

Appendix 1 - Returning Officer Recommendations

Aveley & Uplands

Existing Arrangements					
Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
A	1776	1813	1035	1035	Aveley Methodist Church Hall, Shannon Way
B	2411	2444	1272	1269	Aveley Public Hall, Purfleet Road
C	1812	2469	1362	1494	The Sycamores, Dacre Avenue
D	636	694	463	463	Hugh Delargy Hall, Wood Avenue
Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals					
<p>The online public consultation and consultation with ward members did not highlight any issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections have been included if relevant.</p> <p>Polling District A The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p> <p>Polling District B Two responses received to the public consultation agreeing this was a suitable location. The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p> <p>Polling District C The Electoral Commission recommendation is that no more than 2500 electors are allocated to a polling station. The elector level is below this and the figure will be lower when taking into the number of electors who choose to vote by post. The polling station is large enough to accommodate this number of electors.</p> <p>The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p> <p>Polling District D The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p>					
Financial Impact					
None					

Belhus Ward

Existing Arrangements					
Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
E1	687	658	332	333	All Saints Church Hall, Foyle Drive
E2	1490	1497	874	874	Royal British Legion Hall, Faymore Gardens
F	2767	2868	1745	1764	Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, Daiglen Drive
G	2023	2268	1056	1098	Temporary Structure-South Parade
Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals					
<p>The online public consultation and consultation with ward members did not highlight any issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections have been included if relevant.</p>					
<p>Polling District E1 The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p>					
<p>Polling District E2 The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p>					
<p>Polling District F Holy Cross School is a fairly new polling station, following the closure of the Culver Centre. After initial concerns the school is welcoming and accommodating and they consider the use a benefit to the school. The dates of future elections (on a 4 year cycle) are given to any school designated as a polling station.</p> <p>The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p>					
<p>Polling District G In 2013 the use of a temporary polling station on South Road was agreed. Previously the Ockendon Scout and Guide Hall was used followed by Thurrock Garden Centre. Members did not consider that these sites were suitable.</p> <p>Two responses were received to the consultation. One response said it was very convenient to walk to but parking was also available. The other response referred to a school and appears to be discussing another polling station.</p> <p>A temporary polling station is not ideal in terms of cost however the site is central and accessible for the geography and electors</p>					

of the district. Presiding Officers are comfortable with the space and no elector complaints have been received. The temporary location has been in use through elections with a higher than average turnout (Parliamentary Election in 2015 and 2017) and the venue has proved suitable.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

None

Chadwell St Mary

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
H	716	679	376	382	Alf Lowne OAP Complex, Loewen Road
I	2574	2589	1533	1572	Delargy Close OAP Complex, Delargy Close
J	1675	1731	915	932	Chadwell St Mary Working Mens Club, River View
K	2247	2254	1216	1245	Chadwell Village Hall, Waterson Road

Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

The online public consultation and consultation with ward members did not highlight any issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections have been included if relevant.

Polling District H

One response was received to the consultation agreeing this was a suitable location. The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District I

One response was received to the consultation agreeing this was a suitable location. The use of Delargy Close complex was raised in May 2019 and in previous years by the Inspectors as the polling station is a fair distance from electors in Godman Road. The suggested solution was to use a room in the tower blocks. The Returning Officer has considered this and notes the following.

Delargy Close is fairly central from east to west within the residential area of the polling district and located off of the main Brentwood Road which runs from north to south through the district. This provides good access and is on a bus route. Relocating the polling place to the far north of the district in Godman Road would not provide an accessible location for the

majority of the electors and may even disenfranchise some as it would move the polling place away from the direction of travel to school and local shops. All electors have equal access to postal voting should they find accessing a polling station difficult.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District J

The Returning Officer and members are keen to avoid the use and closure of schools where possible and where suitable alternative sites exist. Members agreed in 2011 to move the polling place to The Working Mens Club, Riverview. The polling place is fairly central within the main residential area, on a main road and a bus route and parking is available. There have been no negative comments regarding the use of this venue and one response was received agreeing this was a suitable location.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District K

The Returning Officer has not received any complaints about the current polling arrangements. The polling station is on a road that runs through the residential area and has transport links and parking facilities. One response to the consultation agreed it was a suitable location. Parking is available onsite.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

None

Chafford and North Stifford

Existing Arrangements					
Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
L	530	535	255	265	The Pavilion, North Stifford Rec. Ground
M	2960	3071	1639	1639	Chafford Gorges Visitor Centre, Drake Road
N	1957	2005	1016	1026	Drake Community Centre, Drake Road
Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals					
The online public consultation and consultation with ward members did not highlight any issues with polling stations in this ward. Presiding Officers and Inspectors comments have been referred to.					

Polling District L

The Pavilion is a central and suitable location within the residential area. Staff feedback raised the issue of the locked carpark gate however this is locked only for approximately the first hour of the day. As a small village it is anticipated that electors know this (there were no complaints from electors) and presumably they walk or park outside of the grounds until the gates are open at 8am. One response to the consultation outlined the station was suitable, easy to walk to and central to the village with easy access.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District M

The Essex Wildlife Centre (Chafford Gorges Visitor Centre) was designated in the review of 2013/14. Members expressed a preference to find a location central to the polling district but acknowledged this was not possible. Transport links and parking are available at the Visitor Centre. The elector numbers are above the limit recommended by the Electoral Commission and the Returning Officer operates two polling stations at this venue to accommodate this. Two responses were received to the consultation agreeing this was a suitable location, with a free car park and on the main road through Chafford Hundred.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District N

Drake Community Centre was designated the polling place for polling district N in 2011 after concerns continued to be raised about the use of Tudor Court Primary School. Drake Community Centre is not within the polling district but it is within the ward boundary and its use is permitted within legislation. Polling districts M and N are built up areas with few buildings to use as polling stations. The current polling stations appear to suit the electorate whilst working with the facilities available in the area. One response was received to the consultation confirming this location was suitable. Parking is available to the side and rear of the hall.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

None

Corringham & Fobbing Ward

Existing Arrangements					
Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
O	1549	1576	796	810	Thurrock Christian Fellowship, 2-4 Chase Road
P	2276	2308	1227	1235	Pegasus Country Club Ltd, Herd Lane (CLOSED)
P					Corringham Evangelical Church, Fobbing Road (PROPOSED NEW POLLING PLACE)
Q	597	576	307	305	Gardner Hall, High Road
Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals					
<p>The online public consultation and consultation with ward members did not highlight any issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections have been included if relevant. The MP for South Basildon and Thurrock confirmed that he was happy with current arrangements.</p> <p>Polling District O Members agreed in 2011 review to designate the polling place as the Christian Fellowship Centre in Chase Road. Staff of the Returning Officer have not been able to find alternative venues within the polling district and note that no complaints have been received regarding the use of the Christian Fellowship Centre. The Christian Fellowship Centre is outside the polling district and the ward but on the boundary.</p> <p>The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p> <p>Polling District P The Pegasus Club was designated as the polling place following several changes of polling places in this district. Three responses to the survey commented that The Pegasus Club was a suitable polling station.</p> <p>In September 2019 the Pegasus Club closed and is no longer available to hire, at least in the near future. There is a requirement to find a new polling place. The Returning Officer recommends that members agree the use of Corringham Evangelical Church, Fobbing Road. The Church is centrally located in the main residential area and is fully accessible. A small number of parking spaces are available off-road, however there is parking on Fobbing Road and in a nearby side road (Recreation Ave). The Leader and ward members were consulted and agreed on a temporary change to put in place emergency arrangements in the event of a Parliamentary Election. A map of the proposed location is attached at Appendix 2.</p>					

Other Options considered.

Members responded to the Returning Officer recommendation with concern about the use of Corringham Evangelical Church and parking along Fobbing Road. Other polling options were subsequently considered.

- The Fire Safety Community Room, Fobbing Road – this building was used in 2012 and the working fire station was subsequently deemed not suitable for polling due health and safety issues. It was not considered further although Electoral Services staff did contact the Fire Station to discuss the use of the room and parking in case of any changes.
- The Scout Hall, Herd lane – demolished
- Ortu Primary School, Herd Lane – this has been used previously and it was considered as an alternative to Corringham Evangelical Church. The Returning Officer has the right to use a room in a school for polling however the school wished to remain open on polling day and the polling place was to the rear of the school with no on-site parking or separate public access. When contacted the school did not think they had a suitable building / room for polling. A later meeting with the Headteacher confirmed that the pre-school building is to be demolished Easter 2020 and due to the school being a split site both sites will need to be closed if polling was held in the school due to the kitchen arrangements and the number of siblings. As the Pegasus club is shut there is also no outside lighting at the end of the lane.
- Ortu Pre-School, Herd lane – this building is separate to the main primary school with parking to the front of the building. However it is due for demolition Easter 2020. For this reason designating the building as a polling place would not be a useful way forward.
- The Bowls Club, Corringham Recreation Ground. Electoral Services have left voicemails and emailed the Club but have not been able to make contact with a member of staff to determine if they would hire it out and if any rooms are suitable. A site visit was made. The building is located in the middle of a Recreation Ground and electors would be required to walk along a footpath, next to the graveyard. There is lighting along the footpath but the ground is uneven and not particularly accessible. A car park is available next to the Recreation Ground tennis courts but electors who wished to cast their vote would not be able to pull up directly outside of the building. Polling staff would need to carry the equipment and ballot boxes some distance from the car and signposting would need to begin from Fobbing Road and along Recreation Avenue. Electoral services consider this venue would deter electors from voting, it is not on a main route or thoroughfare and we would have concerns for staff working in an isolated location.

The Returning Officer notes the concerns of ward members with regard to parking along Fobbing Road however after consultation with ward members all current options have been considered. There is a suitable polling place with some on-site parking. The Returning Officer recommends that Corringham Evangelical Church, Fobbing Road is confirmed as the polling place and station for Polling District P. Electoral Services will monitor the Pegasus Club for future use if it re-opens.

Polling District Q

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

The use of Corringham Evangelical Church would result in a saving of £45 when there is a standalone local election in this ward.

East Tilbury Ward

Existing Arrangements					
Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
R	2916	3418	1916	1993	East Tilbury Village Hall, Princess Margaret Road
S	1401	1364	667	668	Linford Village Hall, Lower Crescent
T	393	395	234	235	West Tilbury Village Hall, Rectory Road
Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals					
<p>The online public consultation and consultation with ward members did not highlight any issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections have been included if relevant. The Member of Parliament for South Basildon and Thurrock confirmed that he was happy with current arrangements.</p> <p>Polling District R There has been an increase in electors in Polling District R since 2015. The Electoral Commission recommendation is that no more than 2500 electors are allocated to one polling station. The elector level is above this (3418) but the figure will be lower when taking into account the number of electors who choose to vote by post. The current number of postal voters is 339. The Returning Officer operates two polling stations within the polling place to accommodate the number of electors. No responses were received from the consultation.</p> <p>The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p> <p>Polling District S No responses were received during the consultation. The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p> <p>Polling District T No responses were received during the consultation. The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p>					
Financial Impact					
None					

Grays Riverside Ward

Existing Arrangements					
Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
U	3179	3463	1987	2175	Belmont Village Hall, Parker Road
V	1268	1324	834	864	Grays Central Library, Orsett Road
W	3069	3424	2427	2504	Civic Offices, New Road
Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals					
<p>The online public consultation and consultation with ward members did not highlight any major issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections have been included if relevant.</p> <p>Polling District U There has been an increase in electors since 2015. The Electoral Commission recommendation is that no more than 2500 electors are allocated to one polling station. The elector level is above this (3463) but the figure will be lower when taking into account the number of electors who choose to vote by post. The current number of postal voters is 572. Two comments were received from the public consultation raising parking as an issue, whilst the other commented that it was easy to access with on street parking. The Returning Officer operates two polling stations within the polling place to accommodate the number of electors.</p> <p>The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p> <p>Polling District V No responses were received during the consultation. The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p> <p>Polling District W There has been an increase in electors in Polling District W since 2015. The Electoral Commission recommendation is that no more than 2500 electors are allocated to one polling station. The elector level is above this (3424) but the figure will be lower when taking into account the number of electors who choose to vote by post. The current number of postal voters is 454. The Returning Officer operates two polling stations within the polling place to accommodate the number of electors. One comment was received during the public consultation which confirmed it was a suitable location.</p> <p>The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p>					
Financial Impact					

None

Grays Thurrock Ward

Existing Arrangements					
Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
X	2313	2364	1266	1268	Attlee Court OAP Complex, Lucas Road
Y	1542	1611	795	885	Stanley Lazell Hall, Dell Road
Z	2633	2727	1590	1605	St Thomas Parish Room, John Street

Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

The online public consultation and consultation with ward members did not highlight any major issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections have been included if relevant.

Polling District X

There has not been a major increase in electors since 2015 and the number of electors is below the maximum level recommended by the Electoral Commission. One response was received to the consultation commenting that the station is suitable and located in an accessible area.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District Y

One comment from the consultation suggested that Stanley Lazell Hall has problems with parking and suggested other locations in Bradleigh Avenue and the Methodist Church Hall in Hathaway Road. There have been no reported problems on polling day with Stanley Lazell Hall. Bradleigh Avenue is on the far east boundary of the polling district and not within the main residential area. The Methodist Church Hall in Hathaway Road is on the boundary of the northside of the polling district and would be a private hire. Whilst Stanley Lazell Hall is located to the south of the polling district there have been no major concerns; members have not raised any issues and as a council owned building there is an element of control when booking the venue.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District Z

There has not been a major increase in electors since 2015. Three comments from electors confirmed that the polling station was in a suitable location. One also added that there was not enough parking. However the polling place has its own car park. The number of electors is above the number recommended by the Electoral Commission but the large hall accommodates two

polling stations.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

None

Little Thurrock Blackshots Ward

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
AA	3362	3328	1768	1768	Deneholm Primary School, Culford Road
AA					Socketts Heath Baptist Church (PROPOSED NEW POLLING PLACE)
AB	1417	1865	967	970	Woodside Academy, Grangewood Avenue

Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

The online public consultation did not highlight any major issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections has been considered plus feedback from both ward members included.

Polling District AA

There has been a small decrease in electors in Polling District AA since 2015 however the elector total is still above the limit recommended by the Electoral Commission. The Electoral Commission recommendation is that no more than 2500 electors are allocated to one polling station.

The Returning Officer operates two polling stations within the polling place to accommodate the number of electors. One comment was received from the public consultation stating the existing polling station was suitable however other comments are considered in this review.

Deneholm School has very restricted parking and access arrangements. The school is keen to continue to operate on polling day and for safeguarding reasons they restrict the access arrangements for voters. This affects accessibility, parking and convenience. Both ward members expressed views that the polling arrangements in 2018 were far from satisfactory and the room provided for polling was not accessible for electors with limited mobility. During the European Election of 2019 it was not possible to confirm the voting arrangements at Deneholm School and the Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane was used. Several electors gave verbal feedback that the Civic Hall was more accessible than Deneholm School.

The Returning Officer has considered alternative venues in the polling district. A map of the proposed locations is attached at Appendix 3.

A) The Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane

The Civic Hall has a large carpark, it is well known within the polling district and it is fairly centrally located from north to south along Blackshots Lane. It is a very large venue and potentially could already be hired out in the event of a snap election. There is the potential to use either the hall or the foyer area (as long as this is cordoned off). The hire fee for the European election was £850.

B) Sockets Heath Baptist Church, Premier Avenue.

Socketts Heath Baptist Church is at the southern end of the polling district however it is within a main residential area and centrally located if you consider the polling district from east to west. A few parking spaces are available on the church forecourt and in Premier Avenue. There is a large well lit accessible room and facilities for staff. The Church have confirmed they are willing for the room to be used for polling and would ask for a contribution of £150.

Both proposed venues would provide suitable voting locations for electors in the polling district. The Returning Officer also considers that Socketts Heath Baptist Church welcomed the community use, offers better value for money and the Church would make the room available by moving community events if unplanned elections are required. The Civic Hall would not be able to be so flexible in regards to their pre-booked events.

Ward members were consulted on the Returning Officer's recommendation for Little Thurrock Blackshots (AA); their preference is The Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane. Alternatively they suggest the Church of the Latter Day Saints in Blackshots Lane.

The Returning Officer recommends that Socketts Heath Baptist Church be confirmed as the polling place for polling district AA, however polling would be accessible from either the Civic Hall or the Socketts Heath Baptist Church. The final report will recommend the use of the Civic Hall. Alternative locations will be explored if the Civic Hall is agreed but not available at the time of an election.

Polling District AB

There has been an increase in electors in this polling district but it is still within the limit recommended by the Electoral Commission for one polling station. Two comments on this station were received during the consultation which said it was suitable although parking was limited but central enough for the electors in question to walk. The Returning Officer notes that Woodside Academy remains open on polling day and the Academy is given advance notice of scheduled elections.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact**Polling district AA**

Deneholm School - £55

Civic Hall - £850

Socketts Heath Baptist Church – £150

Little Thurrock Rectory Ward**Existing Arrangements**

Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
AC	1816	1844	947	955	Grays Spiritualist Church, 168 Rectory Road
AD	2773	2799	1607	1624	Tyrells Hall, 67 Dock Road

Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

The online public consultation did not highlight any major issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections has been considered plus feedback from ward members included.

Polling district AC

Three comments were received during the public consultation. All electors selected that the station was in a suitable location but the additional text of one elector was not in agreement that a religious building be used for this purpose. Two electors suggested that Little Thurrock Primary School could be used. One ward member responded that the current voting arrangements were suitable. Members have previously expressed a preference not to use schools for polling when alternative locations were available.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling district AD

The elector count for this polling district has remained fairly static but is slightly above the recommended limit of voters set by the Electoral Commission. The Returning Officer provides two polling stations within the building. Two comments were received as part of the public consultation. One comment said it was a suitable location, easily accessible and plenty of room. The other comment said it was not a suitable location, the rooms were like a working men's club and they felt unsafe in the venue, which also had no parking. The Returning Officer does not agree that the location is unsuitable and the hall has a carpark directly outside. The ward member did not comment that this was unsatisfactory.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

None

Ockendon Ward

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
AE	1824	1959	1091	1091	Belhus Village Hall, Daiglen Drive
AF	1730	2172	1344	1687	Bonnygate Primary School, Arisdale Avenue
AG1	1896	2008	1259	1303	Benyon Court OAP Complex, Peartree Close
AG2	1659	1673	855	856	Brandon Groves Community Hall, Brandon Groves

Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

The online public consultation did not highlight any major issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections has been considered plus feedback from ward members included.

Polling District AE

Belhus Village Hall is located in the main residential area of the polling district in the shopping parade. It is accessible and a car park is available for the hall and the nearby shopping precinct. One resident responded to the public consultation and commented that they would prefer the polling station to return to Erriff Drive (possibly meaning Beacon Hill School). The resident also suggested All Saints School and Ockendon Academy. Belhus Village Hall is able to cope with the current number of electors and no other issues were raised. Whilst the Returning Officer is able to use a room in a school for polling the use of schools as polling stations has declined in recent years in Thurrock unless there is absolutely no alternative location.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District AF

Bonnygate Primary School is located centrally within the polling district and it is the only accessible building for use as a polling station within the boundary. No comments were received during the public consultation but several comments were passed on at the 'snap' European Election and from the Labour group leader, because the school shut for polling day, unplanned. Parents do not like that the school is shut on polling day but the decision to shut is taken by the school. The Returning Officer requires a room in the school and a four year schedule of planned elections is provided to schools to assist them to plan a training day on polling day.

There has been an increase in the elector numbers at this polling station but the numbers are still within the recommended number set by the Electoral Commission.

As there is no suitable alternative location within the polling district, the Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District AG1

Benyon Court OAP complex is fairly central to the residential part of the polling district from east to west. Other polling stations have been used in the past including South Ockendon Methodist Church which became unavailable a few years ago. The complex is a council owned property which assists Electoral Services to book the facility and ensures it is available at election time. One resident responded to the public consultation and considered this a suitable location. No other comments were received.

The elector numbers for this station have increased since 2015 but they are still below the level recommended by Electoral Commission.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District AG2

Brandon Groves Community Hall is located centrally in the residential part of the polling district. The elector numbers have remained consistent within the district and are below the limit recommended by the Electoral Commission.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

None

Orsett Ward

Existing Arrangements					
Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
AH	784	815	379	414	Bulphan Village Hall, Church Road
AI	1596	1608	797	893	Horndon Village Hall, Mill Lane
AJ	1544	1546	826	827	Orsett Village Hall, High Road
AK	1019	1020	505	514	Whitmore Hall, Bristowe Drive
Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals					
<p>The online public consultation did not highlight any major issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections has been considered plus feedback from ward members included. Both ward members responded that they were happy with the current voting arrangements. The Member of Parliament for South Basildon and Thurrock confirmed that he was happy with current arrangements.</p> <p>Polling District AH Bulphan Village Hall is centrally located within the polling district. One comment was received during the public consultation stating the station was suitable and accessible with good parking whilst another commented that it was ideally placed for use as a polling station, with good parking, facilities and access although community events such as the Post Office and Community Café were disrupted and cancelled on polling day.</p> <p>The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p> <p>Polling District AI Horndon Village Hall is located within the main residential area of the polling district. No comments were received from the public consultation.</p> <p>The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling station and location.</p> <p>Polling District AJ The elector numbers have not changed considerably since 2015. Orsett Village Hall is located within the village making it accessible. No comments were received from the public consultation.</p> <p>The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p>					

Polling district AK

Whitmore Hall is located within the residential area of the polling district and elector numbers are within the limits recommended by the Electoral Commission. No comments were received from the public consultation.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

None

South Chafford Ward**Existing Arrangements**

Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
AL	1613	1761	1057	1057	The Chafford Hundred Brewers Fayre, Howard Rd
AM	3099	3288	1824	1823	Harris Academy, Mayflower Road

Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

The online public consultation did not highlight any major issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections has been considered plus feedback from ward members included. Both ward members responded that they were happy with the current voting arrangements.

Polling District AL

The Brewers Fayre at Chafford Hundred is located on the edge of the polling district but it has been an accepted polling station since 2011. It is located near the commuting route for the area and near to the train station. No issues were raised in the public consultation or by members. The Brewers Fayre do not charge for the use of this facility.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District AM

Harris Academy is located in the south of the polling district but it is convenient for electors as it is within the residential area and on one of the main roads out of Chafford Hundred. Two comments were received from the public consultation confirming this was a suitable location and station but they did comment on the lack or suitability of disabled parking as the school remains open on polling day.

The elector numbers have increased since 2015 and they remain above the number recommended by the Electoral Commission for one polling station. The Returning Officer operates two polling stations within the building to accommodate the number of electors and meet the Electoral Commission recommendations.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

None

Stanford East & Corringham Town

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
AN	3081	3098	1697	1699	O'Donaghue House, Thors Oak
AO	1780	1812	1017	1017	Tom Wood Hall, Bellmaine Avenue
AP	1621	1634	921	956	Corringham Hall, Springhouse Road

Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

The online public consultation did not highlight any major issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections has been considered plus feedback from ward members included. The Member of Parliament for South Basildon and Thurrock confirmed that he was happy with current arrangements.

Polling District AN

The number of electors at this polling place is above the number recommended by the Electoral Commission and the Returning Officer operates two polling stations at this polling place. No comments were received during the public consultation.

O'Donaghue House is not centrally located within the polling district but it is a suitable location and as a council owned building there is flexibility to book the polling place.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District AO

The number of electors at this polling station has remained fairly constant since 2015 and although it is on the edge of the polling district boundary the station is fairly centrally located. Schools are available within the polling district but members have previously preferred not to use a school when there is an alternative building. Security at Tom Wood Hall was identified as an issue during the European Election 2019 and the Returning Officer will address this if the polling place is confirmed.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District AP

Corringham Hall on Springhouse Road is located within the main shopping area of Corringham town with onsite car parking plus parking at the nearby shops and leisure centre. The elector numbers are within the limit recommended by the Electoral Commission and no comments were received during the consultation.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling station and location.

Financial Impact

None

Stanford-le-Hope West Ward

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
AQ	1454	2134	1209	1365	Allott Hall, Park Road
AR	1925	2022	1194	1236	St Margaret's Church Hall, The Green
AS	1292	1327	668	686	Kynoch Court, Billet Lane

Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

The online public consultation did not highlight any issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections has been considered plus feedback from ward members included. The Member of Parliament for South Basildon and Thurrock confirmed that he was happy with current arrangements.

Polling District AQ

There has been a large increase in electors and properties in this polling district since 2015 but the elector number is within the limit recommended by the Electoral Commission. Allott Hall is quite central within the polling district and has an onsite car park. No comments were received during the public consultation.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District AR

St Margaret's Church Hall on The Green is located quite centrally within the polling district and has parking to the rear of the

church. The allocation of electors is within the limit recommended by the Electoral Commission. No comments were received during the public consultation.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District AS

Kynoch Court is within the residential area of the polling district and run by Thurrock Council which assists with booking arrangements. No comments were received during the consultation period. The allocation of electors is within the limit recommended by the Electoral Commission.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

None

Stifford Clays Ward

Existing Arrangements					
Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
AT	2662	2692	1393	1406	Headon Community Hall, Crawford Avenue
AU	2476	2444	1250	1255	Stifford Clays Social Club, Crammavill Street

Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

The online public consultation did not highlight any issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections has been considered plus feedback from ward members included.

Polling District AT

The Electoral Commission recommendation is that no more than 2500 electors are allocated to a polling station. The elector number is slightly above this and the Returning Officer operates two stations in this polling place. One comment during the consultation confirmed this was a suitable location.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling district AU

The Electoral Commission recommendation is that no more than 2500 electors are allocated to a polling station. The elector

number is slightly below this and will be less if the number of absent voters are taken into account. One comment was received during the consultation confirming it was a suitable location with easy access and parking available.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

None

The Homesteads Ward

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
AV	1963	1955	1017	1019	Homesteads Village Hall, Dunstable Road
AW	2474	2483	1219	1219	Temporary Structure, Balstonia Rec Ground
AX	1267	1283	605	604	Gable Hall School, Southend Road
AY	893	887	447	447	Temporary Structure, Gardner Avenue

Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

The online public consultation did not highlight any issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections has been considered plus feedback from ward members included. The Member of Parliament for South Basildon and Thurrock confirmed that he was happy with current arrangements.

Polling District AV

One comment was received during the consultation agreeing that the polling station was in a suitable location. All the ward members responded agreeing that the location was suitable.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District AW

The Electoral Commission recommendation is that no more than 2500 electors are allocated to a polling station. The elector number is slightly below this and will be less if the number of absent voters are taken into account but two polling stations (cabins) are allocated to this location to accommodate voters. Ward members confirmed that they either had no problem with the current arrangement or that whilst the cabins were not ideal they provided a suitable polling place. There is no other suitable location in this polling district, no comments were received from the public consultation and electors are used to voting in this location.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District AX

The polling station at Gable Hall School, Southend Road was introduced to reduce costs and stop resident complaints. The previous location was a portacabin on land at Kenneth Gardens, Southend Road.

One comment was received during the consultation confirming that the school was a suitable location and all ward members confirmed that the school was suitable with one comment mentioning congestion during school run hours. Whilst members have not always wished to use schools as a polling station there are no permanent buildings in the polling district. The school is slightly outside of the polling district and ward (by being on the wrong side of the road) but polling is held in one of the sixth form buildings and the school does not shut on polling day.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District AY

The temporary structure at Gardner Avenue is located in a layby outside of a parade of shops. One ward member commented that this gets congested but the two other ward members did not raise the location as an issue. A suggestion was received to combine the voting with polling at Gable Hall School (AX) but as the ward member mentioned congestion at Gable Hall School this would potentially increase any congestion, move voting away from a central area within the polling district to outside of the ward and increase the risk to using Gable Hall for AX if elections are held during exam time and space is at a premium. Although there is a lack of permanent buildings in this polling district the current location is central and if it is busy, could encourage electors to vote. No elector complaints were received.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

None

Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park

Existing Arrangements					
Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
AZ	494	483	241	241	Temporary Structure, Churchill Road
BA	2411	2336	1575	1718	The Hall, Alexandra Road OAP complex
BB	1810	1875	1104	1112	The Sunshine Centre, Civic Square

Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

The online public consultation did not highlight any issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections has been considered plus feedback from ward members included.

Polling District AZ

The temporary structure is located in a non-residential part of the Thurrock Park estate. It serves a small electorate and no comments or issues were raised during the consultation.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District BA

One resident responded to the consultation and agreed that this station was suitable for voting. The electorate has reduced slightly since 2015 and remains within the limit recommended by the Electoral Commission. The Hall is centrally located within the polling district.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District BB

Two residents responded to the consultation. One agreed that this was a convenient location and accessible for wheelchair users whilst the other responded it was not suitable, not private and no parking. The Returning Officer does not agree with the comment that it is not private as the polling booths are situated to enable voting in private. There is no requirement to provide parking but this location does have parking available locally and its location within the Civic Square facilities voters who drive, walk and arrive by bus.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

None

Tilbury St Chads Ward

Existing Arrangements					
Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
BC	2281	2573	1281	1419	The Hall, Lansbury Gardens OAP Complex
BD	1854	1876	1073	1075	Tilbury Pioneer Academy, Dickens Avenue
BD					Sure Start Flagship Children's Centre or The Fruitful Land Church / Anchor Pub (PROPOSED NEW POLLING PLACE)

Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

The online public consultation did not highlight any major issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections has been considered plus feedback from ward members included.

Polling District BC

One comment was received during the consultation that agreed this was a suitable location but further text suggested that although it was accessible it was too small and as a sheltered housing complex it left the residents feeling vulnerable. There have been no complaints from residents or the manager of the complex and whilst it may be a busy station if the voting was moved from this location it potentially disenfranchises a lot of the residents. There are no other suitable buildings in this polling district and as the venue is a council run property it ensures that a polling location is available when required at a minimum cost.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District BD

Tilbury Pioneer Academy (nursery unit) is designated as the current polling place. One comment was received during the consultation which confirmed this was a suitable location. A ward member responded to the consultation commenting that the Academy had construction work at present and parking is always congested. Parking and access to the Academy is always an issue which is raised at each election by voters and Inspectors.

The guidelines suggest that the polling place should a) preferably be in its own polling district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district (for example, if no accessible polling place can be identified in the district) and b) Polling places should be "logical"; that is, electors should not have to pass another polling place to get to their

own place.

There are no other polling locations within the polling district. The Academy is located at the far north of the polling district. One ward member suggestion was to use the Anchor Pub, now operating as a church on Civic Square. Electoral Services would prefer to suggest the use of the Sure Start Flagship Centre. Both buildings are outside of the polling district and the Sure Start Building is outside of the ward (the ward boundary runs through the street). A map of the existing and proposed locations is at Appendix 4.

Sure Start Flagship Centre

This building is also outside of the polling district and the ward however it appears slightly nearer to polling district BD. The service manager has confirmed that the building would be available to Electoral Services if required. The building is accessible, there is a large room for polling, local parking and onsite facilities for staff are good. The cost would be minimal however Electoral Services would need to cover the cost of opening and closing outside of normal business hours.

Fruitful Land Church / The Anchor Pub

There is a large accessible space for voting and parking to the rear of the building, with CCTV and outdoor lighting. The building has the appearance of being disused as it is boarded up. This may cause confusion and deter electors from voting. Electoral Services are concerned that electors may have slightly further to travel than if the Sure Start building is used. The Pastor has confirmed they would welcome voting taking place at their facility and would ask for a donation in the region of £150.

Members have the following options

- a) No change – voting to remain at Tilbury Pioneer Academy or
- b) Change voting to Sure Start Flagship Children’s Centre or
- c) Change voting to The Fruitful Land Church / Anchor Pub, Civic Square

The Returning Officer’s recommendation is to move polling arrangements to Sure Start Flagship Children’s Centre. However following consultation with ward members the Returning Officer would also be minded to agree to recommend to move polling to the Fruitful Land Church with the caveat that polling arrangements and elector feedback is monitored at the next election.

Financial Impact

Tilbury Pioneer Academy - £134.30
Sure Start – not confirmed
Anchor Pub - £150

West Thurrock & South Stifford

Existing Arrangements					
Polling District	Electors 2015	Electors 2019	Properties 2015	Properties 2019	Polling Place
BE	2352	2302	1460	1456	Mulberry Drive OAP Complex, Mulberry Drive
BF	1575	1566	1161	1161	The Fleet Public House, London Road
BG	1478	1649	928	1196	Cowdray Hall, London Road
BH	2287	2585	1558	1670	St Clements Health & Community Centre, London Road
Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals					
<p>The online public consultation did not highlight any major issues with polling stations in this ward. Feedback from Presiding Officers and Inspectors at recent elections has been considered. Two ward members responded to the consultation. One member was satisfied with the existing arrangements whilst the other ward member responded that the polling stations are not clearly marked, it was very difficult to see where the polling stations are and lots of residents has complained about this. Whilst the Returning Officer takes on board any feedback these issues were not raised on polling day by the member, electors or Inspectors when they could have been remedied. The Returning Officer will look at the signage however this does not reflect on the polling place and whether it is suitable.</p> <p>Polling District BE</p> <p>Five responses were received to the online consultation, three confirmed this was a suitable location whilst one response stated it was not suitable as it was not a public location. The other response did not provide an answer. The complex is a suitable location and provides a large room for polling. As a council building the cost is minimal and the building is available for elections when required.</p> <p>The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p> <p>Polling District BF</p> <p>One response was received to the consultation which suggested that this polling station was not in a suitable location. The reason given was that the station is further away than a closer polling station (Hugh Delargy Hall) for residents in North Road and new Watts Wood estate. The Fleet is an established polling place located along the main London Road, Purfleet and whilst it may not appear suitable for the respondent no other complaints were received.</p> <p>The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.</p>					

Polling District BG

There has been an increase in electors in this polling district but it is still within the limit recommended by the Electoral Commission. Parking is available to the rear of the hall.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Polling District BH

There has been an increase in electors in this polling district since 2015 and it is just slightly over the limit recommended by the Electoral Commission. The hall is large enough to accommodate the size of the electorate. Parking is available of road.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

Financial Impact

None