



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

<b>REPORT OF:</b>	ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER/ RETURNING OFFICER
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<b>TO:</b>	COUNCIL
<b>DATE:</b>	10 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014

<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	PRESTON AND REDHILL EAST
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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES
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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That Merland Rise Church, Merland Rise, Tadworth be designated the polling place for the polling district of Preston
2. That St Joseph's Church, 122 Ladbroke Road, Redhill be designated the polling place for the RHE1 polling district of Redhill East

**SUMMARY**

Tattenhams Community Association Hall, Merland Rise, Tadworth is not available to use as a polling place on 22<sup>nd</sup> May as it's demolition is part of the regeneration plans for the Preston area of Tadworth. This report recommends that a new polling place be designated at Merland Rise Church for the polling district of Preston (PRE1).

The current polling place for the RHE1 polling district of Redhill East at Reigate Valley College, Phoenix Centre Campus is too small to accommodate the two polling stations now required for the number of electors in RHE1 and does not comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA). This report recommends that a new polling place be designated at St Joseph's Church which can accommodate at least two polling stations and is DDA compliant.

**Statutory Powers**

1. The Representation of the People Act, 1983 (as amended) provides for the Council to designate polling places for all elections. Polling stations within a polling place are for the Returning Officer to determine.

## **Background**

### **Merland Rise Church**

2. The Council was informed that Tattenhams Community Association Hall would be demolished and rebuilt as part of the regeneration plans for Preston and will not be available for the European elections due to be held on 22 May 2014.
3. Merland Rise Church is situated a short distance from Tattenhams Community Association Hall. Officers have visited the Church and confirmed that it offers suitable accommodation for the polling station required for Preston.
4. In accordance with established procedures, appropriate consultation was carried out, no objections were received.

### **St Joseph's Church**

5. Officers have been aware for some time that the room made available for use as a polling station at the Phoenix Centre Campus, Reigate Valley College is very small and cramped for the number staff required. The entrance to the polling station also has a small step and it is not possible to position a ramp for access.
6. The polling district electorate has now reached the number at which it must be split between two polling stations for combined elections in accordance with Electoral Commission guidance. There will be Borough elections in addition to European held in Redhill East on 22 May 2014.
7. St Joseph's Church is situated within the polling district. There is a large hall located at the back of the church which will easily accommodate the two polling stations now required for the electorate in RHE1 and the building is DDA compliant.
8. In accordance with established procedures, appropriate consultation was carried out. A positive response was received from the Ward Councillors. No objections were received.

### **Legal Implications**

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

### **Resource Implications**

10. None.

### **Consultation**

11. Consultation has been undertaken as set out in paragraphs 4 and 8 of this report.

## **Conclusions**

12. There will be European Parliamentary and Borough elections held on 22 May 2014. For the reasons set out in this report two alternative polling places are recommended to be designated.

Background Papers:     None.