

Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 4 November 2019
Council – 27 November 2019

Subject: Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places: Draft Proposals

Report of: The Chief Executive

Purpose of the report

To consider the Council's draft proposals for the statutory review of polling districts and polling places.

Recommendations

1. To note the submissions made to the Council in respect of the review of polling districts and polling places for the City of Manchester.
2. To note the proposals in respect of the review.
3. To recommend to the Council the adoption of parliamentary polling districts and parliamentary polling places as set out in the scheme contained in Appendix 1 and in the maps found at Appendix 2.
4. To recommend to the Council the approval of the reasons given in the report for the in respect of the designation of parliamentary polling districts and parliamentary polling places.
5. To recommend to the Council that the scheme contained in Appendix 1 be adopted in relation to both Parliamentary and Local government elections.
6. To recommend to the Council that the Chief Executive is requested to publish such notices and other documentation required by law on completion of the review.
7. To recommend that the Council requests that the Electoral Registration Officer makes the necessary amendments to polling districts for the 1 December 2019 electoral register. It should be noted that if a Parliamentary General Election does take place in December, the electoral register will need to be published on the existing scheme. This is to ensure that polling station information contained on poll cards remains accurate for election day. The electoral register will then need to be re-published on 1 January or 1 February 2020, to reflect the new scheme.
8. To recommend to the Council that authority continues to be delegated to the Chief Executive to make, where necessary, alterations to the designation of any polling place prior to the next full review in consultation with ward

councillors, group leaders and the Chair of Constitutional and Nomination Committee.

Wards affected:

Blackley and Broughton Constituency - Harpurhey, Higher Blackley, Deansgate (1DGA)
 Manchester Central Constituency - Deansgate, Hulme, Miles Platting & Newton Heath, Piccadilly, Whalley Range (2WRF)
 Manchester Gorton Constituency – Fallowfield, Levenshulme, Longsight, Rusholme, Whalley Range
 Manchester Withington Constituency – Chorlton Park, Didsbury East, Didsbury West.
 Wythenshawe and Sale East Constituency – Sharston, Woodhouse Park

Community Strategy Spine	Summary of the contribution to the strategy
Performance of the economy of the region and sub region	The Our Manchester Strategy sets out the vision for the city to 2025.
Reaching full potential in education and employment	The Council’s scheme of polling districts and polling places operates for parliamentary, local elections and other polls. It is therefore a key part of the city’s governance arrangements.
Individual and collective self esteem – mutual respect	Local elections provide the opportunity for eligible Manchester residents to elect Councillors to represent them and therefore to influence how the Our Manchester Strategy is delivered.
Neighbourhoods of Choice	

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial implications and consequences for revenue budget:

The costs of conducting the Review have been in the region of £3,000 to include the cost of publishing statutory notices, production of consultation materials, the access audits undertaken by Manchester Disabled People’s Access Group and transportation relating to polling district and polling place visits and consultation activity. This will be funded from within the existing Electoral Services budget.

The cost of a polling place is dependent on a number of factors, including staffing and premises hire (where these are payable), caretaker and/or security costs and any necessary adaptations e.g. temporary ramps and barriers, where required. However, on average the cost of each polling place is in the region of £1,000.

It is expected that the implementation of the final proposals will increase the cost of polling places (premises and staffing) by approximately £7,000 for a standalone local election. In a combined poll (for example a local and parliamentary general election)

these costs will be split accordingly, thereby reducing the cost to the council to £3,500.

Financial consequences for capital budget:

None

Equal Opportunities Implications

The City Council has a statutory responsibility to seek to ensure that polling places are accessible to all electors. The accessibility of buildings and location of polling places has been a key factor in developing the proposals. Consultation with electors and work with disability group representatives has been undertaken. The City Council will continue to work with disability groups' representatives to implement recommendations regarding reasonable adjustments to polling places and provide the appropriate training to polling station staff where required.

Background documents:

- Representation of the People Act 1983
- The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006
- The Electoral Administration and Registration Act 2013
- Report to Constitutional and Nomination Committee 10 July 2019
- Review consultation questionnaire
- Summary of representations received by the City Council and the (Acting) Returning Officer in connection with the review

Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Final Proposals for changes to polling districts and polling places
- Appendix 2: Ward Maps detailing proposed Polling District boundaries and Polling Places
- Appendix 3: Terminology used in the Report
- Appendix 4: Polling Place/Station Risk and Suitability Assessment Criteria
- Appendix 5: Review of polling districts and polling places 2019 consultation questionnaire
- Appendix 6: (Acting) Returning Officer's Representations published 2 August 2019
- Appendix 7a: Summary of responses to the consultation from Elected Representatives
- Appendix 7b: Summary of responses to the consultation from members of the public
- Appendix 8: Manchester Disabled Person's Access Group – Access Audits

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1. Background

- 1.1 As required by the Electoral Administration and Registration Act 2013, compulsory reviews of parliamentary polling districts and polling places must take place every 5 years, reflecting the Fixed Term Parliament Act 2011.
- 1.2 The Council undertook its last compulsory review, which was combined with a review of local election arrangements, in the autumn of 2013 coming into effect in February 2014. An interim review of the city's parliamentary and local polling districts and polling places took place in the autumn of 2017. This was needed to take into consideration the City's ward boundary changes, following an Electoral Review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). This new scheme came into effect when the register was re-published on 1 February 2018, ahead of May's elections, when the new wards came into force. The Council's next compulsory review was then required within the 16 month period beginning on 1 October 2018 and concluding by 31 January 2020.
- 1.3 At the Constitutional and Nomination meeting on 10 July 2019, the Committee authorised the initiation of a statutory review of the city's parliamentary polling districts and polling places, to be combined with a review of local government polling districts. The formal review process started on 15 July 2019 and will end on the 27 November 2019, thereby allowing the changes in polling districts to be reflected in the electoral register when it is published on 1 December 2019 (see under Recommendation 7 for more details regarding publication).

2. The designation of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

- 2.1 The designation of the city's polling districts and places is the responsibility of the Council and the relevant functions are delegated to the Constitutional and Nomination Committee in the Scheme of Delegation. This includes the Council's duties under the Representation of the People Act 1983 to divide constituencies into polling districts and also the power to divide wards into polling districts at local government elections. Polling districts for local government elections are not automatically part of the statutory review. However the Electoral Commission advises that polling districts for UK parliamentary and local government elections should always be the same. It therefore follows that any review of parliamentary polling arrangements should be conducted simultaneously with one of local government arrangements, and with those for any other type of election for which provision is made for the designation of polling districts and polling places, for example, the Combined Authority Mayoral election.
- 2.2 The allocation of polling stations within polling places is not a Council function and is the responsibility of the Returning Officer for the election concerned. However, in practice, the location of likely polling stations is a key consideration when identifying polling places and the boundaries of polling districts, particularly in those areas of the city where there are limited suitable premises.

- 2.3 Although the legislation would seem to suggest the adoption of a top down approach to the review, with polling districts being determined before polling places, in practice a bottom up approach is usually adopted. The reality is that, where good quality polling station sites are identified, it is sensible to build polling places and districts around them and this is recognised by the Electoral Commission, which produces guidance to local authorities with regard to the designation of polling places and districts.
- 2.4 On occasion, it may be necessary to change the designation of a polling place outside the statutory review process or meeting of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee. This usually occurs as a result of premises being closed or unexpectedly becoming unavailable, often at short notice, or if an unscheduled or early poll takes place. Authority is delegated to the Chief Executive to make, where necessary, alterations to the designation of any polling place in such circumstances, in consultation with group leaders, ward Councillors and the Chair of Constitutional and Nomination Committee, as agreed by Council at its 24 January 2018 meeting.

3. Aims of the review

- 3.1 In conducting a statutory review the Council must, when designating polling districts, seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- 3.2 In designating polling places the Council has an obligation that it will:
- (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.
- 3.3 The focus of the review was to identify wherever possible, polling places/polling stations (included temporary polling stations) which met set criteria relating to the location, facilities, accessibility, health and safety and space.
- 3.4 Whilst ideally the Council would have the choice of a range of fully accessible buildings, conveniently located for the electors in the area, this is not always the case and there may be little choice available. Where it is not possible to

identify polling stations which meet the specification exactly, particularly around accessibility, every reasonable adjustment will be undertaken to provide access for all electors. Further details regarding the terminology used in this report can be found in Appendix 3.

- 3.5 One of the key considerations taken into account during this review process was future plans for development activity across the city. Officers have collated information from a variety of sources using the Council’s wider knowledge and intelligence in relation to demographics, residential planning and development to understand the future volume and distribution of electors. This is particularly relevant to wards in the city centre and its fringes where the greatest levels of new residential development are taking place. This work is also taking into account the suitability, availability and accessibility of polling places, including the identification of new premises, to inform the development of proposals of a new scheme.
- 3.6 It should be noted that parliamentary constituency boundaries are based on groupings of the wards in place prior to Manchester’s Electoral Review. The city’s new ward boundaries which came into effect in May 2018, therefore no longer exactly correlate with the parliamentary constituency boundaries. In order to ensure that both parliamentary and local elections (standalone or combined) can be delivered using the same scheme, there are a small number of polling districts (with accompanying polling places) where the boundaries cannot be changed. These can found highlighted in Appendix 1

4. The Review Process and timetable

The review comprised three formal stages. These stages are set out in the timetable below:

4.1 Compulsory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019 – Timetable.

Week beginning	Activity
8 July 2019	Meeting of Constitutional and Nomination Committee (10 July)
Stage 1: Formal notification of the Review	
8 July 2019	Formal notification of the Review (11 July)
Stage 2: Start of the Consultation period	
15 July 2019	Start of the consultation (15 July)
29 July 2019	Publication of the (Acting) Returning Officer’s representations (2 August)
30 September 2019	Consultation ends (4 October)
Stage 3: Concluding the Review	
4 November 2019	Special meeting of Constitutional and Nomination Committee to consider proposals (4 November)
25 November 2019	Recommendations to Full Council (27 November)
25 November 2019	ERO to publish Electoral Register (1 December) *

* **Please note** - if a Parliamentary General Election does take place in December, the electoral register will need to be published on the existing scheme. The register will then need to be re-published to reflect the new scheme on either 1 January 2020 or 1 February 2020 depending on relevant circumstances.

4.2 Intelligence and data collection

4.2.1 Following the implementation of the current scheme in 2018, officers in the Electoral Services Unit on behalf of the (Acting) Returning Officer have been actively monitoring the effectiveness of the current polling station arrangements for electors, taking into account the number of electors and turnout at different polls. As part of this process, a record had been kept of any comments received from stakeholders, including previous representations made by elected representatives, officers and premises, for consideration once the review was formally underway.

4.3 Polling Place/Station Visits

4.3.1 Electoral Services Unit officers undertook visits to polling stations during August, September and October 2019. The purpose of these visits was to assess the suitability of existing arrangements and identify alternatives where required, as well as taking into consideration the implications of planned electorate growth as a result of residential development. This work then assisted in developing the (Acting) Returning Officer's representations.

4.3.2 When assessing the suitability of polling places/stations an assessment of the following issues were taken into account:

- the proximity of the polling place to populated areas
- accessibility
- signage
- management and configuration of the polling station
- capacity of polling places to accommodate more than one polling station if necessary
- the number of electors within the district
- recent development and population changes

4.3.3 The detailed criteria used to assess potential polling places/stations is attached at Appendix 4.

5. Consultation approach and representations received

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 The Council's consultation period ran between 15 July 2019 and 4 October 2019. During this time, any elector in a constituency located wholly or partly in the Council's area could make representations, together with other interested persons and bodies, including elected representatives. By law, representations must also be sought from such persons as the Council considers to have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or

facilities for persons who have different forms of disability; such persons must also have an opportunity to make representations and comment on the (Acting) Returning Officer's representations.

5.2 The (Acting) Returning Officer's representations

5.2.1 The (Acting) Returning Officer for the relevant Parliamentary constituencies is required to make a compulsory submission, which must then be published by the Council. This must include information regarding the location of polling stations within polling places. As part of this review the (Acting) Returning Officer identified a number of issues relating to particular polling districts/places to be considered by the Council in detail as part of its statutory review.

5.3 Consultation with Elected Representatives

5.3.1 As part of the consultation process, consultation meetings with Elections Officers were held for each constituency. All Councillors, Members of Parliament for Manchester's five parliamentary constituencies and political parties, were invited to attend, so their comments and suggestions relating to their wards could be captured.

5.4 Consultation with Electors

5.4.1 A consultation questionnaire seeking views on current polling arrangements was published on the City Council's website. Hard copies of the questionnaire were also available and were circulated to all libraries in the city as well as being available in the Customer Service Centre, in the Town Hall Extension. A copy of the review consultation questionnaire is available at Appendix 5. Maps showing the current arrangements were also available for inspection in the locations shown in the table below. From 2 August 2019, the (Acting) Returning Officer's representations were also published on the Council's website and in hard copy at the same the locations.

Constituency	Location
Blackley and Broughton	North City Library, Harpurhey
Manchester Central	Central Library, St Peter's Square
Manchester Gorton	Gorton Library
Manchester Withington	Chorlton District Library
Wythenshawe and Sale East	Forum Library, Wythenshawe

5.5 Consultation with Disability Groups

5.5.1 The Council sought representations on the current arrangements and the (Acting) Returning Officer's representations from the following groups:

- Manchester Disabled People's Access Group
- Breakthrough UK
- Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People
- GM Disability History Archive

- Our Manchester Disability Plan Board
- Manchester Deaf Centre
- Manchester People First (Learning Disability)
- Manchester City Council Disabled Staff Group

5.6 Key stakeholders

5.6.1 For the formal review process, the Council wrote to the following groups inviting comments or suggestions regarding the suitability of polling districts and polling places in the city:

- Councillors
- Members of Parliament for Manchester's five parliamentary constituencies
- Members of European Parliament
- Combined Authority Returning Officer
- GM Mayor
- Political parties
- Parish Councillors

6 Consultation Submissions

6.1 The (Acting) Returning Officer's Submissions

6.1.1 The (Acting) Returning Officer's response was published on 2 August 2019 and is attached at Appendix 6. It focuses on polling stations where current arrangements needed to be reviewed and consideration of where new polling stations will be required in areas where significant residential development is expected.

6.2 Elected Representatives Responses

6.2.1 Elected representatives from 16 wards (or relevant parliamentary constituencies) attended the meetings and made representations. In addition a further five sent written submissions. Records of the detail from the meetings and emails received can all be found summarised at Appendix 7a.

6.3 Elector Responses

6.3.1 A total of 146 responses were received from electors through the online questionnaires and three responses were received in hard copy. The comments received are summarised at Appendix 7b. Where possible, representations have been reproduced exactly as received, however where this is not practicable due to the length of the submission the key points have been summarised instead.

6.3.2 A number of comments received from Electors were out of scope of this review and therefore cannot be addressed. This includes: Ward boundary changes, requests to vote electronically and Saturday voting.

6.4 Disability Groups Responses

- 6.4.1 No responses were received from the other groups listed under 5.1.1.
- 6.4.2 The Manchester Disabled People's Access Group was also commissioned by the Council to undertake a number of access audits of potential new polling places/stations which had been identified through the course of the review.
- 6.4.3 Three proposed polling places have been visited:
- Redeemed Christian Church of God Strong Tower Miracle Arena, Crab Lane (1HBF)
 - Yes Building, 115 Briscoe Lane (2MNJ)
 - St Mary of the Angels and St Clare, Parish Centre, Elbow Street (3LEC)
- 6.4.4 Where necessary, the Electoral Services Unit will work with these premises to ensure that reasonable adjustments are made to ensure the polling places are accessible to all electors.
- 6.4.5 A copy of this report can be found at Appendix 8.

7.1 The Draft Proposals

- 7.1 The draft proposals have been devised to meet the statutory requirements that the Council must consider when designating polling districts and polling places. In particular, the Council is required to consider the criteria set out at paragraph 4.3 of this report and also the following factors:

(a) geographical size of polling districts;

(b) size of the electorates of polling districts (however, a large polling district electorate may not itself be an issue, provided that its polling place is such that the required number of polling stations can be properly accommodated). This also included consideration of merging smaller polling districts, particularly in areas of low turnout, so that resources can be targeted effectively to where they are most required;

(c) the need for Ringway Parish to have its own polling district;

(d) the need for polling districts to have boundaries that enable it to contain a suitable polling place;

(e) the distance of the polling place from all areas of the polling district;

(f) other features of the polling district's geography that may make reaching a polling place difficult for some or all of its electors;

(g) accessibility of the polling place to disabled electors;

(h) the likely location of any polling station(s) within the polling place, including consideration of their accessibility for disabled electors;

(i) suitability of the polling place in terms of the space required to effectively conduct polling;

(j) the need to minimise disruption caused to schools and other premises as much as possible. The (Acting) Returning Officer is entitled to use, free of charge, schools maintained or assisted by the local authority as well as those schools that receive grants made out of monies provided by parliament. The Electoral Services Unit works with schools to find solutions to enable them to remain open while being used as polling stations. In other cases alternative premises have been explored and utilised where possible.

- 7.2 A summary of the draft proposals in respect of polling districts and polling places is set out below. A more detailed analysis of the nature of these changes, including the streets affected and electorate numbers, is attached at Appendix 1. The accompanying ward maps can be found at Appendix 2. The electorates in this report and in the appendices are based on local rather than parliamentary electorates (as the local figures are higher) on 1 October 2019. Where changes to polling districts are proposed, the electorate figures are indicative only, as final electorate figures cannot be determined until after the publication of the electoral register. In all cases the proposed parliamentary polling districts are also the proposed local government polling districts.
- 7.3 In developing these proposals all consultation responses received have been considered.
- 7.4 For the purposes of the review, 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.
- 7.5 It should be noted that if any proposals result in a change in the overall number of polling districts within a ward, the code (a number and three letters) for the polling districts in that ward will be revised to ensure these are sequential.

Blackley & Broughton Constituency

Harpurhey

The following is proposed for the Harpurhey ward:

- To create a new Polling District 1HAL from the properties at the bottom of 1HAH south of Fitzgeorge Street. The new polling district will have approx. 438 electors. The remaining properties in polling district 1HAH will have 591 electors. Electors in 1HAH will continue to vote at Saviour Church, it is proposed that electors in the new polling district 1HAL will vote at the Community Room in Roach Court. This new location is more central to the electors in the new polling district than their current polling arrangements and better takes into account the geography of the area. Currently electors south

of Fitzgeorge Street have a long walk up Rochdale Road to vote at Saviour Church which is at the opposite end of the current polling district.

Higher Blackley

The following is proposed for the Higher Blackley ward:

- Electors in 1HBF will vote at Redeemed Christian Church of God Strong Tower Miracle Arena. It is proposed that the 1HBF polling district is redrawn so that this polling place comes within its boundary. Properties south of Poolton Road along Crab Lane (affecting approx. 66 electors who presently reside in 1HBE) will be moved into 1HBF. This change will allow voters in 1HBF to have a permanent location for their polling place instead of the Temporary Building on Riverdale Road, given the site on which it has been located is no longer available. The electors remaining in 1HBE will continue to vote at St Andrew's Hall.

Deansgate (1DGA)

The following is proposed for the Deansgate ward:

- Whilst it is recognised that the current polling place (Park Inn) is not ideally located for all electors in this polling district, it has not been possible to identify an alternative. This situation will be kept under review in the future due to ongoing development in the area. The boundaries of this polling district cannot be changed as it falls within the Blackley and Broughton constituency unlike the rest of Deansgate ward.
- Electors will continue to vote at Park Inn.

Manchester Central Constituency

Deansgate

The following is proposed for the Deansgate ward:

- To create a new Polling District 2DGF from part of 2DGB. This polling district will take in properties to the east of Oxford Road to accommodate future growth in this area. There are currently approx. 549 electors in these properties. The predicted growth of electors over the next 3 years for this polling district would increase the electorate to approx. 2119. In the remaining properties in 2DGB there will be approx. 1344 electors, with a projected growth to approx. 1800. Electors in the existing 2DGB currently vote at Anthony Burgess Foundation and it is proposed that electors in both polling districts will continue to vote here until the electorate increases in the new polling districts (2DGF) has grown to a level which will justify it having its own polling place.
- To create a new polling district 2DGE from part of 2DGD. This new polling district would be formed from properties to the east of Chester Road /

Bridgewater Viaduct and take in the large new Deansgate Square development. The new polling district 2DGE will have approx. 1717 electors with a projected growth to approx. 4200 electors. Officers are still undertaking work to identify a suitable polling place in this polling district and an update will be provided to the Committee at their 4 November meeting.

- The remaining properties in 2DGD will have approx. 1526 electors. Electors will continue to vote at Castlefield Hotel.

Hulme

The following is proposed for the Hulme ward:

- It is proposed that two new polling districts are created in part of the existing 2HUA, north of Chester Road, due to the significant growth expected in this area over the next 3 years. A new polling district 2HUF will contain properties west of Hulme Road and will have approx. 968 electors with a projected growth of approx. 1785 electors. A second new polling district 2HUG will contain properties to the east of Hulme Road and will have approx. 1493 electors with a projected growth of approx. 2853. It is proposed that electors from both 2HUF and 2HUG will vote at Urban Splash Offices in Timber Wharf which is located within 2HUG. In the future a dedicated polling place is likely to be required in 2HUF as the electorate size increases over time.

Miles Platting & Newton Heath

The following is proposed for the Miles Platting & Newton Heath ward:

- To create a new polling district 2MNJ from part of the existing 2MNF polling district to take in properties north of Briscoe Lane and part of the existing 2MND polling district to take in properties west of Old Church Street. This polling district will have approx. 835 electors with some small electorate growth also predicted in the future. It is proposed that electors will vote at the Yes Building. This is an Adult Education building well known to the local community and it is located centrally within the main residential area of this proposed polling district.
- The boundary for 2MNF will change on its western border with 2MNG and will take in the properties south of Briscoe Lane and north of Riverpark Road where the abattoir is situated. 2MNF will have approx. 2356 electors and electors will continue to vote at The Stirling Centre.

Piccadilly

The following is proposed for the Piccadilly ward:

- To accommodate the significant growth expected in this area over the next three years, it is proposed that 2PYB is split. Properties west of London Road will remain in 2PYB and will continue to vote at polling place Manchester College, Shena Simon Campus, as there are no other suitable premises

available in this polling district. This polling district will have approx. 1653 electors with a projected growth to approx. 3600. The remaining properties in the existing 2PYB to the east of London Road as well as properties in 2PYD east of Rochdale canal will become 2PYF with approx. 464 electors, but with a projected growth to approx. 2000 electors. It is proposed that electors in 2PYF will continue to vote at Shena Simon Campus until the elector increase in the new polling district has grown to a level which will justify it having its own polling place.

- To accommodate the significant growth expected it is proposed 2PYC is split, properties to the east of Rochdale Road will remain in 2PYC with approx. 237 electors and a projected growth to approx. 3100 electors. Properties to the west of Rochdale Road will form 2PYE with 1272 electors. Electors in 2PYC currently vote at Abbott Primary School, but it is proposed that they will vote at the Marriott Hotel on Mason Street. Moving to this new polling station will allow electors to vote at a polling place in a more convenient location for electors, nearer to the city centre.

Whalley Range - 2WRF

- Significant development is currently taking place on the old Stagecoach depot on Princess Road. It is expected that a new polling place for this polling district will be required once it is completed due to the increase in electorate. A community hub is planned as part of the new site which is likely to be able to accommodate a polling place within in it.

Manchester Gorton Constituency

Fallowfield

The following is proposed for the Fallowfield ward:

- Electors in 3FAA will vote at The Place (Fallowfield Community Library). Electors currently vote at Wilbraham Primary School. Due to the large campus at this site there has historically been voter confusion regarding which entrance to use. The Place, which is located next to Wilbraham Primary School, will provide a more suitable and easily accessible premises.
- Electors in 3FAD will vote at Owens Park. Electors currently vote at The Armitage Centre but negative elector feedback has been received regarding the distance from the road. It is therefore proposed that this polling place is moved to Owens Park, which is more conveniently located for electors and which is already a polling place for 3FAE.

Levenshulme

The following is proposed for the Levenshulme ward:

- Electors in 3LEA will vote at Arcadia Library and Leisure Centre. Electors currently vote at The Klondyke but since the Local Government Boundary

Commission for England's Electoral Review this polling place is now located within the Burnage ward, and already used by another polling district. Due to high turnout in the area, it is necessary for them to use different premises going forwards. Arcadia Library and Leisure Centre is located within the correct polling district, has good access and is well known to the local community.

- Electors in polling districts 3LEC and 3LEE will merge and be renamed as 3LEC and vote at the new polling place St Mary of the Angels and St Clare Parish Centre, Elbow Street. 3LEE currently has approx. 230 electors and 3LEC has approx. 1611. Electors in 3LEE currently vote at Alma Park School but this will no longer be available for future elections. Electors in 3LEC currently vote at Levenshulme Baptist Church, Elmsworth Avenue, but it is considered that St Mary of the Angels and St Clare Parish Centre is more central for electors of the new merged polling district.
- Polling district 3LEH will be renamed to 3LEE for sequential naming purposes only

Longsight

The following is proposed for the Longsight ward:

- That current polling district 3LOE is split. Electors in 3LOE currently vote at Belle Vue Leisure Centre. It is proposed that electors above Kirkmanshulme Lane will be the new polling district 3LOJ and will continue to vote at Belle Vue Leisure Centre. There will be approx. 608 electors in this new polling district, but future development on this site is expected. Properties south of Kirkmanshulme Lane and on Mount Road will continue to be in 3LOE with approx. 1731 electors. It is proposed electors in the revised 3LOE will vote at Gorton South Surestart Centre which is central to the properties in 3LOE and is more conveniently located for electors. The new polling district 3LOE will also take in properties from 3LOG above East Road and Thompson Road.
- The remaining part of 3LOG is further split with properties in the lower right of the polling district with Wembley Road and Hamilton Road forming the border and becoming 3LOH. It is proposed that electors within this new polling district will vote at Rushbrook Primary Academy which is conveniently located for electors in this part of the polling district. It is proposed that electors in the original part of the polling district 3LOG will vote at The Grange School after Gorton Primary School became unavailable this year. 3LOG will have approx. 1165 electors and 3LOH will have approx. 1459 electors.

Rushlome

The following is proposed for the Rusholme ward:

- After reviewing the operation and location of this polling place at Hulme Hall, Oxford Place (3RUC) which was used for the local elections and European Parliamentary Elections in May, it is considered that Xaverian College, Lower

Park Road, would be a more suitable location for the polling place within the polling district and is well known by the electorate.

- The current polling district 3RUB is split to make a new polling district 3RUG to incorporate the Unsworth Park (a Manchester University student accommodation development). The boundary of the new 3RUG being from the rear of properties on Birchfield Road to the north of the Pavilion on the playing fields west across the playing field to Whitworth Lane and following the southern edge of the ward boundary. The polling place for this new polling district would be Owens Park which will be easily accessible to electors living in the Unsworth Park development. There will be 1120 properties which will be occupied by University Students in this new polling district. After full occupation of the development it is expected that there will be an electorate of at least 2000. The remainder of the existing polling district 3RUB will have approx. 1424 electors. They will continue to vote at Birchfields Primary School.

Whalley Range:

The following is proposed for the Whalley Range ward:

- For 3WRA the eastern boundary is changed so that the properties on the eastern side of Wood Road are included in 3WRA from 3WRB. While electors north of Russell Road on Dudley Road are moved into 3WRB. 3WRA will have approx. 1674 electors.
- For 3WRB, as well as the changes highlighted above, the eastern boundary of 3WRB is extended to include all of the properties on Stanley Road, Wellington Road, Mayfield Road, Range Road, Deepark Road and Acron Drive, as well as all of Alexandra Park which were previously in 3WRD. On the western side of the ward electors in Churchill Avenue, Blenheim Avenue and the north section of Bedford Avenue are moved into 3WRE. 3WRB will have approx. 3098 electors.
- For 3WRC the northern boundary is to become Wilbraham Road, electors north of Wilbraham Road who were previously in 3WRC will move into 3WRD. 3WRC will have approx. 1181 electors.

All these proposals will assist in improving elector accessibility to polling places.

Manchester Withington Constituency

Chorlton Park

The following is proposed for the Chorlton Park ward:

- The 2 properties in Southern Cemetery which are currently in 4CPA, are moved in 4CPB to allow the electors within these properties to vote at a polling station more conveniently located. This will move approx. 3 electors from 4CPA to 4CPB voting at Barlow Hall Primary School.

Didsbury East

The following is proposed for the Didsbury East ward:

- For both 4DEE and 4DEF the polling districts are split to the east of the railway track with the properties to the east of the railway track to be combined into a new polling district 4DEJ. It is proposed that electors in this new polling district will vote at Parrs Wood High School which is located within the polling district. This is more easily accessible to electors to the east side of the railway line, and is well known to the local community. 4DEJ will have approx. 1259 electors, 4DEE will have approx. 1111 electors and 4DEF will have approx. 882 electors.

Didsbury West

The following is proposed for the Didsbury West ward:

- The polling district boundary line between 4DWB and 4DWF is redrawn so that 4DWB takes in the properties south of Nell Lane and all of Northern Grove. Electors in 4DWB will continue to vote at Fielden Campus and have approx. 1870 electors. 4DWF will gain a section of properties on Burton Road north of Nell Lane and electors will continue to vote at Cavendish Primary School. 4DWF will have approx. 2372 electors. These changes mean that electors in the areas where changes have been made will be voting at a polling place which is more conveniently located than where they currently vote.
- A number of representations have been received relating to the use of Cavendish Primary School. Whilst it has not been possible to identify an alternative premises at this time, the Electoral Services Unit will continue to work with the school to find ways to minimise the impact of its use in the future.
- Representations have been made regarding the current configuration of 4DWA and 4DWD, with the aim of increasing elector convenience. However, it has not been possible to identify an alternative or additional polling places suitable for use at this time within the ward. Officers are still undertaking work to look at options in this area and an update will be provided to the Committee at their 4 November meeting.

Wythenshawe and Sale East Constituency

Sharston

The following is proposed for the Sharston ward:

- 5SHB is split down the middle of Brownley Road. Properties in the west of the polling district will remain in 5SHB and continue to vote at Manchester College, Wythenshawe Campus. Properties to the east of Brownley Road will form the new polling district 5SHH and it is proposed that electors will vote at Wythenshawe Community Church, which has previously used as a polling

place before the Local Government Boundary Commission for England review. Electors are familiar with the building and it is more conveniently located in the polling district.

- That polling district 5SHE boundary lines are redrawn and to bring in properties from 5SHC south of Glenby Avenue and Cadnam Drive. While properties to the west of Calve Croft Road will join 5SHF. These changes mean that electors in the areas where changes have been made will be voting at a polling place closer to where they currently vote. 5SHC will have approx. 1491 electors, 5SHE approx. 2359 electors and 5SHF approx. 964 electors.

Woodhouse Park

The following is proposed for the Woodhouse Park ward:

- That electors in polling district 5WPD vote at St Anthony's RC Primary School due to the unavailability of St Anthony's Parish Centre. Electors have voted at the school previously and is located a short walk from the Parish Centre.

8. Publication of final proposals

8.1 Once the final proposals are approved by the Constitutional and Nomination Committee and by the City Council, the Council's reasons for its decisions must be published. The Council must also publish:

(a) all correspondence sent to the Returning Officer in connection with the review;

(b) all correspondence sent to any person whom the authority thinks has particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability;

(c) all representations made by any person in connection with the review;

(d) the minutes of any meeting held by the authority to consider any revision to the designation of polling districts or polling places within its area as a result of the review;

(e) details of the designation of polling districts or polling places within its areas as a result of the review; and

(f) details of the places where the results of the review have been published.

9. Further Reviews

9.1 Once the review is completed, another review must take place within the next five years. However, the Council has discretion to review polling districts and places before that time where necessary.

- 9.2 On occasion, it may be necessary to change the designation of a polling place outside of the statutory review process. This can arise as a result of premises being closed, where better facilities are identified or where new premises are required due to the increasing size of the electorate.
- 9.3 The Committee is requested to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with group leaders and the Chair of Constitutional and Nomination, to make changes to the designation of polling places which occur outside of the formal review process, or where due to timescale constraints, it is not possible to take proposals to Constitutional and Nomination Committee.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 Recommendations to the Committee appear at the front of this report.