

### Returning Officer Recommendations

#### Aveley & Uplands

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
<b>A</b>	1768	1739	1682	1035	Aveley Methodist Church Hall, Shannon Way
<b>B</b>	2229	2358	2357	1272	Aveley Public Hall, Purfleet Road
<b>C</b>	1822	1664	1658	1022	The Sycamores OAP Complex, Dacre Ave
<b>D</b>	708	643	577	463	Hugh Delargy Hall, Wood Avenue

#### Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals

**The Conservative Association responded that all polling stations are accessible and sufficiently located as to not warrant changing at this time. A ward member responded that there were no issues with the existing polling places.**

##### **Polling District A**

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling station and location.

##### **Polling District B**

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling station and location.

##### **Polling District C**

The Returning Officer notes that 108 new properties are scheduled for 2014/15. The exact building schedule and occupancy levels is not known to electoral services but assuming a 100% occupancy level by end of 2014, with 2 electors per property, this will potentially add 216 electors. The Electoral Commission recommend that no more than 2500 electors are allocated to a polling station. The elector level will be below 2000 based on this assumption.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling station and location.

##### **Polling District D**

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling station and location.

#### **Financial Impact**

None

**Belhus Ward**

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
E1	643	653	683	333	All Saints Church Hall, Foyle Drive
E2	1445	1436	1508	874	Royal British Legion Hall, Faymore Gardens
F	2789	2498	2654	1746	South Ockendon Youth Centre, Culver Centre
G	1770	1994	1960	1058	Thurrock Garden Centre, South Road

**Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals****Polling District E1**

The Conservative Association suggested that this station be amalgamated with polling district E2 but this has not been considered at this point. There have been no issues raised with polling in this district.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling station and location.

**Polling District E2**

One member of public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place. They did not make any specific comments regarding suitability or accessibility. The Conservative Association suggested that this station be amalgamated with polling district E1 but this has not been considered at this point. There have been no issues raised with polling in this district.

Information from Major Projects show that 75 properties are scheduled for build in 2015/16. The Royal British Legion Hall is allocated as the polling place and it is possible to provide two polling stations within the polling place if the electorate and turnout requires this.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling station and location.

**Polling District F**

The Returning officer is aware that the venue will not be available in 2015 and a suitable alternative is required. The conservation association and MPs have suggested the Holy Cross School or Shaw School as alternatives. The Returning Officer and his staff will consider these options and other locations and bring a further report to council for approval ahead of the 2015 elections.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue for 2014.

### **Polling District G**

During the review of 2011 members indicated that polling arrangements for Polling District G were not convenient for electors. The Ockendon Guide and Scout Hall in Tamarisk Road is situated at the far north of the polling district. Members considered options in 2011 and agreed the use of Thurrock Garden Centre in South Road.

During consultation in 2013 two ward members indicated that Thurrock Garden Centre is not a suitable location due to the distance that electors in the south of the polling district have to travel and indicated that they had received complaints during polling that electors did not consider that the route through the shop was accessible and the portacabin location within the site was not suitable. Electoral Services did not receive any complaints from electors. The Conservative Association response notes the geographical spread of the district makes it impossible to please all electors but that the garden centre offers ample parking and is accessible by bus.

The Returning Officer considered several options.

- a) Siteing a portacabin in Foxglove Road (as also suggested in 2011)
  - b) Chestnut Farm, South Road
  - c) Thurrock Garden Centre, South Road – current venue
  - d) Ockendon Scout & Guide Headquarters
- a) This is the Returning Officer response from 2011 and the response has not changed substantially. The site in Foxglove Road does not appear suitable for siteing a portacabin. The Returning Officer would have concerns for staff and elector safety as this presents as quite a remote area situated within garages. There is always a risk in any location to equipment and portacabins left overnight and non allocated parking spaces could present a logistical issue if there is no space to set down a portacabin when delivered. The cost of installing a portacabin is over £3,000 and comes with logistical issues for staff arranging this. Additionally members suggested that polling staff could use the toilet facilities within Chestnut Farm. This is highly unsuitable. The Returning Officer does not permit election staff to leave the polling place and it would put staff at risk crossing the road and passing through the estate alone especially at night. There is no guarantee that Chestnut Farm would be willing to provide facilities up until 10pm at night.
- b) The Returning Officer has made enquiries with the owners of Chestnut Farm on South Road and they have agreed to allow a polling station to be set up in an existing portacabin. The Farm has two suitable accessible portacabins which would be ideal at an election with a higher turnout. The cabins are accessed through the shop but it is a comparably straight and shorter route than offered by Thurrock Garden Centre. Chestnut Farm have indicated that there will be no charge to use their facilities and the location is situated to the south of Thurrock Garden Centre making it slightly more accessible and central to electors in the south of the polling district.

Parking is available on site, there is a café and toilet facilities and a saving will be achieved as there will no longer be a requirement to hire a DDA compliant ramp as used at Thurrock Garden Centre.

- c) Thurrock Garden Centre have indicated that they will no longer allow Thurrock Council to use their venue for polling due to the negative publicity received associated with voting in 2012. The Conservative Party and MPs response indicate that they oppose the cessation of polling at this location but given the response by the Garden Centre this is not an option.
- d) The Ockendon Scout and Guide Headquarters is located at the far north of the polling district and the staff of the Returning Officer have encountered difficulties prior to 2011 confirming the booking which is a risk to the Returning Officer. However the lease agreement states that the venue may be used for polling if necessary. The hire cost in 2011 was £150 and the building is DDA compliant although the front ramp access is not entirely suitable. The major concern with this building is the location at the far north of the polling district and the distance from the electors in the south. Initial enquiries have been made with the Hall and they would request that if the building is used, it is on a permanent basis.

The Conservative Association and MPS have suggested the following in their response to the consultation:

- combining polling districts E1 and E2 with one single polling station at Sommers Heath School or nearby. Whilst the Returning Officer welcomes all suggestions, the Electoral Commission recommend that no more that 2500 electors are allocated to a polling station. This combination of polling districts would provide an eligible electorate approaching 2200 with 75 additional new build properties scheduled for 2015/16. Sommers Heath School would not be centrally located within the proposed combined district and this would be a disadvantage to the electors in the north of the new proposed polling district. All proposals are welcome but the Returning Officer considers that there are no reported issues with polling in E1 and E2 and the change would propose a risk that did not previously exist.
- The Returning Officer is permitted to use a room in a school for polling at no charge but historically the authority has tried to limit the number of schools used on polling day to prevent disruption to children.
- splitting polling district G into two polling districts (G1 and G2). Without researching the available buildings and the roads allocated to each district, the Returning Officer is not able to confirm if this can be accomplished at no additional cost. The Returning Officer notes the comments within the Conservative Association submission that the existing garden centre offers ample parking and is accessible by bus. Due to close proximity it would be reasonable to assume that Chestnut Farm would be deemed a suitable alternative.

The Returning Officer recommends option B, Chestnut Farm or Option D, the Ockendon Scout and Guide Headquarters as the preferred second alternative.

#### **Financial Impact**

Option A - Saving £1000 from Option C plus £3000- £3500 (cost of hiring a portacabin)

Option B – Saving of £1000 from Option C

Option C – n/a

Option D – saving £1000 (ramp) plus hire cost of Scout Headquarters (tbc, circa £200) – Net saving £800

## Chadwell St Mary Ward

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
H	734	707	710	376	Alf Lowne OAP Complex, Loewen Road
I	2716	2612	2592	1533	Delargy Close OAP Complex, Delargy Close
J	1649	1655	1691	914	The Working Mens Club, Riverview
K	2210	2187	2206	1216	Chadwell Village Hall, Waterson Road

**Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals****Polling District H**

In 2011 members agreed with the Returning Officer suggestion that the current polling station was within an Elderly Persons complex and did not consider that a change in venue was required.

Response from the ward members in 2013 indicate that there are no issues with the polling place. However, the Conservative Association response objects to the non central location and suggested the Greyhound Public House or the Pyramid Centre. The elections team have visited the Greyhound Public House. The current landlady is willing to permit polling in the small bar but the election staff are not confident that the area is large enough and access arrangements would present problems for less able bodied persons and parents with prams. The landlady has indicated that she may not be at the pub in May 2014 which may present confirming a booking for May a risk.

Contact with the Pyramid Centre has been not been possible at the time of writing and delaying the decision about the current polling arrangements is a risk to the 2014 election. The election staff consider that the Pyramid Centre has potential as a polling station and it should be considered for elections in 2015 if an alternative polling station is required.

The Alf Lowne OAP complex is not central within the district but it is located within the main residential area of the district. The Greyhound Pub is approximately 0.2 miles away from the existing location and does not offer significant benefits to merit a change. The complex is DDA compliant and offers a large area for voting. This is not the case for the public house and the change in polling place may disenfranchise more electors in the south of the district than it would encourage to vote by centralising it.

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements but will consider the Pyramid Centre for elections after May 2014.

**Polling District I**

Ward members indicated that they have no issues with the current polling arrangements. The conservative submission indicates that they cannot see any obviously more central/accessible locations and have no comments to make at this stage. The Returning Officer has not received any complaints about this polling station.

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.

**Polling District J**

The ward members indicated that they have no issues with the current polling arrangements. The conservative submission indicates that they cannot see any obviously more central/accessible locations and have no comments to make at this stage.

The Returning Officer is keen to avoid the use and closure of schools where suitable alternative sites exist and members agreed in 2011 to move the polling place to The Working Mens Club, Riverview. There have been no comments received regarding use of this venue.

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.

**Polling District K**

The ward members indicated that they have no issues with the current polling arrangements. The conservative submission indicates that they cannot see any obviously more central/accessible locations and have no comments to make at this stage. The Returning officer has not received any complaints about this polling station.

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.

**Financial Impact**

None

**Chafford & North Stifford**

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
L	510	492	507	255	The Pavilion, High Road
M	3073	a) 1500	2853	1639	a) Drake Community Centre, Drake Road

		b) 1462			b) Drake Community Centre, Drake Road
N	1859	1910	1951	1016	Drake Community Centre, Drake Road

### Returning Officer's Proposal

#### Polling District L

The ward members have been consulted and agree with the response from the Conservative Association that this is a central and suitable location.

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.

#### Polling District M

Ward members and the Conservative Association responded to the consultation on this polling place and in summary do not believe that it is well located, primarily as it is on the extreme edge of the district and turnout at elections is low. Suggestions included a centrally located portacabin or if not possible, they would support moving the station to a westerly point towards the gorge. The Essex Wildlife Centre and the Beacon Church were suggested as possibilities due to the electorate being commuters and the location benefiting from the increased footfall from the station, buses, shops and surrounding facilities. Three members of the public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place. They did not leave any comments or recommend alternative venues.

The staff of the Returning Officer has welcomed the suggestions and visited both the Essex Wildlife Centre and the Beacon Church. Both buildings would provide suitable polling places and staff have contacted the management of both buildings. The Returning Officer is not prioritising research into the provision of a centrally located portacabin due to a number of reasons. Members acknowledged that this is a large polling district and a high turnout would not be best suited to a portacabin. It may require two cabins to accommodate the electorate. The cost of one portacabin hire and facilities is approximately £3000. Additionally a portacabin would ideally be sited in a place that would not affect residents (likely to be a green space) and this would not provide the footfall that members would like to encourage. A larger space would be required for two cabins and looking ahead to a general election the Returning Officer is keen to ensure that adequate facilities for polling are available. If the Essex Wildlife Centre and the Beacon Church are not available, the other option maybe to site (two) cabins in the parking area near to both of these venues. Highways may need to be consulted on this option.

The manager of Essex Wildlife Centre has confirmed that they would permit use of the centre for the 22nd May. The cost would be £150. The Beacon Church have not responded to contact with electoral services although the Conservative Association reported that the Church is willing to allow polling to take place in their building. It is promising to have two potential buildings in the area for polling and the Returning Officer supports the request to change the current polling arrangements.

The Returning Officer recommends that the Essex Wildlife Centre is designated as the polling place for polling district M.

#### Polling District N:



In 2011, members agreed to move polling for this ward to the Drake Community Centre. Historically, Tudor Court Primary School have objected to being used as a polling station and members have previously commented generally on the use of schools on polling day. There remains no suitable venue within the existing polling district and if members agree to move the polling place for M to the Essex Wildlife Centre, Drake Community Centre would remain a suitable polling place for polling district N.

Ward members and the Conservative Association have responded to the consultation and agree that despite being located out of the district they consider the polling place for N to be well located. They referenced the use of Tudor Court School if this would not affect the running of the school but the Returning Officer is concerned about parking arrangements, congestion of the road and confusion to electors as the electorate have accepted polling at Drake Community Centre without any comments or raising concerns.

Members are reminded that Drake Community Centre is not within the polling district for N, but it is within the ward. In exceptional cases it is permissible to locate a polling station outside of the polling district. With parking issues and concern regarding school closures this could be acceptable. The location would remain accessible for the electorate in terms of the venue being user friendly and encourage the use of a local community centre. The Returning Officer can request the use of a room in a school and the school should be reminded of this if future needs arise.

### **The Legislation**

Section 18b, 4d of the Representation of People Act 1983 states that the polling place for a polling district must be an area in the district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district.

Should an elector or potential candidate question the location of the polling station, Section 18, (9) also provides that an election shall not be questioned by reason of—

- (a) any noncompliance with the provisions of this section; or (b) any informality relative to polling districts or polling places.

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements for Polling District N.

### **Financial Impact**

Currently the cost of polling for districts M and N are combined. The cost is £100

Moving polling place M would have a financial impact £150.

N – full hire cost of Drake Community Centre (previously split with polling district M) - £100

M– hire cost of Essex Wildlife Centre - £150

**Corringham & Fobbing Ward**

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
O	1562	1554	1516	796	Christian Fellowship Centre, Chase Road
P	2336	2319	2298	1225	The Pegasus Club, Herd Lane
Q	589	581	589	307	Gardner Hall, High Road

**Returning Officer's Proposal****Polling District O**

Members agreed in the 2011 review to move polling to the Christian Fellowship Centre in Chase Road. The Centre is outside the ward boundary and the location is not ideal but electors have not raised any issues. One member of public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place. The Conservative Association commented that a polling station located outside of the ward is undesirable and believe the lack of suitable sites in the district necessitates a portacabin solution. They proposed to have one less portacabin in The Homesteads ward in order to ensure this is a cost-neutral solution.

Members may recall that prior to 2011 polling for this district was provided in a portacabin located in the car park at junction of Church Road/Giffords Cross Road. Members agreed to move the polling place due to the complaints from residents and the cost of the portacabin. Portacabins need to be located in an accessible area and there have been no suggestions of a suitable centrally located space from the review. The cost of a cabin remains at circa £3000. During a general election, the facilities provided at the Christian Fellowship centre would be far more spacious than a portacabin and will accommodate a higher turnout. Facilities for staff are more practical too and the complaints from residents have ceased due to the removal of the portacabin.

The ward members Stanford East and Corringham Town ward were also consulted about the location of the polling place O being within their ward. Whilst they raise concerns, they acknowledge the requirement for the designation of the polling place within their ward.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

**Polling District P**

Polling places in this polling district have been researched thoroughly. Prior to the use of the Pegasus Club, members may recall that polling was undertaken in the Community Hall on Fobbing Road. Due to parking and access issues (this is a working Fire Station) it was not considered suitable for future elections. The Pegasus Club was then designated as the polling place for the district. Polling at the club

provided no issues and it would be preferable to continue at this site however the future of the club is uncertain and a booking for polling day cannot be secured. This is a risk for the Returning Officer and an alternative venue must be found. Members and the Conservative Association responded to consultation and they believe the Pegasus club is the best location for a polling station and encourage its continued use. Corringham Evangelical Church on Fobbing Road was suggested as an alternative polling place but other suggestions would be considered.

Members are reminded about the outcome of previous reviews. The hall in Woolifers Avenue is privately run and would not consider the Council hiring the venue on polling day. The Church on Fobbing Road is located next to the Fire Station. The Church was willing to accommodate polling but is not considered an appropriate venue. There is very little on-site parking and the parking if utilised would potentially block the disabled access. The hall within the church is not large enough to house two polling stations for this busy ward. When polling took place in the Community Hall on Fobbing Road, members raised concerns throughout the day about parking issues on Fobbing Road and the Returning Officer is keen to prevent a repeat of this where possible.

Corringham County Primary School is located next to the Pegasus Club and the Returning Officer can use a room in the school for polling. The school has previously been used for polling but the Returning Officer was keen to minimise disruption to schools on polling day. The school has been contacted and initially agreed that polling may take place within the school. In the absence of any suitable locations within the polling district, the Returning Officer suggests that polling returns to Corringham County Primary School.

However further contact with the Gable Hall school has since indicated that they will not permit polling to take place at Corringham County school. The election team and the education department are working with the management of the school to overcome their concerns.

The Returning Officer recommends that Corringham County Primary School be designated as the Polling Place for Polling District P.

Following feedback, the Returning Officer agrees that the final decision in respect of the location of the polling place for polling district P should be delegated to the Returning Officer following consultation with Group Leaders.

#### **Polling District Q**

Ward members have been consulted and responded that they understand that this polling station is accessible and sufficiently centrally located as to not warrant changing at this time. One member of public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place.

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.

#### **Financial Impact**

#### **Polling District O**

None

**Polling District P**

Small saving from moving polling from a private building to a school - to be confirmed.

**Polling District Q**

None

**East Tilbury Ward****Existing Arrangements**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
R	2938	a) 1483 b) 1436	a) 1487 b) 1441	1618	a) East Tilbury Village Hall, Princess Margaret Road. b) East Tilbury Village Hall, Princess Margaret Road
S	1396	1406	1415	666	Linford Village Hall, Lower Crescent
T	416	403	392	225	West Tilbury Village Hall, Rectory Road

**Returning Officer's Comments and Proposals**

The Conservative Association response addressed polling in the whole ward, not individual districts. In summary they do not see any obviously more central/accessible locations and have no further comments at this stage. They note the existing location is not central to the district and would consider any suggestions brought forward from this review. Ward members had no concerns with the existing polling locations.

**Polling District R**

The Returning Officer continues to take account of the Electoral Commission guidance with regard to the electorate numbers at a polling station and two polling stations are provided within the polling place to ensure the electorate numbers do not exceed 2500 at one station. Major projects have indicated that there is a new build programme of 100 properties in 2014/15 and a further 100 properties in the following two years. The village hall is able to host two polling stations and the two stations will keep to the Electoral Commission recommendation of below 2500 electors at each station.

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.

**Polling District S**

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements. Two members of the public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place.

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.

**Polling District T**

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Grays Riverside Ward**

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
U	3297	a) 1577 b) 1564	a) 1749 b) 1363	1985	a) Belmont Village Hall, Parker Road b) Belmont Village Hall, Parker Road
V	792	1107	1253	831	Grays Central Library, Orsett Road
W	3337	a) 1532 b) 1472	a) 1560 b) 1468	2375	a) Civic Offices, New Road b) Civic Offices, New Road

**Returning Officer's Proposal**

**Polling District U**

The Conservative Association responded to the consultation and believe that this polling station is accessible and sufficiently centrally located as to not warrant changing at this time. Ward members have raised no concerns with polling in this district. The village hall provides for two polling stations in one location in order that no more than 2500 electors are allocated to one station. This is recommended by the Electoral Commission

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.

**Polling District V**

The Conservative Association responded to the consultation and stated that although not a central location they do not see an obviously more central/accessible location and therefore have no further comments at this stage. They would welcome alternative suggestions. Ward members have raised no concerns with polling in this district.

The Returning Officer proposes no changes to this polling place. The Returning Officer notes the concerns regarding a non central location, but

it is a well established location which is familiar to the electorate and accessible. The venue is a council building which minimises cost and the electorate have raised no concerns about the location of polling. Parking has previously been noted as issue from members but there is no requirement to provide parking although it would be desirable.

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.

### **Polling District W**

Ward members have raised no concern with polling in this district and the Returning Officer highlights that provision of polling within the Civic Offices provides a well established and familiar location for the electorate which during an election with a high turnout can easily accommodate several polling stations.

The Conservative Association responded to the consultation with the suggestion to split the polling district to help ensure electorate have access to a conveniently local polling station. They suggested polling continues at the Civic Offices and a further polling station is provided at the Wharf public house in the south west.

The election team have considered this option. There have been no complaints from the electorate with regard to accessing the polling station at the Civic Offices and the current station is accessible for commuters travelling by bus and train and the public on foot during the day. Footfall is often high and may benefit further with the location of the Post Office on site and encourage voters who may not otherwise vote if they are in the building. The site is well known to the electorate and a change will present a risk. The risk is not a reason for not considering change but staff consider changing polling places should only occur when there is a genuine issue or requirement. The Civic Offices site is centrally located within the existing polling district (on an east to west basis) and if the district was split into W1 and W2, the proposed locations would not be central.

Locating a polling station in The Wharf public house (subject to their agreement) would require the goodwill of the public house who may have to shut off an area of their business and is likely to incur an additional cost. Furthermore electors are likely to have to make a special journey to vote and will have to travel to an area which is not obviously served by public transport.

The Conservative Association were concerned that the polling district is expected to grow in the coming years and providing two polling districts serve this need better. The planning department have estimated new build properties in the area of 30 properties in 2014/15 and 47 in 2015/16. This is not excessive and an estimated electorate increase of 160 (2 adults per property) can be accommodated at the existing polling stations. The provision of two stations in this polling place will keep the electorate numbers within the 2500 recommended by the Electoral Commission even if all the houses are built within one area and allocated to just one of the split stations. If required a further polling station, within the civic offices could be provided although this would incur additional staff costs.

On the basis of the above the Returning Officer considers there is no requirement to split the polling district or to provide an additional polling

station.
One member of public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place.
The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.
<b>Financial Impact</b>
None

### Grays Thurrock Ward

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
X	2947	2277	2261	1234	Attlee Court OAP Complex, Lucas Road
Y	1225	1463	1561	793	Stanley Lazell Hall, Dell Road
Z	2225	2571	2571	1572	St. Thomas Parish Room, John Street

<b>Returning Officer's Proposal</b>
<p><b>Polling District X</b></p> <p>Ward members responded to the consultation and raised no concerns regarding this polling station. The Conservative Association believe this polling station is accessible and sufficiently centrally located.</p> <p>The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.</p>
<p><b>Polling District Y</b></p> <p>Ward members responded to the consultation and raised no concerns regarding this polling station. One member of public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place. The Conservative Association commented that they do not see an obviously more central/accessible location and have no further comments at this stage. However, they raised that the existing location is not central to the district and would consider any suggestions brought forward from this review. No further comments were received.</p> <p>Possible alternative locations in this polling district includes two schools. Neither of the schools are centrally located and would cause disruption to the school calendar.</p> <p>The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.</p>

**Polling District Z**

Ward members responded to the consultation and raised no concerns regarding this polling station. The Conservative Association objected to the non central location of the existing station and suggested a polling station in the Palmer's Avenue area would provide more convenient facilities for residents of the district as a whole. They urged the election team to investigate options for this, and to consider whether a portacabin may offer the best solution. Two members of the public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place. One resident commented that they lived in Palmers Avenue and the current location (St Thomas's) was perfect.

- The election team have considered the suggestion of a polling station in the Palmer's Avenue area.
- There are no permanent buildings in this area
- Staff are extremely reluctant to use a temporary structure when there is a suitable building in the district
- There is a green space at the junction of Palmers Avenue and High View Avenue which might accommodate a portacabin. However the area is surrounded by trees which may have to be removed in order to crane a portacabin over the walls. There would be no parking onsite and access may be difficult if situated on grass for wheelchair users and all electors if polling day is wet
- There have been no complaints from electors regarding the location of the existing polling facilities
- The location of the existing polling place is familiar to electors
- The existing location can accommodate a high turnout at a general election and if required an additional station could be provided within the building. Using a portacabin would require an additional cabin to facilitate a higher turnout.
- The cost of St Thomas Parish Room is far lower than the hire of a portacabin.
- Facilities for staff are better within a permanent structure
- Accessibility for disabled electors is more suitable in a permanent building.

One member of the public responded to the public consultation suggesting a station in the Palmers Avenue area too.

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements.

**Financial Impact**

None

**Little Thurrock Blackshots Ward****Existing Arrangements**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
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AA	3332	a) 1667			a) Deneholm Primary School, Culford Road
		b) 1621			b) Deneholm Primary School, Culford Road
AB	1164	1463			Woodside Primary School, Grangewood Ave

### Returning Officer's Proposal

#### Polling District AA and AB

Ward members and the Conservative Association responded to the consultation. They noted that all polling stations are accessible and sufficiently centrally located as to not warrant changing at this time. The preference would be to avoid schools, but note that this must not be at the expense of restricting easy access to the democratic process. They hope these polling stations can continue to be used, whilst minimising disruption to the normal running of the school. The Returning Officer highlights that we do not request that a school closes on polling day. The decision is taken by the school. Schools, as Deneholm has done in the past, often designate polling day as an inset day with only teachers on site.

The review of 2011 investigated alternative solutions but there is no requirement to change the polling places and there have been no major issues raised.

The Returning Officer proposes no change to the current polling arrangements for Polling Districts AA and AB.

#### Financial Impact

None

### Little Thurrock Rectory Ward

#### Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors 2007	Electors 2011	Electors 2013	Properties 2013	Polling Place
AC	1834	1787			Grays Spiritualist Centre, Rectory Road
AD	2713	2736			Tyrells Hall, 67 Dock Road

### Returning Officer's Proposal

#### Polling District AC

The ward members and the Conservative Association responded to the consultation. Parking for disabled residents was raised as an issue at Grays Spiritualist Church by a ward member but no direct complaints have been received by the election team. Whilst there is no requirement to provide parking this site does have limited parking for all electors and parking is available on street. Postal voting is also an option for less able electors. The location is at the southern end of the polling district but no complaints have been received. One member of public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place.

It was suggested to use Little Thurrock School and a mobile site half way up Rectory Road but the ward member also recognised that this would add cost and inconvenience.

The Returning Officer does not consider there are substantial issues with the current polling arrangements and proposes no change.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### **Polling District AD**

The ward member and the Conservative Association commented that the use of the Tyrells Hall Club seems to have gone down well with easy access and parking. One resident responded to the public consultation and requested that polling continue at Tyrells Hall. In considering the comments from the ward member regarding relocating polling stations within the ward, the Returning Officer considered that venues such as Tyrells Hall are able to accommodate two polling stations and provide a good sized polling place for an election with a high turnout.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### **Financial Impact**

None

#### **Ockendon Ward**

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
AE	1834	1787	1756	1066	Belhus Village Hall
AF	1396	1508	1584	1158	Bonnygate Primary School
AG1	N/A	1826	1856	1258	The Methodist Church, West Road
AG2	N/A	1680	1658	854	Brandon Groves Community Hall

**Returning Officer's Proposal**

NB. Polling District AG was split in 2007 to form two polling districts known as AG1 (Ockendon Ward (Benyon)) and AG2 (Ockendon Ward (Brandon Groves)).

**Polling District AE**

The election team have visited the Community Hub in this polling district to establish its suitability for polling. Whilst the Hub would be able to provide rooms they may be on the small size and it would disrupt the running of the Hub. Parking is limited immediately outside the Hub.

Two ward councillors and the Conservative Association responded that they had no complaints regarding the use of Belhus Village Hall and they would consider using the Community Hub as an alternative venue. Due to the availability of onsite parking and the size of the hall available in Belhus Village Hall, the Returning Officer would recommend that polling remains at this site. At a general election the Hall would offer better sized polling facilities, parking and electors would be familiar with the existing arrangements.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

**Polling District AF**

The election team have discussed polling arrangements at the school with the new headteacher. Access to the school during polling day has been confirmed as through the front gate only on health and safety grounds. This is due to building work taking place at the school next year. Members have previously confirmed that they wished polling to remain at this location. No specific comments were received during the consultation regarding this venue. One member of public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling place.

**Polling District AG1**

One member of public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place. No specific comments were received during the consultation regarding polling in this district.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

**Polling District AG2**

The ward councillors and a ward councillor for Belhus have commented that heating and lighting facilities at Brandon Groves Community Centre were inadequate. The election team have tried to source portable heaters in the past and will continue to try and source a suitable product but this cannot be guaranteed. Ward members have complained about the lack of heating but also commented that it is a well supported polling station. The Conservative Association commented that future elections in November are unlikely and the lack of heating will be less of an issue in May. There have been no complaints from electors or residents about the polling facilities offered at Brandon Groves

Community Centre. In other polling districts Members have recommended the use of portacabins. When considering the poor heating as a reason to move polling the Returning Officer would like to point out that in comparison the facilities for staff in a portacabin are of a basic standard with outside toilets.

One member of public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place but left no specific comments.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

**Financial Impact**

None

**Orsett Ward**

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
AH	723	740	764	375	Bulphan Village Hall, Church Road
AI	1486	1527	1529	789	Horndon Village Hall, Mill Lane
AJ	1345	1490	1501	825	Orsett Village Hall, High Road
AK	923	981	993	503	Whitmore Hall, Bristowe Drive

**Returning Officer's Proposal****Polling District AH**

The ward members and the Conservative Association responded to the consultation. Their polling station is accessible and sufficiently centrally located. The planning department does not list any major new builds in the district over the forthcoming years.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

**Polling District AI**

The ward members and the Conservative Association responded to the consultation. Their polling station is accessible and sufficiently centrally located. The planning department does not list any major new builds in the district over the forthcoming years. One member of the public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

**Polling District AJ**

The ward members and the Conservative Association responded to the consultation. Their polling station is accessible and sufficiently centrally located. The planning department does not list any major new builds in the district over the forthcoming years. Two members of the public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

**Polling District AK**

The ward members and the Conservative Association responded to the consultation. Their polling station is accessible and sufficiently

centrally located. The planning department does not list any major new builds in the district over the forthcoming years.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### Financial Impact

None

#### South Chafford Ward

##### Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Electors 2007	Electors 2011	Electors 2013	Properties 2013	Polling Place
AL	1565	1559	1621	1057	Brewers Fayre, Fleming Road
AM	3256	3210	3109	1824	Harris Academy (formerly Chafford Hundred Library, Chafford Hundred Campus)

##### Returning Officer's Proposal

###### Polling District AL

Polling for this ward is provided within a public house. Members were consulted and responded on a change of polling station in 2010/early 2011 when the use of Brewers Fayre was proposed. The change to this polling station removed the need to use a portacabin placed within Sainsbury's car park and saving £3000. There have been no adverse complaints about the venue but suggestions have included better signage to polling taking place at Brewers Fayre. The elections team will investigate this further.

Ward members and the Conservative Association responded to the consultation and agreed that the polling stations are accessible and centrally located. One member of public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place. They commented that signage for the polling station could be improved but the location is good.

There are very few suitable buildings for use as a polling station within this district and historically the portacabin sited at Sainsburys confirmed the lack of polling venues. It has not been possible to source a more centrally located building.

The planning department have indicated that there will be new builds in the polling district. 59 in 2014/15 and 41 in 2015/16. This is an estimated additional 200 electors (assumption 2 adults per property) and a larger electorate is more suited to a permanent structure such as the Brewers Fayre.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

**Polling District AM**

Ward members and the Conservative Association responded to the consultation and agreed that the polling stations are accessible and centrally located. Two members of the public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place.

Harris Academy have confirmed that the building may be used for polling but have expressed they are against the use. The election team have reminded the Academy that the Returning Officer is entitled to use a room in a school for polling. This applies equally to academies.

The electorate allocated to this polling station exceeds the 2500 recommended by the Electoral Commission to one polling station. The use of the Academy, as opposed to a centrally located portacabin, permits a split polling station with additional staff.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

**Financial Impact**

None

**Stanford East & Corringham Town Ward****Existing Arrangements**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
AN	3114	a) 1579 b) 1499	3068	1696	a) O'Donaghue House, Thors Oak b) O'Donaghue House, Thors Oak
AO	1784	1756	1777	1005	Tom Wood Hall, Bellmaine Ave
AP	1655	1625	1607	922	Corringham Hall, Springhouse Road

**Returning Officer's Proposal****Polling Station AN**

The Labour ward member responded to the consultation and confirmed that the polling place for this district was suitable. The Conservative Association have responded that polling should be moved to a more central location such as Abbots Hall School. There have been no complaints or comments received from electors or residents regarding polling in this district.

The Returning Officer is keen to minimise disruption to schools on polling day and prefers not to use a school where there is a suitable alternative. Moving polling to Abbots Hall School would not centralise polling for all electors, rather it would move it to the north east of the

polling district rather than the south west. It may also reduce polling facilities for elderly residents of O'Donaghue house, disrupt a school day and confuse electors.

Two polling stations are provided within the existing polling place as the electorate number allocated to polling district AN is above the recommended 2500 electors. Any proposed new polling station would need the space to provide two polling stations.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### **Polling Station AO**

A labour ward member responded to the consultation and confirmed that the polling place for this district was suitable. The Conservative Association and ward members responded that the polling station for this district is accessible and sufficiently centrally located.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### **Polling Station AP**

The labour ward member responded to the consultation and confirmed that the polling place for this district was suitable. The Conservative Association and ward members responded that the polling station for this district is accessible and sufficiently centrally located.

One member of public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place but left no specific comments about the station.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### **Financial Impact**

None

### **Stanford-le-Hope West Ward**

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
AQ	1515	1495	1448	859	Allott Hall, Park Road
AR	1947	1948	1928	1176	St Margaret's Church Hall, The Green
AS	1318	1246	1290	665	Kynoch Court, Billet Lane

#### **Returning Officer's Proposal**

**Polling District AQ**



Ward members responded to the review confirming that they had no issues with the existing polling place. The Conservative Association note that the location is not central to the district but it is very accessible to residents and a search for an alternative venue is unnecessary.

Members may wish to note that although the location is not central to the district, it is located within the residential area of the district, with a large part of the district covered by St Clere's Golf Course. The Planning Department have indicated that there will be a number of new builds in this district – 82 in 2014/15, 79 in 2015/16 and 68 in 2016/17. This totals 229 properties, with an estimate of 460 electors. Allott Hall is able to accommodate two polling stations if required and even with one station set up, the electorate would remain within the recommended limit of 2500 electors.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### **Polling District AR**

Ward members responded to the review confirming that they had no issues with the existing polling place. The Conservative Association believe the polling station to be accessible and sufficiently centrally located.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### **Polling District AS**

Ward members responded to the review confirming that they had no issues with the existing polling place. The Conservative Association requested that Hardie Road area be moved to polling district AR. They consider this would make voting more convenient for residents than the current arrangements which force people to make a special trip to vote. They also suggest that polling should be moved to Hassenbrook School as this is a more central location with ample car parking which is a problem at the existing site.

The Returning Officer and his staff confirm that there have been no reported issues with parking at Kynoch Court. The care centre is DDA compliant and offers good facilities for less able electors. There is parking onsite and along the road with access via either end of Billet Lane. When considering a polling place the relevant authority must seek to ensure the polling place is accessible. Moving polling away from Kynoch Court may disenfranchise some less able electors. As previously mentioned, the Returning Officer is keen to minimise disruption to schools when there is a suitable alternative building. There have been no complaints about polling in Kynoch Court, and moving polling to the school has not been extensively considered. The access to the school is through Hassenbrook Road which is essentially a dead end road and may result in congestion and difficulties at peak voting periods and school times if the school remains open. The school is not considered to be more or less centrally located when the major residential area of the polling district is considered. The school is at the north side of the district whilst the existing polling place is to the south side of the district. Changing polling places is a risk to the Returning Officer and can confuse electors. With no major issues reported the Returning Officer does not consider that the polling place needs to change.

In respect of Hardie Road, the Returning Officer can see no merit in moving this road to polling district AR. The polling district boundary

follows the major road (Southend Road) and the election team have received no complaints about voting from the residents of Hardie Road. The electors of this road would need to make a special trip to vote regardless of which polling district they voted in and this is not a valid reason to potentially confuse the electors as to their polling station. A polling district boundary usually lies down the centre of a road and follows a natural boundary. Additionally all properties in a minor road or estate should be in the same polling district. Changing voting arrangements for Hardie Road electors would only affect half of the residents, would not follow a natural boundary and lead to confusion for electors. The Returning Officer does not consider that there is any merit in changing the polling district boundary in this way.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### **Financial Impact**

None

### **Stifford Clays Ward**

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
AT	2547	2562	2584	1391	Headon Hall, Crawford Ave
AU	2266	2276	2385	1250	Stifford Clays Social Club, Crammavill Street

#### **Returning Officer's Proposal**

##### **Polling District AT**

A ward member and the Conservative Association responded to the review and considered that there is no requirement to change the existing polling station.

The election team have contacted Stifford Clays school in Whitmore Avenue to enquire about polling facilities as this would offer a slightly more central location for the polling district. The school has indicated that they would shut to pupils on the day if polling took place in the school. In the absence of any complaints about the existing polling arrangements at Headon Hall this was not pursued further, to minimise disruption to schools.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

##### **Polling District AU**

A ward member responded to the review and in particular raised concerns about the suggestion by the election team to use Elizabeth Gardens as a polling place. The election team suggested they would explore this location as it would position a polling place in a similar area as prior to 2010. The management company, Hanover Housing have since confirmed that the building is not suitable for use. Two members of the public

responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place. One comment suggested that polling should take place at Grays Methodist Church on Hathaway Road. This building is not within the ward and would be on the far southern side of the polling district.

The Conservative Association response considered that the use of Stifford Clays Social Club is unacceptable and suggest the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Chestnut Road. They reason that the Social Club building is hidden away, poorly signposted and not centrally located in the district.

The election staff have always believed the Social Club is well known to residents of the district as there have been no comments, complaints or reported issues from electors or members regarding finding this polling station on polling day. Additionally the Club provides adequate parking and a large area for voting to take place. This is essential at an election with a high turnout and is a significant consideration as the electorate allocated to this station is approaching the recommended limit of 2500 electors. The Conservative Association has responded to the recommendations and reported that the club is not particularly well known and election staff have suggested improved signposting. It is recognised that the building is not centrally located but the Returning Officer is clear that the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Chestnut Road is not a suitable alternative. The church offers no parking and significantly, access to the front of the building is not DDA compliant with two steps up to the door. The cost to hire a ramp is £1000. The election team have not viewed the building inside but on first sight and from maps, the building is very small and does not appear to offer the voting and access facilities required. The relevant authority should ensure that disabled access is provided. Stifford Clays Social Club is accessible to less able bodied electors and it can be reached by bus routes along Long Lane and Crammavill Street. There is no bus route along Chestnut Avenue and as previously mentioned, no off street parking.

The election team have researched the area and considered The Gransjean Hall on Long Lane, to the far west of the polling district. However, this hall is not central to the polling district and could be said to be located in a less residential area. The election team have previously contacted the management of the hall and they are unwilling to allow the hall to be used for polling.

As there are no further suitable buildings in the polling district the Returning Officer considers that polling should remain at Stifford Clays Social Club.

The Returning Officer proposes no change to either venue.

#### **Financial Impact**

None

#### **The Homesteads Ward**

##### **Existing Arrangements**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
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AV	2115	1985	1961	1015	Homesteads Village Hall, Dunstable Rd
AW	2487	a) 1255 b) 1223	2511	1218	Temporary Structure, Balstonia Recreation Ground x 2
AX	1275	1280	1275	587	Temporary Structure, Land off Kenneth Gardens
AY	868	897	913	447	Temporary Structure, Gardner Ave

### Returning Officer's Proposal

#### Polling District AV

Ward members and the Conservative Association responded to the consultation. Two members of the public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place.

The polling station is seen as accessible and sufficiently centrally located as to not warrant changing at this time.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### Polling District AW

This is a large district and requires two portacabins to provide two polling stations for the electorate. The existing site at Balstonia provides the space for both cabins and a suitable large site is not provided elsewhere in the district. The grounds at Balstonia offer a location that once in situ is not blocking access for local residents and no complaints have been received about either the siting of the portacabins, the running of the stations throughout the day or from electors about travelling to the stations. The Conservative Association support the location of these portacabins.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling place.

#### Polling District AX

Polling for electors in this ward is currently provided through the provision of a portacabin at Kenneth Gardens. Following the Police Crime and Commissioner election in November 2012, a complaint was received from the residents of Kenneth Gardens and a ward councillor. It is not the first year that complaints have been received. The complaint raised the following issues:

- Removal of a tree planted by a resident (a complaint from an earlier election)
- Traffic congestion in the cul de sac
- Delivery of a generator at 4am
- Collection of a generator at 22.20pm

- Suggestion from a ward councillor that the polling station located at AY (Gardner Avenue) be utilised for the electors within AX (Morley Hill)

The Returning Officer recognises that polling in this district is not best served from Kenneth Gardens and suitable locations are not available which would not encounter similar problems. Combining polling of AY and AX at Gardner Avenue would require two portacabins and would increase problems that staff experience locating one existing cabin (in AY). In previous years the hairdressers have complained about the entrance to the shops being blocked and lack of light. Election staff have responded to the suggestion of using a hall at Gable Hall School and has visited the school. The hall would provide adequate polling facilities

- It is self contained with toilets and kitchen facilities for staff and electors
- Parking is available on site on on road
- the school has confirmed that the hall is available but the fee has not been confirmed – this should be a reasonable fee only for heating, lighting, additional costs – it will provide a saving on the hire cost of a portacabin
- At a busy election, the size of the hall will allow several polling booths and it will cope with the turnout at a general election
- Staff facilities and facilities and access for electors will be considerably improved

Gable Hall School is on the ward boundary and is not located within the Homesteads ward (but the council can designate a polling place outside the polling district in special circumstances) [Representation of the Peoples Act 1983, Section 18c) and polling will no longer be central to the polling district (it is now at the far north east area). However in view of the complaints received and the lack of suitable sites within the district and sites in general to centrally locate a portacabin this should be strongly recommended.

The Conservative Association have responded to the review and suggested that Kenneth Gardens is not an ideal location but it does cope.

The Acting Returning Officer for South Basildon and East Thurrock has commented on the proposal to move polling to Gable Hall School and requests feedback on the arrangements, if approved, ahead of the Parliamentary Election.

The Returning Officer recommends that Gable Hall School be designated as the Polling Place for polling district AX.

### **Polling District AY**

The Conservative Association response to the consultation raised an issue that the cabin is located on a shop front with limited parking bays, next to a main footpath to the secondary and sixth form college and adjacent to a short road leading to a local primary school. The Conservative Association note that this makes the location congested. The elections team report that there have been no issues raised by residents or electors with regard to congestion and the location next to the shops and the footpath may actively encourage voters due to the high footfall of the area. The Returning Officer would like to encourage voter turnout and by placing the cabin in a shopping area it avoids the disturbance to neighbouring residents, as experienced in Kenneth Gardens. Placing a portacabin in this area is not without issues to the local shops but it is accepted when the cabin is positioned thoughtfully. There is no requirement to provide parking but some local parking is available in bays.

The Returning Officer has considered two solutions

- a) no changes to the existing polling arrangements for AY or
- b) Combine polling for polling district AY at Gable Hall School with polling district AX

As there have been no complaints and the polling station is in an area that has a high footfall, the Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing polling arrangements.

#### Financial Impact

- a) None
- b) A saving of circa £3000 would be achieved through the changing the polling station for AX to Gable Hall School. Combining polling for AY and AX at Gable Hall School would achieve a saving of circa £6000 in total.

#### Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park Ward

Existing Arrangements					
Polling District	Electors 2007	Electors 2011	Electors 2013	Properties 2013	Polling Place
AZ	478	462	483	241	Temporary Structure, Churchill Road
BA	2271	2078	2042	1530	Alexandra Road OAP complex
BB	1817	1808	1834	1050	Tilbury Community Resource Centre

#### Returning Officer's Proposal

##### Polling District AZ

Previous reviews have noted this is a largely residential district with no alternative venues and few areas to site a portacabin.

It has not been possible to determine a suitable alternative to a temporary structure and consideration of a polling station outside of the district/ward has been discounted due to the location of existing venues. The Conservative Association have responded that the polling station is accessible and sufficiently centrally located.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing arrangements.

##### Polling District BA

The Conservative Association have responded that the polling station is accessible and sufficiently centrally located.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

### **Polling District BB**

The Conservative Association have responded that the polling station is accessible and sufficiently centrally located. However the election team note that Tilbury Resource Centre will not be available in 2014 and a booking for future elections cannot be secured. It is essential that a new polling place is found.

The election team have researched the area and visited the local area office, the Sunshine Centre and the Tilbury Leisure Centre/Banqueting Hall. Tilbury Leisure Centre has been reluctant to enter negotiations about the hire of the venue and the local area office provides no suitable space. The Sunshine Centre is located to the front of the Tilbury Resource Centre and will be available for hire. The centre is a council building and confirmation that the centre will be designated as a polling place at an early stage will enable courses to be scheduled around the election date, thereby limiting disruption to service users.

The Returning Officer recommends that the Sunshine Centre be designated as the polling place for Polling District BB.

### **Financial Impact**

Minimal as both the Tilbury Resource Centre and Sunshine Centre are council buildings. The Sunshine Centre has not yet confirmed the booking fee but it is unlikely to be more than the heating and lighting fees for the day. Charges will be contained within the election budget.

## **Tilbury St Chads Ward**

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
BC	2323	2259	2313	1277	Lansbury Gardens OAP Complex
BD	1890	1874	1881	1072	The Home Link Room, Tilbury Manor Junior

### **Returning Officer's Proposal**

#### **Polling District BC and BD**

The Conservative Association response notes that the existing polling places are not central to the district and would welcome new suggestions although there are no obvious locations. One member of public responded to the consultation who voted at this polling place. A ward member suggested use of the Tilbury Riverside Centre and the Anchor pub as these are more central locations. The Returning Officer has discounted these suggestions as the Tilbury Riverside Centre is within Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park Ward and on the waterfront. It is not a central location. An alternative venue considered by the election team is Tilbury Leisure Centre. This is also outside of the ward and may confuse electors due to the proximity of the proposed polling station for Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park. As there is a suitable

building within the ward the Returning Officer does not consider that there are exceptional circumstances to designate a building outside of the ward as the polling place.

The Anchor Pub has been viewed externally by the election team but it has not been possible to make contact. Local sources say the building is operating as a venue selling fridges and as a place of worship. The election team would be concerned that the lack of permanent use and ownership may propose a risk to the Returning Officer in securing a building for 2014 and 2015. The building is not central to the polling district and if proposed and agreed it would move polling to the very southern edge of the district. This has not therefore been considered further.

The polling place for BC (Lansbury Gardens) is located centrally from a north to south perspective. It is west of the district rather than central but there are no suitable alternative buildings within the polling district. There have been no complaints regarding this polling place. As a sheltered housing complex the building is accessible and has suitable ramps and wide doors.

The Returning Officer acknowledges that the existing polling station for Polling District BD is not central but there are no obvious suitable alternatives. The Returning Officer has not received any complaints from electors regarding the location of the polling station.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### **Financial Impact**

None

#### **West Thurrock & South Stifford Ward**

<b>Existing Arrangements</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Electors 2007</b>	<b>Electors 2011</b>	<b>Electors 2013</b>	<b>Properties 2013</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
BE	1942	2107	2203	1462	Mulberry Drive OAP Complex
BF	1309	1207	1266	1156	The Fleet Public House, London Road
BG	1049	1123	1303	903	Cowdray Hall, London Road
BH	2147	1954	2128	1418	St Clements Health & Community Centre

#### **Returning Officer's Proposal**

##### **Polling District BE**

Two ward members confirmed that they had no issues with the existing polling arrangements for this district. The Conservative Association responded that the existing location is tucked away on the Garrison estate and is no longer appropriate given the significant changes in the layout of the district. They recommended that the polling station should be moved to London Road, where it is equally accessible to the four



distinct sections of the district. They suggested that suitable sites included Purfleet School or the Royal Hotel Public House.

The Returning Officer agrees that the Purfleet School on London Road is a central location. The election team have contacted the school and they will shut for the day if this is designated as a polling place. The Returning Officer and members have in the past, been keen to minimise disruption to schools on polling day. The Returning Officer does not wish the school to shut and schools could designate this as a non-pupil day if they are concerned about safety. Members may wish to note that electors at the OAP complex may be slightly disadvantaged due to the move from the polling place but this is not a reason to consider a change if it is necessary. The hall at the complex may be subdivided if required at an election with a high turnout and there is a lobby area and facilities for the election staff. No comments or complaints have been received from electors.

The location of the Royal Hotel Public House is not considered central to the polling district and moves the polling place further away from the two most residential estates. Due to this the Returning Officer does not consider a change to the Royal Hotel Public House is suitable.

The election staff suggest that

- a) Polling remains at Mulberry Drive OAP complex or
- b) Purfleet School, London Road is designated as a polling place.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue and polling should continue at Mulberry Drive OAP complex.

#### **Polling District BF**

Two ward members confirmed that they had no issues with the existing polling arrangements for this district. The Conservative Association responded that they believe that the Fleet Public House is accessible and sufficiently centrally located as to not warrant changing at this time. They would consider any proposal to move to the Baptist Church in light of this review.

The Election Team have viewed the site of the Baptist Church on the internet. The venue offers no obvious parking on site. The Returning Officer has received no comments or complaints about the existing polling arrangements and it remains a suitable location with off road parking for electors. There is a program of new build housing scheduled for 2017 and the additional 240 houses may require an additional polling station.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### **Polling District BG**

Two ward members confirmed that they had no issues with the existing polling arrangements for this district. The Conservative Association responded that they object to the non-central location of the existing station and believe a polling station at West Thurrock School would provide more convenient facilities for residents of the district as a whole. West Thurrock School is located on Schoolfield Road to the south of

the residential area within the polling district.

There have been no comments or complaints regarding the use or access to Cowdray Hall. The Hall offers good facilities for staff and electors on polling day but it is acknowledged that the hall is on the eastern side of the polling district. There are 132 new builds scheduled for 2014/15. Cowdray Hall is located on London Road, a main road which provides good public transport access to the Hall. The hall would be able to cope with a potential increase in electors (estimate 264). The Returning Officer and members have previously wished to minimise disruption to schools on polling day and initial contact with the school have indicated that they would need to shut in order for the school to be used as a polling place. Due to the lack of complaints the Returning Officer does not consider there is a need to change the existing polling place. Changing polling places can cause elector confusion.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### **Polling District BH**

Two ward members confirmed that they had no issues with the existing polling arrangements for this district. The Conservative Association responded that they do not see an obviously more central/accessible location and therefore have no further comments at this stage. The Returning Officer is not able to offer any suitable alternatives for consideration at this stage and although St Clements health and Community Centre is not central it is located on the main London Road offering good transport links and is likely to be a well known location to electors within the district. A programme of new builds is scheduled in this polling district, commencing in 2016 onwards.

The Returning Officer recommends no change to the existing venue.

#### **Financial Impact**

None