

## POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Rochford District Council are carrying out a review of polling districts and polling places within the District as required by the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide the District into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each polling district. It also has to keep these arrangements under review.
- 2.2 Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 required the Council to undertake a review of the current arrangements by 31 December 2007, and then every four years thereafter. This does not prevent changes being made at any time before the next full review in 2011 if necessary.

### 3 CONDUCT OF THE REVIEW

- 3.1 The Council published notice of a review of the current arrangements. It then consulted the Returning Officer who made representations on the existing and proposed polling arrangements. Key stakeholders and disability action groups have been invited to comment on these proposals.
- 3.3 Any elector may make representations. Although not specifically required in law, the consultation has included local political parties and elected representatives at all levels.

### 4 TIMETABLE OF THE REVIEW

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|---|--------------|
| 4.1 Notice published                                    | 27 July      |
| Consultation Documents sent                             | 3 August     |
| Report to West Area Committee                           | 4 September  |
| Report to East Area Committee                           | 12 September |
| Report to Central Area Committee                        | 28 September |
| Final response deadline for representations             | 28 September |
| Full Council  | 30 October   |
| Publication of Council decision                         | 1 November   |
| Implementation of any changes to the electoral register | 1 – 30 Nov   |
| Publish 2008 Electoral Register                         | 1 December   |

### 5 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The Returning Officer's proposals for the polling districts in the West Area have been circulated to all Rochford Councillors on 3 August and Members are asked to bring their copies to the meeting. Copies of the documents have been despatched to Parish Council and other co-optees.

- 5.2 The only change to existing arrangements is the proposal to merge polling districts RDG and RDG2 (Rayleigh Central ward) for ease of administration. This will have no effect on electors, as they will continue to use Eastwood Methodist Church hall as a polling station.
- 5.3 It should be noted that comments do not have to be restricted to alternative proposals; comments that support the Returning Officer's proposals are welcome in order to receive a balance of opinions.
- 5.4 **RECOMMENDATION**
- 5.5 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) To consider the proposals for polling districts, and
  - (2) To make comments to be considered as part of the review process.

Sarah Fowler

Head of Information & Customer Services

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**Background Papers:-**

Electoral Administration Act 2006

For further information please contact Barbara Cronin on:-

Tel:- 01702 318136

E-Mail:- [barbara.cronin@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:barbara.cronin@rochford.gov.uk)

If you would like this report in large print, braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.