DOWNHALL & RAWRETH WARD

Existing arrangements					
Polling District	Letters	Electorate	Polling Place	Disabled access	
Rayleigh Downhall	RDH	2691	the whole of Downhall & Rawreth District ward with the present polling station being within Down Hall Primary School, Brooklyn Drive, Rayleigh.	Yes	
Rawreth	RDJ	784	the whole of Downhall & Rawreth District ward with the present polling station being within Rawreth parish hall, Church Road, Rawreth.	Yes	

Returning Officers proposals

No change

GRANGE WARD

Existing arrangements					
Polling District	Letters	Electorate	Polling Place	Disabled access	
Rayleigh Grange	RDK	1843	the whole of the Grange District ward with the present polling station being Grange Free Church, London Road, Rayleigh.	Yes	
Rayleigh Grange	RDK2	911	the whole of the Grange District ward with the present polling station being the Travellers Joy, Hungry Horse, Downhall Road, Rayleigh.	Requires ramp	

Returning Officers proposals

No change

Originally these two polling districts shared the site at Grange Free Church, London Road but this was unpopular with electors and Ward councillors as electors in RDK2 had to cross the very busy London Road in order to reach the polling station. Prior to the May 2006 elections, an alternative site was found at the Travellers Joy, Hungry Horse in Downhall Road thereby avoiding the need to cross the London Road for electors in RDK2. This is the only suitable public building in the area and has proved popular with electors and Ward councillors. The only alternative is a temporary hut sited on the car park. This is an inferior arrangement for both voters and polling station staff (who are on duty for 16 hours); there are problems with disabled access; and the costs of setting up this type of station are excessive. It is, therefore, proposed to continue to use the Travellers Joy for future elections.

LODGE WARD

Existing arrangements					
Polling District	Letters	Electorate	Polling Place	Disabled access	
Rayleigh Lodge	RDL	1755	the whole of the Lodge District ward with the present polling station being within Grove Junior School, Grove Road, Rayleigh	to be confirmed – but no known problems	
Rayleigh Lodge	RDM	1447	the whole of the Lodge District ward with the present polling station being within Frances Cottee Lodge, Clarence Road, Rayleigh	Yes	

Returning Officers proposals

No change. The polling station for RDM at Francis Cottee Lodge is being transferred from the Council's ownership into shared ownership with the Sanctuary Group, under the umbrella of Rochford Housing Association. However, agreement to the continuation of this use has been reached.

RAYLEIGH CENTRAL WARD

Existing arrangements					
Polling District	Letters	Electorate	Polling Place	Disabled access	
Rayleigh Central	RDG	2035	the whole of Rayleigh Central ward and the neighbouring Lodge and Whitehouse wards with the present polling station being within the Methodist Church Hall, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	to be confirmed – but no known problems	
Rayleigh Central	RDG2	1321	the whole of Rayleigh Central ward and the neighbouring Lodge and Whitehouse wards with the present polling station being within the Methodist Church Hall, Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	- ditto -	

Returning Officers proposals

Polling districts RDG and RDG2 are within the same Town Council ward and representations to combine the two districts have been received in the past. Whilst this will create a large single polling district in terms of electorate (Government guidelines suggest an electorate of 2000 –2500), it is felt that there is no longer an administrative advantage to keeping them separate. It is, therefore proposed to combine the two polling districts into RDG.

SWEYNE PARK WARD

Existing arrangements					
Polling District	Letters	Electorate	Polling Place	Disabled access	
Rayleigh Sweyne Park	RDN	1902	the whole of Sweyne Park District ward with the present polling station being within Grange Community Centre, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh	to be confirmed – but no known problems	
Rayleigh Sweyne Park	RDO	1408	the whole of Sweyne Park District ward with the present polling station being within Pope John Paul 2 Hall, London Road, Rayleigh	to be confirmed – but no known problems	

Returning Officers proposals

No change

TRINITY WARD

Existing arrangements						
Polling District	Letters	Electorate	Polling Place	Disabled access		
Rayleigh Trinity	RDP	2896	the whole of Trinity ward with the present polling station being The Lavers, Hockley Road, Rayleigh	Yes		

Returning Officers proposals

No change. This polling station is also being transferred to Rochford Housing Association but again, agreement has been reached for the continuation of this use.

WHEATLEY WARD

Existing arrangements					
Polling District	Letters	Electorate	Polling Place	Disabled access	
Rayleigh Wheatley	RDQ	1723	the whole of Wheatley District ward with the present polling station being in the Women's Institute, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh	Yes	
Rayleigh Wheatley	RDR	1443	the whole of Wheatley District ward with the present polling station being within the Salvation Army Junior Hall, High Street, Rayleigh	to be confirmed – but no known problems	

Returning Officers proposals

No change

WHITEHOUSE WARD

Existing arrangements					
Polling District	Letters	Electorate	Polling Place	Disabled access	
Rayleigh Whitehouse	RDS	1323	the whole of Whitehouse District ward with the present polling station being within Wyburns County Primary School, Nevern Road, Rayleigh	to be confirmed – but no known problems	
Rayleigh Whitehouse	RDT	1747	the whole of Whitehouse District ward with the present polling station being within Castle Hall, Castle Road, Rayleigh	to be confirmed – but no known problems	

Returning Officers proposals

No change. Since the last review the polling station for RDS has been changed from the Wesley Room at the Eastwood Road Methodist Church hall to the present site within Wyburns County Primary School following representations from local political parties and councillors. The site within the church hall was shared with Rayleigh Central ward, albeit within different rooms, and this was felt to be unsatisfactory and confusing for electors. The current site has yet to be used for an election but an inspection by the Elections Officer could find no apparent difficulties and the change is confirmed.