

COUNCIL

21 JULY 2022

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive/Returning Officer

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Summary

This report recommends a revised schedule of polling districts and polling places to reflect the new Ward boundaries that will come into place for the Local & Parish elections on 4 May 2023 and updates the Council on the likely allocation of polling stations by the Returning Officer in preparation for those elections.

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. With the implementation of new Ward arrangements for the Local & Parish elections in May 2023, it is necessary to review all polling districts and polling places.

Polling districts

- 2.2 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.

- 2.3 In England, each parish is to be a separate polling district. This means that a parish must not be in a polling district which has a part of either a different parish within it, or any un-parished part of the local authority area within it, unless special circumstances apply. Those 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.
- 2.4 When a parish or community is not a separate polling district the special circumstances and the recommendation resulting from these should be clearly set in the review document for the council or relevant committee to consider.

Polling places

- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 Some authorities designate the entire polling district as the polling place. However, 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 station'. The Electoral Commission consider that polling places should always be defined more specifically than simply the polling district - for example, by designating the name of the polling place (normally a particular building or area and its environs).

Polling stations

- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 When assessing the suitability of a room or area for use as a polling station, the (Acting) Returning Officer should consider how the size and layout would allow for the most effective throughput of voters, including in those instances where there is a high number of electors in the polling station at any one time on polling day. Each polling station should be designed to provide suitable conditions for the elector to vote in private, for staff to conduct elections in an efficient and effective manner and for those entitled to observe the voting process to do so without compromising the secrecy of the ballot.
- 2.9 When designating polling districts, Local authorities must comply with the following legislative requirements:
- (a) each parish in England is to be a separate polling district, unless special circumstances apply.

- (b) the Council must designate a polling place for each polling district, unless the size or other circumstances of a polling district are such that the situation of the polling stations does not materially affect the convenience of the electors.
- (c) the polling place must be an area in the 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).
- (d) 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 station.
- (e) 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.
- (f) seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled. Where a polling place has been selected that is not fully accessible, then reasonable adjustments must be undertaken to provide access for all electors.
- (g) The council must have regard to the accessibility to disabled persons of potential polling stations in any place which it is considering designating as a polling place or the designation of which as a polling place it is reviewing.

2.10 Under Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 the Council must undertake a review of polling districts and polling places 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 which must be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2013. The last formal review was undertaken in 2018 and reported to Full Council in January 2019. Practice at Medway has been for an informal review of the scheme of polling districts and polling places to be undertaken and for the Returning Officer to conduct an informal review of the allocation of polling stations after each election.

2.11 This report recommends a revised schedule of polling districts and polling places that reflects the new Wards. The vast majority of polling places remain the same as used previously but there are some significant changes. An informal cross-party working group of Members has been established and they undertook a comprehensive review of the polling districts and polling places. Their recommendations, along with the comments of the Returning Officer are included in Appendix 1 to the report. The Working Group comprises Councillors Buckwell, Fearn, Mahil, Maple, McDonald, Potter and Wildey.

3. The review

- 3.1 The informal working group represents both political Groups on the Council and the views of existing Members were sought although not on the basis of being Ward members as the new Wards do not come into effect until May 2023. In general, the review was approached from the basis of starting with consideration of existing and potential polling places and possible polling stations so that the working group did not end up with polling districts where no suitable buildings could be identified as polling places or polling stations.
- 3.2 The working group took into account several factors when assessing the suitability of polling district boundaries including the extent to which the boundaries were well-defined, that there were suitable transport links within the polling district and minimal obstacles to voters crossing the polling district such as steep hills, major roads etc.
- 3.3 Where the new ward boundaries were not coterminous with the existing parliamentary boundaries, the working group recommend a separate polling district for the parts that straddle the constituencies. It was necessary to use existing parliamentary boundaries as they are the ones currently in force. The recommendations of the current review of Parliamentary constituencies will not be reported to Parliament until July 2023. A further review of polling districts and polling places will almost inevitably be required once those recommendations are approved.
- 3.4 Where feasible, the working group generally worked on the basis that polling district boundaries would not go down the middle of minor roads but include properties on both sides. This is aimed at minimising confusion amongst voters living in the same road being allocated to separate polling stations. The working group also agreed the naming convention for the polling districts whereby the initial letter represents the parliamentary constituency with the remaining letters assisting in identifying the full name of the polling district. The maximum number of letters reflect the requirements of the software used for electoral registration and election management.
- 3.5 The working group took the general view that the maximum number of electors in any proposed polling district should not exceed 5000. This is the number the Electoral Commission recommend would justify a double station at any polling station (i.e. two polling station teams in the same room or rooms). To allow for future increases in the electorate, the working group used the forecast 2026 electorate that had been used by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England when conducting their Ward review.

- 3.6 When considering the definition of polling places, the working group took account of factors such as the location, whether it is reasonably accessible within the polling district, whether it could accommodate more than one polling station if required, and the accessibility of the building to all those entitled to attend the polling place. Where a polling place could not be identified within the polling district, or only an inappropriate one could be identified, then the working group have proposed a polling place outside of the polling district.
- 3.7 It should be noted that for the purpose of taking the poll in England and Wales, the (Acting) Returning Officer is entitled to use free of charge schools maintained or assisted by a local authority as well as those schools that receive grants made out of moneys provided by Parliament. This includes academies and free schools.
- 3.8 However, the Returning Officer has adopted a policy of trying to avoid the use of schools due to the disruption caused to pupils, school staff and carers. Wherever possible, negotiations have been held to try to find arrangements that mean the school can remain open to pupils but more often than not, there remain unresolved safeguarding issues so schools usually close to pupils. It should also be noted that increasingly Headteachers are raising their disquiet and upset about closing the school to pupils. This has led, in some cases to school staff being less than co-operative with polling station staff on polling day which makes for an awkward and difficult situation.
- 3.9 Over the last few years, the number of schools used as polling stations has reduced from 16 in 2019 to 13 in 2021 and these proposals continue that trend and reduce the number of schools to 10.
- 3.10 Where new polling places and polling stations have been identified, site visits were undertaken by staff in electoral services who took into account a range of issues, including disabled access.

Conclusions

- 3.11 Appendix 1 shows the proposed Scheme of polling districts and polling places for the whole of Medway.
- 3.12 The scheme also shows each of the polling stations being proposed by the Returning Officer for the Local and Parish elections on 4 May 2023. The Chief Executive/Returning Officer has given an undertaking that he will consult with the Informal Working Group if it becomes necessary to change the designation of a Polling Place where no suitable polling station is available within the original Polling Place and if it is necessary to change any polling stations prior to the elections on 4 May 2023.

4. Risk management

- 4.1 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 4 May 2023	Out of date Scheme of polling districts and polling places in use for Local and Parish on 4 May 2023	Submission of report to Council in July 2022	D2

5. Consultation

- 5.1 As required by the legislation, a notice about holding the review has been published on the Council's web pages seeking views on the existing schedule as well as the proposed one. The views of all members have been sought as well as those of the three MPs. Any comments received by the time of the finalisation of this report have been referred to in the report where appropriate and made available at Gun Wharf and the web pages. The Council's final decision on the schedule will also be published.

6. Climate change implications

- 6.1 As far as possible, the working group have attempted to allocate voters to polling stations within walking distance to reduce the need to use cars.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 The costs of Parliamentary elections (General), 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 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 £30,000 depending if they all submit invoices and including portable polling stations and associated equipment. The proposals in this report would not increase the costs significantly. A contribution to an Elections Provision is made each year from revenue so that funds are available to cover the costs in the year that Local and Parish elections actually fall. It is anticipated that the Provision will cover the cost of the changes in this report but this will not be known for certain until quotes are obtained.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 Section 2 of the report sets out the legal responsibilities and duties of the Council and the Returning Officer for conducting this informal review of the scheme of polling districts and polling places and the review of polling stations.

9. Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- 9.1 Approve the scheme of Polling Districts and Polling Places, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, 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.
- 9.2 Note the designation of all polling stations recommended by the Returning Officer as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 9.3 Authorise the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Informal Working Group on Polling Districts and Polling Places to designate a Polling Place where no suitable polling station is available within the original Polling Place.
- 9.4 Note that the Chief Executive will consult with the Informal Working Group on Polling Districts and Polling Places if it is necessary to change any polling stations prior to the elections on 4 May 2023.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

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

Background papers

None.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES FOR MEDWAY FROM MAY 2023

Polling places in shaded boxes indicates one not used previously.

WARD NAME: ALL SAINTS

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RAS1	Allhallows Village Hall. Stoke Road, ME3 9PE	1588	Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be at Allhallows Village Hall. Existing polling station suitable for use.
RAS2	Grain Village Hall, Chapel Road, Isle of Grain, ME3 0BQ	1293	Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be at Grain Village Hall. Existing polling station suitable for use.
RAS3	Stoke Village Hall, Mallard Way, Lower Stoke, ME3 9ST	876	Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be at Stoke Village Hall. Existing polling station suitable for use.
RAS4	Fenn Bell Inn, Fenn Street, ME3 8RF	217	Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be at small bar area within Fenn Bell Inn public house. Existing polling station suitable for use. A temporary ramp will be provided.

WARD NAME: CHATHAM CENTRAL & BROMPTON

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RCB1	Lampard Centre, Sally Port, ME5 5BU	2412	Polling district comprises area within Rochester & Strood Parliamentary constituency. Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be at the Main Hall, the Lampard Centre, Sally Port Gardens, . Existing polling station suitable for use.
GCB2	Not required – no electors	0	Polling district comprises area within Gillingham & Rainham parliamentary constituency but no electors so no polling place identified	No polling station required
RCB3	Emmaus Church, Clover Street, ME4 4DT	1528	Polling district comprises area within Rochester & Strood Parliamentary constituency. Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be in Emmaus Church, Clover Street. Existing polling station suitable for use. A temporary ramp will be provided.
CCB4	New Road school, Bryant Street, ME4 5QN	1845	Polling district comprises area within Chatham & Aylesford Parliamentary constituency. Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be at the main hall, New Road School, Existing polling station suitable for use.
CCB5	St Paul with All Saints Church, Magpie Hall Road, ME4 5NE	1382	Polling district comprises area within Chatham & Aylesford Parliamentary constituency. Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be at the St Paul with All Saints Church Hall, Magpie Hall Road. Existing polling station suitable for use. Stepped access from Listmas Road but level access from Magpie Hall Road.
CCB6	White Road Community Centre, Keyes Avenue, ME4 5UN	4246	Polling district comprises area within Chatham & Aylesford Parliamentary constituency. Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be at the Main Hall, White Road Community Centre, Keyes Avenue. Existing polling station suitable for use.

WARD NAME: CUXTON, HALLING & RIVERSIDE

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RCHR1	Diggerland Kent, Medway Valley Leisure Park, Roman Way, ME2 2NU	670	Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be in a large function room at Diggerland Kent, Medway Valley Leisure Park, Roman Way. Site visit confirms building is suitable as a polling station.
RCHR2	Hard standing site on corner of Sealand Drive and Butlers Park Way, Medway Gate, ME2 2GZ	797	No suitable building identified as polling place so proposing to use a portable polling station on a hard standing site on Medway Gate development	Proposes polling station to be a portable polling venue sited on hard standing site on the corner of Sealand Drive and Butlers Park Way, as no suitable buildings identified to be polling place or polling station. A temporary ramp will be provided.
RCHR3	Scout Hall, Bush Road, ME2 1LJ	2278	Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be at the main hall, Scout Hall, Bush Road, Cuxton. Existing polling station suitable for use. A temporary ramp will be provided.
RCHR4	New Town Social Club, 50 Formby Road, ME2 1BA	835	Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be at the bar area, New Town Social Club, 50 Formby Road, Existing polling station suitable for use. A temporary ramp will be provided.
RCHR5	Halling Community Centre, High Street, Halling, ME2 1BS	1795	Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be at the main hall, Halling Community Centre, High Street, Halling. Existing polling station suitable for use.
RCHR6	Halling Jubilee Hall, Browndens Road, ME2 1JH	408	Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station to be at the main hall, Halling Jubilee Hall, Browndens Road. Existing polling station suitable for use.

WARD NAME: FORT HORSTED

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RHF1	Rogallo Place, Pilots View, Chatham, ME4 6FE	539	Polling district comprises area within the Rochester & Strood Parliamentary constituency. Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station is in the Meeting Room, Rogallo Place, Pilots View. Site visit confirms building is suitable as a polling station.
RFH2	Davis Estate Community Centre, Barberry Avenue/Crescent Way, ME5 9TE	3176	Polling district comprises area within the Rochester & Strood Parliamentary constituency. Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station is at the main hall, Davis Estate Community Centre, Barberry Avenue/Crescent Way. Existing polling station suitable for use.
CFH3	Davis Estate Community Centre, Barberry Avenue/Crescent Way, ME5 9TE	54	Polling district comprises area within the Chatham & Aylesford Parliamentary constituency. Due to the relatively small number of electors it is proposed to designate a polling place outside the parliamentary constituency. Otherwise the polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station is at the main hall, Davis Estate Community Centre, Barberry Avenue/Crescent Way as no suitable building identified in polling district and small number of electors. Existing polling station suitable for use.

WARD NAME: FORT PITT

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RFP1	Hope Centre, 336-338 High Street, ME1 1BT	857	Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station is at the main worship area, the Hope Centre, 336-338 High Street. Existing polling station suitable for use.
RFP2	Balfour Junior Academy School, Balfour Road, Chatham, ME4 6QX	4096	Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station is at the main hall, Balfour Junior Academy School, Balfour Road, Chatham. Existing polling station suitable for use.
RFP3	Balfour Infants School, Pattens Lane, Rochester, ME1 2QT	2520	Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station is at the main hall, Balfour Infants School, Pattens Lane, Rochester. Existing polling station suitable for use.
RFP4	St Stephens Church, Maidstone Road, Chatham, ME4 6JE	2485	Polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station is at the main hall, St Stephen's Church, Maidstone Road, Chatham. Existing polling station suitable for use.
CFP5	St Stephen's Church, Maidstone Road, Chatham, ME4 6JE	49	Polling district comprises 3 small separate areas in Chatham & Aylesford Parliamentary constituency. Due to the relatively small number of electors and in the absence of a suitable polling place within the polling district, it is proposed to designate a polling place outside the parliamentary constituency and polling district. Otherwise, the polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Proposes polling station is at the main hall, St Stephen's Church, Maidstone Road, Chatham. Existing polling station suitable for use.

WARD NAME: GILLINGHAM NORTH

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RGN1	St Luke the Evangelist Church, King William Road, ME7 1PA	1039	Polling district comprises area in the Rochester & Strood Parliamentary constituency. In absence of a suitable polling place within the polling district it is proposed to designate a polling place outside the parliamentary constituency and polling district; otherwise, the polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Proposes polling station is at the Church Hall, St Luke the Evangelist Church, King William Road, Gillingham as no suitable building identified within the polling district. Existing polling station suitable for use. Temporary ramp will be provided.
GGN2	St Luke the Evangelist Church hall, King William Road, ME7 1PA	1338	In the absence of a suitable polling place within the polling district it is proposed to designate a polling place in an adjoining polling district. Otherwise, the polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Proposes polling station is at the Church Hall, St Luke the Evangelist Church, King William Road, Gillingham as no suitable building identified within the polling district. Existing polling station suitable for use. Temporary ramp will be provided
GGN3	25 th Gillingham Scouts, Castlemaine Avenue, ME7 2QE	3940	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Proposes polling station is at the main hall, 25 th Gillingham Scouts, Castlemaine Avenue, ME7 2QE. Existing polling station suitable for use.
GGN4	Our Lady of Gillingham Church, Ingram Road, ME7 1YL	3107	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Proposes polling station is at McMahon Hall, Ingram Road, Gillingham. Existing polling station suitable for use.
GGN5	St Luke the Evangelist Church hall, King William Road, ME7 1PA	2012	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Proposes polling station is at the Church Hall, St Luke the Evangelist Church, King William Road, Gillingham, Existing polling station suitable for use. Temporary ramp will be provided
RGN6	Not required – no electors	0	Polling district comprises area in the Rochester & Strood Parliamentary constituency but no electors so no polling place identified.	No polling station required

WARD NAME: GILLINGHAM SOUTH

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
GG1	Gospel Hall, 77 Skinner Street, ME7 1LD	3405	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is at the main worship area, Gospel Hall, 77 Skinner Street, Gillingham. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
GG2	Gillingham United Reform Church, Balmoral Road, ME7 4PU	2881	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is at the Church Hall, Gillingham United Reform Church, Balmoral Road, Gillingham. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
GG3	Palm Cottage Social Club, 189 Canterbury Street, Gillingham, ME7 5XL	2864	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is at Palm Cottage Social Club, 189 Canterbury Street, Gillingham. Existing polling station suitable for use.
GG4	St Augustine's Church, Rock Avenue, Gillingham, ME7 5PW	2758	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is at the main worship area, St Augustine's Church, Rock Avenue, Gillingham. Existing polling station is suitable for use.

WARD NAME: HEMPSTEAD & WIGMORE

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
CHW1	Hempstead Scout Centre, Dukes Meadow Road, Gillingham, ME7 3DW	18	Polling district comprises area in Chatham & Aylesford Parliamentary constituency. In the absence of a suitable polling place within the polling district and the small number of electors affected, it is proposed to designate a polling place outside the parliamentary constituency and polling district; otherwise, the polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is at the main hall, Hempstead Scout Centre, Dukes Meadow Road as there is no suitable building identified within the polling district and the small number of electors affected. Existing polling station suitable for use.
GHW2	Hempstead Scout Centre, Dukes Meadow Road, Gillingham, ME7 3DW	4807	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is at the main hall, Hempstead Scout Centre, Dukes Meadow Road. Existing polling station suitable for use.
GHW3	Wigmore Library, 208 Fairview Avenue, Gillingham, ME8 0PX	3348	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main library, Wigmore Library, 208 Fairview Avenue. Existing polling station is suitable for use.

WARD NAME: HOO ST WERBURGH & HIGH HALSTOW

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RHH1	High Halstow Recreation Hall, The Street, High Halstow, ME3 8SQ	1753	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main hall, High Halstow Recreation Hall, The Street, High Halstow. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RHH2	Hoo Village Institute, Main Road, Hoo, Rochester ME3 9AA	3681	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main bar area, Hoo Village Institute, Main Road, Hoo, Rochester. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RHH3	Hoo Ness Yacht Club, Hoo Marina, Vicarage Lane, ME3 9TW	725	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main bar area, Hoo Ness Yacht Club, Hoo Marina, Vicarage Lane. Existing polling station is suitable for use. Temporary ramps will be provided.
RHH4	Hoo Village Hall, Pottery Road, ME3 9BS	3289	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the Hoo Village Hall, Pottery Road. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RHH5	Chattenden Community Centre, Swinton Ave, ME3 8PH	1879	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main (large) hall at Chattenden Community Centre, Swinton Ave. Existing polling station is suitable for use.

WARD NAME: LORDSWOOD & WALDESLADE

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
CLOW1	St David's Church, off Newton Close, ME5 8TR	3601	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is at St David's Church Hall, off Newton Close. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
CLOW2	Lordswood School, Lordswood Lane, ME5 8NN	4056	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main hall at Lordswood School, Lordswood Lane. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
CLOW3	St William's Church, Walderslade Village, ME5 9LR	4274	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main hall at St William's Church, Walderslade Village. Existing polling station is suitable for use.

WARD NAME: LUTON

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
CLUT1	Goodly Speak Church, 2C Luton Road, ME4 5AA	2284	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the ground floor worship area at Goodly Speak Church, 2C Luton Road. Site visit confirms building is suitable as a polling station although note that there is no on-street parking. A temporary ramp will be provided
CLUT2	Christ Church, Luton Road, ME4 5BH	3221	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in main worship area at Christ Church, Luton Road, Has been used as a polling station previously and suitable for use. A temporary ramp will be provided.
CLUT3	Luton Library, Nelson Terrace, Chatham, ME5 7LA	745	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in main library area, Luton Library, Nelson Terrace, Chatham. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
CLUT4	Community Centre, Stonecross Lea, ME5 0BQ	1157	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main hall at Community Centre, Stonecross Lea. Existing polling station is suitable for use

WARD NAME: PRINCES PARK

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
CPP1	Church of Christ the King, Dove Close, ME5 7PX	3243	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the large hall at Church of Christ the King, Dove Close. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
CPP2	Maundene School, Swallow Rise, ME5 7QB	3851	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main hall at Maundene School, Swallow Rise. Existing polling station is suitable for use. Temporary ramps will be provided.

WARD NAME: RAINHAM NORTH

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
GRN1	Riverside Country Park, Lower Rainham Road, ME7 2XH	533	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the Visitor Centre at Riverside Country Park, Lower Rainham Road. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
GRN2	The Oasts, Granary Close, Rainham, ME8 7SG	2898	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in Wakeley Hall at The Oasts, Granary Close, Rainham. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
GRN3	Leigh Academy, Rainham, Otterham Quay Lane, ME8 8LU	4546	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the Sports Hall at Leigh Academy, Rainham, Otterham Quay Lane. Site visit confirms building is suitable as polling station.
GRN4	Rainham Library, Birling Avenue, ME8 7LR	3737	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main library area at Rainham Library, Birling Avenue. Existing polling station is suitable for use.

WARD NAME: RAINHAM SOUTH EAST

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
GRSE1	United Services Club, 171 High Street, Rainham, ME8 8AY	2114	In the absence of a suitable polling place within the polling district, it is proposed to designate a polling place in an adjoining polling district and in an adjoining ward. Otherwise the polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Proposes polling station is in the bar area at the United Services Club, 171 High Street as there is no suitable building identified within the polling district of ward. Existing polling station is suitable for use. A temporary ramp will be provided.
GRSE2	St Paul's Church, Parkwood Green, ME8 9PP	5009	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main worship area at St Paul's Church, Parkwood Green. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
GRSE3	Rivermead Inclusive Trust, Triple R building, Long Catlis Road, ME8 9TX	4253	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main hall at Rivermead Inclusive Trust, Triple R building, Long Catlis Road. Existing polling station is suitable for use.

WARD NAME: RAINHAM SOUTH WEST

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
GRSW1	Wigmore Evangelical Free Church, Durham Road, ME8 0AL	3652	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the hall at Wigmore Evangelical Free Church, Durham Road. Existing polling station is suitable for use. Temporary ramp will be provided.
GRSW2	St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase, ME8 9BH	4334	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the Callaway Room at St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Gatekeeper Chase. Level access via Gatekeeper Chase only. Lift or stairs to first floor. Existing polling station is suitable for use.

WARD NAME: ROCHESTER EAST & WARREN WOOD

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RREW1	St Peter's Parish Centre, Delce Road, ME1 2EH	3639	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main hall at St Peter's Parish Centre, Delce Road. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RREW2	St Justus Church, The Fairway, ME1 2LT	3869	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in main worship area at St Justus Church, The Fairway. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RREW3	St Luke's Methodist Church, City Way, ME1 2BQ	2676	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main worship area at St Luke's Methodist Church, City Way. Existing polling station is suitable for use.

WARD NAME: ROCHESTER WEST & BORSTAL

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RRWB1	Countryside Partnerships Marketing Suite, Parkside Quarter, Rochester Riverside Development, Corys Road, ME1 1PZ	1079	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the Countryside Partnerships Marketing Suite, Parkside Quarter, Rochester Riverside Development, Corys Road.
RRWB2	The Hope Centre, 336-338 High Street, Rochester, ME1 1BT	543	In the absence of a suitable building within the polling district it is proposed to designate a polling place that is located in an adjoining Ward and polling district. Otherwise the polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main worship area at The Hope Centre, 336-338 High Street, Rochester in the absence of a suitable building within the polling district or Ward. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RRWB3	The Institute adjacent to Rochester Baptist Church, Crow Lane, ME1 1RF	1161	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main hall at The Institute adjacent to Rochester Baptist Church, Crow Lane. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RRWB4	St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Road, Rochester, ME1 1UJ	2522	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main worship area at St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Road, Rochester. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RRWB5	St John Fisher Parish Hall, corner of Canon Close/Maidstone Road, ME1 3EN	2181	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the hall at St John Fisher Parish Hall, corner of Canon Close/Maidstone Road. Existing polling station suitable for use.
RRWB6	Borstal Village Hall, Wouldham Road, ME1 3JY	2521	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main hall at Borstal Village Hall, Wouldham Road. Existing polling station suitable for use.

WARD NAME: ST MARY'S ISLAND

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RSM1	St Mary's Island Community Centre, Island Way West, ME4 3EP	3393	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria.	Propose polling station is in the main hall at St Mary's Island Community Centre, Island Way West. Existing polling station is suitable for use.

WARD NAME: STROOD NORTH & FRINDSBURY

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RSNF1	English Martyrs Community Hall, Frindsbury Road, ME2 4JA	3017	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in the main hall at English Martyrs Community Hall, Frindsbury Road. Site visit confirms building is suitable as a polling station although note that there is limited on-street parking.
RSNF2	St Nicholas Church, High Street, Strood, ME2 4TR	991	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in the Lower hall at St Nicholas Church, High Street, Strood. Car park via Gun Lane and Edward Street at rear
RSNF3	Strood Gospel Mission, 78 Brompton Lane, ME2 3BQ	3703	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in main worship area at Strood Gospel Mission, 78 Brompton Lane . Site visit confirms building is suitable as a polling station although note there is limited on-street parking.
RSNF4	Waterford Evangelical Church, 101 Rede Court Road, ME2 3TE	3617	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in upper hall at Waterford Evangelical Church, 101 Rede Court Road. Site visit confirms building is suitable as a polling station although note access to be via side doors into upper hall.

WARD NAME: STROOD RURAL

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RSR1	Cliffe Memorial Hall, Church Street, Cliffe, ME3 7PX	2258	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in the main (large) hall at Cliffe Memorial Hall, Church Street, Cliffe. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RSR2	Cooling Parish Hall, Main Road, Cooling, ME3 8DG	172	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in the main hall at Cooling Parish Hall, Main Road, Cooling. Existing polling station is suitable for use although note that there is a large step up from the road onto pavement and grassed area leading to ramped access at side of building.
RSR3	Cliffe Woods Community Centre, Parkside, ME3 8HX	2712	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in the main hall at Cliffe Woods Community Centre, Parkside. Existing polling station suitable for use.
RSR4	Frindsbury Extra Memorial Hall, Holly Road, ME2 4LG	1574	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in the main hall at Frindsbury Extra Memorial Hall, Holly Road. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RSR5	Frindsbury Cricket Club, Upnor Road, ME2 4UX	671	In the absence of a suitable polling place within the polling district it is proposed to designate a polling place in an adjoining polling district. Otherwise, polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in the main area of Frindsbury Cricket Club, Upnor Road in the absence of a suitable building within the polling district. Existing polling station is suitable for use. A temporary ramp will be provided.
RSR6	Frindsbury Extra Memorial Hall, Holly Road, ME2 4LG	851	In the absence of a suitable polling place within the polling district it is proposed to designate a polling place in an adjoining polling district; otherwise the polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in the main hall at Frindsbury Extra Memorial Hall, Holly Road as no suitable building identified as polling station in polling district. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RSR7	Frindsbury Baptist Church, 12-14 Cooling Road, ME2 4RG	1324	In the absence of a suitable polling place within the polling district it is proposed to designate a polling place in an adjoining polling district; otherwise the polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in main worship area at Frindsbury Baptist Church, 12-14 Cooling Road as no suitable building identified as polling station in polling district. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RSR8	Frindsbury Baptist Church, 12-14 Cooling Road, ME2 4RG	1708	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in main worship area at Frindsbury Baptist Church, 12-14 Cooling Road. Existing polling station is suitable for use.

WARD NAME: STROOD WEST

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RSW1	St Francis of Assisi Church, Galahad Avenue, ME2 2YS	2674	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is at St Francis of Assisi Church Hall, Galahad Avenue. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RSW2	38 th and 40 th Strood Sea Scout Hall, Dart Close, off Darnley Road, ME2 2EH	1801	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is at the Scout Hall, Dart Close, off Darnley Road. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RSW3	Woodside Community Centre, Woodside Road, ME2 2LH	2697	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is at Woodside Community Centre, Woodside Road. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
RSW4	Bligh Infants School, Bligh Way, ME2 2XJ	3637	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in the main hall at Bligh Infants School, Bligh Way. Existing polling station is suitable for use. A temporary ramp will be provided.

WARD NAME: TWYDALL

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
GT1	Twydall Evangelical Church, 56-58 Goudhurst Road, ME8 6LQ	5049	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in main hall at Twydall Evangelical Church, 56-58 Goudhurst Road. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
GT2	Rainham Christian Fellowship, Waltham Road, ME8 6XE	2809	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in main worship area at Rainham Christian Fellowship, Waltham Road. Existing polling station is suitable for use.

WARD NAME: WATLING

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
GW1	Sports Centre, Academy of Woodlands, Woodlands Road, ME7 2DU	3096	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in main sports hall at Sports Centre, Academy of Woodlands, Woodlands Road. Site visit confirms building is suitable as a polling station.
GW2	Third Avenue Church & Community, 100 Third Avenue, ME7 2LU	2962	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in main foyer at Third Avenue Church & Community, 100 Third Avenue. Existing polling station suitable for use.
GW3	Gillingham Golf Club, Woodlands Road, ME7 2AP	1886	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in the Function Room at Gillingham Golf Club, Woodlands Road. Site visit confirms building is suitable as a polling station although note that function room is on first floor via lift or stairs.
GW4	Star Meadow Sports Club, Darland Avenue, ME7 3AN	3106	The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in the bar area at Star Meadow Sports Club, Darland Avenue. Existing polling station is suitable for use. Temporary ramp will be provided.

WARD NAME: WAYFIELD & WEEDS WOOD

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	2026 FORECAST ELECTORATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMENTS	RETURNING OFFICERS COMMENTS
RWW1	Wayfield School, Wayfield Road, Chatham, ME5 0HH	1	In the absence of a suitable polling place within the polling district or Parliamentary constituency, and the extremely low number of electors affected, it is proposed to designate a polling place in an adjoining polling district and parliamentary constituency; otherwise the polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose the polling station is in The Orchard Dance Studio, Wayfield School Site, Wayfield Road as there is no suitable building within the polling district or parliamentary constituency and the extremely low number of electors affected. Existing polling station is suitable for use.
CWW2	Wayfield School, Wayfield Road, Chatham, ME5 0HH	3939	Polling district comprises area within Chatham & Aylesford Parliamentary constituency. The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose the polling station is in The Orchard Dance Studio, Wayfield School Site, Wayfield Road, Chatham. Existing polling station is suitable for use. A temporary ramp will be provided.
RWW3	Emmanuel Community Church, Silverweed Road, ME5 0UD	55	In the absence of a suitable polling place within the polling district and the small number of electors, it is proposed to designate a polling place in an adjoining polling district and parliamentary constituency. Otherwise the polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in the main worship area at Emmanuel Community Church, Silverweed Road as there is no suitable building within the polling district and a small number of electors. Site visit confirms building is suitable as a polling station.
CWW4	Emmanuel Community Church, Silverweed Road, ME5 0UD	3594	Polling district comprises area within Chatham & Aylesford Parliamentary constituency. The polling district and polling place meet the criteria	Propose polling station is in the main worship area at Emmanuel Community Church, Silverweed Road. Site visit confirms building is suitable as a polling station.