

# EXETER CITY COUNCIL REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS & POLLING PLACES/STATIONS 2015

## Information Sheet

### General Information

1.1 The last full review of Parliamentary polling districts and places, was undertaken in 2014. However, following a review of electoral arrangements in Exeter carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) and completed in September 2015, a further review has become necessary.

- The final recommendations of the LGBCE have reduced the number of wards from eighteen to thirteen. These wards will take effect from the elections to be held on 5 May 2016.
- A review is also being conducted of electoral arrangements for Devon County Council, the final recommendations of which have been delayed until January 2016. However, the current set of 9 County Divisions will remain in place until the County elections due in May 2017.
- Additionally, a review of Parliamentary constituencies will also be undertaken in time for the next Parliamentary General election in May 2020. The current constituencies will remain in place until then.
- The Parliamentary polling districts and places are replicated for local government elections.
- The final decision on the situation of polling stations rests with the Returning Officer.
- A **polling district** is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area, i.e. a UK Parliamentary constituency, a European Parliamentary electoral region, a ward or an electoral division.
- A **polling place** is a geographical area in which a polling station is located. In Exeter polling places are the same as the polling district to allow a greater degree of flexibility in deciding where a polling station should be.
- A **polling station** is the actual room or building where the process of voting takes place, and must be located within the polling place designated for the particular polling district. The Returning Officer for the particular election must provide a sufficient number of polling stations, and allot the electors to those polling stations in such manner as he or she thinks the most convenient.

### List of Current Polling Stations

REGISTER	WARD	POLLING STATION
AA	Alphington	St Andrews Church Hall, Alphington Road
AB	Alphington	Exeter Sea Cadet HQ, Canal Banks, Haven Road
AC	Alphington	Westexe Technology College, Hatherleigh Road
AD	Alphington	Alphington Sports Club, Church Road
AE	Alphington	Alphington Village Hall, Ide Lane
BA	Cowick	Westside Youth Centre, Merrivale Road
BB	Cowick	Bowhill, Dunsford Road
CA	Duryard	University of Exeter, Common Room, Lopes Hall, St Germans Road
CB	Duryard	University of Exeter, The Central Block – Birks Grange, New North Road
DA	Exwick	Redhills Primary School, Landhayes Road
DB	Exwick	The Thatched House Inn, Exwick Road
DC	Exwick	Exwick Community Centre, Kinnerton Way *
EA	Heavitree	Scout Hut, South Lawn Terrace *
EB	Heavitree	South West Baptist Assoc, Wonford Street
FA	Mincinglake	Beacon Heath Church, King Arthur's Road
FB	Mincinglake	Whipton Community Hall, Pinhoe Road
FC	Mincinglake	The Knight Club, Beacon Lane
GA	Newtown	Belmont Chapel, Western Way
GB	Newtown	School of Education, College Road (St Luke's)
GC	Newtown	Belmont Bowling club, The Green, Blackboy Road
HA	Pennsylvania	St. James Church Hall, Mount Pleasant Road*
HB	Pennsylvania	Sylvania Community Hall, Mincinglake Valley Park
JA	Pinhoe	Mobile Station, Orwell Garth
JB	Pinhoe	Trinity Community Centre, Arena Park, Beacon Heath
JC	Pinhoe	The Hall Church, Main Road, Pinhoe
JD	Pinhoe	Pinhoe C of E School, Harrington Lane
KA	Polsloe	Ladysmith Junior School, Pretoria Road, (Parent Room)
KB	Polsloe	St Mark's Church Hall, St Mark's Avenue
KC	Polsloe	Baptist Church Hall, Pinhoe Road
LA	Priory	100 Club, Wear Barton Road
LB	Priory	St Luke's Church Rooms, School Lane
LC	Priory	Wonford Methodist Church Hall, Burnthouse Lane
LD	Priory	Wynstream Primary School, Burnthouse Lane
MA	St. David's	Community Room, 66 Weaver's Court, Shilhay
MB	St. David's	Wesley Room, Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street
MC	St. David's	St. David's Church, Queen's Terrace (off Hele Road)

REGISTER	WARD	POLLING STATION
NA	St. James	St. Sidwell's C of E School, York Road *
NB	St. James	Community Room, York House, Longbrook Street
PA	St. Leonard's	Abbeville Community Room, Abbeville Close
PB	St. Leonard's	Church Hall, Roberts Road
PC	St. Leonard's	St Leonards Church Centre, Topsham Road
PD	St. Leonard's	Victoria Park Tennis Club, Lyndhurst Road
QA	St. Loye's	Clyst Heath Nursery & Community School, Royal Crescent
QB	St. Loye's	Woodwater Academy, Woodwater Lane
QC	St. Loye's	St. Peter's High School, Quarry Lane
RA	St. Thomas	Buller Road Evangelical Church, Buller Road
RB	St. Thomas	Exeter Karate Centre, Church Road
RC	St. Thomas	West Exe Childrens Centre, Cowick Street
SA	Topsham	Matthews Hall, Fore Street *
SB	Topsham	Community Room, Grandisson Court
SC	Topsham	Topsham Town AFC, Coronation Field, Topsham Road, Exeter
TA	Whipton Barton	Hamlin House, Hamlin Gardens
TB	Whipton Barton	Community Centre, Bodley Close
TC	Whipton Barton	Community Room, Russet House, Russet Avenue
TD	Whipton Barton	Community Room, Rennes House, Vaughan Road*

\* Double station

### Current Arrangement of Polling Districts

Maps are available upon request.

### What the Rules say\*.

- (a) the authority must seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency in its area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
- (b) the authority must seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled;
- (c) the authority must have regard to the accessibility to disabled persons of potential polling stations in any place which it is considering designating as a polling place;
- (d) the polling place for a polling district must be an area in the district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate any area wholly or partly outside the district;
- (e) the polling place must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the district how they will be able to reach the polling station.

\*(Representation of the People Act 1983 s.18)

Please also note that the Council must publish any correspondence submitted in respect of this review.

## **Access**

All polling stations should have access facilities for disabled electors. This includes wheelchair users. There are various building regulations which determine how adaptations can be made. It is not always possible for the owners of buildings to make permanent structural changes. Where permanent facilities are not possible, Electoral Services try to make temporary provision, usually by means of a portable ramp. However, it must be remembered that, on occasion these ramps can cause a hazard and thus it is not always a practical solution.

A polling station should be within reasonable walking distance for most electors.

## **Practical Considerations**

### Availability

There is no such thing as a purpose built polling station. We have to adapt and use the buildings which are available in the locality. Whilst regulations permit the Returning Officer to use schools, the owners of other buildings (Church halls, sports clubs etc.) have no such obligation.

### Suitability

When selecting a polling station there are some basic criteria which need to be considered.

- Geographically central for the majority of the electorate.
- Appropriate for democratic use.
- Health and safety arrangements
- Enough useable space.
- Exclusive use.
- Access (including parking)
- Welfare facilities for staff
- Cost

### Topography

Considerations such as steep hills and other natural boundaries, railway lines, busy main roads etc. need to be taken into account.

## **Other Factors**

### Use of Schools

The current policy is that schools should not be used, where there is a reasonable and viable alternative.

### Overall Number of Polling Stations

The number of polling stations in Exeter was relatively constant over the decade prior to the 2007 review, when two new polling stations were added. Over the past three years the level of new developments has increased.

There are no legislative limits on the number of polling stations an authority can provide. However, when considering numbers, there needs to be sufficient to run efficient and effective elections, which are as accessible to the electorate as possible.

### Timetable

Publication of Notice of the Review – 13 October 2015

Consultation period - 13 October – 18 November 2015

Publication of the Returning Officers representations – within 30 days of receipt

Report to Executive Committee – 18 January 2016

Submit to Council – 25 January 2016

Publication of Review Report – 28 January 2016

Implementation of report recommendations – from Register of Electors published on 1 February 2016, to take effect for any subsequent election and for the City Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections due 5 May 2016

### **Implications of the LGBCE Review of Electoral Arrangements**

As stated above, the county divisions and parliamentary constituencies will remain in place for the time being. Therefore, it will be necessary to create some additional registers within some polling district. For example, part of the new Exwick ward (Exwick & St. Thomas county division) takes in a part of the old Cowick ward (Alphington & Cowick county division).

Below is information relating to some known concerns relating to polling stations and a schedule of the proposed new polling district arrangements.

1. Heavitree Ward – The only available polling station in new polling district DA, is actually slightly outside of the Ward boundary. The building currently used is suitable in most aspects but it is not geographically well situated. There are currently no known viable alternatives.
2. Pinhoe Ward – The current mobile polling station at Orwell Garth is unsatisfactory and presents a number of logistical and access problems for disabled electors, along with significant costs. Additionally, the new ward boundaries mean that the electorate at Arena Park polling station will drop from about 496 to about 100. This will render unviable and it is suggested that Willowbrook School is approached concerning use as a polling station in place of both Orwell Garth and Arena Park.

**Proposed New Polling Districts, Places and Stations from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016**

<b>New Register</b>	<b>New Polling District</b>	<b>New Ward</b>	<b>New Polling Station</b>	<b>Change/No Change to Polling District</b>	<b>Current County Divison</b>	<b>Current Parliamentary Constituency</b>
AA	AA	<b>Alphington</b>	St Andrews Church	No Change	Alphington & Cowick	Exeter
AB	AB	<b>Alphington</b>	Alphington Sports Club	No Change	Alphington & Cowick	Exeter
AC	AC	<b>Alphington</b>	Alphington Village Hall	No Change	Alphington & Cowick	Exeter
AD	AD	<b>Alphington</b>	Westexe College	Change	Alphington & Cowick	Exeter
BA	BA	<b>Duryard &amp; St. James</b>	Central Block	No Change	Duryard & Pennsylvania	Exeter
BB	BB	<b>Duryard &amp; St. James</b>	Lopes Hall	No Change	Duryard & Pennsylvania	Exeter
BC	BC	<b>Duryard &amp; St. James</b>	York House	No Change	St. Davids and St. James	Exeter
BD	BD	<b>Duryard &amp; St. James</b>	St. Sidwells School	No Change	St. Davids and St. James	Exeter
CA	CA	<b>Exwick</b>	Redhills	Change	Exwick and St. Thomas	Exeter
CAA	CA	<b>Exwick</b>	Redhills	New	Alphington & Cowick	Exeter

CB	CB	<b>Exwick</b>	Thatched House	No Change	Exwick and St. Thomas	Exeter
CC	CC	<b>Exwick</b>	Exwick Parish Hall	No Change	Exwick and St. Thomas	Exeter
CD	CD	<b>Exwick</b>	Exwick Community Hall	No Change	Exwick and St. Thomas	Exeter
DA	DA	<b>Heavitree</b>	SW Baptist Assoc.	Change	Heavitree and Whipton Barton	Exeter
DB	DB	<b>Heavitree</b>	Scout Hut South Lawn	No Change	Heavitree and Whipton Barton	Exeter
DC	DC	<b>Heavitree</b>	Ladysmith School	No Change	Newtown and Polsloe	Exeter
DD	DD	<b>Heavitree</b>	Hamlin Gardens	No Change	Heavitree and Whipton Barton	Exeter
DE	DE	<b>Heavitree</b>	Bodley Close	Change	Heavitree and Whipton Barton	Exeter
EA	EA	<b>Mincinglake &amp; Whipton</b>	Beacon Heath church	No Change	Mincinglake & Pinhoe	Exeter
EB	EB	<b>Mincinglake &amp; Whipton</b>	Knight Club	Change	Mincinglake & Pinhoe	Exeter
EC	EC	<b>Mincinglake &amp; Whipton</b>	Whipton Community Hall	No Change	Mincinglake & Pinhoe	Exeter
ED	ED	<b>Mincinglake &amp; Whipton</b>	Rennes House	No Change	Heavitree and Whipton Barton	Exeter
FA	FA	<b>Newtown &amp; St. Leonard's</b>	Victoria Park Tennis Club	No Change	Priory & St. Leonards	Exeter

FB	FB	<b>Newtown &amp; St. Leonard's</b>	St. Leonard's Church	Change	Priory & St. Leonards	Exeter
FC	FC	<b>Newtown &amp; St. Leonard's</b>	Roberts Road	Change	Priory & St. Leonards	Exeter
FD	FD	<b>Newtown &amp; St. Leonard's</b>	St. Luke's College	No Change	Newtown and Polsloe	Exeter
FE	FE	<b>Newtown &amp; St. Leonard's</b>	Belmont Chapel	No Change	Newtown and Polsloe	Exeter
FF	FF	<b>Newtown &amp; St. Leonard's</b>	Bowling Club	No Change	Newtown and Polsloe	Exeter
GA	GA	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	Sylvania Community Hall	No Change	Duryard & Pennsylvania	Exeter
GB	GB	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	St James Church	Change	Duryard & Pennsylvania	Exeter
GBA	GB	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	St James Church	New	Newtown and Polsloe	Exeter
GC	GC	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	St Marks Church	Change	Newtown and Polsloe	Exeter
GD	GD	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	Baptist Church Pinhoe Rd	No Change	Newtown and Polsloe	Exeter
HA	HA	<b>Pinhoe</b>	Willowbrook School	Change	Mincinglake & Pinhoe	Exeter
HB	HB	<b>Pinhoe</b>	Pinhoe CofE School	No Change	Mincinglake & Pinhoe	Exeter
HC	HC	<b>Pinhoe</b>	Hall Church, Main Road	Change	Mincinglake & Pinhoe	Exeter



HCA	HC	<b>Pinhoe</b>	Hall Church, Main Road	New	Heavitree and Whipton Barton	Exeter
JA	JA	<b>Priory</b>	Grandisson Court	No Change	St. Loyes & Topsham	East Devon
JB	JB	<b>Priory</b>	St Lukes Church Rooms	No Change	Priory & St. Leonards	Exeter
JC	JC	<b>Priory</b>	Wynstream School	No Change	Priory & St. Leonards	Exeter
JD	JD	<b>Priory</b>	Wonford Methodist Church	Change	Priory & St. Leonards	Exeter
JDA	JD	<b>Priory</b>	Wonford Methodist Church	New	Heavitree and Whipton Barton	Exeter
KA	KA	<b>St David's</b>	Sea Cadets HQ	No Change	Alphington & Cowick	Exeter
KB	KB	<b>St David's</b>	Abbeville Close	Change	Priory & St. Leonards	Exeter
KC	KC	<b>St David's</b>	Weavers Court, Shilhay	Change	St. Davids and St. James	Exeter
KCA	KC	<b>St David's</b>	Weavers Court, Shilhay	New	Priory & St. Leonards	Exeter
KD	KD	<b>St David's</b>	Mint Methodist Church	No Change	St. Davids and St. James	Exeter
KE	KE	<b>St David's</b>	St. David's Church	No Change	St. Davids and St. James	Exeter
LA	LA	<b>St. Loye's</b>	Clyst Heath School	No Change	St. Loyes & Topsham	East Devon

LB	LB	<b>St. Loye's</b>	Woodwater Academy	No Change	St. Loyes & Topsham	East Devon
LC	LC	<b>St. Loye's</b>	St. Peter's High School	No Change	St. Loyes & Topsham	East Devon
LD	LD	<b>St. Loye's</b>	Russet House	Change	Heavitree and Whipton Barton	Exeter
MA	MA	<b>St. Thomas</b>	Buller Road Evangelical Church	Change	Exwick and St. Thomas	Exeter
MB	MB	<b>St. Thomas</b>	Karate Club	No Change	Exwick and St. Thomas	Exeter
MC	MC	<b>St. Thomas</b>	West Exe Centre	No Change	Exwick and St. Thomas	Exeter
MD	MD	<b>St. Thomas</b>	Westside	Change	Alphington & Cowick	Exeter
ME	ME	<b>St. Thomas</b>	Bowhill	Change	Alphington & Cowick	Exeter
NA	NA	<b>Topsham</b>	Matthews Hall	No Change	St. Loyes & Topsham	East Devon
NB	NB	<b>Topsham</b>	Topsham AFC	No Change	St. Loyes & Topsham	East Devon
NC	NC	<b>Topsham</b>	100 Club	No Change	Priory & St. Leonards	Exeter
ND	ND	<b>Topsham</b>	Newcourt Community Centre	No Change	St. Loyes & Topsham	East Devon

Notes:

**No Changes:** It is not proposed to make any changes to the Polling Districts in the new Durayrd & St. James ward or Topsham ward. The majority of polling districts in other wards will also remain unaffected.

**Registers** marked with three characters E.g. ADA are administrative in nature and are required to denote the area where the existing County Divisions are no longer coterminous. These registers will be included in a larger polling district e.g. AD

**Polling stations:** It is intended to continue to use all existing polling stations with the exception of Arena Park and Orwell Garth. Under the new warding arrangements the electorate at Arena Park will diminish from 569 to 103. The temporary portacabin arrangements at Orwell Garth are costly and are not satisfactory with regard to disabled access and facilities. It is proposed that Willowbrook School be approached to provide a room and that the electorates which would otherwise be allocated to both polling stations be merged into the school, which is located roughly in the middle of the two existing sites.

## **Point of Contact**

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## List of Consultees

The (Acting) Returning Officer, Exeter City Council (Exeter Constituency)  
The (Acting) Returning Officer, East Devon District Council (East Devon Constituency)  
The Returning Officer, Devon County Council  
All Exeter City Councillors  
All Devon County Councillors for Exeter  
Ben Bradshaw MP (Exeter Constituency)  
Hugo Swire MP (East Devon Constituency)  
An Independence From Europe  
Exeter Labour Party  
Exeter Conservative Association  
Exeter Liberal Democrats  
Exeter Green Party  
Exeter UKIP  
Trade Unionists and Socialists Against The Cuts  
East Devon Labour Party  
East Devon Conservative Association  
East Devon Liberal Party  
East Devon Liberal Democrats  
East Devon Green Party  
East Devon UKIP  
Age UK Exeter  
RNID South West  
Devon County Association for the Blind  
Exeter Society for the Blind  
Living Options Devon  
St.Loye's Foundation, Exeter  
Scope  
University of Exeter Students Guild