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## POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES REVIEW

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A review of polling districts and polling places within the District has been carried out as required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 and this report contains the final proposals of the review.

### 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 The Electoral Administration Act 2013 requires the Council to undertake a review of the current arrangements for polling by 31 January 2015. Any amendments will be incorporated into the revised register which will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

### 3 CONDUCT OF THE REVIEW

- 3.1 The Council published notice of a review of the current arrangements. It then consulted the Returning Officers for both parliamentary constituencies who made representations on the existing and proposed polling arrangements. Details of these proposals were published on the website, and key stakeholders were invited to comment.
- 3.2 Any elector could have made representations. The consultation included local political parties, Members, and Parish/ Town Councils. The 'Have Your Say' panel, all polling stations, RRAVS and local disability groups were also consulted.
- 3.3 A survey of all polling stations has been conducted to assess suitability and disabled access.
- 3.4 The deadline for responses to the consultation was 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and those responses have informed the Returning Officer's final proposals as detailed below.
- 3.5 A notice announcing the completion of the review will be published at the Council offices, on Parish/Town Council notice boards and on the Council's website following Council's agreement to the final proposals.

### 4 FINAL PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Representations have been received from a number of key stakeholders as shown in Appendix A to this report. These have informed the Returning Officer's final proposals as set out below.

- 4.2 It is proposed that there are no changes to the existing arrangements in the following District Wards: Barling and Sutton, Downhall and Rawreth, Foulness and Great Wakering, Grange, Hawkwell North, Hawkwell South, Hawkwell West, Hockley Central, Hockley North, Hockley West, Hullbridge, Lodge, Rayleigh Central, Rochford, Sweyne Park, Trinity, Wheatley, and Whitehouse.
- 4.3 In Ashingdon and Canewdon Ward it is proposed to merge the polling districts of RCN and RCO to form polling district RCM and designate the Mission Hall as the polling station for the area.
- 4.4 Consideration has also been given to improving disabled access at Barling Magna Primary School, Barling and Sutton Ward, The United Methodist Church Hall, Foulness and Great Wakering Ward and Hullbridge Free Church Hullbridge Ward.
- 4.5 Since the commencement of the review the Returning Officer has received notification that the polling station for Rochford, located at the Adult Community Learning building, Rocheway is no longer available for election use. The Returning Officer will consider alternative locations outside of this polling review.

## 5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Council **RESOLVES** to agree the final proposals for changes to polling arrangements in the District as summarised in this report.



Amar Dave

Chief Executive

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### Background Papers:-

Returning Officer's proposals.

Representations from stakeholders

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.

## REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2014

## List of Persons making representations in response to the Returning Officer's draft proposals

Date	Name	Organisation	Comments
21/07/14	Sharon Hyatt	Great Wakering Parish Council Clerk	Does not consider the Parish Council Offices to be a suitable alternative to the United Methodist Church Hall, but believes the disabled access at the church hall has been improved.
22/07/14	Ron Dobney	Have Your Say Group	No comment to make
22/07/14	Bryan Amery	Have Your Say Group	Dogs were excluded from Frances Cottee Lodge in 2014.
22/07/14	Patricia Wapples	Have Your Say Group	Suggested The Sweyne School as an alternative polling station for the temporary building at the Traveller's Joy.
22/07/14	Sally Faulkner	Have Your Say Group	Would like to ensure that the merging of the two Paglesham polling districts will not cause access difficulties for the less able
25/07/14	Mr Rand	Paglesham Congregational Church	States that the Congregational Hall will not be available in the future and supports moving to the Mission Hall.
30/07/14	Jeremy Pearson	Tingdene Parks Ltd	Confirmed the lack of disabled access, and advised the office may be moved in the future.
03/08/14	Rob Tinlin	Acting Returning Officer for Southend East	No comments to make

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Date	Name	Organisation	Comments
07/08/14	Cllr Michael Hoy	Hullbridge Ward Member	Asked if a portacabin had been suggested as a replacement for the Saltings/Hockley Park site office.
19/08/14	Hilton Brown	Rayleigh and Wickford Conservative Association	Happy with existing arrangements and proposals.
02/09/14	Cllr J Gibson	Rochford Ward Member	Suggested the WI Hall as an alternative to ACL, Rocheway
02/09/14	Cllr Lucas-Gill	Rochford Ward Member	Suggested the Rochford Congregational Church as an alternative to ACL, Rocheway
04/09/14	Janice Rigby	Rochford Parish Council	Happy with existing arrangements and proposals.
18/09/14	Cllr Joan Mockford	Paglesham Parish Council	Supports the existing arrangements for Sweyne Park and Grange Wards.