

## Appendices

- 1) Returning Officer's Recommendations
- 2) Map1
- 3) Map 2
- 4) Representation
- 5) RO Reply
- 6) Timetable



# GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places for West Hunsbury and Old Duston Wards</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

**Committee Meeting Date: 09/01/2017**

**Policy Document:**

**Directorate: Borough Secretary**

## 1. Purpose

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1.1 This report considers the outcome of the consultation process and makes recommendations to the Committee in order to complete the review for West Hunsbury and Old Duston.

## 2. Recommendations

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2.1.1 To consider the results of the consultation process;

2.1.2 To approve the Returning Officer's recommendations for Polling Places as set out in Appendix 1; and

2.1.3 To approve the changes to be made to existing Polling District boundaries as shown in Appendix 2.

2.1.4 To approve the Polling Place for NSOD3 and NSOD4 in Old Duston Ward be Duston United Reform Church as shown in Appendix 3

### **3. Background**

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- 3.1.1 This matter was previously considered at General Purposes Committee on 15 November 2016.
- 3.1.2 On 18 November 2016 a consultation began on current polling arrangements in Old Duston Ward and the Polling Districts in West Hunsbury. This ended on 9 December 2016. One representation was received as shown in Appendix 4. The RO's reply is Appendix 5.

### **4. Timetable**

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- 4.1 Should the Committee approve the Final Proposals then the timetable will continue as shown in Appendix 6.
- 4.2 The Council must give reasons for its decision, whether or not changes are made, and these must ensure that the Council has sought to ensure;
- That all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as practicable in the circumstances; and
  - That, so far as is reasonable and practicable, the Polling Places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled.

When considering the designation of a Polling Place, the Council must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

- 4.3 It must be remembered that the responsibility of the Council is to determine Polling Districts and Polling Places. Whilst it is understandable that Members will consider actual Polling Stations when reaching their determination, responsibility for finalising the Polling Stations for each election rests with the Returning Officer for that election and no election can be petitioned on the basis of a Polling Station location.
- 4.4 An appeal against the decision can be made to the Electoral Commission. This can only be triggered by making representation, in writing, to the Electoral Commission in the following ways;
- Thirty or more registered electors within the Polling District.
  - Any individual who made representations to the authority during the consultation period.
  - Any person who is not an elector in the Polling District but who the Electoral Commission believes has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled electors to Polling Places in the area or has expertise in relation to disabled access in general.
- 4.5 Any appeal can only be made on the grounds that;
- The local authority has failed to meet the reasonable requirements of electors in the Polling District; and/or
  - The local authority has failed to take sufficient account of accessibility of disabled electors.

## **5. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **5.1 Resources and Risk**

5.1.1 No additional cost will be incurred as the polling stations are already in place for the County Council elections.

### **5.2 Legal**

5.2.1 The Interim Review has been undertaken in line with legislative requirements and with due regard to the latest guidance from the Electoral Commission.

### **5.3 Equality**

5.3.1 Full inspections of Polling Places have taken place which included accessibility and incorporated any initial advice given.

### **5.4 Consultees (Internal and External)**

5.4.1 All consultees who responded to the Polling Place consultation will be informed.

### **5.5 Other Implications**

5.5.1 None

## **6. Background Papers**

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

**RETURNING OFFICERS RECOMMENDATIONS**

## West Hunsbury Ward

The previous Polling District and Polling Place Review was carried out in 2015. The Ward of West Hunsbury was split into two polling districts SNWH1 and SNWH2. The two polling districts were not coterminous with the County Division boundary.

The Returning Officer's recommendation is that the boundary between the two polling districts be altered to follow the County Division boundary – see Map Appendix 2.

## Old Duston Ward

St Lukes's Community Centre was used for the elections in 2016. However, there were some complaints regarding the long incline up to the polling station. There is parking available, but because of dedicated parking for users of the business units there are seven spaces available for all other users on polling day.

Duston United Reform Church has flat access and a large room available for use as a polling station. There is parking available for nine cars, seven will be specifically reserved for the poll and the other two are disabled spaces.

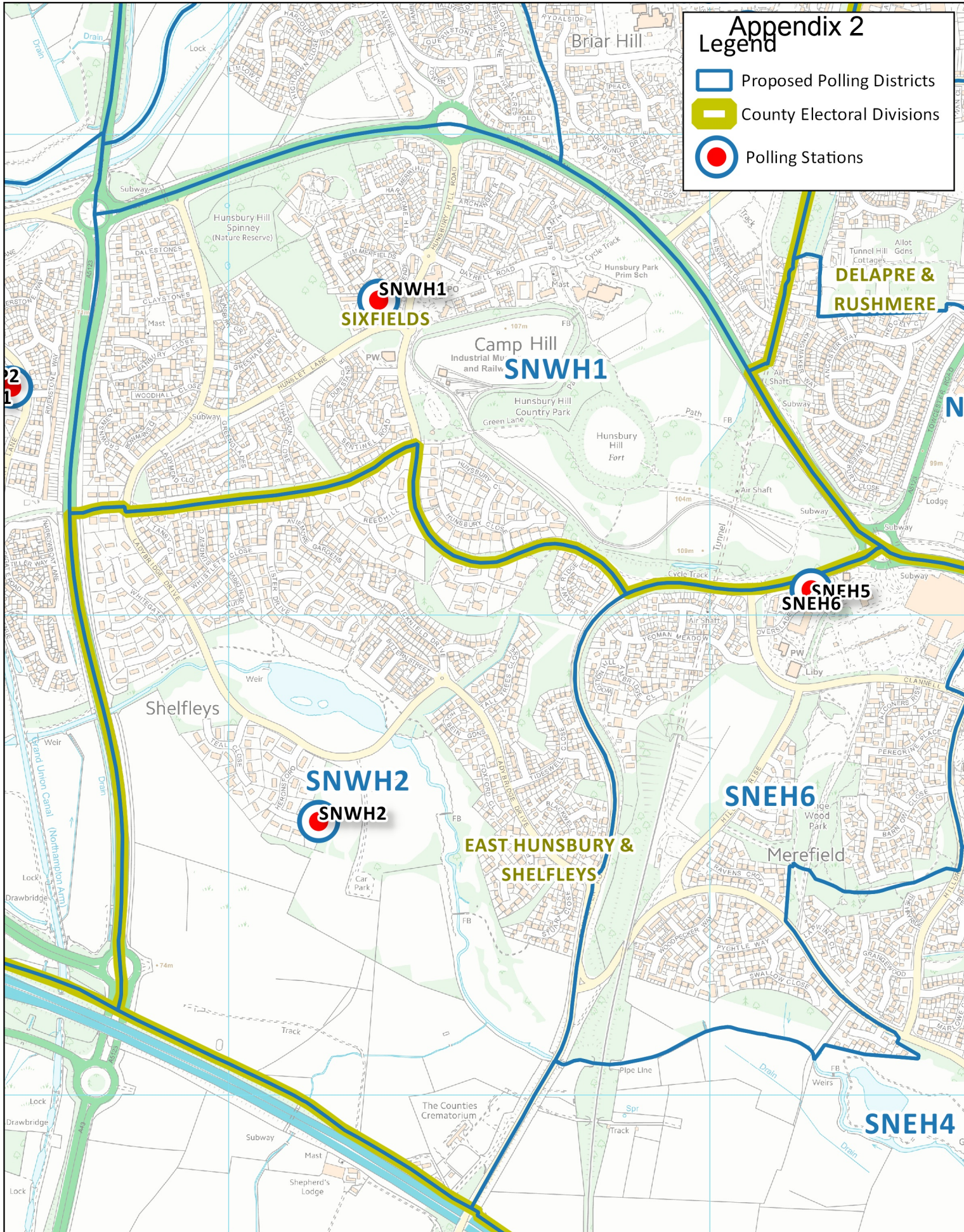
There was 1 representation received during the consultation period see Appendix 4.

The Returning Officer's recommendation is to move the Polling Station for the Polling Districts of NSOD3 and NSOD4 from St Luke's Community Centre to Duston United Reform Church.

**Summary of Recommendations to General Purposes Committee**

Proposal Number	Ward	Polling Districts Affected	Recommendation
1	West Hunsbury	SNWH1 SNWH2	The Ward of West Hunsbury to be split into two Polling Districts, the boundary between the two to

			be the same as the County Division Boundary
2	Old Duston	NSOD3 NSOD4	The Polling Place for the Polling Districts NSOD3 and NSOD4 to be Duston United Reform Church



**Title: West Hunsbury Polling Districts**

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**Date:** 16-12-2016

**Scale:** 1:10,000

**Drawn by:** -----

## APPENDIX 4

**From:** David Mackintosh MP [<mailto:info@davidmackintosh.org.uk>]

**Sent:** 01 December 2016 16:49

**To:** Electoral Registration <[elecereg@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:elecereg@northampton.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** (Case Ref: ZA18539)

Thank you for contacting me regarding the review of polling stations. I have spoken with a number of my constituents and I would like to feed in some issues regarding the proposed changes to polling places in Old Duston.

Local residents have raised concerns with me regarding the use of Duston United Reform Church instead of St Luke's Community Centre, which they feel is not large enough given the number of electors in the area.

Concerns have also been raised with me regarding a lack of parking at Duston United Reform Church. They believe this could create problems for many voters there, especially elderly residents who rely on their cars to travel should the polling station at St Luke's no longer be used.

I would be very grateful if you could add those comments into the review process.

Best wishes

David

David Mackintosh MP  
Conservative Member of Parliament for Northampton South

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42 Billing Road  
Northampton  
NN1 5DA

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Promoted by David Mackintosh on behalf of Northampton Conservatives, both at White Lodge, 42 Billing Road, Northampton NN1 5DA

David Mackintosh MP  
White Lodge  
42 Billing Road  
Northampton  
NN1 5DA

Our Ref: DK/VB/7704  
Your Ref:  
Contact: David Kennedy  
Ext/Direct Line 01604 837726  
E-mail: dkennedy@northampton.gov.uk  
Date: 20 December 2016

Dear David

## REVIEW OF OLD DUSTON POLLING STATIONS

Thank you for your representation on the above.

During the PCC Election and the EU Referendum I received several negative comments regarding the accessibility of St Lukes, and positive reference to the previous polling place at the URC.

The main concern regarding St Lukes is its accessibility on foot from Mill Road. There is a lengthy slope to be navigated. The URC has flatter access from the road and from the car park to the room where the polling station is located.

There is parking at both potential polling stations, but because of dedicated parking at St Lukes for users of the business units there is actually less guaranteed parking at St Lukes on polling day, and whilst there is parking with flat access on Main Road for the URC, the area around the entrance to St Lukes on Millway is very limited being predominantly subject to double yellow lines. Overall the balance of judgement now is that better accessibility is provided by the URC.

The URC are making a larger room available than previously used, so I now have no concerns regarding the ability of that Polling Place to accommodate two Polling Stations.

In light of the above I will be recommending to the General Purposes Committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> January that the proposal to set the Polling Place for NSOD3 and NSOD4 in Old Duston be confirmed, and I wanted to let you know that directly.

Yours sincerely



David Kennedy  
Local Returning Officer



Polling Districts & Stations Review 2016 – Review of West Hunsbury Ward and New  
Duston Ward

Timetable

Resolution from General Purposes Committee providing for commencement of the review	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
Notice of Review published in relevant areas and on Northampton Borough Council Website	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
Publication of Proposals and Returning Officer's Representations in relation to these.	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
Commencement of Consultation on Proposals and Returning Officers Representations in relation to these	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
End of Consultation Period	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2016
Report to Council with Final Proposals taking into account representations received	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2017
Publication of review result	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
Publish Notice of Alteration	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2017