

## COUNCIL

27 SEPTEMBER 2007

### QUADRENNIAL REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Report of Andrew Tiffin – Elections & Registration Service Manager

Councillor Ambler - Cabinet Member for Support Services

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To approve the findings and recommendations following a review of polling districts and polling places.

#### 2. OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. That Council resolve to adopt the changes proposed in the schedule of polling districts and places attached at Appendix A. The main changes are the amalgamation of six polling districts to simplify election administration, alteration of prefix letters to reflect new parliamentary constituencies, and the introduction of a provision to allow the Returning Officer to locate polling stations in adjacent polling places in emergency situations.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The 1983 Representation of the People Act section 18, as amended by the 2006 Electoral Administration Act requires that Council review the polling districts and polling places within the District before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 and every four years after that date. Council are expected to consult with interested parties and the public when undertaking the review.
- 3.2. Polling districts are the areas created by the subdivision of a constituency into smaller parts, within which a polling place can be determined which is convenient to electors. It is the smallest administrative unit of electoral area, and cannot be divided by a ward, division or constituency.
- 3.3. Polling places are the areas in which the Returning Officer must select polling stations on the occasion of an election.
- 3.4. Polling stations are the buildings where polling takes place. The selection of which is wholly at the discretion of the Returning Officer. Their location is always under review to ensure that they meet the needs of all sections of the community. Their location does not form part of this review.
- 3.5. This current review of polling districts and places commenced on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2007 and initial proposals were circulated to political parties and other bodies for their comments. The review was also publicised on notice boards and by a link on the Hart web site. The public consultation period ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007.
- 3.6. The Returning Officer for the North East Hampshire constituency was asked for his views for the whole area of Hart District. The Returning Officer for the Aldershot

constituency was also asked for his views in respect of the polling places and districts that form part of the Aldershot constituency but that are within the Hart District boundary. The view of the Hart Returning Officer forms the basis of the proposals to be adopted and listed in Appendix A.

3.7. No other proposals for change were made by any body or individual during the consultation.

3.8. Democratic Structures Working Group (DSWG) reviewed the proposals made by the Hart District Returning Officer at their meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2007, and subject to some points of clarification, recommend that his proposals be adopted.

#### **4. ISSUES CONSIDERED WITHIN THE REVIEW**

4.1. The Boundary Commission's fifth general review of constituency boundaries has been laid before Parliament and became law on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007. The boundaries for North East Hampshire and Aldershot constituencies have been changed with effect from the next General Election and the electoral register to be published on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007 needs to reflect this change.

4.2. The polling districts of Yateley East, Yateley West and Fleet North Ancells will move from the Aldershot constituency to the North East Hampshire constituency and their identifying prefix letters are to change accordingly.

4.3. In December 2004 the Boundary Committee for England and Wales undertook a review of County boundaries resulting in a change to County divisions. This change left a number of polling districts that had been split between the previous County divisions but became wholly within a division following the review. The split is therefore no longer necessary and will be removed on publication of the new register on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007.

4.4. The opportunity of this review has also been used to examine the current polling districts and consider if any changes are required. None have been recommended.

4.5. The opportunity has been taken to widen the Returning Officer's choice for the location of a polling station to include polling places in adjacent polling districts in exceptional circumstances. This is because there may be instances where an urgent decision is required and it is impractical to seek Council approval for an amended schedule of polling places just before an election. This change ensures the Returning Officer is still able to run a legally compliant election in the event of the loss of all premises within a polling district.

#### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1. Council has a statutory duty to undertake the review and make a decision before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007. In practical terms the review must be approved by the 20<sup>th</sup> November so that the changes can be incorporated in the new electoral register to be published on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. There are no financial implications with regard to adoption of the current proposals.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

7.1. That the schedule of polling districts and places detailed in Appendix A of this report be approved.

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Background Papers:

Appendix A: Returning Officer's proposals for changes to polling districts and places.

## APPENDIX A

## EXISTING POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES - APPROVED BY COUNCIL 24 Feb 2005

EXISTING POLLING DISTRICT NAME	CURRENT PREFIX LETTERS	EXISTING LOCATION OF POLLING PLACE
Minley	PC	Whole of Minley polling district
Blackwater	PD	Whole of Blackwater polling district
Frogmore & Darby Green	PE	Whole of Frogmore & Darby Green polling district
Fleet West (Part)	QA1	Whole of Fleet West Ward and the area of Fleet Central polling district Containing the Library, Harlington Centre and Civic Offices
Fleet West (Part)	QA2	Whole of Fleet West Ward and the area of Fleet Central polling district Containing the Library, Harlington Centre and Civic Offices
Fleet North, Elvetham Heath	QB1	Whole of Fleet North - Elvetham Heath polling district
Fleet North, Ancells	QB2	Whole of the polling districts of Fleet North Ancells & Ancells
Ancells	PA	Whole of Ancells polling district
Fleet Central	QC	Whole of Fleet Central polling district
Church Crookham West (Part)	QD1	Whole of Church Crookham West (ALL) polling district and the area of Church Crookham East at the Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bowenhurst Rd
Church Crookham West (Part)	QD2	Whole of Church Crookham West (ALL) polling district and the area of Church Crookham East at the Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bowenhurst Rd
Church Crookham East	QE	Whole of Church Crookham East Ward
Fleet Courtmoor	QF	Whole of Fleet Courtmoor polling district
Fleet Pondtail	QG	Whole of Fleet Pondtail polling district
Crondall	QH	Whole of Crondall polling district
Ewshot	QJ	Whole of Ewshot polling district
Crookham Village	QK1	Whole of Crookham Village polling district
Zebon	QK2	Whole of Zebon polling district and the area of Crookham Village surrounding the Velmead Community Centre
Netherhouse	QK3	Whole of Netherhouse polling district and the area of Fleet Central containing the Library, Civic Offices and Harlington Centre
Winchfield	QL	Whole of Winchfield polling district
Dogmersfield	QM	Whole of Dogmersfield polling district
Odiham	QN1	Whole of Odiham polling district
North Warnborough	QN2	Whole of North Warnborough polling district
RAF Station	QN3	Whole of RAF Station polling district
Long Sutton	QP	Whole of Long Sutton polling district
Yateley West	PH	Whole of Yateley West polling district
Yateley East	PF	Whole of Yateley East polling district
Yateley North (Part)	PG1	Whole of Yateley North polling district
Yateley North (Part)	PG2	Whole of Yateley North polling district
South Warnborough	QR	Whole of South Warnborough polling district
Greywell	QS	Whole of Greywell polling district
Hartley Wintney	QT1	Whole of Hartley Wintney polling district
Elvetham	QT2	Whole of Hartley Wintney polling district
Heckfield	QU	Whole of Heckfield polling district
Eversley	QV	Whole of Eversley polling district
Bramshill	QW	Whole of Bramshill polling district
Mattingley	QX	Whole of Mattingley polling district
Rotherwick	QY	Whole of Rotherwick polling district
Hook	QZ	Whole of Hook polling district

## RETURNING OFFICER'S PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT NAME	PROPOSED PREFIX LETTERS	PROPOSED EXTENT OF THE POLLING PLACE*	EXPLANATION FOR ANY CHANGES OR REASONS WHY A POLLING PLACE IS OUTSIDE OF THE POLLING DISTRICT
Minley	PC	Whole of Minley polling district	
Blackwater	PD	Whole of Blackwater polling district	
Frogmore & Darby Green	PE	Whole of Frogmore & Darby Green polling district	
Fleet West	QA	Whole of Fleet West (QA) polling district and the area of Fleet Central (QC) polling district containing the Library, Harlington Centre and Civic Offices	The polling place extends outside the polling district due to the difficulties in obtaining suitable accommodation within the polling district
Fleet West (part)	Merged into QA	Merged into QA	Administrative convenience, the split originated from earlier division/ward boundaries and is no longer required
Fleet North, Elvetham Heath	QB1	Whole of Fleet North - Elvetham Heath polling district	
Fleet North, Ancells	QB2	Whole of the Fleet North Ancells & Ancells (QB3) polling districts	
Ancells	QB3	Whole of Ancells polling district	Identifying letters changed to reflect the new Parliamentary Constituency & to align prefix letters with rest of Fleet North Ward
Fleet Central	QC	Whole of Fleet Central polling district	
Church Crookham West	QD	Whole of Church Crookham West polling district and the area of Church Crookham East (QE) polling district at the Holy Trinity Church Hall Bowenhurst Rd	
Church Crookham West (part)	merged into QD	merged into QD	Administrative convenience, the split originated from earlier division/ward boundaries and is no longer required
Church Crookham East	QE	Whole of Church Crookham East polling district	
Fleet Courtmoor	QF	Whole of Fleet Courtmoor polling district	
Fleet Pondtail	QG	Whole of Fleet Pondtail polling district	
Cron dall	QH	Whole of Cron dall polling district	
Ewshot	QJ	Whole of Ewshot polling district	
Crookham Village	QK1	Whole of Crookham Village polling district	
Zebon	QK2	Whole of Zebon polling district and the area of Crookham Village polling district (QK1) surrounding the Velmead Community Centre	
Netherhouse	QK3	Whole of Fleet West (QA) and Netherhouse polling districts and the area of Fleet Central (QC) polling district containing the Library, Harlington Centre and Civic Offices	Allows the RO to select a polling station within Fleet West if premises become available in the future.
Winchfield	QL	Whole of Winchfield polling district	
Dogmersfield	QM	Whole of Dogmersfield polling district	
Odiham	QN1	Whole of Odiham polling district	
North Warnborough	QN2	Whole of North Warnborough polling district	
RAF Station	QN3	Whole of RAF Station polling district	
Long Sutton	QP	Whole of Long Sutton polling district	
Yateley West	QQ1	Whole of Yateley West polling district	Identifying letters changed to reflect the new Parliamentary Constituency & to align identifying letters with rest of Yateley Town Council
Yateley East	QQ2	Whole of Yateley East polling district	Identifying letters changed to reflect the new Parliamentary Constituency & to align identifying letters with rest of Yateley Town Council
Yateley North	QQ3	Whole of Yateley North polling district	Identifying letters changed to reflect the new Parliamentary Constituency & to align identifying letters with rest of Yateley Town Council
Yateley North (part)	merged into QQ3	merged into QQ3	Administrative convenience, the split originated from earlier division/ward boundaries and is no longer required
South Warnborough	QR	Whole of South Warnborough polling district	
Greywell	QS	Whole of Greywell polling district	
Hartley Wintney	QT1	Whole of Hartley Wintney polling district	
Elvetham	QT2	Whole of Elvetham and whole of Hartley Wintney (QT1) polling district	The polling place extends outside the polling district due to the difficulties in obtaining suitable accommodation within the polling district
Heckfield	QU	Whole of Heckfield polling district	
Eversley	QV	Whole of Eversley polling district	
Bramshill	QW	Whole of Bramshill polling district	
Mattingley	QX	Whole of Mattingley polling district	
Rotherwick	QY	Whole of Rotherwick polling district	
Hook	QZ	Whole of Hook polling district	

\*In each polling district the Returning Officer can extend the polling place into any adjacent polling district where there is insufficient time to return to Council and request an alteration to the above schedule. This flexibility is to accommodate exceptional circumstances, for example; the loss of premises due to fire, health & safety issues or natural disasters.