

COUNCIL

28 APRIL 2016

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Andrew Mackness, Corporate Services
Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive/Returning Officer
Author: Jane Ringham, Head of Elections & Member Services

Summary

This report recommends changes to the configuration and designation of polling districts and polling places in the light of issues arising since the combined Local, Parish and General elections in May 2015 and updates them on the allocation of polling stations by the Returning Officer.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The duty to divide Medway into polling districts is a matter that cannot be determined by Cabinet under the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Delegations 2000 (as amended). Therefore, this is a matter for Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide Medway into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district for UK Parliamentary elections. It also has to keep these arrangements under review. It is good practice to undertake the same exercise for local government elections and in doing so, every effort must be made to ensure that the polling district scheme mirrors as closely as possible that agreed for Parliamentary elections.
- 2.2 When designating polling districts:
- (a) the Council must seek to ensure that all the electors in the Constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
 - (b) each Parish must be in a separate polling district unless there are special circumstances that lead the Council to determine otherwise;

- (c) the Council must designate a polling place for every polling district, unless the size or other circumstances of the polling district are such that the situation of the polling stations does not materially affect the convenience of the electorate;
- (d) the Council must seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons;
- (e) the polling place for a polling district must be within the area of the district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area either wholly or partly outside of the polling district

2.3 A Polling Station is the actual area where the process of voting takes place, and must be located within the polling place designated for the particular polling district. This function is the responsibility of the Returning Officer.

2.4 Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a number of changes to the Representation of the People Act 1983 in respect of the way in which reviews of polling districts and polling places must be undertaken. The most significant of these is that the Council must undertake a review every 4 years at a minimum. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced the timing of compulsory reviews of Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. Subsequent compulsory reviews must be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2013. Practice at Medway has been to conduct a review after each election in any case.

2.5 The last review was reported to Council on 22 January 2015. At that time, approval was given to a scheme of Polling Districts and Polling Places and this report seeks approval to amendments to that scheme in the light of comments arising from the combined Local, Parish and General elections in May 2015. An informal working group of Members has been established and their proposals, along with the comments of the Returning Officer are included on the individual Ward sheets set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The Working Group comprises Councillors Brown-Reckless, Fearn, Griffiths, Maple, Opara, Potter and Wildey.

3. The review and consultation

3.1 The informal working group represented all the political Groups on the Council and the views of the Ward Member and Parish Council affected, on the proposal were provided. Group Leaders were also consulted on the proposed changes. In accordance with the requirement to publish a notice of the review of polling districts/places, the proposals were posted on the Council's website in February 2016. In general, the proposals are to implement arrangements to resolve comments arising from and since the elections held in 2015, specifically relating to the polling station for polling district RCH2 in Cuxton and Halling ward. The change to polling place was proposed after a site visit was undertaken by staff in electoral services who took into account a range of issues, including disabled access.

Cuxton and Halling Ward

- 3.2 In light of an increased electorate due to the St Andrew's Park Development in RCH2 the Group recommended, and the Council agreed in January 2013 to allocate polling district RCH1 as the polling place for RCH2 and allocate all the electors to vote at the Scout Hut on Bush Road. The views and comments of Councillor Maisey as (the then) Ward Councillor supported that approach at the time. In the light of the likely increased importance of the allocation of the polling station for RCH2 in 2015 when all parish Council seats were up for election, the Working Party recommended, and Council approved the continued allocation of polling district RCH1 as the polling place for RCH2 and allocation of all the electors to vote at the Scout Hut on Bush Road. However, in the light of increased issues regarding parking at the Scout Hut, Council asked officers to investigate, as a longer-term option, the feasibility of a working men's club at the Halling roundabout as a suitable alternative and asked them to report back to the Working Party and in due course to the Council.
- 3.3 Having undertaken a site visit and confirmed the support of the Ward Councillor and Halling Parish Council, the Working Party are recommending that New Town Social Club at 50 Formby Road be the polling station for electors in polling district RCH2 and that the scheme of polling districts and polling places be amended to show the polling place for polling district RCH2 to be RCH3 where the Social Club is located. The Returning Officer has indicated that he is likely to concur with the recommendation.

Strood North ward

- 3.4 When Council considered the last report on this matter, they asked officers to report back on the polling arrangements in Strood North, having been made aware of issues regarding polling stations at Temple Mill Primary School and Abbey Court School. However, the Returning Officer has been able to confirm the continued use of the car parking space on the site of Temple Mill Junior School/Children's Centre for the Portakabin and of Abbey Court school for the PCC elections on 5 May. Therefore a review of the polling arrangements has not been required this year. The situation will be kept under review and further work undertaken when necessary.

Conclusions

- 3.5 Appendix 1 shows the proposed Scheme of polling districts and polling places for the whole of Medway, with the proposed amendment in Cuxton and Halling ward.
- 3.6 Rather than designate specific buildings as Polling Places, it is recommended that each Polling District continue to be designated as the Polling Place for the district. This avoids having to seek Council approval each and every time a building becomes unavailable, particularly in the run-up to an election. The Returning Officer has given an undertaking that he will consult with the Informal Working Group if it becomes necessary to change any polling stations after the scheme has been agreed.
- 3.7 A Diversity Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the proposals, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 The costs of Parliamentary elections (General and European), Police and Crime Commissioner elections and national Referendums are recharged to the Government. The Council meets the costs of local and Parish elections. In terms of costs of premises, schools and other public buildings, only costs for the additional heating, lighting and caretaking costs can be charged; other private premises are subject to a hire cost which varies considerably. The total average cost of polling stations for a full election is in the order of £14,000 depending if they all submit invoices. The proposals in this report would not increase the costs.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 In accordance with Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council must publish a notice of the holding of the review and must consult with the Returning Officer and publish his comments on the review. Any elector within any constituency located wholly or in part within Medway may make representation regarding the review. On completion of the review the Council must give reasons for its decisions in the review and must publish the information set out in the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006.

6. Risk management

- 6.1 Risk management is an integral part of good governance. The Council has a responsibility to identify and manage threats and risks to achieve its strategic objectives and enhance the value of services it provides to the community. The following table shows any significant risks arising from the matters in this report.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
No decision is made or it is delayed beyond 5 May 2016	Out of date Scheme of polling districts and polling places in use for PCC elections on 5 May 2016	Submission of report to Council in April 2016	D2

7. Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- 7.1 Approve the scheme of Polling Districts and Polling Places as set out in Appendix 1, including the designation of a Polling District as the Polling Place in respect of Parliamentary elections and to designate the Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places as the Polling Districts and Polling Places for Local Government elections.
- 7.2 Authorise the Chief Executive to designate an adjoining Polling District as the Polling Place where no suitable polling station is available within the original Polling Place.

7.3 Note the designation of polling stations recommended by the Returning Officer as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

Lead officer contact

Jane Ringham, Head of Elections & Member Services, ext 2864,
jane.ringham@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Polling District and Places Schedule – Parliamentary and Local Elections

Appendix 2 – Schedule of Polling Stations as recommended by the Returning Officer for all elections

Appendix 3 – Diversity Impact Assessment

Background papers

Description of Background Papers	Contact details
Representation of the People Act 1983 & Electoral Administration Act 2006 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 Electoral arrangements review file and working papers	Jane Ringham, ext 2864, 3 rd Floor Gun Wharf

POLLING DISTRICT AND PLACES SCHEDULE – PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

Shaded boxes indicate a proposed change to existing arrangements

WARD: CHATHAM CENTRAL

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
CCC1	BALFOUR JUNIOR SCHOOL	CCC1	BALFOUR JUNIOR SCHOOL	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
CCC2	NEW ROAD SCHOOL	CCC2	NEW ROAD SCHOOL		
CCC3	WHITE ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE	CCC3	WHITE ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE		
CCC4	ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MAGPIE HALL ROAD	CCC4	ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MAGPIE HALL ROAD		

WARD: CUXTON AND HALLING

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
RCH1	SCOUT HUT, BUSH ROAD	RCH1	SCOUT HUT, BUSH ROAD	Due to a review of the allocation of voters in RCH2 to vote in polling district RCH3, it is intended to continue with current polling places and polling stations in RCH1, RCH3 and RCH4 as they are appropriate for the electorate and to allocate voters in RCH2 to vote at New Town Social Club due to its improved proximity and suitability.	Support the proposal to change allocation of polling station for RCH2. No adverse comments about other polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
RCH2	SCOUT HUT, BUSH ROAD	RCH2/RCH3	NEW TOWN SOCIAL CLUB		
RCH3	HALLING COMMUNITY CENTRE	RCH3	HALLING COMMUNITY CENTRE		
RCH4	HALLING JUBILEE HALL	RCH4	HALLING JUBILEE HALL		

WARD: GILLINGHAM NORTH

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
GGN1	ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST CHURCH HALL	GGN1	ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST CHURCH HALL	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
GGN2	GOSPEL HALL, SKINNER STREET	GGN2	GOSPEL HALL, SKINNER STREET		
GGN3	ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, GREENFIELD ROAD	GGN3	ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, GREENFIELD ROAD		
GGN4	QUEEN ELIZABETH & CASTLEMAINE SCOUT HUT	GGN4	QUEEN ELIZABETH & CASTLEMAINE SCOUT HUT		

WARD: GILLINGHAM SOUTH

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		OTHER COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
GGG1	FORESTERS HALL	GGG1	FORESTERS HALL	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
GGG2	UNITED REFORM CHURCH HALL	GGG2	UNITED REFORM CHURCH HALL		
GGG3	ST MARKS CHURCH HALL	GGG3	ST MARKS CHURCH HALL		
GGG4	BYRON SCHOOL	GGG4	BYRON SCHOOL		

WARD: HEMPSTEAD AND WIGMORE

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
GHW1	HEMPSTEAD SCOUT CENTRE	GHW1	HEMPSTEAD SCOUT CENTRE	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
GHW2	WIGMORE LIBRARY	GHW2	WIGMORE LIBRARY		

WARD: LORDSWOOD AND CAPSTONE

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
CLC1	LORDSWOOD SCHOOL	CLC1	LORDSWOOD SCHOOL	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
CLC2	ST DAVID'S CHURCH HALL	CLC2	ST DAVID'S CHURCH HALL		
CLC3/C PP3	SHAWSTEAD HOUSE	CLC3/PPP3	SHAWSTEAD HOUSE		

WARD: LUTON AND WAYFIELD

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
CLW1	CHRISTCHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE	CLW1	CHRISTCHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
CLW2	ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MAGPIE HALL ROAD	CLW2	ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MAGPIE HALL ROAD		
CLW3	THE COMMUNITY CENTRE – STONE CROSS LEA	CLW3	THE COMMUNITY CENTRE – STONE CROSS LEA		
CLW4	ORCHARD CENTRE, WAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL	CLW4	ORCHARD CENTRE, WAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL		

WARD: PENINSULA

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
RP1	THE VILLAGE HALL, COOLING	RP1	THE VILLAGE HALL, COOLING	It is intended to continue with all the current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
RP2	HIGH HALSTOW RECREATION HALL	RP2	HIGH HALSTOW RECREATION HALL		
RP3	BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY, HOO	RP3	BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY, HOO		
RP4	HOO VILLAGE HALL	RP4	HOO VILLAGE HALL		
RP5	HOO NESS YACHT CLUB	RP5	HOO NESS YACHT CLUB		
RP6	FENN BELL INN	RP6	FENN BELL INN		
RP7	STOKE VILLAGE HALL	RP7	STOKE VILLAGE HALL		
RP8	ALLHALLOWS VILLAGE HALL	RP8	ALLHALLOWS VILLAGE HALL		
RP9	GRAIN VILLAGE HALL	RP9	GRAIN VILLAGE HALL		

WARD: PRINCES PARK

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
CPP1/C PP2	CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING	CPP1/CP P2	CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
CPP2	MAUNDENE SCHOOL	CPP2	MAUNDENE SCHOOL		
CPP3	SHAWSTEAD HOUSE, HOPEWELL DRIVE	CPP3	SHAWSTEAD HOUSE, HOPEWELL DRIVE		

WARD: RAINHAM CENTRAL

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
GRC1	MILLENNIUM CENTRE, GATEKEEPERS CHASE	GRC1	MILLENNIUM CENTRE, GATEKEEPERS CHASE	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
GRC2	WIGMORE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH HALL	GRC2	WIGMORE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH HALL		
GRC3	SMALLHOLDERS CLUB HALL	GRC3	SMALLHOLDERS CLUB HALL		

WARD: RAINHAM NORTH

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
GRN1	SUFFOLK COURT	GRN1	SUFFOLK COURT	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
GRN2	RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL	GRN2	RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL		
GRN3	RIVERSIDE COUNTRY PARK	GRN3	RIVERSIDE COUNTRY PARK		
GRN4	STATION OASTS	GRN4	STATION OASTS		

WARD: RAINHAM SOUTH

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
GRS1	ST PAUL'S CHURCH, PARKWOOD GREEN	GRS1	ST PAUL'S CHURCH, PARKWOOD GREEN	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
GRS2	MIERSCOURT PRIMARY SCHOOL	GRS2	MIERSCOURT PRIMARY SCHOOL		
GRS3	ABBAY COURT SCHOOL, LONG CATLIS ROAD	GRS3	ABBAY COURT SCHOOL, LONG CATLIS ROAD		
GRS4	UNITED SERVICES CLUB	GRS4	UNITED SERVICES CLUB		

WARD: RIVER

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
				It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
RR1	ST MARY'S ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE	RR1	ST MARY'S ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE		
RR2	LAMPARD CENTRE, SALLY PORT	RR2	LAMPARD CENTRE, SALLY PORT		
RR3	BELLEROPHEN HOUSE, DOUST WAY	RR3	BELLEROPHEN HOUSE, DOUST WAY		
RR4	EMMAUS CHURCH, CLOVER ST	RR4	EMMAUS CHURCH, CLOVER ST		

WARD: ROCHESTER EAST

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
				It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
RRE1	ST MARGARET'S AT TROY TOWN CE	RRE1	ST MARGARET'S AT TROY TOWN CE		
RRE2	PARISH CENTRE, DELCE ROAD	RRE2	PARISH CENTRE, DELCE ROAD		
RRE3	ST JUSTUS CHURCH	RRE3	ST JUSTUS CHURCH		

WARD: ROCHESTER SOUTH AND HORSTED

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
RRS1	BALFOUR INFANTS SCHOOL	RRS1	BALFOUR INFANTS SCHOOL	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
RRS2	WARREN WOOD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	RRS2	WARREN WOOD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL		
RRS3	THE DAVIS ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE	RRS3	THE DAVIS ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE		
RRS4	ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH	RRS4	ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH		

WARD: ROCHESTER WEST

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
RRW1	THE INSTITUTE, ADJACENT TO MOAT HOUSE BOOKSHOP, CROW LANE	RRW1	THE INSTITUTE, ADJACENT TO MOAT HOUSE BOOKSHOP, CROW LANE	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
RRW2	BORSTAL VILLAGE HALL	RRW2	BORSTAL VILLAGE HALL		
RRW3	SHERWOOD CRICKET CLUB	RRW3	SHERWOOD CRICKET CLUB		
RRW4	ST JOHN RC PARISH HALL	RRW4	ST JOHN RC PARISH HALL		
RRW5	ST MARGARET'S CHURCH	RRW5	ST MARGARET'S CHURCH		

WARD: STROOD NORTH

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
RSN1	ABBEY COURT SCHOOL	RSN1	ABBEY COURT SCHOOL	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate. Strood Library Hall is in same building as used to be known as Strood Library	Support the proposals. To minimise the disruption to Temple Mill School, it is intended to locate a portable polling station on land near the main entrance to the site. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
RSN2	STROOD LIBRARY	RSN2	STROOD LIBRARY HALL		
RSN3	PENINSULA METHODIST CHURCH	RSN3	PENINSULA METHODIST CHURCH		
RSN4/RSR4	PORTABLE STATION ON LAND ADJACANT TEMPLE MILL SCHOOL	RSN4/RSR4	PORTABLE STATION ON LAND ADJACANT TEMPLE MILL SCHOOL		
RSN5	ALL SAINTS CHURCH	RSN5	ALL SAINTS CHURCH		

WARD: STROOD RURAL

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
RSR1	CLIFFE MEMORIAL HALL	RSR1	CLIFFE MEMORIAL HALL	Due to the unavailability of suitable sites for a polling station in polling districts RSR4, it is proposed that the polling place continues to be designated as RSR7 so that electors are allocated to vote at the Memorial Hall, Wainscott along with voters in polling district RSR7. It is intended to continue with all other current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals including the use of the Memorial Hall, Wainscott for voters in polling district RSR4. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
RSR2	CLIFFE WOODS VILLAGE HALL	RSR2	CLIFFE WOODS VILLAGE HALL		
RSR3	CHATTENDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL	RSR3	CHATTENDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE		
RSR4/RSR7	MEMORIAL HALL, WAINSCOTT	RSR4/RSR7	MEMORIAL HALL, WAINSCOTT		
RSR5	FRINDSBURY CRICKET CLUB	RSR5	FRINDSBURY CRICKET CLUB		
RSR6	HILLTOP PRIMARY SCHOOL	RSR6	HILLTOP PRIMARY SCHOOL		
RSR7	MEMORIAL HALL, WAINSCOTT	RSR7	MEMORIAL HALL, WAINSCOTT		
RSR8/RSR6	HILLTOP PRIMARY SCHOOL	RSR8/RSR6	HILLTOP PRIMARY SCHOOL		

WARD: STROOD SOUTH

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
				It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
RSS1	BLIGH INFANTS SCHOOL	RSS1	BLIGH INFANTS SCHOOL		
RSS2	ELAINE PRIMARY ACADEMY SCHOOL	RSS2	ELAINE PRIMARY ACADEMY SCHOOL		
RSS3	WOODSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE	RSS3	WOODSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE		
RSS4	STROOD EVANGELICAL CHURCH, DARNLEY RD	RSS4	STROOD EVANGELICAL CHURCH, DARNLEY RD		
RSS5	PORTABLE POLLING STATION ON LAND AT SYCAMORE DRIVE	RSS5	PORTABLE POLLING STATION ON LAND AT SYCAMORE DRIVE		

WARD: TWYDALL

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
				It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
GT1	FEATHERBY INFANTS SCHOOL	GT1	FEATHERBY INFANTS SCHOOL		
GT2	TWYDALL EVANGELICAL CHURCH	GT2	TWYDALL EVANGELICAL CHURCH		
GT3	TWYDALL JUNIOR SCHOOL	GT3	TWYDALL JUNIOR SCHOOL		

WARD: WALDESLADE

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
CW1	HOOK MEADOW COMMUNITY CENTRE	CW1	HOOK MEADOW COMMUNITY CENTRE	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
CW2	ST WILLIAMS CHURCH	CW2	ST WILLIAM'S CHURCH		

WARD: WATLING

POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	PROPOSALS		REASONS FOR DECISION	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
		POLLING DISTRICT/ POLLING PLACE	POLLING STATION		
GW1	GILLINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH	GW1	GILLINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH	It is intended to continue with all current polling places and polling stations as they are appropriate for the electorate.	Support the proposals. No adverse comments about polling stations at 2015 elections so continue to be used.
GW2/GW1	BLUE ROOM, GILLINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH	GW2/GW1	BLUE ROOM, GILLINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH		
GW3	STAR MEADOW SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB	GW3	STAR MEADOW SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB		

**SCHEDULE OF POLLING STATIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY RETURNING OFFICER
FOR ALL ELECTIONS**

Shaded boxes indicate a proposed change to the existing arrangements

POLLING DISTRICT/PLACE	RECOMMENDED POLLING STATION
CCC1	BALFOUR JUNIOR SCHOOL
CCC2	NEW ROAD SCHOOL
CCC3	WHITE ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE
CCC4	ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MAGPIE HALL RD
RCH1	SCOUT HUT, BUSH ROAD
RCH2/RCH3	NEW TOWN SOCIAL CLUB, FORMBY ROAD
RCH3	HALLING COMMUNITY CENTRE
RCH4	HALLING JUBILEE HALL
GGN1	ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST CHURCH HALL
GGN2	GOSPEL HALL, SKINNER STREET
GGN3	ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, GREENFIELD ROAD
GGN4	QUEEN ELIZABETH & CASTLEMAINE SCOUT HUT
GGS1	FORESTERS HALL
GGS2	UNITED REFORM CHURCH HALL
GGS3	ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL, VICARAGE ROAD
GGS4	BYRON SCHOOL
GHW1	HEMPSTEAD SCOUT CENTRE
GHW2	WIGMORE LIBRARY
CLC1	LORDSWOOD SCHOOL
CLC2	ST DAVID'S CHURCH HALL
CLC3	SHAWSTEAD HOUSE
CLW1	CHRISTCHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE
CLW2	ALL SAINTS CHURCH
CLW3/CLW4	THE COMMUNITY CENTRE – STONE CROSS LEA
CLW4	ORCHARD CENTRE, WAYFIELD SCHOOL
RP1	THE VILLAGE HALL, COOLING
RP2	HIGH HALSTOW RECREATION HALL
RP3	BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY, HOO
RP4	HOO JUBILEE HALL
RP5	HOO NESS YACHT CLUB
RP6	FENN BELL INN
RP7	STOKE VILLAGE HALL
RP8	ALLHALLOWS VILLAGE HALL
RP9	GRAIN VILLAGE HALL
CPP1/GRN2	CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
CPP2	MAUNDENE SCHOOL
CPP3	SHAWSTEAD HOUSE
GRC1	ST MARGARET'S CE JUNIOR SCHOOL
GRC2	WIGMORE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH HALL
GRC3	SMALLHOLDERS CLUB HALL
GRN1	SUFFOLK COURT
GRN2	RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL
GRN3	RIVERSIDE COUNTRY PARK RESOURCE CENTRE
GRN4	STATION OASTS
GRS1	ST PAUL'S CHURCH, PARKWOOD GREEN
GRS2	MIERSCOURT PRIMARY SCHOOL
GRS3	ABBNEY COURT SCHOOL, RAINHAM SITE

POLLING DISTRICT	RECOMMENDED POLLING STATION
GRS4	UNITED SERVICES CLUB
RR1	ST MARY'S ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE
RR2	LAMPARD CENTRE, SALLY PORT
RR3	BELLEROPHEN HOUSE, DOUST WAY
RR4	EMMAUS CHURCH, CLOVER STREET
RRE1	ST MARGARET'S AT TROY TOWN CE
RRE2	PARISH CENTRE, DELCE ROAD
RRE3	ST JUSTUS CHURCH
RRS1	BALFOUR INFANTS SCHOOL
RRS2	WARREN WOOD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
RRS3	THE DAVIS ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE
RRS4	ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH
RRW1	THE INSTITUTE, ADJ BOOKSHOP, CROW LANE
RRW2	BORSTAL VILLAGE HALL
RRW3	SHERWOOD CRICKET CLUB
RRW4	ST JOHN RC PARISH HALL
RRW5	ST MARGARET'S CHURCH
RSN1	ABBAY COURT SCHOOL
RSN2	STROOD LIBRARY HALL
RSN3	STROOD METHODIST CHURCH, CLIFFE RD
RSN4/RSR4	PORTABLE STATION ON LAND AT TEMPLE MILL SCHOOL
RSN5	ALL SAINT'S CHURCH HALL, CHURCH GREEN
RSR1	CLIFFE MEMORIAL HALL
RSR2	CLIFFE WOODS VILLAGE HALL
RSR3	CHATTENDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE
RSR4/RSR7	MEMORIAL HALL, WAINSCOTT
RSR5	FRINDBURY CRICKET CLUB
RSR6	HILLTOP PRIMARY SCHOOL
RSR7	MEMORIAL HALL, WAINSCOTT
RSR8/RSR6	HILLTOP PRIMARY SCHOOL
RSS1	BLIGH INFANTS SCHOOL
RSS2	ELAINE PRIMARY ACADEMY
RSS3	WOODSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE
RSS4	STROOD EVANGELICAL CHURCH
RSS5	PORTABLE STATION ON LAND AT SYCAMORE DRIVE
GT1	FEATHERBY INFANTS SCHOOL
GT2	TWYDALL EVANGELICAL CHURCH
GT3	TWYDALL JUNIOR SCHOOL
CW1	HOOK MEADOW COMMUNITY CENTRE
CW2	ST WILLIAM'S CHURCH
GW1	GILLINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH
GW2/GW1	BLUE ROOM, GILLINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH
GW3	STAR MEADOW SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Diversity impact assessment

Appendix 3

TITLE <i>Name/description of the issue being assessed</i>	Review of Polling Districts and Places
DATE <i>Date the DIA is completed</i>	February 2016
LEAD OFFICER <i>Name and title of person responsible for carrying out the DIA.</i>	Jane Ringham Head of Elections & Member Services

1 Summary description of the proposed change

- *What is the change to policy/service/new project that is being proposed?*
- *How does it compare with the current situation?*

That the polling place for polling district RCH2 in Cuxton & Halling ward is amended to by polling district RCH3 to enable a polling station in the area to be designated by the Returning Officer.

Currently the polling place is polling district RCH1 because voters were allocated to vote at the same polling station as voters in RCH1 at Cuxton Scout Hut, Bush Road.

2 Summary of evidence used to support this assessment

- *Eg: Feedback from consultation, performance information, service user records etc.*
- *Eg: Comparison of service user profile with Medway Community Profile*

The evidence used to support this assessment comprises the support and comments of the Ward Councillor, Halling Parish Council and the Council's Informal Working Party on Polling Districts and Polling Places.

3 What is the likely impact of the proposed change?

Is it likely to :

- *Adversely impact on one or more of the protected characteristic groups?*
- *Advance equality of opportunity for one or more of the protected characteristic groups?*
- *Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't?*

(insert ✓ in one or more boxes)

Protected characteristic groups	Adverse impact	Advance equality	Foster good relations
Age		✓	
Disability		✓	
Gender reassignment		✓	
Marriage/civil partnership		✓	

Diversity impact assessment

Pregnancy/maternity		✓	
Race		✓	
Religion/belief		✓	
Sex		✓	
Sexual orientation		✓	
Other (eg low income groups)		✓	

4 Summary of the likely impacts

- *Who will be affected?*
- *How will they be affected?*

The change in designation will affect all voters in polling district RCH2 and should minimise their journey to the polling station and improve their ability to park, thus increasing their likelihood to vote.

5 What actions can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impacts, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations?

- *Are there alternative providers?*
- *What alternative ways can the Council provide the service?*
- *Can demand for services be managed differently?*

Voters who do not find these arrangements conducive can arrange for a postal vote or appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf.

6 Action plan

- *Actions to mitigate adverse impact, improve equality of opportunity or foster good relations and/or obtain new evidence*

Action	Lead	Deadline or review date
A review of polling stations, polling districts and polling places is undertaken each year, usually after each election and any comments received will be taken into consideration	Jane Ringham	31.03.2017

Diversity impact assessment

7 Recommendation

The recommendation by the lead officer should be stated below. This may be:

- to proceed with the change, implementing action plan if appropriate
- consider alternatives
- gather further evidence

If the recommendation is to proceed with the change and there are no actions that can be taken to mitigate likely adverse impact, it is important to state why.

The recommendations of the Informal Working Party on Polling Districts and Polling Places are submitted to Full Council on 28 April 2016 to seek their approval.

8 Authorisation

The authorising officer is consenting that:

- the recommendation can be implemented
- sufficient evidence has been obtained and appropriate mitigation is planned
- the Action Plan will be incorporated into service plan and monitored

Assistant Director

Perry Holmes, Chief Legal Officer

Date

2016

Contact your Performance and Intelligence hub for advice on completing this assessment

RCC: phone 2443 email: annamarie.lawrence@medway.gov.uk

C&A: (Children's Social Care) contact your normal P&I contact

C&A (all other areas): phone 1481 email: paddy.cahill@medway.gov.uk

BSD: phone 2472/1490 email: corppi@medway.gov.uk

PH: phone 2636 email: david.whiting@medway.gov.uk

Send completed assessment to the Corporate Performance & Intelligence Hub (CPI) for web publication (corppi@medway.gov.uk)