
REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2011

To: **Electoral Matters Working Party**

Main Portfolio Area: **Performance**

By: **Mark Avis, Electoral Services Officer**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All wards**

Summary: This supplementary briefing paper summarises the representations received during the second phase of the public consultation exercise on the review of polling districts and polling places 2011.

For consultation

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Members have received a briefing paper which summarises the work undertaken by the Democratic Services Department and the Returning Officer on the review of polling districts and polling places 2011, the representations that were received during the public consultation and seeks Members views in respect of further action.
- 1.2 To adhere to the Access to Information Act Members of the Working Party received their agenda packs before the second phase of the public consultation had finished (2 September 2011). Therefore any comments received during the second phase of the public consultation do not appear in the original briefing paper.
- 1.3 This supplementary briefing paper highlights any representations received during the second phase of the public consultation and seeks Members views.

2.0 Representations received

Councillor Ken Gregory

Representation received from Councillor Ken Gregory as to why more than one polling district cannot be allocated to the same polling place (station) to reduce costs.

Officers' response was that we have to be careful that no electors would have to walk past their old polling station to get to their new one and the polling station is easily accessible to all electors. Furthermore, the last polling district and polling places review increased the number of polling stations to help electors who, at the time, had to travel considerable distances to reach their polling stations.

Officers considered this as part of this review as there were a few buildings that could quite comfortably accommodate additional polling districts but with reference to the above drew a blank.

Officers were happy to consider any proposals put forward by Councillor Gregory but none were received.

Councillor Zita Wiltshire (St Peters Ward)

Representation was received from Councillor Zita Wiltshire informing Officers that she was satisfied with the revised polling places for the Bradstowe St Peters Ward.

Scope

Representation was received from Elliott Dunster, Parliamentary Assistant to Scope appreciating the revised polling district and polling places scheme; and that the Council was addressing access issues notably in the Bradstowe and Salmestone Wards (Annex 1).

Councillor Rosalind Binks (Beacon Ward)

Representation was received from Councillor Rosalind Binks informing Officers that the two polling stations allocated for the Beacon Ward were adequate and fairly central for most.

She did raise points that a few roads (located in and around Reading Street Road) were located very near to the neighbouring polling district's polling places (ie. St Andrews Polling Place, Reading Street) which was some distance away (Annex 2).

Officers have considered the representation and would make the following recommendation that the roads listed below be moved from BSB (Beacon Road – Westover) polling district to BSC (Beacon Road – Reading Street) polling district:

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|----------------------------|----|
| Afghan Road | 55 |
| Beacon Road (Part) | 35 |
| Grafton Road (Part) | 18 |
| Link Road | 2 |
| Reading Street Road (Part) | 19 |

This amendment to the polling district boundaries will have the following affect to the electorate for each polling district:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| BSB Beacon Road (Westover) | 2037 |
| BSC Beacon Road (Reading Street) | 1216 |

The enclosed map shows the new polling district boundaries within the Beacon Road Ward (Annex 3).

Canterbury City Council

Representation was received from the Deputy Acting Returning Officer of Canterbury City Council informing Officers that he had no comments to make on the revised scheme although he would appreciate notification of any subsequent changes to the scheme following our consultation (Annex 4).

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| Contact Officer: | Glenn Back, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager |
| Reporting to: | Harvey Patterson, Corporate and Regulatory Services Manager |

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| Annex 1 and 2 | Email from Elliott Dunster, Parliamentary Assistant to Scope |
| Annex 3 | Email from Councillor Rosalind Binks |
| Annex 4 | Map showing new polling district boundaries within the Beacon Road Ward |
| Annex 5 | Letter from Deputy Acting Returning Officer, Canterbury City Council |

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

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| Finance | None at this stage |
| Legal | None at this stage |