

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW 2018

Executive Summary

The Council is required to review its Parliamentary polling districts and polling places before 31 January 2020.

The Council carried out a review in October and November of the existing arrangements and invited comments and proposals for alternative arrangements.

Prior to the start of the review, Officers noted the majority of the existing arrangements were suitable and they would not be proposing any changes. Officers would be focussing attention on the St John's West polling district, with the view to identifying an alternative polling place to The Oaktree Infant School.

After investigating the hire and set up of temporary cabins for the polling district, Officers consider that this would not be a sustainable alternative provision for a polling place to using the school. However, Officers believe that there is still scope for a permanent community facility to be developed within the area that could be used for election and the wider community at other times of the year and will work on proposals for this in 2019.

Recommendations

The Council is requested to:

RESOLVE that

- (i) The existing arrangements for the following polling districts and their designated polling places be continued:

- A1 – West Byfleet
- A2 – Byfleet
- B1 – Town Centre
- B2 – Town Centre North
- B3 – Walton Road
- B4 – Sheerwater
- B5 – Board School Road
- B6 – Woodham
- C2 – Goldsworth Central
- C3 – Goldsworth East
- D1 – Brookwood
- D2 – Brookwood South
- D3 – Mayford
- D4 – Barnsbury
- D5 – Sutton Green
- E1 – Westfield
- E2 – Kingfield
- E3 – Shackleford Road
- E4 – Old Woking
- E5 – Gresham Park
- F1 – Horsell West
- F2 – Horsell South
- F3 – Horsell East
- G1 – Knaphill West
- G2 – Knaphill South
- G3 – Knaphill East
- G4 – Knaphill North
- H1 – Mount Hermon West
- H2 – Mount Hermon East
- J1 – Maybury
- J2 – Maybury North
- J3 – Pyrford
- J4 – Pyrford North
- K1 – St John's West
- K2 – St John's Central
- K3 – St John's East

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- (ii) The Goldsworth West polling district (C1) be amended to remove properties at Brockhill;
- (iii) A new polling district 'Brockhill (C4)' be created for all properties at Brockhill, with the designated polling place of the Goldsworth Park Guides and Scouts Headquarters; and
- (iv) Officers develop proposals for a permanent community facility within the St John's West polling district.

The Council has the authority to determine the recommendations set out above.

Background Papers: None.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, each local authority is required to review its Parliamentary polling districts and polling places every five years, with all councils having to review their arrangements between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020.
- 1.2 The Council commenced its review on 1 October 2018. This report sets out the results of the consultation and the proposals for the future arrangements for polling districts and polling places in the Borough.

2.0 Consultation Framework

- 2.1 The initial consultation period commenced on 1 October 2018. Details of the existing polling district arrangements and polling places used for elections were published on the Council's website and were available to view at Woking Library, West Byfleet Library and Byfleet Library.
- 2.2 A public notice was published on 1 October 2018 which set out the arrangements for the review, including the deadlines for comments on the existing scheme and on any proposed revisions. Local electors were invited to make representations regarding the current and proposed schemes. The deadline for comments on the existing scheme was 26 October 2018.
- 2.3 In carrying out the review, the Council consulted the Returning Officer who administers elections in Woking, (the Acting Returning Officer (ARO) at Parliamentary Elections) and sought representations from persons or organisations with particular expertise with regard to access to premises and/or facilities for persons who have different forms of disabilities. A full list of the consultees is set out at Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The following people/organisations were also contacted to obtain their views:
 - Woking Borough Councillors;
 - Surrey County Councillors for Woking;
 - MP for Woking;
 - MEPs for the South East Region;
 - Local constituency political parties; and
 - Other representative local groups.
- 2.5 The ARO's comments regarding the existing scheme are set out at Appendix 2 and a summary of the other representations received are set out at Appendix 3.
- 2.6 Revised proposals were published on 29 October 2018 and the deadline for comments on any proposed changes was 26 November 2018.

3.0 Comments on the existing scheme

Woking Access Group

- 3.1 Comments were received regarding access into buildings which did not have electronic doors. This issue will be picked up at polling station staff training.
- 3.2 A second issue regarding the support available for electors with disabilities within polling stations was raised. More information has been put on the Council's website regarding different formats of information and assistance options available within the polling station, and for voting in general.

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- 3.3 A further suggestion was made in relation to the provision of lifts to polling stations. This option will be explored further by Officers.

Brockhill

- 3.4 Representations were received at a recent election that electors at Brockhill would find it easier to vote at the Goldsworth Park Guide and Scouts Headquarters, rather than the designated polling place for their polling district (Goldsworth West). This can be accommodated through the creation of a new polling district, as these electors will be in a different County Electoral Division to the rest of the electors using the Goldsworth Park Guide and Scouts Headquarters.
- 3.5 No comments were received regarding this proposal to create a new polling district for Brockhill, and designate its polling place as the Goldsworth Park Guides and Scouts Headquarters.

Other Comments

- 3.6 Comments were also received in support of the arrangements for the Town Centre North, Mount Hermon West and Sutton Green polling districts.

4.0 St John's West/ The Oaktree School

- 4.1 Before the review commenced, Officers identified that alternative arrangements for the St John's West polling district would be investigated, to identify a suitable polling place for the area. Under the existing scheme, Oaktree Infant School is the designated polling place for the polling district, and is effectively the only school in the Borough where the main school is used as a polling place (a separate building to the main school is used at Barnsbury Primary School).
- 4.2 Comments were received from 17 parents and the Headteacher of the school supporting an alternative venue for use as a polling place (a summary of these comments is set out at Appendix 3).
- 4.3 Officers investigated the following different options for the St John's West polling district:
- identifying alternative polling place arrangements for the existing polling district;
 - the use of a temporary cabin as the polling place for the existing polling district; and
 - splitting the existing polling district to create two new polling districts and using a temporary cabin for each new polling district.

Alternative polling places

- 4.4 Officers previously investigated the possibility of using the communal room within Sutton Avenue sheltered housing scheme. This room is available for the use of residents, and location, size, facilities and access arrangements reflect this and as such would not be suitable as a polling place for the polling district.
- 4.5 The communal room at the Nightingale Court supported housing scheme, which was previously used as a polling place, was also considered. Again, the access and location of this venue previously caused a number of issues for electors and therefore this was discounted.
- 4.6 Another proposal that was considered was to move all electors within the polling district to the St John's Central polling district, and vote at St John's Memorial Hall. Whilst this building is larger and could accommodate additional polling stations, this would not be as convenient

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and accessible for electors living in the existing St John's West polling district, particularly those with limited mobility.

Use of temporary cabins

- 4.7 Other than the schools in the polling district, there is a lack of suitable community facilities that could be used as polling places. With this in mind, Officers investigated the hire of temporary cabins to be used as polling places.
- 4.8 Given the electorate of the existing polling district, Officers considered it more practical to split the existing polling district into two, to identify two smaller locations for a temporary cabin, rather than requiring one large area, to accommodate a cabin which could accommodate two polling stations.
- 4.9 The Hermitage Road was used as a natural boundary, and it was proposed that a new polling district to the North (St John's North) and to the south (St John's South) be created. Electors living in the streets to the east of the Crematorium would be allocated to the existing St John's Central polling district and would vote at St John's Memorial Hall, to reduce the electorate requiring temporary facilities further.
- 4.10 The Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Electoral Services Manager visited the polling district to identify possible locations. The car park at the Sutton Avenue sheltered housing was identified as one possible location for St John's South. Areas on Hermitage Road and Inkerman Road were identified as possible locations for St John's North, however none of these sites were suitable. The car park at Wickes was explored as an option but was not available for this purpose.
- 4.11 Different options for the cabin hire were investigated, to ensure there would be suitable facilities for all electors, and also for polling station staff working there. Cabins were available to hire, with a minimum hire period of at least one week. Each cabin could be set up with facilities for the polling station staff, but there would be additional charges for ramps, lighting, heating and plumbing. The hire of cabins without any internal facilities for polling station staff was discounted.
- 4.12 As the cabins would need to be set up on a bespoke basis prior to the election, rather than being delivered complete, Officers considered that the logistics and resources required to set up the cabins was not justifiable, nor would this be sustainable in the long term.
- 4.13 With this in mind, Officers feel that there is no suitable alternative presently to the use of the school as a polling place for the polling district. In 2018, Officers worked with the Headteacher to keep the school open whilst using one classroom as a polling place. Suitable safeguarding measures for the pupils were put in place, and whilst this arrangement was not ideal, it did enable the school to remain open, to the benefit of pupils (and parents).
- 4.14 Looking to the future, however, it is proposed that options for permanent community facilities for the area should be developed, which can be used as polling places, and be open to the community at other times of the year.
- 4.15 It is proposed that Officers draw up plans to be reported back to Council in 2019, although unfortunately this will not be in time for the 2019 elections.

5.0 Proposed Polling District and Polling Place Scheme

- 5.1 In view of the situation with the Oaktree Infant School, it is proposed that no changes be made to the St John's West polling district, and that Officers draw up plans for a permanent facility in the area and report back in 2019.

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- 5.2 A new polling district of 'Brockhill' should be created and the designated polling place be Goldsworth Park Guides and Scouts Headquarters.
- 5.3 No other changes should be made to the existing polling district and polling place scheme.
- 5.4 If the proposed changes are agreed, all changes to polling districts will be incorporated in the revised Register of Electors. The changes to polling places will take effect from 1 February 2019.

6.0 Publication of Results

- 6.1 Following consideration by Council, the outcome of the review will be published on the Council's website. The following information will also be available to view.
- all information correspondence sent to the Acting Returning Officer in connection with the review;
 - all correspondence sent to any person whom the authority thinks has particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability;
 - all representations made by any person in connection with the review;
 - the minutes of any meeting held by the authority to consider any revision to the designation of polling districts or polling places within its area as a result of the review;
 - the details of the designation of polling districts or polling places within its area as a result of the review;
 - the reasons for the final decision regarding every polling district and polling place; and
 - the details of the places where the results of the review have been published.
- 6.2 A public notice will be published, advising where the information can be viewed.
- 6.3 All electors affected by the changes will be contacted, advising them of their new polling arrangements. Local constituency parties will also be sent a copy of the new arrangements.

7.0 Implications

Financial

- 7.1 One additional poll clerk may be required at County Council elections, if the Brockhill polling district is adopted. This will incur staffing costs of around £180 (poll clerk fee, training and travel costs).
- 7.2 Any plans for permanent community facilities in the St John's West polling district will be costed and reported to Council separately.

Human Resource/Training and Development

- 7.3 Additional training will be required for County Elections for the polling station staff at the Goldsworth Park Guides and Scouts Headquarters.

Community Safety

- 7.4 Conducting this review will ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting in the Borough as are practicable.

Risk Management

- 7.5 Agreeing the outcomes of this review will ensure that the Council fulfils its duties as part of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

Sustainability

- 7.6 As part of the consultation exercise, individual electors, local organisations and community groups, local organisations were contacted to contribute their views and suggestions on the voting arrangements in the Borough.

Equalities

- 7.7 The outcome of this review will ensure that all polling stations and voting facilities are accessible for electors with disabilities.

Safeguarding

- 7.8 The Council will continue to work with The Oaktree Infant School, if the school wishes to remain open, to ensure suitable safeguarding arrangements are in place to protect the pupils at the school.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 This review has been carried out in accordance with the requirements set out in the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, with the aim of ensuring that all electors in the Borough have as reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable.
- 8.2 In most cases, the existing arrangements in the Borough are still suitable and no changes are proposed.
- 8.3 Unfortunately, no suitable alternative arrangement has been identified for the St John's West polling district. Officers acknowledge the frustration that this causes staff and parents of pupils of The Oaktree Infant School. As there are no other suitable facilities in the area, the options available for polling places were limited, and upon closer investigation temporary cabins were not a sustainable alternative.
- 8.4 Officers will develop proposals for a permanent community facility in the polling district which will be a sustainable, long term alternative to using the school.

REPORT ENDS

**Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2018
Consultees**

The following individuals and organisations were contacted as part of the polling district and polling place review:

- All Woking Borough Council Councillors
- All Surrey County Councillors for Woking
- Member of Parliament for Woking County Constituency
- Members of European Parliament for the South East Region
- Local Political Parties
 - Woking Conservative Party
 - Woking Green Party
 - Woking Labour Party
 - Woking Liberal Democrats
 - Woking UK Independence Party
 - UK Community
- Local Disability Groups
 - Surrey Disabled People's Partnership
 - Surrey Coalition of Disabled People
 - LinkAble
 - Sight for Surrey
 - Surrey Action for Carers
 - SeeAbility
 - North Surrey Disability Empowerment Network
 - North West Surrey Valuing People Group
- Residents Associations
 - Brookwood RA
 - Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford RA
 - Hockering RA
 - Hook Heath RA
 - Horsell RA
 - Knaphill RA
 - Mayford Village society
 - St John's Village Society
 - Westfield Common RA

Comments from the Acting Returning Officer for the Woking County Constituency on the Existing Polling District and Polling Place Arrangements as at 1 October 2018

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments	Proposal
A1 – West Byfleet	St Johns Cornerstone Centre	There are parking facilities on site, with designated disabled parking bays. The entrance, which is accessible for all electors, is at the back of the building. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the two polling stations that are located here for West Byfleet and the one polling station for Pyrford North. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.
A2 - Byfleet	Byfleet Village Hall	There is on site parking with dedicated disabled parking spaces. The building is accessible for disabled electors and there is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the three polling stations that are located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.
B1 – Town Centre	The Lightbox	This venue is a shared polling place with B2 (Town Centre North) polling district. There is parking on site, with allocated spaces for disabled drivers, and disabled access into the building. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.
B2 – Town Centre North	The Lightbox	This venue is a shared polling place with B1 (Town Centre) polling district. There is parking on site, with allocated spaces for disabled drivers, and disabled access into the building. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.
B3 - Walton Road	Red Cross Centre, Walton Road	There is parking on site, with allocated spaces for disabled drivers, and disabled access into the building. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.

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B4 - Sheerwater	Parkview Centre for the Community	There are parking facilities on site with designated disabled parking spaces. The building is accessible for all electors. There is sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the two polling stations located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.
B5 - Board School Road	St John Ambulance Centre, Wesco Court	There are parking facilities on site with designated disabled parking spaces. The building is accessible for all electors. There is sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.
B6 - Woodham	Woodham Parish Hall	There are on site parking facilities at this venue. The building is accessible for disabled electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.
C1 – Goldsworth West	The TS Dianthus Building,	<p>There are parking facilities on site and the building is accessible for disabled electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the two polling stations that are located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are used on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.</p> <p>Representations were previously received that electors at Brockhill would find it easier to vote at the Goldsworth Park Guide and Scouts HQ. A new polling district would be required to accommodate these electors, as these electors would be in a different County Electoral Division to the rest of the electors using the polling station.</p> <p>There would a negligible impact on electors using the Goldsworth Park Guide and Scouts HQ polling station if this were arranged.</p>	<p>I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.</p> <p>I support the creation of an additional polling district for Brockhill, with the designated polling place being the Goldsworth Park Guide and Scouts HQ.</p>
C2 - Goldsworth Central	Goldsworth Park Guides and Scouts HQ	There is on site parking and disabled access to the building. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station will be erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers. No change is recommended for this polling place.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.

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C3- Goldsworth East	Salvation Army Community Church	There is on site parking and disabled access to the building. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers. No other venues in the polling district have been identified.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.
D1 - Brookwood	Brookwood Memorial Hall	There is on site parking, with dedicated bays for disabled drivers. The building is centrally located in Brookwood and is accessible for all electors. The Council has contributed in the past to improvements to pedestrian access and provision of lighting to access the building. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.
D2 – Brookwood South	Mayford Village Hall	This venue is a shared polling place with the D3 (Mayford) polling district. There is on site parking and dedicated bays for disabled drivers. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. No problems have been reported by the Presiding Officer.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.
D3 - Mayford	Mayford Village Hall	This venue is a shared polling place with the D2 (Brookwood South) polling district. There is on site parking and dedicated bays for disabled drivers. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. No problems have been reported by the Presiding Officer.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.
D4 – Hook Heath	Woking Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club	This building has adequate access for disabled electors. Although there is limited on-site parking at this venue, there is plenty of on-street parking outside the venue. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. There is often difficulty with mobile phone reception, which can make contact with the polling station team difficult. No alternative venue in the polling district has been identified.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.
D5 - Barnsbury	'Buddies' Annex, Barnsbury Primary School.	There is allocated parking at this site and the building is accessible for all electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.

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D6 - Sutton Green	Sutton Green Village Hall	There is on site parking and disabled access to the building. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers. No other venues in the polling district have been identified.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place.
E1 – Westfield	The Moorcroft Centre	There are parking facilities on site, including dedicated disabled parking. The building is accessible inside for disabled electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place
E2 - Kingfield	The Meadows Sports Pavilion	This venue has been used since 2007 and is shared with the E3 (Shackleford Road) polling district. There are parking facilities on site, and there is disabled access to the building. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place
E3 – Shackleford Road	The Meadows Sports Pavilion	This venue is shared with E2 (Kingfield) Polling District. . There are parking facilities on site, and there is disabled access to the building. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place
E4- Old Woking	St Peters Church	This venue is a shared polling place with the E5 (Gresham Park) polling district. There are parking facilities on site, and the building is accessible for all electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No other alternative venues have been identified within the polling district.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place
E5 – Gresham Park	St Peters Church	This venue is a shared polling place with the E4 (Old Woking) polling district. There are parking facilities on site, and the building is accessible for all electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No other alternative venues have been identified within the polling district.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place

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F1- Horsell West	Horsell Evangelical Church	This venue has on-site parking facilities and is accessible for disabled electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the two polling stations that are located here. A temporary sign to direct electors to the polling station is used on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place
F2 –Horsell South	Trinity Methodist Church	This venue is a shared polling place with F3 (Horsell East) polling district. There are parking facilities on site, including dedicated disabled parking. The building is accessible for disabled electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the two polling stations that are located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. Although this venue is not in the polling district, no other suitable venues have been identified. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place
F3 – Horsell East	Trinity Methodist Church	This venue is a shared polling place with F2 (Horsell South) polling district. There are parking facilities on site, including dedicated disabled parking. The building is accessible for disabled electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the two polling stations that are located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers. Although this venue is not in the polling district, no other suitable venues have been identified.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place
G1 - Knaphill West	The Vyne	This venue is a shared polling place with G2 (Knaphill South) polling district. There are parking facilities on site, including dedicated disabled parking. The building is accessible inside for disabled electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the two polling stations that are located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers. No change is recommended for this polling place.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place

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<p>G2 - Knaphill South</p>	<p>Knaphill Scouts HQ</p>	<p>This venue is a shared polling place with G1 (Knaphill West) polling district. There are parking facilities at the site and the building is accessible for disabled electors. There is adequate room and is accessible for all electors. There is sufficient equipment to accommodate the two polling stations that are located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No other alternative venues have been identified within the polling district.</p> <p>Reports of congestion on the access road to the car park have been made previously. Arrangements were put in place in May 2018 to improve the access arrangements.</p>	<p>I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place</p>
<p>G3 – Knaphill East</p>	<p>Knaphill Scout HQ</p>	<p>This venue is a shared polling place with G4 (Knaphill North) polling district. There are parking facilities on site and the building is accessible for disabled electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the two polling stations that are located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No other alternative venues have been identified within the polling district.</p> <p>Reports of congestion on the access road to the car park have been made previously. Arrangements were put in place in May 2018 to improve the access arrangements.</p>	<p>I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place</p>
<p>G4 – Knaphill North</p>	<p>Knaphill Scout HQ</p>	<p>This venue is a shared polling place with G3 (Knaphill East) polling district. There are parking facilities on site and the building is accessible for disabled electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the two polling stations that are located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. Although this building as it is located on a steep hill, and the pedestrian access is not separated from vehicle traffic, no problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.</p> <p>Reports of congestion on the access road to the car park have been made previously. Arrangements were put in place in May 2018 to improve the access arrangements.</p>	<p>I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place</p>

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H1 - Mount Hermon West	St Mary of Bethany Church Hall	There is on site parking and the building is accessible for disabled electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the two polling stations that are located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place
H2 - Mount Hermon East	St Dunstons Church Hall	This venue has been used since 2007. The venue is accessible for disabled electors and has plenty of on site parking. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the two polling stations that are located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place
J1 - Maybury	Alpha Road Community Hall	This venue is a shared polling place with the J2 (Maybury) polling district. This building is accessible to all electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place
J2 – Maybury South	Alpha Road Community Hall	This venue is a shared polling place with the J1 (Maybury South) polling district. This building is accessible to all electors. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place
J3- Pyrford	Pyrford Village War Memorial Hall	There is on site parking, with allocated disabled parking bays. There is disabled access to the building. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the two polling stations that are located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place
J4 – Pyrford North	St Johns Cornerstone Centre	This venue is a shared polling place with the A1 (West Byfleet) polling district. There are parking facilities on site, with designated disabled parking bays. The entrance, which is accessible for all electors, is at the back of the building. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the three polling stations that are located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place

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K1 – St John’s West	The Oaktree Infant School	I support the proposal to identify alternative polling arrangements for this polling district. Any other venue must be accessible for all electors.	I support the proposal to change this polling place
K2 – St John’s Central	St Johns Memorial Hall	This venue is accessible for disabled electors. There are parking facilities outside the venue. There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the two polling stations that are located here. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day. No problems have been reported by Presiding Officers.	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place
K3 – St John’s East	Al-Asr Education and Community Centre	<p>There is limited parking at the site, however, arrangements are made with Parking Services not to enforce on-street parking restrictions in the vicinity of the polling place to enable electors to cast their vote.</p> <p>There is adequate room and sufficient equipment (tables and chairs) to accommodate the polling station. Temporary signs directing electors to the polling station are erected on polling day.</p>	I support the continued use of this venue as a polling place

Polling District and Polling Place Review 2018

Summary of Consultation Responses

Proposal	Response
Oaktree Infant School	<p>Seventeen responses were received regarding the use of the Oaktree Infant School, including from parents of pupils at the school and the Headteacher.</p> <p>A summary of the responses is set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It causes unnecessary disruption to the education of children if the school closes. • Adverse impact on parents if the school is closed for polling day, with parents using leave or having to pay for additional childcare to cover the missed days. • There is a disruption to the school day if a section of the school is kept open as a polling station, to ensure the children are kept safe at all times. • Safeguarding issues due to increased number of visitors to School and safety issues due to high volume of traffic around the School. • Insufficient parking and access to the school as Gorsewood Road is busy with traffic. • Other suggested polling stations are St John's Memorial Hall, pubs/shops and superstore car parks. • New community facilities are required in the area. • Prime importance should be given to find alternative arrangements and School should not be used as a polling station in future.
Lightbox - Town Centre Polling District	Three representations received in support of using The Lightbox as the polling place for the Town Centre polling district.
Mount Hermon Ward	Comments received supporting the proposal.
Sutton Green Village Hall – Sutton Green	Comments received supporting the proposal.
General Comments	<p>Woking Access Group submitted the following comments:</p> <p>The main point I would like to make is the difficulties encountered by disabled people when visiting their local polling stations.</p> <p>Entering the front door is a big problem unless there are automatically operated doors.</p> <p>Often there is nobody there to open the manual doors and I have been left waiting outside waiting until another member of the public wishes to enter.</p> <p>Having worked for the council in the past, I know this problem will affect most polling stations.</p> <p>It would be extremely helpful to ensure staff working on that day are aware of this problem and that somebody is at the front door to help people in.</p> <p>Please could the Council clarify the arrangements in place for enabling all</p>

People with disabilities to Vote and put it on the website and on the polling the revised consultation document:

For example: A low - level polling booth Are any height adjustable? Cost?

How presiding officers can assist

Voting information available in different formats. The link to the Electoral commission report in 2017 maybe be a useful source of information.

https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/237194/Accessibility-report-call-for-evidence.pdf

The Council may be aware of the report? Has it considered the points raised? If so, how will the Council address the issues in Woking? If not, why? Are there any issues we can help with?

Idea

Lifts to Polling Stations by Bustler? Not everyone can use a car to the polling station. Does Bustler still take electric wheelchairs?

How does this compare cost wise with the issuing of postal votes? Has this option ever been considered?