



REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 requires that a polling district and polling place review be carried out by the Acting Returning Officer in 2007 and every fourth year thereafter. The 2011 review has recently been completed and the outcome will be incorporated into the register to be published on 1 December 2011, and the revised polling station arrangements will be used at the GLA elections on 3 May 2012.

Consultation was undertaken as follows:

- All elected representatives, political parties and relevant stakeholders were given notification of the review.
- Copies of the proposals were available for public inspection in all libraries in Havering, PASC, Havering's website and at the Town Hall, with accompanying posters to inform the public of this.
- Copies of the proposal were given to the Havering Association of People with Disabilities, HAVCO, Age Concern and People First, with publicity given in their relevant newsletters or websites.
- An article publicising the review was published in Living.
- The Council's Access Officer was given a copy of the proposals

No responses to the consultation or complaints from voters were received in respect of the following wards:- Cranham, Emerson Park, Pettits, South Hornchurch and Upminster; accordingly, no changes are proposed for those wards.

Representations were received in respect of the other wards, as a result of which various changes are proposed, as follows:

1. Brooklands Ward (Romford Constituency)

BL1 - Lombard Court: The previous polling station for this polling district, St John's Church Hall, Pretoria Road, has closed and Lombard Court is now used for polling, but there are concerns about safety of electors and the noise and inconvenience to residents. No alternative premises are presently available but once the church is sold the new owners will be contacted to discuss whether they would be willing to allow the hall to be used for polling.

It is recommended that Lombard Court continue to be the polling place for polling district BL1 until the future of St John's Church is known, and to make no changes to the remaining polling districts or polling places BL2, BL3, BL4 and BL5.

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2. Elm Park Ward (Dagenham and Rainham Constituency)
EL1 – Scargill Infants School: Since the 2007 review, the polling place has been relocated from Scargill Junior School to Scargill Infants School.

It is recommended this change be confirmed, and to make no changes to the polling places or polling districts for EL2, EL3 and EL4.

3. Gooshays Ward (Hornchurch and Upminster Constituency)
GS2 – Harold Hill Library, Hilledene Avenue: Harold Hill Library is being used as the polling station for polling district GS2 as well as GS1 as the Old People's Club in Chippenham Gardens, which was previously the polling station, was closed due to vandalism. No other suitable premises within the polling district can be found at the present time.

Until a suitable alternative can be found for GS2, it is recommended to make no changes to the current polling places or polling districts GS1, GS2, GS3, GS4, GS5 and GS6.

4. Hacton Ward (Hornchurch & Upminster Constituency)
HN5 – Elm Park Primary School: Elm Park Primary School has been built on the site of Ayloff Primary School, which was previously used as a polling station. Voters were temporarily redirected to Suttons Primary School; however now the new building is open polling should be relocated back to the former site.

It is recommended Elm Park Primary School be the polling place for polling district HN5, and no changes be made to the remaining polling places or polling districts HN1, HN2, HN3 and HN4.

5. Havering Park Ward (Romford Constituency):
HP2 - Clockhouse Primary School/HP5 – North Romford Community Centre: There was a request on behalf of the Clockhouse Primary School that it no longer be used as a polling station as, with some 700 children, closing the school and nursery both disrupted education and inconvenienced parents. The North Romford Community Centre falls within the boundary of HP2, but is currently used for polling district HP5 as no suitable location is available within the HP5 boundary.

It is therefore proposed that:

- a) Clockhouse Primary School be no longer used as a polling station.
- b) North Romford Community Centre in future be used as the polling station for HP2 and HP5

It is recommended that the above proposals be agreed, with no changes to the polling places or polling districts HP1, HP3, HP4 and HP6.

6. Heaton Ward (Hornchurch and Upminster Constituency)
HT1 - The Ingrebourne Children's Centre: Since the 2007 review, polling has been moved to the Ingrebourne Children's Centre as the Ingrebourne

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School closed. The Children's Centre had indicated it no longer wishes to be used as a polling station but no suitable alternative premises can be found.

It is therefore recommended to make no changes to the current polling places or polling districts HT1, HT2, HT3, HT4 and HT5.

7. Harold Wood Ward (Hornchurch and Upminster constituency)
HW3 - St Peter's Church Hall: For the 2011 Referendum, polling in this district was relocated from the Ingreborne Centre to St. Peter's Church Hall directly opposite. It is a newer building, and caused less disruption to regular attendees of the Ingreborne Centre. No complaints were received about this change.

It is recommended that this change stands, and to make no changes to the polling places and polling districts HW1, HW2, HW4, and HW5.

8. Hylands Ward (Romford Constituency)
HY4 - The Albany School: The Head Teacher of The Albany School wrote to request the school not be used as a polling station on the grounds that, as a secondary school, exam times often clash with polling day and they have concerns regarding Health and Safety when keeping the school open. No other suitable alternative premises could be located within the area.

It is therefore recommended to make no changes to the current polling places or polling districts HP1, HP2, HP3, HP4 and HP5.

9. Mawneys Ward (Romford Constituency)
MN6 – Crownfield School: Since the 2007 review, this polling station has been relocated from the main building into the Nursery Unit in order to allow the school to remain open.

It is recommended this change stands, and to make no changes to the polling places and polling districts MN1, MN2, MN3 MN4, and MN5.

10. Rainham and Wennington Ward (Dagenham and Rainham Constituency)
RW1/RW5 - Parsonage Farm Primary School: The Head Teacher of this school plans to keep the school open on future polling days. There are also ongoing issues with voters trying to access the site by car as the school no longer has a car park and therefore the main gates are kept closed.

The Head Teacher has proposed moving the polling station to a different part of the school, accessed via Allen Road, which does not have parking restrictions.

RW2 – Brady Primary School: Since the 2007 review, Wennington Village Hall has closed and since 2009 voters have been redirected to Brady Primary School, which is also the polling place for RW3.

The future of the Village Hall is uncertain, however it is not proposed to make any changes to the polling districts at this review until the future of the Village Hall is known.

It is recommended that the above proposals for Rainham and Wennington be agreed, with no changes to the polling places or polling districts RW3 and RW4.

11. Romford Town Ward (Romford Constituency)

RT1 - Romford Baptist Church Hall: This Hall was used as an interim polling place whilst the Central Library was closed for refurbishment. The Church hall has disabled access, and, unlike the library, disabled parking, and it is proposed that it remains in use as the polling station for this polling district.

RT2 – St Alban’s Church Hall: Since the 2007 review Manor Primary School has closed. Polling was relocated to St Alban’s Church Hall in 2010 and no complaints have been received. It is proposed that it remains in use as the polling station for this polling district.

RT5 - Hylands Primary School: Concern about the use of the School led to a suggestion that the Craigdale Centre be used as a polling place, but the owners of the Centre have declined, as there are regular bookings. No other suitable venue can be found at this time.

Having visited the school and following discussions with the Head Teacher, it is proposed to allow pedestrian access by the Benjamin Close gate, with vehicle users using the Granger Way entrance. The address on poll cards would be printed as:

Hylands Primary School
Granger Way (car access)
Benjamin Close (pedestrian access)
Hornchurch
RM11 1DA

It is recommended that the above proposals for Romford Town be agreed, with no changes to the remaining polling places and polling districts RT3 and RT4.

12. Squirrel’s Heath Ward (Romford Constituency)

SQ4 - Ardleigh Green Church Hall: At present the polling station in this polling district is Ardleigh Green Church Hall, which has very limited parking. The All Saints Church across the road volunteered its hall for polling, as it has a car park which voters use on polling day if they cannot park at the Ardleigh Green Church Hall. The All Saints Church has a large car park as well as disabled access and is highly suitable for use as a polling station. It is recommended that this church be used in future elections.

It is recommended that the above proposals for Squirrel’s Heath be accepted, with no changes to the polling places or polling districts SQ1, SQ2, SQ3 and SQ5.

13. St Andrew's Ward (Hornchurch and Upminster Constituency)

ST3 – Birnam Wood Pupil Referral Unit: Since the 2007 review, the polling station has been relocated from the Robert Beard Youth Centre to the building directly behind it, the Birnam Wood PRU.

It is recommended that this change stands, and to make no changes to remaining polling places or polling districts ST1, ST2, ST4 and ST5.

The Governance Committee accepted the various recommendations set out above and accordingly RECOMMENDS that the Council endorse the proposed changes.