

## **LIMITED SCOPE REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES**

### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To report on the outcome of the limited scope review of Polling Districts and Places that ran for six weeks from 12 November to 21 December 2018.

### **2 Recommendations**

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| 2.1 That the responses received during the consultation be noted and the schedule of changes be supported. |
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### **3 Supporting information**

#### **Compulsory Reviews**

- 3.1 As previously reported, the arrangements for compulsory reviews of Polling Districts and Places are set out in Section 18C(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983). Local authorities must carry out and complete a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in the period specified by section 18C(2)(a) of the RPA 1983.
- 3.2 The timetable for compulsory reviews is based upon fixed term parliaments and scheduled so that reviews would usually complete ahead of the next parliamentary election (2015, 2020 etc). However, because of the unscheduled 2017 poll, the logical sequence has been thrown out. Nevertheless, guidance was issued by the Electoral Commission in January 2018, indicating that the timing of the next compulsory review is unchanged and must be started and completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020.

#### **Limited Scope Review 2018**

- 3.3 Following this Committee's authority to undertake the limited scope review, various interested parties were contacted to advise of the proposed changes. These included the local parishes, local members, group leaders, local political parties and access groups (Buckinghamshire Disability Service and Wheelpower). The review was also advertised on AVDC's website and office noticeboard.
- 3.4 Four responses were received during the consultation period and are attached as appendices: two from parishes and two from members.
- 3.5 The members supported the proposed changes. Buckingham Town Council's comments were beyond the scope of the review, however the Lace Hill Community Centre will be recorded as a potential polling station in future. It is also worth noting that 346 electors currently voting at Buckingham Community Centre will be voting in Maids Moreton in future which should alleviate concerns in the short-medium term.
- 3.6 Chilton Parish Council's suggestion of using Chilton Residential Care Home will be investigated further with an inspection by officers. At the time of publication, liaison was ongoing to arrange this inspection. A verbal update will be provided on the outcome of this at the meeting.
- 3.7 The use of Ewe Barn at Grove Farm as a polling station in Ivinghoe Aston during the Ivinghoe Neighbourhood Plan Referendum on 6 December 2018 was deemed suitable by officers and the station's Presiding Officer. No complaints were received regarding this station so in the spirit of keeping the

station local it is proposed Ewe Barn be the polling station for electors in Ivinghoe Aston.

- 3.8 No further issues or concerns were raised beyond the original proposed schedule of changes.

#### **4 Options considered**

- 4.1 The volume of temporary changes to Polling Stations from 2017 that require fixing means that there is no reason not to proceed. Not making necessary changes would lead to the continuation of issues highlighted in the schedule of changes. Given that local solutions are available then then it would be prudent to adopt the proposed polling stations.

#### **5 Resource implications**

- 5.1 The changes can be delivered within existing resources. There are therefore no resource implications.

Contact Officer

Background Documents

Chris Ward 01296 585807

- [Electoral Commission guidance on Polling Place/Station Reviews](#)
- [Electoral Commission Circular re timing of next compulsory review](#)
- [AVDC Community Governance Review 2018](#)
- [Parliamentary Boundary Review 2018](#)

## Responses Received:

Chris,

Happy to confirm that from my point of view, the established polling stations at Aston Abbots, Wingrave, Mentmore and Slapton remain suitable locations for the 2019 (2020) election. I have copied this to those Parish Councils so that they can comment if they wish.

Peter

**Cllr Peter Cooper**

**Aylesbury Vale District Council**

**Wingrave Ward**

**Tel 01296 681250**

**Mobile 07860 258833**

*Representing the people of Aston Abbots,  
Crafton, Grove, Horton, Ledburn, Mentmore,  
Slapton, Rowsham, Wingrave*

Chris

I support the use of Maids Moreton hall for the Highlands & Watchcroft area of Buckingham instead of the Cornwall's centre. I suggested this when H&W was originally transferred to Maids Moreton ward as it is much more convenient for these residents and would like to see it become a permanent arrangement.

Tim Mills

Buckingham N Ward

Sent from my iPad

Hi Chris,

The suggested changes don't include any amendments to the arrangements for Buckingham. Given the growth of the Lace Hill estate, and the pending growth at the Tingewick Triangle, would it be possible to create a new polling station at the Lace Hill Community Centre? Is there an automatic process to accommodate growth?

Kind regards,

Paul

Paul Hodson

Town Clerk

Buckingham Town Council

01280 816426

*Good morning Chris,*

*We have a response to the Notice of Review for Polling Stations for Chilton*

*I was unsure where to send our response and trust you can forward it to the appropriate location?*

*If you need me to direct this elsewhere please advise.*

*The issue was notified to all residents via our notice board and Website and also included as an agenda item at the Parish council meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December*

*The response from residents generally is that the proposed location of Ashfold School is too far from the village and would require transport to be organised for a number of residents.*

*The owners of Chilton House, Residential Care Home), have kindly offered to facilitate the polling requirements in the public areas of the Chilton House.*

*I presume an inspection would be required to assess its suitability? If so please contact me in the first instance and I will make arrangements with the owners for a mutually convenient time.*

*I look forward to your early response, ahead of the published deadline of 21<sup>st</sup> December*

*Many thanks*

Regards

**Stuart Misseldine**  
**CLERK to Chilton Parish Council**

## **Appendix 1 – Indicative timetable**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicative date</b>	<b>Details</b>
Contact – with all Polling Station locations	17 August 2018	Deadline for responses from locations/key holders
Notice of Review published	12 November 2018	Publish Notice of Review of Polling Stations and Polling Districts
Consultation	6 weeks period 12 November to 21 December 2018	Consultation with statutory groups, the public and Acting Returning Officer
Final Recommendations published on the GP agenda	10 January 2019	Submissions considered and final recommendations produced following General Purposes Committee
General Purposes Committee	21 January 2019	Consideration of final recommendations to Council
Final Recommendations are published and decision by Council	27 February 2019	The Council meet to consider the Final Recommendations and decide on the extent to which the Council will give effect to them.

### Review of Polling Districts/Places (limited scope) 2018

Part 1 - Issues identified and fixed at May/June 2018 elections

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Usual Polling Station</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Station</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>BFA Whitchurch &amp; BBY Creslow</b> (electors – 762)	The Legion Hall, Oving Road, Whitchurch, HP22 4JF.	Lack of parking, poor pedestrian access.	St John's Hall, White Horse Lane, Whitchurch, HP22 4JZ	Newly built hall with modern facilities, level access, improved vehicular access and sufficient parking. Used in May and June 2017 without issue.
<b>AAI Hawkslade &amp; AAS Walton Court</b> (electors – 3124)	Ashmead Combined School, Cole Road, Aylesbury, HP21 8SU	Use of school requires closure on polling day.	Walton Court Community Centre, Hannon Road, Walton Court, HP21 8TJ	Revert to usual arrangements (previously unavailable because significant works to Walton Court Centre). The Centre has been recently refurbished, has modern facilities and level access. Parking arrangements unchanged. Used in May and June 2017 without issue.
<b>BDP &amp; BET Upper /Nether Winchendon</b> (electors – 206)	The Reading Room, Main Road, Upper Winchendon Social Club, HP18 0EH	Building has been condemned. Long term future unknown.	St Nicholas Parish Church, Barrack Hill, Nether Winchendon , HP18 0DY	No viable alternatives in Upper Winchendon – previous location (prior to 2015 review) was a caravan outside the church at Nether Winchendon. Used in May and June 2017 without issue.
<b>BBX Chilton</b> (electors – 232)	The Poachers Pocket, Thame Road, Chilton, HP18 9LR	Building has been condemned. Long term future unknown.	Ashfold School Dorton.	The Poachers Pocket has been condemned and it is not possible to site a temporary station in the grounds because of the uncertainty around the site. The Barn at Chilton, which was used in 2017, is also no longer available. A temporary station would have been the only viable option to retain a polling station in the Parish. However, there is no location where a caravan could be safely sited. The only alternative therefore would be to move these electors to vote at Ashfold School (Dorton) – which is a journey by road of 2 miles.

<b>BBO Buckingham - Highlands &amp; Watchcroft</b> (346 electors)	Buckingham Community Centre, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham, MK18 1RP	Maids Moreton is more convenient and closer for these electors.	Maids Moreton Village Hall, Main Sreet, Maids Moreton, MK18 1QS	Is geographically closer and more convenient for electors living on this estate. Level access. Used in June 2017 without issue.
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Part 2 - Issues subsequently identified

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Usual Polling Station</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Station</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>ABC Stoke Mandeville - Stoke Leys</b> (473 electors)	BCC Sports & Social Club, Lower Rd, Stoke Mandeville, HP21 9DR	Uncertainty as to future use given closure by BCC.	Hawkslade Community Centre, Orwell Drive, Aylesbury, HP21 9UE	Bucks CC are unable to provide any indication to future availability of the building and are unwilling for a temporary Polling Station to be sited in the grounds. There are no other viable alternatives within the Polling District and Hawkslade CC is the closest by road and on foot (although it does require electors to cross the railway line). Hawkslade CC currently serves circa 1400 electors and has the capacity to serve two polling stations and the additional electorate. We have asked the County Council to allow the use of the BCC sports and social club on a one off basis but they are not receptive to this.
<b>BBJ Berton</b> (electors 1671)	Jubilee Hall, Aylesbury Road, Berton, HP22 5DL	Kingsbrook Development and increase in electors, puts pressure on existing arrangements	Berton Sports Centre, Recreation Ground, Burcott Lane, HP22 5AS	The existing Polling District (BBJ) is likely to be split, as a consequence of a Community Governance Review. Electors from Kingsbrook & Broughton would ideally vote at Kingsbrook (The Dalby Community Building) with the remaining electors voting at Jubilee Hall (as now). However, There is some doubt as to the availability of the Community Centre as a preferred bidder has not been agreed to manage the facility as yet. It was thought that an alternative would be to use the facilities at Aylesbury Canal Society (Provis Wharf). However, the Society have stated that they are unwilling to make their premises available. An approach was therefore made to the secretary of the Berton Sports Centre about the

				<p>possibility of using that as a polling station for residents of Kingsbrook. It has been confirmed that this will be possible. The Sports Centre is ideally located for Kingsbrook residents. The new Community Centre may then be available in the future.</p>
<p><b>BCZ Ivinghoe Aston</b> (226 electors)</p>	<p>Ivinghoe Aston Village Hall, High Street, Ivinghoe Aston, LU7 9DH</p>	<p>Will cease to be run by Village Hall Committee after 31 March 2018. Unclear whether the lease will be taken by other groups.</p>	<p>Ewe Barn, Grove Farm, Ivinghoe Aston</p>	<p>The building is for sale and no longer being operated commercially, or available for hire. It was thought that it might be possible to site a temporary Polling Station in the grounds of the existing polling station, but this has been discounted by the site owners. There is no other location within the village suitable for a temporary polling station. The next option would be to use the Polling Station in Ivinghoe itself – a journey by car of less than 3 miles. However, there will be a Neighbourhood Plan Referendum in Ivinghoe Aston in early December and following a notification from a resident who owns a small meeting room as part of a farm holding (Ewe Barn, Grove Farm) it is proposed to use this location for the NPR and assess whether this would be suitable for other future elections.</p>