



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

13th January 2021

Subject Heading:

Temporary Changes to Polling Stations
due to COVID19

SLT Lead:

GLA Elections 6th May 2021

Andrew Blake-Herbert

Chief Executive

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Policy context:

There are no direct resource implications

Financial summary:

***The Greater London Assembly Elections
are funded by the Greater London
Authority – therefore there are no financial
implications.***

**The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council
Objectives**

Communities making Havering

[x]

Places making Havering

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Opportunities making Havering

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Connections making Havering

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Affected Wards	Brooklands, Elm Park, Gooshays, Hacton, Harold Wood, Heaton, Mawneys, Pettits, Romford Town, Rainham and Wennington, Squirrels Heath, St Andrews, South Hornchurch, Upminster
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SUMMARY

This report provides information regarding temporary changes to 21 polling stations. These temporary arrangements are either:

- *due to venues no longer being available in light of the Covid19 pandemic or*
- *to avoid further disruption to schools, where alternative venues are able to be secured*

RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the proposed changes set out in the report concerning the location of polling stations used for the GLA elections on 6th May 2021.

To note a number of the proposed new venues are yet to confirm, in the event that any of these decline that the original venue be used.

To note that the final list will be sent to all members prior to the election being held on 6th May 2021.

REPORT DETAIL

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires the Council to carry out a review of the Borough's polling districts and polling places every four years. The last compulsory review was completed August 2019. However this report is only concerned with the need to review the location of polling stations where schools are currently used to avoid further disruption to education where possible.

There are currently 40 school premises used as polling stations out of 93 venues. A review was undertaken of schools to investigate alternative venues within each polling district. Of the 40 venues 20 alternative venues were identified. The following alternatives have been secured:

Members are asked to note the temporary proposed changes to polling stations for the forthcoming elections to be held on 6 May 2021.

Appendix & Ward	Current Polling Station	Proposed Polling Station
Appendix 1 Brooklands Ward	Mawney Foundation School	Yew Tree Day Centre
Appendix 2 Elm Park Ward	Scargill Infants School	Bretons Community Hall
Appendix 3 Elm Park Ward	R J Mitchell Primary School	HASWA Community Association
Appendix 4 Harold Wood Ward	Harold Court Primary School	Havering Dog Training Centre
Appendix 5 Romford Town Ward	Hylands Primary School	Romford Evangelical Free Church
Appendix 6 Rainham & Wennington Ward	Rainham Village School	Rainham Library
Appendix 7 Squirrels Ward	Squirrels Heath School	Gidea Park Library
Appendix 8 St Andrews Ward	Langtons Junior School	Hornchurch Library
Appendix 9 St Andrews Ward	Benhurst Primary School	Elm Park Library
Appendix 10 South Hornchurch Ward	La Salette Catholic Primary School	La Salette Hall
Appendix 11 Upminster Ward	Upminster Junior School	Upminster Library
Appendix 12 Upminster Ward	Branfil School	Brookdale Avenue Scout Hall

At the time of writing this report the following venues are yet to confirm. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

Appendix & Ward	Current Polling Station	Proposed Polling Station
Appendix 13 Brooklands Ward	Crowlands School	Romford Army Cadet Centre
Appendix 14 Hacton	Hacton Primary School	Havering Christian Fellowship Hall
Appendix 15 Gooshays Ward	Drapers Pyrgo Priory School	Drapers Children's Centre
Appendix 16 Mawneys Ward	St Patricks Catholic Primary School	St Patricks Catholic Club
Appendix 17 Pettits Ward	Parklands Junior School	Royal British Legion
Appendix 18 Rainham & Wennington Ward	Brady School	St Marys and St Peters Church

In addition there are three venues that are no longer available for the May 2021 elections, alternatives have been identified as follows:

Appendix & Ward	Current Polling Station	Proposed Polling Station
Appendix 19 Brooklands Ward	St Johns Church Community Hall	Portacabin - St Johns Community Hall Car Park
Appendix 20 Heaton Ward	Heaton Way United Reform Church	St Dominic's Church Hall
Appendix 21 Harold Wood Ward	St Peters Church	The Ingrebourne Centre

Consideration was given to the following venues as initial risk assessments indicated these as high risk. Upon further investigation both The Herons and The Pepperell Centre have agreed use and have confirmed relevant covid safety procedures are in place.

Appendix & Ward	Current Polling Station	Proposed Polling Station
Appendix 22 St Andrews Ward	Hopwa House	Europa Centre
St Andrews Ward	The Herons	No Change
Haverling Park	The Pepperell Centre	No Change

Publicising the temporary change

In February 2021, all residential households will be sent a Household Notification Letter confirming details of electors at the property, in addition, notification of changes to polling stations can also be incorporated into this notification.

In March, poll cards will be issued to eligible electors and will highlight any temporary changes to polling stations.

Prior to polling day, notices and directions will be placed where polling would usually have taken place, advising the relocation of the temporary change to the polling station.

In addition, a Communication Strategy will be in place, advertising the temporary changes via the website, social media, and havering publications.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no financial implications; these elections will be funded by the Greater London Authority.

Legal implications and risks:

These changes are referred to in the body of the report.

These changes can be made outside of a formal review as explained in the relevant Guidance issued by The Electoral Commission on 'Reviews of polling districts, polling places and polling stations and confirms that unlike polling districts and polling places, that are fixed by the council, polling stations are chose by the Returning Officer for the relevant election.

It is recognised that following the Local Government Boundary Commission review of Havering that a further polling station and District review will need to take place in the summer of 2021 before the next register is published on 1st December 2021.

Human Resources implications and risks:

None

Equalities implications and risks:

Electoral services have and will follow Electoral Commission Guidance on polling stations using a suitability access which takes into account the recommendations of scope.

A risk assessment of all polling stations will take place and Electoral Commission guidance will be issued regarding Covid Safe stations.

Polling staff will receive equalities training as part of the Staff training undertaken to work on the election.