



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

REPORT OF:	(ACTING) RETURNING OFFICER/ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER
AUTHOR:	SALLY CRAWFORD
TELEPHONE:	01737 276440
E-MAIL:	Sally.crawford@reigate-banstead.gov.uk
TO:	COUNCIL
DATE:	13 DECEMBER 2018

AGENDA ITEM NO:	9	WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL
------------------------	---	--------------------------	-----

SUBJECT:	DESIGNATION OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES
-----------------	--

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To note that the recommendations made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) for new ward boundaries within the borough of Reigate and Banstead, will be implemented and will take effect from the local government elections due to be held on 2 May 2019, subject to Parliamentary approval as follows:
 - Reigate and Banstead should be represented by 45 councillors
 - Reigate and Banstead should have 15 wards
 - The boundaries of all wards should change
2. To approve the revised schedule of polling districts and polling places set out in Annex A.
3. That the (Acting) Returning Officer is delegated authority to designate any polling places that are not agreed at this meeting following further assessment and in consultation with ward councillors.

SUMMARY

This report sets out the proposals for polling districts and polling places following the recommendations of the Local Boundary Commission for England for new and revised local government electoral arrangements for the borough.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGCBE) is an independent body set up by Parliament whose main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.
2. An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority and decides:
 - How many councillors are needed

- How many electoral wards there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called
 - How many councillors should represent each ward
3. The LGBCE conducted a review of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council due to electoral inequality within the borough which meant that some councillors represented many more electors than others.
4. The LGBCE conducted the review as follows:

23 January 2018	Number of councillors decided
30 January 2018	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
9 April 2018	End of consultation. LGBCE began analysing submissions and formed draft recommendations
5 June 2018	Start of second consultation on draft recommendations
13 August 2018	End of consultation and beginning of analysis of submissions
2 October 2018	Publication of final recommendations
3 December 2018	Draft Order laid before Parliament

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR REIGATE AND BANSTEAD BOROUGH COUNCIL

5. The LGBCE's final recommendations are as follows:
- Reigate and Banstead should be represented by 45 councillors, six fewer than there are now.
 - Reigate and Banstead should have 15 wards, four fewer than there are now.
 - The boundaries of all wards should change, none will stay the same.
6. The above recommendations have been laid before Parliament and the Order is due to be made by Parliament in January 2019.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR REIGATE AND BANSTEAD BOROUGH COUNCIL

7. As a result of the final recommendations, the (Acting) Returning Officer has carried out a review of all polling districts and polling places in the borough. The new wards have been sub-divided into polling districts. Each polling district has a polling place where the electors living in the area will vote.
- A polling district is a geographical area created by the sub-division of an electoral area
 - A polling place is a geographical area in which the polling station is located
 - A polling Station is the actual area/room where the process of voting takes place and must be located within the designated polling place.
8. In carrying out the review officers have had regard to the following principles:

- Polling districts were drawn up using existing ward, polling district and county boundaries where possible
- Electors continue to vote at the same polling place as previous elections where feasible
- Electors vote at the same polling station for all types of elections and referenda
- The use of schools has been reduced where possible in accordance with council policy
- Polling stations have been assessed for suitability and accessibility
- Electoral Commission guidance has been taken into account

CONSULTATION

9. Borough councillors have been consulted on the polling place proposals attached as Annex A and the responses received from ward councillors were broadly supportive of local arrangements for their elected areas. Alternative suggestions for polling places have been suggested by ward councillors for the RDW5 polling district. These are being assessed at the time of writing this report. Maps of each new ward are attached as Annex B.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. Section 18C of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1983, as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, requires the Council to carry out a review of polling districts and polling places in its area with the period of 16 months from the 1 October every five years. The next compulsory review is required to be started after 1 October 2018 and completed by 31 January 2020.

The requirements of Section 18 RPA do not prevent a local authority carrying out a review at any time outside of the compulsory review period.

This interim review has been carried out as a consequence of the final recommendations of changes to ward boundaries following the review by the LGBCE and is not a compulsory review.

Due to time restraints for the designation of polling places for the May 2019 elections all borough councillors have been consulted on this review. The compulsory review will be conducted and completed by 31 January 2020 and wider consultation will be carried out with representations being sought from the public, elected members and cross boundary Acting Returning Officers.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no specific resources implications arising from this report.

CONCLUSIONS

12. The Council is required to have suitable arrangements in place in order to provide voting facilities for all the electors of the Borough.