

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Terms of Reference for the Review of polling districts and polling stations**

**Designation of polling districts:** As per s18A of the 1983 Representation of the People Act

- The Hart District area must be divided into polling districts.
- Each polling district must offer reasonable facilities for voting for the all its electors, as far as is practicable in the circumstances.
- Each Parish ward, or if the Parish is un-warded the whole Parish, must be a polling district.

**Designation of polling places:** As per s18B of the 1983 Representation of the People Act

- The authority must seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency within its area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- Polling places must contain buildings that are suitable for use as polling Stations by all sections of the community.
- The authority must be mindful of the range of buildings contained within the polling place and ensure that within them there is appropriate access for disabled voters.
- Polling places must be located in an area of the corresponding polling district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area that is wholly or partly outside of the polling district.
- Polling places must not be so large that it is not clear to electors how they will be able to gain access to the polling station.

### **Glossary of Terms**

#### **Parish Ward**

The smallest political unit of third tier local government. Parish wards in some instances combine to make Parishes. Parishes and Parish wards are not part of this review and you cannot make suggestions about changes to them as part of this review.

#### **District Ward**

The smallest political unit of second tier local government. District wards are combined to make the District Council area. Districts wards are not part of this review and you cannot make suggestions about changes to them as part of this review.

**A polling district**

This is a geographical sub-division of a district ward, Parish or Parish ward. It is the smallest administrative unit of electoral area. Polling districts cannot include more than one of either; a Parish ward, a Parish or a District ward, whichever is the smaller. You can make suggestions about changes to polling districts as part of this review. For example if you feel that part of a polling district is ill served by the current structure you could suggest splitting the polling district up into smaller parts. This would mean that the Returning Officer would have to provide a polling station in the new smaller districts. You could also suggest that districts could be merged.

**A polling place**

This is a geographical area that is normally wholly contained within a polling district. A polling station for a particular district must be situated within a polling place. You can make suggestions about changes to polling places as part of this review. There cannot be more than one polling place for each polling district.

**A polling station**

This is the room in which electors vote at the time of an election. This review is not concerned with the location of polling Stations. The location of polling stations remains at the sole discretion of the Returning Officer.