

COUNCIL, 22 OCTOBER 2014

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW

Governance Committee at its meeting on 19 November will consider a report concerning a Review of Polling Districts. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 required that a polling district and polling place review be carried out by the Acting Returning Officer in 2007 and every fourth year thereafter. The last review was carried out in 2011 and the 2014 review is now being undertaken.

The aims of the review are:

To ensure that:-

- (a) As far as possible polling places are accessible to all.
- (b) Polling places fall within the polling district wherever possible.
- (c) Account be taken of justifiable complaints by electors, and any responses received from this consultation.

The full timetable is set out in Appendix A and a copy of all responses is set out in Appendix B.

If the proposals are accepted by the Governance Committee, it will recommend to the Council that the changes should be incorporated into the register published on 1 December 2014, and the alternative polling stations are to be used at the GLA elections in May 2015.

Recommendation:

Subject to the approval of Governance Committee, that Council agrees that the changes to polling districts be incorporated into the register published on 1 December 2014, and that the alternative polling stations are used at the GLA elections in May 2015 in accordance with the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

Appendix A

Timetable

1 – 30 June	Formulation of proposals by the (Acting) Returning Officer
26 June	Calendar Brief
1 July 2014	Public Notice of commencement of the Polling District review
1 July to 1 August 2014	<p>Proposals deposited at all public libraries in the Borough, PASC and the Election Services Office, also on the internet.</p> <p>Consultation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Lead Member • Lead Member for Community Empowerment • Ward Councillors • Greater London Assembly Member for Havering & Redbridge • Members of Parliament for the Dagenham & Rainham; Hornchurch & Upminster; and Romford Constituencies • Members of the European Parliament for the London Region • Local Political Parties • (Acting) Returning Officer of Dagenham & Rainham Constituency • Registered Electors in the Borough • Persons who are considered to have particular interest in the premises or facilities used for voting • HAD • HAVCO • Age Concern • People First • Access officers
August – October 2014	(Acting) Returning Officer to consider any representations and if necessary revise proposals
12 th November	Recommendations reported to Governance Committee to consider revised final recommendations
26 th November 2014	If agreed by Governance Committee final recommendations to be put before full Council.

Appendix B

Copy of responses in full:

GS4: Brookside Infants School

Dave Allen, Clerk to Brookside Infant Governing Body:

The Governors of Brookside Infant School have asked if the polling station for their area to be switched from their school to across the road at MyPlace.

Please could you let me now if that is possible so I can report back or if there is anything else you need from me.

CM5: Upminster Methodist Church Hall

Cllr Clarence Barrett, Leader of the East Havering Residents' Group

The only point I would like to make in respect of polling places is that there needs to be something on or near the Dury Falls estate for the Cranham ward. Their allocated polling place is the Upminster Methodist Church which is simply too far away.

HW4: Methodist Church Hall

Submitted by local resident

I am in Harold Wood Ward HW4. The Station is nowhere near the centre of this 'subward'. Only two of the five are conveniently located HW2 and 3. Is the location in HW4 being looked at? Is the caravan in use at one of the Stations?

ST5: Benhurst Primary School

Mr David Denchfield, Head teacher, Benhurst Primary School

Thank you for your letter regarding the Polling District Review. I am happy for the review to take place and for the school to be used as a Polling Station for the May 2015 election – do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information or need to make a site inspection.

I would formally like to give notice that after the 2015 election, Benhurst does not wish to be used as a voting station. I would be grateful if you could confirm this receipt of this request and its instructions.

ST5: Benhurst Primary School

Submitted by local resident

I am responding to the review of voting facilities in the Borough. I live in Priors Park in Hornchurch and my polling station is usually Benhurst Primary School. As a venue this is accessible however, is there really a need for children to miss out on a whole day's schooling are there not other venues such as church halls etc that can be used??

SX4: Newtons Primary School

Lynn Lowe – Head teacher, Newtons Primary School

I am writing to inform you that we would prefer Newtons Primary school not to be used as a polling station on May 7th 2015. We are very concerned that the following week the children will be sitting their tests. There is also a Bank Holiday on Monday 4th May so it means that the children would lose 2 days of school within the week leading up to test week. Our school has just become Requiring Improvement following an Ofsted Inspection in June 2014 and will be expected HMI visits. We feel that we are in a vulnerable position and do not want to risk low results again. I hope you understand. Thank you.