
**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report To: Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 15 November 2011
Subject: Changes to Polling Districts and Polling Places
Report Of: Chief Executive

Purpose of the report

To seek approval for the creation of an additional polling district in the Baguley ward and for changes to a number of polling places across the city.

Recommendations

1. To approve the creation of an additional polling district for the Baguley ward with effect from 1st December as shown in the appendix to this report.
 2. To approve changes to the polling places for polling districts CNC (Charlestown Ward) BUB (Burnage ward), HAF (Harpurhey ward), NOE (Northenden ward).
 3. To note that in accordance with the delegation granted by full Council on 13 October 2010. the Chief Executive will designate the polling place for BUC in consultation with ward councillors, group leaders and the Chair of Constitutional and Nomination Committee and any other polling place as required.
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Wards affected:

Baguley, Burnage, Charlestown, Harpurhey and Northenden.

Financial consequences for revenue budget:

The cost of creating an additional polling district in Baguley is approximately £800 taking into account the costs of staffing and premises hire.

Financial consequences for capital budget:

None

Implications for:

Antipoverty	Equal Opportunities	Environment	Employment
No	Yes	No	No

The accessibility of polling stations is a key consideration in the designation of polling places and districts.

Background documents:

- Representation of the People Act 1983
- The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006
- Report to Constitutional and Nomination Committee 1 October 2010

Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Baguley Ward Maps: Current and Proposed
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1. Background

- 1.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2006, introduced a duty for all parliamentary polling districts and polling places to be reviewed every 4 years. Manchester last conducted such a review last year and full Council adopted a revised scheme of polling places and polling districts on 13 October 2010.
- 1.2 The Electoral Services Unit has received a request from Baguley ward councillors for an additional polling district. The designation of polling districts is the responsibility of this Committee and in order for this change to be effective for the next scheduled elections, approval is required by 1st December in time for the publication of the 2012 electoral register.
- 1.3 The Electoral Services Unit has also identified a number of polling places which are no longer suitable either as a result of premises closure, or as a result of issues identified by from polling station staff or ward councillors following the May 2011 local elections. The Committee is asked to consider proposals to change the designation of polling places in these cases.

2. Terminology used in this Report

- 2.1 **Polling district:** the area created by the division of a constituency, ward or European Parliamentary electoral region into smaller parts, within which a polling place can be determined which is convenient to electors.
- 2.2 **Polling place:** the geographical area in which polling stations will be sited by the Returning Officer.
- 2.3 **Polling station:** the actual area where the poll takes place and which must be located within the polling place. Chosen by the Returning Officer and publicised in the Notice of Situation of Polling Stations and communicated to electors via their poll cards. As part of a statutory review the Returning Officer must formally comment on both the existing polling stations used and the polling stations that would probably be used based on any newly recommended polling places.

3. The designation of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

- 3.1 The designation of the City's polling places and districts is the responsibility of the Council and the relevant functions are delegated to the Constitutional and Nomination Committee in the Scheme of Delegation. The Chief Executive has delegated authority to make changes to the designation of polling places outside of the full reviews. The next full review is scheduled for 2014. The allocation of polling stations within polling places is not a Council function and is the responsibility of the Returning Officer.
- 3.2 Polling districts for local government elections are not automatically part of the statutory review. However, the Electoral Commission advises that reviews of parliamentary polling arrangements should always be conducted simultaneously with a review of local government arrangements and that the

polling districts for UK parliamentary and local government elections should always be the same. Consequently, polling places and polling districts adopted by the Committee for parliamentary elections will also be effective for local government elections.

- 3.3 When designating polling districts, the Council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances. In designating polling places it must:
- (a) seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
 - (b) seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places it is responsible for are accessible to all electors who are disabled;
 - (c) have regard to the accessibility of disabled persons to potential polling stations in the polling place;
 - (d) other than in special circumstances, locate the polling place in the polling district it serves; and
 - (e) ensure the polling place is small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the polling district how they will be able to reach the polling station.
- 3.4 The description of the polling place should be read as to be not only the building itself, but also the immediate environs. This will provide sufficient flexibility for the Returning Officer to site additional or alternative stations on the site as required.

4. BLACKLEY AND BROUGHTON CONSTITUENCY

4.1 Charlestown ward

CNC- 764 electors in person

- 4.1.1 The current polling place for CNC is Deepdale Court. Polling Station Staff who worked at the May 2011 elections raised concerns about the suitability of the venue. Chain Bar Methodist Hall was the polling place for this district previously, but closed down. The Hall is now open again, and so it is recommended that the polling place for this district reverts back to Chain Bar Methodist Hall. This change is supported by Charlestown Ward Councillors.

4.2 Harpurhey Ward

HAF – 660 electors in person

- 4.2.1 The current polling place for HAF is Collyhurst Youth Centre, which is scheduled to close in early 2012.

4.2.2 Electoral Commission Guidance states that wherever possible, a polling place must be situated in the polling district it serves. However there are no suitable alternative premises within the HAF district. Following consultation with ward councillors, it is proposed to designate Saviour Church as the polling place for this district. Saviour Church is the polling place for CTD in Cheetham ward (462 electors in person). The revised polling place would therefore serve 1122 electors in person in both districts and has appropriate facilities for this number of electors. This proposal is supported by Harpurhey ward councillors.

5. MANCHESTER WITHINGTON CONSTITUENCY

5.1 Burnage Ward

BUB – 2263 electors in person

5.1.1 The current polling station for BUB is Green End Primary School, which replaced St Margaret's Church Hall at the last review. However, because of building work at the site, access to the Sports Hall where the polling station is located is via Burnage Lane, which is a long way from the road and poorly lit.

5.1.2 St Bernard's Parish Centre is situated next door to the school on Burnage Lane and has good facilities for voting. This proposal is supported by Burnage Ward Councillors.

BUC – 2146 electors in person

5.1.3 The polling place for BUC is a temporary building on the former Christ Church URU site on Burnage Lane. The site is set back from the road and is becoming less accessible each year.

5.1.4 Due to the size of the district and number of electors in person, it is not possible to combine the polling place for BUC with another district. The Electoral Services Unit are consulting with ward councillors to identify a suitable alternative site for a temporary building as there are no suitable premises in the district.

5.1.5 It is recommended that the Chief Executive designate the polling place for BUC in consultation with ward councillors, group leaders and the Chair of this Committee.

6. WYTHENSHAW AND SALE EAST CONSTITUENCY

6.1 Baguley Ward

BAA - 2820 electors

6.1.1 The BAA polling district currently serves electors on both side of the A560 Altrincham Road, a large busy main road. The polling place for this district is Royal Oak Community Centre.

6.1.2 Electors living in the north of the polling district are required to cross Altrincham Road to reach their polling station, which is inconvenient for electors. Ward Councillors have therefore requested that an additional polling district be created, and that the polling place for this new district should be Bideford Centre.

6.1.3 The new BAH district would serve 537 electors on the following roads:

434A Altrincham Road
Bideford Drive
Farcroft Close
Longfield Road
Lulworth Gardens
Parklands Road
Rookwood Avenue
Wellesbourne Drive
Yarwood Avenue

6.1.3 2274 Electors in the BAA district would continue to vote at Royal Oak Community Centre.

6.2 Northenden Ward

NOE – 974 electors in person

6.2.1 The current polling place for this district is Southfields Primary (Formally Roundwood School), which will close in May 2012.

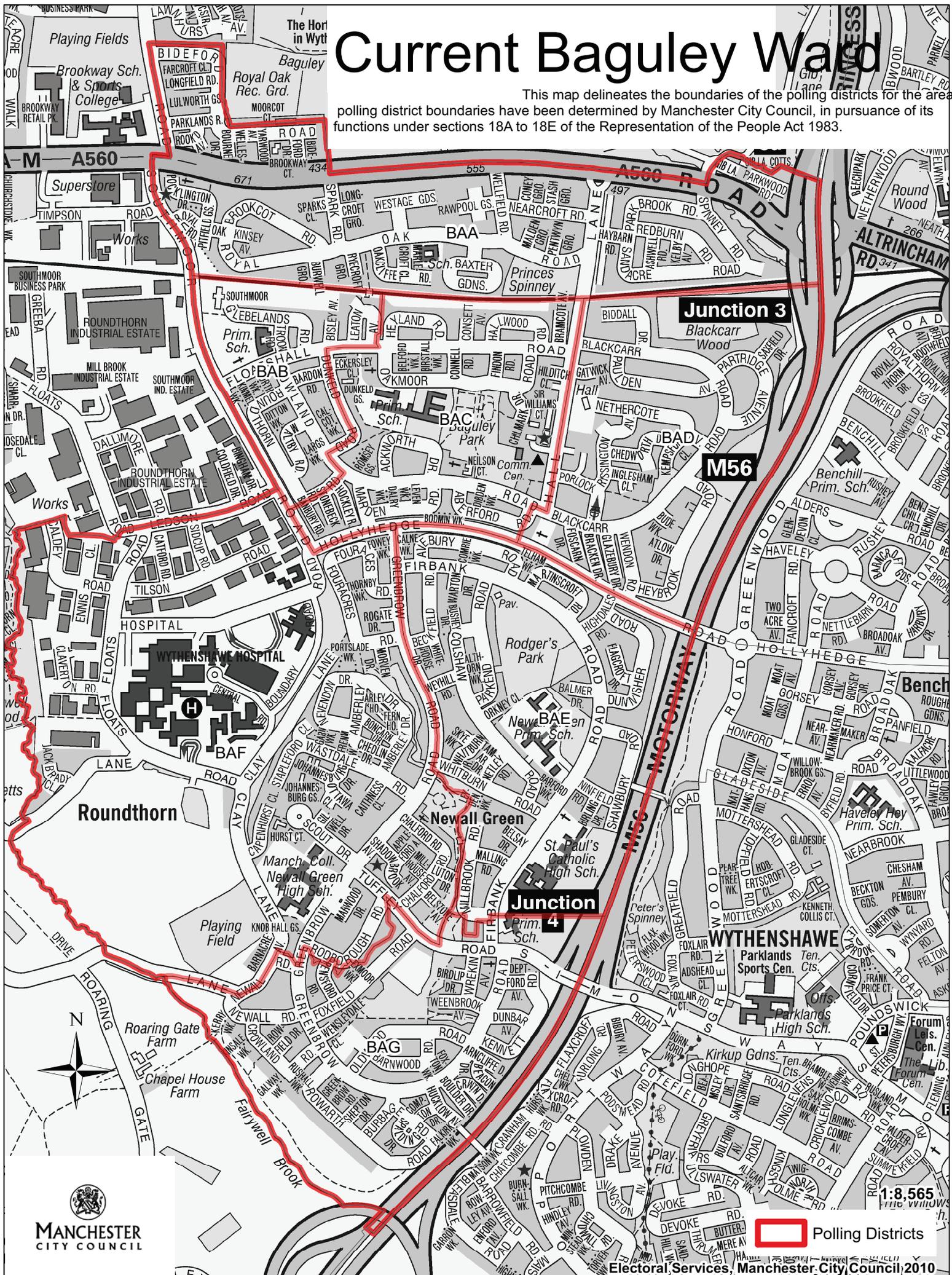
6.2.2 Following consultation with ward councillors, Wythenshawe Cricket Club was identified as a possible alternative and the Electoral Services Unit conducted a site visit to review access and suitability of the premises. It is therefore recommended that Wythenshawe Cricket Club be adopted as the polling place for this district. This proposal is supported by Northenden Ward Councillors.

7. Next Steps

7.1 All electors whose polling place will change will receive a letter from the Electoral Services Unit notifying them of the change, along with information about how to apply for a postal vote and a map showing the location of the new station. Poll cards for the May 2012 elections will highlight the change of station.

Current Baguley Ward

This map delineates the boundaries of the polling districts for the area. The polling district boundaries have been determined by Manchester City Council, in pursuance of its functions under sections 18A to 18E of the Representation of the People Act 1983.



MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Electoral Services, Manchester City Council 2010

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Proposed Baguley Ward

This map delineates the boundaries of the polling districts for the area named above. The aforesaid polling district boundaries have been determined by Manchester City Council, in pursuance of its functions under sections 18A to 18E of the Representation of the People Act 1983

