

LIMITED SCOPE REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES
Councillor Mrs A Macpherson
Chairman of the General Purposes Committee

1 Purpose

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

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That, as recommended by the General Purposes Committee, the following changes to Polling Districts/Polling Places be approved:-

Polling Districts	Proposed Polling Station
BFA Whitchurch & BBY Creslow (electors 762)	St John's Hall, White Horse Lane, Whitchurch, HP22 4 JZ
AAI Hawkslade & AAS Walton Court (electors 3124)	Walton Court Community Centre, Hannon Road, Walton Court, Aylesbury, HP21 8TJ
BDP & BET Upper/Nether Winchendon (electors 206)	St. Nicholas Parish Church, Barrack Hill, Nether Winchendon, HP18 ODY
BBX Chilton (electors 232)	Chilton House, Chilton, Bucks, HP19 8FF
BBO Buckingham – Highlands & Watchcroft (electors 346)	Maids Moreton Village Hall, Main Street, Maids Moreton, MK18 1QS
ABC Stoke Mandeville – Stoke Leys (electors 473)	Hawkslade Community Centre, Orwell Drive, Aylesbury, HP21 9UE
BBJ Bierton (electors 1671)	Bierton Sports Centre, Recreation Ground, Burcott lane, HP22 5AS
BCZ Ivinghoe Aston (electors 226)	Ewe Barn, Grove Farm, Ivinghoe Aston

3 Supporting information

Compulsory Reviews

- 3.1 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 approval given by the General Purposes Committee, a limited scope review was undertaken to rectify a number of issues identified during the Bucks County Council elections in 2017. These issues had arisen because either premises previously used as polling stations had become unsuitable because of their poor condition or had been closed altogether.
- 3.4 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. The General Purposes Committee, on 21 January, 2019, was advised of the outcome of the consultation as set out in the attached Committee report.
- 3.5 Four responses were received during the consultation period and are attached as appendices to the attached report: two from parishes and two from Members.
- 3.6 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 to medium term.
- 3.7 Chilton Parish Council's suggestion of using Chilton Residential Care Home was investigated by officers and the Committee was advised that this would be suitable as a polling station. This would avoid the need for parishioners to vote outside the village.
- 3.8 Ewe Barn at Grove Farm, Ivinghoe Aston was used as a polling station during the Ivinghoe Neighbourhood Plan Referendum on 6 December 2018. This location was considered to be suitable for future elections. No complaints were received regarding this station so in the spirit of keeping the station local the General Purposes Committee agreed that it Ewe Barn should be the polling station for electors in Ivinghoe Aston.
- 3.9 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 attached to the General Purposes Committee report. Given that local solutions are available the General Purposes Committee felt that it would be appropriate to adopt the polling stations listed in the recommendation to this report.

5 Resource implications

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

Contact Officer

Background Documents

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- [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](#)