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## REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

### 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 A review of polling districts and polling places within the District has been carried out, as required by sections 18A to 18E of the Representation of the People Act 1983. This report contains the final proposals of that 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 its electoral arrangements within 16 months of the scheduled date of a Parliamentary election which in the ordinary course of events will be May 2020. Any amendments to the arrangements will be incorporated into the electoral register with effect from 20 February 2019.

### 3 CONDUCT OF THE REVIEW

- 3.1 The Council published notice of a review of the current arrangements on 16 November 2018. It then consulted the Returning Officers for both parliamentary constituencies, who made representation on the existing and proposed polling arrangements. Details of these proposals were published on the website and key stakeholder comments invited.
- 3.2 Any elector could have made representations. The consultation included local political parties, Members, MP's, Parish/Town Councils, all polling stations and local disability groups. Social media was also used to raise awareness of the review.
- 3.3 The deadline for responses to the consultation was 14 January 2019 and those responses have informed the Returning Officer's final proposals.
- 3.4 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.

### 4 FINAL PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that no changes are made to the existing arrangements in the following District Wards: Downhall and Rawreth, Foulness and The Wakerings, Hawkwell East, Hawkwell West, Hockley, Hockley and Ashingdon, Hullbridge, Lodge, Trinity and Wheatley.

- 4.2 In Roche South Ward it is proposed to move the polling station from All Saints Church to Barling Magna Parish Hall for polling district “BA”. The Church has no toilet facilities for staff so additional costs are incurred each election for the hire of a portable toilet. The Church was used previously because the Parish Hall was closed for refurbishment; now that the work is done, the polling station can return there.
- 4.3 In Roche North and Rural Ward it is proposed to move the polling station from Waterman Primary School to St Marks Hall for polling district “CE”. The school remains open on the day and so additional costs for temporary fencing and additional flood lighting leading up to the building are incurred for each election. The school has also requested not to be used as a polling station for future elections. Using St Marks Hall allows the Council to honour the school’s request and removes the need for additional costs. St Marks Hall also provides a more accessible venue for those with mobility problems.
- 4.4 In Roche North and Rural Ward it is proposed to move the polling station from Stambridge Memorial Hall to the Harold Rankin Pavilion for polling district “CC”. The Hall is used during the week for a nursery and a move to the Pavilion will mean that the nursery does not have to close when elections are held.
- 4.5 In Sweyne Park and Grange Ward it is proposed to relocate the polling station inside the Travellers Joy public house rather than continue to place a portacabin in the car park at the site for polling district “MB”. For each election a portacabin and generator are currently hired for the day. The generator requires fuel during the course of the day and has to be collected for secure overnight storage at 10 pm. In addition, the portacabin has no toilet and drinking water facilities.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no additional resource implications for the final proposals outlined above; on the contrary, most of the changes proposed will represent a saving in costs for the Council.

## **6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None other than that already mentioned in this report.

## **7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The changes being proposed in this report will apply to all elections, including those for Parish or Town Councils.

## **8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

8.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnerships, pregnancy/maternity.

8.3 The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

## 9 RECOMMENDATION

9.1 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**

That the final proposals for changes to polling arrangements in the District, as summarised in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.5, be agreed.



Angela Hutchings  
Strategic Director/Acting Returning Officer

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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 2018/9**  
**List of Persons making representations in response to the Returning Officer's draft proposals**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Comments</b>
22/11/18	Cliff Brunt	Elector	Voter at Grange Community Centre who is happy with current location. Polling district MC
22/11/18	Bob Hurst	Elector	Voter at Hawkwell Baptist Church who is happy with current location. Polling districts FC and GA.
22/11/18	Barry Laver	Elector	Commented that Rochford Congregational Church, North Street has a lack of parking and suggested the Freight House instead. Polling districts BD and CD.
22/11/18	Janet Warner	Elector	Voter at Pope John Paul Hall who is happy with current location. Polling district KC
22/11/18	Mick Vanner	Elector	Voter at Waterman Primary School who is happy with current location. Polling district CE.
22/11/18	Michael Bush	Elector	Voter at Rochford Parish Rooms who is happy with current location. Polling district BE.
22/11/18	Kay Meiklejohn	Elector	Voter at St Thomas of Canterbury Church who preferred previous location at County Youth Centre. Polling district JA.
28/11/18	Karen Summers	Office Leader – Watermans Primary School	Request not to use the school as a polling station for future elections. Polling district CE
07/12/18	Victoria Marzouki	RRAVS	Polling District BA – Support the decision to move back to the Parish Hall from All Saints Church. Polling district CC – Support the decision to move to the Sports Pavilion instead of the Memorial Hall. Polling District CE – Support the decision to move to St Marks Hall instead of Watermans School. Polling District JA – Request a move of this polling station to Hullbridge Senior Citizens Club, Windermere Avenue or a portakabin in Pooles Lane car park.
20/12/18	Hullbridge Parish Council	Clerk	Use of Hullbridge Library as a polling station.
13/01/19	Alex Bright	Chairman – Rochford & Southend East Conservatives	Polling District BA – Support the decision to move back to the Parish Hall from All Saints Church.

## Rochford District Council

## Review of Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places 2018

Southend East Constituency - Comments of the Returning Officer for Rochford District Council			
Polling District	Polling Station	Comments	Proposals
AA	The Heritage Centre, Foulness Island Southend-on-Sea, SS3 9XQ	There have been issues in the past with the delivery of polling equipment due to the relative remoteness of this location. Need to ensure this continues to be managed by use of a portable polling booth transported by the Presiding Officer on polling day.	None
AB	Great Wakering Memorial Hall (Village Hall), High Street, Great Wakering, SS3 0EF	Satisfactory	None
AC	The West Hall, The Community Centre, High Street, Great Wakering SS3 0EJ	Satisfactory	None
AD	United Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Great Wakering, SS3 0HL	Slight lip to the main entrance door, however the hall key holder has advised that the hall is used regularly by wheelchair users, albeit that some may require assistance in negotiating the door threshold.	None
AE	Royal British Legion Bowls Club, The Green, Little Wakering Road, Great Wakering SS3 0LA	Satisfactory	None
BA	All Saints Church, Church Road, Barling,	The church has no toilet facilities and so a	Move the polling station to the

	Southend-on-Sea SS3 0JS	portable toilet has to be hired for each election.	Parish Hall which was previously used but not available due to renovation.
BB	The Red Brick Barn, Sutton Hall, Shopland Road, Rochford SS4 1LH	Satisfactory	None
BC	Pembroke House, Sutton Court Drive, Rochford, SS4 1JN	Satisfactory	None
BD, CD	Rochford Congregational Church, North Street, Rochford SS4 1AB	Satisfactory	None
CE	Waterman Primary School The Boulevard, Rochford, SS4 1QF	The school is located down a drive way which is poorly lit and there is a need to hire flood lights after dark due to poor visibility for going to the polling station. Temporary fencing is also hired for the school so that the school playground can remain open. Watermans School has also requested not to be used as a polling station in future due to the disruption this causes the school.	St Marks Hall is suggested as an alternative; however this is situated outside the polling district. A possible move of polling district CD to St Marks Hall could also be an option.
BE	Rochford Parish Council Rooms Rear of 82 West Street Rochford, SS4 1AS	Satisfactory	None
<b>Rayleigh and Wickford Constituency – Comments of the Acting Returning Officer</b>			
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Polling Station</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Proposals</b>
CA	Canewdon Village Hall, Lambourne Hall Road, Canewdon, SS4 3PG	Satisfactory	None
CB	Mission Hall, East End, Paglesham SS4 2EG	Satisfactory	None

CC	Stambridge Memorial Hall Stambridge Road, Stambridge SS4 2AR	Satisfactory	None
CF	Conference Room, King Edmund School Vaughan Close, Rochford, SS4 1TL	Satisfactory	None
DA	Ashingdon & East Hawkwell Memorial Hall, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon, SS4 3HF	Satisfactory	None
DB	Ashingdon United Free Church Hall Canewdon Road, Ashingdon, SS4 3LN	Satisfactory	None
DC, DD, DE	Learning Centre, Greensward Academy Greensward Lane, Hockley, SS5 5HG	Satisfactory	None
FA, FB	Ashingdon Elim Pentecostal Church, 535 Ashingdon Road, Rochford SS4 3HE	Satisfactory	None
FC, GA	Hawkwell Baptist Church, Rectory Road, Rochford, SS4 1UG	Satisfactory	None
FD	Parish Centre, St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Ashingdon Road Ashingdon, SS4 1RF	Satisfactory	None
GB	Hawkwell Village Hall (Desks A and B) Main Road, Hawkwell, SS5 4EH	Satisfactory	None
HA	The Old Fire Station, 58 Southend Road Hockley, SS5 4QH	Satisfactory	None
HB	Hockley Public Hall, Bullwood Road Hockley, SS5 4RA	Satisfactory	None
JA	St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Thorpedene Avenue, Hullbridge, Hockley SS5 6JA	This polling station was chosen due to the County Youth Centre not being available for use any longer. Hullbridge Community Centre has been looked at as an alternative but has	None

		<b>regular Thursday bookings and is not available.</b>	
<b>JB</b>	<b>Site Office, Hockley Park, Lower Road Hullbridge, SS5 5NQ</b>	<b>Disabled access is inadequate; however there are no viable alternatives. The Saltings, previously used as the polling station is now no longer available.</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>JC</b>	<b>Hullbridge Free Church, Lower Road Hullbridge, SS5 6DF</b>	<b>The Free Church is well known as the polling station for the area, however the disabled access is steep and has a right turn into the building.</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>KA</b>	<b>Down Hall Primary School, Brooklyn Drive, Rayleigh, SS6 9LW</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>KB</b>	<b>Rawreth Village Hall, Church Road, Rawreth, SS11 8SH</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>KC</b>	<b>Pope John Paul 2 Hall, London Road Rayleigh, SS6 9DT</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>LA, LB</b>	<b>Oaktree Children's Centre Groveswood Primary School, Grove Road, Rayleigh, SS6 8UA</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>LC</b>	<b>Wesley Room, Methodist Church Hall, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, SS6 7JP</b>	<b>This polling district previously used Wyburns School as a polling station but moved to the Wesley Room for the 2017 General Election and the 2018 local elections. Wyburns school has also requested not to be used as a polling station in future.</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>MA</b>	<b>Grange Free Church, London Road, Rayleigh, SS6 9AY</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>MB</b>	<b>Temporary Building, Travellers Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, SS6 9AY</b>	<b>Satisfactory. Although the use of a portakabin is an expensive option there are no viable alternatives within the district.</b>	<b>The Travellers Joy has offered space within the main building for use as a polling station in future so no portakabin would be required.</b>

<b>MC</b>	<b>Grange Community Centre, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh, SS6 9EH</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>NA</b>	<b>The Lavers, Hockley Road, Rayleigh SS6 8ED</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>NB</b>	<b>Welcome Room, Methodist Church Hall, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, SS6 7JP</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>PA</b>	<b>Women's Institute, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh, SS6 7ED</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>PB</b>	<b>Salvation Army Junior Hall 146/148 High Street, Rayleigh, SS6 7BU</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>PC</b>	<b>Castle Hall, Castle Road, Rayleigh SS6 7QF</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>None</b>