

Polling District Review 2014

Appendix C - Proposals where further comments were received at the second consultation stage and did not have all-party support



| Proposal Reference | Ward | Proposal Summary | EWG Comments |
|--------------------|--------------|---|--|
| MS1.1 | Morley South | To merge polling districts MSD and MSE with both voting at Morley Town Hall | All parties would like to explore the option of using the former Joseph Priestley College (now Leeds City College) for the MSE polling district – to be looked at outside of the PD review as an ad hoc review |

Polling District Review 2014

Proposal Information



| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Proposal Reference No. | MS1.1 |
| Ward | Morley South |
| Polling district(s) | MSE |
| Polling station(s) | Lewisham Park Youth Centre Clough Street Morley Leeds LS27 8DH |
| Electorate(s) | 1360 |
| Postal Voter(s) | 153 |
| Proposal submitted by | Cllr Tom Leadley (MBI) Morley South Ward |
| Proposal detail | Lewisham Park location unsuitable (see proposal detail) Combine with polling station for MSD at Morley Town Hall. |
| Revised electorate(s) | MSD and MSE both voting at Morley Town Hall would be an electorate of 2923 (2544 without postal voters). |
| Officer comments | <p>Officers have inspected Morley Town Hall and the room is suitable to accommodate the additional electors.</p> <p>Polling districts MSD and MSE both voting at the same location is also practical in terms of the Town Council arrangements, as these polling districts make up the Central Ward of Morley Town Council.</p> <p>If agreed – polling districts should also be merged.</p> |

Comments received during second consultation period

From: Cllr N Dawson

In support of merging polling districts MSD and MSE

From: Cllr Tom Leadley

Supports the proposals and polling locations for Morley South Ward.

From: Cllr N Dawson

I may have previously replied on this but I have now re-read the initial proposal documents and I would now like to comment on the proposal in Morley South ward to amalgamate the MSD and MSE polling stations to have one polling district covering both areas based at Morley Town Hall.

I am against this proposal for a number of reasons set out below.

1. Turnout at the MSE polling district is generally lower than other polling districts in Morley South and therefore closing this polling station will impact and is likely to reduce turnout further in the ward.

2. The bulk of the electors who are registered to vote at Lewisham Park youth centre (MSE) are residents who do not have access to cars, many are elderly and live in social housing near to the polling station. In particular in the Middleton estate, Hartley Street and Clough Street. A move to the Town Hall would mean a walk of up to 1,200 metres for most electors.

3. Lewisham Park polling centre is situated in an area of the MSE polling district where the bulk of the electors reside.

4. Google maps shows that the walking time from Lewisham Youth Centre to the Town Hall is 15 minutes and most of the electorate in MSE reside in that part of the polling district that is furthest away from the Town Hall therefore a total walking journey of around 40 to 45 minutes could be expected for two thirds of the electorate in MSE who have to go to the Town Hall.

5. The MSE polling centre moved in 2014 from the Peel Street Centre (which was closer to the Town Hall than the Lewisham park centre) and therefore has only been at this location for one local election. A further move of the polling station within 12 months of the previous move could lead to further confusion and deter some from voting.

6. Lewisham Park is a council owned property and therefore there will be no savings made from not using it.

From: Ed Balls MP

I wish to object to the proposal to combine two polling stations in the Morley South ward MSD and MSE within my Morley and Outwood constituency. I understand that this would

leave one polling station at Morley Town Hall to cover both districts. I am against this proposal for a number of reasons set out below.

1. Turnout at the MSE polling district which is already lower than other polling districts likely to be further reduced by any change –many residents are elderly or with small children and without access to private transport.

2. Not reasonable to expect that people walk a considerable distance in order to reach a new polling station

3. Current polling centres are in centres of polling districts where most people live. Finally, I note that there were changes made to polling stations in these polling districts recently and further change could cause confusion.

I hope you will ensure these points are given appropriate consideration.

Comments from EWG:

Members recommend to remove this proposal from the Polling District Review process and for it to be considered under the ad-hoc procedure at EWG.

Members asked that the former Joseph Priestley College site, now occupied by Leeds City College, be inspected for suitability.

