

## **COUNCIL, 26 NOVEMBER 2014**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION TO THE REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

#### **POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW**

Governance Committee at its meeting on 19 November considered the report concerning a Review of Polling Districts (see main Council agenda). Appendix A of the report attached now reflects the correct date of the meeting. After some discussion, the Committee accepted the report with the exception of the continued use of the Methodist Church Hall in Hall Lane (Polling District CM5) and requested a further review.

The **Recommendation to Council** is therefore that:

**The changes to the Polling Districts reviewed should be incorporated into the register published on 1 December 2014, and the alternative polling stations used at the Parliamentary elections in May 2015 in accordance with the Electoral Administration Act 2006 with the exception of CM5 Upminster Methodist Church Hall, Hall Lane for which a further review is to be undertaken and a recommendation brought back to a future meeting of the Council.**

## 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"> <li>• Service Lead Member</li> <li>• Lead Member for Community Empowerment</li> <li>• Ward Councillors</li> <li>• Greater London Assembly Member for Havering &amp; Redbridge</li> <li>• Members of Parliament for the Dagenham &amp; Rainham; Hornchurch &amp; Upminster; and Romford Constituencies</li> <li>• Members of the European Parliament for the London Region</li> <li>• Local Political Parties</li> <li>• (Acting) Returning Officer of Dagenham &amp; Rainham Constituency</li> <li>• Registered Electors in the Borough</li> <li>• Persons who are considered to have particular interest in the premises or facilities used for voting</li> <li>• HAD</li> <li>• HAVCO</li> <li>• Age Concern</li> <li>• People First</li> <li>• Access officers</li> </ul>
August – October 2014	(Acting) Returning Officer to consider any representations and if necessary revise proposals
19 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	Recommendations reported to Governance Committee to consider revised final recommendations
26 <sup>th</sup> 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 Opposition, Residents' Association

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.