

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee

Date **19 November 2013**

Report of: **Director of Regulatory and Democratic Services**

Subject: **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

SUMMARY

The Council has a statutory duty to undertake a regular review of polling districts and polling places as required by the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006. This report seeks to make minor amendments to a number of polling districts and polling places where it is considered improvements can be made.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended:

- (a) to consider the amendments proposed to the scheme as set out in Appendix A;
- (b) to recommend to Council the scheme, as amended;
- (c) to publish the revised register of electors at the conclusion of the annual audit to reflect the approved scheme;
- (d) to advise electors of the change to the electoral district and polling station in advance of the next election; and
- (e) to recommend a comprehensive review of the polling districts and polling places across the Borough is undertaken following the next scheduled elections to ensure a revised scheme is in place before 31 January 2015.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Council has a statutory duty to keep under review the polling districts and polling places it uses for parliamentary (and other) elections. The last review was undertaken in 2011 and new regulations contained in The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and places. The next compulsory review must now be started and completed between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015.
2. As the polling districts and polling places are constantly kept under review, this report will only consider the areas in which problems have been identified. A further review will be undertaken after the next scheduled elections to consult across the Borough with the electorate, interested groups and statutory consultees as explained in the following paragraphs.

THE LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

3. The Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the local authority to divide its area into polling districts for the purpose of parliamentary elections and to keep such districts under review. Polling districts may also be designated for local government elections and in practice they follow the same boundaries as the parliamentary ones. Essentially, polling districts are the geographical sub-divisions of an electoral area, whether that is a constituency, a county division or a borough ward. Neither the parliamentary constituency boundaries, nor the local government wards and division boundaries may be changed by this process.
4. A local authority is also required to designate a polling place for each polling district. A polling place is a building or an area in which polling stations are located. The location of a polling station within a polling place is a matter for the Returning Officer and, as part of this review, the Returning Officer has been consulted on the proposed changes.
5. In undertaking a review the local authority must seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances. It must also seek to ensure that so far as is practicable every polling station is accessible to electors who are disabled. A polling place should preferably be located within the polling district, but the Act recognises this is not always feasible,
6. The process for undertaking a review is largely prescribed by the Act and regulations but minor alterations can be implemented between major reviews to satisfy the reasonable requirements of electors or to consider the accessibility to disabled persons of polling stations within a designated polling place.

THE 2013 REVIEW

7. The law requires a comprehensive review to be taken before 31 January 2015; this review considers some of the polling districts and places where problems have arisen which should be considered before the next scheduled elections in May 2014.
8. Undertaking a full review will require extensive consultation with interested parties and statutory consultees; inspection of all current and potential places, as necessary and the preparation of draft proposals. It is considered this could be undertaken in part by gathering information during the scheduled elections in May 2014 and preparing reports for your consideration during the autumn. This will enable consultation to take

place with councillors, political parties the electorate and disability groups.

9. The proposals contained in this report for each ward, are as follows:

Fareham East	No change to current scheme
Fareham North	FN4 – consider alternative venue: The polling place is currently at Fareham Community Church, West Street, Fareham. The café area on the ground floor was originally used as the polling station but this is now in use. The accommodation at first floor is good and a lift is available but concerns have been raised regarding the accessibility. It is proposed to use the Fire Station for future elections as it is easily accessible to all voters from the side access, although voters must be advised of car parking availability around the fire station.
Fareham South	No change to current scheme
Fareham West	No change to current scheme
Fareham North-West	No change to current scheme
Hill Head	No change to current scheme
Locks Heath	No change to current scheme
Portchester East	PE1, PE2 and PE5 – review of district boundaries Since the last review, district PE1 is now served by a polling station located at Portchester Fire Station, which is more accessible to voters in Station Road and Newtown than the Castle Street Centre where they currently vote. It is proposed to move these voters from PE2 to PE1. Voters in district numbers PE3 – PE6 now use the Portchester Community Centre as a polling station. It is considered that voters living in Rushin Court and above the shops in Portchester Precinct are now closer to the Castle Street Centre and should be moved from PE5 to PE2.
Park Gate	No change to current scheme
Portchester West	No change to current scheme
Sarisbury	No change to current scheme
Stubbington	ST1 and ST2 – consider alternative venue The current polling place for these polling stations is Crofton Community Centre. Whilst this venue is considered suitable, the hire charge is in excess of £500. The Youth

	Club is available next door to the Community Centre and is considered to be a suitable venue at half the hire cost. This will not inconvenience voters but will save money.
Titchfield Common	No change to current scheme
Titchfield	No change to current scheme
Warsash	No change to current scheme

10. A revised list of proposed changes for Fareham North, Portchester East and Stubbington is attached as Appendix A.

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

CONCLUSION

12. The changes proposed will benefit the voters in terms of accessibility to the polling place where problems have been identified. A comprehensive consultation exercise will be undertaken in 2014 to comply with the legislation and a draft scheme will be reported to the committee in autumn 2014.

Appendix A- Proposals for revisions to polling districts and polling places

Background Papers:

None.

Reference Papers:

Representation of the People Act 1983

The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006

Electoral Commission circular EC19 (2010)

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Elaine Wildig (Ext 4587).

PROPOSALS FOR REVISIONS TO POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Note: Electorate figures are based on the published register in October 2013 and are shown for guidance only.

FAREHAM NORTH WARD

<p>Fareham North District 1</p> <p>Polling Place Funtley Social Club Funtley Road Funtley Fareham</p> <p>Electorate 1082</p>	<p>Deer Leap, Funtley Hill, Funtley Lane, Funtley Road, Holly Grove, Honey Lane, Iron Mill Lane, Kiln Road (93-113/98-134), Lakeside, Lechlade Gardens, Marlow Close, Red Barn Lane(Timbers / 75-91 / 1-12 /48-92), Roebuck Avenue, Stag Way, Sunbury Court, The Waters, White Lodge Gardens, Wickham Road (north of motorway).</p>
<p>Fareham North District 2</p> <p>Polling Place: Uplands Primary School Morshead Crescent Fareham</p> <p>Electorate 1400</p>	<p>Bruce Close, Burnham Wood, Crawford Drive, Green Hollow Close, Greenwood Close, Highlands Road (1-19 /2-20A),Irvine Close, Kiln Road (1-91 / 2-96), Longstaff Gardens, Lynton Gardens, Mallory Crescent, Maylings Farm Road, Morshead Crescent, North Hill, Norton Drive, Odell Close, Potters Avenue, Saville Gardens, Tanglewood, Tensing Close, The Cedars, The Mallards, Wakefield Avenue, West Downs Close.</p>
<p>Fareham North District 3</p> <p>Polling Place Uplands Primary School Morshead Crescent Fareham</p> <p>Electorate 1610</p>	<p>Arundel Drive, Beaufort Avenue, Bentley Crescent, Byron Close, Chaucer Close, Denbigh Drive, Dryden Close, Hillary Close, Leigh Road, Miller Drive, Oxford Close, Park Lane, Somervell Drive Tennyson Gardens, The Drive.</p>
<p>Fareham North District 4</p> <p>Polling Place Fareham Fire Station West Street Fareham</p> <p>Electorate 1635</p>	<p>Brook Farm Avenue, Colenso Road, Crescent Gardens, Crescent Road, Derlyn Road, Gordon Road, Grove Road, Gudge Heath Lane (2-118/1-123), Lawrence Road, Maytree Road, Murray Close, New Road, Nicholas Crescent, Orme Court, Riches Mews, Rowland Road, Russell Place, Stephen Road, Trinity Gardens, Trinity Street, West Street (155-237 + Western Court 150-204B).</p>

PORTCHESTER EAST WARD

<p>Portchester East District 1</p> <p>Polling Place The Fire Station Kelvin Grove Portchester</p> <p>Electorate 1709</p>	<p>Anson Grove, Benedict Way, Carlton Road, Colinton Avenue, Conifer Mews, Edward Grove, Hill Road, Kelvin Grove, Leith Avenue, Montrose Avenue, Morningside Avenue, Mountview Avenue, Nelson Lane, Newtown, Pentland Rise, Portchester Heights, Portobello Grove, Portsdown Road, Portsview Avenue, Portsview Gardens, Seaview Avenue, Skew Road, Southwick Avenue, Station Road.</p>
<p>Portchester East District 2</p> <p>Polling Place Castle Street Centre Castle Street Portchester</p> <p>Electorate 802</p>	<p>Barbican Mews, Castle Street, East Street, Hospital Lane, Postern Close, The Keep, West Street (1-39 and 2-44) Wicor Path.</p>
<p>Portchester East District 3</p> <p>Polling Place Portchester Community Centre Westlands Grove Portchester</p> <p>Electorate 1697</p>	<p>Alton Grove, Bayly Avenue, Beachway, Benham Grove, Castle View Road, Cooper Grove, Denville Avenue, Edgar Crescent, Grove Avenue, Kenwood Road, Lansdowne Avenue, Lonsdale Avenue, Merton Avenue, Merton Crescent, Neville Avenue, Norman Close, Olive Crescent, Roman Grove, Webb Road, Westbrook Road, White Hart Lane (1-117 / 2 -114, 267 & 269), Windsor Road, York Gardens.</p>
<p>Portchester East District 4</p> <p>Polling Place Portchester Community Centre Westlands Grove Portchester</p> <p>Electorate 1825</p>	<p>Allenby Grove, Carberry Drive, Castle Grove, Clive Grove, Coppins Grove, Coral Close, Foxbury Grove, Frobisher Grove, Gladstone Gardens, Harbour View, Jubilee Road, Kent Grove, King George Road, Marina Grove, Marlborough Grove, Myrtle Avenue, New Priory Gardens, Norgett Way, Queen Mary Road, Seaway Grove, Sunningdale Road, Vincent Grove, Wellington Grove, White Hart Lane (119-185 / 116-166), Windmill Grove.</p>
<p>Portchester East District 5</p> <p>Polling Place Portchester Community Centre Westlands Grove Portchester</p> <p>Electorate 1485</p>	<p>Shrubbery Close, St Helena Way, St James Way, The Close, The Crossway, The Downsway, The Fairway, The Kingsway, The Leaway, The Queensway, West Street (excluding 1-39 and 2-44), Westlands Grove, White Hart Lane (168-238/217-265).</p>
<p>Portchester East District 6</p> <p>Polling Place Portchester Community Centre Westlands Grove Portchester</p> <p>Electorate 1353</p>	<p>Albion Close, Audret Close, Cadour Drive, Central Road, Cornaway Lane (2-66), Cranleigh Road (2-106), Gatehouse Road, Heritage Gardens, Kenya Road, Kilwich Way, King John Avenue, Moraunt Drive, Nelson Avenue, Orchard Grove, Sandport Grove, Seafield Road, Sissinghurst Road, Tattershall Crescent, Wessex Gardens, White Hart Lane (271-307/246-272), Whitehaven, Wicor Mill Lane, Wicormarine.</p>

STUBBINGTON WARD

<p>Stubbington District 1</p> <p>Polling Place Crofton Youth Centre Stubbington Lane, Stubbington</p> <p>Electorate 1325</p>	<p>Ajax Close, Brune Lane, Cherque Lane, Conqueror Way, East House Avenue, Elizabeth Road, Eric Road, Fay Close, Francis Place, Glenthorne Close, Gosport Road, Jersey Close, Kingsmead Avenue, Leviathan Close, Martin Avenue, Northways, Orion Close, Shoot Lane, Southways, Tonnant Close, Victory Road, Westways, William Close.</p>
<p>Stubbington District 2</p> <p>Polling Place Crofton Youth Centre Stubbington Lane, Stubbington</p> <p>Electorate 1399</p>	<p>Albert Road, Alfred Road, Bells Lane, Belmont Close, Beresford Road, Croftlands Avenue, Cutlers Lane, Dale Road, Halletts Close, Harold Road, Marks Road, Mayfield Close, Newgate Lane (7-245+/130), Oakdown Road, Park Lane, Queens Crescent, Ravens Close, Rectory Close, Spencer Court, Stubbington Green, Stubbington Lane (1-29/26-26A), The Byres, Vicarage Lane (1-47), Village Close, Woodcote Lane.</p>
<p>Stubbington District 3</p> <p>Polling Place Methodist Church Hall Mays Lane, Stubbington</p> <p>Electorate 1594</p>	<p>Burnt House Lane, Cains Close, Darren Close, Derwent Close, Ditton Close, Ennerdale Road, Foster Close, Garnett Close, Grasmere Way, Green Road, Herons Close, Longs Lane, Mays Lane, Metcalfe Avenue, Morgans Drive, Peak Lane, Peartree Close, Pembury Road, Pinewood Close, Scott Close, Stroud Green Lane, Sumar Close, Summerleigh Walk, Swanton Close, Tangyes Close, The Croft, Thirlmere Close, Three Ways Close, Titchfield Road, Windermere Avenue.</p>
<p>Stubbington District 4</p> <p>Polling Place Stubbington Baptist Church Jay Close Stubbington</p> <p>Electorate 1415</p>	<p>Anker Lane, Anzac Close, Canterbury Road, Country View, Cuckoo Lane, Deal Close, Discovery Close, Dolphin Court, Farm House Close, Garnett Close, Hazelwood, Jay Close, Kestrel Close, Lychgate Green, Marks Tey Road, Newton Close, Oakcroft Lane, Old Street (73-109), Puffin Crescent, Spartan Close, St Marys Road, Tawny Owl Close, The Oakes, The Paddock, Titchfield Road, Turtle Close, Upper Old Street (evens).</p>