

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Date	27 February 2020
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Meeting	Full Council
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Part	1
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Author	Joseph Payne, Elections Officer
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Recommendations

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| 1. | That members agree to retain the existing five polling districts for the Isles of Scilly: St Agnes, Bryher, St Martin's, St Mary's and Treco. |
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| 2. | That members agree to retain the existing polling places on the off islands: Island Hall, St Agnes; Community Centre, Bryher; Island Hall, St Martin's; and Community Centre, Treco. |
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| 3. | That members agree to change the polling place for St Mary's from the Town Hall to the Old Wesleyan Chapel. |
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1. In accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, the Council of the Isles of Scilly is required to conduct a compulsory review of Parliamentary polling districts and polling places every five years.
2. The current review was required to be completed by 31 January 2020. Due to the unscheduled general election in December 2019, and a prolonged staff absence, we are running a little behind schedule. The Electoral Commission has been notified of the slight delay.
3. Following a preliminary review by officers, and after consulting with the Acting Returning Officer for the St Ives parliamentary constituency, a Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places was published for consultation on 23 January 2020. A copy of the Notice of Review may be found as an Appendix.
4. The Notice of Review proposes no change to the existing five polling districts: St Agnes, Bryher, St Martin's, St Mary's and Treco. Given that each polling district is a separate island, the boundaries are clear and well defined.
5. The Notice of Review proposes one change to the existing polling places, relocating the polling place for St Mary's from the Town Hall to the Old Wesleyan Chapel. The removal of the false ceiling in the Town Hall has significantly reduced the level of lighting, resulting in several complaints during the European Parliamentary election in May 2019. Consequently the Old Wesleyan Chapel was used as an emergency polling station for the unscheduled general election in December 2019.
6. Local authorities must seek to ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting and that polling places are accessible to electors who are disabled. In our opinion, the Old Wesleyan Chapel on St Mary's and the existing polling places on the off islands will satisfy these requirements. The Acting Returning Officer for the St Ives parliamentary constituency has confirmed she shares this view.
7. If the proposals in the Notice of Review are adopted, the polling places will be as follows:

St Agnes	Island Hall, New Lane, St Agnes, TR22 0PL
Bryher	Community Centre, Timmy's Hill, Bryher, TR23 0PR
St Martin's	Island Hall, St Martin's Road, St Martin's, TR25 0QN
St Mary's	Old Wesleyan Chapel, Garrison Lane, St Mary's, TR21 0JD
Tresco	Community Centre, Block House Lane, Tresco, TR24 0PZ

8. The Notice of Review was displayed at the Old Wesleyan Chapel, the Town Hall and on the Council website.
9. We were required to seek representations from such persons as we think have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability. Consequently we wrote to the St Mary's Health Centre and the Adult Social Care team at the Council inviting them to submit a representation.
10. We also wrote to members of Council inviting them to submit a representation.
11. No representations to the consultation were received by the closing date of 14 February 2020.
12. Consequently we recommend that members approve the three proposals contained in the Notice of Review.

Financial implications

13. None

Legal implications

14. The review of polling districts and polling places must be completed in order for the Council to fulfil its responsibilities under Section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

Approval

Senior Manager	Mark Boden, Chief Executive	19 February 2020
Legal	Stephen Taylor, Deputy Monitoring Officer	19 February 2020

Appendix



COUNCIL OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY

Town Hall, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0LW

01720 424545

elections@scilly.gov.uk

Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Isles of Scilly is conducting a review of polling districts and polling places as required by the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Following a preliminary review, it is proposed:

1. To retain the existing five polling districts: St Agnes, Bryher, St Martin's, St Mary's and Treco. Given that each polling district is a separate island, the boundaries are clear and well defined.
2. To retain the existing polling places on St Agnes, Bryher, St Martin's and Treco.
3. To change the polling place for St Mary's from the Town Hall to the Old Wesleyan Chapel.

If these proposals were adopted, the polling places would be as follows:

St Agnes	Island Hall, New Lane, St Agnes, TR22 0PL
Bryher	Community Centre, Timmy's Hill, Bryher, TR23 0PR
St Martin's	Island Hall, St Martin's Road, St Martin's, TR25 0QN
St Mary's	Old Wesleyan Chapel, Garrison Lane, St Mary's, TR21 0JD
Tresco	Community Centre, Block House Lane, Tresco, TR24 0PZ

The following comments, including the reasons for the change to the St Mary's polling place, have been provided by the Acting Returning Officer for the St Ives parliamentary constituency:

The removal of the false ceiling in the Town Hall on St Mary's means the level of lighting is no longer adequate for a polling station. Several complaints to this effect were received during the European Parliamentary election in May 2019. Consequently the Old Wesleyan Chapel was used as an emergency polling station for the unscheduled general election in December 2019.

I am satisfied that polling stations in the Old Wesleyan Chapel on St Mary's and in the existing polling places on the off-islands will provide all electors with reasonable facilities for voting and will be readily accessible to electors who are disabled.

Public consultation

All electors within the St Ives parliamentary constituency may make representations to the Council of the Isles of Scilly on these proposals.

The Council would welcome the views of all residents, particularly disabled residents.

The Council would welcome the views of any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability.

Persons or bodies making representations should, if possible, give alternative places that may be used as polling places.

The postal address and e-mail address for making representations are as follows:

Electoral Services
Council of the Isles of Scilly
Town Hall
St Mary's
TR21 0LW

elections@scilly.gov.uk

Representations that are received will be published and be available for inspection.

The deadline for making representations is Friday 14 February 2020.

After representations have been considered, a final report will be submitted to Council.

Mark Boden
Chief Executive & Electoral Registration Officer
Council of the Isles of Scilly

23 January 2020