

AGENDA ITEM 13: APPENDIX I

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 30/09/2014

Title:

REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2014

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Robert Knowles]
[Wards Affected: All]**

Summary and purpose:

The purpose of this report is to outline the representations received for the Review of Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places 2014 and the Returning Officer's recommendations in light of the Review.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

An active democratic process which involves as many electors as possible is central to supporting the Council's corporate priorities.

Financial Implications:

In the event of any change of polling station use from a school to hall or other community facility, there would be an increase in the cost of venue hire to be met from elections fees. This is because publicly funded schools may be used as polling places free of a hire charge. The only requirement is to pay running costs including heating and lighting, together with any extra caretaking costs required on polling day.

Legal Implications:

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires the conduct of a compulsory review of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling stations by the 31st January 2015.

Introduction

1. The existing polling districts and polling places used throughout the Borough are outlined at [Appendix 1](#). Notification of this review was published on the Council's website inviting representations from all registered electors over the course of a six week consultation period. In addition stakeholders were invited to respond, including all Borough Councillors, County Councillors, Town and Parish Councils, the MP's for the South West Surrey and Guildford Constituencies, political parties and equal access groups. The overriding priority when designating polling

stations is to encourage turnout of eligible electors in order to effect an active democratic process.

2. Representations have been received regarding the use of **Busbridge Junior School, Brighton Road, Busbridge** regarding the impact the closure has on parents and children. Enquiries as to alternative venues and arrangements in Busbridge were made in the Review of Particular Polling Places 2013 and no alternative was found that was either available or suitable. The Returning Officer is investigating with Busbridge Junior School whether a polling station could be accommodated in a self-contained block or part of the school which would allow the school to remain open on polling day.
3. Representations have been received regarding **Loseley Fields Primary School, Green Lane, Binscombe, Godalming** that polling days cause a great deal of disruption for many working parents. Binscombe Church, Loseley Road, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 3RF has been suggested as an alternative venue. Reverend Hitchcock is prepared to accommodate a polling station at the Church. A visit is to be conducted to assess suitability of the venue as to a polling station.
4. Representations have been received from Elstead Parish Council that they are happy with the current arrangements for the use of the **Elstead Youth Centre, Thursley Road** as polling station provision in Elstead.
5. No representations were received during the Review regarding **Ridgeway School, Frensham Road**, however, an offer has been made by St Thomas-on-the-Bourne Church for use on polling day. This site has been visited by the Senior Manager – Elections and found to be a suitable venue for consideration by the Returning Officer as part of a continuing effort to find alternative venues to schools wherever possible. The Returning Officer is arranging a visit to the site to assess suitability.
6. Enquiries were made as to suitable alternatives to **South Farnham Infants' School, School Lane** during the course of 2013. Of the sites considered as alternatives, the Cricket Pavilion was put forward for further consideration by the Returning Officer. However due to the lack of disabled access this site remains at present unsuitable.
7. Representations have been received regarding **St. Peter's Primary School, Little Green Lane, Farnham** and a request made to find an alternative polling station provision. Investigations are now underway to establish if there is any suitable alternative venue.
8. The Head Teacher and Governors have previously requested, in support of requests made by parents, that an alternative site be found to **Hale School, Upper Hale Road**. The Hale Institute, Linwood, Wings Road, Farnham, GU9 0HN has been visited and is a reasonable venue but right on the edge of a polling district and a long way from voters on the other end of the polling district. The School is in a much more central location and is a well established station. Use of the School as a polling station is not desired by the School, its Governors or

parents. On balance the Returning Officer's recommendation is to retain the use of the school as at present there is no convenient alternative.

9. **The Scout's Hall, Charterhouse Road** has been a long running problem as the facilities are very basic and parking is limited. Its use as a polling station does not result in complaints from electors. It is in a very prominent position and is well established. There is no suitable alternative.
10. There has been an offer of the use of the Guildford Rugby Club, Guildford Road as an alternative venue to **Broadwater Community Centre, Summers Road**. Enquiries as to the suitability as to the venue and the position within the polling district and Borough are under way.
11. The Head Teacher of **Grayswood C of E Infant School, Lower Road** has advised that the School is undergoing expansion and building work in 2015 which will reduce the hall in size by half. Enquiries as to the availability and suitability of any other venues are under way.
12. There are some polling stations in the Borough that have very few electors allocated to them, for example **Pirrie Hall, Brook Road**. The Returning Officer has tried to rationalise but has received feedback from parish councils and electors as to the wish to retain them. If Members did not retain these small polling stations then a saving could be achieved in the region of £400 - £500. If the alternative were to offer all the voters affected postal votes, the saving would be smaller. There is a need to balance accessibility with encouraging voter turnout and the general duty the Council has to maximise turnout. As a result it is recommended that those polling stations, including Pirrie Hall, that have very few electors allocated to them should be retained.
13. The Returning Officer has, both during and outside this review, received representations and complaints regarding the use of schools as polling stations. Returning Officers have historically used schools as polling stations as they are required to consider a number of factors that affect the suitability of premises as a polling station. These factors include: access including suitability for elderly and disabled users of the premises, parking facilities, proximity to those allocated to vote at the premises and the numbers of voters within the district that will be using the premises to vote. These reasons mean that often schools are very suitable premises to be used as polling stations. In addition legislation allows the Returning officer to request that a school be used as a polling station.
14. Surrey County Council is supportive of the use of Schools but Head Teachers, Governors and Parents are unhappy at the closures and the impact that this has. Where there are suitable and available alternative venues these are investigated. Where there are not, Schools are encouraged to fix polling day as an inset day. It is the case that the Schools do not have to close if they have a self-contained block or hall that can be set aside for polling station use. The Returning Officer recognises that this is not possible in many Schools due to their layout or facilities. Schools are provided with notification of expected election dates two – three years in advance to assist with their planning and so that early notification

may be provided to parents. There are 53 polling places within the Waverley Borough, of which 11 are schools.

Conclusion

15. Alternative polling station venues have been identified as set out in the table below.

Polling District	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place
AA Binscombe	Loseley Fields Primary School	Binscombe Church, Loseley Road which has been visited and assessed as suitable
BA Bourne North	Ridgeway School, Frensham Road	St Thomas-on-the-Bourne Church (subject to final assessment by Returning Officer)

16. It has been established that the Guildford Rugby Club building on Guildford Road is located within the Waverley Borough. The playing fields are located partly within Waverley and partly within Guildford Borough Council. A request has been made of the club to visit the premises to assist suitability. Enquiries have commenced as to the availability of any alternative venues to Grayswood C of E Infant School and St. Peter's Primary School.

Recommendation

It is recommended that

1. the venues set out in the table at paragraph 15 above be agreed as polling station venues; and
2. enquiries continue as set out at paragraph 16 above.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
Guildford Constituency**

Ward	Alfold Cranleigh Rural & Ellens Green
Number of Polling Districts	Four
Number of Polling Places	Four
Electorate	1603
Notes	Building work at Elmbridge Village but Hall still expected to be available

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
JA - Alfold	867	Alfold Village Hall
JB - Elmbridge	404	Hall at Elmbridge Village
JC - Cranleigh Rural	97	Ellens Green Memorial Hall
JD - Ellens Green	235	Ellens Green Memorial Hall

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
Guildford Constituency**

Ward	Blackheath & Wonersh
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	1505
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
NA - Blackheath	236	Blackheath Village Hall
NB - Wonersh	1269	Lawnsmead Hall

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Bramley Busbridge & Hascombe
Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Three
Electorate	3584
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
IA - Bramley	2711	Bramley Village Hall
IB - Busbridge	652	Busbridge Jnr. School, Brighton Road

IC - Hascombe	221	Hascombe Village Hall, Mare Lane
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**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Chiddingfold & Dunsfold Ward	
Number of Polling Districts	Two	
Number of Polling Places	Two	
Electorate	3069	
Notes		

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
DA - Chiddingfold	2253	Chiddingfold Village Hall, Coxcombe Lane
DB - Dunsfold	816	The Winn Hall, Dunsfold

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
Guildford Constituency**

Ward	Cranleigh East	
Number of Polling Districts	Two	
Number of Polling Places	Two	
Electorate	5216	
Notes		

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
KA - Cranleigh East 1	2871	Cranleigh Arts Centre
KB - Cranleigh East 2	2345	Park Mead Junior School, Park Drive

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
Guildford Constituency**

Ward	Cranleigh West	
Number of Polling Districts	One	
Number of Polling Places	One	
Electorate	3317	
Notes		

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
LA - Cranleigh West	3317	Cranleigh Band Room, Village Way

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Elstead & Thursley
Number of Polling Districts	Four
Number of Polling Places	Four
Electorate	3160
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
EA - Elstead	2091	Elstead Youth Centre, Thursley Road
EB - Peperharow	159	Elstead Youth Centre, Thursley Road
EC - Thursley	539	Thursley Village Hall
ED - Brook	371	Pirrie Hall, Brook

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
Guildford Constituency**

Ward	Ewhurst
Number of Polling Districts	One
Number of Polling Places	One
Electorate	1631
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
OA - Ewhurst	1631	Community Room, The Glebe

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Farnham Bourne
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	3281
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
BA - Bourne North	1104	Ridgway School, Frensham Road
BB - Bourne South	2177	South Farnham Infant School, School Lane

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Farnham Castle
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	3145
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
BC - Castle 1	2182	Memorial Hall
BD - Castle 2	963	United Reformed Church, South Street

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Farnham Firgrove
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	3358
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
BE - Firgrove 1	1275	St. Joans Centre, Tilford Road
BF - Firgrove 2	2083	Brambleton Hall, Talbot Road

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Farnham Hale & Heath End
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	3420
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
BG - Hale & Heath End (1)	1862	Baptist Church Hall, Rushden Way
BH - Hale & Heath End (2)	1558	The Common Room, Gorselands, Alma Lane

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Farnham Moor Park
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	3841
Notes	Current redevelopment proposals for Brightwells involve mixed applications including residential units

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
BI - Moor Park (1)	2681	T.A. Centre, Guildford Road
BJ - Moor Park (2)	1160	Abbey School, Menin Way

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Farnham Shortheath & Boundstone
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	3269
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
BK - Boundstone	1132	St. Peter's Primary School, Little Green Lane
BL - Shortheath	2137	St. Peter's Primary School, Little Green Lane

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Farnham Upper Hale
Number of Polling Districts	One
Number of Polling Places	One
Electorate	3356
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
BM - Upper Hale	3356	Hale School, Upper Hale Road

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Farnham Weybourne & Badshot Lea
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	3456
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
BN - Weybourne	2060	Weybourne Village Hall
BO - Badshot Lea	1396	St Georges Church Hall

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Farnham Wrecclesham & Rowledge
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	3532
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
BP - Wrecclesham	2192	Wrecclesham Community Centre
BQ - Rowledge	1340	Rowledge Village Hall, The Long Road

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Frensham Dockenfield & Tilford
Number of Polling Districts	Five
Number of Polling Places	Five
Electorate	3304
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
FA - Churt	969	Churt Village Hall
FB - Dockenfield	352	The Vestry, Dockenfield Church
FC - Frensham	792	Frensham Parish Meeting Room
FD - Rushmoor	569	The Tilford Institute, Tilford Road
FE - Tilford	622	The Tilford Institute, Tilford Road

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Godalming Binscombe
Number of Polling Districts	One
Number of Polling Places	One
Electorate	3194
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
AA - Binscombe	3194	Loseley Fields Primary School, Green Lane

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Godalming Charterhouse
Number of Polling Districts	One
Number of Polling Places	One
Electorate	2926
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
AD - Charterhouse	2926	Scout's Hall, Charterhouse Road

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Godalming Central & Ockford
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	3609
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
AB - Central	1702	Borough Hall, Bridge Street
AC - Ockford	1907	St. Mark's Community Centre, Franklyn Road

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Godalming Farncombe and Catteshall
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	3668
Notes	Red Cross Centre building may not be available in the future

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
AE - Catteshall	2255	Red Cross Centre, Wey Court, Meadow
AF - Farncombe	1413	Broadwater Community Centre, Summers Road

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Godalming Holloway
Number of Polling Districts	One
Number of Polling Places	One
Electorate	3370
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
AG - Holloway	3370	Sports Pavilion, Holloway Hill Rec. Grd., Busbridge Lane

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Haslemere Critchmere and Shottermill
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	4729
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
CA - Critchmere	2401	Hasleway Centre, Lion Lane
CB - Shottermill	2328	Hasleway Centre, Lion Lane

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Haslemere East and Grayswood
Number of Polling Districts	Three
Number of Polling Places	Three
Electorate	5162
Notes	Grayswood School is undergoing expansion and building work in 2015 will reduce the hall in size by half

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
CC - Haslemere North	1590	High Lane Community Centre, Weycombe Road
CD - Grayswood	526	Grayswood C of E Infant School, Lower Road
CE - Haslemere South	3046	The Georgian House Hotel, High Street

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Hindhead
Number of Polling Districts	One
Number of Polling Places	One
Electorate	3375
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
CF - Hindhead	3375	Beacon Hill Primary School, Beacon Hill Road

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
Guildford Constituency**

Ward	Shamley Green and Cranleigh North
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	1395
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
MA - Shamley Green	1174	Arbuthnot Hall, The Green, Shamley Green
MB - Cranleigh North	221	Cranleigh Arts Centre

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Milford
Number of Polling Districts	One
Number of Polling Places	One
Electorate	3261
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
GA - Milford	3179	Milford Village Hall, Portsmouth Road

**Existing Polling Districts and Polling Places
South West Surrey Constituency**

Ward	Witley and Hambledon
Number of Polling Districts	Two
Number of Polling Places	Two
Electorate	3112
Notes	

Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place
HA - Witley	2498	The Chandler Junior School, Middlemarch, Roke Lane
HB - Hambledon	614	Hambledon Village Hall, Hambledon