

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>Interim Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<i>Acting Chief Executive</i>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<i>Kully Tumber, <a href="mailto:Kully.Tumber@southbucks.gov.uk">Kully.Tumber@southbucks.gov.uk</a>, 01895837227</i>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<i>Beaconsfield South, Beaconsfield North, and Iver Village and Richings Park</i>

## 1. Purpose of Report

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide the Council area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district and thereafter to keep these arrangements under review.

### RECOMMENDATION

The Council is **RECOMMENDED** to approve the proposed changes to the arrangements for polling districts and polling stations as detailed below.

## 2. Reasons for Recommendations

To confirm the changes in accordance with the 1983 Act.

### Content of Report

- 3.1 As the European Union Referendum was called at short notice it was not possible to book St Teresa's Church, Warwick Road, Beaconsfield, as they had an important prior commitment for 23 June. In the light of feedback received from last year's elections, the opportunity was also taken to review the polling places in the Beaconsfield and Iver areas to identify more accessible locations. In reference to Beaconsfield South electors had voted at the Royal British Legion, and following the closure in 2014 they voted at The Curzon Centre in 2015. The electors in Beaconsfield South found The Curzon Centre inconvenient, and requested a new location within Beaconsfield South Ward.
- 3.2 With regard to Iver, in 2015, the Council was advised the portacabin in Orchards Residential Park, Trenches Lane, Iver would no longer be available. The electors in 2015 voted at Harvey Memorial, which again was inconvenient. Following further negotiations with Tingdene the owners of the site, the portacabin can now be re-instated as a polling station.
- 3.3 Having regard to the above, the review contained the following proposed changes:
- A temporary change (for the European Union Referendum only) for Beaconsfield North from Teresa's Church to Community and Church Resource Centre (Behind St Michaels Church) Grenfell Road, Beaconsfield.
  - Two new polling stations to take effect for future elections
    - Beaconsfield South Ward - Girl Guide Hut, Malthouse Square,
    - Iver Village & Richings Park (The Orchards Parish Ward) - Orchards Residential Park.

**4 Consultation**

4.1 The Council published a notice of the current and proposed arrangements on 14 March and key stakeholders (including Parish Councils) and disability actions groups were invited to submit comments by 8 April 2016. In the event 3 representations were received (copies attached), all of which supported the proposals.

4.2 The views of the Returning Officer have been sought and he supports the proposed changes to the existing pattern of polling places.

**5. Options**

Given the absence of suitable venues in the Wards concerned the scope for exploring options was severely limited.

**6. Corporate Implications**

There are no resource implications attached to this proposal that will affect budgets.

The Council has a legal duty to designate polling places for each polling place and to keep those polling places under review. There would be a risk to the Council if it failed to keep to its statutory duty to carry out a review.

**7 Links to Council Policy Objectives**

The review links broadly to the effective governance theme of the Council Aim to deliver cost-effect, customer focused services through listening to and responding to our customers.

**8. Next Step**

The electorate affected by the changes will be informed accordingly through their poll cards and information will also be available on the Council's website.

<b>Background Papers:</b>	Polling District and Polling Places Notice/Guidance
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