

Bolton Council

Report to: Corporate Resources PDG

Date: 16th September 2019

Report of: Director of Corporate Resources

Report No:

Contact Officer: Steven Blyth

Tel No: 01204 331247

Report Title: **Polling District Review 2019**

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 of proposals to changes to polling districts and places as a result of the 2019 Polling District Review

Recommendations:

To consider each proposal and accept, amend or reject

Background Doc(s):

None

Summary:

Polling District Review 2019

1. Background

1.1 The comments and recommendations below are a result of the statutory polling district review.

1.2 The review commenced on 22nd July 2019 and the deadline for comments was 2nd September 2019

1.3 The final report will be submitted to full Council on 9th October 2019 and the decisions will be implemented for local elections on 7th May 2020.

2. Walmsley CE Primary School – District 1DA1 – Bromley Cross Ward

2.1 Members of the public have suggested the use of Walmsley Parish Hall, which is adjacent to the school, so as to avoid closure of the school. This would be an ideal solution. However, the Parish Hall is used by amateur theatre groups during the week of the local elections. Moreover, the hall is felt to have poor disabled access.

2.2 However, discussions with the parish hall have revealed that the building is hopefully to undergo internal refurbishment and, once this is completed, it may offer opportunities to allow for part of the building to be used as a polling station even if other events are taking place. The refurbishment will also give better disabled access.

2.3 It is recommended to keep this change under review and move the polling station to the Parish Hall once the building becomes available and refurbishment has made it suitable.

3. St Gregory's RC Primary School, Presto Street – District 2JE1 – Farnworth Ward

3.1 The school and members of the public have requested that an alternative location to St Gregory's School is sought so as to avoid closure of the school. The school has also mentioned that it is currently in special measures and feels that the closure is unhelpful in terms of resolving this.

3.2 Trinity Church on Market Street is only a few hundred yards from St Gregory's and is currently the polling place for district 2LA1. The room at Trinity Church is big enough to hold two polling stations. Moreover, polling station staff often report electors getting confused as to which is their correct polling building.

3.3 It is recommended to move the polling station from St Gregory's to Trinity Church.

4. Properties on Park View, Kearsley – District 2LG1 – Kearsley Ward

4.1 Currently the 24 properties on Park View, Kearsley are in district 2LG1. A ward member has suggested moving these properties to district 2LB1 where they will vote at the Community Centre on Roosevelt Road, a much nearer location.

4.2 The area shown edged green on the attached map shows the section of district 2LG1 which is to be moved into 2LB1.

4.2 The properties on Park View are isolated from the rest of district 2LG1, being cut off from the rest of this district by the motorway.

4.3 It is recommended to move Park View, Kearsley to district 2LB1

5. St Peter's Primary School, Alexandra Street – District 2LG1 – Kearsley Ward

5.1 Members of the public have requested that alternative locations to St Peter's School, Farnworth are sought so as to avoid closure of the school.

5.2 Bradford Street recreation ground is close to the school and has a pavilion which would be a suitable alternative.

5.3 It is recommended to move the polling station from St Peter's Primary School, Farnworth to the Pavilion at Bradford Street recreation ground.

6. St Peter's Smithills Dean School – District 3SA1 – Smithills Ward

6.1 A number of members of the public have suggested using Smithills Hall as the polling station for this district so as to avoid closure of the school.

6.2 Smithills Hall has good access and a suitable large room. Parking is somewhat restricted during the opening hours of the café (10.00am – 4.30am). The Hall is very close to the school and therefore electors would not have to travel significantly further.

6.3 It is recommended to use Smithills Hall as the polling building for this district.

7. Church Road CP School, Captain Clough Road - District 3SB1 – Smithills Ward

7.1 Members of the public have requested that an alternative location be sought to avoid closure of the school.

7.2 St Peter's Parish Centre is nearby but the building is not available for the whole day.

7.3 St Peter's Church is a little further away and is available and would be suitable as an alternative.

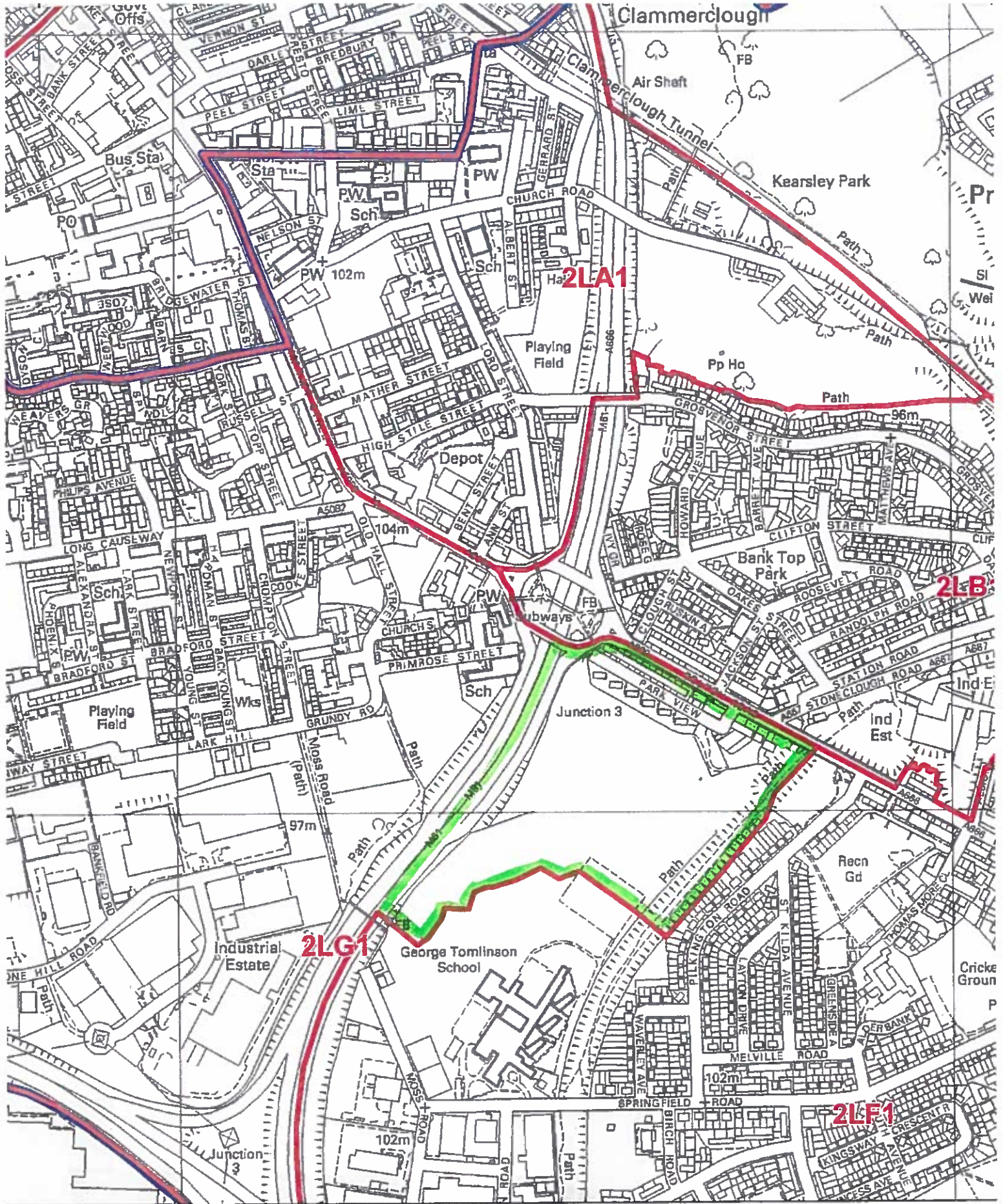
7.4 Recommendation is to move the polling station to St Peter's Church.

8. St Bartholomew's Primary School – District 3TA1 – Westhoughton South Ward

8.1 The school has requested that St Bartholomew's Church is considered as an alternative so as to avoid closure of the school.

8.2 St Bartholomew's Church is across the road from the school and has good access and plenty of space to house to a polling station in its community rooms.

8.3 It is recommended to move the polling station from St Bartholomew's Primary School to St Bartholomew's Church.



Changes to district 2LG1 (Kearsley Ward)

Area edged in green to move into district 2LB1