

## Review of Polling Districts and Places

### All Area Panels, item 7

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>East Area Panel</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>5 September 2006</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Review of Polling Districts and Places</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Peter Snow, Electoral Services Officer, 01799 510431</b>	Item for decision

---

### Summary

- 1 The Council commenced a statutory review of polling districts and places on 1 September 2005. Under legislation, the Council must decide on suitable arrangements for its district after appropriate consultation. A notice was published in the local press and letters sent to all relevant parties seeking views.
- 2 This report contains details of representations received and recommendations for the adoption of a scheme of polling arrangements. The delegation scheme authorises area panels to advise the Council on the designation of polling places and the review of boundaries of polling districts. In practice, a recommendation from each of the area panels will be made to the Operations Committee which is responsible for the determination of all electoral matters.
- 3 The new scheme adopted will be published and will operate at all elections held from the effective date onwards.

### Recommendations

- 4 That the Area Panel recommends the adoption of a suitable scheme of polling districts and polling places, insofar as it applies to those wards and parishes included within the territory administered by this panel, and that the scheme so recommended will be incorporated into a revised scheme covering the entire district.

### Background Papers

Polling District Review file, including responses to the public consultation, other background papers, and relevant maps.

### Impact

Communication/Consultation	<b>Member of Parliament for Saffron Walden, Members of the European Parliament for the Eastern Region, Essex County Council</b>
----------------------------	---

## Review of Polling Districts and Places

### All Area Panels, item 7

	<b>and County Councillors, District Councillors, Parish Councils, local political parties, members of the public and any other interested party to the review.</b>
Community Safety	<b>No specific impact.</b>
Equalities	<b>Survey conducted by Essex Disabled People's Association Ltd.</b>
Finance	<b>No immediate financial implications but there is the possibility of a bid for future funding being made to enable the Council to meet its statutory responsibilities.</b>
Human Rights	<b>No specific implications.</b>
Legal implications	<b>Ensure the Council complies with statutory duties for polling provision.</b>
Ward-specific impacts	<b>All wards</b>
Workforce/Workplace	<b>No specific impact except where indicated.</b>

### Situation

- 5 Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA) places a duty on district councils to divide their area into polling districts, to designate a polling place for each polling district, and to keep them under review. This duty applies for the purpose of Parliamentary elections but the RPA also allows a county or district council to divide an area for the election of its councillors.
- 6 The rules applicable to this process are:
  - a. All electors must be given such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable.
  - b. Each parish must, in the absence of special circumstances, be a separate polling district or districts.
  - c. The polling place shall be an area in the polling district, except where special circumstances make this undesirable, and shall be small enough to make it identifiable.
  - d. A polling place need not be designated if this does not materially affect the convenience of the electors.
  - e. As far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place must be accessible to disabled electors.
- 7 A **polling district** (PD) is a geographical area that is either the same as, or a sub-division of, an electoral area.

## **Review of Polling Districts and Places**

### **All Area Panels, item 7**

- 8 A **polling place** (PP) may either be a building, a geographical area, or the entire polling district, depending on the circumstances.
- 9 The process of finalising this review has been complicated because the Electoral Administration Act (EAA) has introduced a number of new requirements. These include:
  - a. The authority must have regard to accessibility for disabled persons of potential polling stations (that is, the room to be used) within any designated PP, or of any building being reviewed for this purpose.
  - b. The EAA requires that a review is completed within 12 months of that part of the Act coming into force, and every four years thereafter.
- 10 Unfortunately, Section 16 of the EAA has not yet come into force and it is therefore necessary to ensure that the review is completed after the relevant date. The timing is difficult because the review must be signed off by the Operations Committee and it is desirable this is done before the date for publication of the revised register on 1 December 2006. Otherwise, a further revised register must be published after that date, but before the May 2007 elections, to co-incide with the implementation of the new scheme.

### **The existing scheme and options for change**

- 11 The existing arrangements were last reviewed in 2002 and came into effect on 3 February 2003. The review co-incided with the implementation of the new district wards that were introduced following a Periodic Electoral Review of the district. The following documents are appended to this report for Members' information:
  - a. Appendix 1: Description of existing polling districts and places.
  - b. Appendix 2: Map indicating options for amending the boundary between Shire North and South polling districts.
- 12 The remainder of the report highlights those areas where there is a need to consider changing existing arrangements, or where suggestions for change have been made as part of the public consultation. To avoid the need to draft separate reports for each area panel, the report is divided into sections dealing with each panel area in turn.
- 13 As part of this review the Head of Building Surveying arranged for the Essex Disabled People's Association Ltd (EDPA) to undertake detailed inspections of all existing polling places to measure them against the Council's statutory responsibilities. Two trained disability access auditors were allocated to this task for a period of approximately 15 working days each to assess the buildings used against the required standards as contained in the Disability Discrimination Acts and the Electoral Administration Act.

## Review of Polling Districts and Places

### All Area Panels, item 7

- 14 This exercise resulted in a series of recommendations for minor improvements to as many as 45 polling premises and it is hoped that this work will be accommodated in due course. Although there is no specific funding for this work officers are optimistic that a direct approach to the owners of these buildings will result in an agreement for the work to be scheduled, even if the Council has to contribute some funding.
- 15 In eleven instances, however, the EDPA survey identified more serious problems associated with access to the buildings concerned. In these cases arrangements will be made to cost the work identified and for discussions to take place with the owners to determine a way forward. Until these discussions have taken place it is perhaps better that the premises are not identified.
- 16 There is a dilemma in the sense that the Council has statutory responsibilities in respect of the premises used as polling stations but does not own the buildings concerned (except at Four Acres) and can proceed only by agreement and co-operation. Generally speaking, especially in the villages, the availability of alternative buildings is severely limited. As a rule, aside from the village halls generally used the only other public buildings are schools and churches.
- 17 The feeling is that the Council can only do the best it can in the circumstances prevailing. Costings will be prepared for the work identified and a report submitted back to members in due course. A decision can then be taken on the action to be taken. In the meantime there is nothing to prevent a revised polling scheme from being adopted on the basis of the details contained in the following report.

### East Area Panel

- 18 The boundary between **Felsted East and West** polling districts is of very long standing and reflects the physical isolation of the settlements located to the east of Felsted village. It exists entirely for polling purposes and does not follow any electoral division or ward. Felsted Parish Council has confirmed that the existing boundary division is considered to be appropriate and no change is therefore proposed. The description of the boundary between the two polling districts is set out in full in appendix 1.
- 19 The designated polling place for **Little Dunmow** is the Flitch of Bacon Public House. It has to be admitted that the building, although conforming to appropriate access standards, is far from ideal for the purpose. The principal difficulty in determining a satisfactory polling facility is the recognition that there is no suitable alternative public building in the parish. The area used for polling at the Flitch of Bacon is effectively the dining area but this is not divided physically from the public bar and has to be screened off on election days.
- 20 The only known alternative building is the Portacabin located at the Recreation Ground. This has been considered as a possible PP at previous reviews but

## Review of Polling Districts and Places

### All Area Panels, item 7

rejected on the grounds of relatively poor facilities and its physical isolation from Little Dunmow village along an unlit back-road (Brook Street).

- 21 Since the last review the position has changed in that there is a proposal (not yet implemented) to create a new parish of Flitch Green from that part of the existing parish known as Oakwood Park. It is very unlikely that this proposal will become effective in May 2007. When the new parish is created, it will be necessary to designate a PP for Flitch Green since, as a separate parish, it will automatically become a PD in its own right.
- 22 Another factor in the present review is the growth of the electorate at Oakwood Park. In 2001 (the last year in which no properties at Oakwood Park were occupied) there were 262 electors in the parish and by 2006 the figure had risen to 940. By the time the development is complete it is expected that the number of electors at Oakwood Park will have risen to 1500 or more, in addition to the 250 electors in the village of Little Dunmow.
- 23 Ideally the facility provided now in the existing parish should be located at Oakwood Park as the overwhelming balance of the electorate lives there. However, there is no community building available for this purpose. The 1998 planning agreement provides for a community hall and associated facilities by the 501<sup>st</sup> occupation and there will also be a school.
- 24 It therefore seems that the PP will have to remain at the Flitch of Bacon for now and the matter reviewed again when the new parish comes into effect. In the continued absence of a community building in the new parish there would be no option other than to locate a temporary building at an agreed location.
- 25 At the time of the last review consideration was given to dividing **Great Dunmow South** ward into more than one PD. This is because the ward had expanded to include additional electors and there was a concern about accommodating 3,500 or more electors in one building. A further factor was that the Foakes Hall is located at one end of the PD some distance from centres of population in the ward such as the Lukins Mead development off Ongar Road.
- 26 In the event current arrangements have worked well and no changes are proposed.
- 27 In **Great Dunmow North** ward the Woodlands Park development has continued albeit at a fairly slow pace and the electorate has increased from a figure in the region of 2,000 to more than 2,300. Of that total, the number of electors at Woodlands Park is estimated to be in the region of 600. Ultimately, the Woodlands Park estate will include some 1,253 dwellings and the number of electors is likely to grow to more than 2,100 on that site and some 4,150 in the ward as a whole. However, that scale of development is likely to be many years in the future.
- 28 At the time of the 2002 review it was felt that facilities at the Dourdan Pavilion off The Causeway were more than sufficient to accommodate an electorate of 2,000 or more and that the position should be reviewed in the light of the provision of the new primary school in 2004/05. The Great Dunmow Primary

## Review of Polling Districts and Places

### All Area Panels, item 7

School off Woodlands Park Drive will be inspected shortly but has been completed to modern standards and is thought to be suitable for the accommodation of polling facilities if required.

- 29 However, given that the balance of the population is still centred on the north-west side of Great Dunmow town, together with Church End and the Emblems/Godfrey Way development, no change is considered necessary at the present time. Another option would be to split Great Dunmow North into two separate polling districts based on the town and Church End on the one hand and Woodlands Park on the other. Such an arrangement is likely to become necessary in due course but is felt to be premature in present circumstances.
- 30 Since the location of the Dourdan Pavilion is still considered to be more convenient than the new Primary School for the majority of electors it is recommended that present arrangements continue undisturbed for the time being. Once the number of electors in Great Dunmow North exceeds 3,000 and the electorate at Woodlands Park approaches 1,500 that might be considered an appropriate time to consider revised arrangements. At the present rate of progress, that time might be several years in the future.
- 31 At **Little Bardfield** the designated PP is the village hall but this has been unavailable for hire since 2004 and polling at the last two elections has taken place in the cricket club pavilion. This has been inspected and found suitable for use and it is requested that Members recommend a formal change of designation to reflect the actual change.
- 32 The only other matter that has emerged as a result of this review concerns arrangements for the grouping together of the parishes of **Great Easton** and **Tilty** to form a new parish council to be entitled Great Easton and Tilty Parish Council with the following wards:
- a. Duton Hill – 3 councillors
  - b. Great Easton Village – 4 councillors
  - c. Tilty – 1 councillor
- 33 Great Easton Parish Council has already confirmed its agreement with this proposal and the Operations Committee has agreed to the grouping order being made subject to the consent of Tilty parish meeting. This was duly forthcoming at the parish meeting on 26 April 2006 and the new parish council will be elected in May 2007. The grouping order does not affect the scheme of designated polling districts and places.
- 34 No other issues have arisen as part of this review in the remaining wards located in the East Panel area. It is therefore requested that the following matters are recommended to the Operations Committee:
- a. That the designated polling place for Little Bardfield be changed from Little Bardfield Village Hall to Little Bardfield Cricket pavilion.

## Review of Polling Districts and Places

### All Area Panels, item 7

- b. That all other polling districts and polling places, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, remain unaltered.

#### North Area Panel

- 35 The boundaries between the three PDs of **Saffron Walden Castle South-East, Castle South West** and **Little Walden** were settled at the time of the 2002 review. Little Walden has always been a separate area for polling. It was decided to divide the remainder of Castle ward into two town based PDs because of the enlargement of the ward and for the convenience of electors. The boundary is described in Appendix 1. It is considered to be a good secure boundary and no change is considered necessary. There has been little new development in the Castle ward and the electorate has remained stable.
- 36 Saffron Walden Town Council has made representations asking that consideration is given finding a new polling venue for the Castle South-West PD. The Town Council's letter says that the use of St Mary's Primary School is unsatisfactory as the school has to close for the day and suggests the Football Club as a suitable alternative.
- 37 The original venue for the former Castle South PD was St Mary's Church Parish Room but this was considered to be no longer suitable to accommodate the number of electors concerned, as it is quite cramped and no parking space is available. The use of the Football Club in Catons Lane was explored in 2002 but the building itself and the location were both considered unsuitable. Arrangements have been made for an inspection to be carried out and a report will be given at the meeting.
- 38 On the basis of the present evidence it is felt that the existing venues are the best that can be found for the two town-based PDs in Castle ward. It is accepted that closure of a school is not ideal but returning officers have an automatic right to use school premises free of charge and schools are widely and commonly used for this purpose.
- 39 The only other option would seem to be to unify the Castle South-East and South-West PDs into a single PD and designate one PP for that area. There would be approximately 3,500 electors in a unified PD. As has been demonstrated in the case of Great Dunmow South, this number of electors can be accommodated in a suitable building.
- 40 The present arrangements have worked well on balance and a change to a single venue would clearly cause some inconvenience to a significant number of electors. If Members are minded to support this route it is suggested that Dame Johane Bradbury School would be the most suitable venue to designate for this purpose. However, the approach to the Dame Bradbury School is along the narrow and frequently congested Ashdon Road and it must also be borne in mind that the school continues to function on polling days. The officers' view is that present arrangements are the best that can be achieved in the circumstances.

## Review of Polling Districts and Places

### All Area Panels, item 7

- 41 The bulk of new development in Saffron Walden is presently either taking place, or is planned, in the Shire ward. Harris Yard is now largely complete and the development of 55 units to the east of Bell College is underway. The Council is presently awaiting the submission of revised plans for the proposed development at the Friends' School site.
- 42 The existing boundary between **Shire North** and **South** PDs is shown on the attached Appendix 2. The map indicates two possible options to amend the boundary line between the two PDs for the following reason. The original line deviated slightly from following the centre of Peaslands Road to try to achieve a better balance between the numbers of electors allocated to each part. The position of the access to the development at Bell College is such that the new dwellings there should be included in the same PD as the adjoining properties north of Peaslands Road.
- 43 Under option 1, the number of electors allocated to each PD is estimated to be (including an allowance for Bell College, but not for the Friends' School):
- a. Shire North – 1548
  - b. Shire South – 2580

The description would be amended to read: 'Shire North: that portion of Saffron Walden Shire ward north of a line commencing on the western boundary of the ward where it meets with Audley ward at the junction of South Road with Peaslands Road, and running in an easterly direction along the centre of Peaslands Road to a point on that road, and continuing in a generally easterly direction along the rear boundary of 1 Peaslands Road, and then in a generally northerly, easterly and then southerly direction around the perimeter of the development site east of Bell College, and then continuing along the line of the Slade and then in an easterly direction along the rear boundaries of properties fronting Peaslands Road, and then in a southerly direction along the centre of Thaxted Road to a point on that road, then in a generally easterly direction along footpath 37, bridleway 19 and bridleway 18 to the ward boundary west of Cole End Lane.'

Under option 2, the figures would be:

- Shire North – 1722
- Shire South – 2406

The description would be amended to read: after the words 'along the centre of Peaslands Road' it would continue 'to the junction with Thaxted Road, and then in a generally easterly direction along that road to a point ...' and then continuing as above.

- 44 For simplicity option 2 might be the best one to choose as the boundary would follow the centre of Peaslands Road to the point where it meets the junction with Thaxted Road.



## Review of Polling Districts and Places

### All Area Panels, item 7

- 45 No representations have been received about the polling venues allocated in this ward but the officers continue to have some misgivings about the use of Four Acres Common Room in Shire North. This is especially so given the gradual increase in electors so that the time is approaching when the returning officer might need to consider accommodating more than one polling station at this venue. At present the electorate in Shire North is on the margins between housing one or two stations.
- 46 The arrangements at Four Acres have generally worked well and the building is fully accessible. However, there are no parking spaces at Four Acres and the common room housing the polling facility would struggle to contain two stations.
- 47 There are a number of potential alternative venues in Shire North. In practice, all of these were examined carefully at the time of the last review and the only one that seems to offer all of the facilities required is the RA Butler School in South Road. The school hall was previously used for the old Shire West PD but the venue was changed to Fairycroft House after school governors made representations to the Council. The returning officer continues to enjoy the statutory right to use free of charge school premises paid for from public funds.
- 48 If Members are happy for the school to be designated for this purpose it is suggested that the use of the school hall is specified for this purpose. Otherwise, Four Acres seems the next best option and should be retained as the PP.
- 49 At **Wimbish**, Councillor Martin Savage has suggested that separate polling facilities be provided at Carver Barracks for the use of the service personnel and their families, and also for the benefit of residents in Elder Street. Councillor Savage says that there is a very low registration rate on the base due to a number of factors. He contends that army staff are unable or reluctant to travel to the village to vote and that young mothers often have no access to transport. The distance from the Barracks to the polling station at Tye Green is approximately 1.75 miles by road.
- 50 There is a community hall next to the NAAFI stores and officers have spoken to Lt. Colonel Hemingway about the possible use of this building. Colonel Hemingway is keen to be involved in providing a polling facility but unfortunately the community centre does not allow for access to disabled users. There are a number of steps, slopes with steps adjacent to them and the main door to the centre is not wide enough. There is also a stepped approach into the lobby area. It would not be appropriate for the Council to designate a building that does not comply with relevant accessibility standards. Use of the building in these circumstances might also cause adverse publicity which the Barracks would not appreciate.
- 51 A bid has been made to Defence Estates to provide disabled access and the outcome of this should be known in September. However, the funding would not be available until April and it is unlikely the work would be completed in time for the May elections.

## Review of Polling Districts and Places

### All Area Panels, item 7

- 52 This matter can be revisited at some stage in the future when work on the community centre has been completed. In the meantime, Members may wish to comment on the principle of designating a separate PD and PP for that part of Wimbish parish including Carver Barracks and Elder Street. A suitable boundary definition would have to be devised and the register framed in separate parts for the two parts.
- 53 At the present time, were such a division to be made, there would be approximately 430 electors in the Carver Barracks PD area and some 500 electors in the Wimbish Village area.
- 54 It is worth noting in this connection that every household on the Barracks site is individually canvassed by post for registration purposes and, with the co-operation of the camp authorities, efforts are made to capture the names of single service personnel living in accommodation there. The arrangements for registering service personnel will change again following passage of the EAA.
- 55 It is requested that the following matters are recommended to the Operations Committee:
- That Members determine whether St Marys School in Castle Street should continue to be the designated PP for Castle South-West PD and the present division between Castle South-East and Castle South-West PDs should remain unaltered.
  - That Members decide whether option 1 or option 2 should be selected for the amendment of the boundary division between Shire North and Shire South PDs and select either Four Acres Common Room or the RA Butler school as the designated PP for Shire North.
  - That members retain the present PD of Wimbish, without alteration, for at least the time being, until such time as improvement work to the community centre at Carver Barracks has been carried out.
  - That the remaining polling districts and places, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, be confirmed without alteration.

### South-West Area Panel

- 56 At **Hatfield Broad Oak** representations have been received from local residents that the former separate polling facility at Bush End should be reinstated. This facility was withdrawn in 2001 when the owners of the Old Vicarage moved away and the new occupiers were unwilling for the property to continue to be used. The use of the parish church was suggested but the vicar at that time did not provide consent for this use.
- 57 Accordingly, at all elections held since and including 2001, electors at Bush End have polled at Hatfield Broad Oak village hall and the PD scheme was changed in 2002/03 to reflect this arrangement. In effect, Hatfield Broad Oak and Bush End have been combined into a single PD since that date although

## Review of Polling Districts and Places

### All Area Panels, item 7

the register is still maintained in two separate parts because of the historic division into two parish wards.

- 58 Hazel Maundrell and John Oakley of the Ancient Foresters, Bush End wrote in March this year requesting reinstatement of the polling station in Bush End. They point out that it is difficult for those without transport to travel to Hatfield Broad Oak and they also feel it important that their three teenage children, all approaching voting age, can see and appreciate the relevance of voting in the local community.
- 59 Mrs Penny Clark of 'Catterills', Bush End also wrote in May, both in a personal capacity, and in her role as parish councillor representing Bush End. She says that the feeling locally is supportive of retaining separate polling facilities and she feels it is important to keep small communities together. Mrs Clark suggests the parish church would be a suitable venue for polling but, as an alternative, the occupiers of the Ancient Foresters (see above) have offered to make the necessary arrangements at their house. Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council has endorsed Mrs Clark's comments.
- 60 Arrangements have been made for both of these potential venues to be inspected and a report will be given to Members at the meeting. Although there is not a legal requirement to designate Bush End as a separate PD, it seems entirely reasonable to comply with the wishes of electors there, especially in view of the relative remoteness of the community of Bush End and the physical distance from Hatfield Broad Oak, provided that suitable premises can be found.
- 61 In relation to **Stansted North** PD, Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council proposes that a change of venue should be considered as the Peter Kirk Centre off St John's Road as it is considered to be 'too distant for the majority of residents'. The Parish Council suggests that the Mead Court Common Room might be used instead.
- 62 A number of different PD and PP arrangements have been tried in Stansted over the years. At one time there were three separate PDs but this number was condensed to just two from 2003 following the lines of the revised wards on a north/south split. Mead Court replaced the Football Clubroom off Cambridge Road for Stansted West PD and the Peter Kirk Centre succeeded Crafton Green Day Centre at Stansted East. The Youth Centre in Lower Street was the designated PP for Stansted Central.
- 63 The present north/south split seems more satisfactory but the designation of PPs has never been straightforward because there has never been an obvious venue other than the Youth Centre. Although the Peter Kirk Centre is not an ideal venue, it is located in Stansted North and is capable of accommodating more than one polling station. The useable floor space area at Peter Kirk is 10m x 10m whereas it is a much more restricted 7.5m x 5.5m at Mead Court. The fear is that Mead Court would be unable to cope easily with more than two thousand electors. For that reason, Peter Kirk is considered a better option than Mead Court.

## Review of Polling Districts and Places

### All Area Panels, item 7

- 64 The Day Centre remains an option although the Day Centre Committee previously asked the Council to make alternative arrangements because of the disruption caused to the daily preparation of meals there. The returning officer retains the legal right to use the building free of charge.
- 65 There is also the question of whether the Youth Centre is the correct PP for **Stansted South** as it is located some distance north of the PD boundary and away from the population it serves. However, apart from Cannons Mead, the only building within the PD that might conceivably be used for this purpose is The Mountfitchet School, but that is also located a little distance from the main centres of population. Electors in that part of Stansted (except for those west of Silver Street and in Burton End) have polled at the Youth Centre for very many years.
- 66 In the future it may be possible to identify polling premises on that part of the Rochford Nurseries development located in Stansted.
- 67 On balance therefore, it is suggested that the present arrangements for both Stansted PDs should remain undisturbed.
- 68 **Little Canfield** Parish Council sent an e-mail in response to the consultation in January this year stating 'We are relatively happy with the present arrangements for Little Canfield, but are wondering how you will be dealing with the influx of new residents when the Priors Green development is complete. The developers apparently envisage that the first houses will begin to be occupied at the end of the year, and they are starting at the Little Canfield end of the site'.
- 69 The Priors Green development is scheduled to include 637 dwellings. The site is neatly divided into phases that respect entirely the parish boundary between Little Canfield and **Takeley**. The phases indicate that there will ultimately be 250 additional dwellings in Little Canfield and 387 in Takeley. The phasing of the scheme indicates that the dwellings in Little Canfield will be constructed before those in Takeley.
- 70 The impact on polling arrangements in the two parishes will clearly be gradual but will have more effect in Little Canfield because the growth in population will be much greater there in proportion to the existing population. It is unlikely to have such a major impact as, for example, at Oakwood Park, although the eventual electorate will rise from 233 to some 670, an increase of some threefold. At Takeley the numerical increase will be greater but in proportional terms will have a lesser impact. The postulated increase there is from the present 1869 (excluding Mole Hill Green) to about 2550.
- 71 Clearly, the needs of those electors will have to be considered at that time but it is felt to be premature to do that at this stage. There will be a number of aspects to consider including parish boundaries, the possibility of introducing parish warding arrangements, and the location of polling facilities. It will be for a future review to consider the adequacy of existing arrangements, in the light of the provision of new community facilities.

## Review of Polling Districts and Places

### All Area Panels, item 7

- 72 In the meantime, it is suggested that the village hall in Little Canfield is confirmed as the PP in Little Canfield.
- 73 It is requested that the following recommendations are made to the Operations Committee:
- a. That Members decide whether to reinstate a separate PD of Bush End (using the parish ward boundary with Hatfield Broad Oak, that is 'That portion of the parish of Hatfield Broad Oak lying to the north of a line commencing at a point on the western boundary of the parish, north of Wall Wood, along the road from Lodge Farm in a southerly direction towards Forest Hall to meet a footpath striking south-eastwards, along the line of the said footpath to join the road from Forest Hall Farm to Doodle Oak, following the line of the said road in a north-easterly direction for approximately 600 yards to a point where a footpath meets the road on the south side, then along the line of the said footpath in a south-easterly direction to a junction of the path at a point on the west boundary of Barrington Park, then along the line of the footpath proceeding north and east to meet the road from Hatfield Broad Oak to Takeley to Brumstead Common, then in a straight line in a north-easterly direction to the east boundary of the parish at the junction of the roads from Great Canfield and The Grange to Takeley) and, if so, which building to designate as the PP, either St John's Church or the Ancient Foresters.
  - b. That Members' decide whether to continue to designate the Peter Kirk Centre as the PP for Stansted North PD, or whether to designate another building instead.
  - c. That Members' confirm the existing polling arrangements should remain unchanged at Little Canfield.
  - d. That the remaining polling arrangements in the South West Panel area, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, remain unaltered.

### Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
<b>Not complying with statutory duty to give electors such reasonable facilities as are practicable</b>	<b>Unlikely because this is a statutory process with full consultation</b>	<b>Potentially serious</b>	<b>Ensure regular reviews with proper consultation</b>