



Public Consultation Document Polling District and Polling Places Review for the Borough of Surrey Heath

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Contact information:

Information on who can make representations and where to address representations is given on page 6. Should you wish to speak to someone about this review or want further information please contact

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1. Introduction

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has undertaken a review of the electoral wards of Surrey Heath and made the following recommendations:

- Surrey Heath will be represented by 35 ward Councillors, 5 less than now.
- Surrey Heath will have 14 wards, two less than now.
- The boundaries of some wards have changed, but some have stayed the same.
- The new arrangements will come into force at the local government elections on Thursday 2 May 2019.

The Surrey Heath (Electoral Changes) Order 2017 was made by Parliament on 13 December 2017 implementing the changes.

See Appendix A for a list of the new wards and the number of Councillors that will represent each ward.

As a result of the changes, the Council needs to carry out a review of all the polling districts and polling places in the borough. The wards have to be sub-divided into smaller geographical areas called polling districts. Each polling district has a polling place where the polling station for the district is located and where electors living in the district will vote. For definition of the terms polling station, polling place and polling district and the selection criteria see Appendix C.

2. Background to this review

The Electoral Registration Act 2013 introduced a formal process for the timings of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. A full review of the whole borough must be undertaken at intervals of not less than five years. The next compulsory review must be completed by no later than January 2020.

This review of the polling districts and stations has been necessitated by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England final proposals for changes to the borough ward boundaries in Surrey Heath.

The Commission's recommendations can be seen at:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/surrey/surrey-heath>

There is no formal consultation process for a non-compulsory review of polling districts and places, however, in being open and transparent, the Council has followed as far as possible, a process similar to conducting a formal review. Sections 18a and 31 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 provide guidance on conducting a review of polling districts and polling places to ensure that all electors in the borough have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

3. The Review Process

A preliminary review has been undertaken by Council officers in consultation with local Councillors, to inform the proposals for polling districts and polling places. The main issues considered in the development of the proposals were:

- To seek to ensure that all electors in the district have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- Where possible, no more than 2,500 electors should vote at any one polling station (not including postal voters); however, there can be more than one polling station in a polling place.
- Proposed future developments that will increase the number of houses and the potential number of electors in a ward or polling district over the next four years.
- To ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places are accessible to those who are disabled.
- Where possible to reduce the number of schools used as polling places.

This review document will be sent to all stakeholders, including the Returning Officer, local members of parliament, Councillors and local political parties. It will also be sent to persons who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

The consultation period for this review will last for three weeks. The timescale will allow for formal ratification of the final scheme of polling districts and polling places to be agreed at the Council meeting of Wednesday 25 July 2018.

A list of the proposed polling districts and polling places is attached as an Appendix B to this document. It is proposed that Surrey Heath will have 28 polling districts.

Information about the review and a map of the wards and the proposed polling districts is available on the Council's website at:

<http://www.surreyheath.gov.uk/council/elections-voting/polling-district-and-polling-places-review-2018>

As there are significant changes to some wards and consequently some polling districts, it has not been possible to provide details of the suggested streets and electorate per polling district on these pages. If anyone wishes to obtain in-depth information, they can contact the Council using the details in section 4.

4. Making representations

Any registered elector in Surrey Heath may make representations to the Council.

Representations will also be considered from persons who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

We would encourage anyone making representations to suggest alternative polling districts/places where appropriate and to give reasons for the alternative.

Any representations must be received by **31 May 2018**.

All representations should be addressed to:

Polling Review
Democratic Services
Surrey Heath Borough Council
Surrey Heath House
Knoll Road
Camberley
Surrey
GU15 3HD

If you prefer you can email your representations to vote@surreyheath.gov.uk

5. Completion of the review

The Council will publish:

- all correspondence received in connection with the review.
- all representations made by any person in connection with the review.
- details of the actual designations of polling districts and polling places agreed as a result of the review; and
- details of where the results of the review have been published.

A report on the final proposed scheme of polling districts and polling places will be presented for formal ratification at the Council meeting of 25 July 2018 in time for changes to be brought into effect for the local government elections due to be held on 2 May 2019.

6. The timetable for this review

Polling District and Polling Place Review Process and Timetable		
Review Stage	Timescale	Comments
Publication of final recommendations	29 August 2017	Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) publishes final recommendations.
Surrey Heath (Electoral Charges) Order 2017 laid in draft in Parliament	13 December 2017	Order confirmed after it has been before Parliament for 40 days.
Preliminary stage giving notice of the review	1 March 2018	Notice of the review published on the Council's website and in the Council Offices.
Consultation Stage	1 March 2018 to 31 May 2018	Sent to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Borough Councillors• Acting Returning Officer• Political parties active within Surrey Heath

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP • Disability involvement groups • Posted on Council website • Links posted on social media channels
Results of Consultation Stage	7 June 2018	Sent to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above
Final amendments to scheme following on from comments received during consultation process	30 June 2018	
Formal ratification of new polling districts and polling places	25 July 2018	Full Council meeting
Notice of Publication of Revised Register of Electors	1 February 2019	Notice published in at least one local paper plus website and office
New polling districts and polling places designated	1 February 2019	Publication of the revised Register of Electors

7. Challenging the Outcome of the Review

Although the Electoral Commission has no initial role in the review process itself, it does have an important role in respect of considering representations and observations made that a Council has not conducted a review so as to:

- meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency, or a body of them (i.e. the reasonable requirements of a particular area of the authority have not been satisfactorily met); or
- take sufficient account of the accessibility to disabled persons of polling stations within a designated polling place.

8. Who may make a representation to the Electoral Commission?

The following may make representations to the Electoral Commission:

- not less than 30 registered electors within the constituency
- any person who made representations to the Council when the review was being undertaken (except the Returning Officer)
- any person who is not an elector within the constituency who the Electoral Commission feels has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons.

The Returning Officer may also make observations on any representations made to the Commission.

9. Review by the Electoral Commission

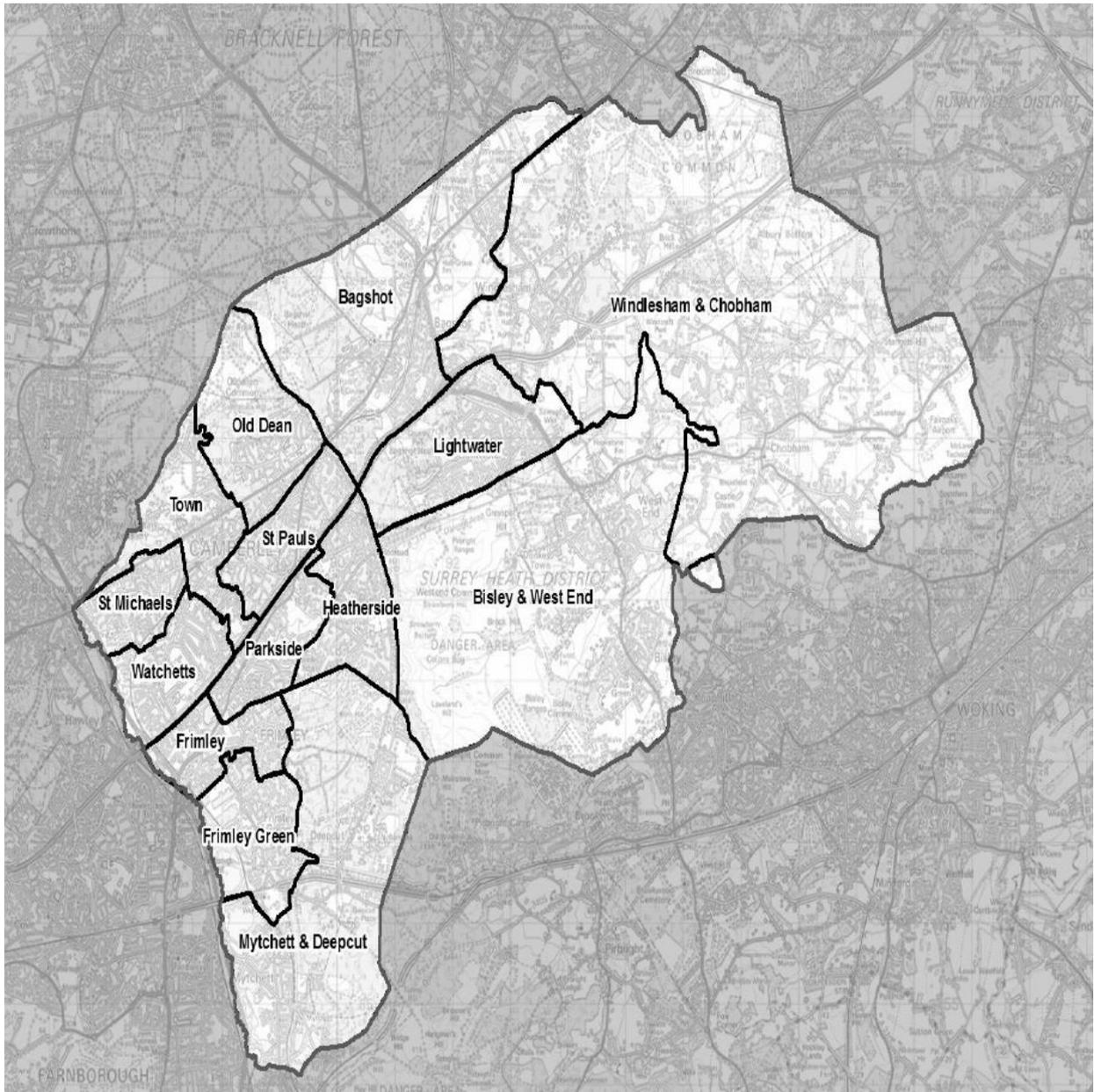
The Electoral Commission is required to consider any such representations and observations and, after doing so, may direct the relevant Council to make any alterations it sees necessary to the polling places designated by the review.

Should a Council fail to make the alterations within 2 months of the direction being given, the Commission may make the alterations itself.

Appendix A
Electoral Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2018
Revised Wards

List of Revised Wards Ward	Number of Councillors	Electorate
Bagshot	3	5776
Bisley & West End	3	6328
Frimley	2	3869
Frimley Green	3	5464
Heatherside	3	5815
Lightwater	3	5555
Mytchett & Deepcut	3	5425
Old Dean	2	3991
Parkside	2	4110
St Michaels	2	4155
St Pauls	2	4089
Town	2	3657
Watchetts	2	4200
Windlesham & Chobham	3	5607

Appendix B
Electoral Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2018
Map of New Wards



Appendix C
Surrey Heath Borough Council
Local Government Elections May 2019
APPENDIX B: LIST OF PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICTS/POLLING PLACE DESIGNATIONS 2018
 Details of Polling District streets per polling district are available from Democratic Services

Ward	Polling District	Polling Place and Polling Station	Address of Polling Place/Station
St Michaels	AA – St Michaels (West)	Crossroads Evangelical Church	Queen Mary Avenue, Camberley GU15 3BH
	AB – St Michaels (East)	Adult Education Centre	France Hill Drive Camberley GU15 3QE
Town	BA – Town	Ian Goodchild Centre	Knoll Road Camberley GU15 3SY
	BB – The Terrace	Crossroads Evangelical Church	Queen Mary Avenue, Camberley GU15 3BH
Old Dean	C – Old Dean	Old Dean Youth Centre	Kingston Road Camberley GU15 4AE
Watchetts	DA – Watchetts (West)	The Orchard Campus, South Camberley Primary School	James Road Camberley GU15 2RG
	DB – Watchetts (East)	St Marys Church Centre,	Park Road Camberley GU15 2SR

Appendix C

Ward	Polling District	Polling Place and Polling Station	Address of Polling Place/Station
	DC – Watchetts (Outer)	St Marys Church Centre,	Park Road Camberley GU15 2SR
St Pauls	EA – St Pauls (West)	St Paul`s Church Hall,	Church Hill Camberley GU15 2AD
	EB – St Pauls (East)		
Frimley	FA – Frimley (West)	St Peters Church Hall,	1 Parsonage Way Frimley Green Road Frimley Camberley GU16 5HZ
	FB – Frimley (East)*	Lakeside County Primary School	Alphington Avenue Frimley Camberley GU16 5LL
Parkside	G – Parkside *	St Francis Church Hall	Upper Chobham Road Frimley Camberley GU15 1EE
Heatherside	H - Heatherside	Heatherside Community Centre	Martindale Avenue, Camberley GU15 1AX
Frimley Green	IA – Frimley Green (North)	Frimley Community Centre	Balmoral Drive Frimley Camberley GU16 9AR
	IB – Frimley Green (South)	Frimley Green Youth Centre	Wharfenden Way Frimley Green Camberley

Appendix C

Ward	Polling District	Polling Place and Polling Station	Address of Polling Place/Station
			GU16 6PJ
Mytchett & Deepcut	JA – Mytchett	The Mytchett Centre	140 Mytchett Road, Mytchett Camberley GU16 3AA
	JB –Deepcut	Deepcut Village Centre	Swordsman Road Deepcut Camberley GU16 6SR
Bagshot	KA – Bagshot (North)	Windle Valley Centre	Park Street Bagshot GU19 5AQ
	KB – Bagshot (South)	Connaught Pavilion	Whitmoor Road, Bagshot GU19 5QE
	KC – Windlesham North*	Windlesham Village Infant School	School Road Windlesham GU20 6PD
Lightwater	LA – Lightwater (East)	All Saints Church Hall	Broadway Road Lightwater GU18 5SJ
	LB – Lightwater (West)	The Briars Centre	Briars Avenue, Lightwater GU18 5YY
Bisley & West End	MA – Bisley	Bisley Village Hall	School Close Bisley GU24 9DE
	MB – West End	Tringham Hall	Benner Lane West End

Ward	Polling District	Polling Place and Polling Station	Address of Polling Place/Station
			GU24 9JP
Windlesham & Chobham	NA – Windlesham South*	Chertsey Road Hall	41 Chertsey Road Windlesham GU20 6EW
	NB – Chobham	Chobham Village Hall	Station Road Chobham GU24 8AQ
	NC – Valley End*	Valley End Institute	Highams Lane Valley End Chobham GU24 8TD

* Alternative options, as set out in Annex D, have been considered for the polling districts marked with an asterisk. The above schedule shows the location of the polling place/station as proposed by the Chief Executive.

**Appendix D
Polling Places
Alternative Options Considered**

Frimley – Frimley (East) polling district

Background

Frimley Ward is currently divided into 3 polling districts and electors vote at 2 polling places; Frimley East - Lakeside School, Alphington Avenue, Frimley West and Frimley South - St Peters Church Hall, Parsonage Way. Changes made to the Frimley Ward by the Boundary Commission have resulted in the moving of electors in the Frimley South polling district to Frimley Green Ward.

Options

As the Council has an aspiration to stop using schools as polling places wherever possible, the following options were considered:

- (a) to retain the existing arrangements for Frimley West at St Peters Church Hall, Parsonage Way and Frimley East polling district at Lakeside School.
- (b) to create a single polling district for the Frimley Ward so that all electors would vote at St Peters Church Hall and use of the school would cease.

However, the ward councillors are concerned that if all voters were to go to St Peters polling station it would be counterproductive and inconvenient, mainly as the polling station is located at the very edge of the Frimley Ward. St Peters has a small car park and might not accommodate the increased number of voters, particularly at high turnout elections. In addition, despite the school having been used for many years, there is no record of any complaints having been directly received by the Council in recent times. It is concluded that, despite the continued use of Lakeside School, the existing arrangements provide the most convenient locations for the electorate.

Parkside

Background

Electors in Parkside ward currently vote at The Grove School, Chobham Road and Prior Heath Infant School, Prior Road. The boundary changes have resulted in the moving of approximately 1000 electors from the Parkside ward to the Heatherside ward.

Options

The following options have been considered for this reduced ward:

- (a) to retain the existing arrangements of 2 polling districts and the continued use of 2 schools.
- (b) to have 1 polling district for the whole ward and to change the polling place for these electors to St Francis Church Hall, Upper Chobham Road.

As a result of the reduced number of electors in this ward, it is practical for all electors to vote at a single polling place. In addition, the use of the St Francis Church Hall as the polling place would enable the Council to meet its objective of not using schools wherever possible. It is therefore proposed that option (b) be pursued.

Bagshot – Windlesham North

Background

Changes made to the ward and parish boundaries on the recommendations of the Local Boundary Commission for England have resulted in the combining of most of Windlesham ward and Chobham ward into a new ward of Windlesham and Chobham. As part of this change, an area mostly comprising the electors in the Snows Ride development, will move from the former Windlesham ward to Bagshot ward. Electors in this area have in the past used the Windlesham Village Infant School, School Road as a polling place.

Because of the boundary changes there is a need to separate these electors from the remainder of the new Windlesham and Chobham ward and create a new polling district for the Snows Ride area.

Options

Options considered for the polling place for this new polling district are:

- (a) Windlesham Club and Theatre
- (b) St John the Baptist Church or
- (c) Windlesham Village Infant School.

As regards the location of the polling place for the new polling district for Bagshot ward, it is considered that neither the St John the Baptist Church or Windlesham Club and Theatre provide a convenient location for the electors in Snows Ride. It is considered that St John the Baptist Church, despite having excellent facilities, is too far from the centre of the population. As regards the Windlesham Club and Theatre, it is considered that the access onto the highway is challenging and that the Club Bar is very busy at times which could result in congestion.

The ward members are, therefore, strongly of the opinion that the Windlesham Village Infant School should continue to be used for these electors. Despite the continued use of this school, it is felt that its location and facilities outweigh the disadvantages. In addition it is also considered that it will be less disruptive and

confusing for these electors. Both the Windlesham Club and Theatre and St John the Baptist Church are also outside the new polling district.

Windlesham & Chobham - Windlesham South

Background

Changes made to the ward and parish boundaries have resulted in the combining of most of Windlesham ward and Chobham ward into a new ward of Windlesham and Chobham.

As a result of the moving of the Snows Ride electors (see above) to Bagshot ward it is proposed to combine the remainder of the 2 existing Windlesham polling districts and create a single polling district.

Options

The options for the new polling district are:

- (a) to retain Chertsey Road Hall as the designated polling place, or
- (b) to use St John the Baptist Church or Windlesham Club and Theatre as the designated polling place.

The ward members consider that the polling place should be the Chertsey Road Hall. It is acknowledged that access and the lack of parking is a drawback. However it is understood that a large percentage of electors walk to this polling place and that no complaints have been made about these issues.

Chobham – Valley End

Background

Although changes made to the ward and parish boundaries have resulted in the combining of most of Windlesham ward and Chobham ward, because of the Parish boundaries, it will be necessary for Chobham and Windlesham to have separate polling districts. Chobham is currently divided into 2 polling districts, with the majority of electors voting at Chobham Village Hall and a small number of electors (approximately 120) voting at the Valley End Institute, Highams Lane, Valley End.

Options

- (a) to retain the Valley End polling district and continue to use the Valley End Institute as a polling place for the small number of electors; or
- (b) to abolish the Valley End polling district and create 1 polling district for Chobham with its polling place as Chobham Village Hall.

In 2013, the Council as part of a polling district and polling place review had consulted on a proposal to abolish the Valley End polling district and to discontinue

the use of the Valley End Institute as a polling place. The Council, at its meeting on 26 February 2014, had considered the representations made for and against this proposal and, because of the conflicting views expressed by electors, had resolved to maintain the status quo by retaining the Valley End polling district and continuing to use the Valley End Institute as a polling place for this part of the Chobham Ward.

As a result of this decision the option to abolish the Valley End polling district and to discontinue the use of the Valley End Institute as a polling place has not been revisited in this current review.

Appendix E Other Changes required as part of the review and affected Electors

The following table sets out a summary of the changes which have been made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and, where relevant, how these changes affect polling arrangements.

Camberley

1. Electors in The Terrace, Camberley have moved from St Michael Ward to Town Ward. However, it is not intended to change the polling arrangements for these electors who will continue to vote at Crossroads Evangelical Church, Queen Mary Avenue.
2. Electors residing in the area south of the A30 and north of the railway line, previously within the St Pauls ward, will transfer to Old Dean ward. It is proposed that these electors will vote at Old Dean Youth Centre, Kingston Road.
3. Electors residing in the roads adjoining the east of Brackendale Road, who had previously fallen within the Town ward, will now come within Watchetts ward. It is proposed that these electors will now vote at St Mary's Church Hall, Park Road.

Frimley/ Frimley Green

1. Electors residing in the development off of Frimley Green Road, known locally as the Ansells estate, and some properties facing Frimley Green Road will move from Frimley ward to Frimley Green ward. It is proposed that these electors will now vote at Frimley Community Centre, Balmoral Drive.

Heatherside and Parkside

1. Electors in the east of Parkside ward, incorporating the area east of Springfield Road, with the exclusion of Youlden Drive and Youlden Close, will move from Parkside ward to Heatherside ward. It is proposed that these electors will now vote at Frimley Community Centre, Martindale Avenue.

Bisley and West End

1. Electors in Bisley & West End villages will now comprise a single borough ward. There will be no consequent change to polling arrangements and voters will continue to vote at Bisley Village Hall, School Close or Tringhams Hall, Benner Lane.

Windlesham and Chobham

Windlesham ward has been divided: the northerly part of the ward will move to Bagshot ward, with parish boundaries altered to match this change, so they come within Bagshot ward of Windlesham parish. The remainder of Windlesham will now

fall within a new Windlesham & Chobham ward and will now comprise Windlesham ward of Windlesham parish. Chobham parish remains a separate parish area.

1. Electors residing in the area north of Snows Ride now fall within Bagshot ward. The proposals for the polling arrangements for this area are set out in Appendix C above - see information on KC Polling District for further information.
2. It is proposed that electors, who previously voted at Windlesham Village School but under the new arrangements will remain within Windlesham ward of Windlesham Parish and will now fall within Windlesham & Chobham borough ward, will be incorporated in the polling district for the remainder of the Windlesham area. The proposals for this area's polling arrangements have been identified in Appendix C above – see information on NA Polling District for further information.

Appendix F Definitions and Criteria for Polling Districts and Polling Places

Definitions

Polling District

A polling district is a geographical area created by the sub-division of a UK Parliamentary constituency for the purposes of a UK parliamentary election.

In England, each parish is to be a separate polling district, unless there are special circumstances. This means that a parish must not be in a polling district which has part or either a different parish within it, or any un-parished part of the local authority area within it, unless special circumstances apply. These special circumstances could arise if, for example, the parish has only a small number of electors and it is not practicable for the parish to be its own polling district.

Polling Place

A polling place is the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer. A polling place within a polling district must be designated so that polling stations are within easy reach of all electors from across the polling district.

Section 18B(4)(e) of the RPA 1983 states that “the polling place must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the district how they will be able to reach the polling place”. It is therefore considered that polling places should be defined more specifically than simply the polling district and by designating the name of the polling place (normally a particular building and its environs.)

Polling Stations

A polling station is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place. Unlike polling districts and polling places, which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the relevant Returning Officer for the election.

Criteria for Polling Districts and Polling Places

There are a number of factors to take into account when considering polling districts and polling places. Electoral Commission Guidance lists the following key considerations:

Polling District Boundaries:

- **Boundaries:** Are they well defined? For example, do they follow the natural boundaries of an area? If not, is it clear which properties belong in the polling district?
- **Location:** Are there suitable transport links within the polling districts and how do they relate to the areas of the district which are most highly populated? Are

there any obstacles to voters crossing the polling districts and reaching the polling place, e.g. steep hills, impassable main roads, railway lines, rivers etc.

Polling Places

- Location: Is it reasonably accessible within the polling district? Does it avoid barriers for the voter? Are there convenient transport links?
- Size: Can it accommodate more than 1 polling station if required? If multiple polling stations are required, is the polling place ample enough to accommodate all voters going into and out of the polling stations, even when there is a high turnout?
- Suitability: Is the building readily available in the event of an unscheduled poll? Is there any possibility that the building may be demolished as part of a new development? Is the building accessible to all those entitled to attend the polling place?

The Returning Officer will be mindful of Electoral Commission Guidance with regard to the allocation of no more than 2,500 electors to a polling station.

Consideration will be given to the confusion and delays which could be caused by allocating separate polling districts to the same polling place and therefore, where possible, this will be avoided. It is, however, recognised that the final decisions of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, as set out below, have made this unavoidable in some areas.

In practice, the review of polling districts and places will involve an element of compromise between several factors, including those listed above. The availability of car parking at a venue and preventing the use of schools unless absolutely necessary are factors which will be taken into account when reviewing polling district boundaries and polling places.