

The following feedback / observations were received during the consultation stage of the review of Polling Districts and Polling Places:

Ward - Hacton
Received from : Councillor Ray Morgon
<p>Comment Received : HC1</p> <p>I would recommend Scotts School via their Maybank Avenue entrance to be the Polling Station for this Polling District.</p> <p>In relation to the polling district itself, I would include Hunter Drive, Canberra Close, Mallinson Close and the whole of Maybank Avenue, including Genotin Mews/Maybank Lodge in this polling district, along with the area identified within HC1.1.</p> <p>Can you also confirm what property numbers in South End Road are included in this Polling District?</p> <p>HC2</p> <p>I am content with the proposed Polling Station. I had another look at the portacabin at the RAF Heritage Centre and I don't think that it would be suitable.</p> <p>In relation to the polling district itself, I would recommend that Calmore Close, Wendover Way and all of Swanbourne Drive are included in this polling district. I agree including HC2.1 in this Polling District.</p> <p>HC3</p> <p>I am content with the proposed Polling Station.</p> <p>In relation to the Polling district itself, I would recommend that the whole of Standen Avenue, including Hutchings Close and Dawes Avenue are included in this polling district. I assume that the whole of Ascot Gardens, Hurst Park Avenue and Crystal Avenue are in this Polling District.</p>
<p>Response: Advised that in relation to HC1 property numbers in South End Road are 436-608 Even numbers only.</p> <p>In relation to HC3 - The current PD line went down the middle of the road (ascot & Crystal) , but it has been moved behind the houses and now takes in Hurst Park Ave too.</p>
<p>Outcome: The recommendation has been re-visited and comments taken into account. Maps for HC1,2 and 3 have been re-drawn to reflect these changes</p>

Ward - Harold Wood**Received from : Councillor Brian Eagling****Comment Received :**

In respect of the Polling Stations Review that is taking place, the ward councillors would like to raise their objections in respect of HW1 and HW2 proposed polling stations.

- 1) The proposed HW1 Polling Station requires residents living in the Melksham and Camborne areas to vote at the Methodist Church in The Drive We believe this is totally unacceptable and that the proposed station should be in Mead School in Amersham Road.
- 2) The proposed HW2 polling station which is the Dog Training Centre in Painesbrook Park in Church Road is not an appropriate site for a polling station and we would like this to be sited in Harold Court School in Church Road as it has been for a number of years. Also the electorate in Wednesbury Road/Green area should not be going to this polling station but instead should go to Mead School polling station in Amersham Road.

Response: Thank you for your e-mail. I have attached a spreadsheet that you may find useful and an overall map of Harold Wood Ward for information. Mead school is currently being proposed as a Polling Station for Gooshays Ward as this venue now sits within the Gooshays ward lines. Consideration has been given to the feedback received regarding the Havering Dog Training Centre and the recommendation has been revised to suggest Harold Court School is the Polling Place for HW2.

Outcome: Electoral Commission guidance is to locate a Polling Station within the Polling District where possible, and not to locate polling stations outside of the ward.

Ward - Harold Wood**Received from : Councillor Darren Wise****Comment Received :**

Thanks for this but could the Mead school be shared with Gooshays and Harold Wood wards as we are concerned whether voters from the Harold Hill section of our new boundary would want to walk and cross the A12 to vote at either The Harold Wood Methodist Church or the Havering Dog Training Centre as proposed.

Does the polling station have to be in the actual ward?

I thought previously both Harold Wood and I think it was Heaton had used the school in Faringdon Ave and that was shared so I am wondering why it cannot be shared for Mead School.

Response: Electoral Commission guidance is to locate a Polling Station within the Polling District where possible, and not to locate polling stations outside of the ward. To my knowledge a venue being shared across 2 wards has not taken place in Havering previously.

Outcome: No change to initial proposals.

Ward - Heaton

Received from : Councillor Darren Wise

Comment Received :

With regards to the new ward boundaries such as in Heaton – See attached map. Where there is a black line in the middle of the road and in this example say Dewsbury Road off Faringdon Ave or Hilldene Ave, does this mean that the road is split into two wards Heaton and Gooshays as it is not evidently clear. How can we be certain of this.

Response: Councillor Wise has been provided with the detail in relation to the roads mentioned.

Outcome: No change to initial proposals.

Ward - South Hornchurch

Received from : Local Resident

Comment Received :

As it stands at the moment there is no point in me voting for which I am not happy about I live in cherry tree lane rainham but for some reason I do not no I am grouped in with Dagenham

Which will always be a labour seat I am a conservative. I hope this can be amended.

Response: Resident is referring to Parliamentary Constituency which is not forming part of this review.

Outcome: No change to initial proposals.

Ward - Upminster Ward
Received from : The Business Manager – Branfil Primary School
<p>Comment Received : As business manager of Branfil Primary school I would make the following observations and would request that Branfil Primary School is NOT used as a polling station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have lost a huge amount of schooling this academic year and really do not need any further disruption. • We would have to use one of our INSET days if we are to be used for polling. INSET days are mostly used for staff training which is planned and booked well in advance. We also time these to create minimum disruption to the curriculum timetable (usually immediately after or before a holiday). Being closed on a Thursday is very disruptive for children. • In terms of infection control, with polling not finishing until late in the evening it is impossible for the areas used to be cleaned before breakfast club staff arrive early the following morning. This extends to not only the hall, but rest areas for electoral staff, toilets, entry and exit areas. This has always been an issue for us but is clearly more important in terms of COVID etc. • Financially, although we receive a payment from you, this is offset by additional site staff, energy and cleaning costs.
<p>Response: Branfil School would only be approached if in the unlikely Gwillcoo Hall were to become unavailable.</p>
<p>Outcome: No change to initial proposals.</p>

Ward - Upminster Ward
Received from : The Headteacher – Branfil Primary School
<p>Comment Received : I would like to object to Branfil Primary School continuing to be used as a polling station.</p> <p>We are not able to identify a separate part of our school to use, whilst continuing to have pupils on site, so we are forced to close to pupils on polling days and have an Inset day instead. The dates are therefore imposed and do not come at the appropriate time within the term to have staff training – this means that the opportunity that the Inset day provides, to develop our teachers, cannot be maximised. We also see reduced pupil attendance on the Friday after polling day (usually a Thursday) since some parents use the opportunity to take a long weekend away.</p>

Last year, due to COVID-19, another venue was found to be a polling station so the school did not need to be used. I would ask that you consider continuing with the new venue so the children's education is not further disrupted, particularly after the disruption to their education over the last sixteen months.

Response: Branfil School would only be approached if in the unlikely Gwillcoo Hall were to become unavailable.

Outcome: No change to initial proposals.

Ward - St Alban's Ward

Received from : Jane Keane

Comment Received :

My name is Jane Keane. I am the Prospective Labour Party Local Council Candidate for the new St Alban's Ward. I have been walking the ward. I have considered how the proposals might affect the ward I hope to serve. I have the following response to make.

St Alban's Ward is a new ward carved out of Romford Town. This Consultation proposes that the new ward of St Alban's will have only two polling stations. The polling stations are:-

AL1 – R St Alban's Church Hall, Princes Road, Romford, RM1 2 RT
AL2 – R Romford Evangelical Free Church, 180 Brentwood Road, Romford,
RM1 2RT

Both polling stations (AL1 – R and AL2 – R) are located closely together, north of the new ward of St Alban's. Both polling stations are in churches which would consider themselves to be central to religious and civic life in the ward. But geographically speaking, it could be argued they are not central with regards to the whole of the ward.

Taking account the configuration of the ward I feel that the polling station arrangements are lopsided. Both polling stations are closely located to each other near the crest of the hill leading down towards Romford. Although the ward is compact, residents living in the south of the ward face are not well served by these arrangements.

Residents near Albert Road, on the other side of South Street, or out towards Roneo Corner, and those living within the Ring Road are quite some way from the two polling stations. To get to the polling stations voters have to negotiate the ring road which is quite a deterrent for less adventurous drivers. Frail residents have to undertake an uphill walk. I think these journeys might deter less committed/less able/time constrained voters. A polling station which would serve the south of the ward will encourage greater voter turnout in local elections.

Additionally, I am also mindful that much development is proposed for south of St Alban's ward within the next five years. According to the Local Government Commission, this would increase the electorate from 5,636 (2019) to 8,062. Taking the increase of voters in the south of the ward into account, I strongly urge the Returning Officer and Electoral Services Manager to consider identifying a new polling station which would better serve voters in the south of the ward.

I wonder whether the Council has existing properties in this area which it can use? I hesitate to suggest that, for the time being, the HLDS Building, 91 Victoria Road might serve the community around this area as a polling station. I believe it is accessible. There is some on-street parking nearby. It is very visible and well served by local transport. This may serve for now but when the new developments are built a new accessible polling station must be identified.

I look forward to learning the outcome of the Consultation. If no action is taken for these elections, I am confident that the need will only become more pressing over time for the reasons touched upon above.

Kind regards

Mrs Jane Keane
Prospective Labour Candidate for the Ward of St Alban's
Local Government Elections 2022

Response: Good Morning Jane,

Thank you for your email and for the recommendation of an alternate venue. We will contact HLDS to ascertain the suitability, and the availability of potentially using the venue as a polling station at future elections. We will update on this at the committee meeting.

In relation to the concerns raised about the predicted electorate, we have looked at St Albans Church Hall and are confident that this venue can easily accommodate the predicted electorate, once the developments are complete.

Outcome: Investigate the proposed polling station and update in due course.