

**SUMMARY OF RESPONSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
(Review of Polling Districts and Places 2013)**

1. Heswall Ward

District RD:-

The current polling place is St Peter's Centre [Village Road]. Concerns persist regarding parking facilities in the area.

Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

On 10th November 2011, the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee agreed to move the polling place from St Peter's C of E Primary School [Thurstaston Road] to St Peter's Centre [Heswall Lower Village].

The Centre is located in the village at the bottom of the hill [Village Road] and is a very suitable venue with good disabled access and facilities and there are parking bays outside the centre.

Two elections have been successfully administered in this venue, however, concerns persist regarding parking in the area and whether it is adequate enough during a Parliamentary election.

Electoral Services have reviewed whether this venue remains the best option for a polling place within the polling district.

Recommendation:

That the status quo should continue

2. Leasowe and Moreton East Ward

District TC:-

The current polling place is Eastway Primary School Children's Centre [Eastway]. Prior to this the polling place was Yew Tree Online Centre [Yew Tree Road] however, during preparations for the Police and Crime Commissioner Election held on 15 November 2012 it was reported that this venue was no longer available for future use.

On 11 October 2012, the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee agreed to the change in polling place to Eastway Primary School Children's Centre [Eastway] for polling district TC for the

police and crime commissioner elections held in November 2012 but that this be reviewed for future elections.

Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

During the 2011 Polling District and Place review the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee held on 10 November 2011 agreed to move the polling place for polling district TC from Sacred Heart Primary School [Danger Lane] to the Yew Tree Online Centre [Yew Tree Road].

However, during preparations for the Police and Crime Commissioner Election held on the 15 November 2012 the Centre Manager reported that the venue was being sold and was no longer available for future use.

At a special Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee held on 11 October 2012 it was agreed to change the polling place to Eastway Primary School Children's Centre [Eastway] for the police and crime commissioner election but that it be reviewed for future elections.

The Children's Centre is a very suitable venue with good disabled access and facilities and remains the best option for a polling place within the polling district.

Recommendation:

That the status quo should continue.

3. Moreton West & Saughall Massie Ward

District YC:-

The current polling place is Foxfields School [Douglas Drive]. Electoral Services have received communication from the Education Department that there is a possibility the school will be sold off in the future for re-development.

Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

Further investigations have revealed that two schools are to be amalgamated but the location to which they will be situated is uncertain. The remaining vacant site will be sold off for re-development.

Although a notice of closure has been published with regard to Foxfield School it is not anticipated to happen until late 2014 if at all.

Recommendation:

That the status quo should continue for the Combined European Parliamentary and Local Government elections being held on 22nd May 2014 but that it be reviewed for future elections.

4. Pensby & Thingwall Ward

District FE:-

The current polling place is Christ Church Hall, Barnston Road. During the Local Government elections in May 2012 a candidate for the ward observed inadequate visibility of the access route into the site from Barnston Road.

Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

The Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee on 9 November 2009, resolved to create a new polling district (FE) within the Ward and to use the Christ Church Hall, Barnston Road as the polling place.

Following observations made by a candidate in the Local elections in May 2012 regarding the visibility of the access from Barnston Road, consideration has been given as to whether this venue remains the best option for a polling place within the polling district.

Recommendation:

That the status quo should continue.

5. Seacombe Ward

Districts SB and SD:-

Electoral Services request that a small adjustment be made to the polling district boundary between SB & SD.

Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

The polling place for polling district SD was traditionally in Poulton Primary School, Alderley Road. Poulton Primary School closed some years ago but the building was used to house Park Primary School whilst its old site was cleared and redeveloped.

The polling place was thus able to continue in the same building on Alderley Road, being known as "Park Primary School, ex. Poulton Primary School".

The rebuilding of Park Primary School was completed in 2011 and as such, the school moved to the new premises on the corner of Love Lane and Woodstock Road.

It was agreed at the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee held on 10 November 2011 to relocate the polling place for polling district SD to the new Park Primary School (situated on the corner of Love Lane/Woodstock Road).

However, it has since been realised that the school sits just over the polling district boundary and is in fact located within polling district SB.

The effect of the change is that the SD polling district boundary would move slightly west to encompass the whole of Park Primary School. This would not effect any residential properties therefore the electorate would not change.

Recommendation:

That the proposal be agreed.

6. Wallasey Ward

District VB:-

The current polling place is Mount Pleasant Primary School [Mount Pleasant Road]. However, the venue has not proved satisfactory and does not provide the best option for a polling place within the polling district.

Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

During the 2011 Polling District and Place review the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee held on 10 November 2011 agreed to move the polling place for polling district VB from All Saints Church Hall [Hoseside Road] to Mount Primary School [Mount Pleasant Road] due to the closure of the church.

The use of this venue has not been as successful as had been hoped. There has been difficulty with the car park and complaints about the pedestrian access which does involve negotiating a slope from Mount Pleasant Road to the school. Also, the layout of the school means that the school cannot be open whilst any election is being conducted, a situation that the school is unhappy with.

Since the adoption of Mount Primary School as a polling place, New Brighton Children's Centre has been completed on an adjacent site. This building has been inspected and is considered a very suitable venue with good disabled access and facilities. It also benefits from a car park directly

accessed from Mount Pleasant Road with separate entrance and exit gates.

Recommendation:

That the polling place for polling district VB be changed to New Brighton Children's Centre.

If approved, the (Acting) Returning Officer confirms that the Multi Function Room be designated as the polling station.

7. West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward

Districts QA & QE:-

A council member, in agreement with Wirral West Conservative Association, has requested that Electors registered in polling district QA, specifically in and around Grange Cross Lane and Column Road, be moved into polling district QE. This would enable Electors to vote at Newton Village Hall in Grange Cross Lane which is closer to them than their current polling place, St Michaels Church Hall, Frankby Road.

The properties proposed to be moved are the even house numbers in Grange Cross Lane, and no's 73 & 75 Column Road.

Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

Polling District **QA** has an electorate of 2,490. There are 482 postal voters which results in a polling station electorate of 2008.

Polling District **QE** has an electorate of 1,938. There are 392 postal voters which results in a polling station electorate of 1,546.

Part of the boundary runs down the middle of Grange Cross Lane and turns east along Column Road for a short length. This results in no's 73 and 75 Column Road and the even numbers of Grange Cross Lane being located in polling district **QA** whilst the even numbers of Grange Cross Lane and most of the remainder of Column Road are located in **QE**.

It is proposed that the current boundary that runs down the middle of Grange Cross Lane and turns east along Column Road for a short length be replaced with a new, shorter one (**see map**) to encompass the residential properties listed in the table below.

Road/Street	House No.'s	No. of properties	No. of electors	No. of Postal Voters
Grange Cross Lane	68 – 50 20 – 2	21	46	4

Column Road	73 – 75	2	4	0
TOTAL		23	50	4

The new boundary would run:–

- (a) from the southern end of Ennisdale Drive in an easterly direction for a short length;
- (b) then south between the rear of number 68 Grange Cross Lane and the side of 55 Newton Park Road;
- (c) then east again along the rear of 55 Newton Park Road and the side of 66 Grange Cross Lane;
- (d) then south and east along the western and southern boundary of Newton Park Allotments as far as the ward boundary at Newton Brook.

Under the proposal, the polling place for these properties would change from St Michaels Church Hall, Frankby Road to Newton Village Hall, Grange Cross Lane.

The proposal is a modest adjustment, which aims to assist Electors. It does not have any significant impact on the number of Electors in each polling district.

Recommendation:

That the boundary between QA & QE be adjusted in accordance with the proposal outlined above.

District QC:-

The current polling place is St Bridget’s Church of England Primary School [St Bridget’s Lane]. A council member has stated that access to the polling station involves a long walk, partly down a steep slope, from the nearest parking space. The entrance also lacks any covered space for tellers.

A council member, in agreement with Wirral West Conservative Association, has requested using the recently completed St. Bridget’s Centre as an alternative venue.

Acting Returning Officer’s Comments:

To access the current polling station, which is situated in the school hall, electors are required to journey from the entrance of the school via a sloped pathway. There have never been any complaints regarding the access and it remains a very suitable venue.

St. Bridget's Centre is a suitable alternative venue with good disabled access. It is located next to St Bridget's Church of England Primary School and uses the same pathway. There is level access from the car park to the Centre.

The proposed alternative venue would offer reasonable facilities for voting and would be accessible to all electors but there would be a charge which as yet has not been determined whereas the council can make use of the school without payment.

Recommendation:

That the status quo should continue.