



Date: 11 December 2019
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BOUNDARY AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WORKING PARTY

18 DECEMBER 2019

A meeting of the Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party will be held at **3.00 pm on Wednesday, 18 December 2019** at the Pugin & Rossetti Rooms, First Floor, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate.

Membership:

Councillors: Currie, Green, Parsons, Cllr Rev. S Piper, Savage and Stevens

AGENDA

<u>Item No</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>
2.	<u>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN</u>
3.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>
4.	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> (Pages 3 - 4)
5.	<u>REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, PLACES AND STATIONS</u> (Pages 5 - 26)

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BOUNDARY AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WORKING PARTY

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2017 at 4.30 pm at Austen Room, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillors Buckley, Crow-Brown, Savage, Stummer-Schmertzling, Taylor and Johnston.

In Attendance: Councillors Townend and Venables.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Buckley proposed, Councillor Johnston seconded and the Working Party agreed that Councillor Crow-Brown be the Chairman for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Constantine, for whom Councillor Johnston was present as a substitute.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations no interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Working Party agreed the minutes to be a correct record of the meeting that was held on 26 June 2015.

5. THANET ELECTORAL REVIEW

Mr Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer, introduced the item by providing a brief summary of the report and highlighting the three options available to Members.

During consideration of the item Officers made the following points:

- The proposal of 36 Members was based roughly on the ratio of residents per Member in the surrounding East Kent Councils.
- An indicative number of Members had to be submitted the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in order for the review to commence. If Members wished to agree option two of the report, they would need to provide an alternative indicative number.
- The LGBCE looked to keep communities together when ward boundaries were reviewed.
- Future population growth and plans should be considered as proposals needed to remain relevant for the following five to ten years.
- If an indicative figure of 56 Members was chosen, it could be seen as a sign that there was no intent to change the number of Members.
- The Council was required to propose the number of Members it wished to have to the LGBCE,

During consideration of the item Members made the following points:

- Areas with higher levels of deprivation required more support from Members. It would be overly simplistic to simply compare the ratio of population to Members across East Kent Councils to establish the number of Members that the Council should have.
- Over recent years Members had experienced an increase in workload, it was expected that this workload would continue to increase in the future.
- If there were less Members, there would be more chance of a hung Council.
- When a review took place it would be normal practice to use the status quo as a starting point.

It was proposed by Councillor Stummer-Schmertzing, seconded by Councillor Johnston and the Working Party unanimously agreed option two as detailed in the report, namely:

'To recommend that Council request the LGBCCE undertake an electoral review of TDC in 2018 with an alternative indicative size of council, and that the indicative size be approximately 56 Councillors.'

Meeting concluded: 5.05pm

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, PLACES AND STATIONS

Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party - Thursday 19 December

Report Author **Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager**

Status **For Recommendation**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All Wards**

Executive Summary:

The Council is required to undertake a review of its Parliamentary polling districts and polling places between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020. The review formally commenced on 29 July and a public consultation was undertaken where the public and interested parties were invited to make submissions, the consultation opened on Monday 2 September and ran until 5pm on Friday 11 October. Comments and alternative proposals for polling stations in BSB Beacon Road ward and BSH Viking Ward were received. The report outlines the responses to these suggestions and asks the Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party to recommend the proposals as set out at Annex 2 to the report to Council.

Recommendation(s):

That the proposals for polling districts, places and stations for future elections, as attached at Annex 2 to the report, be recommended to Council.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	The financial implications are contained within the body of the report however, it is worth noting that the cost of the temporary solution identified at 5.2.4 is excessive and will likely not be recoverable, as a result budget would need to be identified if an option other than that proposed as per the attached were selected.
Legal	It is a legal requirement to undertake and complete the review and submit the results to the Electoral Commission prior to 31 January 2020. Failure to carry out the review within this timescale could result in representations being made to the Electoral Commission because the Council failed to carry out the review, which could result in the Electoral Commission directing the Council to amend its current polling districts and polling places.
Corporate	Whilst it is a legal requirement to undertake a review, undertaking one will be a major contributor to the corporate priority of “Supporting neighbourhoods”. In addition the extensive public consultation on the proposals contribute to the “promoting open communications” corporate value.
Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

	<p>Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </table> <p>Each Polling Place proposed as part of this report has been considered in line with Electoral Commission guidance on a range of issues in respect of accessibility and disabled access. All proposed Polling Places and associated Polling Stations meet the relevant criteria and regulations enabling them to be used for elections.</p>	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.		Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,		Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it		Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	✓
Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.									
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Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it									
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	✓								

CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	✓

CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓	
Delivering value for money	
Supporting the Workforce	
Promoting open communications	✓

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 This paper reports the outcome of the consultation carried out in respect of the Polling District and Polling Place Review and asks the Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party to recommend to Council a schedule to Polling Districts and Polling Places for approval.

2.0 Background to the Review

2.1 The Council is required to undertake a review of its Parliamentary polling districts and polling places between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020.

2.2 When undertaking a review the authority must:

- seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency in its area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
- seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every Polling Place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled;
- have regard to the accessibility of disabled persons of potential Polling Stations in any place which it is considering designating as a Polling Place or the designation of which as a Polling Place it is reviewing;
- ensure that the Polling Place for a Polling District must be in an area in the district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district;

- consider that the Polling Place for a Polling District must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the district how they will be able to reach the Polling Station.

3.0 The Review

- 3.1 All existing polling stations were evaluated by Officers at both the European Parliamentary and the District and Parish Elections using the evaluation checklist used by the Electoral Commission. Upon completion, Officers analysed each individual polling station checklist to ascertain the suitability of the existing polling stations.
- 3.2 In addition where Democratic Services felt they had insufficient details as a result of the checklist above, further visits were undertaken by officers. All of the collated information was then used to create the proposals to be consulted upon.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 A public consultation was undertaken where the public and interested parties were invited to make submissions, the consultation opened on Monday 2 September and ran until 5pm on Friday 11 October. The following stakeholders were invited to make submissions:

- All 56 Members of Thanet District Council.
- The seven Kent County Councillors for the Thanet District.
- The two MPs covering the Thanet District.
- The 11 Parish Council's covering the Thanet District.
- Disability Groups, including the Kent Disability Forum, the Disability Drop in Centre, Kent Rise 4 Disability, Kent Association for the Blind, Age UK Thanet and Ageless Thanet.
- The local Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats, Green, UKIP and Thanet Independents political parties.
- Residents Associations
- All current polling stations
- Thanet Police
- Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council and Kent County Council.

- 4.2 The consultation was also advertised on the Council's website and through its social media channels and was also covered in the local press and on regional television news. A schedule of current Polling Districts and Polling Places with the proposed amendments by the Returning Officer was made available to all parties who were consulted and a map outlining the location of the polling districts and places together with the polling stations used at the May 2019 local elections was available on the Council's dedicated polling review webpages. In addition, Democratic Services also designed a google form to make responding to the consultation easier and this was also available on the Council's dedicated review webpage.
- 4.3 Democratic Services received 20 responses in total and these are summarised at Annex 1 to the report.

5.0 Themes within the responses

- 5.1 There were no comments suggesting alternative polling Districts. There were positive comments regarding a number of polling stations and it is not felt that these comments require any formal recommendations. Of the 20 responses nine were critical of the choice of using St Andrews Church for the polling station for polling district BSB and

have suggested a variety of alternatives. A further three were received that were critical of the choice of Queens Road Baptist Church in polling district BSH and have suggested an alternative venue.

5.2 BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs

5.2.1 The nine submissions received criticising the choice can be summarised as follows:

- Lack of parking facilities in the area.
- Discriminates against those without a car.
- Difficult to get to for elderly or disabled voters.
- Inappropriate as a double station.
- Poor internal lighting.
- Confusing layout of the polling station.

5.2.2 After further discussions and investigations by the Electoral Services Team we can make the following responses to the point raised:

- It is acknowledged that the polling station does not have a dedicated car park, however that is the case for many stations. There is an ample amount of parking on the surrounding streets, as confirmed by the Parish administrator.
- The hall used for this polling station is of a large size and more than adequate for use as a double station. It was also, at its last inspection found to have satisfactory lighting.
- The new station is only 175 metres from the edge of the polling district and approximately 550 metres from the middle of the St Peters estate, this is not considered to be an excessive distance for people to travel. Alternatives to physically attending the polling station are also available in the form of postal or proxy votes.

5.2.3 The following places were proposed as alternatives :

- Use of St Peters House
- Use of the Cabin Cafe
- Requisition of the former Westover Free Church building
- Use of a temporary polling station somewhere on the St Peters estate

5.2.4 After further discussions and investigations by the Electoral Services Team we can make the following responses to the suggestions made:

- St Peters House has been contacted via Kent County Council about the possibility of using part of it as a polling venue. To date the Electoral Services team have had no response from St Peters House.
- Electoral Services have contacted the owners of the Cabin Cafe and they have confirmed that they are not willing to allow the use of their building as a polling station.
- Requisition of the former Westover Free Church is not possible, as the building is currently in a condition that makes its use as a polling station unsuitable.
- Democratic Services have investigated and compiled a total estimated cost of siting a temporary polling station on Westover Gardens. The cost would be £3800 per election. This consists of Portakabin hire, ramp hire, delivery fees, generator hire, toilet hire and health and safety equipment hire. A number of submissions have stated that electoral costs are reclaimed from a national pot. This is correct for nationally run elections i.e. Parliamentary, however it is not the case for local elections, where the authority that candidates are being elected to pays. As a result those authorities are entitled to query unnecessary expenditure, including the costs of polling stations. To give further context the total spend on polling stations for the 2019 European elections was £12,061.50. Spending an additional £3800 on polling stations will increase the risk of other authorities declining to pay for what they see as unreasonable costs.

5.2.5 In addition to the points discussed above, Democratic Services have also undertaken to search for alternatives to the Westover Free Church station. These have included conversations with both Cherry Court residential home and visiting the shops. Neither of these would be suitable as polling stations. Democratic Services have also considered and undertaken a visit to the Scout Hut in the grounds of Callis Grange School, however permission from the school was refused and so it is not able to be used.

5.2.6 **Conclusion Regarding BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs**

To retain use of the St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street as the polling station for the BSB polling district.

5.3 **BSH, Viking - Queens Road Baptist Church, Queens Road, Broadstairs**

5.3.1 The three submissions received criticising the choice can be summarised as follows:

- Poor access for car users and lack of parking.
- Insufficient number of polling stations in the polling district.
- Not located centrally.
- Facilities won't be as good as the new Pierremont Hall offices.
- The Baptist Church is not the civic hub of the town.

5.3.2 After further discussions and investigations by the Electoral Services Team we can make the following responses to the point raised:

- Whilst it is correct that there is no parking outside of the polling station, there are car parking spaces running the length of Broadstairs High Street which is immediately adjacent to the station. In addition Crofts Place is a 63 space pay and display car park less than 100 metres from the station.
- The number of polling stations within a polling district is determined by the number of electors within the polling district, a polling station should not accommodate more than 3000 electors. BSH currently has 2960 electors of which 513 are absent voters there by making the ratio of polling stations within the ward correct. Therefore there is no need for additional polling stations in the polling district.
- The polling station is more centrally located within the polling district than the previous station at Pierremont Hall, which is in the extreme corner of the polling district.
- It is difficult to judge the facilities at this polling station against those at Pierremont Hall, as at the time of writing Pierremont Hall is closed and still under renovation and so not available to be used as a polling station.
- Whether a polling station is considered a civic hub is not a relevant consideration.

5.3.3 The following were proposed as alternatives:

- Pierremont Hall

5.3.4 After further discussions and investigations by the Electoral Services Team we can make the following response to the suggestion made:

- At the time of writing Pierremont Hall is closed and still under renovation and so not available to be used as a polling station. However this would not preclude from an inspection taking place at a future date once it is open and this may result in a change being made in the future.

5.5.3 Conclusion regarding BSH, Viking - Queens Road Baptist Church, Queens Road, Broadstairs

To retain use of the Queens Hall Baptist church, Queens Road, Broadstairs as the polling place and station for the BSH polling district. In addition to review Pierremont Hall once all works have been completed.

6.0 The rest of the review

6.1 There were a number of other changes that had been proposed as part of the review. These being the change of both polling stations in the Salmestone ward. There were no responses to the public consultation regarding these changes. A full list of all of the proposed polling places and stations is available at Annex 2 to the report.

6.2 Recommendation

That the proposals for polling districts, places and stations for future elections, as attached at Annex 2 to the report, be recommended to Council.

7.0 Next Steps

7.1 The Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party may wish to make recommendations to Council with regard to the polling stations selected. This report will then be considered by the full Council on 5 December 2019, where it will be asked to agree the list of polling places and stations for use in 2019/23. Once agreed the list and all the necessary papers will then be sent to the Electoral Commission.

Contact Officer:	Nicholas Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Reporting to:	Madeline Homer, Returning Officer

Annex List

Annex 1	Summary of consultation responses
Annex 2	List of proposed polling places and stations.

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Matthew Sanham, Financial Services Manager
Legal	Estelle Culligan, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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Summary of Responses to Polling Station Review

	Which Polling Station are you commenting about?	Comments Received	Response	Recommendation
1	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	<p>Member of the Public - I consider only providing one polling station for Beacon Road Ward is unacceptable and discriminates against those who live in BSB who have no transport and/or cannot walk to Reading Street. It inconveniences those who work full-time or families with young children who time is limited. As the document says there is no parking for St. Andrew's Church further affecting those who have to drive and then walk some distance. There are buildings still in the ward beyond and including the Cabin Cafe down Dane Valley Road or even the cafe itself or perhaps a portable polling station on Westover Green. Not everyone wants to have a postal vote.</p>	<p>It is not correct to say that national government pay for all polling stations. This is only the case for nationwide polls. For all local elections the costs are borne by the relevant local authority and each local authority has the power to query their invoice regarding the cost of hiring polling stations. Electoral Services have extensively searched for alternative venues in the BSB polling district, without success.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the polling station does not have a dedicated car park, however that is the case for many stations. There is an ample amount of parking on the surrounding streets, as confirmed by the Parish administrator.</p> <p>The hall used for this polling station is of a large size and more than adequate for use as a double station. It was also, at its last inspection found to have satisfactory lighting.</p> <p>The new station is only 175 metres from the edge of the polling district and approximately 550 metres from the middle of the St Peters estate, this is not considered to be an excessive distance for people to travel. Alternatives to physically attending the polling station are also available in the form of postal or proxy votes.</p> <p>St Peters House has been contacted via Kent County Council about the possibility of using part of it as a polling venue. To date the Electoral Services team have had no response from St Peters House.</p> <p>Electoral Services have contacted the owners of the Cabin Cafe and they have confirmed that they are not willing to allow the use of their building as a polling station. Quotes for the cost of a temporary polling station have</p>	The existing polling station be retained.

			shown that such a setup would cost between £4000 and £5000. To put this in context only £12,000 was spent on all of the polling stations for the European Elections in May 2019. This is a figure that could easily be considered as unreasonable when we reclaim costs from the ECU and other Councils.	
2	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Member of the Public - It's fine but wont cope with all the people now we have lost a polling station on the estate	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.
3	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Member of the Public - Our polling station in Prince Charles Rd was closed as the church closed down. It is too far for infirm people without cars to walk to St Andrews. In a time of Climate Crisis TDC should not be forcing people who used to be able to walk to their polling station to have to use their cars, there not being a bus service that can be used	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.
4	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Member of the Public - This was used as a double polling station earlier this year. Whilst perfectly ideal for one half of the ward, it is not easily accessible for the other half. Surely it must be possible to make some arrangements (eg St. Peter House or other property at the bottom of Northdown Hill) for one day.	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.
5	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Member of the Public -Reducing the Beacon road ward polling stations from 2 down to one at St. Andrews church is directly disadvataging the elderly, less mobile, and disabled, of this constituency, which will decrease the amount of those who vote in those categories due to them having to walk further than the old polling station at	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.

		Westover Free Church, have more challenging physical access, less places to park, and more dangerous access due to there being no pavement and limited areas to walk in that are not directly in the road to approach the church hall. Even if transport was offered/ arranged finding somewhere close that was safe for passengers to disembark is a real challenge, especially if you do not want to block the already narrow road. The decision to only have one polling station is consciously discriminatory to a variety of groups.		
6	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Polling Station - I note that your review suggests that there are no parking facilities. Please note that there is plenty of parking available in roads close by the church hall.	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.
7	BSC, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Member of the Public -Not suitable unless you are physically fit to get there due to no parking availability, narrow or no pathway to the church which means a long walk to the church. People are having to walk on the road and to give way to cars on occasion as the road narrows. I did not vote on the last occasion due entirely to the location and access.	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.
8	VSN, Thanet Villages - Village Hall (St Nicholas at Wade), The Street, St Nicholas-At-Wade, Birchington	Parish Council - Central to Village, suitable building to hold the polling station	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.
9	VMK, Thanet Villages - Monkton Village Hall, 120 Monkton Street, Monkton,	Parish Council - Central to village, only suitable building in location to hold the polling station	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.

	Ramsgate			
10	RL, Cliffsend and Pegwell - Cliffsend Village Hall, Foads Lane, Cliffsend, Ramsgate	it has disabled access,ladies and gents toilets. can hold up to 100 people including staff	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.
11	BSH, Viking - Queens Road Baptist Church, Queens Road, Broadstairs	Member of the Public - Whilst I would not have issues accessing this venue it is very inaccessible for car users with any mobility issues	There are excellent public transport links to this polling station as well as excellent disabled access to the station itself. There is on street parking in the locality and a public pay and display car park within 50 metres of the station.	The existing polling station be retained.
12	VMK, Thanet Villages - Monkton Village Hall, 120 Monkton Street, Monkton, Ramsgate	Member of the Public -Always had a good reception from obviously happy staff in a bright and clean environment. There is good access, for disabled including a disabled toilet, toilets, warmth on cold days and water if thirsty. More than happy with this venue.	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.
13	MJ1, Cliftonville West - Cliftonville Community Centre, St Pauls Road, Margate	Member of the Public -This serves a very densely populated deprived area and is in easy walking distance for most , This is itself is an incentive to vote.	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.
14	BSC, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Member of the Public -That two polling stations were this year located in the same church hall was a breach of good faith and an offence to the many elderly and disabled people who no longer had a polling station with good access and in their own neighbourhood. Half of the residents of the Beacon Road Ward in Broadstairs were disadvantaged by access which was not comparable to that in other wards. It did not go unnoticed that the poorer end of the ward was the badly serviced end. In addition, St. Andrews church is not	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.

		easily accessible, with poor wheelchair access and no immediate parking. To double it's duties was an incomprehensible decision. The council had no practical reason to do this. A polling station can be set up in any public building and in the last resort a temporary polling station can be easily built. The cost of this comes from the national, not the local government because it is a citizens right in national law and the local council has no right to decide against its citizens interests in this way. We are left wondering whether the decision of the council lay in frank incompetence or political bias.		
15	MC, Westbrook - Westbrook Bowls Pavilion, Westcliff Gardens, Margate	Polling Station - I can that Westbrook Bowls Club is fully accessible to the disabled as we have the appropriate ramps etc. in place and also have a disabled toilet.	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.
16	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	Political Party - We write to you to request that you review polling station services in Beacon Road Ward. In the TDC elections, only one polling station was provided, which caused difficulties for residents in part of the ward, many of whom are infirm and unable to travel very far. We request that you consider requisitioning Westover Free Church or alternative venue in that part of the ward.	Please see the response to comment 1.	The existing polling station be retained.
17	BSH, Viking - Queens Road Baptist Church, Queens	Member of the Public - Viking Ward current and proposed is poorly served	The number of polling stations within a polling district is determined by the number of electors within the polling	The existing polling station be retained.

	Road, Broadstairs	<p>- joint second worst in terms of number of electors verses number of polling stations!!! Look at the provision in Cliftonville East and West in comparison.</p> <p>Also there is no parking, walking there for some residents is more than 20mins - a very big ask for elderly or disabled residents or parents who have to bring small children with them. You should be making voting easier - please come up with new proposals that increase the polling stations and where adjacent parking is available for the reasons listed above.</p>	<p>district, a polling station should not accommodate more than 3000 electors. BSH currently has 2960 electors of which 513 are absent voters thereby making the ratio of polling stations within the ward correct. Therefore there is no need for additional polling stations in the polling district.</p> <p>There are excellent public transport links to this polling station as well as excellent disabled access to the station itself. There is on street parking in the locality and a public pay and display car park within 50 metres of the station.</p>	
18	BSH, Viking - Queens Road Baptist Church, Queens Road, Broadstairs	<p>Parish Council - The Town Council objects to the permanent change of the Viking Ward polling station from Pierremont Hall to the Queens Road Baptist Church. Pierremont Hall is currently being refurbished and the facilities that will be available will be of a higher standard to those offered at the Queen's Road Baptist Church. Historically Pierremont Hall has always been the Viking Ward polling station and the change in May 2019 was only seen as temporary whilst the refurbishment works were undertaken. Pierremont Hall can offer parking and is seen as the civic hub of the town.</p>	<p>Currently Pierremont Hall remains under refurbishment and not available for use. It is therefore, not possible to use the premises as a polling station. This would not rule the premises out from being a polling station in the future, but any change would be subject to an objective inspection against a range of criteria.</p>	<p>The existing polling station be retained.</p>
19	BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	<p>Parish Council - The St Andrews Church Hall is not considered suitable as it is located a substantial distance away for some residents, specifically those living on the St Peter's estate. The venue is also deemed too dark inside, which means it can be difficult</p>	<p>Please see the response to comment 1.</p>	<p>The existing polling station be retained.</p>

		to review the polling cards. It is also considered that polling station itself is confusing due to the split nature of the site.		
20	BSA, Kingsgate - Botant Bay Hotel, Marine Drive, Broadstairs	Member of the Public - Very convenient for residents, dog friendly and a bar in the next room - what more could you ask for?	No response required.	The existing polling station be retained.

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Proposed polling places, wards and districts

Polling District	Electoral Ward	Electors As at 1 August 2019	Electors not including Postal Voters	Polling Place	Returning Officer's proposals
BSA	Kingsgate	1770	1470	At or near Botany Bay Hotel, Marine Drive, Broadstairs, Kent	No proposed change
BSB	Beacon Road	2316	2047	At or near St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs, Kent	Formerly Westover Free Church hall, however the venue has closed. The new station is not in the polling district, however no other suitable venues have been identified.
BSC	Beacon Road	1187	987	At or near St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs, Kent	No parking, however no alternative station in the area
BSD	Bradstowe	3243	2701	At or near Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Broadstairs	No proposed change
BSD	Bradstowe	This is a split station		At or near Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Broadstairs	No proposed change
BSE	St Peters	2862	2480*	At or near Mulberry Room, Portland Centre, Hopeville Avenue, Broadstairs, Kent	No proposed change
BSF	St Peters	2631	2255	At or near Kent Innovation Centre, Thanet Reach Business Park, Millennium Way	No proposed change
BSG	Viking	2728	2286	At or near Crampton Function Hall, Crampton Tower Museum, The Broadway	Visited after feedback from European election. No proposed change.
BSH	Viking	3015	2510*	At or near Queens Road Baptist Church, Queens Road, Broadstairs	Formerly Pierremont Hall. The station was changed to Queens Road Baptist Church as the facilities are better.
BTA	Birchington North	2073	1781	At or near Kearns Memorial Hall, Grenham Bay Avenue, Birchington	No proposed change
BTB	Birchington North	1235	1087	At or near Birchington Bowls Club, Bowls Pavilion, Beach Avenue, Birchington	No proposed change
BTC	Birchington South	2835	2499*	At or near Church House, Kent Gardens, Birchington, Kent	No proposed change

Proposed polling places, wards and districts

BTD	Birchington South	2406	2103	At or near Birchington Village Centre, Alpha Road, Birchington, Kent	No proposed change
MA	Westgate-On-Sea	2684	2373	At or near Christ Church Hall, Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent	No proposed change
MB	Westgate-On-Sea	2808	2548*	At or near Westgate Community Centre, Lymington Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent	No proposed change
MC	Westbrook	2421	2170	At or near Westbrook Bowls Pavilion, Westcliff Gardens, Margate	No proposed change
MD	Westbrook	967	872	At or near Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Garlinge, Margate	No proposed change
ME	Garlinge	2407	2184	At or near Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Garlinge, Margate	No proposed change
MF	Garlinge	1316	1197	At or near All Saints Church Hall, All Saints Avenue, Margate, Kent	No proposed change
MG	Margate Central	2185	2031	At or near Union Church, Union Row, Margate, Kent	No proposed change
MH	Margate Central	1488	1386	At or near St Johns Community Centre, Victoria Road, Margate, Kent	No proposed change
MI	Cliftonville West	1728	1613	At or near Quarterdeck Youth Centre, Zion Place, Margate, Kent	No proposed change
MJ1	Cliftonville West	1950	1739	At or near Cliftonville Community Centre, St Pauls Road, Margate, Kent	No proposed change
MJ2	Cliftonville West	1679	1459	At or near Margate Bowls Club, Northdown Avenue, Margate	No proposed change
MK	Cliftonville East	1893	1646	At or near St Annes Church Hall, Devonshire Gardens, Margate, Kent	No proposed change
ML	Cliftonville East	2364	2040	At or near St Philips Church, Summerfield Road, Margate, Kent	No proposed change
MM	Cliftonville East	906	759	At or near Cliftonville Library, Northdown Road, Margate, Kent	No proposed change
MN	Dane Valley	2048	1863	At or near St Johns Scout Hall, Durban Road, Margate, Kent	No proposed change
MO1	Dane Valley	1020	927	At or near Lounge Room, Trinity Resource Centre, Holy Trinity Church, St. Marys Avenue	No proposed change

Proposed polling places, wards and districts

MO2	Dane Valley	2344	2113	At or near Surestart, Millmead Children's Centre, Dane Valley Road, Margate	No proposed change
MP1	Salmestone	3292	2885	Margate Football Club, Hartsdown Park, Hartsdown Rd, Margate	The previous polling station has now closed. Whilst this station is outside the district, it is well equipped and located and there are no alternative polling stations available, despite extensive enquiries.
MP1	Salmestone	This is a split station		Margate Football Club, Hartsdown Park, Hartsdown Rd, Margate	The previous polling station has now closed. Whilst this station is outside the district, it is well equipped and located and there are no alternative polling stations available, despite extensive enquiries.
MP2	Salmestone	666	558	At or near Westwood Manor House (Former Star Public House), 460 Margate Road, Broadstairs, Kent	Although this station is not in the polling district, this station is better located than the previous station.
RA	Northwood	2732	2398	At or near St Marks Church Hall, Pysons Road, Ramsgate, Kent	No proposed change
RB	Northwood	2279	2000	At or near Maurice Room, The Corner, 60 Whitehall Road	No proposed change
RC	Sir Moses Montefiore	1253	1130	At or near Newlands School Dining Hall Building, Newlands Primary School, Dumpton Lane	No proposed change
RD	Sir Moses Montefiore	2435	2173	At or near Racing Greyhound, 227 Hereson Road, Ramsgate	No proposed change
RE1	Eastcliff	2357	2117	At or near St Lawrence College-The Grange, College Road, Ramsgate, Kent	No proposed change
RE2	Eastcliff	853	777	At or near The Hub (Brunswick hall), Belmont Street, Ramsgate, Kent	No proposed change
RF	Eastcliff	2190	1965	At or near Comfort Inn Ramsgate, Victoria Parade, Ramsgate	No proposed change
RG	Central Harbour	2804	2517*	At or near Ramsgate Youth Centre, High Street, St Lawrence	No proposed change

Proposed polling places, wards and districts

RH	Central Harbour	3132	2794	At or near Foresters Hall, Meeting Street, Ramsgate	No proposed change
RH	Central Harbour	This is a split station		At or near Foresters Hall, Meeting Street, Ramsgate	No proposed change
RI	Newington	3713	3382	At or near Newington Community Centre, Princess Margaret Avenue, Ramsgate, Kent	No proposed change
RI	Newington	This is a split station		At or near Newington Community Centre, Princess Margaret Avenue, Ramsgate, Kent	No proposed change
RJ	Nethercourt	1850	1509	At or near St Laurence Parish Hall, High Street, St Lawrence, Ramsgate	No proposed change
RK	Nethercourt	1769	1597	At or near Ramsgate Football Club, Southwood Stadium, Prices Avenue, Ramsgate	No proposed change
RL	Cliffsend & Pegwell	1525	1339	At or near Cliffsend Village Hall, Foads Lane, Cliffsend, Ramsgate	No proposed change
RM	Cliffsend & Pegwell	2448	2037	At or near Sunflower Suite - Christ Church C.E. School, London Road, Ramsgate, Kent	No proposed change
VAC	Thanet Villages	232	208	At or near Acol Village Hall, The Street, Acol, Birchington	No proposed change
VMA	Thanet Villages	1045	927	At or near Manston Village Hall, Preston Road, Manston, Ramsgate	No proposed change
VMI	Thanet Villages	2889	2604	At or near Minster Village Hall, High Street, Minster, Ramsgate	No proposed change
VMI	Thanet Villages	This is a split station		At or near Minster Village Hall, High Street, Minster, Ramsgate	No proposed change
VMK	Thanet Villages	558	515	At or near Monkton Village Hall, 120 Monkton Street, Monkton, Ramsgate	No proposed change
VSA	Thanet Villages	181	150	At or near Wansum Room, The Crown Inn, Ramsgate Road, Sarre, Birchington	No proposed change
VSN	Thanet Villages	676	616	At or near Village Hall (St Nicholas at Wade), The Street, St Nicholas-At-Wade, Birchington	No proposed change

Proposed polling places, wards and districts

*These stations are all very close to the limit of 2500 electors excluding postal voters. If after the new register is published they remain higher than 2500 electors excluding postal voters then these polling places will be split in order to remain under the 2500 elector threshold. The new polling station for these new polling areas would remain the same.

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