections in May 2019 and be completed by 31 January 2020. The democratic and elections manager said there was a requirement to publicise the interim review and seek input from key stakeholders such as:

- the public
- disability groups
- community groups
- · political parties
- councillors (city/county)
- Returning Officers from South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils

A stakeholder survey was sent out on 11 October.

In response to member questions the democratic and elections manager said that the polling districts could not be split over parliamentary constituency boundaries. He confirmed that the council's electoral management software was able to work with different electoral boundaries.

Once the outcome of the LGBCE review was published, a list of proposals would be drawn together and presented to the working group at its meeting on 15 November 2018. At the meeting on 29 November 2018 a report on the outcome of the consultation with stakeholders would be presented and at the last meeting on 13 December the recommendations of the polling places and district review would be finalised in order to be presented to council in January 2019.

RESOLVED to note the interim polling district and polling places review report.

5. Dates of future meetings

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

Thursday 15 November 2018 at 10:00

Thursday 29 November 2018 at 16:00

Thursday 13 December 2018 at 14:00

CHAIR



Polling District Review Group

10:00 to 11:15 15 November 2018

Present: Councillor Fullman (chair), Stutely (vice chair), Carlo, Kendrick,

Stewart and Wright

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Proposals for new polling districts

The Acting Returning Officer presented the report. She said that after a presentation from the democratic and elections manager, members would be asked to take away the proposals and bring recommendations to the next meeting.

The democratic and elections manager outlined the proposals for each polling district.

Catton Grove ward

No significant changes were proposed to the Catton Grove ward with one street moving into the Mile Cross ward.

Mile Cross ward

There was a minor amendment proposed to the Mile Cross ward with one street moving into Mile Cross from the Catton Grove ward.

Sewell ward

Some small amendments would be made to houses which had historically been allocated to SE4 and should be in SE3. It was noted that the intention of the Acting Returning Officer would be to revert back to using the Silver Road Baptist Church as the polling station for SE4 if available.

Bowthorpe ward

The majority of the BO4 polling district had been moved into the University ward and the BO5 polling district would be renamed as BO4. In response to a question, the democratic and elections manager said that the Threescore development would need to be taken into account when the parliamentary boundary review was undertaken.

Crome ward

The democratic and elections manager explained that polling districts could not be split across parliamentary boundaries. Therefore the proposal was to have a very small polling district named CR3(s) which would be part of the Norwich South constituency for a parliamentary election. Those in this polling district may have to vote at a different polling station for a parliamentary election to a local election. This would only affect around seven people.

The current CR5 polling district would be split down the boundary between Watling Road and Frere Road, distributing it between CR2 and CR4. The proposed CR5(s) polling district would be made up of the majority of the current TH1 polling district in Thorpe Hamlet ward. CR5(s) would fall within the Norwich South constituency.

Eaton ward

A new polling district named EA5 would be made up of the part of the TC4 polling district moving into the Eaton ward. In response to a member's question, the democratic and elections manager said that he proposed that all of the Eaton polling districts would be looked at as part of the full boundary review in due course.

Lakenham ward

Some changes had been proposed at the top of both the LA1 and LA2 polling districts. The LA5 polling district would take in part of the current TH3 polling district in the Thorpe Hamlet ward.

Mancroft ward

There had been significant development within this ward. The proposed new MA1 polling district would replace the current MA3 and parts of the MA4 polling districts. The proposed MA3 would be a new polling district replacing part of the current MA5 polling district. The proposed MA4 polling district would take in parts of the current MA5 polling district and the current TH3 polling district in the Thorpe Hamlet ward. The current MA5 polling district would be removed.

In response to a member's question, the democratic and election manager said that all residents of King Street would attend the same polling station but would be helped by staff to ensure that they voted at the correct ballot box. He also said that he would be happy to consider a polling station further north than Chantry Hall to take account of the changes to the Mancroft ward polling districts.

Nelson ward

The proposed NE5 polling district would be the current MA1 polling district and the NE1 polling district would take in in a portion of the current WE3 polling district. It was proposed to continue using St Peter's Church on Jessop Road as a polling station as it was a well-known building.

Thorpe Hamlet ward

There were significant changes proposed to the Thorpe Hamlet ward. The proposed TH1 polling district took into account the boundary along King Street and included part of the TH3 and TH5 polling districts. The TH3 polling district would take in the

remainder of the current TH5 polling district; therefore there would no longer be a TH5 polling district in the Thorpe Hamlet ward.

Town Close ward

Part of the current TC4 polling district would be moving into the Eaton ward but would take in parts of TC1 and TC3 polling districts to even out the electorate numbers.

University ward

It was proposed that there would be an increase in the University ward to six polling districts. The current BO4 polling district would be split between the UN1 and proposed UN6 polling districts. The proposed UN4 would take in parts of the current UN3 and WE3 polling districts. The proposed UN5 polling district would also take in part of the current WE3 polling district.

The democratic and elections manager highlighted that the electorate figures for the UN2 polling district fluctuated due to the UEA campus admissions.

Members discussed the merits of the boundary between UN4 and UN5 polling districts being along The Avenues rather than Colman Road.

Wensum ward

Wensum wards had lost some boundaries and had taken in some of the current Mancroft ward. The democratic and elections manager said that four polling districts were necessary for the Wensum ward as there was a high concentration of terraced properties.

If a parliamentary boundary review was to be undertaken, all of the polling district boundaries would need to be reviewed in detail to ensure that no polling districts were split across parliamentary constituencies. The democratic and elections manager said that the boundaries around the Wensum ward with the University, Nelson and Mancroft wards would be of most interest.

The Acting Returning Officer's proposals would be put to public consultation. Any consultation responses received would be forwarded to members of the polling district review group to consider at its next meeting.

RESOLVED to note the Acting Returning Officer's proposals for new polling districts.

3. Dates of future meetings

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

Thursday 29 November 2018 at 16:00 Thursday 13 December 2018 at 14:00



Polling District Review Group

16:00 to 16:40 29 November 2018

Present: Councillor Fullman (chair), Stutely (vice chair), Carlo, Kendrick and

Wright

Apologies: Councillor Stewart

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

2. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2018

3. Acting Returning Officer's update to the interim polling district and polling places review consultation

The democratic and elections manager presented the update. He had not received any responses to the consultation so far but would feed any representations received into the polling district review group. He suggested that members should finalise their recommendations to council at the meeting of the polling district review group to be held on 13 December 2018.

Councillor Kendrick said that he, along with Councillors Fullman and Stutely, had received a representation from a member of the public regarding the polling station for the proposed TH1 polling district. The democratic and elections manager asked that Councillor Kendrick forward the representation so that it could be considered as part of the consultation.

Bowthorpe ward

There had been no changes to the Acting Returning Officer's (ARO) proposals for this ward. In response to a member's question, the democratic and elections manager said that in terms of electorate figures for each polling district, the priority was that polling stations are accessible for electors rather than having an equal number of electors in each polling district.

Catton Grove ward

There had been no changes to the Acting Returning Officer's (ARO) proposals for polling district boundaries for this ward.

Crome ward

The democratic and elections manager said that if a parliamentary election was to be held, the polling station for the proposed CR3(s) polling district would be Plumstead Road Library but Don Pratt Court sheltered housing scheme would be used as a reserve. This meant that Don Pratt Court would be used as the polling station for CR3(S) if there was a General Election as this would be in the Norwich South constituency.

There had been no changes to the Acting Returning Officer's (ARO) proposals for polling district boundaries for this ward.

Eaton ward

A member asked if there would be any difficulties in tidying the boundaries around Pettus Road and Osborne Road as the proposed boundary would run down the middle of the road. The democratic and elections manager asked that this be submitted as part of the consultation and would therefore be taken into account when members made their final recommendations.

Lakenham ward

Members discussed the proposal that LA1 and LA2 polling districts should be merged into one polling district. The ARO would bring amended maps showing this to the new meeting of the polling district review group. The democratic and elections manager had visited the Harford Community Centre and said that it would be suitable for a polling station for that polling district.

Mancroft ward

The democratic and elections manger said that he had visited the Norwich Quaker Meeting House to assess if it would be appropriate as a polling station. The room was small and the entrance to room was quite narrow. He thought there could be issues for voters using mobility scooter in gaining access to the room. Chantry Hall was more suitable in terms of access and it was suggested that this remain as the polling station for the MA3 polling station.

There had been no changes to the Acting Returning Officer's (ARO) proposals for polling district boundaries for this ward.

Mile Cross ward

The Larner's Way polling station would need to be visited in the New Year to check that it was suitable to be used as a polling station.

There had been no changes to the Acting Returning Officer's (ARO) proposals for polling district boundaries for this ward.

Nelson ward

A member had received a query from residents and asked that those houses in Merton Road and Bond Street go to the Hotblack Road polling station rather than the Belvedere centre. The democratic and elections manager said that to do this, an additional polling station would need to be created. He suggested that for the elections in May 2019, those residents should attend the polling station at the Belvedere centre.

There had been no changes to the Acting Returning Officer's (ARO) proposals for polling district boundaries for this ward.

Sewell ward

The democratic and elections manager said that the Angel Road Primary School did not want to be used as a polling station in the future. He suggested that an alternative station would need to be looked for. A member suggested that the Rosary Road Methodist Church could be an alternative. The democratic and elections manager said that he would visit the church and report his findings to the next meeting of the polling district review group.

There had been no changes to the Acting Returning Officer's (ARO) proposals for polling district boundaries for this ward.

Thorpe Hamlet ward

Members discussed the use of a room in the Carrow Road football stadium as a polling station for the TH1 polling district. The ARO said that the residents of that polling district seemed to look towards the city centre rather than out towards Thorpe Road. With this in mind, it was suggested that Wensum Lodge be used as a double polling station with the proposed MA1 polling district and Carrow Road football stadium named as the reserve station in the polling scheme.

There had been no changes to the Acting Returning Officer's (ARO) proposals for polling district boundaries for this ward.

Town Close ward

Members discussed the potential of dividing the TC3 polling district. It was agreed that there were no suitable polling stations further into the TC3 polling district and therefore there would be no merit in dividing the district. The democratic and elections manager confirmed that he would continue to use two teams in the TC3 polling station and split the electoral register.

There had been no changes to the Acting Returning Officer's (ARO) proposals for polling district boundaries for this ward.

University ward

There had been no changes to the Acting Returning Officer's (ARO) proposals for polling district boundaries for this ward.

Wensum ward

There had been no changes to the Acting Returning Officer's (ARO) proposals for polling district boundaries for this ward.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) Accept the Acting returning Officer's proposals, subject to the consideration of any comments received during the consultation; and
- (2) Ask the Acting returning officer to bring amended proposals for The LA1 and LA2 polling districts within the Lakenham ward to the next meeting of the polling district review group.

4. Dates of future meetings

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

Thursday 13 December 2018 at 14:00

CHAIR



Polling District Review Group

14:00 to 14:40 13 December 2018

Present: Councillor Fullman (chair), Stutely (vice chair), Carlo, Kendrick and

Wright

Apologies: Councillor Stewart

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

2. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2018

3. Working recommendations to council

The democratic and elections manager presented the report and summarised the changes by ward as set out in the report.

A copy of the consultation document was circulated and members noted the five responses received to the consultation.

RESOLVED to:

(1) Note:

- a) the five responses to the consultation on the review of polling districts and polling places
- b) the proposed changes to the polling district polling stations
- (2) Approve the following amendments to the Norwich City Council polling districts:
 - a) Bowthorpe Ward Due to boundary changes made at the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) ward review, move the area south of Earlham Green Lane not moving to University ward to the proposed BO3 polling district and to rename the current BO5 polling district BO4.
 - b) Catton Grove Ward Due to boundary changes made at LGBCE ward review, make a minor amendment to the boundary between CG3 polling district and Mile Cross Ward around Boston Street

- c) Crome Ward- Remove the current CR5 polling district and split the area between the proposed CR2 and CR4 polling districts along the middle of Frere and Watling Road. Due to changes made at the LGBCE ward review, create CR3(S) and CR5(S) polling districts for the areas of Crome Ward which have moved from the current Thorpe Hamlet Ward.
- d) Eaton Ward Move the part of Osborne Road and Pettus Road and all of Hurd Road in the current EA3 polling district to the proposed EA1 polling district. Move the parts of Sunningdale and Rosslare and all of Fulford Close in the current EA2 polling district to the proposed EA3 polling district. Move the part of Greenways which is currently in EA3 polling district to the proposed EA4 polling district with the rest of Greenways. Due to changes made at the LGBCE ward review, add the area from the current Town Close Ward around Mount Pleasant to the proposed EA5 polling district.
- e) Lakenham Ward Combine the current LA1 and LA2 polling districts and rename as LA1 polling district and rename the current LA5 polling district as LA2 polling district. Due to changes made at the LGBCE ward review, add the area from the current Thorpe Hamlet Ward around Richmond Hill and north of Bracondale to the proposed LA3 polling district and move the rest of the current part of Thorpe Hamlet Ward around Bracondale Millgate to the proposed LA2 polling district.
- f) Mancroft Ward Due to changes made at the LGBCE ward review, combine the current MA3 polling district and the remaining parts of the current MA4 polling districts and rename as a new MA1 polling district. Also due to changes made at the LGBCE ward review, create a new MA4 polling district from parts of the current MA5 polling district south of the middle of All Saints Green and south of the middle of Golden Ball Street, adding the area from the current Thorpe Hamlet ward west of King Street. Create a new MA3 polling district from the remaining part of the current MA5 polling district.
- g) Mile Cross Ward Due to boundary changes made at LGBCE ward review, there is a minor amendment to the boundary between Catton Grove Ward and the proposed MX1 polling district.
- h) Nelson Ward Due to boundary changes made at LGBCE ward review, create a NE5 polling district adding the area of the current Mancroft Ward north of Earlham Road and east of Heigham Road. Also due to boundary changes made at LGBCE ward review add the part of the current Wensum Ward around Bond Street and Merton Street to NE1 polling district.
- i) Sewell Ward No changes to polling district boundaries.
- j) Thorpe Hamlet Ward Due to boundary changes made at LGBCE ward review, create a new TH1 polling district from the remaining part of the current TH3 polling district and part of the current TH5 polling district south of the middle of Koblenz Road and Carrow Road and then using the railway line east. The remaining part of the current TH5 polling district will be renamed TH3 polling district. Also due to boundary changes made at LGBCE ward review, the small area of the current TH1 polling district which is not moving to Crome ward will move to the proposed TH2 and TH4 polling districts with the boundary being the area east of Gilders Way.

- k) Town Close Ward Move the north side of Town Close Road and school in the current TC1 polling district and the area east of Ipswich Road and south of Cecil Road from the current TC3 polling district to the proposed TC4 polling district.
- I) University Ward Due to boundary changes made at LGBCE ward review, create a new UN1 polling district north of Earlham Road, west of the middle of Gipsy Lane and east of the middle Wilberforce Road and the Larkman Lane path, taking in parts of the current Bowthorpe and Wensum wards. Move the boundary between UN3 and UN4 polling districts adding all of George Borrow Road north of The Avenues and part of Earlham Road to UN4 polling district and also adding the area from the current Wensum Ward east and south of the middle of Gipsy Lane to the UN4 polling district. Due to boundary changes made at LGBCE ward review, add to the proposed UN5 polling district, the area on Earlham Road around Hadley Drive and Fairhaven Court from the current Wensum Ward. Also due to boundary changes made at LGBCE ward review, create a new UN6 polling district taking in part of the current UN1 polling district and an area of the current Bowthorpe Ward around Wilberforce Road and Calthorpe Road.
- m)Wensum Ward Due to boundary changes made at LGBCE ward review, create a new WE2 polling district from part of the current WE2 polling district north of Dereham Road, east of the middle of Northumberland Street and the area of the current Mancroft Ward west of Old Palace Road. Also due to boundary changes made at LGBCE ward review, create a new WE3 polling district from parts of the current WE2 and WE3 polling districts east of the middle of Guardian Road and west of the middle of Northumberland Road.

CHAIR

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in Norwich 2018 Responses Received by 5 December 2018

No.	Individual or	Area	Consultation Response	Working Group comment	(A)RO comment
	organisation making response				
1	Acting Returning Officer (A)RO	Bowthorpe	(A)RO proposals published on 13 December to be considered as the new polling district scheme for Norwich. https://www.norwich.gov.uk/info/20239/closed consultations/2215/interim review of polling districts a nd polling places 2018	Bowthorpe – agreed with (A)RO	
		Catton Grove			
		Crome		Catton Grove – agreed with (A)RO	
		Eaton			
		Lakenham			
		Mancroft		Crome – The working group commented that Don Pratt Court should be used at any	The (A)RO agreed that Don Pratt Court should be used at the general election for
		Mile Cross Nelson		UK parliamentary election at CR3(S). The working group also suggested using Fugill	CR3(S) polling district but Plumstead Road Library at the local election in 2019. The
		Sewell		Green Sheltered Housing rather than Frere Road Community Centre due to its location in the centre of the polling district as suggested by the Norwich Labour Party.	(A)RO agreed to use Fugill Green Sheltered Housing rather than Frere Road Community Centre in CR2 polling district as suggested by the Norwich Labour Party.
		Thorpe Hamlet			
		Town Close			
		University		Eaton – agreed with the (A)RO but to tidy boundaries as suggested by Norwich Liberal Democrats	The (A)RO agreed to amend the boundaries as suggested by Norwich Liberal Democrats.
		Wensum			
			Lakenham - The working group asked the (A)RO to consider merging LA1 and LA2 polling district and renaming the current LA5 to a new LA4 polling district.	The (A)RO agreed to amend the boundaries as suggested by the working group.	
				Mancroft - agreed with the (A)RO	
				Mile Cross – agreed with the (A)RO	
				Nelson – agreed with the (A)RO	

				Sewell – agreed with the (A)RO and noted the new venue in SE1 polling district.	During the consultation Angel Road Junior School (SE1) became unavailable. The (A)RO confirmed that an alternative venue at Rosebery Road Methodist Church, Rosebery Road had been found.
				Thorpe Hamlet – agreed with the (A)RO	
				Town Close – agreed with the (A)RO	
				University – agreed with the (A)RO	
				Wensum – agreed with the (A)RO	
2	Individual	Nelson	I live in Nelson ward and have a few comments and suggestions for minor tweaking of the boundaries of the districts.		
			The NE4 polling station at the UR Church on Jessop Road is quite a way outside the ward. It can get very busy, serving the UN5 voters as well and in one of the recent general elections – I can't remember if 2015 or 2017 - there were long queues in the evening and I have heard that some voters even gave up and went home.	Agreed with the (A)RO comments	The NE4 polling district was split (split registers, 2 teams) in 2016 in preparation for the local elections and the EU referendum and has been since then. There have not been any queues at that polling station since 2015.
			Now that the NE2 polling station is at Recreation Road Sports Centre it would make more sense to make the boundary between NE4 and NE2 running along Portersfield and Jessop roads rather than the Avenues and Avenue Road, which it is at present. This would take some pressure off NE4.	Agreed with the (A)RO comments and defer to the review in May.	The proposed boundary change between NE2 and NE4 along the middle of Portersfield and Jessop Road would add around 500 electors to NE2 (2200) and reduce NE4 by around 500 (1900). The question is whether the group consider this as something required now or whether this could be considered at the full review in May.

			It would also make a lot of sense for the houses on the North side of Earlham Road, between Edinburgh Road and just beyond the cemetery entrance, to be included in NE2, since the Recreation Road polling station is just across the road from them and would avoid a trek down to Belvoir Street.	Agreed with the (A)RO comments and defer to the review in May.	This would add around 120 electors to NE2 from NE1. The existing polling station on Belvoir Street is a 5-10 minute walk for those residents on Earlham Road. A similar distance and time would be made if they then crossed the Earlham Road (taking into account crossing the road at the pedestrian crossing). Again, the question is whether the group consider this as something required now or whether this could be considered at the full review in May.
			NE3 is a bit undersized, so you might consider moving the boundary between it and NE2 from along Mill Hill Road to along Park lane.	Agreed with the (A)RO comments and defer to the review in May.	Polling districts are staffed according to electorate so it's not an issue in itself having an electorate difference between two polling districts. It is whether the group consider those residents would be better served in NE2 (Recreation Road) or NE3 (Trinity Church Unthank Road).
			The new area around Merton Road and Bold Street, which is now coming into Nelson, seems quite a distance from the Belvedere Centre. If it is the case that a parliamentary boundary runs along the Bowthorpe Road, then electors here will not be able to vote in NE1 at a general election. It will be very confusing for them if they vote at the Belvedere Centre one year and then back at Hotblack Road for a general election; and given the possibility of an imminent general election as a result of the current political situation, I suggest that a new NE6 district voting in the Hotblack Road polling station is created as soon as possible.	Agreed with the (A)RO comments and defer to the review in May.	There is an approximate electorate of 350 electors in the area around Merton and Bond Street. This would be the smallest polling district in Norwich. The (A)RO understand the point on the general election although this would only take effect if the proposed parliamentary review is given Royal Assent. Under the current parliamentary boundaries those residents are in Norwich South, would vote in the same constituency as the rest of the proposed NE1 polling district and therefore could vote at Belvedere. Once again, the question is whether the group consider this as something required now or whether this could be considered at the full review in May.
		Mile Cross	I do not have sufficient local knowledge to comment on other wards. The dispositions of Mile Cross boundaries, however, at the south East corner of that ward do seem somewhat bizarre. Yours faithfully,	Agreed with the (A)RO comments	The (A)RO will certainly be looking at looking at the Mile Cross boundaries in May at the full review, particularly the houses in the eastern part of MX3 polling district.
3	4 Individuals	Nelson	Dear Councillors/Elections department.		

	1				
			A residents of the postal area NR2 3TL, I am (and on behalf of my partner too) emailing in support of the proposed boundary changes that will see our property (272 Dereham Road, NR2) move from polling district WE3, and into polling district NE1. As residents of this area for the past 15 years, we have always looked towards the Nelson ward in terms of shopping, leisure, schooling and socialising, and thus feel far more connected to this community area of Norwich, as opposed to the Wensum ward. Therefore, I would like to put on record our full support for the recommendation laid out out in the Interim Review, July 2018, and would request that our comments be included and form part of the formal consultation. Kind regards,	Agreed with response.	No comment made.
4	Norwich Liberal Democrats and supported ward Labour councillor for Town Close Ian Stutely	Eaton	The parts of Osborne Road and Pettus Road in EA3, and all of Hurd Road should be moved to EA1.	Agreed with response and to add to recommendations.	This would mean approximately 100 electors moving from EA3 to EA1 polling district. This would align those properties with the other properties in those roads and resolve any issues for electors crossing polling district boundaries to get to the polling station.
			The parts of Sunningdale and Rosslare in EA2, and all of Fulford Close, should be moved to EA3.	Agreed with response and to add to recommendations.	This would mean approximately 30 electors moving from EA2 to EA3 polling district. This would align those properties with the other properties in those roads.
			The part of Greenways which are currently in EA3 moved to EA4 with the rest of Greenways.	Agreed with response and to add to recommendations.	This would mean approximately 30 electors moving from EA3 to EA4 polling district. The whole of Greenways would now be voting at the polling station on Greenways.
5	Norwich Conservatives	Bowthorpe	BO3 -The Fourways Centre is not on any widely used travel route for residents, separate to Beecheno Rd, and is therefore not easily identifiable. The Clover Hill Village Hall however, is on a widely used bus route, and at the heart of a local shopping precinct, making it more easily identifiable. Therefore, BO3 should be merged into BO2.	Agreed with the (A)RO comments.	The Fourways Centre is located on Stevenson Road and easily accessible from the rest of the Larkman estate.

	Catton Grove	CG1-The area to the North of Fifers Ln, plus Oulton, Spencer and Blickling Roads are poorly served by the existing arrangements which are a significant walk away, and not near any identifiable amenities, making it hard to find for those residents. There halving this poll district, with a portable poll station if necessary, is a preferable solution.	Agreed with (A)RO comments to defer to the May review.	This would create 2 polling districts around 1000 each and a sixth polling station for Catton Grove. The (A)RO recommends looking at this at the full review in May particularly in regards to those electors around Fifers Lane.
	Crome	CR2/CR4–The poll stations for these two districts are in very close proximity, and both within CR4, creating potential confusion for voters and unnecessary cost for the Council. These two poll districts should be merged to create a single polling station for the Heartsease estate.	Agreed with (A)RO comments.	This would create a polling district of around 4500 electors which would need to be split (2 registers one polling district) and would have to have 2 polling station teams at the station. In the (A)ROs response the amount of polling districts is being reduced from 3 to 2.
	Eaton	EA2/EA3 -There is a need for a second polling place in the western portion of the EA2 polling district, if possible, to improve accessibility. If this is done, Sunningdale, currently divided between EA2 and EA3, should be united within the new Poll District.	Agreed with (A)RO comments to defer to the May review and note the change to Sunningdale.	The A(RO) will be looking at Eaton Ward at the full review in May but note that the working party has agreed to boundary changes around Sunningdale.
	Eaton	EA2/EA3- With the Mount Pleasant portion of TC4 attached to EA5 there is a case for providing a second polling station for the area north of Mile Cross Rd to save voters having to cross the Outer Ring Road.	Agreed with (A)RO comments.	The A(RO) assumed that it was Mile End Road not Mile Cross Road mentioned in the response. The request is for a polling district for the old part of TC4. This would only service a few electors in the area (200-300) and part of the electorate are already crossing Mile End Road.
	Mile Cross	MX3- The consistent use of the Norman Centre as a poll station should be formalised by the merger of this poll district with MX2. This would both provide a cost saving and prevent confusion caused by	Agreed with (A)RO comments.	MX2 is already a large polling district and the (A)RO is still looking for an alternative to the Norman Centre in MX3. The (A)RO would like to look at Mile Cross in May,

			consistent uncertainties around the MX3 poll station.		particularly the south western part of the ward.
		Sewell	SE3/SE4 – The same logic as CR2/CR4 applies. Having two poll stations on the same road in close proximity, and both within SE3 creates unnecessary confusion and cost. These poll districts should therefore be combined to create a more simple and cost effective solution	Agreed with the (A)RO comments.	This would mean only having 3 polling districts in Sewell and an electorate of over 4000 in a combined polling district which would need to be split (2 registers one polling district) with 2 teams at the polling station.
		Town Close	TC1-The entire section south of Brunswick Road, including the Newmarket Rd- Ipswich Rd-Town Close Rd triangle, should be detached and added to TC4 to compensate for the loss of the Mount Pleasant portion and reduce walking distances to the polling place in Cambridge St. TC4-As suggested above, the remaining district after the detachment of the Mount Pleasant portion should be enlarged by the addition of the southern portion of TC1. The location of the polling place in Lime Tree Rd would then be convenient for more voters and attract a higher turn-out although if possible a more central polling place for the polling district should be found if possible near the Newmarket Rd/Town Close Rd junction.	Agreed with the (A)RO comments to defer to the May review.	The area in this part of Town Close does need to be looked at as the proposed TC4 has a very small electorate. The (A)RO recommends looking at Town Close Ward at the full review in May.
		Wensum	WE1-To access the current polling station from Lower Hellesdon village requires travel down a busy, single road and a river crossing. This make it implausible to walk from Lower Hellesdon to the poll station and therefore difficult to access. Therefore, a new poll district to the North of the river should be created.	Agreed with the (A)RO comments to defer to the May review.	The (A)RO would be like to look at a potential alternative in this area, but would like to defer this to the May review.
6	Norwich Labour Party	Crome	We strongly believe that the CR2 polling station should be located within the polling district and that this should be based at Fugill Green Sheltered Housing. We do not believe that the voters who currently use Fugill Green should be asked to walk to a polling station which is located within another	The Working group agreed with the Norwich Labour Party and agreed with the (A)ROs response to move the location of the polling station to Fugill Green Sheltered Housing.	The (A)ROs agreed to move the polling station to Fugill Green Sheltered Housing due to its location in the centre of the polling district.

		polling district and do not believe that many will be willing to undertake this on polling day. Fugill Green is also centrally located within the polling district and would therefore be a much better location for the polling station		
	Wensum	Please note that the current MA4 polling station is called Waddington Court not Wadding Court.	No comment made.	The polling station is known as Waddington Court in all correspondence.
	Mancroft	Please also note that it is no longer appropriate to name the MA2 polling station as Alive Church as the building in Cowgate is no longer being used by this congregation, who now meet in Nelson Street. Continued use of Alive Church to describe this polling station in Cowgate may therefore lead to confusion in voters' minds as to its location. We also note that the building currently appears to be unoccupied. We presume it is still suitable for use?	No comment made.	The (A)RO has the city gates centre booked (which was known as the Alive Church) and will be checking with the premises in the new year around the correct name and any changes to availability.

Norwich City Council			
Polling District and Polling Places			
Scheme 2019			
Ward	Polling District	Polling Station Address	Change
Bowthorpe	BO1	Chapel Break Village Hall, Harpsfield, Norwich, NR5 9LG	No
Bowthorpe	BO2	Clover Hill Village Hall, Humbleyard, Norwich, NR5 9BN	No
Bowthorpe	BO3	Fourways Centre, Stevenson Road, Norwich, NR5 8TN	No
Bowthorpe	BO4	Bowthorpe Church Centre, Bowthorpe Hall Road, NR5 9AA	Yes
Catton Grove	CG1	Greenfields Community Centre, Ives Road, Norwich, NR6 6DY	No
Catton Grove	CG2	Catton Grove Primary School, Weston Road, Norwich, NR3 3TP	No
Catton Grove	CG3	Catton Grove Community Centre, Jewson Road, Norwich, NR3 3RQ	No
Catton Grove	CG4	Oak Grove Chapel, 70 Catton Grove Road, Norwich, NR3 3NT	No
Catton Grove	CG5	Shipfields Community Centre, Shipfield, Norwich, NR3 4DT	No
Crome	CR1	Pilling Park Community Centre, Pilling Park Road, Norwich, NR1 4PA	No
Crome	CR2	Fugill Green Sheltered Housing, Fugill Green, Norwich NR7 9QZ	Yes
Crome	CR3	Plumstead Road Library, Plumstead Road, Norwich, NR1 4JS	No
Crome	CR3(S)	Plumstead Road Library, Plumstead Road, Norwich, NR1 4JS	Yes
Crome	CR4	St Francis Church, Rider Haggard Road, Norwich, NR7 9UQ	No
Crome	CR5(S)	The Community Room, 30 Don Pratt Court, Norwich, NR3 1LZ	Yes
Eaton	EA1	Eaton Park Community Centre, South Park Avenue, Norwich, NR4 7AZ	No
Eaton	EA2	United Reformed Church Hall, Ipswich Road, Norwich, NR4 6QR	No
Eaton	EA3	Eaton St Andrew Church Hall, Church Lane, Norwich, NR4 6NW	No
Eaton	EA4	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Greenways, Norwich, NR4 6PA	No
Eaton	EA5	Eaton Parish Hall, Colman Road, Norwich, NR4 7AW	No
Lakenham	LA1	Harford Community Centre, Hall Road, Norwich, NR4 6ET	Yes
Lakenham	LA2	Old Lakenham Community Centre, Harwood Road, Norwich, NR1 2NG	Yes
Lakenham	LA3	Jubilee Centre, Long John Hill, Norwich, NR1 2EX	No
Lakenham	LA4	Jubilee Centre, Long John Hill, Norwich, NR1 2EX	No
Mancroft	MA1	Russell Street Community Centre, Russell Street, Norwich, Norwich, NR2 4QT	Yes
Mancroft	MA2	City Gates Centre, 39 Cowgate, Norwich, NR3 1AZ	No
Mancroft	MA3	Chantry Hall, Chantry Road, Norwich, NR2 1NF	Yes
Mancroft	MA4	Crown Room, Wensum Lodge, 169 King Street, Norwich, NR1 1QW	Yes
Mile Cross	MX1	St Lukes Centre, Aylsham Road, Norwich, NR3 2HF	No
Mile Cross	MX2	Norman Centre, Bignold Road, Norwich, NR3 2QZ	No
Mile Cross	MX3	Norman Centre, Bignold Road, Norwich, NR3 2QZ	No
Mile Cross	MX4	St Catherines Church Hall, Mile Cross Road, Norwich, NR3 2RJ	No
Nelson	NE1	Belvedere Community Centre, Belvoir Street, Norwich, NR2 3AZ	No
Nelson	NE2	Recreation Road Sports Centre, Recreation Road, Norwich, NR2 3AZ	No
Nelson	NE3	Trinity United Reformed Church Hall, 1 Unthank Road, Norwich, NR2 2PA	No
Nelson	NE4 1&2	St Peters Jessopp Road Church, Jessopp Road, Norwich, NR2 3QA	No
Nelson	NE5	Community Lounge, Douro Place Sheltered Housing, Douro Place, Norwich, NR2 4BG	Yes

Sewell	SE1	Rosebery Road Methodist Church, Calvert Hall Entrance, Rosebery Road, Norwich, NR3 3AB	Yes
Sewell	SE2	Christ Church Centre, Magdalen Road, Norwich, NR3 4LA	No
Sewell	SE3	Silver Road Community Centre, Silver Road, Norwich, NR3 4TB	No
Sewell	SE4	Silver Road Community Centre, Silver Road, Norwich, NR3 4TB	No
Thorpe Hamlet	TH1	Crown Room, Wensum Lodge, 169 King Street, Norwich, NR1 1QW	Yes
Thorpe Hamlet	TH2	Maids Head Hotel, Wensum Street entrance, Norwich, NR3 1LB	No
Thorpe Hamlet	TH3	The Norwich Hotel, 116 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RU	Yes
Thorpe Hamlet	TH4	St Matthews Church, Telegraph Lane West, Norwich, NR1 4JA	No
Town Close	TC1	Community Lounge, Melbourne Cottages, Union Street, Norwich, NR2 2SW	No
Town Close	TC2	Cambridge Street Hall, Cambridge Street, Norwich, NR2 2BA	No
Town Close	TC3 1&2	St Albans Church Hall, Grove Walk, London, NR1 2QF	No
Town Close	TC4	East Anglia Tennis and Squash Club, Lime Tree Road, Norwich, NR2 2NQ	No
University	UN1	St Marys Church Hall, Hutchinson Road, Norwich, NR5 8LB	No
University	UN2	The Green Room, Union House, University Of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ	No
University	UN3	George Carver Court, Northfields, Norwich, NR4 7ET	No
University	UN4	St Annes Church Hall, 150-160 Colman Road, Norwich, NR4 7HY	No
University	UN5	St Peters Jessopp Road Church, Jessopp Road, Norwich, NR2 3QA	No
University	UN6	West Earlham Community Centre, 8 Wilberforce Road, Norwich, NR5 8ND	Yes
Wensum	WE1	Marlpit Community Centre, Hellesdon Road, NR6 5EQ	No
Wensum	WE2	Community Lounge, Waddington Court Housing Scheme, Norwich, NR2 4EP	Yes
Wensum	WE3	Wensum Community Centre, Hotblack Road, Norwich, NR2 4HN	No
Wensum	WE4 1&2	Cadge Road Community Centre, Cadge Road, Norwich, NR5 8DF	No

Please note – The (Acting) Returning Officer can change the venue of a polling station if one becomes unavailable or unsuitable for use.

The (Acting) Returning Officer is still looking at a potential new venue in LA3 due to the boundary changes in Lakenham ward

Angel Road Junior School in SE1 became unavailable during the consultation period so the (A)RO replaced this polling station with Rosebery Road Methodist Church

It was agreed by the polling district review group and the (A)RO to use Fugill Green Sheltered Housing polling station rather than Frere Road Community Centre in CR2