

Bolton Council

Report to: Constitutional Panel

Date: 29 February 2016

Report of: Returning Officer/Electoral
Registration Officer

Report No:

Contact Officer: Elections Manager – Steven Blyth

Tele No:

Report Title: **Polling District and Polling Station Change**

Non Confidential: **(Non-Confidential)** This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public.

Purpose: Report to seek permission to reinstate previous arrangements for Halliwell Ward with regard to former Polling Districts 1PA1 and 1PI1 .

Recommendations: The Panel is recommended to:

1. agree to split Polling District 1PA1 into 2 creating a new 1PA1 and 1PI1, and,
2. retain St Matthew's as the polling place for 1PA1 and Church of the Nazarene for 1PI1.

Decision:

Background Doc(s):

(for use on Exec Rep)

Signed:

Leader / Executive Cabinet
Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

Background Information

A review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations took place in 2013/2014 to seek to comply with the statutory review process, consider reducing the number of polling stations following suggestions from members and seek to reduce the cost of mobile stations used across the borough.

As part of this review 2 Polling Districts in Halliwell were merged. These Polling Districts were previously identified as 1PA1 and 1PI1 and were merged into a new 1PA1 district. This created a Polling District of approximately 2000 electors. The polling place kept St Matthews Church on Brownlow Way as it was on the boundary of the 2 existing Polling Districts.

Recently a complaint has been received from Councillor Morris which he has had from electors from the former district 1PA1 who have found the polling place to be too far from their homes. The current Polling District is split in 2 by Brownlow Way which has proved to be a barrier to electors in the former district 1PA1. Ward members agree with the complainant .

Proposal

This is the only outstanding complaint which has been received about the Polling Districts and Polling Stations in advance of the local elections in May 2016 and EU Referendum in June 2016. The urgency in dealing with this complaint is that unless it is approved before the register is updated and published in March 2016 it will be impossible to address it before the next elections and referendum.

Recommendations

The Panel is recommended to:

1. agree to split Polling District 1PA1 into 2 creating a new 1PA1 and 1PI1, and,
2. retain St Matthew's as the polling place for 1PA1 and ideally the Church of the Nazarene for 1PI1.