

Council Agenda



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

For enquiries regarding this agenda;

Contact: Democratic Services (01737 276182)

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7 January 2020

Councillor,

A meeting of the Council of the Borough of Reigate and Banstead will be held in the New Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Reigate on **THURSDAY, 16 JANUARY 2020** at **7.30 pm** to which you are summoned to attend.

The Agenda for the meeting is attached.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Jory'.

John Jory
Chief Executive

(Prior to commencement of the meeting, prayers will be said by the Mayor's Chaplain).

If you need this agenda in an alternative format, please refer to the information on the final page.

To: All Members of the Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 10)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 31 October 2019.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any urgent business.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To consider any questions received from members of the public under Council Procedure Rule 2.14.

6. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

To consider any questions received from Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 2.15.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

To receive and consider the recommendations of the Council's Executive, Committees and Sub-Committees.

a) Executive - 7 November 2019 (Pages 11 - 16)

To receive and consider two recommendations from the meeting of the Executive on 7 November 2019.

b) Executive - 5 December 2019 (Pages 17 - 18)

To receive and consider two recommendations from the meeting of the Executive on 5 December 2019.

8. STATEMENTS

To receive any statement from the Leader of the Council, Members of the Executive, Chairmen of Committees or the Head of Paid Service.

9. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

(Pages 19 - 46)

To consider a review of Polling Districts and Places.

10. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements by the Leader of the Council.

- The Leader of the Council will announce the Mayor Elect for 2020/21.

11. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements from the Mayor.

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BOROUGH OF REIGATE AND BANSTEAD

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the New Council Chamber - Town Hall, Reigate on 31 October 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors K. Foreman (Mayor), R. Absalom (Deputy Mayor), M. A. Brunt (Leader), T. Schofield (Deputy Leader), D. Allcard, T. Archer, R. H. Ashford, R. Biggs, M. S. Blacker, N. J. Bramhall, J. S. Bray, H. Brown, G. Buttironi, J. C. S. Essex, S. L. Fenton, P. Harp, R. Harper, N. D. Harrison, J. Hudson, G. J. Knight, S. A. Kulka, J. P. King, V. H. Lewanski, A. M. Lynch, S. McKenna, R. Michalowski, N. C. Moses, S. Parnall, J. Paul, J. E. Philpott, S. J. G. Rickman, R. Ritter, D. A. Ross, K. Sachdeva, S. Sinden, C. Stevens and C. T. H. Whinney.

49. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 September 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed.

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Adamson, R. Feeney, A. Horwood, E. Humphreys, F. Kelly, C. Neame, R. Turner and S. Walsh.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor H. Brown.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

52. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

53. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

54. PETITION: M25 NOISE POLLUTION

A report was presented to the Council arising from the Council's Petition Scheme in relation to a petition of 605 signatures regarding M25 noise pollution.

The petition asked the Council to "coordinate with Mole Valley DC, Surrey CC, Crispin Blunt MP, Paul Beresford MP and Chris Grayling MP and [to] write to Highways England highlighting residents' concerns about noise pollution from the M25, specifically referencing motorway resurfacing of the atypical concrete slabs installed between M25 junctions 8 and 9 and requesting additional man-made sound barriers and tree planting along this section of motorway to protect residents". It also called "...on Reigate and Banstead [Borough] Council to consider

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how it can combat noise pollution from roads directly via planning policy or other powers under its control”.

In line with the Petition Scheme, details of the petition had been published on the Council’s website along with the e-signatories. The Petition Scheme provided for the Council to decide how to respond to the petition. This included the options of supporting the action requested, or not, or referring the matter to the Executive (or the Executive decision maker) for further consideration.

As provided for in the Petition Scheme the organiser of the petition, Mr G. Curry, introduced the petition. Councillor J. Essex spoke in support of the petition as did the Leader of the Council, Councillor M. Brunt. The following is a summary of the points made:

- The carriageway between junctions 8 to 11 was particularly prone to noise because it was constructed from concrete slabs rather than asphalt which was typically quieter.
- Concerns relating to increases in traffic.
- The advent of electric vehicles would not solve the problem, as at speeds over 35mph the noise issue was down to the sound of the wheels on the road rather than the engine.
- More than ten “Noise Important Areas” existed between junctions 8 and 9.
- The need to look at transport management issues more widely and not just road surfacing.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor N. Bramall responded to the points made at the meeting and confirmed that Highways England was the government company responsible for the strategic road network, including motorways. The following points were highlighted in relation to the Junction 8 to Junction 9 stretch of the M25:

- To address noise issues, Highways England concentrated on locations where the greatest number of people were exposed to the highest noise levels. As a result, a number of properties along this stretch of the motorway had been selected for noise insulation.
- Repairs to joints on concrete sections of the clockwise carriageway had recently been completed.
- There were no plans to resurface the carriageway although Highways England had been trialling new techniques to improve concrete roads elsewhere in the south east.
- Highways England had identified that there was limited room for further tree planting within the highway boundary.

A variety of other matters, in relation to noise and air pollution and climate change, were also considered. In response to questions about noise, it was recognised planning policy was used to mitigate the impact of noise from other sources while the Council used environmental health powers to investigate noise complaints. However, it was confirmed that the Council had no powers in relation to road noise.

Councillor N. Bramhall moved and Councillor R. Ashford seconded a Motion and it was

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RESOLVED that:

- (i) The first part of the petition request be supported, and that the Leader of the Council be asked to write to Highways England on the issue of M25 Noise Pollution, and in doing so engages with Mole Valley District Council, Surrey County Council, and local MPs.
- (ii) The Leader of the Council be asked to forward the petition to the Chairman of the Reigate and Banstead Local Committee for its consideration.
- (iii) That – in relation to the second part of the petition – it be noted that the Council’s powers in combating noise pollution from roads was limited to engaging with the statutory highway authorities. That where there was evidence of new or increased resident disturbance from local roads this would be drawn to the attention of Surrey County Council, including via the Reigate and Banstead Local Committee.

55. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Nine questions were asked and responses given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.15 and the Order Paper circulated at the meeting. The details were as follows:

Question by	Answered by	Subject
Cllr S. Fenton	Cllr M. Brunt, Leader of the Council	Women’s State Pension Changes
Cllr J. Philpott	Cllr M. Brunt, Leader of the Council	Women’s State Pension Changes
Cllr S. Fenton	Cllr T. Schofield, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance	Brexit (Written Response)
Cllr J. Essex	Cllr R. Ashford, Executive Member for Community Partnerships	Index of Multiple Deprivation
Cllr K. Sachdeva	Cllr N. Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Recycling
Cllr M. Blacker	Cllr N. Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Air Quality
Cllr S. McKenna	Cllr R. Biggs, Executive Member for Planning Policy	Zero Carbon New Homes
Cllr H. Brown	Cllr T. Archer, Executive Member for Investment and Companies	Common Land

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Cllr S. Kulka	Cllr G. Knight, Executive Member for Housing and Benefits	Affordable Housing Progress
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Note: For more information on responses to Council questions please see this page on the Council's website:

<https://reigate-banstead.moderngov.co.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13400>

56. RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

57. REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS

RESOLVED that the report, set out on the Order Paper, concerning special urgency decisions be noted.

58. STATEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, Councillor M. Brunt informed Council that, in line with the Council's corporate commitment to environmental sustainability, the Mayor's Jaguar would no longer be used. The Council was informed that this would be sold at auction and in future the Mayor would travel using one of the Council's pool cars (a mix of hybrid and fully electric vehicles) or would self-drive (using their own vehicle) to engagements.

The Leader of the Council also provided an update in relation to the establishment of a Sustainable Working Group by the Reigate and Banstead Local Committee. It was highlighted that the Working Group would help the Council, and its many stakeholders, to address a variety of issues in relation to transport and climate change.

59. MOTION: FAIRTRADE

Councillor R. Ritter moved and Councillor J. Essex seconded the following Motion, concerning Fairtrade:

The Motion asked Council to note that:

- 2019 marked 25 years since the FAIRTRADE Mark was launched in the UK.
- Since 1994, consumer demand for Fairtrade had grown thanks to the efforts of grassroots campaigners, and pioneering Fair Trade businesses.
- There were now over 600 Fairtrade Communities in the UK, including Surrey County Council from 2014.
- As a result of Fairtrade commitments from mainstream brands and retailers, the UK Fairtrade market was one of the biggest in the

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world.

- Global Fairtrade sales in 2018 generated £142 million in Fairtrade Premium. Farmers in 73 countries had invested this money in their communities, increasing business productivity and contributing to the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Despite this positive news, exploitation remained rampant in global [supply chains](#). More than 40 million people were trapped in modern slavery (as highlighted by the recent RBBC campaign about modern slavery) and 152 million young people were in child labour ([according to the UN](#)) Hundreds of millions more were earning less than a living income or wage.

The proposer of the Motion believed that:

- The Fairtrade principles of paying a 'premium' that was wholly managed by farmers and workers themselves, and of minimum prices to protect producers from market volatility, were crucial to systemic change. This 'premium' enabled farmers to be resilient to the impacts of [climate change](#).
- Public bodies, including local authorities, should support ethical procurement policies, using their purchasing power to support Fairtrade and ensure their supply chains, at home and abroad, were free of exploitation, including modern slavery.
- Companies operating through global supply chains should go further and take steps to require the payment of living wages and achievement of living incomes for all.

The Motion called on Reigate and Banstead Borough Council to:

- Commit to achieve 'Fairtrade Town' status, through support for the local Fairtrade steering group working on achieving this status for Reigate and in due course Redhill, Horley and Banstead, to achieve the status of a Fairtrade borough.
- Actively promote Fairtrade locally, through support for local groups and churches, in the media including social media, and events, including during Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Support local Fairtrade Schools, colleges and actively promote Fairtrade teaching materials in local schools and educational institutions.
- Celebrate businesses already selling Fairtrade products and incentivising more of them to champion Fairtrade in the local community.
- Review its procurement policy, including its catering and refreshments offer, to ensure that Fairtrade produce is chosen wherever possible, and that Fairtrade considerations are included as

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a preference in any contracts going out to tender.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.17.3 the Motion upon being moved and seconded was referred without discussion to the Executive for consideration.

RESOLVED that it be noted that the Motion on Fairtrade, set out at item 11 on the agenda, be referred to the Executive for consideration.

60. MEMBERSHIP OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the updated Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2019/20 Municipal Year be noted.

61. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

62. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reminded Council that a General Election would take place on 12 December 2019. As a result, it was noted that the meeting of Full Council in December would be moved as it was scheduled to take place on the same day. It was anticipated that this meeting would be rescheduled for early/mid January 2020 and it was highlighted that further information would be sent to all Members in due course.

The Mayor also informed the Council:

- Of the various Remembrance Sunday events taking place on Sunday 10 November 2019 and the Remembrance Day Service at 11.00am on 11 November 2019 at the Belfry, Redhill.
- That a Quiz Night would take place on Friday 29 November 2019 at Banstead Community Hall.
- Of Christ Central's Christmas Carol Service that would take place on Sunday 15 December 2019 at Royal Alexandra and Albert School.

The Mayor concluded by giving thanks to those who had donated items to the Mayor's charities, Loveworks and Stripey Stork. It was noted that all donations had been gratefully received. Information was also provided on Stripey Stork's Christmas campaign #SantaStork2019.

The Meeting closed at 8.38 pm

Agenda Item 6

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 16 January 2020

Questions by Members

Number	Question by	To be answered by	Subject
1	Councillor S. Kulka	Councillor N. Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Parking Income
2	Councillor H. Brown	Councillor N. Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Water Fountains
3	Councillor R. Ritter	Councillor R. Biggs, Executive Member for Planning Policy	Permitted Development
4	Councillor J. Essex	Councillor R. Biggs, Executive Member for Planning Policy	Doctor and School Provision
5	Councillor S. Fenton	Councillor E. Humphreys Executive Member for Place and Economic Prosperity	Gatwick Airport

Agenda Item 6

Councillor S. Kulka will ask the **Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor N. Bramhall** the following question:

Question 1: Parking Income

Recent media coverage of the profits from off and on-street parking made by Councils have raised questions from residents. Could the Executive Member please clarify how much profit has been made by our Council over the past year and what has benefited from the parking related income?

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Councillor H. Brown will ask the **Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor N. Bramhall** the following question:

Question 2: Water Fountains

Water fountains are popping up in towns and cities in the UK, promoting health and helping to reduce buying of plastic bottles. Can Reigate and Banstead Borough Council pledge to have a modern water fountain in the Borough, preferably in the two centres of Reigate and Redhill?

Agenda Item 6

Councillor R. Ritter will ask the **Executive Member for Planning Policy, Councillor R. Biggs** the following question:

Question 3: Permitted Development

Reigate and Banstead's new housing strategy clearly recognises the need to increase the number of affordable homes in the Borough and especially social rented homes. However, there are now two major residential developments underway in Redhill, at Quadrant House and Furniss House, converting offices to residential units under Permitted Development Rights (PDR) which don't have to comply with normal planning conditions regarding nationally described space standards, affordability, contributions to CIL funding, amenity or energy efficiency standards.

Given that these PDR conversions bypass the normal planning system which means bypassing many of the standards that exist to protect housing quality and that far from curtailing PDR the government have recently consulted on extending it to other types of change of use and 'upward extensions,' will the council be lobbying the new government to change the rules and end this dangerous policy?

Agenda Item 6

Councillor J. Essex will ask the **Executive Member for Planning Policy, Councillor R. Biggs** the following question:

Question 4: Doctor and School Provision

Whilst the Local Plan makes an allowance for the number of doctors and school places across the Borough, how is this updated to make sure there are enough doctors and school places provided in the areas where the most houses are being built. In particular, please confirm what details of new doctors' places are required to be provided by the Council to reflect the recent current and planned developments in Redhill town centre, Watercolour and Horley so those living there can be supported by a local surgery?

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Councillor S. Fenton will ask the **Executive Member for Place and Economic Prosperity, Councillor E. Humphreys** the following question:

Question 5: Gatwick Airport

Under the Planning Act 2008, the proposed growth of the main runway at Gatwick Airport must be considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as it will add about 55,000 extra flights a year, increasing passenger numbers by significantly more than the 10 million increase identified in the 2008 Act as requiring scrutiny.

Will the Council ask the Secretary of State for Transport to ensure this main runway growth - which is in addition to plans to use the emergency runway as a second runway - is fully examined on the grounds of climate emergency, lack of road and rail access, decline in air quality, lack of affordable housing, healthcare, schools, amenities and significant increase in aircraft noise?

Background:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/aviation-strategy-making-best-use-of-existing-runways>

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Recommendations from the Executive – 7 November 2019

Minute reference

61

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING 2020/21 – INCLUDING COUNCIL TAX POLICY CHANGE

Councillor T. Schofield, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance, introduced a report setting out service and financial planning proposals for 2020/21 and changes in relation to council tax policy.

As set out in the report, the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance highlighted that proposals for 2020/21 had been based on a full and robust assessment. It was noted that this work had been carried out by Executive Members, supported by the Management Team and a Budget Advisory Working Group.

Councillor Schofield highlighted that the proposals set out in the report would allow for a continuation of high quality services. It was recognised that this would result in an increased budget requirement for 2020/21 but that this would be partly offset by savings and the generation of additional income.

In response to questions about presenting a balanced budget to Full Council in February 2020, it was explained that a net increase in service budgets, of £2.2 million, would be addressed through a review of central budgets that was in progress, combined with a proposed council tax increase and drawing on reserves if necessary.

A number of issues were considered in relation to revenue reserves and the fact the Council no longer received revenue support grant from Government and was therefore developing new income streams to replace Government funding. The Executive went on to consider proposals for the Capital Programme, including £9.9 million of investment for new capital schemes and the continuation of existing rolling maintenance programmes. The work that was already underway to develop proposals relating to the Housing Delivery Strategy and Environmental Strategy was also highlighted.

In terms of council tax proposals, Councillor Schofield explained that it was always a difficult decision to increase Council Tax. It was noted that the proposals would see the Reigate and Banstead element of a Band D charge increase by 9 pence per week (based on a £5 increase). Councillor Schofield outlined that for less than £4.50 each a week,

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residents would benefit from waste and recycling collections, clean streets and award winning open spaces. The Council would also continue to provide leisure and community centres, health and wellbeing services, housing, community development and business support services. In addition, residents would benefit from various regeneration and place improvement activities across the borough, and from statutory services provided, such as planning, environmental health and licensing.

Councillor Schofield went on to outline proposals to introduce a 100% council tax discount for care leavers up to the age of 25. It was noted that this would contribute to a county-wide initiative, promoted by Surrey County Council. The Executive was informed that the local Council Tax Reduction scheme would remain unchanged, other than reflecting changes in allowances and premiums in line with Government benefits.

During the discussion, both the Leader and Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance responded to questions on service and financial proposals, including proposals to adopt the new council tax policy. It was also highlighted that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had invited all non-executive Members to attend the Budget Scrutiny Review Panel meeting on Thursday 21 November 2019.

RECOMMENDED that:

(i) A new Council Tax Policy, outlined in the Executive's report, to apply a 100% discount to care leavers up to the age of 25 be adopted.

(ii) The updated thresholds to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, outlined in the Executive's report to reflect changes in allowances and premiums in line with Government benefits, be adopted.

RESOLVED that:

(i) The national and local service context, outlined in Annex 1 to the report, be noted.

(ii) The service proposals, set out in the report presented, which responded to national and local service context to deliver corporate priorities, be endorsed.

(iii) The draft business plans for 2020/21 to 2024/25 be approved, and that Heads of Service be authorised to finalise the plans for their service areas, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders.

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(iv) The following be approved for consultation under the Council's budget and policy framework:

- Medium Term Financial Plan Summary (Annex 2);
- Revenue Budget Savings and Additional Income proposals totalling £1.618 million (Annex 3);
- Revenue Budget Growth proposals totalling £3.742 million (Annex 3);
- Capital Investment Strategy Summary (Annex 4);
- Capital Programme Growth proposals of £9.910 million (Annex 5).

(v) The Fees and Charges Policy, set out at Annex 6, be approved.

(vi) The Reserves Policy, set out at Annex 7.2, be approved.

(vii) The Medium Term Financial Plan forecast for 2021/22 onwards and the proposed action to address the forecast revenue budget gap be noted.

Reason for decisions: To ensure the Council continued to plan and manage its resources well, deliver high standards of service and to meet the aims and objectives of the Council's emerging Five Year Plan (2020-2025) and ensure the Council Tax Policy supported delivery of these objectives.

Alternative options: In terms of Service and Financial Planning, the following alternative options were available: To only approve some of the proposed budget and financial planning changes set out within the report, for consultation under the terms of the Constitution; or To reject the proposed budget and financial planning changes set out within the report, and request that further work be undertaken to develop new proposals for consultation under the terms of the Constitution. In terms of the Council Care Leavers Discount, the alternative option, set out in the report, was to reject the proposed discount.

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Minute reference

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HALF YEARLY TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR 2019/20

Councillor T. Schofield, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance, explained that the purpose of the report was to provide an update on the performance of the Council's treasury management activities. The Executive was informed that this formed part of the formal reporting requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

Councillor Schofield informed the Executive that the treasury management performance, up to Period 6, showed that overall the projected outturn was better than budget. This was primarily due to the long term borrowing facility not being utilised to date.

The following points were noted:

- Short-term borrowing of £12 million was undertaken in February and March 2019, for cash flow purposes, and was fully repaid in May and June 2019.
- There had been no further borrowing for the period 1 April to 30 September 2019.
- It was anticipated that borrowing of up to £41.5 million would be undertaken during the second half of 2019/20 in order to fund delivery of the Council's Capital Programme.
- Borrowing limits remained unchanged from when the Treasury Management Strategy was adopted by Full Council in April 2019.
- Annex 1 to the report provided an update on economic conditions and expected movements in interest rates. This information had been provided by the Council's advisors, Link Treasury Services.

In response to questions, it was explained Capital Programme delivery timing and expenditure plans had been updated for the period October 2019 to March 2020. As a result, the borrowing and investment forecasts had been refreshed. It was also highlighted that the treasury forecasts set out in the report reflected the £25 million that had been delegated to the Commercial Ventures Executive Sub-Committee for commercial investments and £100,000 for delivery of the Merstham Recreation Ground project in 2019/20.

It was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the Half Yearly Treasury Management Report for 2019/20 on 17 October 2019. The Leader of the Council thanked the Committee for its questions and highlighted a number of observations that had been circulated to the

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Executive by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee ahead of the meeting. This included feedback and questions on a variety of matters relating to: public sector borrowing, treasury investments and the unexpected rise in Public Works Loan Board interest rates. The input from the Committee was welcomed and it was noted that these observations had been fully captured in the minutes from the meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the Treasury Management Performance for the year to date (2019/20) and the updated prudential indicators be noted.

Reason for decision: To comply with the requirements of the regulatory framework for treasury management and to meet the Council's reporting requirements.

Alternative options: To accept the report but ask Officers to provide more detail on some specific issues contained in the report.

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Council
16 January 2020

Recommendations from the Executive – 5 December 2019

Minute reference

70

REIGATE & BANSTEAD 2025

Councillor G. Knight, Executive Member for Housing and Benefits, introduced the new corporate plan, titled 'Reigate & Banstead 2025'. The Executive had previously endorsed the draft plan for consultation at its meeting in July 2019 (Minute ref. 29), and the final plan incorporated the outcome of that consultation, for approval.

The consideration of data and evidence, coupled with the engagement of Members and stakeholders, had informed the development of the plan, and the feedback from the consultation demonstrated support for its vision, commitments and objectives. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee had also been consulted and had supported the way in which the plan had been developed along with its overall scope.

Councillor Knight explained that the feedback from the consultation had led to some clarifications, and the inclusion of additional wording, rather than any substantive change in direction. A new set of contextual indicators and success measures had been included, which would be reported annually.

In response to questions from Visiting Members, the Leader acknowledged the importance of the Council's role in addressing affordable housing and climate change and concurred with Councillor Knight that the plan set a clear and appropriate focus for the Council for the next 5 years.

RECOMMENDED that 'Reigate & Banstead 2025', the Council's corporate plan for the period 2020-2025 be adopted by Full Council.

RESOLVED that the consultation feedback on the proposals for 'Reigate & Banstead 2025' be noted.

Reason for decision: To ensure that the Council had an adopted corporate plan for the 2020-2025 period that sets out a clear vision and priorities to guide its service and financial plans.

Alternative options: Not to adopt 'Reigate & Banstead 2025' and to request that further work be undertaken in response to the consultation before a revised version be reported back to the Executive.

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**Minute
reference**

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COUNCIL TAX BASE 2020/21

Councillor T. Schofield, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance, introduced the report and explained that the Council had a statutory requirement to adopt its Council Tax base by 31 January each year. The Council had followed a prescribed formula in preparing the Council Tax Base, which would consequently be provided to precepting authorities to enable them to determine their level of Council Tax.

RECOMMENDED that the Council Tax Base for 2020/21 be recommended to Council for approval.

RESOLVED that the Council Tax Base for 2020/21 for each of the Council's areas be adjusted as follows: Reigate & Banstead Council as a whole 61,128.8 Horley Town Council area 10,191.7 Salfords & Sidlow Parish Council area 1,416.5.

Reason for decision: To comply with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992.

Alternative options: When calculating and setting the Tax Base the Council had to follow specific regulations laid down under statutory instruments. There was therefore no opportunity for Members to make any changes to the methodology adopted or the recommended Council Tax Base.

Agenda Item 9



SIGNED OFF BY	Electoral Registration Officer
AUTHOR	Alex Vine, Electoral Services Manager
TELEPHONE	Tel: 01737 276067
EMAIL	alex.vine@reigate-banstead.gov.uk
TO	Council
DATE	Thursday, 16 January 2020

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	Yes
WARDS AFFECTED	(All Wards);

SUBJECT	Review of Polling Districts and Places
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RECOMMENDATIONS
(i) The premises and recommendations set out in Appendix 1 be designated the polling places for the polling districts stated with effect from 31st January 2020.
EXECUTIVE 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.
Full Council has authority to approve the above recommendations.

STATUTORY POWERS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Electoral Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. 2. Reviews must be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 2013. The last statutory review of polling districts and polling places was carried out in 2014. 3. The current review must therefore be completed by 31 January 2020. 4. Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983 sets out all the steps that must be undertaken to complete a review. Officers have also had regard to guidance published by the Electoral Commission.

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BACKGROUND

5. In February 2019 the Council concluded a Local Government Boundary Review, which included a review of polling places and districts. It is therefore not expected that this review will result in significant changes to the current designated polling places or polling districts.
6. Due to the timing of the recent Boundary Review and the need to conduct a statutory review by 31 January 2020, this report will consider:
 - representations received during the consultation period for this review; and
 - any comments from the Acting Returning Officer with regards to the suitability of polling places and districts arising from the UK Parliamentary elections in December 2019.
7. 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 every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled.
8. Notice of the review, including details of a consultation period, was published on the Council's website and at the Town Hall on 5 June 2019.
9. A consultation period from 5 July to 16 September 2019 invited comments and representations from electors, elected Members, local political parties as well as any persons or organisations with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability.

KEY INFORMATION

Size of the electorate

10. The Electoral Commission's guidance recommends that:
 - Any polling station over 2,000 electors will create challenges in ensuring voters can vote without delay, considering the hours of poll and the fact that voters will not typically vote in an even spread across the day.
 - A polling station should not have more than 2,500 electors allocated to it.

Projected population growth

11. Polling stations located at the Pathfinder Scout Hall (Horley West and Sidlow), the Merstham Community Hub (Hooley, Merstham and Netherne), St Joseph's Church (Redhill East) and St Mark's Church Hall (Reigate) are close to the 2500 elector guideline and are likely to exceed 2500 electors before the next review within 5 years. This projection is informed by:
 - The Council's [Development Management Plan](#), which sets out a housing requirement over the next 10 years and indicates that the electorate in these areas will grow significantly; and

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- The population growth projections data for the Boundary Review in 2018/19 was re-applied to the new polling districts to give an indication of projected population in these areas.
12. With this in mind, the council can carry out an interim review and change some of their polling districts and polling places before the end of the next 5-year cycle.
 13. In particular, development of the Westvale Park area has led to a growth in the electorate in the HRW2 polling district (Horley West and Sidlow) and is expected to continue expanding.

Representations

14. Appendix 2 lists each of the representations received during the consultation period.
15. A total of 11 responses were received during the consultation period. 6 responses stated that no changes were required. The remaining 5 responses which sought changes related to the use of:
 - Tanyard Barn Community Centre in Brookfield Drive (HRE3 and HRE4 - Horley East and Salfords);
 - St Wilfrid's Church in Horley Row (HRW2 - Horley West and Sidlow); and
 - Edmonds Hall in Albert Road (HRC2 - Horley Central and South).
16. During the UK Parliamentary elections in December 2019 the Acting Returning Officer received several complaints regarding the suitability of the Redhill Football Social Club (EWB4 – Earlswood and Whitebushes) as a polling place, specifically in relation to parking and access for electors. The potholed car park was a trip hazard for some voters, particularly after sunset.

Assessment criteria

17. As part of the review process officers considered existing arrangements against a range of criteria including:
 - Convenience for electors
 - Accessibility
 - Car parking
 - Facilities for staff
 - Health & Safety
18. Each of the above criteria were assessed as part of a comprehensive evaluation based on Electoral Commission guidance when Polling Station Inspectors visited each polling place during the UK Parliamentary elections in December 2019. Presiding Officers also complete a health and safety risk assessment at each election.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

19. The Electoral Administration Act 2013 requires that reviews be carried out within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 2013. The last

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statutory review of polling districts and polling places was carried out in 2014. The current review must therefore be completed by 31 January 2020.

20. Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983 sets out all the steps that must be undertaken to complete a review.
21. In conducting a statutory review, the legislation requires that Local Authorities ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

22. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

23. In conducting a statutory review, the legislation requires that Local Authorities ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled.
24. An accessibility assessment was included within the evaluation form completed by Polling Station Inspectors when assessing polling stations during the UK Parliamentary elections in December 2019.

COMMUNICATION IMPLICATIONS

25. Electors will be notified of any changes to polling places for their respective electoral areas / wards on their poll cards.

CONSULTATION

26. In accordance with statutory requirements the Council gave notice of the review on Wednesday 5 June 2019 and sought comments from a wide range of stakeholders including:
 - The Acting Returning Officers for Parliamentary Constituencies within the Borough;
 - All Borough Councillors;
 - County Council Divisional Councillors for Reigate and Banstead;
 - Surrey County Council;
 - Horley Town Council;
 - Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council;
 - MPs for the borough;
 - Political Parties;
 - Residents Associations; and
 - Access Groups

The Review information was also available via the Council's web site for public consultation.

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APPENDICES

1. Appendix 1 – Designated Polling Districts and Places
2. Appendix 2 – Representations

BACKGROUND PAPERS

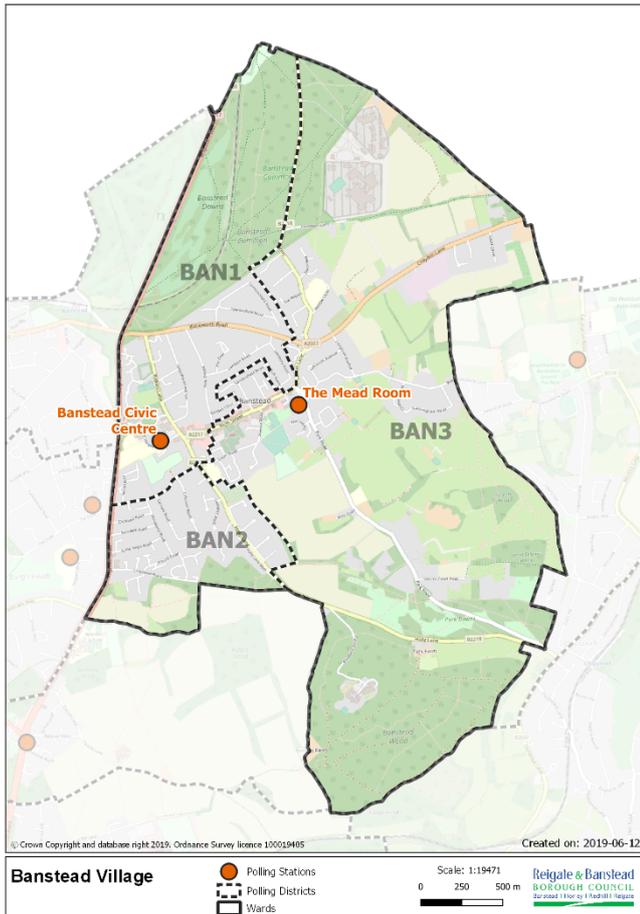
1. [Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983](#)
2. [Electoral Commission guidance](#)

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Banstead Village Ward

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
BAN1	Banstead Civic Centre, the Horseshoe	2686	456	1	2230
BAN2		1706	296	2	1410
BAN3	The Mead Room, Banstead Community Hall	2474	518	3	1956



Recommendation(s)

That there be no changes to the polling districts or designated polling places.

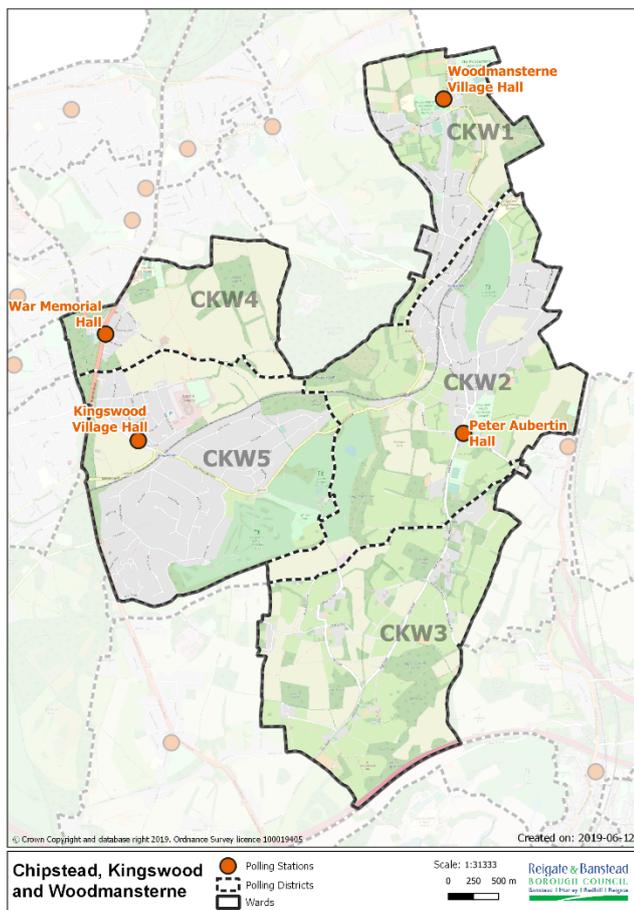
Reason(s)

- No representations that requested changes were received in relation to this ward.
- The electorate totals for each polling station meets the Electoral Commission’s guidelines.

Chipstead, Kingswood and Woodmansterne

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
CKW1	Woodmansterne Village Hall, Carshalton Road	2365	441	4	1924
CKW2	Peter Aubertin Hall, Elmore Road	1709	351	5	1563
CKW3		264	59		
CKW4	War Memorial Hall, Brighton Road	617	94	6	523
CKW5	Kingswood Village Hall, Waterhouse Lane	2633	612	7	2021



Recommendation(s)

That there be no changes to the polling districts or designated polling places.

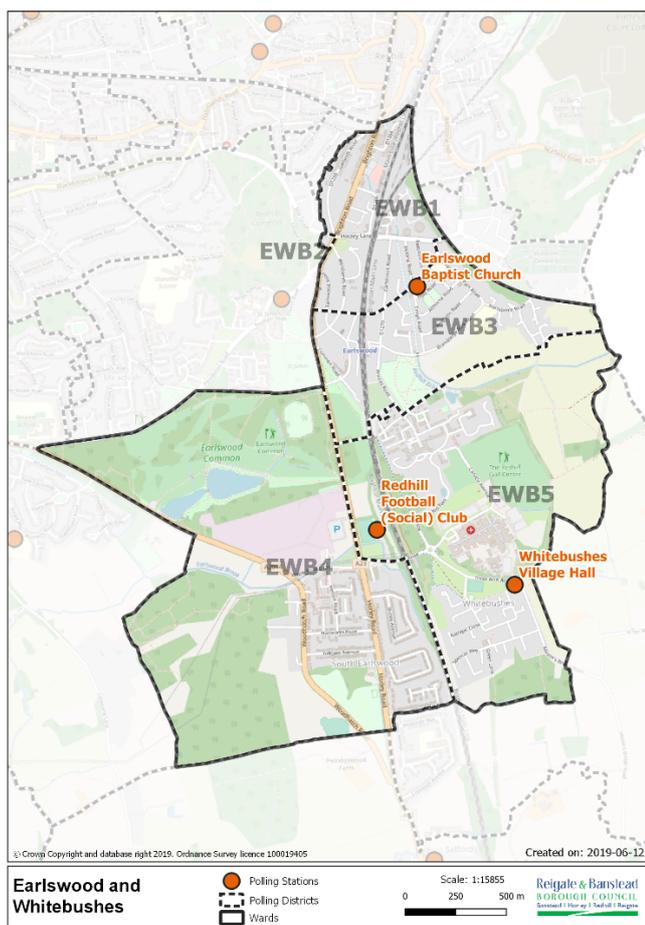
Reason(s)

- No representations that requested changes were received in relation to this ward.
- The electorate totals for each polling station meets the Electoral Commission’s guidelines.

Earlswood and Whitebushes

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
EWB1	Earlswood Baptist Church, St John's Road	1861	304	8	1557
EWB2		36	7	9	1531
EWB3		1788	286		
EWB4	Redhill Football Social Club, Three Arch Road	1760	335	10	1425
EWB5	Whitebushes Village Hall, Masons Bridge Road	1795	319	11	1476



Recommendation(s)

- That there be no changes to the polling districts or designated polling places; and
- That the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) be delegated authority to designate an alternative polling station for EWB4 if a suitable premises is identified in the future.

Reason(s)

During the UK Parliamentary elections this December the Acting Returning Officer received a number of complaints regarding the suitability of the Redhill Football Social Club (EWB4 – Earlswood and Whitebushes) as a polling place, specifically in relation to parking and access for electors. The potholed car park was a trip hazard for some voters, particularly after sunset.

Officers have engaged with ward councillors to identify a suitable alternative and are currently in the process of assessing a potential option for the long term, however it is not anticipated that this work will be complete before the deadline for this statutory review.

If the assessment currently underway concludes that the identified alternative is suitable, then this could be designated as a polling place under delegated authority (as per paragraph 1.24 of the officer scheme of delegation) in the interim between this review and the next elections in May 2020.

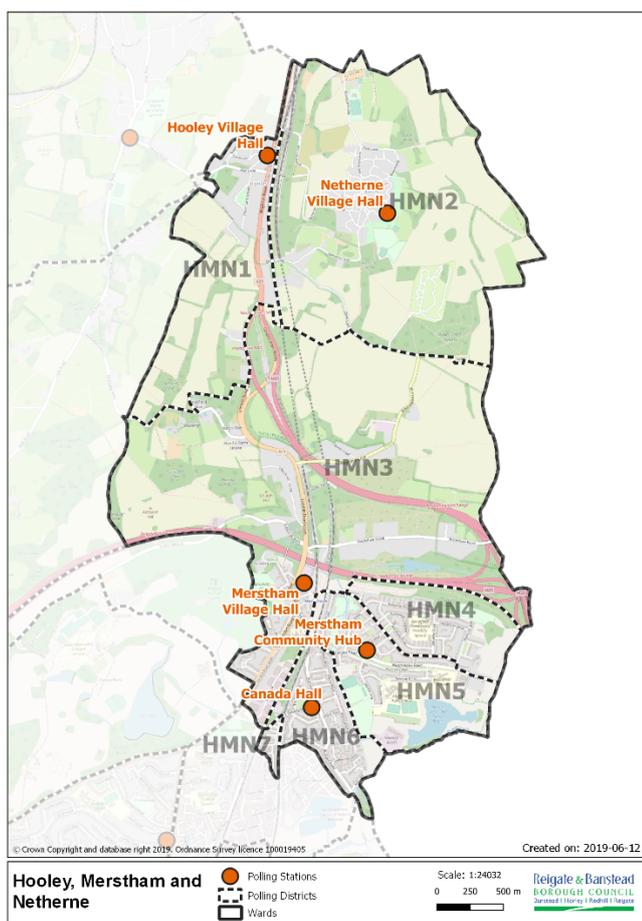
Alternatively, the Whitebushes Village Hall is within a reasonable distance for electors within EWB4 (0.4 miles from the existing polling place) and already supports one other polling station.

Whilst the village hall can support a second polling station, parking for electors would be very limited on account of the additional 1425 station voters from EWB4 and the polling station staff who require parking.

Hooley, Merstham and Netherne

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
HMN1	Hooley Village Hall, St. Margaret’s Road	816	109	12	707
HMN2	Netherne Village Hall, Cayton Road	1122	191	13	931
HMN3	Merstham Village Hall, Station Road	1047	193	14	854
HMN4	Merstham Community Hub, Portland Drive	1442	174	15	2609
HMN5		1577	236		
HMN6	Canada Hall, Battlebridge Lane	1830	242	16	1726
HMN7		163	25		



Recommendation(s)

That there be no changes to the polling districts or designated polling places.

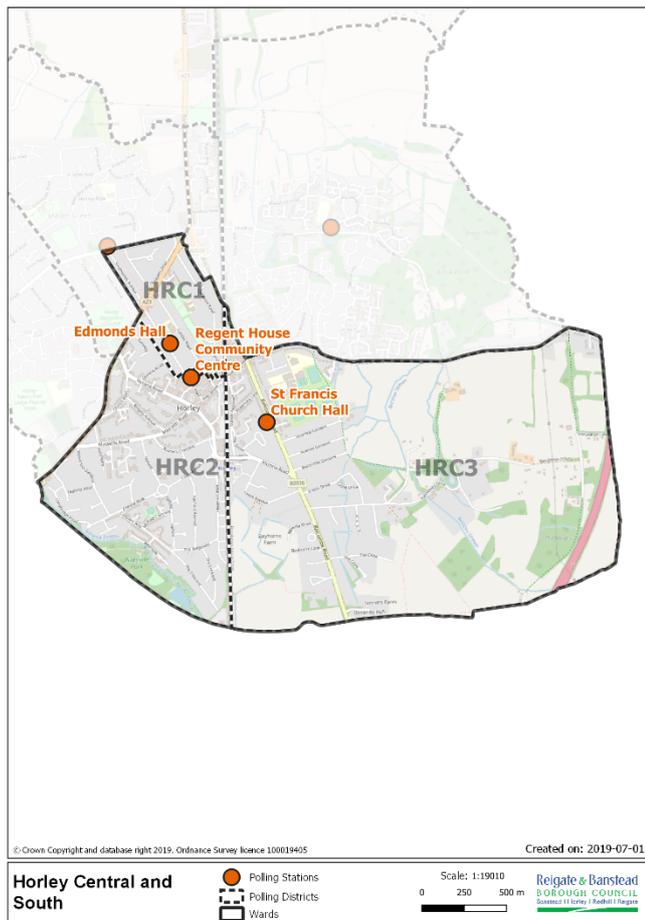
Reason(s)

- No representations that requested changes were received in relation to this ward.
- The electorate totals for each polling station meets the Electoral Commission’s guidelines, except for the Merstham Community Hub on Portland Drive which is marginally (~4%) over the guideline.
- The Presiding Officer for the polling station located at the Merstham Community Hub during the UK Parliamentary elections in December 2019 informed officers that:
 - The premises would struggle to accommodate two polling stations if the electorate was to be split; and
 - The size of the electorate was easily managed with one polling station in this premises.

Horley Central and South

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
HRC1	Regent House Community Centre, Albert Road	1209	172	17	1037
HRC2	Edmonds Hall, Albert Road	3815	711	18	1587
				19	1517
HRC3	St Francis Church Hall, Balcombe Road	2460	447	20	2013



Recommendation(s)

That there be no changes to the polling districts or designated polling places.

Reason(s)

Two representations were received in respect of Edmonds Hall in Albert Road (HRC2), from Horley Town Council and Horley Labour.

Both of these representations (see Appendix 2) request that the polling place for HRC2 be changed back to the former designated polling place, the Archway Theatre, on the grounds that Edmonds Hall is too far away for voters in HRC2.

- Edmonds Hall is 0.5 miles from the Archway Theatre on Albert Road, a further 10-minute walk.

In February 2019 the Council, as part of the Boundary Review, changed the designated polling place for HRC2 from the Archway Theatre to Edmonds Hall.

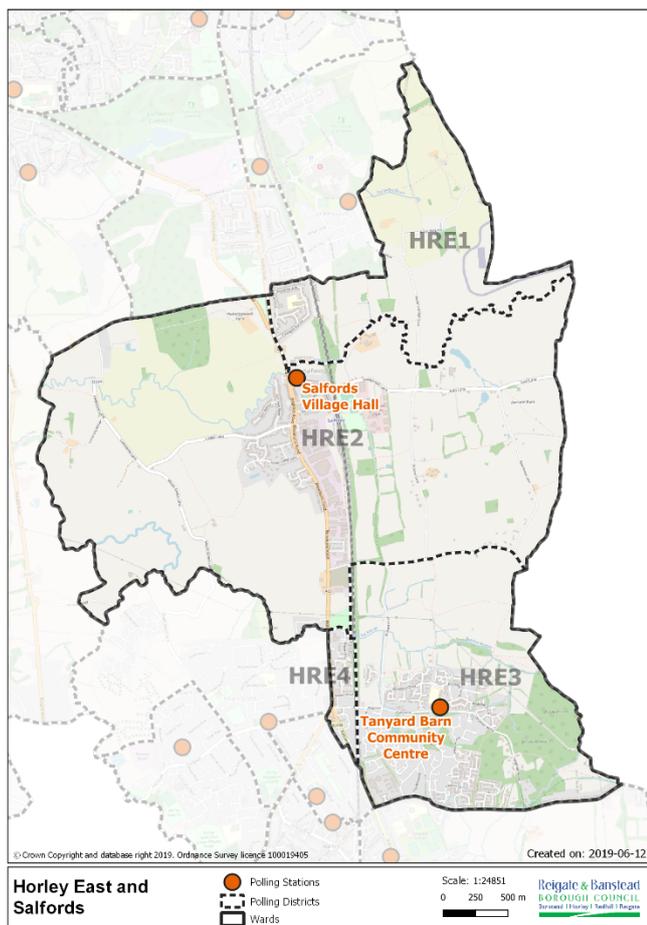
The rationale for this change was that:

- Polling station staff had advised for many years that the Archway Theatre was cold, dark and damp and therefore unsuitable as a polling place on health and safety grounds and poor visibility for electors;
- Langshott School has previously accommodated a polling station, however parking was difficult and parents complained to borough councillors about the use of the school in relation to safeguarding;
- Edmonds Hall (Horley Town Council) has a large hall which is accessible, has car parking and is known locally and recommended as a suitable and accessible venue.

Horley East and Salfords

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
HRE1	Salfords Village Hall, Honeycrook Lane	460	76	21	1895
HRE2		1863	352		
HRE3	Tanyard Barn Community Centre, Brookfield Drive	4296	884	22	2275
HRE4		671	86	23	1722



Recommendation(s)

- That there be no changes to the polling districts or designated polling places; and
- That the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) be delegated authority to designate an alternative polling station for HRE3 / HRE4 if a more suitable premises is identified in the future.

Reason(s)

The current designated polling place for the HRE3 and HRE4 districts is the Tanyard Barn Community Centre in Brookfield Drive, supporting two polling stations comprising of 3,412 (HRE3) and 585 (HRE4) electors split evenly. This is currently acceptable in terms of Electoral Commission guidelines for electorate totals.

Two of the representations received during the consultation primarily raised concerns with the accessibility and parking arrangements at the Tanyard Barn Community Centre (see Appendix 2).

The Tanyard Barn Community Centre is in a central location for HRE3 and HRE4. For most residents it is within a 5 – 10 minute walk. For those furthest from the station, it is approximately a 20-minute walk. There is also a bus stop adjacent to the building. The building is suitable and accessible as a polling place.

Officers visited the premises in December and determined that, whilst parking is limited, there is acceptable parking provision on-site and nearby to support the polling station staff and the electorate.

The Council has previously designated the Oakwood School and Langshott School as polling places in the past, however this usually requires that the schools close during polling day for safeguarding purposes and is therefore less preferable. The Council’s policy is to avoid using schools for polling places where possible.

The Council considered the use of the Skylane Hotel on Bonehurst Road as part of the Boundary Review in February 2019. Whilst the facilities were suitable and the building accessible, its location on the A23 was determined to be unacceptable and is used for airport parking – thereby creating further congestion.

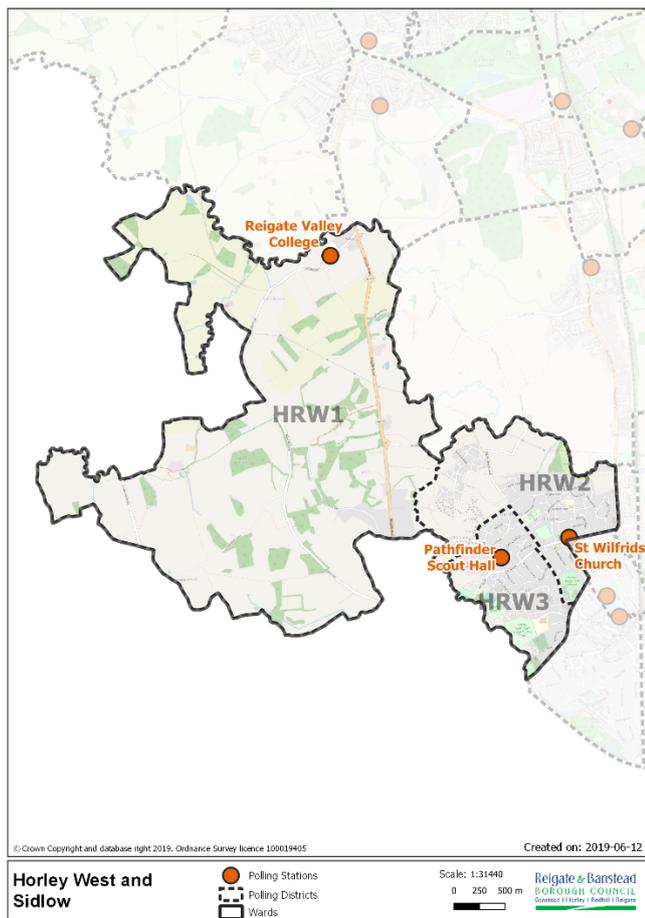
Officers have engaged with ward councillors to identify a suitable alternative, however no other options have been found.

In the absence of a suitable alternative polling place within or reasonably close to the district, it is therefore recommended that there be no change to the polling place for HRE3 / HRE4 until a more suitable alternative premises becomes available in the future.

Horley West and Sidlow

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
HRW1	Reigate Valley College, Sidlow Bridge Campus	429	82	24	347
HRW2	St Wilfrid's Church, Horley Row	3605	564	25	3041
HRW3	Pathfinder Scout Hall, Baden Drive	3158	546	26	2612



Recommendation(s)

- That the HRW2 district be split to create a new polling district for Westvale Park residents; and
- That a new polling station for the new polling district be located at the Horley Leisure Centre on Anderson Way.

Reason(s)

The current designated polling place for the HRW2 district is St. Wilfrid's Church in Horley Row, supporting one polling station comprising of 3,041 electors. This is well in excess of the 2500 guideline recommended by the Electoral Commission. The building is suitable and accessible as a polling place.

St Wilfrid's Church is not within a reasonable distance for electors residing in the Westvale Park area due to lack of access via the rear of the development. Currently electors must travel approximately 2.8 miles via Reigate Road to reach the polling station at St Wilfrid's Church.

In the long term, the masterplan for the Westvale Park development includes the provision of a community centre which could serve as a suitable polling station for Westvale residents when it is completed in the future.

In the interim, it is recommended that the HRW2 district be split to create a new polling district for Westvale Park residents and a new polling station located at the Horley Leisure Centre on Anderson Way.

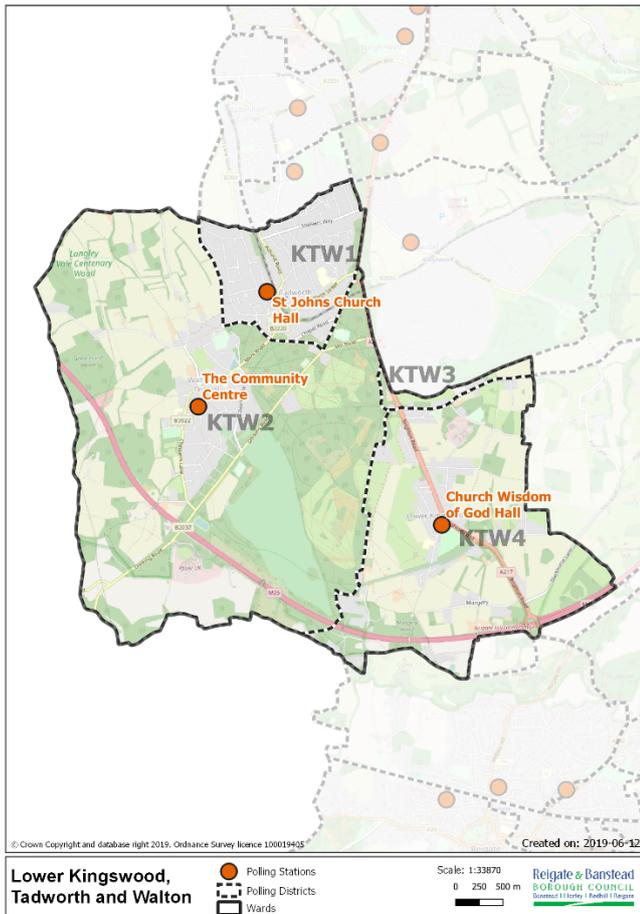
Whilst this will only reduce the travel distance for these residents by approximately 0.4 miles via Reigate Road, there is currently a lack of suitable alternatives closer to Westvale Park until the community centre within the development is completed.

Horley Leisure Centre has excellent facilities with a large hall and car parking in an accessible location.

Lower Kingswood, Tadworth and Walton

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
KTW1	St John’s Church Hall, The Avenue	4063	773	27	1664
				28	1626
KTW2	The Community Centre, Breech Lane	1720	357	29	1363
KTW3	Church of the Wisdom of God, Buckland Road	79	9	30	1795
KTW4		2066	341		



Recommendation(s)

That there be no changes to the polling districts or designated polling places.

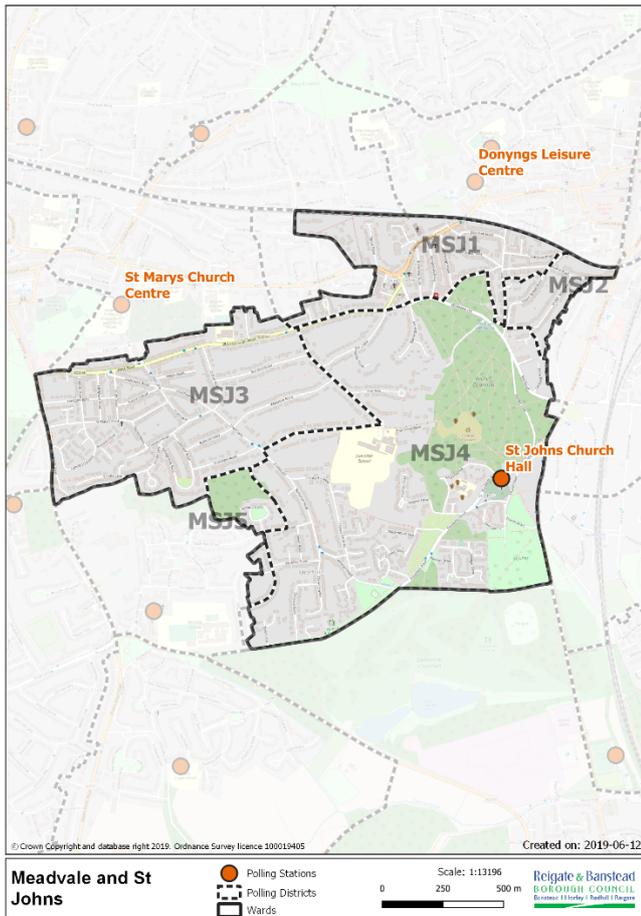
Reason(s)

- No representations that requested changes were received in relation to this ward.
- The electorate totals for each polling station meets the Electoral Commission’s guidelines.

Meadvale and St. Johns

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
MSJ1	Donyngs Leisure Centre Creche, Linkfield Lane	1354	258	31	1413
MSJ2		399	82		
MSJ3	St Mary's Church Centre, Chart Lane	2589	509	32	2080
MSJ4	Church Centre, St John the Evangelist, Church Road	2326	533	33	1923
MSJ5		148	18		



Recommendation(s)

That there be no changes to the polling districts or designated polling places.

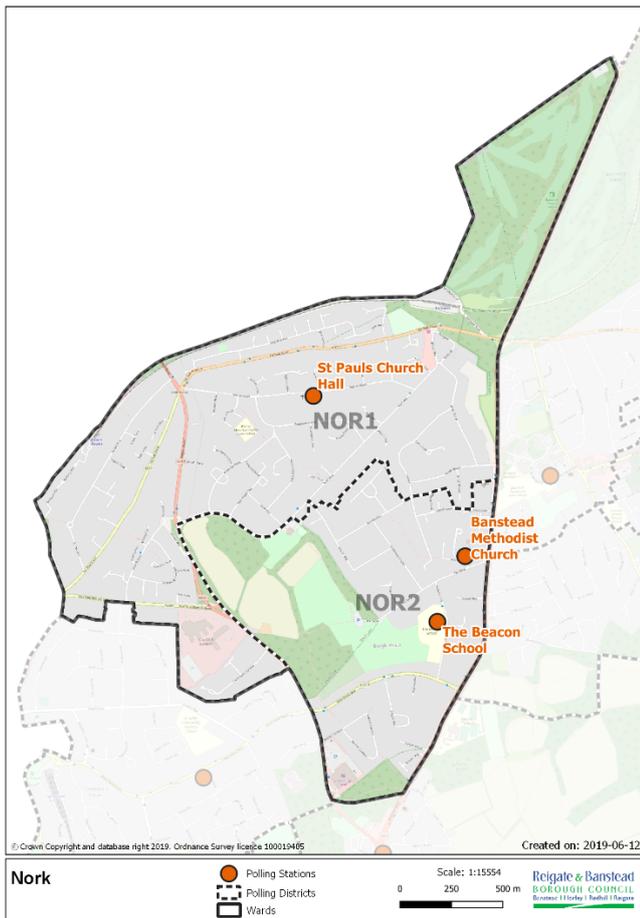
Reason(s)

- No representations that requested changes were received in relation to this ward.
- The electorate totals for each polling station meets the Electoral Commission’s guidelines.

Nork

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
NOR1	St Paul’s Church Hall, Warren Road	5467	1044	34	2314
				35	2109
NOR2	Banstead Methodist Church, The Drive	1854	353	36	1501



Recommendation(s)

That there be no changes to the polling districts or designated polling places.

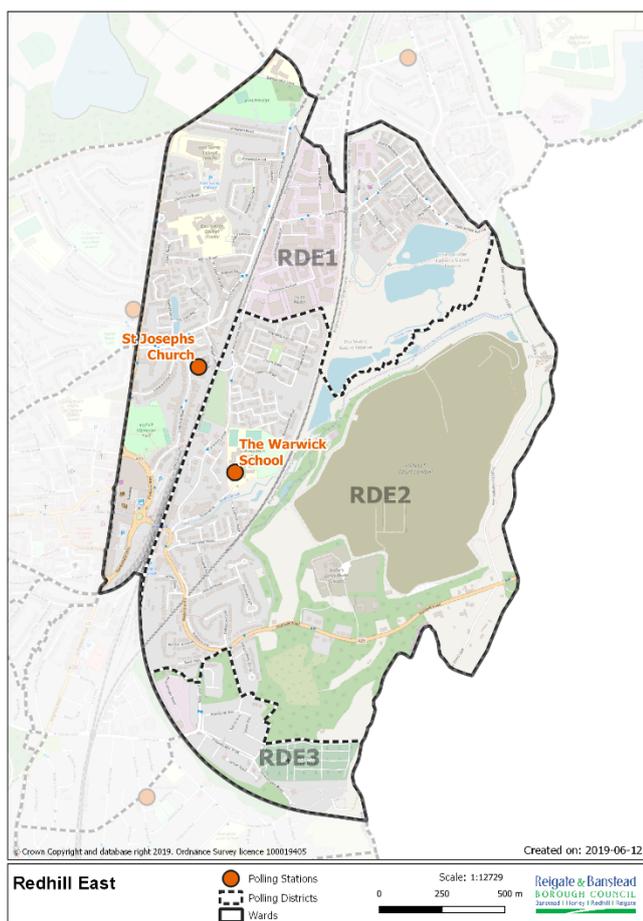
Reason(s)

- No representations that requested changes were received in relation to this ward.
- The electorate totals for each polling station meets the Electoral Commission’s guidelines.

Redhill East

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
RDE1	St Joseph’s Church Hall, Ladbroke Road	3245	631	37	2614
RDE2	The Warwick School, Noke Drive	2381	431	38	2362
RDE3		512	100		



Recommendation(s)

- That the designated polling place for the RDE2 and RDE3 districts be St Joseph’s Church Hall in Ladbroke Road for the elections in May 2020.

Reason(s)

The current designated polling place for the RDE2 and RDE3 districts is the Warwick School in Noke Drive, supporting one polling station comprising of 2362 electors. This is currently acceptable in terms of Electoral Commission guidelines for electorate totals.

The Warwick School is suitable and accessible as a polling place for the long term, however it is unavailable for the elections in May 2020 due to scheduled renovation works.

It is therefore recommended that the polling station for RDE2 and RDE3 be temporarily located at St Joseph’s Church in Ladbroke Road for the elections in May 2020 on the grounds that:

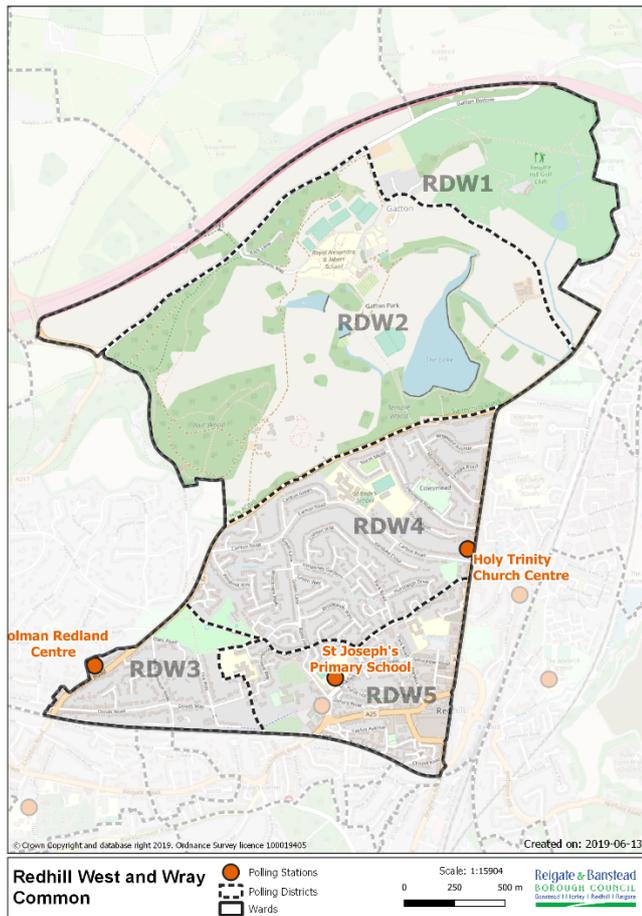
- St Joseph’s Church is suitable and has sufficient parking to support a double polling station of this size (and has been used as a double polling station in the past);
- St Joseph’s Church is in a central and accessible location with transport links from the nearby bus and train stations in Redhill Town Centre;
- There are no other suitable alternative venues within a reasonable distance of RDE2 and RDE3; and
- A portacabin is considered unsuitable to support the combined electorate of RDE2 and RDE3 (2362 electors).

The Warwick School will be re-designated as the polling place for RDE2 and RDE3 for all future elections following May 2020 under delegated authority arising from paragraph 1.24 of the officer scheme of delegation of the Council’s constitution.

Redhill West and Wray Common

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
RDW1	Colman / Redland Centre, Croydon Road	42	13	39	881
RDW2		90	18		
RDW3		984	204		
RDW4	Holy Trinity Church Centre, Carlton Road	4006	733	40	1723
				41	1550
RDW5	St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Linfield Lane	2189	408	42	1781



Recommendation(s)

That there be no changes to the polling districts or designated polling places.

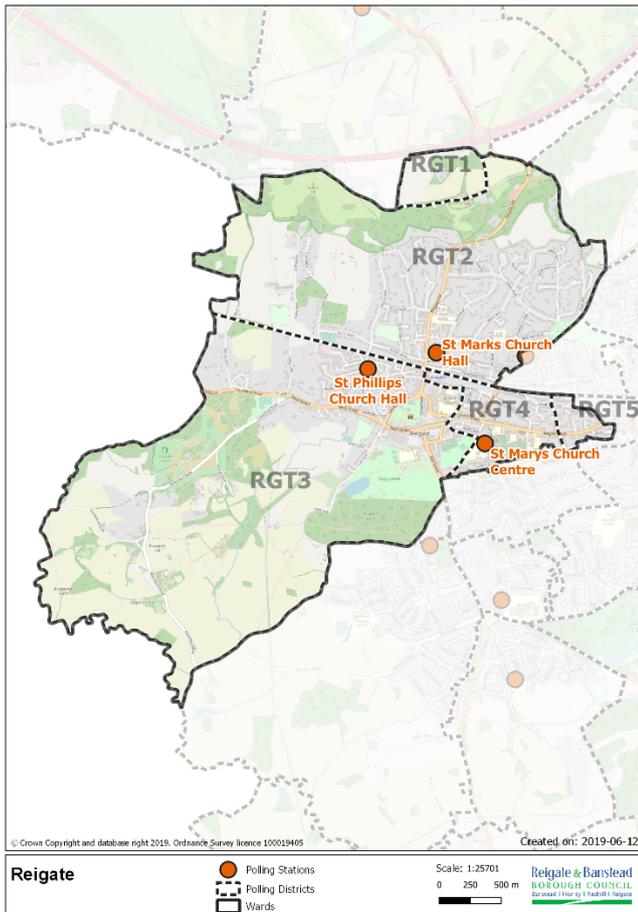
Reason(s)

- No representations that requested changes were received in relation to this ward.
- The electorate totals for each polling station meets the Electoral Commission’s guidelines.

Reigate

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
RGT1	St Mark’s Church Hall, Alma Road	16	4	43	2621
RGT2		3357	748		
RGT3	St Philip’s Church Hall, Nutley Lane	2498	549	44	1949
RGT4	St Mary’s Church Centre, Chart Lane	1158	237	45	1300
RGT5		448	69		



Recommendation(s)

That there be no changes to the polling districts or designated polling places.

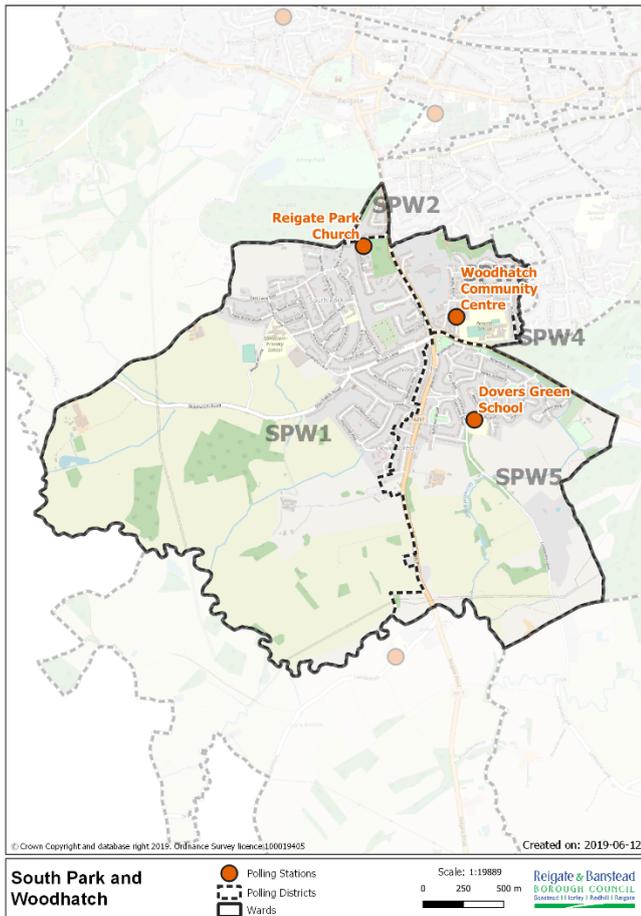
Reason(s)

- No representations that requested changes were received in relation to this ward.
- The electorate totals for each polling station meets the Electoral Commission’s guidelines, except for the polling station at St Mark’s Church Hall in Alma Road for RGT1 and RGT2 which is marginally (~5%) over the guideline.
- St Mark’s Church Hall is large enough to accommodate a second polling station in the future, when appropriate.

South Park and Woodhatch

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
SPW1	St Luke’s Church, Church Road	3597	668	46 / 47	1637
SPW2		157	29	46	1420
SPW3	Woodhatch Community Centre, Whitebeam Drive	900	118	48	809
SPW4		30	3		
SPW5	Dovers Green School, Rushetts Road	1793	265	49	1528



Recommendation(s)

That there be no changes to the polling districts or designated polling places.

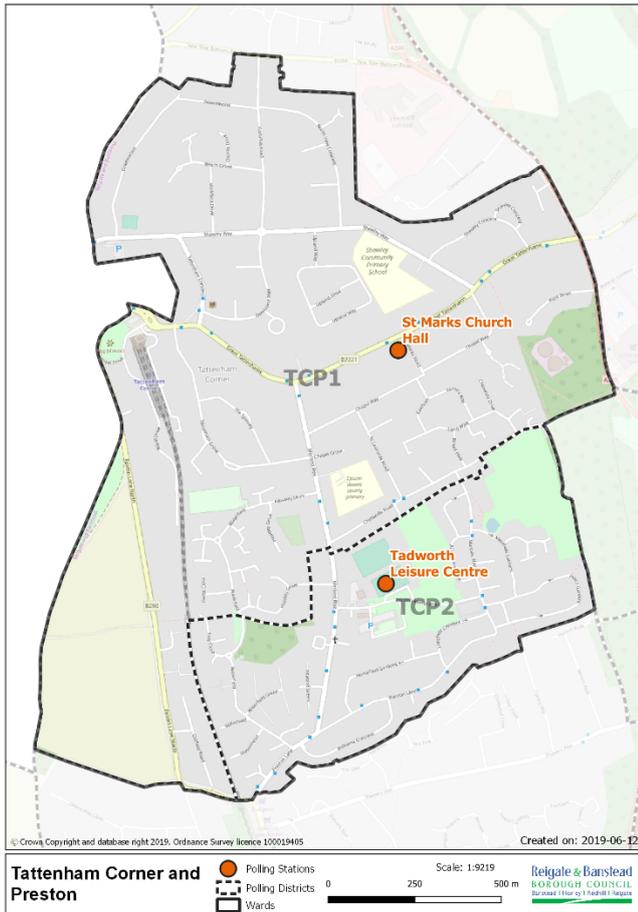
Reason(s)

- No representations that requested changes were received in relation to this ward.
- The electorate totals for each polling station meets the Electoral Commission’s guidelines.

Tattenham Corner and Preston

Current polling place and polling district information:

Polling District	Polling Place	Electors	Postal voters	Station no.	Station voters
TCP1	St Mark’s Church Hall, Great Tattenhams	4959	771	50	2104
				51	2084
TCP2	Tadworth Leisure and Community Centre, Preston Manor Road	2206	308	52	1898



Recommendation(s)

That there be no changes to the polling districts or designated polling places.

Reason(s)

- No representations that requested changes were received in relation to this ward.
- The electorate totals for each polling station meets the Electoral Commission’s guidelines.

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Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts 2019/20

Representations received by the Acting Returning Officer (ARO)

Respondent	For	Representation
ARO for East Surrey	No Changes	Alternative to Archway Theatre is particularly welcome.
Chipstead Residents' Association	No Changes	<p>(1) For Chipstead, the Peter Aubertin Hall serves the community well as a location for voting.</p> <p>(2) It is central to the village and has a large car park at the rear</p> <p>(3) It is also easily accessible by bicycle and on foot</p>
Horley resident	HRE3 / HRE4 - Tanyard Barn Community Centre	<p>Tanyard Barn Community Centre - Having twice been forced to use this totally unsuitable place.</p> <p>Firstly the access is poor having to travel a long distance through a new housing estate and its associated road parked vehicles.</p> <p>Poor parking at the polling station. This site has very restricted parking and on both occasions, both times the actual voter traffic was very low with only a couple of people actually voting. The available parking for voters is non-existent once the polling station staff + tellers had taken all available parking spaces. I was told to either park in-front of the local shop or use a residents parking place. Both options are far from satisfactory as firstly the shop needs to trade and hence needs its few parking spaces for customers and not passing voters and secondly the residents have allocated parking spaces for their use and not hundreds / thousands of passing voters who do not either live near to connecting public transport or the ability to schedule voting around the times that the bus runs.</p> <p>It must have been plainly obvious to even the most inept that this location is totally unsuitable for use as a polling station and also if it had to be used then the traffic situation could very easily have been made a lot safer by permanently lowering the bus bollards whilst the polling station is in use.</p> <p>I hope when the inevitable accident occurs between either cars or a car and a pedestrian R & BBC will take full responsibility for their very poor choice of a polling station location.</p> <p>PS have R & BBC ever carried out any risk assessment for the many hundred / many thousands of extra vehicle movements that their choice of polling station generates through this residential housing estate at election time?</p>

Appendix 2 – Representations, Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts 2019/20

Cllr Nick Harrison	No changes	The arrangements for the new Tattenham Corner & Preston ward worked well in May 2019, and would be perfectly satisfactory for County Council and Parliamentary elections too. No changes suggested.
Walton Village Forum	No Changes	As Treasurer for the Walton Village Forum, I can confirm that we are happy for Breech Lane Community Centre, Breech Lane, Walton on the Hill to be used as a polling station.
Westvale Park Resident & Neighbourhood Watch Chairperson	HRW2 - St Wilfrid's Church	I'd like to provide comment to relocate the polling station for HRW2 from St. Wilfred's Church, Horley Row to a more central location for residents in that catchment area. A location such as Meath Green Infant school would be more central and easier access by foot for Westvale Park residents in particular. Current occupancy at Westvale is approx 800 homes. Westvale Park residents currently have to go to St.Wilfrid's church on Horley Row. That's 2.8 miles to drive, or 1.2 miles to walk.
Banstead Village Residents Association	No Changes	Following discussions with the BVRA committee on the matter of polling stations in Banstead I can report we are satisfied with the existing polling stations as being both accessible on foot and adjacent to carparks. We therefore have no need to consider alternative arrangements
Westvale resident	HRW2 - St Wilfrid's Church	Hello, it's crazy that our closest polling station is 2.8 miles, please remember we can't cut through the back of the development and it's not actually easy to get to Horley. Reigate is actually closer or Hookwood. You will miss out on a lot of votes as people won't bother if that far away. If Reigate could be an alternative or Hookwood this will increase the Westvale residents that vote for sure. The whole of Westvale park only has road access from Reigate Road – Not Meath Green Lane which Google Maps shows.
Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council	No Changes	I am writing on behalf of Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council. I confirm that Councillors have reviewed the consultation and have no comment to make as the polling districts and polling stations remain the same for our residents.

<p>Horley Labour</p>	<p>Various – Horley Wards</p>	<p>Introduction</p> <p>This is the submission of the Horley Labour Party (a branch of the East Surrey Labour Party) to the review of polling places being undertaken by Reigate and Banstead council. The majority of the submission relates to the HRC2 and HRC1 polling districts, with some comment also being passed on the polling district arrangements in the Horley West and Sidlow ward. Our proposals can be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return the HRC2 polling station to the Archway Theatre. • Locate the HRC1 polling station at either Edmonds Hall or St Wilfred’s Church • Create a new polling district for Westvale Park <p>HRC2</p> <p>At this year’s local and European elections, the HRC2 polling station was moved from the Archway Theatre to Edmonds Hall on Albert Road, the same (long, thin) road as the HRC1 polling station at Regent Hall. The feedback that Labour Party activists picked up on included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voters in the Riverside Gardens area choosing not to vote at all • Voters from said area saying that they would not vote again whilst the polling station was so far away • Voters from said area turning up to vote, only because somebody more mobile had assisted them into town • Voters turning up to Regent Hall, finding out they were in the wrong place, and turning back since they didn’t want to walk any further • Confusion, and consequently frustration, about there being two different polling places on one road • Even from those who persisted in voting, complaints that the polling place was too far for many of the older residents in the Gardens area, many of whom cannot drive. <p>On top of the common complaints about and reactions to the new polling place, difficulties we have noticed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop sign on Albert Road means that voters who drive to vote have to drive around to the top of the road to reach the polling place • Wheelchair users have complained to us that cars parking on pavements make the road difficult to navigate in a chair • The parts of the polling district furthest away from the polling place include areas with a higher percentage of voters who would benefit from a nearby polling station • Turnout in Horley Central and South at local elections this year was the joint lowest in the borough.
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	<p>Although turnout in Horley Central was never the highest, it had traditionally been higher than 27%. Furthermore, Horley East (which much of HRC3 used to be a part of) tended to see turnouts above 30%.</p> <p>It is therefore not unreasonable to conclude that the change in polling station affected turnout this year, with feedback from voters suggesting that keeping the HRC2 polling station at Edmonds Hall could further inhibit turnout in future</p> <p>Therefore, despite the limitations of the venue, we suggest that the HRC2 polling station returns to the Archway Theatre, since this is a more convenient location for the vast majority of voters in the polling district, especially those based in the Riverside Gardens area. Whilst a better lit venue might be preferable, the lack of such venues in the immediate area makes this very difficult (the library is one potential alternative, but this would involve shutting the library which may be disruptive).</p> <p>HRC1</p> <p>The location of the HRC1 polling place at the Regent Hall end of Albert Road has been fine for many years, though with the addition of parts of the old Horley West to this polling district some re-evaluation may be useful. The main issue this year was the confusion relating to two polling stations being on one road, with more than a handful of voters mixing up the two polling stations. There is limited evidence that this problem was more pronounced on European election polling day when the polling stations generally lacked tellers, though even on local election polling day the frustration at the ‘lack of common sense’ was evident. Hence wherever the polling station is located in future, it is important that there aren’t two polling stations on the same road.</p> <p>It was also notable when speaking to voters in the northern part of the polling district (Chequers Drive, Southlands Avenue etc.) that they were unhappy having to walk down to Regent Hall when they had previously voted at St Wilfred’s Church. To take these new voters into account, there are a couple of possible options using current polling places that could work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move the HRC1 polling station to Edmonds Hall • Move the HRC1 polling station to St Wilfred’s Church <p>It should be noted at any option for this polling district will annoy some voters, with voters at the southern ends of Lumley and Oakwood Roads likely preferring the polling station they can easily drive to (the stop sign on Albert Road again necessitating detours for these voters). However, it is worth taking the needs of all the district’s voters into account.</p> <p>Edmonds Hall benefits from being closer to voters who are used to voting at St Wilfrid’s Church, which makes it a nice compromise. Not sharing the polling station with another district will also make things less confusing. It would also be a compromise option for Albert Road voters, who can still easily walk to their polling station as they are used to.</p>
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	<p>This being said, it is not especially advantageous for other HRC1 voters east of the A23 since it is halfway down a road lacking in footpaths; voters in the other east-of-A23 roads would hence have to ‘go-around’ to get there.</p> <p>One (insignificant for voters) disadvantage compared to Regent Hall and St Wilfrid’s, however, is the lack of sheltered space for tellers in case of bad weather. This being said, many of the established options for polling stations (including the Archway and Pathfinder Scout Hut) lack this facility but remain good options for polling stations.</p> <p>St Wilfrid’s Church, assuming the church hall is deemed big enough, has the advantage of being familiar to voters west of the A23. It is also no harder to reach than the Albert Road venues for many voters east of the A23; the walk up Chequers Drive and/or drive down Horley Row is no more inconvenient than the drive ‘around’ into Albert Road.</p> <p>Such a move would likely be unpopular with Albert Road voters and voters at the southern ends of Lumley and Oakwood Roads, just as the move down to Regent Hall was unpopular with Chequers Drive and Southlands Avenue voters. Another possible compromise venue would be Strawson Hall, except it would be unfair to shut down the playgroup on polling day.</p> <p>Ultimately, either of these two options could work well. The Edmonds Hall option is very close to being a Pareto improvement on the Regent Hall option, while the St Wilfred’s Church option will prioritise some voters significantly over others (but will have the advantages of having more voters voting in the same place, and the location of the venue on Horley Row makes it easily reachable from multiple directions). We are sure that feedback from other submissions will help with this polling place choice.</p> <p>Westvale Park</p> <p>Under current arrangements, Westvale Park is included in a polling district with the eastern half of Meath Green. However, for the review to be futureproof, it would be worth making Westvale Park its own polling district.</p> <p>As a community, bus only entrances and exits cut off Westvale Park from the rest of Horley. Reaching either of the current West Horley polling stations from Westvale is a challenge, and as soon as an appropriate community facility is complete in Westvale Park it should be used as an easily accessible polling station for these voters.</p> <p>As a roadmap to this outcome, a new Westvale Park polling district (containing all areas that are due to be developed) should be created, initially sharing a polling place with one of the other polling districts (Pathfinder Scout Hall if HRC1 moves into St Wilfred’s Church, otherwise St Wilfred’s Church and Pathfinder Scout Hut could both work) only to move into the new community facility once it is available.</p> <p>One Final Note</p> <p>Last year, the houses on the north side of Station Road were accidentally included in the HRC1 polling district (at least, on maps and in electoral registers downloaded by political parties). Although this was of no consequence in 2019, in</p>
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		<p>2021 this would have meant voters being inadvertently moved into a different electoral division. The new maps appear to correct for this error, though we do wish to emphasise that there are voters living on the northern side of Station Road and that these voters should always be placed in a fitting polling district.</p>
<p>Horley Town Council</p>	<p>Various – Horley Wards</p>	<p>Horley Central and South</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All three Polling Stations are clustered in the north of the Polling District which seems unbalanced and unfair. • Having two Polling Stations in Albert Road seems to be confusing. • If a Polling Station was to be moved, this should be well publicised beforehand. • The Polling Station at Horley Town Council is considered less accessible than when it was at the Archway Theatre, in particular, for people arriving into the town by bus as it is quite far from the bus station. • A ‘Mobile Polling Station’ in the south of the Polling District is thought to be more practical if this could be provided. <p>Horley East and Salfords</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seems a reasonable distribution but Tanyard Barn is difficult to find and better street signage to guide voters to the Polling Station should be provided. Adequate parking facilities should also be made available. <p>Horley West and Sidlow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although this looks imbalanced at present, the provision of the community centre at Westvale Park should resolve this issue. <p>General comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any changes made should be well publicised and communicated to voters. • More directional signage should be placed on streets to guide people to their relevant Polling Stations with ease.