



REPORT OF:	ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER/ RETURNING OFFICER
AUTHOR:	SALLY CRAWFORD
TELEPHONE:	01737 276440
E-MAIL:	Sally.crawford@reigate-banstead.gov.uk
TO:	COUNCIL
DATE:	11 TH FEBRUARY 2016

WARDS AFFECTED:	MERSTHAM (MER1)
------------------------	-----------------

SUBJECT:	DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACE
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
1. That Merstham Village Hall, Station Road North, Merstham, RH1 3ED be designated the polling place for the MER1 polling district of Merstham.	
SUMMARY	
This report recommends that Merstham Village Hall is designated the polling place for the MER1 polling district of Merstham ward.	

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

2. Officers were advised that Merstham Primary School could no longer accommodate a polling station and would not be available in May 2016.
3. Merstham Village Hall was identified as a suitable alternative location. The village hall is located within the polling district, has some dedicated parking and is accessible. The Management is happy to accommodate the polling station within the hall.
4. In accordance with established procedures appropriate consultation has been carried out and the proposal has been generally welcomed by the ward councillors. No objections have been received.
5. After consultation had been carried out on the proposed new polling place the school contacted the council to say that it is now available for future use.
6. The recommendation to designate Merstham Village Hall as a polling place stands. This complies with council policy not to use schools where possible and the premises is appropriate for use as a polling station.

Legal Implications

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

Resource Implications

8. None.

Consultation

9. Consultation has been undertaken as set out in paragraphs 4 of this report.
10. Should any further changes to polling stations be necessary before polling day on 5 May 2016 the Electoral Registration Officer has delegated powers under the Officer scheme of delegation to designate polling stations following the required consultation with the relevant ward and county councillors, political parties and the MP. A report would be submitted to the next council meeting following the decision.

Conclusions

11. An alternative polling place is recommended to be designated for all future elections for the reasons set out in this report.

Background Papers: None.