

# Public Document Pack



Date: **06 January 2025**  
Our ref: **Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party/Agenda**  
Ask For: **Charles Hungwe**  
Direct Dial: **01843 577720**  
Email: **Committee@thanet.gov.uk**

## **BOUNDARY AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WORKING PARTY**

**14 JANUARY 2025**

A meeting of the Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party will be held at **3.30 pm on Tuesday, 14 January 2025** at the Austen Room, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

### **Membership:**

Councillor Packman (Chair); Councillors: D Green, Kup, W Scobie and Wright

## **AGENDA**

Item  
No

Subject

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (Pages 3 - 4)  
To receive any declarations of interest. Members are advised to consider the advice contained within the Declaration of Interest advice attached to this Agenda. If a Member declares an interest, they should complete the [Declaration of Interest Form](#)
3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 5 - 8)  
To agree the minutes of the meeting of the Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party of the 14 November 2024.
4. **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, PLACES AND STATIONS** (Pages 9 - 28)

This page is intentionally left blank

### **Do I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and if so what action should I take?**

Your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) are those interests that are, or should be, listed on your Register of Interest Form.

If you are at a meeting and the subject relating to one of your DPIs is to be discussed, in so far as you are aware of the DPI, you **must** declare the existence **and** explain the nature of the DPI during the declarations of interest agenda item, at the commencement of the item under discussion, or when the interest has become apparent

Once you have declared that you have a DPI (unless you have been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee or the Monitoring Officer, for which you will have applied to the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting) you **must**:-

1. Not speak or vote on the matter;
2. Withdraw from the meeting room during the consideration of the matter;
3. Not seek to improperly influence the decision on the matter.

### **Do I have a significant interest and if so what action should I take?**

A significant interest is an interest (other than a DPI or an interest in an Authority Function) which:

1. Affects the financial position of yourself and/or an associated person; or  
Relates to the determination of your application for any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration made by, or on your behalf of, you and/or an associated person;
2. And which, in either case, a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interest.

An associated person is defined as:

- A family member or any other person with whom you have a close association, including your spouse, civil partner, or somebody with whom you are living as a husband or wife, or as if you are civil partners; or
- Any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors; or
- Any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000;
- Any body of which you are in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by the Authority; or
- any body in respect of which you are in a position of general control or management and which:
  - exercises functions of a public nature; or
  - is directed to charitable purposes; or
  - has as its principal purpose or one of its principal purposes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

An Authority Function is defined as: -

- Housing - where you are a tenant of the Council provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease; or
- Any allowance, payment or indemnity given to members of the Council;
- Any ceremonial honour given to members of the Council
- Setting the Council Tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992



If you are at a meeting and you think that you have a significant interest then you **must** declare the existence **and** nature of the significant interest at the commencement of the matter, or when the interest has become apparent, or the declarations of interest agenda item.

Once you have declared that you have a significant interest (unless you have been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee or the Monitoring Officer, for which you will have applied to the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting) you **must:-**

1. Not speak or vote (unless the public have speaking rights, or you are present to make representations, answer questions or to give evidence relating to the business being discussed in which case you can speak only)
2. Withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the matter or immediately after speaking.
3. Not seek to improperly influence the decision.

### **Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality**

Councillors must declare at meetings any gift, benefit or hospitality with an estimated value (or cumulative value if a series of gifts etc.) of £25 or more. You **must**, at the commencement of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, disclose the existence and nature of the gift, benefit or hospitality, the identity of the donor and how the business under consideration relates to that person or body. However you can stay in the meeting unless it constitutes a significant interest, in which case it should be declared as outlined above.

### **What if I am unsure?**

If you are in any doubt, Members are strongly advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or the Committee Services Manager well in advance of the meeting.

If you need to declare an interest then please complete the declaration of [interest form](#).

## **BOUNDARY AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WORKING PARTY**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2024 at 3.00 pm at Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.**

**Present:** Councillor Jack Packman (Chair); Councillors D Green, Kup, W Scobie and Wright

**In Attendance:** Councillor Garner

### **12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies made at the meeting.

### **13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

### **14. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Councillor Kup proposed, Councillor Green seconded and Members agreed the minutes to be a correct record of the working party meeting held on 23 April 2024.

### **15. PRESENTATION ON LGBCE REVIEW**

Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer made a presentation on the LGBCE Review and made the following comments:

- The LGBCE consultation had now commenced. The LGBCE proposals were that Thanet District Council would have 42 councillors serving 20 wards that comprised of 1 single councilor ward, 16 two councillor wards and 3 three councilor wards;
- All proposals had a variance of less than ten percent;
- The LGBCE had taken on board points raised by the political groups as well as individual members of the public in drafting these proposals;
- The Commission was not looking for comments on specific elements of their proposals;
- Any recommendations on the warding patterns from the Boundaries and Electoral Arrangements Working Party would need to be taken to Full Council on 12 December 2024;
- The public consultation would end on 16 December 2024;
- The LGBCE would publish their report on 29 April 2025 and the 2027 Local Government Elections would be contested on the new boundaries that emerge from this review.

Members asked questions and made comments as follows:

- There was agreement with the names of the wards in Ramsgate;
- Would the ten percent variance stand up to future ward elector numbers?
- At the moment there were 450 electors for the proposed Westwood Cross ward. It was difficult to believe that there would be 3,000 electors by 2030;
- It was therefore difficult to understand that there were proposals for creating a ward which would initially have 450 electors;

- It was important to ensure that in coming up with new ward patterns, residents felt they had an identity in their various communities. That could be considered to be the reason behind the proposal for the creation of Westwood Cross ward;
- Thanet Villages was a massive ward and having three councillors to cover the area felt like an appropriate number. It should also be noted that there were five parish wards that would mean attending parish meetings;
- Was it possible as part of the consultation for officers to ask questions and get responses from the Commission on why they wanted three member wards and whether Thanet could get more two member wards instead?

Speaking under Council Procedure Rule 20.1, Councillor Garner made comments and asked questions as follows:

- Thanet District Council had been pushing for town council status elevation for Westwood Cross;
- Most of the proposals in the consultation were appropriate;
- What were the next steps going to be for parish and town councils?

Nick Hughes and Colin Carmichael, CEx responded to questions and comments as follows:

- The ten percent variance did stand up to future elector numbers per ward. This was because as part of its response the Council provided the Commission with the future housing development numbers;
- It was up to members of the working party to make recommendations regarding Westwood Cross for consideration and adoption by Full Council for onward submission to the LGBCE if they wished to;
- However it was important to note that in making those recommendations the Council would need to suggest an alternative proposal regarding Westwood Cross;
- Review of wards was last done twenty years ago and the next review would be in ten years' time;
- Review of polling stations was conducted every five years;
- This current review tried to future proof as there was a lot of housing development expected at Westwood Cross;
- If the anticipated housing development did not come to fruition, then yes there could be a big variance;
- The working party could make a recommendation regarding the proposed Westwood Cross ward, either to make it bigger or get rid of it altogether;
- The Commission was using a five year time criteria and agreeing that in five years' time Westwood Cross would be community;
- The Commission was aiming for 2030 and if the housing development did not come out as predicted then there would be an opportunity for another review towards the ten year mark for review;
- The Commission had come up with a majority of two member wards but in order to meet their criteria, they also came up with three member wards;
- Officers were going to ask the Commission's case officer if the Council could ask questions and get responses from the Commission during the consultation.

Members noted the report.

### 16. PRESENTATION ON REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATIONS

Nick Hughes made the following points during his presentation to the working party:

- Polling Station Reviews were done every five years to make sure the polling stations were still appropriate;
- Colin Carmichael as the Returning Officer was obliged to respond to this review;
- The Commission was interested in ensuring that the views on accessibility of polling stations from people with disabilities were heard;
- Full Council would need to meet in January 2025 to adopt recommendations before the deadline of the review;
- The consultation would over a two week period and the deadline for the review is the end of January 2025;
- The working party would need to meet in early January 2025 to agree recommendations to forward to an extraordinary Full Council meeting to be arranged to take place before the end of January.

Members asked questions and made comments as follows:

- Some of the existing arrangements for example for Salmerstone and Beacon Road had been problematic;
- What would the Council do if there was a ward without a venue that could be used as a polling station at all?

Nick Hughes and Colin Carmichael, CEx responded to questions and comments as follows:

- The closure of Church Hall led to the problems experienced at Salmerstone and Beacon Road. There was no other alternative for the area;
- St Andrews Church Hall was not ideal as it was outside the ward, although the venue was a good one;
- The Lesters venue was now being used for Salmerstone ward. This ward was short of venues and there were very few suitable alternatives;
- The compliance requirements was a long list that took out some of the possible venues, particularly due to accessibility requirements;
- If there was no venue at all in a ward, or just outside the ward in question, the Council would have no other option than to set up a temporary pop-up facility;
- Pop up facilities were an expensive option;
- The Council would have to come up with a budget to fund the pop up facility;
- The duty to the Council was to maximize voter turnout.

Nick Hughes also made a presentation on the community governance review. He made the following points:

- The Council would need to complete this review for parish boundaries coterminous with new district council wards;
- This would also be the opportunity to create a parish council for Margate;
- This could only be done after April 2025 when the LGBCE review report would have come out, as this governance review was dependent on the new ward patterns from their review;
- It would take a year to be ready for the 2027 Local Government elections;
- That would mean in summer 2026, there could be a shadow parish council for Margate replacing the Margate Charter Trustees;

- Responses from this community governance review would also inform the decision for polling stations for the 2027 elections.

Members asked questions and made comments as follows:

- Who made decisions for parishing areas?
- Could the working party membership have a larger and wider political group representation;
- Was it the case that the District Council was setting standards for how the parish council should work?

Nick Hughes and Colin Carmichael, CEx responded to questions and comments as follows:

- Full Council made decisions on parishing areas in the district whilst the working party would conduct most of the in-depth review leading to that decision;
- The working party would be meeting monthly to work through the parishing programme and make recommendations to Full Council;
- If the working party recommended that its membership be increased a report can be drafted by officers to Full Council with such a recommendations;
- Ideally parish councils would be advised to copy what the district council were in terms of setting out the parish wards pattern. This was with particular reference to those parishes that were affected by changes in the district wards.

The Chair was going to ask Councillor Everitt, Leader of the Council to add a presentation on the LGBCE Review, Polling Station Review and Community Governance Review at the next Parish and Town Forum meeting on 4 December 2024.

Members noted the report.

Meeting concluded: 4.10 pm



## REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, PLACES AND STATIONS

<b>BEAWP</b>	14 January 2025
<b>By</b>	Ingrid Brown, Head of Legal and Democracy and MO
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Decision classification</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Ward:</b>	All Wards

### Purpose of the Report

This report allows the Boundary and Electoral Arrangements Working Party (BEAWP) to review the results of the consultation as part of the review of polling districts, places and stations and the proposed list of polling stations. The BEAWP can then make recommendations on to Full Council to

### Recommendation(s):

That the proposals for polling districts, places and stations for future elections, as attached at Annex 1 to the report, be recommended to Council.

## 1. Summary of Reasons

- 1.1 The Council is required to undertake a review of its Parliamentary polling districts and polling places between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025, in accordance with Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 When undertaking a review of the Parliamentary polling districts and polling places 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. Relevant Issues

### The Review

- 3.1 All existing polling stations were evaluated by Officers at the 2024 General Election 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 Electoral 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 that were consulted upon.

### Consultation

- 3.3 A public consultation was undertaken where the public and interested parties were invited to make submissions, the consultation opened on Monday 25 November 2024 and ran until 5pm on Monday 9 December 2024. 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 with constituencies covering the Thanet District.
  - The 11 Parish Council's covering the Thanet District.
  - Disability Groups.
  - The local Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats, Green and Thanet Independents political parties.
  - Residents Associations and other local bodies
  - All current polling stations
  - Thanet Police
  - Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council and Kent County Council.
- 3.4 The consultation was also advertised on the Council's website and through its social media channels. 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 2024 general election was available on the Council's dedicated polling review webpage.
- 3.5 The Council received 22 responses in total and these are summarised at Annex 2 to the report.
- 3.6 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 22 responses, 12 did not contain any comments. Three were regarding Beacon Road ward, two were regarding Viking ward and one each was regarding Salmestone and Newington

wards. The remaining three responses were comments that were not directly relevant to alternative arrangements.

### **3.7 BSB, Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs**

3.7.1 Three submissions were received regarding Beacon Road Ward. They can be summarised as follows:

- If possible there should be an alternative polling station elsewhere in the ward rather than using St Andrews Church as a double polling station.

3.7.2 The following places were proposed as alternatives:

- The Shed, Northdown Industrial Estate
- A temporary polling station on land in the Beacon Road estate.
- Former Church Hall in Linley Road.

3.7.3 After discussions and investigations by the Electoral Services Team we can make the following responses to the points raised:

- Electoral Services understands that St Andrews Church Hall accommodating two polling stations within the building is not ideal and in future would like to be in a position to find another venue more centrally.
- Electoral Services have contacted venues on the industrial estate (including The Shed) in the past and no one has been able to provide us with an alternative venue. We are in the process of trying to find contact details for the new owners in order to approach them regarding the old church building in Linley Road. However even if they were found, given time needed to re-open the building, it would not be possible to include this building as part of this current review.
- Electoral Services have previously investigated the estimated costs of siting a temporary polling station on Westover Gardens on the Beacon Road estate. In 2019 the costs were estimated at nearly £4000 per election. To give context the total spend on polling stations for the most recent set of elections was £16,292. Spending a quarter of the total polling station budget on one polling station would significantly increase the risk of the Elections Claims Unit who oversee Election spending declining to pay for what they see as unreasonable costs.

### **3.8 BSG Viking - Crampton Function Hall, Crampton Tower Museum, The Broadway**

3.8.1 Two submissions were received regarding Viking Ward. They can be summarised as follows:

- Crampton was ideal.
- Access was difficult and the ground uneven and hard to walk on.
- No alternative suggestions were made.

3.8.2 After discussions and investigations by the Electoral Services Team we can make the following responses to the points raised:

- The Elections team understands the concerns regarding the uneven surface to Crampton Tower. The team is endeavouring to find a more suitable venue within the Viking Ward. However, the only possible venue within the polling district that we had been able to find was St Mildred's School, after contacting the school but unfortunately they were unable to accommodate us with an available room to use as a polling station .
- The Sarah Thorne Theatre was inspected as a possible alternative station to Crampton Tower. Whilst it was a good hall with all amenities, unfortunately it was outside the Viking Ward and therefore unsuitable.

### 3.9 **MP2 Salmestone - Lesters, Ramsgate Road, Margate**

3.9.1 One submission was received regarding Salmestone Ward. It can be summarised as follows:

- You should be able to vote near to your home as the Hartsdown Football Ground is too far from the ward.
- Lester's Public House was suggested as an alternative venue.

3.9.2 After discussions and investigations by the Electoral Services Team we can make the following responses to the points raised:

- The Elections team understand the frustration regarding having to travel to Margate Football club to vote.
- Unfortunately it is not possible to have a double station in Lester's, as is the case in St Andrew's Church (mentioned above) this is because it is not big enough to accommodate the whole of Salmestone Wards electors, of which there are around 4000. This is the reason the ward was split and two stations are used.
- We have contacted Salmestone School as an alternative to Margate Football Club and they have agreed there could be a possibility they could accommodate us in the future thus bringing the polling station closer to the middle of the ward. Arrangements are being made to view the school early in the New Year. We have also contacted St Gregory's School but are awaiting a reply.

### 3.10 **RI Newington - Newington Community Centre, Princess Margaret Avenue, Ramsgate**

3.10.1 One submission was received regarding Newington Ward. It can be summarised as follows:

- Only having a single polling station in the ward is to the detriment of those that do not live near to the single station and this is suggested as a reason for poor turnout.
- The Windmill public House was suggested as an alternative location.

3.10.2 After discussions and investigations by the Electoral Services Team we can make the following response to the points raised:

- Unfortunately the suggestion made to use The Windmill Public House as another polling station in the Newington Ward is not possible as this is outside

of the Newington Ward. Newington Community Centre is a large venue suitable for accommodating two polling stations to serve the whole of the Newington ward.

- 3.11 Electoral Services after reviewing all the comments and suggestions will not change the current suggested polling station. Electoral Services will however commit to continue searching for new polling stations and investigating any possible new ones. In addition these suggestions will also be added to the work of selecting new polling stations for the revised Council wards as a result of the ongoing LGBCE review.

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 Alternative locations for polling stations can be suggested and recommended to Full Council, however these should be appropriate and meet the criteria to make them a valid suggestion. This may result in any new suggestion needing an inspection by the Electoral Services team, this in turn could delay the process. Any delay would increase the risk of not completing the project by the legal deadline of the end of January 2025.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires the Council to undertake a consultation in relation to the proposed list of polling districts, places and stations. The Act requires that the Council follows its own consultation protocol if it has one. Thanet District Council does not have a consultation protocol and as such was allowed to undertake a consultation as it deemed appropriate, details of which are outlined in paragraphs 3.3 - 3.6.

## **6. Corporate Implications**

### **6.1 Finance and Resources**

- 6.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report, with regards any changes to future provision, consideration would need to be given to the fact that significant increase would increase the risk of the Elections Claims Unit who oversee Election spending declining to pay for what they see as unreasonable costs

### **6.2 Legal and Constitutional**

- 6.2.1 The BEAWP is being asked to consider this report which includes details of the results of the statutory consultation and make recommendations to Council. The legislation relevant to this matter is as referred to in the body of this report, the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. The Council is required to give the necessary regard to the results of consultation and this report demonstrates that proper consideration has been given to all the results of consultation.

### **6.3 Council Policies and Priorities**

- 6.3.1 This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- To work efficiently for you

## 6.4 Risk

- 6.4.1 The timescales for the completion of the project are tight and there is significant risk of not meeting those and the Council acting unlawfully if the timetable is not adhered to.

## 6.5 Climate Change and Biodiversity

- 6.5.1 There are no Climate Change or Biodiversity implications to the report.

## 7. Equality, Equity and Diversity Implications

- 7.1 The meeting needs to have due regard to their public sector equality duty, which is the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and consider the potential impact decisions and actions on each of the protected characteristics.
- 7.2 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.

## 8. Crime and Disorder Implications and Community impact

- 8.1 There are no Crime and Disorder implications to the report.

## Annexes

Annex 1 - proposals for polling districts, places and stations for future elections  
Annex 2 - Consultation Response Summary with Comments

## Background Papers

Consultation Responses

**Report Author(s) Contact:** Nicholas Hughes, Committee Services Manager  
**telephone:** 0143 577720  
**email:** nicholas.hughes@thanet.gov.uk

### Report Signed off by

**Legal** Ingrid Brown (Head of Legal and Democracy & Monitoring Officer)

**Finance** Matthew Sanham (Head of Finance and Procurement)

## Proposed polling places, wards and districts

Polling District	Electoral Ward	Electors As at 24 October 2024	Electors not including Postal Voters	Polling Place	Returning Officer's proposals
BSA	Kingsgate	1821	1359	At or near Botany Bay Hotel, Marine Drive, Broadstairs, Kent	No proposed change
BSB	Beacon Road	2378	1971	At or near St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs, Kent**	This station is not in the polling district, however no other suitable venues have been identified.
BSC	Beacon Road	1201	898	At or near St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs, Kent**	<b>On Street parking, however, there is no alternative station in the area. Adequate outside lighting Disability access is good Large hall big enough for 2 polling stations Kitchen and toilets available &amp; clean for staff to use, helpful staff that work at the Hall</b>
BSD	Bradstowe	3455	2611	At or near Retort House, Albion Street, Broadstairs	No proposed change
BSD	Bradstowe	This is a split station		At or near Retort House, Albion Street, Broadstairs	No proposed change
BSE	St Peters	3021	2404	At or near Mulberry Room, Portland Centre, Hopeville Avenue, Broadstairs, Kent	No proposed change
BSF	St Peters	2933	2354	At or near Kent Innovation Centre, Thanet Reach Business Park, Millennium Way**	No proposed change. <b>Good car park Level inside and out Good disabled access</b>

## Proposed polling places, wards and districts

					<b>Good outside lighting</b> <b>Toilets and kitchen available for station staff</b>
BSG	Viking	2808	2122	At or near Crampton Function Hall, Crampton Tower Museum, The Broadway**	No proposed change. <b>Car park uneven with potholes</b> <b>Outside lighting is adequate</b> <b>Disabled access ok but motorised scooters can only get into the foyer not the main Hall</b> <b>Well known location on main bus route</b>
BSH	Viking	3133	2400	At or near Pierremont Hall, Pierremont Park, Broadstairs	No proposed change
BTA	Birchington North	2147	1680	At or near Kearns Memorial Hall, Grenham Bay Avenue, Birchington	No proposed change
BTB	Birchington North	1306	1027	At or near Birchington Bowls Club, Bowls Pavilion, Beach Avenue, Birchington	No proposed change
BTC	Birchington South	2916	2450*	At or near Church House, Kent Gardens, Birchington, Kent	No proposed change
BTD	Birchington South	2519	2130	At or near Birchington Village Centre, Alpha Road, Birchington, Kent	No proposed change
MA	Westgate-On-Sea	2964	2452	At or near Christ Church Hall, Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent	No proposed change
MB	Westgate-On-Sea	2906	2523*	At or near Westgate Community Centre, Lymington Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent	No proposed change
MC	Westbrook	2618	2234	At or near Westbrook Bowls Pavilion, Westcliff Gardens, Margate	No proposed change
MD	Westbrook	966	835	At or near Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Garlinge, Margate	No proposed change
ME	Garlinge	2581	2256	At or near Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Garlinge, Margate	No proposed change
MF	Garlinge	1345	1172	At or near All Saints Church Hall, All Saints	No proposed change



## Proposed polling places, wards and districts

				Avenue, Margate, Kent	
MG	Margate Central	2656	2389	At or near Union Church, Union Row, Margate, Kent**	No proposed change <b>On street parking only but on a main bus route</b> <b>Flat surfaces but slightly uneven</b> <b>Outside lighting is good</b> <b>Functional station</b>
MH	Margate Central	1625	1456	At or near St Johns Community Centre, Victoria Road, Margate, Kent	No proposed change
MI	Cliftonville West	2213	1942	At or near Quarterdeck Youth Centre, Zion Place, Margate, Kent**	No proposed change <b>Adequate parking</b> <b>Easy to find on main bus route - well located</b> <b>Flat access with ramp and handrail - disabled access</b> <b>Outside lighting is good</b>
MJ1	Cliftonville West	2392	2042	At or near Cliftonville Community Centre, St Pauls Road, Margate, Kent**	No proposed change <b>Well located on main bus route</b> <b>On street parking only</b> <b>Well lit outside</b> <b>Sufficient room for 2 polling stations if needed</b> <b>Good disabled access</b>
MJ2	Cliftonville West	1887	1557	At or near Margate Bowls Club, Northdown Avenue, Margate	No proposed change
MK	Cliftonville East	1937	1522	At or near Cliftonville outdoor Bowls Club, Third Avenue, Margate, Kent**	No proposed change <b>Confusing for electors as two bowling clubs next to one another, good signage is needed to identify the correct venue.</b> <b>On street parking</b>

**Proposed polling places, wards and districts**

					<p><b>Disabled access with electric doors</b>  <b>No fixed outside lighting but they have portable lights available</b>  <b>NB would be helpful if gates at opposite end of the club were open for access</b></p>
ML	Cliftonville East	2447	2001	At or near St Philips Church, Summerfield Road, Margate, Kent	No proposed change
MM	Cliftonville East	1071	889	At or near Cliftonville Library, Northdown Road, Margate, Kent	No proposed change
MN	Dane Valley	2113	1824	At or near St Johns Scout Hall, Durban Road, Margate, Kent**	<p>No proposed change</p> <p><b>Off street parking for a few cars</b>  <b>Disabled access- small lip on door flat -no trip hazards outside</b>  <b>On street lighting but none outside of the station. Dry and has all amenities needed</b></p> <p><b>Staff have made complaints regarding the cleanliness of the hut, but it is an old building and we have been unable to identify another venue within the area.</b></p> <p><b>The bowling club in Dane Park had been suggested as a possible change of venue but this has been ruled out due to the location in a park</b></p>
MO1	Dane Valley	1060	939	At or near Lounge Room, Trinity Resource Centre, Holy Trinity Church, St. Marys Avenue**	<p>No proposed change</p> <p><b>Good parking - disabled bays</b>  <b>Front doors are not left open but Janitor is on hand to open them for disabled electors</b></p>

## Proposed polling places, wards and districts

					<p>No kitchen but flasks of hot water provided when cafe is closed</p> <p>Well located on main bus route</p> <p>Room hired is only suitable for one Station</p>
MO2	Dane Valley	2451	2152	At or near Surestart, Millmead Children's Centre, Dane Valley Road, Margate	No proposed change
MP1	Salmestone	3509	2904	Margate Football Club, Hartsdown Park, Hartsdown Rd, Margate**	<p><b>Whilst this station is outside the district, it is well equipped and located and there are no alternative polling stations available, despite extensive enquiries.</b></p> <p><b>Very large room to support a split station due to the high electorate.</b></p> <p><b>Plenty of car parking</b></p> <p><b>Slight ramp with lip into the main hall but wheelchairs are able to gain access</b></p> <p><b>Plenty of outside lighting</b></p> <p><b>We have visited the cricket ground to use as a Station but found it unsuitable as it was too small for a split station</b></p>
MP1	Salmestone	This is a split station		Margate Football Club, Hartsdown Park, Hartsdown Rd, Margate**	<b>Please see above</b>
MP2	Salmestone	776	637	At or near Lesters, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent	<p>No proposed change.</p> <p><b>Car Park available - well lit and even</b></p> <p><b>No reserved disabled parking but spaces next to access free door</b></p> <p><b>separate signs are needed</b></p> <p><b>On main bus route</b></p> <p><b>No steps inside the building</b></p>
RA	Northwood	2938	2481	At or near St Marks Church Hall, Pysons	No proposed change

## Proposed polling places, wards and districts

				Road, Ramsgate, Kent	
RB	Northwood	2305	1989	At or near Maurice Room, The Corner, 60 Whitehall Road	No proposed change
RC	Sir Moses Montefiore	1326	1167	At or near Newlands School Dining Hall Building, Newlands Primary School, Dumpton Lane	No proposed change
RD	Sir Moses Montefiore	2553	2177	At or near Racing Greyhound, 227 Hereson Road, Ramsgate	No proposed change
RE1	Eastcliff	2513	1787	At or near St Lawrence College-The Grange, College Road, Ramsgate, Kent	No proposed change
RE2	Eastcliff	985	873	At or near Centenary Hall, Hardres Street,, Ramsgate, Kent	No proposed change
RF	Eastcliff	2642	2281	At or near Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bellevue Road, Ramsgate	No proposed change
RG	Central Harbour	3052	2594*	At or near Ramsgate Youth Centre, High Street, St Lawrence	No proposed change
RH	Central Harbour	3718	3085	At or near The Odds Social and Snooker Hall, High Street, Ramsgate**	No proposed change <b>Well located</b> <b>On street parking</b> <b>Outside street lighting</b> <b>Enough room for two Stations</b> <b>There are 3 stairs into the building - ramp for wheelchairs but unsure if mobile scooters would be able to gain access</b>
RH	Central Harbour	This is a split station		At or near The Odds Social and Snooker Hall, High Street, Ramsgate**	<b>Please see above</b>
RI	Newington	3963	3485	At or near Newington Community Centre, Princess Margaret Avenue, Ramsgate, Kent	No proposed change
RI	Newington	This is a		At or near Newington Community Centre,	No proposed change

## Proposed polling places, wards and districts

		split station		Princess Margaret Avenue, Ramsgate, Kent	
RJ	Nethercourt	1911	1417	At or near St Laurence Parish Hall, High Street, St Lawrence, Ramsgate	No proposed change
RK	Nethercourt	1889	1626	At or near Ramsgate Football Club, Southwood Stadium, Prices Avenue, Ramsgate**	No proposed change <b>Car Park but it is very uneven</b> <b>Sufficient outside lighting</b> <b>Good disabled access</b> <b>Dimly lit Room for the Station but it is adequate</b>
RL	Cliffsend & Pegwell	1801	1468	At or near Cliffsend Village Hall, Foads Lane, Cliffsend, Ramsgate	No proposed change
RM	Cliffsend & Pegwell	2525	1983	At or near Ramsgate Boating Pool, Royal Esplanade, Ramsgate, Kent**	No proposed change <b>The boating Pool has two rooms we can use depending on season both similar apart from temp ramp used in Bar Area</b> <b>No heating and very cold as doors need to be left open so heaters need to be supplied</b> <b>Temporary lights needed for access in bar area, fixed lighting on restaurant area</b> <b>Outside lighting adequate</b>
VAC	Thanet Villages	253	229	At or near Acol Village Hall, The Street, Acol, Birchington	No proposed change
VMA	Thanet Villages	1785	1574	At or near Manston Village Hall, Preston Road, Manston, Ramsgate	No proposed change
VMI	Thanet Villages	3135	2724	At or near Minster Village Hall, High Street, Minster, Ramsgate	No proposed change
VMI	Thanet Villages	This is a split		At or near Minster Village Hall, High Street, Minster, Ramsgate	No proposed change

## Proposed polling places, wards and districts

		station			
VMK	Thanet Villages	643	570	At or near Monkton Village Hall, 120 Monkton Street, Monkton, Ramsgate	No proposed change
VSA	Thanet Villages	189	154	At or near Wansum Room, The Crown Inn, Ramsgate Road, Sarre, Birchington	No proposed change <b>Large well lit car park in centre of village</b> <b>All flat with no trip hazards</b> <b>Disabled access good but no electric doors so need to be vigilant</b> <b>Polling room is small but adequate for the number of voters.</b>  <b>Only alternative to this station would be to make St Nicholas Village Hall a double station with electors from Sarre and St Nicholas using the same station</b>
VSN	Thanet Villages	861	762	At or near Village Hall (St Nicholas at Wade), The Street, St Nicholas-At-Wade, Birchington	No proposed change

\*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.

\*\* These Stations are the ones that have been visited by one of our canvassers (28/10/24) and notes from the canvasser are in bold

## Summary of Responses to Polling Station Review

	<b>Which Polling Station are you commenting about?</b>	<b>Comments Received</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
1	MG Margate Central - Union Church, Union Row, Margate	<b>Local Resident</b> - No alternative	None	The existing polling station be retained.
2	BSH Viking - Pierremont Hall, Pierremont Park, Broadstairs	<b>Local Resident</b> - No comment included	None	The existing polling station be retained.
3	MP2 Salmestone - Lesters, Ramsgate Road, Margate	<b>Local Resident</b> -Lesters needs to be used for those who live near. The last election I had to walk to Hartsdown Football Ground . It took me 30 to walk there and 30 minutes to walk home. With planters fasciatus in my feet this was extremely painful. I have written to my two councillors to raise this concern. I live ONLY a five minute walk from Lesters but was not allowed to vote there so had to walk to Hartsdown. The reason given to me by a council worker was unacceptable. I hope I, and other residents of my road will will be permitted to vote at Lesters at the next election.	In order to move electors to Lester's the polling district boundary would need to be changed this cannot happen until the new ward boundaries have been established, however Electoral Services have written to Salmestone School to inquire as to whether they would have a room available for our use as a polling station, this would be closer than Margate Football club for most electors. To date, no reply has been received.	The existing polling station be retained.
4	BSG Viking - Crampton Function Hall, Crampton Tower Museum, The Broadway	<b>Local Resident</b> - Nowhere would be better for us. Crampton is ideal.	We are endeavouring to find a more suitable venue within the Viking Ward as we understand the concerns regarding the uneven surface to Crampton Tower. However, the only possible venue within the polling district that we had been able to find was St Mildreds School, we contacted the school but unfortunately they are	The existing polling station be retained.

			unable to accommodate us with an available room.	
5	RI Newington - Newington Community Centre, Princess Margaret Avenue, Ramsgate	<b>Local Resident</b> - The Community Centre is great for my road and the residents around Tescos but Newington is very big and having a single polling station for all of the estate means a lot of people just can't get there to vote. Newington has one of the lowest voter numbers. Why can't the Windmill pub be used in the same way as the Racing Greyhound is? It has plenty of parking and is in the middle of the ward.	Unfortunately The windmill Public House is not within the ward boundary of Newington and we have not been able to source another venue to accommodate the electorate of Newington. Newington Community Centre is a large venue suitable for accommodating two polling stations to serve the whole of the Newington Ward.	The existing polling station be retained.
6	BSG Viking - Crampton Function Hall, Crampton Tower Museum, The Broadway	<b>Local Resident</b> - No comment included	None	The existing polling station be retained.
7	RE2 Eastcliff - Centenary Hall, Hardres Street, Ramsgate	<b>Local Resident</b> - No comment included	None	The existing polling station be retained.
8	RE2 Eastcliff - Centenary Hall, Hardres Street, Ramsgate	<b>Local Resident</b> - Not applicable, I use the postal vote as it was inconvenient for me to get to any polling station after work without my own transport	None	The existing polling station be retained.
9	MJ1 Cliftonville West - Cliftonville Community Centre, St Paul's Road, Margate	<b>Local Community Group</b> - No comment included	None	The existing polling station be retained.
10	MH Margate Central - St John's Community Centre, Victoria Road,	<b>Local Resident</b> - No comment included	None	The existing polling station be retained.



	Margate			
11	MD Westbrook - Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Garlinge, Margate	<b>Local Resident</b> - No comment included	None	The existing polling station be retained.
12	ME Garlinge - Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Garlinge, Margate	<b>Local Resident</b> - None. Its very convenient where it is.	None	The existing polling station be retained.
13	ML Cliftonville East - St Philip's Church, Summerfield Road, Margate	<b>Local Resident</b> - No comment included	None	The existing polling station be retained.
14	RM Cliffsend & Pegwell - Ramsgate Boating Pool, Royal Esplanade, Ramsgate, Kent	<b>Local Resident</b> - No comment included	None	The existing polling station be retained.
15	RA Northwood - St Mark's Church Hall, Pysons Road, Ramsgate	<b>Local Resident</b> - No comment included	None	The existing polling station be retained.
16	RF Eastcliff - Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bellevue Road, Ramsgate	<b>Local Resident</b> - No comment included	None	The existing polling station be retained.
17	MF Garlinge - All Saints Church Hall, All Saints Avenue, Margate	<b>Local Resident</b> - No comment included	None	The existing polling station be retained.
18	BSD Bradstowe - Retort House, Albion Street, Broadstairs	<b>Local Resident</b> - No comment included	None	The existing polling station be retained.

19	BSG Viking - Crampton Function Hall, Crampton Tower Museum, The Broadway	<b>Local Resident</b> - Access to Crampton Tower is very difficult. The ground is uneven and hard to walk on. Could an alternative site be found?	We are endeavouring to find a more suitable venue within the Viking Ward as we understand the concerns regarding the uneven surface to Crampton Tower. However, the only possible venue within the polling district that we had been able to find was St Mildreds School, we contacted the school but unfortunately they are unable to accommodate us with an available room.	The existing polling station be retained.
20	BSB/C Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	<b>District Councillor</b> - There needs to be a polling station on the Beacon Road estate to encourage engagement in the democratic process. I have been concerned for a long time that having the only polling station for both polling districts on the other side of Beacon Road to the estate, is going to exacerbate turnout problems in that community. We should be doing more to encourage people to vote, including setting up a temporary polling station on the estate.	We fully understand the current arrangement at St Andrews Church Hall accommodating two polling stations within the building is not ideal and would like to be in a position to find another venue more centrally. We have contacted venues on the industrial estate (including The Shed) in the past and no one has been able to provide us with an alternative venue. We are in the process of trying to find contact details to approach the old church building in Linley Road.	The existing polling station be retained.
21	BSB/C Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	<b>County Councillor</b> - Unless there is a chance of using The Shed or any other building on the industrial estate – I see no alternative to doubling up in the St Andrew's Church Hall.	We fully understand the current arrangement at St Andrews Church Hall accommodating two polling stations within the building is not ideal and would like to be in a position to find another venue more centrally. We have contacted venues on the industrial estate (including The Shed) in the past and no one has been able	The existing polling station be retained.

			to provide us with an alternative venue. We are in the process of trying to find contact details to approach the old church building in Linley Road.	
22	BSB/C Beacon Road - St Andrews Church Hall, Reading Street, Broadstairs	<b>District Councillor</b> - The church in Linley Road that was a polling station for many years until it closed five years ago, has been sold to, I understand, a charitable organisation that does Well-being courses etc. There's some way to go yet, but it would seem possible for Beacon Road Ward to have a second polling station.	We fully understand the current arrangement at St Andrews Church Hall accommodating two polling stations within the building is not ideal and would like to be in a position to find another venue more centrally. We have contacted venues on the industrial estate (including The Shed) in the past and no one has been able to provide us with an alternative venue. We are in the process of trying to find contact details to approach the old church building in Linley Road.	The existing polling station be retained.

This page is intentionally left blank