

DARTFORD

Borough Council

Electoral Provisions Sub-Committee

Councillor C J Shippam (Chairman)
Councillor D Swinerd (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor R Gosine
Councillor S Gosine
Councillor P Harman
Councillor D J Reynolds
Councillor R J Wells

A meeting of the above Sub-Committee will be held virtually on

Thursday 5 November 2020 at 5.00pm.

Details of how to access the meeting will be published with this agenda on the Council's web site or can be obtained by contacting Democratic Services



Sarah Martin
Executive Director (Internal Services)
28 October 2020

Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR
Tel: 01322 343434 Web: www.dartford.gov.uk

Agenda

Viewing this meeting on YouTube

This meeting may be viewed on YouTube by opening the link below:

<https://youtu.be/c44cgBTEd6A>

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2018** (Pages 1 - 6)
4. **References from other Committees**
5. **Urgent Items**

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PUBLIC

6. **Annual Canvass**
A verbal update from the Electoral Services Manager on reform of the Canvass process.
7. **Polling Arrangements - 2021** (Pages 7 - 20)
An update on the position of elections following Parliamentary Legislation to push back the May 2020 elections and subsequent local authority by – elections and local referenda in England, the PCC elections to May 2021 and proposed polling arrangements.

This report was not ready for circulation with the Agenda and will be circulated to Members under a separate cover.

TO FOLLOW

DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

ELECTORAL PROVISIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting of the Electoral Provisions Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 17 October 2018.

PRESENT: Councillor Chris Shippam (Chairman)
Councillor Joshua Jones
Councillor Keith M Kelly
Councillor Jeremy A Kite MBE
Councillor Denzil J Reynolds
Councillor Richard J Wells

COUNCIL OFFICERS Graham Harris – Managing Director
Sarah Martin – Strategic Director (External)
Jeanette Peglar – Electoral Service Manager

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hawkes, Read and Swinerd.

The sub Committee noted the appointment of Councillors Jones and Kite as substitutes for Councillors Hawkes and Swinerd respectively.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kite declared a personal interest in item 10 as he was a director of Dartford Football club and a governor of Leigh Academy Trust school both of which were being considered as venues for polling places.

7. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Provisions Sub – Committee held on 27 June 2018 were confirmed as a correct record of that meeting.

8. URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman reported that there were no Urgent Items for the Board to consider.

9. REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

It was noted that there were no references for the Sub - Committee to consider.

10. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

ELECTORAL PROVISIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2018

The Sub - Committee received a report on the proposed arrangements for a review of polling district and polling places for Dartford required under Section 189C (1) and (2) of the 1983 Representation of the People Act.

The Act requires that the Council divides the Borough into polling districts and designates a polling place for each district, and to keep these arrangements under review. It was also reported that this process must be started and completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020 respectively.

As a result of the recently undertaken Local Government Boundary Commission for England review of the local borough ward boundaries and the Community Governance Review of parish boundaries, it is necessary to undertake the review now and that it be completed in time for use at the local elections scheduled for May 2019, so that the arrangements for Local elections remain the same for parliamentary elections.

The Sub-committee supported the suggestion that when the final recommendations are taken to the General Assembly of Council, delegated approval be granted to the Managing Director to approve an alternative polling place in the event that any polling place becomes unavailable or found to be unsuitable in the run up to an election and to make this change on a permanent basis following the election.

The report identified initial proposals for polling districts and polling places, which were to be the subject of public consultation, and highlighted the following amendments to the details set out in the report which were necessary due to recent developments:

Bean & Village Park Ward.

Village Park Polling District. Officers explained the difficulties of this mobile unit and that it may not be able to offer good polling arrangements in the future. Members raised no objection and agreed that the Arrow Riding School would offer a possible suitable alternative.

Brent Ward.

Livingstone Polling District: Investigations have identified that other options in the district are not viable and that the Dartford Primary Academy remains the best venue for the polling place.

Grassbanks Polling District. The use of a building to be identified within the environs of the football ground seem suitable for this new polling district.

Bridge Ward.

Marshes Polling District The issues with car parking was explained to Members and it was agreed that this still offered better polling arrangements.

Burnham Ward. The polling place for this ward is satisfactory but the size of the electorate may require that the register is split to obviate unnecessary queues.

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Ebbsfleet Ward.

Cherry Orchard Polling District. The Acting Returning Officer may need to seek an alternative polling place if the existing venue is unable to cope with an ever expanding electorate. It is possible that the adjoining Community Centre may be suitable.

Black Eagle Polling District. A new polling place, possibly a mobile unit, will be necessary for this new District, but the Acting Returning Officer may need to seek an alternative polling place possibly outside the District.

Greenhithe Ward.

Knockhall Polling District. Members agreed that the use of the Knockhall, Primary School would offer a more central arrangement for electors.

Everards Polling District. Concern was raised regarding this polling place due to the distance away from previous arrangements of a mobile unit at Eagles Road. Officers explained the history of the arrangements and how these had overcome and fewer complaints had been received. This polling district would now support a smaller electorate and electors from the Ingress development now had their own polling district. Member requested that additional signage may help to resolve these issues of people not being able to locate the polling station.

Abbey Polling District. It was originally proposed that the Community Centre at Ingress Park be used as a Polling place but doubt now exists regarding its availability, consequently the Acting Returning Officer may need to seek an alternative polling place for this district and the recommendation should be amended to reflect this.

Longfield, New Barn and Southfleet Ward

Green Street Polling District. A suitable polling place has not as yet been identified for this new polling district, but investigations are on - going. Should no suitable venue be found during the review then the use of a mobile unit would be utilised

New Barn West Polling District. When a mobile unit is placed on Nuthatch it invariably draws complaints from neighbours, officers have been unable to identify an alternative location in this area.

Southfleet West Polling District. The placement of the mobile unit and use of a generator has caused complaints from noise from the adjoining property and also issues with the sightlines. Members acknowledged that the Acting Returning Officer may need to identify an alternative location for the polling station.

Newtown Ward

St Albans Polling District. Members supported the use of the school as the polling place.

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Hesketh Polling District. If available, Members supported the use of the pavilion as the polling place.

Princes Ward

Phoenix Polling District. Concern was expressed by Members that the proposed new polling district would not find favour with electors and that voter numbers would consequently fall and felt that the tree estate should retain its own polling place which was currently a mobile unit on the junction of Chestnut Road and Larch Road.

It was therefore agreed that an additional polling district would be created (Willow) similar to the arrangements for the current KD polling district for those electors

The polling district reference would be amended accordingly.

Stone Castle Ward

Stone Village Polling District. – Members acknowledged that the previously polling place was no longer available and as no alternative could be identified a mobile unit would need to be used.

Castle Polling District. A more permanent location for a polling place was being sought to replace the mobile unit used at previous elections. It was suggested that a currently vacant retail unit at St Clements Way may be suitable and it was agreed that this would be investigated.

Stone House Ward

St John's Polling District. Although the current polling place is perfectly adequate for one or even two possible polling stations, Members asked that further investigation of alternatives is undertaken as part of the review.

Temple Hill Ward

St Edmunds Polling District. Members agreed that the use of Temple Hill School offered a sensible arrangement.

Town Ward

Central Polling District. Members were advised that the review was looking at alternative locations for a polling place for this polling district. The use of the Meeting Place in the Orchard Shopping Centre was discussed and although some of the concerns could be overcome, it was felt that current arrangement using the Baptist Church on Highfield Road still offered the most convenient location if the Acting Returning Officer could not identify a suitable alternative.

Fairfield Polling District. Concern was raised if this would have an impact on car parking within the area. Officers advised that the running track car park could be utilised and that signage could be placed up on polling day advising of its availability.

West Hill Ward

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Edward Polling District. Members supported the use of the school as the polling place.

Nelson Polling District. Members felt that use of the Grammar schools may offer a more suitable location for the Acting Returning Officer to consider.

Wilmington, Sutton at Hone and Hawley Ward

Sutton-at-Hone District Polling District. It was noted that an alternative polling place had been sought and Members supported the suggestion of the Library on Main Road.

Having considered the report the Sub - Committee

RESOLVED

That

1. the proposed timetable for the review as set out in the report, together with any subsequent changes to be agreed in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub-committee and the Managing Director, be noted;
2. due to the boundary review carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), it is noted that all of the polling districts in the Borough will need to be reviewed and amended where necessary;
3. initial proposals for polling districts and polling places set out in the Report be approved, as amended above, and together with the Acting Returning Officer's comments be submitted for public consultation;
4. the Electoral Services Manager identify organisations/persons for the purpose of consultation on the proposals; and,
5. the Sub-committee supports the proposal that the Managing Director be granted delegated authority to approve an alternative polling place in the event that any polling place becomes unavailable or found to be unsuitable in the run up to an election and to make this change on a permanent basis following the election be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.04 pm

ELECTORAL PROVISIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2018

Councillor C Shippam
CHAIRMAN

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POLLING ARRANGEMENT - 2021

1. Summary

- 1.1 To update Members on the position of elections following legislation to push back the May 2020 elections and subsequent local authority by-elections and local referendums in England and the PCC elections to May 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the recommendations from the interim polling review at para of the report, be noted.
- 2.2 That as and when guidance is received from Central Government, to note that further changes **to these arrangements** may be necessary.

3. Background and Discussion

- 3.1. As the UK is currently experiencing a public health emergency as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, a preliminary review of the current polling arrangements for the polls scheduled for 2021 has been undertaken to ensure that staff can work safely during the pandemic and that electors are able to comply with social distancing guidelines.
- 3.2. The pandemic is continuing to present particular challenges for the Returning Officer, the Electoral Registration Officer and the Election team preparing to deliver polls in 2021.
- 3.3. Officers have reviewed the suitability of all the polling places previously used: considering such matters as whether the venues are spacious enough to enable social distancing, if there are multiple entrances and exits to allow a one way system, areas for electors to queue outside and other considerations in line with current public health advice and government guidelines.
- 3.4. The guidance for the process required at the elections in 2021 is still to be released, but officers have taken a proactive approach to review the position with an understanding that changes may be necessary as further the guidance is issued by government.
- 3.5. During the last compulsory review of polling districts and polling places, which was approved by the General Assembly of the Council on 14 January 2019[Min.No.87], the Managing Director was granted delegated authority to amend a polling place if the appointed place becomes unavailable. This delegation has subsequently been transferred to the Strategic Director (Internal Services) under the Scheme of Officer Delegations.

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- 3.6. The previously approved polling places have been contacted and a majority have advised that their premises will be available for polling next year although concerns have been raised regarding cleaning etc.
- 3.7. Where the usual venues are not available, or do not meet the requirements, officers have identified suitable alternatives, or suggested adjustments to processes to ensure venues can be operated safely (Appendix A)
- 3.8. Under current legislation (Rule 20 of Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006), The Returning Officer can require the use, free of charge, for the purposes of taking the poll, a room in a school. This effectively renders all mainstream schools liable for use by Returning Officers, irrespective of how they were procured. This includes academies and free schools.
- 3.9. As the Kent County Council elections will also be held in May 2021, the County Returning Officer has supported the use of schools as polling stations and extending this requirement if previous venues are not available or suitable.
- 3.10. The use of mobile units will still be required and these will create their own challenges. The Returning Officer and officers are working with the contractor looking at the type of units available to help accommodate social distancing and also where possible two doors.
- 3.11. The (Acting) Returning Officer has been consulted on the proposals and her comments are attached at Appendix B to the report.

4. Relationship to the Corporate Plan

To provide high quality services that reflects public aspirations and demonstrates improvement

5. Financial, legal, staffing and other implications and risk assessments*

Financial Implications	None
Legal Implications	The Representation of the People Act 1983 places a duty on the Council to divide the Borough into polling districts, designate a polling place for each district and to keep these arrangements under review.
Public Sector Equality Duty	The Electoral Services Customer Access Review sets out the steps taken regarding access to polling places. https://www.dartford.gov.uk/by-category/community-and-living2/equality-and-diversity/customer-access-reviews
Staffing Implications	None

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Administrative Implications	None
Risk Assessment	Following the government guidance for the 2021 elections being released, risk assessments will need to be undertaken on all of the designated polling places.

6. Details of Exempt Information Category

Not applicable

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Review of Polling Places

Appendix B – (Acting) Returning Officer comments

BACKGROUND PAPERS

<u>Documents consulted</u>	<u>Date / File Ref</u>	<u>Report Author</u>	<u>Section and Directorate</u>	<u>Exempt Information Category</u>
Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places – GAC 14/02/19		Sarah Martin	Strategic (Internal)	N/A

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APPENDIX A

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Space for social distancing	Adequate entrance	Area for Electors to Queue	Comments
BEA1	Arrow Riding Centre	Y	Y	Y	
BEA2	Bean Village Hall	Y	Y	Y	
BRG1*	Dartford Bridge Learning & Community Campus	Y	Y	Y	
BRG2*	Bridge Management Centre (Suggested change to Dartford Bridge Learning & Community Campus)	N	N	Y	<p>The Management Centre is not suitable for polling with the restrictions expected. The current room used is small and the corridor to enter would not allow electors to socially distance</p> <p>A dual polling station at the Dartford Bridge Learning & Community Campus would offer a better alternative on this occasion.</p>
BRT1	Dartford Primary Academy (Juniors)	Y	Y	Y	The school has been undergoing refurbishment. However, meetings previously held had found suitable areas, which could be used for polling.
BRT2*	Princes Park	Y	N	Y	There is restricted access into the room previously used, however with staff managing the flow into the room, electors could be controlled and there is sufficient space for electors to queue outside
BRT3	Fleetdown Library	Y	Y	Y	
BUR1	Holy Trinity Church of England School	Y	Y	Y	The school have requested that a mobile unit be used on the playground instead of the school buildings, however this would not offer better polling arrangements.
DAR1	Darenth Hall	Y	Y	Y	Although a dual station, there is sufficient space in the hall.
DAR2	Darenth Hall	Y	Y	Y	

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Polling District	Current Polling Place	Space for social distancing	Adequate entrance	Area for Electors to Queue	Comments
EBB1*	Castle Hill Primary School (Suggested change to Cherry Orchard Community Centre)	Y	Y	Y	The School have asked if we can continue to use the community centre, which is attached to the school. This has been previously used as a polling station and was able to offer suitable facilities.
EBB2	Mobile Unit (Snowden Hill)	N	Y	Y	This area would be able to facilitate a larger mobile unit. It would need to continue to be located in the car parking bays. Although a public grass area is available, this is a public open space and objections were previously received.
GRE1	Knockhall Academy	Y	Y	Y	The school have requested that the polling station be located in what was previously used as a nursery building which has been used previously as a polling station.
GRE2	Sir John Franklin	Y	N	Y	Although there are multiple doors into the pool room which has been previous used as the polling station, these lead into the bar areas and would not be suitable to use as exits/entrance. The room is small but could facilitate a one way system inside and access could be controlled by staff, as there are external areas for electors to queue.
GRE3*	Ingress Park Community Centre	Y	Y	Y	Management of the community centre has still not transferred to the Town Council. For May 2020, Crest Nicholson (current owners) advised that the centre would no longer be available for use as a polling station. The residents of Ingress Abbey offered the use of a room in their home to use as a polling station. This would no longer be a suitable alternative if the community centre is not available due to possible restrictions in visiting people's homes.
GRE4	No station required	n/a	n/a	n/a	No polling is required in this polling district.
HEA1	Wentworth County Primary School	Y	Y	Y	
HEA2	Scout House (Suggested change to Lutonia Hall, Broomhill Road)	Y	Y	Y	Accessibility into Scout House is a problem and a ramp has to be installed for elections. However, the current room used

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Polling District	Current Polling Place	Space for social distancing	Adequate entrance	Area for Electors to Queue	Comments
					would not be suitable for social distancing and electors would have to cross in the corridor upon entering the building. Lutonia Hall, a Scout Hall, which is located on the same road would offer a more suitable alternative with more space with better access arrangements. The Group Leaders have provisionally agreed to its use subject to agreement with their executive committee.
HEA3	Mobile Unit (Junction Heathclose Road/Heath Lane)	N	Y	Y	This location would be able to facilitate a large mobile unit and offer an area for electors to queue.
JOY1	Summerhouse Drive Library	Y	Y	Y	The library is not currently open to the public but Kent County Council have confirmed its use.
JOY2	Joydens Wood Community Centre	Y	Y	Y	
LNS1	Jubilee Church Hall	Y	Y	Y	Although there is a small threshold, a one way system would be possible.
LNS2	Jubilee Church Hall	Y	Y	Y	Although this is a dual station, the second electorate is under 130 electors and therefore would manage with staff marshalling electors.
LNS3	Community (Scout) Hall	Y	Y	Y	
LNS4	Mobile Unit (The Oval)	N	Y	Y	This location would be able to facilitate a larger mobile unit and offer an area for electors to queue.
LNS5	Mobile Unit (Nuthatch)	N	Y	Y	This location would be able to facilitate a larger mobile unit and offer an area for electors to queue on the pavement. However, we have received complaints at previous elections on the siting of this mobile unit. Numerous site visits have been conducted in the area with officers, the previous Returning Officer and the contractor however finding an alternative site has not been successful.
LNS6	Southfleet Village Hall	Y	Y	Y	

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Polling District	Current Polling Place	Space for social distancing	Adequate entrance	Area for Electors to Queue	Comments
LNS7	Mobile Unit (Broomhills)	N	Y	Y	A larger unit at this location may be more difficult to install. If the contractor is unable to install at Broomhills, the location may need to revert to the previous location station Road/Corner Road. This would then require a generator and we have received noise/privacy complaints, which was why the unit was relocated.
MLC1	Bexley Sports and Social Club	Y	Y	Y	
MLC2	Leyton Cross Social Club	Y	Y	Y	
NEW1	Dartford Primary Academy (Infants)	Y	Y	Y	The hall previously used is a suitable size but only has one entrance, which would need to be managed by staff.
NEW2*	Methodist Church Hall	Y	Y	Y	
NEW3	The Hesketh Pavilion	Y	N	Y	Access to the building may need to be managed to ensure social distancing. However there are suitable areas for electors to queue.
PRI1	9th Dartford (Morning Star) Scout Hall	Y	N	Y	Access to the building may need to be managed to ensure social distancing. However there are suitable areas for electors to queue.
PRI2	Mobile Unit (Junction of Chestnut/Larch Road) (Suggested relocation to car park at Highfield Road South)	N	Y	Y	The junction of Chestnut Road and Larch Road where the mobile unit is usually situated would not be suitable for the larger mobile unit and electors would need to queue in the road. The car park on Highfield Road South which is now managed by Dartford Borough Council would offer a more suitable alternative.
PRI3*	Phoenix Place Community Hub	N	Y	Y	Access to the building may need to be managed to ensure social distancing. However, there are suitable areas for electors to queue. Although we are still awaiting to receive confirmation that we are able to use, an alternative would be Lenderyou Court, which has been used previously as a polling station.

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Polling District	Current Polling Place	Space for social distancing	Adequate entrance	Area for Electors to Queue	Comments
PRI4	Tree Community Centre	Y	Y	Y	The premises is being used by the Healthy Living Centre Dartford. However they have been advised that it will be used for polling.
PRI5	Oakfield Primary Academy	Y	Y	Y	
SCA1	Mobile Unit (Car Park at Lads of the Village) (suggested change to public open space on Chalice Way)	N	Y	Y	The Landlord of the Lads in the Village PH has advised that part of the car park has now been sold for development. An alternative location could be the public amenity land at Chalice Way.
SCA2	Stone Pavilion	Y	Y	Y	The previous room used for polling would not be suitable on this occasion. The Parish Council have also advised that the room is also being used by staff to comply with social distancing guidance. They have suggested that the hall could be available and this would meet all requirements.
SCA3	Mobile Unit (Steele Avenue)	N	Y	Y	This polling district has a high electorate. However, there would be areas for the electors to queue.
SHO1	The Gateway Primary Academy	Y	Y	Y	This is a dual station and the room previously used would not be suitable to allow for social distancing. There are however, alternatives available at the school which would offer a larger room or to facilitate the polling stations in separate rooms.
SHO2	The Brent Primary School	Y	Y	Y	This is a dual station and the hall previously used would be suitable to allow for social distancing.
SHO3	The Gateway Primary Academy	Y	Y	Y	
SHO4	The Brent Primary School	Y	Y	Y	
SH05	Alamein Community Centre	Y	Y	Y	
SWA1	Heritage Community Hall	Y	Y	Y	
SWA2	Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council Offices	Y	Y	Y	

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Polling District	Current Polling Place	Space for social distancing	Adequate entrance	Area for Electors to Queue	Comments
SWA3	The Church Centre	Y	Y	Y	
TEM1	Mobile Unit (Trevithick Drive)	N	Y	Y	
TEM2*	Temple Hill Primary Academy	Y	Y	Y	
TEM3	Temple Hill Community Centre	Y	Y	Y	
TOW1	Building 69 (suggested change to River Mill Primary Scholl)	Y	Y	Y	Building 69 at Diasorin was used as a temporary arrangement as there were no other suitable premises whilst the development was being built. River Mill Primary School has now opened and can offer suitable arrangements.
TOW2	Highfield Road Baptist Church	Y	Y	Y	The previous area used could be difficult to manage social distancing. However, the Church has arrange for the 2021 elections the main hall could be used which would resolve the problems.
TOW3	Central Park Running Track	Y	Y	Y	
WES1	West Hill Primary Academy	Y	Y	Y	
WES2	Our Lady's Primary School	Y	Y	Y	
WES3	Christ Church Parish Rooms	Y	Y	Y	
WSH1	Sutton-at-Hone Library	Y	Y	Y	The library is currently not open, however KCC have confirmed that it can be used. Previously the area is also shared with a café and if this arrangement were to continue next year, we would need to look at capacity.
WSH2	Hawley Mission Hall*	Y	N	N	We are still to receive confirmation that we can use the room and are concerned that the premises may not be suitable. The Hawley Pavilion could be a suitable alternative and they have been approached to seek if use would be possible.
WSH3	Wilmington Memorial Hall	Y	Y	Y	
WSH4	St Michael's Church Hall	Y	Y	Y	

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Polling District	Current Polling Place	Space for social distancing	Adequate entrance	Area for Electors to Queue	Comments
WSH5	Oakfield Primary Academy	Y	Y	Y	Although a dual station, there is sufficient capacity within the room used to allow for social distancing.

BOLD* Premises still to confirm that they can be used for 2021

**Interim Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places of Dartford 2020
(Acting) Returning Officer Comments**

As (Acting) Returning Officer, I have reviewed the proposals approved by Officers in the interim review and support the recommendations which seem to offer effective arrangements in light of the current pandemic. However, I recognise that these arrangements need to remain fluid as the government guidance changes or premises may become unavailable if there is a local outbreak.

Electoral Commission guidance recommends that where possible no more than 2500 electors should vote at any one polling station. However, consideration has needed to be given to the current situation and elector and staff safety has been given priority. There is also an expectation that there will be an increase in postal vote demand which will reduce the electorate visiting polling stations.

Dartford will continue to change with new households and an increasing electorate, therefore in time a further review of polling districts and their boundaries will be required. Due to the current situation this would not be the appropriate time to undertake with complex polls scheduled for 2021.

As Returning Officer, any changes to polling places will be communicated clearly and in a timely manner to electors, candidates and other stakeholders as needed.

My comments on the proposals are as follows:-

Polling District	Current Polling Place	Returning Officer Comments
BEA1	Arrow Riding Centre	No comment
BEA2	Bean Village Hall	No comment
BRG1	Dartford Bridge Learning & Community Campus	Although still to confirm availability this is a publically funded space. If for any reason it was not available the The Bridge Primary school attached could be used as an alternative
BRG2	Management Centre	Agree with the officers comments that this would not be a suitable polling place in 2021. The Dartford Bridge Learning & Community Campus would offer a more compliant venue where two separate entrances could be used if required. The distance between the two polling stations is only 0.22 miles (4 min walk)
BRT1	Dartford Primary Academy (Juniors)	No comment
BRT2	Princes Park	The external door leads straight into the room previously used as the polling station, therefore agree that this could be managed with staff marshalling entrance.
BRT3	Fleetdown Library	No comment
BUR1	Holy Trinity Church of England School	A mobile unit would be a huge cost when a suitable public funded building is available. Therefore a room or the hall within the school would remain the polling station.
DAR1	Darenth Hall	No comment
DAR2	Darenth Hall	No comment
EBB1	Castle Hill School	Using the community centre attached to the school worked successfully at previous elections and I have no concerns with the polling station being located in that part of the building.
EBB2	Mobile Unit (Snowden Hill)	No comment
GRE1	Knockhall Academy	The nursery building was previously used as the polling station and was only reviewed at the request of the school. I am happy that this be used for the 2021 elections.
GRE2	Sir John Franklin	Although using the current arrangements may be challenging, there are no other suitable alternatives in this polling district. This venue offers better facilities than a mobile unit, and agree that the flow of electors could be controlled to comply with expected regulations.
GRE3	Ingress Park Community Centre	This offered good polling facilities in 2019 and should continue to do so. If the issues of use cannot be resolved then a mobile polling station would need to be installed as there is no suitable alternative.
GRE4	No station required	No comment
HEA1	Wentworth County Primary School	No comment
HEA2	Scout House	I support the recommendation that Lutonia Hall would make a more suitable alternative polling station.
HEA3	Mobile Unit (Junction Heathclose Road/Heath Lane)	No comment
JOY1	Summerhouse Drive Library	No comment
JOY2	Joydens Wood Community Centre	No comment
LNS1	Jubilee Church Hall	No comment
LNS2	Jubilee Church Hall	No comment
LNS3	Community (Scout) Hall	No comment
LNS4	Mobile Unit (The Oval)	No comment

LNS5	Mobile Unit (Nuthatch)	Although complaints have previously been received regarding the siting of this unit, I am unable to find an alternative location within the polling district. Looking into the history of its siting, the complaints started when we were requested to re-site the unit from the edge of the junction. The complaints previously received are around the loss of on-street car parking and the effect on traffic movement. Due the guidance expected for Covid-19, a large mobile unit would need to be situated at this location. However, I will ensure that the contractors remove the unit as quickly as possible and emergency access is not effected.
LNS6	Southfleet Village Hall	No comment
LNS7	Mobile Unit (Broomhills)	It would be preferable to have the mobile unit located on Broomhills as this offered a better location for previous elections, however if the contractor was unable to locate I would need to seek an alternative site within the polling district.
MLC1	Bexley Sports and Social Club	No comment
MLC2	Leyton Cross Social Club	No comment
NEW1	Dartford Primary Academy (Infants)	Although St Albans Church has been used previously as a polling station, the school remains the preferred option. It is a publically funded building and also would not exclude any electors from voting as is not a religious premises.
NEW2	Methodist Church Hall	No comment
NEW3	The Hesketh Pavilion	No comment
PRI1	9th Dartford (Morning Star) Scout Hall	No comment
PRI2	Mobile Unit (previously located at the junction of Chestnut/Larch Road)	I support the suggestion that the mobile unit be relocation to car park at Highfield Road South and if works well in 2021 to look that it be located here in future elections.
PRI3	Phoenix Place Community Hub	The Community Hub would be the preferred option to use as a polling station. Lenderyou Court may be difficult with the pandemic regulations and I would be concerned that it is a residential premises for vulnerable people.
PRI4	Tree Community Centre	No comment
PRI5	Oakfield Primary Academy	No comment
SCA1	Mobile Unit (Car Park at Lads of the Village)	As the previous location is no longer available a suitable alternative would need to be found which would be able to facilitate the mobile unit, a power supply and also have an area for electors to queue. The officers recommendations will be reviewed with the contractor and a suitable location will be found within the polling district.
SCA2	Stone Pavilion	The room used previously will not be suitable with the restrictions expected and therefore would look to use a hall as an alternative which would provide more space and better access.
SCA3	Mobile Unit (Steele Avenue)	Although a larger mobile unit will be used at this location, this polling station has a large electorate. There is not a suitable premises which can be found for this polling district so a mobile unit would have to be used. There is a suitable area for electors to queue so I will not look for an alternative location to site the unit.
SHO1	The Gateway Primary Academy	No comment
SHO2	The Brent Primary School	No comment
SHO3	The Gateway Primary Academy	No comment
SHO4	The Brent Primary School	No comment
SHO5	Alamein Community Centre	No comment

SWA1	Heritage Community Hall	No comment
SWA2	Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council Offices	No comment
SWA3	The Church Centre	No comment
TEM1	Mobile Unit (Trevithick Drive)	As the mobile unit will be larger, more car parking bays will be required and I will liaise with the Head of Housing to help with the concerned raised with tenants.
TEM2	Temple Hill Primary Academy	For the one of the elections held in 2019 the previous Returning Officer agreed that the room used by the nursery could be used as the polling station. This room is not suitable due to access and also the entrance is next to an alternative polling district which caused elector confusion.
TEM3	Temple Hill Community Centre	No comment
TOW1	Building 69	The recommendation that the River Mill School is used as the polling station is supported as this offers better polling facilities to meet the expected guidance. The room used in Building 69 (diasorin) would not offer a facility where social distancing could be adhered too.
TOW2	Highfield Road Baptist Church	The hall would offer suitable polling facilities,
TOW3	Central Park Running Track	No comment
WES1	West Hill Primary Academy	No comment
WES2	Our Lady's Primary School	No comment
WES3	Christ Church Parish Rooms	No comment
WSH1	Sutton-at-Hone Library	If the café is operational in May 2021, consideration will need to be considered as to how social distancing could be adhered too.
WSH2	Hawley Mission Hall	The Hawley Pavilion would make a suitable alternative polling place and if it could be hired, I would support the move to this location. If neither of the premises were available I would seek an alternative location within the polling district.
WSH3	Wilmington Memorial Hall	No comment
WSH4	St Michael's Church Hall	No comment
WSH5	Oakfield Primary Academy	No comment