

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Title of Report: General Election/City Council Elections 2010 -
Designation of Polling Places

Date: 10 February 2010

Summary of this Report

1. A comprehensive Polling Place and Polling District review was carried out in October, 2007.
2. A few polling places need to be changed for the forthcoming City Council Elections on 6 May 2010. Until the date of the forthcoming General Election is known it is impossible to identify now if any other changes will be needed for that election (if held on a different day from the City Council elections).
3. The Committee's approval is sought to the proposed changes for both elections, as set out in the recommendations below.
4. The Chief Executive also has delegated powers to designate alternative polling places in the event of any polling place not being available at any election, following consultation with the Party Whips and respective ward councillors.

Recommendation

That the Committee designate the following alternative polling place locations for the City Council Elections on 6 May, 2010 and the forthcoming General Election:

(a) BWB (Bayswater) change from College Park Special School for any elections in 2010/11 to the Bayswater Family Centre, 14-18 Newton Road, NW2 5L, as College Park Special School is being rebuilt and is due to reopen in 2011 (in time for the next timetabled elections in May 2012 – the London Mayor and Assembly elections);

(b) KBC (Knightsbridge & Belgravia) change from St Peter's Church Hall, Eaton Square to St Peter's School, Ebury Street (a location previously used as the polling place) as the Church Hall is unavailable on 6 May 2010;

(c) RPB (Regent's Park) change from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists as it will again be unavailable on 6 May 2010 and revert to Rudolf Steiner House, 35 Park Road, which has been used as a polling place on many previous occasions (including at the European Elections on 4 June 2009).



City of Westminster

General Purposes Committee

Item No:	
Date:	10 February 2010
Classification:	For General Release
Title of Report:	Designation of Polling Places
Report of:	Head of Administrative Services
Wards involved:	Bayswater, Knightsbridge and Belgravia and Regent's Park
Policy context:	Management of the Council
Financial summary:	The cost of using polling places is met from the Government grant for administering General Elections and by the City Council for its own elections on 6 May 2010
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The General Purposes Committee is responsible for electoral matters, including the designation of polling places. If any designated polling place is likely to be unavailable at any particular election, officers consult the Ward Members on possible alternatives and recommend any changes to this Committee.
- 1.2 The Chief Executive also has delegated powers to designate alternative polling places in the event of any polling place not being available at any election, following consultation with the Party Whips and respective ward councillors. This delegation is used if designated polling places become unavailable at short notice, e.g. there is usually only short notice of a General Election and alternative locations may need to be found quickly.
- 1.3 Bayswater (BWB): College Park Special School is unavailable for any elections in 2010/11 as it is being rebuilt. It is proposed to move the polling place in the current year to the Bayswater Family Centre, 14-18 Newton Road, NW2 5L. This alternative location is within the polling district and the Centre can remain open by moving some of its activities to other floors in the Centre releasing an area on the Ground Floor for use as a polling place.
- 1.4 Regent's Park (RPB): The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) is again unable to accommodate a polling place at the City Council Elections on 6 May. It is therefore proposed to relocate the polling place back to the previous location at Rudolf Steiner House, 35 Park Road (which was also the location in June 2009). Although just outside of the ward it is in the same road as the RCOG and very close by. It was previously used as a polling place for many years so will be familiar to many voters.
- 1.5 Knightsbridge & Belgravia (KBC): St Peter's Church Hall, Eaton Square is unable to accommodate a polling place on 6 May. It is therefore proposed to relocate the polling place back to St Peter's School, Ebury Street. Again, although just outside of the ward it is very close by the Church and was previously used as a polling place for many years so will be familiar to many voters. The school hall will be used as the polling place and as this has a separate access from Ebury Street, the school can otherwise remain open and operational.
- 1.6 The changes will be highlighted on poll cards and accompanying voter guidance. Signs will also be placed on polling day on the former polling place locations to redirect any voters to the new locations.

2. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 None.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of hiring polling places at Parliamentary elections is covered by Government grant for the administration of elections and by the City Council for its own elections.

4. WARD COUNCILOR CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The relevant ward councillors have been informed of these proposals and invited to comment. The responses to date have been in agreement with the proposed changes. Any further responses will be reported orally at the meeting.

Background Papers: Nil

Background Information

If you have any queries about this report, please contact
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