

## Council

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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>Interim Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Chief Executive</i>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<i>Kully Tumber, <a href="mailto:Kully.Tumber@southbucks.gov.uk">Kully.Tumber@southbucks.gov.uk</a>, 01895 837225</i>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<i>Beaconsfield West, Burnham Church and Beeches</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 the polling station for Beaconsfield West Ward from Holtspur Youth Club to The Beacon Sports Centre and Theatre, Holtspur Way, HP0 1RJ

### 2. Reasons for Recommendations

To confirm the changes in accordance with the 1983 Act.

#### Content of Report

- 3.1 The Holtspur Youth Centre has historically been used as the polling station for the Beaconsfield West Ward. The electorate for this ward prior to the changes to the district ward boundaries in 2015 was approximately 2,500. The Holtspur Youth Centre, which is quite a small venue was adequate for election purposes at this time. However the electorate under the new ward boundary for Beaconsfield West is now approximately 4,000, much higher than it was previously.
- 3.2 It was highlighted at the last elections that the Holtspur Youth Centre is no longer suitable as there is limited car parking spaces and additionally logistically is too small to accommodate the increase in electorate. The Beacon Sports Centre, Holtspur Way, is therefore being recommended as a new polling station for this ward as this venue has more car parking capacity and a larger hall which can accommodate the increase.
- 3.3 The Beacon Sports Centre is in close proximity to the Holtspur Youth Centre and therefore should not cause any inconvenience to the elector. The feedback from the consultation was all positive in regard to this change.
- 3.4 The opportunity was taken to consider an additional polling station at Burnham Football Club for the Burnham Church and Beeches Ward. The results of the consultation highlighted concerns regarding car parking capacity and disabled access. Due to these concerns, Burnham Football Club is no longer being considered as an additional polling station for this ward.

### 4 Consultation

- 4.1 The Council published a notice of the current and proposed arrangements on 3 January 2017 and key stakeholders (including Parish Councils) and disability actions groups were invited to submit comments by 10 February 2017. In the event 6 representations were received (copies attached), all of which did not support the proposals for Burnham Football Club and 1 representation in support. In addition only 1 representation was received in support of the new polling station at The Beacon Sports Centre for the Beaconsfield West Ward.

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### 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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