

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 10 March 2022

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

ELECTIONS: INTERIM RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER AND REVIEW OF POLLING PLACE CHANGES 2022

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 In October 2018 Josie Wragg was appointed by the Council as Returning Officer (RO) and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO). She is currently unable to act so it is necessary for the Council to appoint a RO/ERO to administer these elections. Therefore, with immediate effect the appointment of Josie Wragg is rescinded and Angela Wakefield is appointed in her place.
- 1.2 To advise the Council of the outcome of the review of polling places in Chalvey and Elliman wards and to seek approval of the updated list of designated polling places set out at Appendix 1.

2. Recommendations

The Council is requested to

- a) Approve the appointment of Angela Wakefield as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer; and to
- b) Approve the designated polling stations set out at Appendix 1.

3. Commissioners' Comments

"These recommendations are essential to ensure well administered elections in Slough and are commended to Councillors."

4. The Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five-Year Plan

Effective, transparent, and equitable democratic and decision-making processes are an essential pre-requisite to the delivery of all the Council's priorities.

5. Other Implications

(a) Financial

There are no financial or risk management implications. The costs associated with the changes have been accommodated within existing budget. Listed are the existing cost and proposed new costs.

Existing Polling Places:	Existing Polling Place costs:	New Proposed Polling Places:	New Proposed Polling Place Costs:
Claycots School (Old Town Hall), Bath Road, Slough, SL1 3UQ	£100.00	Slough Ice Arena, Montem Lane, Slough, SL1 2QG	£956.25
Littledown School Hall, Queens Road, Slough, SL1 3QW	£105.00	The Salvation Army Hall, Stoke Road, Slough, SL2 5BW	£600.00
Portacabin – Borderside, Slough, SL2 5QS	£1094.00	Arbour Park Stoke Road, Slough, SL2 5AY	£124.60
Total Existing Cost:	£1299.00	New Proposed cost:	£1680.85

The cost of hiring the proposed polling places is £381.85 more than the cost of the polling places they will replace. However, implementing the changes would eliminate the use of a school and a portacabin. The increased cost of hiring the proposed polling places will be met from within the existing elections budget.

(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications associated with this report. The Review has been carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation and the recommendations within this report meet legal requirements. The proposals have no workforce implications.

6. **Supporting Information**

- 6.1 It is a statutory requirement for a local authority to keep all polling arrangements under review by the Returning Officer and to establish a polling place within each polling district wherever possible. These arrangements were last reviewed in 2018.

Polling Places

- 6.2 The authority must seek to ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable and that they are accessible to all electors, including any with disabilities.
- 6.3 The following principles apply:
- An aim to carry out a 'light touch' approach to look at alternative venues across the borough to provide a better service to electors by offering superior polling facilities, improved accessibility, and location for electors.
 - An aim for approximately 2,000/2,500 voters per polling district wherever possible.
 - An aim to reduce the number of porta cabins used as polling stations if possible.

Initial Consultation and Proposals – Making amendments to polling places outside of the compulsory review period and carrying out an interim review

- 6.4 The Electoral Services Manager is a designated Deputy Returning Officer. Under the Electoral Registration Administration Act 2013, the Deputy Returning Officer can consider whether another polling station could be designated within the polling place. Changing the polling station within a polling place would not require a review.
- 6.5 If a building becomes unavailable before an election, the polling place can be changed by the local authority in accordance with their decision-making arrangements. Between compulsory reviews, all polling places and polling stations used are kept under consideration, and an evaluation of their suitability carried out after each election. Changes to the listed polling places have been identified.
- 6.6 The council can carry out an interim review and change some of their polling districts and polling places before the end of the 5-year cycle.
- 6.7 Consultation with Chalvey and Elliman ward councillors started on the 22 October 2021 and the review was completed on the 7 January

2022. All ward councillors were contacted with the new proposed polling place changes.

6.8 We received responses from all ward councillors on the review.

Chalvey ward – Councillors Begum, Councillor Sharif and Councillor Sandu confirmed that they agreed on the proposal.

Elliman ward – Councillor Akram, Councillor Dhaliwal and Councillor Qaseem confirmed that they agreed on the proposals.

The Deputy Returning Officer advised Chalvey and Elliman ward councillors on the reason for the new proposals. The changes were put forward for review due to the changes temporarily implemented at the borough elections in 2021. Following consultation with ward councillors and inspection of premises to ensure that they were suitable for use for borough elections 2022, the Deputy Returning Officer has recommended the new proposals and most of the existing polling stations should remain unchanged.

6.9 The three proposed polling places which have been considered are listed and the reason for the proposed changes. Polling place Assessments of the suitability of the venues were carried out on the new proposals.

PD	Ward	Polling Place	Reason for change	New Proposal
CHA	Chalvey	Claycots School (Old Town Hall), Bath Road, Slough, SL1 3UQ	<p>The new proposed polling place is more accessible for electors. Parking is also available on site.</p> <p>No part of the school would need to close part and this will avoid disruption to the school day</p> <p>Accessibility is restricted at Claycots School as it is located on the main Bath Road and there is no parking availability.</p>	<p>Change: Slough Ice Arena, Montem Lane, Slough, SL1 2QG</p>

ELB	Elliman	Littledown School Hall, Queens Road, Slough, SL1 3QW	<p>The Salvation Army Hall has a large hall, with parking available on site. There is good access for electors.</p> <p>Littledown School would not be required to close part of the school. Parking is restricted.</p>	<p>Change: The Salvation Army Hall, Stoke Road, Slough, SL2 5BW</p>
ELC	Elliman	Portacabin – Borderside, Slough, SL2 5QS	<p>This will move the polling place to a stable building and allow more space for staff and electors.</p> <p>Arbour Park has a large room on the ground floor which has sufficient space. Accessibility is easy for electors and the venue has sufficient parking.</p>	<p>Change: Arbour Park Stoke Road, Slough, SL2 5AY</p>

6.10 A complete list of polling places is attached at Appendix 1.

Polling Districts

6.11 There are no proposals to change the boundary of any Polling district.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Polling Stations 2022

8. Background Papers

None.

Polling Stations 2022

<u>WARD</u>	<u>PS</u>	<u>PD</u>	<u>EXISTING POLLING STATION</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
BRITWELL & NORTHBOROUGH	1	BNA	BRITWELL HUB	NO CHANGE
BRITWELL & NORTHBOROUGH	2	BNB	CLAYCOTS SCHOOL	NO CHANGE
BRITWELL & NORTHBOROUGH	3	BNC	NORTHBOROUGH COMMUNITY HALL	NO CHANGE
BAYLIS & STOKE	4	BSA	MANOR PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE	NO CHANGE
BAYLIS & STOKE	5	BSB	SINGH SABHA SPORTS CENTRE	NO CHANGE
BAYLIS & STOKE	6	BSC	RAMGARHIA SIKH EDUCATION CENTRE	NO CHANGE
CENTRAL	7	CEA	ST PAUL'S CHURCH	NO CHANGE
CENTRAL	8	CEB	PORTACABIN, GOODMAN PARK	NO CHANGE
CENTRAL	9	CEC	ST MARY'S CHURCH	NO CHANGE
CIPPENHAM GREEN	10	CGA	CIPPENHAM BAPTIST CHURCH,	NO CHANGE
CIPPENHAM GREEN	11	CGB	CIPPENHAM CENTRAL HALL	NO CHANGE
CIPPENHAM GREEN	12	CGC	CIPPENHAM BRITISH LEGION CLUB,	NO CHANGE
CHALVEY	13	CHA	CLAYCOTS SCHOOL, (TOWN HALL)	SLOUGH ICE ARENA
CHALVEY	14	CHB	CHALVEY COMMUNITY CENTRE	NO CHANGE
CHALVEY	15	CHC	SLOUGH BOWLS CLUB,	NO CHANGE
CIPPENHAM MEADOWS	16	CMA	CIPPENHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE,	NO CHANGE

CIPPENHAM MEADOWS	17	CMB	WEEKES DRIVE COMMUNITY HALL,	NO CHANGE
CIPPENHAM MEADOWS	18	CMC	SHILOH PENTECOSTAL CHURCH,	NO CHANGE
COLNBROOK	19	CPA	WESTFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE	NO CHANGE
COLNBROOK	20	CPB	COLNBROOK VILLAGE HALL	NO CHANGE
COLNBROOK	21	CPC	PIPPINS SCHOOL	NO CHANGE
ELLIMAN	22	ELA	JAMES ELLIMAN ACADEMY	NO CHANGE
ELLIMAN	23	ELB	LITLEDOWN SCHOOL HALL	SALVATION ARMY HALL
ELLIMAN	24	ELC	PORTACABIN, BORDERSIDE	ARBOUR PARK
FARNHAM	25	FAA	ST ANTHONY'S RC CHURCH,	NO CHANGE
FARNHAM	26	FAB	FARADAY SOCIAL CLUB,	NO CHANGE
FARNHAM	27	FAC	METHODIST CHURCH,	NO CHANGE
FOXBOROUGH	28	FOX	HORSEMOOR GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE,	NO CHANGE
HAYMILL & LYNCH HILL	29	HLA	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS,	NO CHANGE
HAYMILL & LYNCH HILL	30	HLB	PORTACABIN, WHITTAKER ROAD	NO CHANGE
HAYMILL & LYNCH HILL	31	HLC	PRIMROSE HALL,	NO CHANGE
LANGLEY KEDERMISTER	32	LKA	KEDERMISTER HALL, KEDERMISTER PARK,	NO CHANGE
LANGLEY KEDERMISTER	33	LKB	LANGLEY FREE CHURCH,	NO CHANGE
LANGLEY KEDERMISTER	34	LKC	HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL,	NO CHANGE
LANGLEY ST MARY'S	35	LMA	ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL,	NO CHANGE

LANGLEY ST MARY'S	36	LMB	THE LANGLEY HERITAGE PRIMARY	NO CHANGE
LANGLEY ST MARY'S	37	LMC	LANGLEY LEISURE CENTRE	NO CHANGE
UPTON	38	UPA	ST BERNARD'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL	NO CHANGE
UPTON	39	UPB	UPTON SCOUT HUT,	NO CHANGE
UPTON	40	UPC	ST FRANCIS CHURCH,	NO CHANGE
WEXHAM LEA	41	WLA	WEXHAM COURT PARISH HALL,	NO CHANGE
WEXHAM LEA	42	WLB	PORTACABIN, THE CHERRIES	NO CHANGE
WEXHAM LEA	43	WLC	UPTON LEA COMMUNITY CENTRE,	NO CHANGE
WEXHAM LEA	44	WLD	PORTACABIN, ROCHFORDS GARDENS	NO CHANGE