



**Reigate & Banstead**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Banstead | Horley | Redhill | Reigate

<b>REPORT OF:</b>	ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER/ RETURNING OFFICER
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	MARGARET QUINE/PETER DUNGATE
<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	01737 276028
<b>E-MAIL:</b>	margaret.quine@reigate-banstead.gov.uk peter.dungate @reigate-banstead.gov.uk
<b>TO:</b>	COUNCIL
<b>DATE:</b>	6TH OCTOBER 2011

<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	ALL
------------------------	-----

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES
-----------------	--

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. The premises set out in Annex 1 be designated the polling places for the polling districts stated with effect from 1st December 2011; and
2. The Officers be asked to pursue the provision of ramps where appropriate to improve accessibility.

**SUMMARY**

This report sets out the proposals for polling districts and polling places in the Borough following the statutory review undertaken under the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

**Statutory Powers**

1. The last review of polling districts and polling places was carried out in 2007 and reported to Council at their meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007. A range of identified problems were, as a result, resolved. The Electoral Administration Act, 2006 introduced a duty for all polling districts and polling places to be reviewed by the end of 2007 and thereafter at least every four years. In conducting a statutory review Local Authorities are required to demonstrate they have met the criteria set out in the legislation as follows:
  - Seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
  - Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.
2. Electoral matters are reserved to the Council to determine.

3. In accordance with statutory requirements the Council gave notice of the review and sought comments from a wide range of stakeholders including:
  - The Acting Returning Officers for Parliamentary Constituencies within the Borough
  - All Councillors
  - County Council Divisional Councillors for Reigate and Banstead
  - Surrey County Council
  - Horley Town Council
  - Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council
  - M.Ps for Reigate and Banstead
  - Political Parties
  - Residents Associations
4. The Review information was also available via the Council's web site for public consultation.
5. As part of the review process Officers have considered all existing arrangements against a range of criteria including:
  - Convenience for electors
  - Accessibility
  - Car parking
  - Facilities for staff
  - Health & Safety
6. The only representations received were regarding matters which were outside the scope of this review and were in relation to requests for changes in the current Ward boundaries.

As indicated in paragraph 1, most identified problems have been resolved as part of the previous 2007 review.

#### **Accessibility Issues**

7. The following Polling Place has problems with accessibility. As no suitable alternative exists the Officers propose that the installation of ramps should be investigated to mitigate these accessibility issues:
  - Furzefield School, Delabole Road, Merstham

Notwithstanding the above the Officers still have concerns regarding access for the elderly and/or disabled electors at the Meadvale Parish Room polling place in Somerset Road, Redhill. However, owing to the proximity of the entrance to the highway it is not possible to have a ramped access. Alternative venues have been looked at and are either unavailable or unsuitable.

8. A schedule of existing and proposed polling places is attached as **Annex 1** to this report.

9. **Review of County Electoral Divisions**

This review is taking place at the moment and will be finalised by March 2012. The current suggestions for the Electoral Divisions within the Borough will mean that several of the existing polling districts will be split. This will mean that a further review of polling districts and polling places will have to be conducted after March 2012 in order to take into account any changes. This review will have to be completed and agreed by Council before the publication of the Register of Electors on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012. The new County Electoral Divisions will come into force at the County Council Elections scheduled to be held in May 2013.

### **Legal Implications**

10. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

### **Resource Implications**

11. The need for a further review as set out in paragraph 9 above and any subsequent increase in the number of polling places will increase the revenue costs - see separate report set out under agenda item 10. In addition, there will be costs associated with the provision of ramps but these have yet to be assessed.

### **Consultation**

12. Consultation has been undertaken as set out in paragraph 3 of this report.

### **Conclusions**

13. The Council is obliged to have suitable arrangements in place in order to provide voting facilities for all the electors of the Borough. The process of review is ongoing and Officers will continue to pursue alternative more suitable premises where existing premises fall below the standards sought by the Council.

Background Papers: Letters of representation

**REIGATE AND BANSTEAD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SCHEDULE OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES – COMMENTS OF THE RETURNING OFFICER**

<b>WARD</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Banstead Village – AA	Banstead Civic Centre, The Horseshoe, Banstead	Considered suitable
Banstead Village- AB	Ditto	Considered suitable
Banstead Village – AC	The Mead Room, Banstead Community Centre, Park Road, Banstead	Considered suitable
Nork – BA	St. Paul’s Church, Warren Road, Banstead	Retain although parking can be a problem at certain times of the of day
Nork - BB	The Beacon School, Picquets Way, Banstead	Retain although parking can be a problem at certain times of the day. Shared with CB – Polling District – Tattenhams Ward
Tattenhams – CA	St. Mark’s Church Hall, Great Tattenhams, Epsom	Considered suitable
Tattenhams – CB	The Beacon School, Picquets Way, Banstead	See comments above for polling district BB
Preston – DA	Tattenhams Community Association Hall, Merland Rise, Tadworth	Considered suitable
Kingswood with Burgh Heath - EA	War Memorial Hall, Brighton Road, Burgh Heath, Tadworth	Retain although limited parking, however only used by 626 electors
Kingswood with Burgh Heath – EB	Kingswood Village Hall, Waterhouse Lane, Kingswood, Tadworth	Retain although parking can be a problem at certain hours of the of day
Kingwood with Burgh Heath – EC	Church of the Wisdom of God Church Hall, Buckland Road, Lower Kingswood, Tadworth	Considered suitable

WARD	POLLING PLACE	COMMENTS
Chipstead, Hooley and Woodmansterne – FA	Woodmansterne Village Hall, Carshalton Road, Woodmansterne, Banstead	Considered suitable
Chipstead, Hooley and Woodmansterne – FB	Peter Aubertin Hall, Elmore Road, Chipstead, Coulsdon	Considered suitable
Chipstead, Hooley and Woodmansterne – FC	Hooley Village Hall, St. Margaret's Road, Hooley, Coulsdon	Considered suitable
Chipstead, Hooley and Woodmansterne – FD	Netherne Village Hall, Cayton Road, Netherne on the Hill, Coulsdon	Retain although limited off road parking
Tadworth and Walton – GA	St. John's Church Hall, The Avenue, Tadworth	Considered suitable
Tadworth and Walton – GB	The Community Centre, Breech Lane, Walton on the Hill, Tadworth	Considered suitable.
Merstham – HA	Merstham Community School, London Road South, Merstham	Considered suitable
Merstham - HB	Furzeffield Junior School, Delabole Road, Merstham	Retain although entrance to classroom used as polling station not easy for disabled electors. The possibility of providing a ramp is being investigated.
Merstham – HC	Woodfield School, Sunstone Grove, Merstham	Considered suitable
Merstham – HD	Canada Hall, Battlebridge Lane, Merstham	Considered suitable Following the last review 2007 an access ramp is provided on polling day
Reigate Hill - IA	Colman/Redland Centre (Small Hall), Croydon Road, Reigate	Considered suitable Also used by LB – Polling District – Reigate Central
Reigate Hill - IB	St. Mark's Hall, Alma Road, Reigate	Retain although parking is a problem during the working day as a large number of car park spaces are leased to SCC.
Redhill West – JA	Holy Trinity Church Centre, Carlton Road, Redhill	Considered suitable

WARD	POLLING PLACE	COMMENTS
Redhill West – JB	St. Matthews School, Linkfield Lane, Redhill	Considered suitable
Redhill East - KA	The Phoenix Centre, Alpine Road, Redhill	Retain although access road narrow and entrance to the Centre is sloping. No available alternative.
Redhill East - KB	The Warwick School, Noke Drive, Redhill	Retain although parking can be a problem, during the school day, especially since restrictions have been placed on the road leading to the school. The Electoral Registration/Returning Officer has agreed with the school that around 10 parking spaces will be made available in the car park on polling days.
Redhill East - KC	Earlswood Infant & Nursery School, St. John's Road, Redhill	Considered suitable Also used by OA Polling District
Reigate Central – LA	St. Philip's Church Hall, Nutley Lane, Reigate	Considered suitable
Reigate Central – LB	Colman/Redland Centre (Small Hall), Croydon Road, Reigate	See Polling District – IA - above
Reigate Central – LC	Donyngs Recreation Centre, Linkfield Lane, Redhill	Considered suitable
Meadvale and St. John's – MA	St. Mary's Church Centre, Chart Lane, Reigate	Retain although narrow access road and parking can be a problem at certain times of the day.
Meadvale and St. John's - MB	Meadvale Parish Hall, Somerset Road, Redhill	Retain although access for elderly and disabled electors is not very good. Owing to the proximity of the entrance to the highway it is not possible to have a ramped access. Alternative venues have been looked at and are either unavailable or unsuitable
Meadvale and St. John's – MC	Woodhatch Community Centre, Whitebeam Drive, Reigate	Considered suitable

WARD	POLLING PLACE	COMMENTS
South Park and Woodhatch – NA	Sandcross Infant Site, Alexander Road, Reigate	Considered suitable
South Park and Woodhatch – NB	Dovers Green School, Rushetts Road, Reigate	Considered suitable
Earlswood and Whitebushes – OA	Earlswood Nursery & Infant School, St. John's Road, Redhill	See comments above for Polling District – KC
Earlswood and Whitebushes – OB	Red Cross Centre, Maple Road, Redhill	Considered suitable
Earlswood and Whitebushes – OC	Whitebushes Village Hall, Three Arch Road, Redhill	Retain although entrance to and exit from car park are on a bend with very poor visibility
Earlswood and Whitebushes - OD	Salfords Village Hall, Honeycrock Lane, Salfords	Considered suitable. Also used for Polling District – PA – Salfords and Sidlow
Salfords and Sidlow - PA	Salfords Village Hall, Honeycrock Lane, Salfords	Considered suitable. Also used for Polling District – PA – Salfords and Sidlow
Salfords and Sidlow – PB	Sidlow Bridge Centre, Ironsbottom, Sidlow, Reigate	Considered suitable
Horley East – QA	Oakwood School, Balcombe Road, Horley	Considered suitable
Horley East – QB	St. Francis Church Hall, Balcombe Road, Horley	Considered suitable. Also used by Polling District – RC – Horley Central
Horley Central – RA	Regent House Community Centre, Albert Road, Horley	Considered suitable
Horley Central – RB	The Archway Theatre, The Drive, Horley, Surrey	Considered suitable
Horley Central – RC	St. Francis Church Hall, Balcombe Road, Horley	Considered suitable. Also used for Polling District – QB – Horley East

<b>WARD</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Horley West – SA	Pathfinder Scout Hall, Baden Drive, Horley	Considered suitable
Horley West – SB	St. Wilfrid’s Church Hall, Horley Row, Horley	Considered suitable