

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

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 East 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 changes to existing arrangements are as follows:-

- 1) to merge polling districts RCJ and RCK (Ashingdon parish ward), and
- 2) to merge RCL and RCM (Canewdon parish) for ease of administration.

The above proposals will not affect electors as they will continue to use their existing polling stations.

- 3) to merge RCN and RCO (Paglesham parish) and all electors to use Paglesham Congregational Church hall as their polling station.
- 4) to merge RCE and RCF (Barling Magna parish) and all electors to use Barling Magna County Primary school as their polling station.

For further details concerning items 5.2.3 and 5.2.4, please see the Returning Officer's proposals.

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

Background Papers:-

Electoral Administration Act 2006

For further information please contact Barbara Cronin on:-

Tel:- 01702 318136

E-Mail:- barbara.cronin@rochford.gov.uk

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