



**Rochford District
Council**

REPORT TITLE:	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
REPORT OF:	Claire Mayhew – Joint acting Director of People & Governance

REPORT SUMMARY

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.

The Electoral Administration Act 2013 requires the Council to undertake a review of its electoral arrangements within 16 months of the scheduled date of a Parliamentary election which has to take place before January 2025. Any amendments to the arrangements will be incorporated into the electoral register and will take effect for the scheduled elections on 2nd May 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1 -** That the polling place for polling district JA in Hullbridge ward be moved from St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Thorpedene Avenue, Hullbridge be moved to Hullbridge Community Centre, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge.
- R2 -** No further recommendations and suggest that existing polling places remain the same.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Ward Councillors have sought a request to move the polling station as the Community Centre offers a larger space and better facilities for votes

including a large free car park directly to the front of the building where parking at the Church is on street and therefore limited.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council published notice of a review of the current arrangements on 20 October 2023. It then consulted the Returning Officers for both parliamentary constituencies. Details of the proposals were published on the website and key stakeholder comments invited.
- 2.2 Any elector could have made representations. The consultation included local political parties, Members, MP's, Parish / Town Councils, and local disability groups via Communications. Social media was also used to raise awareness of the review throughout the review period.
- 2.3 The deadline for response to the consultation was 12th January 2024 and these responses have informed the Returning Officer's final proposals.
- 2.4 A notice announcing the completion of the review will be published at the Council offices, Parish / Town Council notice boards and on the Council's website following Council's agreement to the final proposals.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 There are no other suitable alternative facilities for polling stations within the relevant polling district.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 There are no additional risks as a result of the proposals mentioned in this report.

5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 5.1 A public consultation was conducted through the Councils Engage with Us online consultation tool between 20 October 2023 and 12 January 2024.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
N/A	