

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held at
The Jeffrey Room, The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1
1DE

on Tuesday, 6 October 2015

at 6:00 pm.

D Kennedy
Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Minutes

Copy of the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th July 2015.

3. Declarations of Interest

4. Deputations / Public Addresses

5. Matters of Urgency which by reason of special circumstances the chair is of the opinion should be considered

6. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Report of the Chief Executive (Copy herewith)

7. Exclusion of Public and Press

THE CHAIR TO MOVE:

“THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE IS LIKELY TO BE DISCLOSURE TO THEM OF SUCH CATEGORIES OF EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED BY SECTION 100(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS LISTED AGAINST SUCH ITEMS OF BUSINESS BY REFERENCE TO THE APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH OF SCHEDULE 12A TO SUCH ACT.”

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

**Exempted Under Schedule
12A of L.Govt Act 1972
Para No:-**

Public Participation

Members of the public may address the Committee on any non-procedural matter listed on this agenda. Addresses shall not last longer than three minutes. Committee members may then ask questions of the speaker. No prior notice is required prior to the commencement of the meeting of a request to address the Committee.

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 7 July 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Parekh (Chair); Councillor Kilbride (Deputy Chair);
Councillors Aziz, Marriott, Gowen, Russell, Sargeant, Shaw and
Stone.

1. APOLOGIES

There were none.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 January 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

4. DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

5. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

There were none.

6. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2015

The Chief Executive presented his report and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the work undertaken on reviewing the Polling Districts and Polling Places used for elections within the Borough. Maps of Abington and Phippsville Wards were displayed to indicate the types of issues which could be considered as part of the review. Council at its meeting on 8 June 2015 had resolved that in the next review equal access should be ensured to all using polling stations, including those without cars and with restricted mobility. The Committee's guidance was requested on consultation with the public as part of the review.

The Committee would receive a report to its meeting on 6 October 2015 detailing the consultation response and a submission by the Returning Officer with regard to future polling arrangements. There would be recommendations to form the basis of consultation before the Committee takes a decision at its meeting on 17 November 2015. It was intended to publish the final decision by 1 December 2015, which would be the publication of the first Electoral Register following the 2015 Canvass of Electors.

In answer to members' questions and comments the Chief Executive responded as summarised below:

- Alternatives would be considered where any polling places/stations could not be made accessible to all users.
- Some wards had anomalies as a result of boundary reviews undertaken by the Council, County Council and the Boundary Commission using different bases. The review would seek to resolve such issues.
- There would be a boundary review after the new Electoral Register was published on 1 December 2015.
- The cost of running a polling station on an election day had variables, including hire and staffing costs and any additional equipment which might be required, but was approximately £1,000-£1,500 per station.
- Schools could be required to provide a polling place but the Returning Officer was aware there were costs to the school in doing so, such as caretaking on election day, and that schools had safeguarding concerns to consider.
- Some local authorities had experimented with alternatives to traditional forms of voting, including electronic media, but there were still concerns regarding safety and security to be considered. The previous Parliament had established a commission to look into ways the current system might be changed.
- It was important for members to seek their constituents' views, and offer local knowledge, particularly where any issues had been raised. For example, a very large polling district had been created in Talavera ward which had led to complaints in 2015 that this caused access issues. This had been flagged up for consideration in this review.
- Members could usefully direct their constituents to information on the review and a brief questionnaire which were on the Council's website. A copy of the information and questionnaire was circulated at the meeting.
- The Household Enquiry Form, which required details of persons living in properties, had a prescribed form of wording which did not leave space for the details of the review to be included on it. The Individual Electoral Registration Form had greater space available and some information about the review would be included on that form.

Members offered the following comments for consideration:

- The possibility of requiring supermarkets to make a room available as a polling place if no suitable alternative was available;
- The use of housing policies to allow empty properties to be used as polling places;
- To potentially use Housing Officers to identify areas for polling places;
- To potentially use Neighbourhood Wardens to identify issues regarding polling places;
- That the Borough was one of the fastest growing areas in the country and as a result of this fast growth many new residents were not aware of the ward they lived in;

- That Individual Electoral Registration information material could be given to members for passing to constituents.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Electoral Commission's guidance on the conduct of reviews of Polling Districts and Polling Places and the respective responsibilities of the Council and of the Electoral Registration Officer and Local Returning Officers be noted.
2. That the work done to date on the current review and the plans to complete the review in good time for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2016 be noted.
3. That the comments in the preamble above be considered bearing in mind the Commission's guidance.

7. INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

The Chief Executive presented a report detailing progress made towards the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) in light of the Council's resolution on 8 June 2015 that further work be carried out to ensure maximum numbers of Borough residents are registered to vote, particularly with the full implementation of IER.

The response to IER had been very low nationally in 2014/15 and the Electoral Commission had decided to recommend that the final transition from the household system to IER be put back to be completed in December 2016. Approximately 4,000 electors in the Borough (4.6%) who are registered under the old system were still to register under IER in spite of repeated reminders.

In answer to members' questions and comments the Chief Executive responded as summarised below:

- Notifying people of IER through the Council Tax system when they reported changes to circumstances had led to some issues, particularly in the case of bereavements, and other methods were being considered.
- Under IER people have to register individually and then register each following year. A person's electoral number would change as the new Electoral Register was published annually in December.

Members offered the following comments for consideration;

- That IER information material could be given to members for passing to constituents;
- That local radio be used to publicise IER as many people were listeners;
- That door knocking to chase up IER responses often tended to miss catching many people;
- There might be an issue with many first time voters not registering under IER;
- That consideration be given to students who are not registering under IER, with approximately 7,100 not registered;

- That attention be paid to IER in those wards where there is a high transient population, particularly of transient workers;
- That attention be given to registering voters in areas of high density housing;
- Publicising IER at social and community events where many people gather together;
- That the resources available to promote IER be considered.

The Chief Executive stated that the intention was to promote IER until it became something people did on a routine and on-going basis.

RESOLVED:

That the actions being undertaken by officers to pursue the ongoing implementation of Individual Electoral Registration in Northampton be noted and the comments in the preamble above be considered following the motion passed at the Council meeting held on 8 June 2015.

The meeting concluded at 7:03 pm.

Appendices:
1



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Committee Meeting Date:	6 th October 2015
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Chief Executive

1. Purpose

1.1 To update members on the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places and to present to the Committee recommendations from the Local Returning Officer relating to the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places under various legislative provisions and in particular The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 and seek the Committee's comments before the commencement of formal consultation.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee notes the representations of the (Local Returning Officer and the public consultation that will now take place.

2.2 That the Committee makes any comments on the Local Returning Officer's proposals that it would wish to inform the consultation.

2.3 That the Committee notes that final recommendations will be brought to a meeting of the Committee on the 17th November 2015.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 The introduction of The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires each local authority to carry out a review of polling districts and polling places every fifth year after 1st October 2013.

- 3.1.2 Although the Council completed a review in 2013, following representations made to the Electoral Commission that the review had not been completed fully, the Commission requested that a further full review be conducted as soon as possible..
- 3.1.3 The Local Returning Officer initiated a full and comprehensive review of Polling Districts and Polling Places immediately following the Parliamentary and Local Elections held on 7th May 2015 and the processes outlined by this report and being undertaken by the Local Returning Officer and the Council comply with the Electoral Commission's request referred to in 3.1.2 above.
- 3.1.4 The scope and methodology of the review and consultation was agreed by General Purposes committee on 7th July 2015.
- 3.1.5 The review is being conducted and informed by legislative requirements and extant guidance from the Electoral Commission. Broadly, there is a requirement for the Council to take certain steps in conducting the review. This includes the publication of a notice; comments on proposed polling stations by the Local Returning Officer and broad consultations with a number of stakeholders, particularly those organisations or groups with expertise in disability related issues. These processes have been followed fully and the review informing the Local Returning Officer's report have been comprehensive.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Resources and Risk

- 4.1.1 Additional resource will be required to manage and run any additional Polling Stations required following any proposed reductions in size of some Polling districts. European, National, Police, County and Parish elections, ballots and referendums are not funded by the Borough Council but costs are reclaimed from the responsible body. The Borough Council is responsible for its own elections and for specified local ballots such as Community Planning Referendums or any Mayoral Referendum.
- 4.1.2 Additional cost will be incurred by increasing the number of polling places.

4.2 Legal

- 4.2.1 The review has to be conducted in accordance with various legislative provisions, including the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. Formal guidance from the Electoral Commission, entitled Reviews of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations is being followed closely

4.1 Equality

- 4.1.1 Access to polling districts, places and polling stations is central to the review and recommendations. Advice has been sought from specialist groups and

agencies relating to access needs of protected groups, specifically those with a disability.

4.1.2 Full inspections of Polling Places have taken place which included accessibility and incorporated any advice given by the groups above.

4.2 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.2.1 Consultation has been carried out informally and will now be carried out formally in relation to these proposals.

4.2.2 Compulsory consultees are stated in the guidance issued by the Electoral Commission and include the following:

- Candidates and agents for the parliamentary, local and Parish elections held on May 7th, 2015
- Elected representatives (County Councillors, MEP's etc)
- Local Returning Officers from neighbouring authorities (e.g. South Northamptonshire)
- Disability Groups
- Political Parties
- Electors
- Council officers with relevant experience

4.3 Other Implications

4.3.1 None

5. Background Papers

5.1 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places files and records, held by the Borough Secretary's department.

5.2 EC Guidance, "Reviews of polling districts, polling places and polling stations".

David Kennedy
Chief Executive and Local Returning Officer
Ext 7726

**RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER
TO NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The following report outlines proposals for Polling Districts and Polling Places in Northampton following initial consultation with the public and interested parties.

The proposals attached are presented to the Council's General Purposes Committee for the Committee to comment upon.

These proposals, with comments from the Committee, are to be subjected to further formal consultation for a 4 week period, Notice of which is being given in the proper manner.

Attached appendices show the recommended Polling Districts and Polling Places. The following narrative explains the reasons for these recommendations.

General Comments

The structure of Polling Districts used in any election needs to take account of the legal requirements laid down in Statute and the requirements of the Electoral Commission.

In addition, polling districts need to be set in such a way that the Electoral Register can be structured to deliver any individual election. Polling Districts are the basic building block of the Register and therefore are always the smallest division of electors in the Register.

This means that the boundaries of Polling Districts are firstly determined by the boundaries of the Borough, Parliamentary Constituencies, County Council Divisions, and then by Borough Council Wards, Parish Councils, and Parish Council Wards where applicable. It is not possible to establish a Polling District that, for example, crosses the boundary of a County Council Division as this would mean that the Register would not be, as required, capable of delivering a County Council election in those Divisions.

As a result, many Polling District boundaries are effectively determined by these higher-ranking geographies. Areas which fall between these boundaries may be sub-divided into Polling Districts on the decision of the Borough Council (subject to the right to appeal to the Electoral Commission) and this should be considered with due regard to making Polling Places and Polling Stations accessible and convenient for voters in person. The exact shape or size of a Polling District can be affected by the availability of suitable Polling Places.

Polling Places are locations within which a Polling Station is to be established by the relevant Returning Officer for an election. Polling Places may, if possible, contain more than one Polling Station and serve more than one Polling District.

The Electoral Commission has guided that no Polling Station may have more than 2,500 voters in person assigned to it. This does not mean that a Polling District cannot be larger than 2,500, but if so then it will need a number of Polling Stations, which may of course be in the same Polling Place.

In recent draft guidance relating to the forthcoming referendum on the nation's membership of the European Union, the Commission has drawn on experience in Scotland in 2014. In light of the very high turnouts achieved in Scotland and in consideration of planning for such in the EU Referendum, the Commission has suggested at the Referendum Local Returning officers should try not to exceed 1,500 voters in person whilst recognising that on occasion this will be necessary and appropriate.

As mentioned above, public consultation has been carried out in preparing these draft recommendations. All comments have been considered where relevant and a summary of the comments made is attached in the appendices to this document.

In addition, a programme of inspecting actual and potential Polling Places has been undertaken in order to inform these recommendations. A small number of inspections remain to be carried out, and where alternatives are proposed by consultees during the formal consultation these will also be subjected to inspection if this has not already happened.

As explained in the covering report, these draft recommendations, with comments from the Committee, are to be subjected to formal consultation which will then be reported back to the Committee for decision on the 17th November to be incorporated into the Register on the 1st December.

Proposals are presented, for ease of reference, Borough Council Ward by Borough Council Ward. Details of Polling District boundaries and projected numbers of voters in person are contained within the Appendices.

Abington Ward

Abington Ward currently has 5 Polling Districts. One Polling District falls within the Northampton South Constituency and has less than 1,000 projected voters in person in 2020.

It is proposed to reshape the other four Polling Districts into five in accordance with the attached ward map. The boundary changes are significant and intended to increase accessibility and balance numbers of voters better between Polling Places.

The proposed Polling Places are: Abington Avenue Reformed Church, Stimpson Avenue Academy (for 2 Polling Districts), Old Northamptonians, Barry Primary School, and Vernon Terrace Community Centre. All of these Polling Places are currently used at elections. In the case of the Old Northamptonians this use is currently for Rushmills Ward.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Abington Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Billing Ward

Billing Ward contains a number of Parish Wards. As a result there is limited discretion as to the arrangements within this Ward.

There are currently four Polling Districts and four Polling Places in this Ward and it is proposed to make no changes to this. However it is noted that the projected voters in person in two Polling Districts will exceed 1,500 in 2020.

The proposed Polling Places are: the Institute in Great Billing, St. Andrew's CEVA Primary School, Bellinge Community Centre, and All Saints Church. All of these Polling Places are currently used at elections.

The Polling District served by the Institute in Great Billing is projected to reach around 1,650 voters in person in 2020. The Polling Place is not considered able to hold two Polling Stations but no suitable alternative has been located.

The Polling District served by St Andrew's CEVA Primary School is project to reach around 1,900 voters in person in 2020. Inspection shows that, should it be considered necessary by the Returning Officer, it possible to host two Polling Stations in this Polling Place.

The proposed arrangements are considered to be the best possible in Billing Ward and recommended on that basis.

Boothville Ward

Boothville Ward currently contains two Polling Districts with two Polling Places.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements but adjust the boundary between the two Polling Districts to improve convenience for voters. After this adjustment one Polling District is projected to have around 1,700 voters in person in 2020. The Polling Place for this Polling District could, if required, hold two polling stations serving this Polling District.

The Polling Places in this ward are: King's Meadow School and Boothville Community Centre, both currently in use at elections.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Boothville Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Brookside Ward

Brookside Ward currently contains three Polling Districts at three Polling Places.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements as they match the geography of the Ward very well. One Polling District is projected to reach just under 1,800 voters in person in 2020. The Polling Place, Lings Primary School, could accommodate two Polling Stations if considered necessary at an election, although the School would prefer not to be used. It has not been possible to identify another suitable premise to serve this area as a Polling Station.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Brookside Ward and recommended on that basis.

Castle Ward

Castle Ward currently contains five Polling Districts and five Polling Places.

Projections of numbers of voters in person in 2020 demonstrate that two of the existing Polling Stations would exceed 2,200 by then. It is proposed therefore to reshape the

Polling Districts into seven in accordance with the attached ward map. The boundary changes are significant and intended to increase accessibility and balance numbers of voters better between Polling Places.

The proposed Polling Places are: Castle Community Hub (in place of Spring Lane Primary School), The Guildhall, Victoria Road Congregational Church, Mounts Baths, Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust (for 2 Polling Districts), and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

Two of these Polling Places are not currently designated as Polling Places. Castle Community Hub and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church are new.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Castle Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Delapre and Briar Hill Ward

Delapre and Briar Hill Ward currently contains of four Polling Districts served by four Polling Places with a total of six Polling Stations.

Delapre and Briar Hill is a geographically dispersed and large ward. Projections of numbers of voters in person in 2020 demonstrate that two of the existing Polling Stations would exceed 2,000 by then. In order to provide more local access it is proposed to reshape the Polling Districts into eight in accordance with the attached ward map and increase the number of Polling Places. The boundary changes are significant and intended to increase accessibility and balance numbers of voters better between Polling Places.

A key change is to include the area to the west of Briar Hill as a distinct Polling District with a more local Polling Place. This can only be achieved by the use of a mobile unit, and a location has been identified at the junction of Hunsbarrow and Ironstone Road.

The area to the south of the ward has also been adjusted in order to manage the number of voters in person at Gloucester Avenue Nursery School. A new Polling District with a Polling Place at Abbey Primary School is proposed.

To the north-east of the ward is an area of planned new development at Ransome Road and the University Campus. It is proposed to establish a Polling District which serves some existing housing and these planned development sites, served by a Polling Place at a mobile unit in Asda's Car Park on London Road/Ransome Road. Should development happen faster than expected then it would be possible to accommodate a second Polling Station at Asda. At next review in 2018/19 it should be possible to consider a location at the University.

The remaining three Polling Districts are proposed to be served by a Polling Place at Far Cotton Recreation Centre, with one of these Districts projected to just reach 1,500 voters in person in 2020. Whilst the Centre could accommodate four Polling Stations it is not considered likely that this will be needed before next review.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Delapre and Briar Hill Ward and are recommended on that basis.

East Hunsbury Ward

East Hunsbury Ward contains six Polling Districts with four Polling Places.

It is proposed to largely retain these arrangements as they match the geography of the Ward very well. One Polling District is projected to reach just over 1,800 voters in person in 2020. The Polling Place, Blackymore Community Centre, serves two Polling Districts and could not accommodate three Polling Stations if that were to be considered necessary, but could accommodate a mobile unit in the Centre car park at an election if required.

One change in Polling Place is proposed, in that Danes Camp Leisure Centre is proposed to act as the Polling Place for one Polling District which is currently one of two served by Abbey Centre Baptist Church. This is being proposed on accessibility grounds. Danes Camp is not currently used for elections.

In relation to the Polling Place at the Pro-Shop, Collingtree Golf Club, we have been informed that the Pro-Shop may not be available in the future, but there are other locations within the Golf Club. Therefore the Polling Place is now stated as Collingtree Golf Club.

The other Polling Place is East Hunsbury Primary School which is currently used.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in East Hunsbury Ward and recommended on that basis.

Eastfield Ward

Eastfield Ward has two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

One Polling District is projected to reach just over 2,000 voters in person in 2020. It is proposed to retain the existing boundary to this area but to split that Polling District into two with both new Polling Districts being served by St Albans Jubilee Hall which sits on the boundary between the two Districts, as the Polling Place.

The other Polling District is proposed to remain unaltered and served by Eden Close Community Room as the Polling Place.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in Eastfield Ward and recommended on that basis.

Headlands Ward

Headlands Ward has two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

The current arrangements in this ward work well, and it is proposed not to make any changes. One Polling District is projected to reach over 1,600 voters in person in 2020 and if this becomes significant the Polling Place is able to accommodate a second Polling Station.

The two Polling Places are Headlands United Reformed Church and Abington Community Centre.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Headlands Ward and recommended on that basis.

Kings Heath Ward

King's Heath Ward has two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places operating three Polling Stations.

One Polling District covers the King's Heath Estate and Dallington Heath. The other covers the Ryehill area. These arrangements match the topography of the area and the location of the Polling Place on the Estate is a good central location for that District, containing two Polling Stations.

The only proposed change is that the area designated in the Local Plan for new Housing on Dallington Heath be included in the Polling District that contains Ryehill. This is proposed as it will better reflect the current expected development phasing on the sustainable urban extension.

The two Polling Places are Montague Crescent Community Room and King's Heath Community Centre, both of which are currently used.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in King's Heath Ward and recommended on that basis.

Kingsley Ward

Kingsley Ward currently has three Polling Districts operating from three Polling Places.

One of these Polling Districts is projected to reach over 1,800 voters in person by 2020. Therefore it is proposed to adjust the boundaries between two Polling Districts to balance numbers more evenly between them.

In addition, this Ward contains an area that falls in a different County Division. The land involved is currently undeveloped and expected to remain so. This Polling District will therefore have no voters in person and for technical purposes only will be allocated to the Polling Place at a Mobile Unit in Fulford Drive.

The other two Polling Places are: Kingsley Primary School and Kingsley Park Methodist Church. All the Polling Places in this ward are currently used.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in Kingsley Ward and recommended on that basis.

Kingsthorpe Ward

Kingsthorpe Ward currently consists of two Polling Districts at two Polling Places. The boundary between these Polling Places is determined by a County Council Division boundary.

It is proposed to retain the current arrangements with the facility to have two Polling Stations at Kingsthorpe Community Centre if necessary at any election. The Polling District at that Polling Place is projected to have around 1,900 voters in person in 2020.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Kingsthorpe Ward and recommended on that basis.

Nene Valley Ward

This ward is geographically widely spread. It currently contains five Polling Districts with three Polling Places and six Polling Stations.

For Parish election reasons, and for accessibility, there are Polling Districts at Hardingstone and at Collingtree which will need to remain in place. Hardingstone is currently projected to have just under 1,500 voters in person in 2020. Should development of housing proceed within the Hardingstone Parish it may in time be necessary to consider a second Polling Station there.

The remaining three current Polling Districts all vote at Wootton Community and Sports Centre in four current Polling Stations. The recommendation of this review is to establish four Polling Districts, with three having Wootton Community and Sports Centre as the Polling Place and one, covering the north-west area of Wootton, served by the Wootton Memorial Hall. The Memorial Hall is not currently used as a Polling Place.

The Polling Place at Hardingstone is the Village Hall, and at Collingtree the Village Room. Both are currently used.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Nene Valley Ward and are recommended on that basis.

New Duston Ward

New Duston Ward currently has seven Polling Districts, the boundaries of which are largely determined by Parish and County Council boundaries, served by four Polling Places.

It is proposed to retain the Polling Districts in their current configuration. This reflects the different boundary requirements and also the geography of the ward. Two Polling Districts are projected to have over 1,700 voters in person in 2020. If necessary at elections it would be possible to locate double Polling Stations at the Polling Places for these Districts.

One Polling District which is required for boundary reasons currently contains no voters and, as with a District in Kingsley Ward, will be allocated a Polling Place for technical reasons.

The Polling Places proposed are: Mobile Unit on Errington Park (2 Districts), Mobile Unit at Bordeaux Close, Mobile Unit at Park Lane Island, Duston Community Centre, and Duston Eldean Primary School (2 Districts including the blank District). All these Polling Places are current although Duston Community Centre is currently only used for Old Duston Ward in which it is located. This recommendation transfers a Polling District away from the Primary School and thereby would create space for when two Polling Stations are considered necessary for one District served by the School.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in New Duston Ward and recommended on that basis.

Obelisk Ward

Obelisk Ward contains two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places. One District, covering mainly the Park Campus of the University, is determined by County Council Division boundaries.

There are no proposed changes to the arrangements for this ward. However it should be noted that, whilst Reynard Way Evangelical Church is a very well located and accessible central point in the Polling District that includes it, that District is projected to have around 1,900 voters in person in 2020. The Polling Place can take two Polling Stations and this may be necessary at some elections.

The other Polling Place is the Sunley Management and Conference Centre at the University.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Obelisk Ward and recommended on that basis.

Old Duston

Old Duston Ward currently has four Polling Districts, the boundaries of which are largely determined by Parish and County Council boundaries, served by three Polling Places.

One of the existing Polling Districts is projected to increase to nearly 2,000 voters in person by 2020. As a result the review proposes that the number of Polling Districts be increased to five.

In response to consultation proposals were made for use of the new St Luke's Community Centre as a Polling Place and it is proposed to have the Centre serve two Polling Districts. Two further Polling Districts are proposed to be served by the Duston Community Centre (which will, with New Duston, serve three Districts), then one at Chiltern Primary School which is currently not used, and finally at Lyncrest Primary School.

Representations have been made about accessibility issues at Lyncrest Primary School. The Polling District it serves is defined by County Council Division and Parish boundaries, and is bounded by major roads. The only premises identified in this District are those at the Primary School. It is intended to discuss how to improve accessibility further with the School to see how this can be improved.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Old Duston Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Park Ward

Park Ward currently has two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

It is proposed to make a minor change to the Polling District boundary to balance voters in person between them. Each is projected to have around 1,500 voters in person in 2020. Otherwise no changes are proposed and the Polling Places are proposed to remain as at present: St Peter's Church Hall, and Bridgewater Primary School.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in Park Ward and recommended on that basis.

Parklands Ward

Parklands Ward currently has two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

Representations have been made about an area off Talavera Way to the north of this Ward which is served by Parklands Community Centre as its Polling Place. This is considered by the people making the representation to not provide sufficient accessibility.

Having considered these representations it is proposed for consultation that a third Polling District be established to the north of the ward incorporating the Darnell Way area. Two options for Polling Place have been identified, either the commercial office area at Darnell Way or Boothville Community Centre. It is proposed to consult on both and further research on options will be carried out during the consultation period.

The remainder of the Ward is proposed to be two Polling Districts as at present with a small adjustment to the boundary to assist balance between them.

The other two Polling Places are proposed to be as now: Parklands Community Centre and Parklands Nursery School and Childrens Centre.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Parklands Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Phippsville Ward

Phippsville Ward is divided into two Polling Districts with the boundary between them determined by a County Council Division. These are served by two Polling Places.

No changes are proposed to Polling Districts and Polling Places. The larger of the two Polling Districts is projected to have around 1,900 voters in person by 2020. It is proposed that this District will be served by two Polling Stations within the existing Polling Place, which has the capacity and good accessibility.

The Polling Places are: St Matthew's Parish Centre, and Cedar Road Primary School.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Phippsville Ward and recommended on that basis.

Rectory Farm Ward

Rectory Farm Ward is currently made up of three Polling Districts. One is determined by Parliamentary Constituency boundaries. These are served by two Polling Places.

It is proposed to adjust the borders between the two Polling Districts served by Rectory Farm Community Centre as their Polling Place, to balance the number of voters in person projected in 2020 to around 1,400. No other changes are proposed.

The other Polling Place is Blackthorn Good Neighbours and Childrens Centre. Although concerns were expressed about this Polling Place before the last elections, problems were not experienced on the day and no better alternative location has been identified.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in Rectory Farm Ward and recommended on that basis.

Riverside Ward

Riverside Ward currently consists of two Polling Districts served from a single Polling Place, Standens Barn Community Centre.

Projections of voters in person have indicated that one of the two Polling Districts would reach over 1,900 voters in person by 2020. In light of this it is proposed to split the ward into three Polling Districts all served from the same existing Polling Place which is near the meeting point of all three Polling Districts.

It would be possible to adjust the boundaries between the two existing Polling Districts but this would have created two each with about 1,500 voters in person each in 2020. On balance a set of three Districts is preferred.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in Riverside Ward and recommended on that basis.

Rushmills Ward

Rushmills Ward is currently divided into four Polling Districts. One District is determined by the Parish of Great Houghton and a Parliamentary Constituency boundary. These are served by four Polling Places. The ward is geographically widespread.

Following comments in response to the initial consultation it is proposed to use Old Scouts as the Polling Place for one District, replacing Old Northamptonians which is now proposed to be used in Abington Ward.

It is also proposed to reallocate part of the District that vote at Old Northamptonians to the District that votes at Vernon Terrace Community Centre for convenience and accessibility reasons.

The existing Polling District served by Bridgewater Primary School is still proposed to have the School as its Polling Place but in the further consultation we would ask for further comments on potential alternative Polling Places, for accessibility and convenience reasons.

The Polling Place at Great Houghton is Parsons Memorial Hall and is not proposed to change.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Rushmills Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Semilong Ward

Semilong Ward currently contains four Polling Districts, significantly affected by Parliamentary Constituency and County Council Division boundaries. These are served by three Polling Places.

No changes are proposed to these arrangements. One Polling District is projected to have around 1,500 voters in person by 2020.

The Polling Places for Semilong Ward are Holy Trinity Church Hall (2 Districts), Semilong Community Centre and Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Semilong Ward and recommended on that basis.

Spencer Ward

Spencer Ward currently contains two Polling Districts, each using Spencer Dallington Community Centre as the Polling Place.

In order to provide better accessibility to the north west of this Ward it is proposed to establish a Polling District there served by the Dallington Lawn Tennis Club. The remainder of the Ward is proposed to be two Polling Districts served by Spencer Dallington Community Centre.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Spencer Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Spring Park

Spring Park Ward currently contains two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

On current projections, one Polling District would have around 1,800 voters in person in 2020. This Polling District is served by Parsons Community Centre and if necessary at elections in the future will have two Polling Stations. No changes to boundaries or Polling Places are proposed. The other Polling District is served by St Mark's Church Hall.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Spring Park Ward and recommended on that basis.

St David's Ward

St David's Ward currently contains two Polling Districts each based at one Polling Place.

Representations were made at and after the 2015 elections that the topography of this ward requires a different arrangement with more Polling Places and by implication Polling Districts. As one of the current Polling Districts is projected to have around 1,700 voters in person in 2020, there is a case to make changes on these grounds and in response to representations.

It is therefore proposed to create three Polling Districts with three Polling Places. The Polling Places would be the Liburd Community Room, the Kingsthorpe Grove Lower

School and the currently used St David's Church Room. The former two are not current Polling Places and views are sought on the suitability of these Places. It has not yet been possible to inspect Kingsthorpe Grove Lower School, but this will take place over the next few weeks.

The locations of these three Places, at the lower, middle, and upper part of the ward respond to the comments made regarding accessibility.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in St David's Ward and are recommended on that basis.

St James Ward

St James Ward currently consists of two Polling Districts at two Polling Places.

There is new development of housing planned in this Ward at Sixfields that is remote from the Polling Place for that District. It is therefore proposed to establish a new Polling District at the west end of this Ward. Initially this District will have no voters in person. However once voters register in this area, the proposed Polling Place that they will vote in is proposed to be Sixfields Stadium. This could include a mobile option for a Polling Station within the Stadium Car Park.

The remainder of the Ward is proposed to be unchanged as the arrangements work well and the Polling Places are suitable and accessible. One District is projected to have just over 1,800 voters in person by 2020 and thus there may be an additional Polling Station at Franklins Gardens, which is the Polling Place. The other Polling Place is the Doddridge Centre.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in St James Ward and recommended on that basis.

Sunnyside Ward

Sunnyside Ward currently consists of two Polling Districts served by one Polling Place. One Polling District is determined by the County Council Division boundary.

Representations were made that the Polling Place at Hinton Road Community Rooms was too small and inaccessible at the time of the elections. The point on accessibility is not accepted, but it is recognised that the level of use of this Polling Place with two Polling Stations is relatively high for its size. It also needs to be noted that the projected number of voters in person in one existing Polling District in 2020 is around 2,000.

It is therefore proposed to increase the number of Polling Districts to three, with three Polling Places. The proposed Polling Places are the Sunley Management and Conference Centre at the University, Hinton Road Community Rooms and a proposed mobile unit at Bective Road.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Sunnyside Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Talavera Ward

Talavera Ward currently consists of five Polling Districts served by five Polling Places. One Polling District is required to meet Parliamentary Constituency boundaries and the Ward is also affected by County Council Divisions.

Representations have been made that the current arrangements, particularly with regard to the Polling District served at Goldcrest Community Rooms are not sufficiently accessible. It is therefore proposed to move to six Polling Districts served by six Polling Places and in particular to move the Polling Place in the Goldings area. The existing Polling District is proposed to be split along Lings Way, with the western part served in the future by Lodge Farm Community Centre, and the eastern part served in the future by a mobile unit at Goldings Shopping Centre.

The other Polling Places are proposed to be unchanged as: Thorplands Primary School, Southfields Community Centre, Blackthorn Good Neighbours and Childrens Centre, and Rectory Farm Community Centre.

Two Polling Districts, served by Southfields Community Centre and Thorplands Primary School, are projected to have over 1,700 voters in person in 2020. Given the geography of the Ward this cannot be mitigated by boundary changes without compromising accessibility.

In consulting on this Ward, comments are particularly welcome with regard to potential alternatives to Thorplands Primary School where accessibility has been an issue in the past.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Talavera Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Trinity Ward

Trinity Ward currently consists of two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

The current arrangements work well and it is not planned to make any changes.

The Polling Places are: The Newton Building at the University Avenue Campus, and Holy Trinity Church Hall

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Trinity Ward and recommended on that basis.

Upton Ward

Upton Ward currently consists of three Polling Districts served three Polling Places. This is an area of significant expected housing growth over the next few years. The boundary of one Polling District is affected by a Parish boundary.

Development is taking place at an area called Dragonfly Meadows to the south of this ward. Existing Polling Places are not accessible from this estate. Therefore an additional Polling District served by a Polling Place in the form of a mobile unit on the slip road to the

Park is proposed. The projected numbers of voters in this District is very low initially and the form of mobile unit will reflect this.

To the north of Weedon Road, substantial housing growth requires consideration of an additional Polling District and one served by St Crispin Social Club is proposed, as a new Polling Place. The remainder of the area north of Weedon Road will continue to be served by St Crispin Retirement Village, and the remaining area to the south of Weedon Road will continue to be served by the Elgar Centre.

The proposed arrangements are intended to deal with growth and to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Upton Ward and are recommended on that basis.

West Hunsbury Ward

West Hunsbury Ward consists of two Polling Districts served by Parsons Mead Community Room and a mobile unit at Ladybridge Park.

Amendments to the boundary between the two Polling Districts are proposed in order to better reflect the geography of the Ward. This will create a larger Polling District to be served by Ladybridge Park, and will require two Polling Stations. Locations for a Polling Place to the north west of this Ward have been sought, but without success.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in West Hunsbury Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Westone Ward

Westone Ward currently consists of three Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

To improve accessibility it is proposed to assign a third Polling Place at Headlands United Reformed Church, and reshape the Polling Districts accordingly.

The other Polling Places are: Weston Favell Parish Hall, and a mobile unit at Northampton College.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Westone Ward and are recommended on that basis.

List of Appendices

2015 Polling Place Review – Summary

2015 Polling District Review – Maps by Borough Ward

David Kennedy
Local Returning Officer
Borough of Northampton

October 2015

2015 Polling Place Review - Summary

Ward/Map Ref	New District Code	Polling Place	2020 - Projected Total Electorate	2020 - Projected In Person
Abington			7859	6665
1	NNAB1	Abington Avenue Utd. Reformed Church	1787	1512
2	NNAB2	Stimpson Avenue Academy	1444	1227
3	NNAB3	Stimpson Avenue Academy	1318	1116
4	NNAB4	Old Northamptonians Association	1224	1039
5	NNAB5	Barry Primary School - Gym Annexe	1221	1034
6	NSAB6	Vernon Terrace Community Centre	865	737
Billing			7166	5751
1	NSBL1	The Institute	2054	1653
2	NSBL2	St Andrew`s CEVA Primary School	2392	1918
3	NSBL3	Bellinge Community Centre	1130	905
4	NSBL4	All Saints Church	1590	1275
Boothville			3660	2884
1	NNBV1	Kings Meadow School	2150	1695
2	NNBV2	Boothville Community Centre	1510	1189
Brookside			4171	3423
1	NNBR1	Lumbertubs Primary School	1410	1161
2	NNBR2	Lings Primary School	2173	1779
3	NNBR3	Arlbury Road Community Room	588	483
Castle			9558	8192
1	NSCT1	Castle Community Hub (New)	1591	1368
2	NSCT2	The Great Hall	1372	1183
3	NSCT3	Victoria Road Congregational Church	1174	1006
4	NSCT4	Mounts Baths	1328	1134
5	NSCT5	Northamptonshire Music Trust	1323	1133
6	NSCT6	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church (New)	1470	1253
7	NSCT7	Northamptonshire Music Trust	1300	1115

2015 Polling Place Review - Summary

Ward/Map Ref	New District Code	Polling Place	2020 - Projected Total Electorate	2020 - Projected In Person
Delapre & Briar Hill			10733	8921
1	NSDB1	Mobile Unit - Hunsbarrow/Ironstone Rd (New)	1351	1126
2	NSDB2	Briar Hill Community Centre	1599	1337
3	NSDB3	Far Cotton Rec Centre	809	672
4	NSDB4	Mobile Unit - Far Cotton Asda (New)	1521	1263
5	NSDB5	Far Cotton Rec Centre	1092	906
6	NSDB6	Far Cotton Rec Centre	1828	1515
7	NSDB7	Gloucester Nursery School	1197	994
8	NSDB8	The Abbey Primary School (New)	1336	1108
East Hunsbury			8384	6652
1	SNEH1	Collingtree Golf Club (New)	363	290
2	SNEH2	Blackymore Community Centre	1458	1157
3	SNEH3	Blackymore Community Centre	2303	1825
4	SNEH4	East Hunsbury Primary School	1546	1226
5	SNEH5	Danes Camp Leisure Centre (New)	1860	1477
6	SNEH6	Abbey Centre Baptist Church	854	677
Eastfield			3664	2946
1	NNEF1	St Albans Jubilee Hall	1476	1181
2	NNEF2	St Albans Jubilee Hall	1132	913
3	NNEF3	Eden Close Community Room	1056	852
Headlands			3829	3143
1	NNHD1	Headlands United Reformed Church	2026	1661
2	NNHD2	Abington Community Centre	1803	1482
Kings Heath			3509	3009
1	NSKH1	Montague Crescent Community Room	592	509
2	NSKH2	Kings Heath Community Centre	2917	2500

2015 Polling Place Review - Summary

Ward/Map Ref	New District Code	Polling Place	2020 - Projected Total Electorate	2020 - Projected In Person
Kingsley			4241	3482
1	NNKG1	Mobile Unit - Fulford Drive	874	719
2	NNKG2	Kingsley Primary School	1614	1326
3	NNKG3	Kingsley Park Methodist Church	1753	1437
4	NNKG4	Mobile Unit - Fulford Drive	0	0
Kingsthorpe			3979	3109
1	NNKT1	The Pastures Community Centre	1561	1218
2	NNKT2	Kingsthorpe Community Centre	2418	1891
Nene Valley			8780	7002
1	SNNV1	Hardingstone Village Hall	1854	1477
2	SNNV2	Wootton Memorial Hall (New)	2426	1937
3	SNNV3	Wootton Community & Sports Centre	1189	945
4	SNNV4	Wootton Community & Sports Centre	1587	1265
5	SNNV5	Wootton Community & Sports Centre	1160	928
6	SNNV6	Collingtree Village Room	564	450
New Duston			8398	6687
1	NSND1	Mobile Unit - Bordeaux Close	2247	1793
2	NSND2	Mobile Unit - Errington Park	675	538
3	NSND3	Mobile Unit - Park Lane Island	1635	1299
4	NSND4	Duston Eldean Primary School	2207	1755
5	NSND5	Mobile Unit - Errington Park	799	637
6	NSND6	Duston Community Centre	835	665
7	NSND7	Duston Eldean Primary School	0	0
Obelisk			2612	2205
1	NNOL1	Reynard Way Evangelical Church	2284	1928
2	NNOL2	Sunley Conference Centre	328	277

2015 Polling Place Review - Summary

Ward/Map Ref	New District Code	Polling Place	2020 - Projected Total Electorate	2020 - Projected In Person
Old Duston			7131	5778
1	NSOD1	Duston Community Centre	1394	1128
2	NSOD2	Chiltern Primary School (New)	1614	1306
3	NSOD3	St Lukes Community Centre (New)	1211	979
4	NSOD4	St Lukes Community Centre (New)	1314	1072
5	NSOD5	Lyncrest Nursery School	1598	1293
Park			3968	3020
1	NSPK1	St Peter`s Church Hall	1980	1507
2	NSPK2	Bridgewater Primary School	1988	1513
Parklands			3978	3006
1	NNPL1	Parklands Community Centre	1710	1293
2	NNPL2	Parklands Nursery School & Childrens Centre	1982	1496
3	NNPL3	Boothville Community Centre (NNBV2) or Offices on Darnell Way (New) - awaiting inspection	286	217
Phippsville			3355	2744
1	NNPH1	St Matthew`s Parish Centre	2411	1971
2	NNPH2	Cedar Road Primary School	944	773
Rectory Farm			3997	3210
1	NSRF1	Rectory Farm Community Centre	1689	1356
2	NSRF2	Rectory Farm Community Centre	1769	1421
3	NNRF3	Blackthorn Good Neighbours and Childrens Centre	539	433
Riverside			3644	2954
1	NSRV1	Standens Barn Community Centre	1170	945
2	NSRV2	Standens Barn Community Centre	1198	972
3	NSRV3	Standens Barn Community Centre	1276	1037

2015 Polling Place Review - Summary

Ward/Map Ref	New District Code	Polling Place	2020 - Projected Total Electorate	2020 - Projected In Person
Rushmills			3530	2816
1	SNRM1	Parsons Memorial Hall	551	444
2	NSRM2	Bridgewater Primary School	1463	1167
3	NSRM3	Old Scouts (New)	761	604
4	NSRM4	Vernon Terrace Community Centre	755	601
Semilong			3736	3224
1	NNSM1	Holy Trinity Church Hall	620	536
2	NNSM2	Holy Trinity Church Hall	214	185
3	NSSM3	Semilong Community Centre	1126	970
4	NSSM4	Alliston Gardens Youth & Community Centre	1776	1533
Spencer			3898	3097
1	NSSP1	Dallington Lawn Tennis Club	1486	1187
2	NSSP2	Spencer Dallington Community Centre	1075	852
3	NSSP3	Spencer Dallington Community Centre	1337	1058
Spring Park			4058	3252
1	NNSP1	The Pastures Community Centre	1171	937
2	NNSP2	The Pastures Community Centre	1298	1042
3	NNSP3	St Mark's Church Hall	1589	1273
St Davids			3488	2844
1	NNSD1	Kingsthorpe Grove Lower School (New) - awaiting inspection	1272	1033
2	NNSD2	St David's Church Room	1307	1065
3	NNSD3	The Liburd Rooms (New)	909	746
St James			3678	3043
1	NSSJ1	The Saints "Heroes Room"	2219	1836
2	NSSJ2	Doddridge Centre	1459	1207
3	NSSJ3	Sixfields Stadium (New)	0	0

2015 Polling Place Review - Summary

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Ward/Map Ref	New District Code	Polling Place	2020 - Projected Total Electorate	2020 - Projected In Person
Sunnyside			3469	2778
1	NNSU1	Sunley Conference Centre	887	714
2	NNSU2	Hinton Road Community Room	1599	1279
3	NNSU3	Hinton Road Community Room	983	785
Talavera			8296	6760
1	NNTV1	Thorplands Primary School	2136	1742
2	NNTV2	Southfields Community Centre	2106	1717
3	NNTV3	Lodge Farm Community Centre (New)	911	743
4	NNTV4	Mobile Unit - Goldings Shopping Centre (New)	1736	1415
5	NNTV5	Blackthorn Good Neighbours and Childrens Centre	1088	885
6	NSTV6	Rectory Farm Community Centre - Mobile in Car Park	319	258
Trinity			3286	2717
1	NNTR1	The Newton Building (rear entrance)	1719	1423
2	NNTR2	Holy Trinity Church Hall	1567	1294
Upton			5192	4187
1	SNUP1	Mobile Unit - Banbury Lane	935	753
2	SNUP2	Mobile Unit - Dragonfly Meadows, sliproad to Park (New)	14	12
3	SNUP3	The Elgar Centre	1890	1526
4	SNUP4	St Crispin Retirement Village	1582	1273
5	SNUP5	St Crispin Social Club (New)	771	623
West Hunsbury			3826	2986
1	SNWH1	Parsons Mead Community Room	1430	1117
2	SNWH2	Mobile Unit - Ladybridge Park	2396	1869
Westone			3846	2961
1	NNWT1	Mobile Unit - St Gregory Street	849	656
2	NNWT2	Headlands United Reformed Church	1137	876
3	NNWT3	Weston Favell Parish Hall	1860	1429
Grand Total			166919	135448

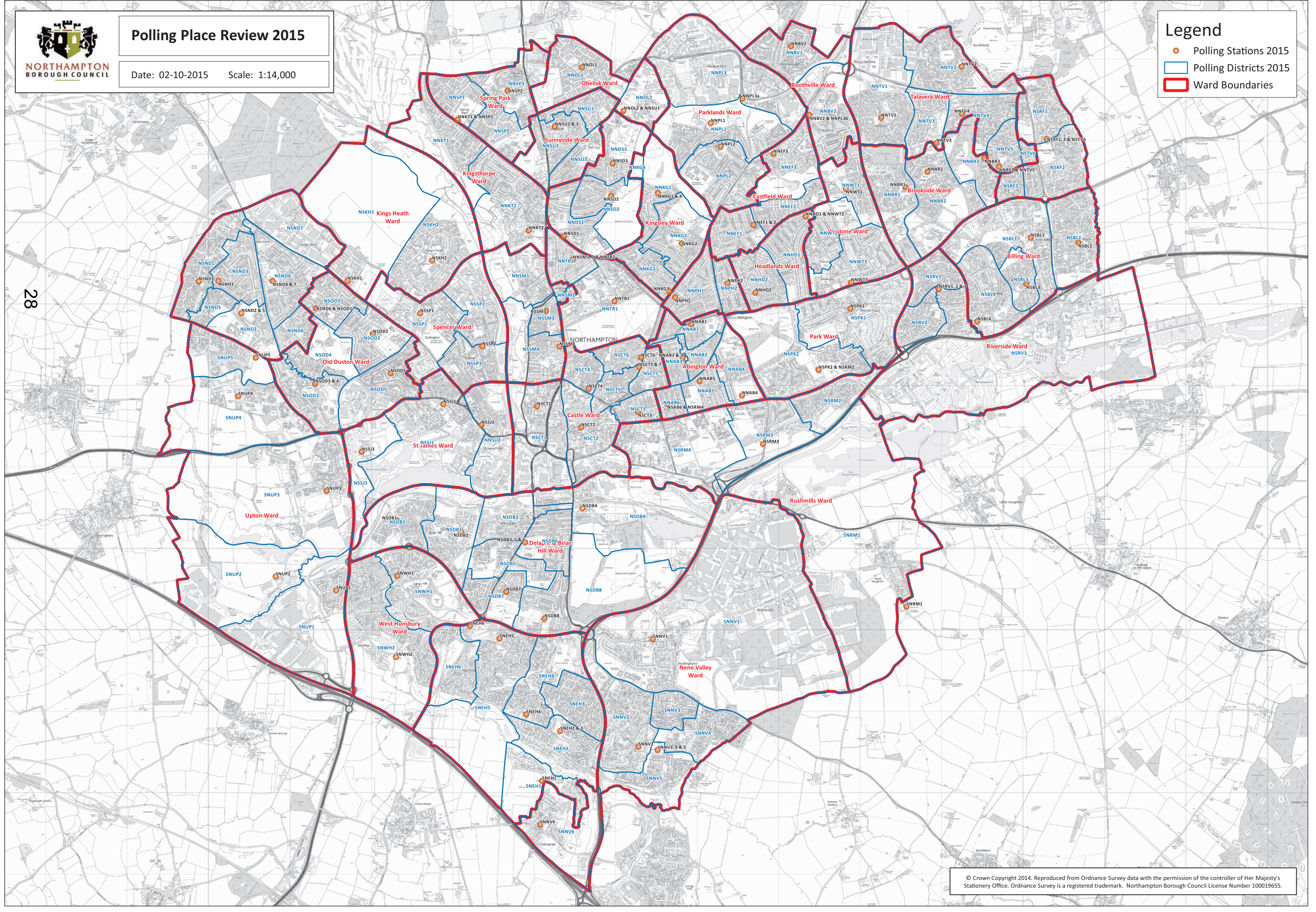


Polling Place Review 2015

Date: 02-10-2015 Scale: 1:14,000

Legend

- Polling Stations 2015
- Polling Districts 2015
- Ward Boundaries



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