

Committee: PARISH REVIEW WORKING GROUP

Date: 6 NOVEMBER 2002

Agenda Item No: 4

Title: PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW OF ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Author: Peter Snow (01799) 510431

Summary

- 1 This report invites members to recommend a proposed electoral scheme for submission to The Boundary Committee for England (BCE) as part of the periodic electoral review (PER) of Essex County Council's electoral arrangements. The closing date for representations to be sent to the BCE is 25th November 2002.
- 2 At its meeting on 22nd October, the Council agreed to extend the terms of reference of this group (PRWG) to enable it to recommend a response to the Resources Committee on 21st November.
- 3 The report sets out the background to the review and identifies four options for discussion by members but does not recommend a preferred scheme. Members are asked to consider the options set out in the report, and any others brought forward, and to decide an appropriate response.

Background

- 4 The BCE wrote to all interested parties at the beginning of August announcing the commencement of the PER. Prior to that, the BCE had invited the County Council to prepare and provide preliminary information that could be used in their submissions by those responding.
- 5 One of the key elements in this early information was a five-year (December 2006) electorate forecast. Officers from the two authorities had discussed this requirement for information and districts in Essex were asked to supply ECC with specified information for submission to BCE. This was duly done but the information supplied did not include the five-year forecasts as County officers had indicated this would be prepared by ECC.
- 6 Then, in mid-September, a request was received to supply ECC with details of planning permissions granted, and local and structure plan allocations not yet granted permission, that district officers felt would be likely to be occupied by December 2006. This information was sent to ECC at the beginning of October but there is still no indication from County of the five-year electorate forecasts that would be prepared from this information.
- 7 It has to be said that this state of affairs is regrettable as no-one responding to the review has had access to the five-year forecasts. To make matters more confusing, the County Council has referred to the five-year forecast prepared as part of the Council's own PER in 1999/2000. However, this forecast

relates to February 2004, not December 2006, and there are clearly likely to be differences between the two sets of figures. The 2004 figures have been included in this report for information only.

- 8 As of the date of preparing this report, no information is to hand about the five-year figures the County Council is required to produce. Therefore to enable this report to be prepared, some assumptions have had to be made. Officers have taken the total number of assumed house completions as at December 2006 and multiplied the result by a factor of 1.9 to produce a forecast electorate for each ward. It is, of course, not known what figure will be produced by ECC. However, these figures represent the best available information on which to base the options produced in this report.

The Statutory Rules

- 9 The rules applicable to this review are exactly the same as those that governed the PER of this Council's electoral arrangements. Broadly speaking, these are:

- The need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities;
- The need to secure effective and convenient local government; and
- The need to secure equality of representation.

- 10 The rules state that:

- The number of local government electors shall be, as nearly as may be, the same in every electoral division (ED) of the county;
- Every ED shall lie wholly within a single district; and
- Every parish, not divided into wards, and every parish ward shall lie wholly within a single ED.

- 11 In addition, the rules say that regard should be paid to the boundaries of district wards. It is not actually a requirement that district wards should be included wholly within a single ED, but the BCE says that it is a desirable objective to achieve coterminosity between the boundaries of divisions and wards.

- 12 The BCE acknowledges that the achievement of absolute electoral equality is not attainable but that this should be the starting point for any review and only then should any adjustments be made to reflect relevant factors such as community identity. Particular justification will be required for any imbalances of more than 10% and imbalances of 20% and over should arise only in exceptional circumstances.

- 13 Finally, the guidance says that BCE will seek to recommend a scheme under which electoral equality will improve, rather than deteriorate, over the period of the five-year forecast.

The County Council's position

- 14 The starting point for any review of electoral arrangements must be the size of the council under review as, until then, it will not be possible to devise electoral arrangements to fit in with the overall number of members to be

elected. It follows from this that no progress can be made until the reviewing authority has determined its preferred number.

- 15 It is understood that ECC has opted to recommend an elected membership of 75, a reduction of four on the present number. The effect of this will be that some districts, such as Basildon, Brentwood and Epping Forest, will suffer a reduction of one member, while others, including Uttlesford, will retain their existing level of representation.
- 16 The report prepared for consideration by the County Council recommended that a panel of members should develop proposals for submission to the BCE based on the assumption of 75 members and using the 2006 electoral projections when available. Proposals would be prepared on the basis that divisions in each district should all be within 10% of each other and no more than 20% outside the Council size overall.
- 17 The members' panel will meet on 5th November to compare schemes and draft proposals for officers to fine tune. No further information is available at the present time.
- 18 Although the new ECC divisions will have no direct relevance to the Council's own electoral arrangements, we clearly have a strong interest in what is decided. It is important, for example, that the arrangements made are fully workable and dovetail with the new district wards that come into effect next year. Indeed, it could be said that UDC is in the best position to draft electoral proposals that reflect community identities in the district.
- 19 The options set out in this report therefore are an attempt to identify, for members' benefit, some of the factors that the Council might wish to take into account in deciding its response.

The options identified for consideration

- 20 All of the options included in the report are based on the assumption that there will be four county councillors representing divisions within Uttlesford. It is fully acknowledged that this is not an exhaustive list and that there may be an assortment of different ways of fitting four EDs into the district's boundaries. However, the approach adopted by officers has been to devise possible arrangements that use the new ward boundaries as complete units and try to retain four divisions based on the communities of Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Stansted and Thaxted.
- 21 It must be remembered that the figures included in the following paragraphs are all based on the Council's own interpretation of the 2006 forecast rather than the final version issued by ECC. However, the electorate forecast used is derived from reliable figures produced by planning officers and is likely to be very similar to the ECC version.
- 23 Table 1 sets out the existing EDs expressed in terms of the new district wards. This is illustrated on map A. It will be noted that three wards – Elsenham & Henham, Littlebury, and Takeley & the Canfields - are divided by existing ED boundaries.

- 24 **Option 1**, shown on table 2 and illustrated on map B, is based on the least amount of change needed to bring the divisions into line with the new ward boundaries. The difficulty with this option is the wide variation between the Dunmow and Saffron Walden divisions and the fact that, on 2006 figures, neither division complies with the BCE and ECC recommended tolerance limits.
- 25 **Option 2** (see table 3 and map C) attempts to bring about the minimum amount of change necessary to comply with the PER guidelines. This is achieved by moving the whole of Takeley & the Canfields into Dunmow ED, moving Elsenham & Henham into Thaxted to compensate, while enlarging Stansted and reducing Saffron Walden by the transfer of Littlebury and Wenden Lofts. This is more satisfactory than option 1 but does not quite achieve the objective of the divisions being within 10% of each other.
- 26 **Option 3** (see table 4 and map D) is a more radical proposal that attempts to place the Dunmow and Stansted divisions more at the heart of the electoral areas they give their names to, while enabling a slightly different arrangement of the Thaxted ED which would be based more on an east/west axis to include all of the rural areas south and west of Saffron Walden. Such a division could be renamed 'Thaxted and Newport' in recognition of this changed axis. In terms of electorate numbers, this option is quite successful and also seems to achieve socially cohesive units.
- 27 **Option 4** (table 5 and map E) is really a slight reworking of option 3 and works almost equally well in terms of numbers. In both options 3 and 4, the Saffron Walden division remains the same as in option 2. A different arrangement of Saffron Walden would be possible but it would be more difficult to fit in with sensible boundaries for the remaining divisions. In both of these options also, Felsted ward would be able to be joined with Dunmow which does seem to reflect community ties more satisfactorily.
- 28 As stated at the outset, the report does not attempt to make a positive recommendation for a particular scheme. There may be other suggestions that members would wish to consider.

RECOMMENDED that members select one of the electoral schemes set out in this report, or an alternative scheme, to recommend to the Resources Committee for submission to the Boundary Commission for England.

Committee: PARISH REVIEW WORKING GROUP
Date: 6 NOVEMBER 2002
Agenda Item No: 5
Title: REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES
IN THE UTTLESFORD DISTRICT
Author: Peter Snow (01799) 510431

Summary

- 1 This report asks members to recommend revised polling arrangements to the Resources Committee for adoption in the light of the new district wards that will come into operation at the elections in May 2003.
- 2 The Resources Committee agreed at its meeting on 21 March to extend the PRWG's remit to cover this review.

What are polling districts and polling places?

- 3 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 council or district council to divide an area for the election of its councillors.
- 4 The only rules applicable to this process are:
 - All electors must be given such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable.
 - Each parish must, in the absence of special circumstances, be a separate polling district or districts.
 - 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.
 - A polling place need not be designated if this does not materially affect the convenience of the electors.

A **polling district** (PD) is a geographical area that is either the same as, or a sub-division of, an electoral area.

A **polling place** (PP) may either be a building, a geographical area, or the entire polling district, depending on the circumstances.

- 5 At Uttlesford, it has always been the practice to designate a particular building in each case, unless circumstances have made this difficult or impracticable.
- 6 It is for the returning officer (RO) to decide on the provision of polling stations within the designated polling place.

- 7 The only other stipulation is that polling places should be designated only in buildings that are accessible to disabled electors. The Council has already reviewed polling places to take account of accessibility and work carried out to bring many buildings up to the required standard.
- 8 In reviewing these arrangements, members should bear in mind that each separate ward should constitute its own polling district, or be divided into more than one polling district. As already stated, each parish must, in the absence of special circumstances, also be a separate polling district. However, the RPA seems to make no provision for parish wards. Logically, each parish ward should constitute a separate PD but this would present a number of difficulties as the report makes clear. For example, some rural parish wards are so small that it would not be practicable to follow this guide, hence the 'special circumstances'.
- 9 Nevertheless, the electoral registers used must reflect the separate wards for identification of the electors concerned and for use at contested elections. At Uttlesford, where rural parish wards are sub-divisions of district wards, it has been the practice – except at Bush End – for the registers to be split into their component parts within the same PD.

The existing scheme and options for change

- 10 The following documents are appended to this report for members' information:
- Appendix 1: Description of existing polling districts and places.
 - Appendix 2: Description of facilities at existing polling districts and places.
 - Appendix 3: List of proposed revised polling districts as they relate to the new district wards.
- 11 The report highlights those areas where some change is considered necessary. For completeness however, the report includes a brief description and map for each existing polling area. These are sorted according to the new wards.
- 12 It must also be remembered that this is an open public consultation exercise and that letters inviting comments and suggestions have been sent to the active political parties in the area, to all county and district councillors and to all parish councils and parish meetings. An item was also included in the Council Page on 26 August inviting representations from members of the public. Where comments or suggestions have been received these have been included in the report.

Ashdon ward

- 13 The Ashdon ward has been extended to include Swards End. The existing polling places are shown on maps 1, 2 and 3 attached. No suggestions for any change have been received and none are proposed. The arrangements for this ward seem entirely straightforward.

Barnston and High Easter

- 14 This is a new ward formed from parts of Great Dunmow South and The Canfields. The polling arrangements should not be affected by the formation of the new ward and no changes are proposed. Maps 4 and 5 show the location of the existing polling places.

Birchanger

- 15 Existing arrangements are not affected by the new warding scheme. The Church Hall is shown on map 6.

Broad Oak and the Hallingburys

- 16 The polling places for Great and Little Hallingbury and Hatfield Broad Oak are shown on maps 7, 9 and 10. No changes are proposed. As far as Bush End is concerned there are a number of options to consider and these are described below.

- 17 As far as is known there have always been separate polling facilities at Bush End. This is for two reasons. First, Bush End is a rural community fairly remote from Broad Oak village and a separate polling place has been provided for the convenience of electors. Second, Bush End is a separate ward of the parish of Hatfield Broad Oak and it is usually considered better to keep different parish electoral areas apart. However, it seems that this is not a legal requirement.

- 18 The boundaries of the polling district and parish ward coincide. They are described in appendix 1. The description of the boundary dividing Bush End from the Village is of a considerable vintage. It was discovered some time ago on a document dated 1948 and included on the then PD scheme. Although the description is quite complicated, it does seem to reflect the division between the two communities.

- 19 Until last year the owners of the Old Vicarage (see map 8) allowed the use of their property for polling purposes. They have now moved away and use of the property is no longer available. At last year's election it was not possible to locate an alternative venue and electors were allocated a polling station in the main village.

- 20 Bearing in mind the circumstances in Bush End, the following options seem to be available:

- 1 Designate the Parish Church as the PP (see map 8A);
- 2 Designate the National Trust car park area at Hatfield Forest (see also map 8A);
- 3 Do not designate a PP at all but leave it to the returning officer to resolve on an election to election basis; or
- 4 Designate the Village Hall in Hatfield Broad Oak as the PP (see map 9).

- 21 The PCC is apparently keen for the Church to be used. The facility has not been inspected but is understood to be lacking in basic amenities for staff. If it were to be used it would be necessary to arrange for the provision of toilet

facilities. The Electoral Services Officer (ESO) has spoken to the Rev'd Crispin White who opposes use of the Church because it is not possible for electors to enter the vestry without going through the area set aside for worship. Rev'd White says that he has spoken to the diocesan registry who are not prepared to grant permission for this use.

- 22 Last year enquiries were made about locating a mobile station at the NT car park at the entrance to the Forest. This was not then possible owing to foot and mouth restrictions. The NT property manager has now written giving permission, in principle, for a mobile unit to be stationed there. Her letter points out that there is no electricity, nor toilet facilities in that area, so the facilities provided would need to be self sufficient. Housing a mobile unit at this location would clearly be a difficult and expensive undertaking.
- 23 If no building were to be designated as the PP, there would be an obligation on the RO to provide somewhere within the PD area.
- 24 Now may therefore be the appropriate time to revert to one PP in the parish. Bush End is some three miles from the village hall but no complaints were received about the arrangements made last year. It is also now possible to obtain a postal or proxy vote on request.
- 25 If members are happy to adopt this solution, it is suggested that the two polling districts are effectively merged. It is possible to use the arrangement adopted elsewhere of maintaining two parts to a single PD to reflect the two parish wards.
- 26 The PD description would have to be amended to read 'Hatfield Broad Oak (including both Bush End and Village parish wards)'.

RECOMMENDED that the arrangement suggested above is adopted.

Clavering

- 27 No suggestions for any change have been received for this ward. Existing PPs are shown on maps 11 and 12.

Elsenham and Henham

- 28 No change is required to either of the PPs for Elsenham or Henham – refer to maps 13 and 14.
- 29 However, the position is complicated by the transfer of Chickney (37 electors) from Takeley ward, where it was associated for many years with Broxted parish. The PP for Broxted (now The Eastons ward) is shown on map 52. This alliance is no longer possible to sustain and the only options would appear to be:
- 1 Designate a separate PP for Chickney parish; or
 - 2 Attach Chickney to Henham for polling purposes.

- 30 The geography of Chickney is such that roughly half of the properties are situated near to Broxted while the other half are close to Henham. Even if a

PP were to be designated in Chickney – the Church seems the only possibility – half the electors would have to travel a considerable distance to vote.

- 31 The obvious solution therefore seems to be to designate Henham and Chickney as one PD, with a division maintained to take account of their separate parish status.

RECOMMENDED that Henham and Chickney be designated as one PD and that the PP be confirmed as Henham village hall.

Felsted

- 32 Felsted is divided into east and west districts for the convenience of electors in that parish. The eastern PD is largely rural in character and is defined by the description in appendix 1. This division has existed for very many years because of the remoteness from the main village of the various greens and hamlets in the eastern part of the parish around Willows Green. Felsted Parish Council wishes to maintain this geographical division.
- 33 Officers agree that the division should be maintained for the reasons stated above. Although the description is somewhat difficult to follow, nobody has suggested a better boundary division and it does seem to reflect the outlook of the various communities in this area. It is suggested that the existing arrangement is left undisturbed. The existing PPs for the parish are shown on maps 15 and 16.
- 34 Little Dunmow parish is located in this ward. There is no village hall or other similar building in Little Dunmow. At one time the Old School House was the designated PP but this was sold for residential use. Since then the Flitch of Bacon Public House has been utilised for polling in the parish. The location of the Flitch of Bacon is indicated on map 17.
- 35 Prior to last year, there was a separate function room at the Flitch that could be isolated for polling use. At last year's election, it was discovered that no such room is now available and polling took place in an area open to the public bar with no screening. This is a highly unsatisfactory arrangement that cannot be allowed to recur.
- 36 The ESO has visited the Flitch of Bacon and has spoken to the landlord, Mr Caldwell. He is happy for the continuation of polling at the pub and has suggested screening off the area used for polling from the bar area. In theory this can be done as a side entrance can be used to separate voters from customers. If necessary the ESO can arrange for screening to be provided. The area set aside for polling is part of the licensed premises. It is not a separate room but could probably be screened from the bar area fairly successfully.
- 37 The only other possible location for polling would seem to be the portakabin situated at the recreation ground, off Brook Street behind St Mary's Place. This is shown on map 17A. It has electrics and water and a portaloos outside. The portakabin is used occasionally in the evenings for parish council meetings and other bookings. Members are asked to determine which of these two buildings should be the designated PP for Little Dunmow.

- 38 The decision in this case is far from straightforward. Whilst the pub is far from ideal it does at least provide comfortable facilities. It is possible that some residents may be deterred from entering licensed premises. It is also absolutely essential to maintain strict conditions of secrecy for the benefit of electors. If this cannot be guaranteed then other options should be pursued. On the other hand, the portakabin is located some distance down the unlit Brook Street and the facilities there are very basic.
- 39 In the long term, the proposed community hall at Oakwood Park will probably provide the best solution. It is required to be provided before occupation of the 501st house and is not expected to be built before 2005.

RECOMMENDED that members determine which of the two available buildings should be the designated PP for Little Dunmow; the other option (which might be best in the circumstances) would be not to designate a specific building but to leave the RO to make the most appropriate arrangements on each polling day; the PD description would be adjusted to say 'premises within the polling district'.

Great Dunmow North

- 40 The PP for Great Dunmow North is the Dourdan Pavilion at the Recreation Ground off The Causeway. There are presently 2798 electors in North ward. The boundaries will alter from May next year and there will be a reduced number of electors as the South ward will expand to accommodate three members. On 2002 figures, the number will be 2018. This number will gradually increase as the Woodlands Park development continues.
- 41 The Dourdan Pavilion is more than adequate to accommodate this number of electors and no change is proposed. It is sited geographically roughly equidistantly between Woodlands Park and Church End/St Edmunds Lane and is therefore reasonably convenient for most residents. It is suggested that the North ward is too small in electorate numbers to split into two PD areas at this stage. Eventually, the electorate at Woodlands Park will increase greatly and some change may be required. The new primary school at Woodlands Park may open in September 2004. A further review could be carried out at that stage. Until then, no change is proposed.

Great Dunmow South

- 42 As stated above, the South ward in Great Dunmow will expand in May 2003 to accommodate some 800 more electors. Hitherto in Uttlesford, no single PD has included more than 3,000 electors. An expected ward electorate of some 3,600 does have implications for the polling venue. This number of electors channelled into one building has the potential effect that the RO will have to provide for three polling stations. The Council must therefore be satisfied that the designated PP is able to accommodate this number of stations.
- 43 The Foakes Hall is the obvious venue for polling for this ward. In fact, apart from schools, nowhere else seems to be available. The main hall measures 10X5m. In the officers' judgement that is too small a space to accommodate three stations. However, there are other rooms available inside the building and it seems a possibility that three polling stations can be located within the

Foakes Hall. In particular, the Downs Room, used by the Town Council for committee meetings, would prove a suitable location for a third polling station.

- 44 The difficulty with this arrangement is that there would be scope for confusion on the day as the description on the polling card would be the same in each case. Very clear signing would have to be provided to reduce the scope for electors to be misdirected.
- 45 If members are concerned about the possibility of electors being confused, the other option is to split the South ward into more than one PD. However, it would only be worthwhile to do this provided that an adequate building is available to accommodate a polling station in another part of the ward. After research, it appears that the only such building that could be used is Grove Court off Nursery Rise (see map 19A).
- 46 If a line were to be drawn along the A120/130 bypass, an area concentrated on Chelmsford Road/Ongar Road could be isolated containing some 1100 electors. This would leave some 2,500 electors to be accommodated at Foakes Hall. Such a number would roughly equate to the existing electorate for Dunmow South PD. There would still be three polling stations but split between two locations.
- 47 Grove Court has been inspected and the officers' judgement is that it might prove feasible to use for this purpose provided the owners give their consent. Grove Court is a sheltered unit operated by Springboard Housing Association. There are communal facilities that form part of the residents' accommodation. It is not a public building.
- 48 The main entrance is accessed via a security door at the rear of the building, where there is also some parking. The project manager, John Elliott, has suggested that part of the communal area at the front of the building, used for daily meals, could be cordoned off and accessed via a fire door. Screens could be provided for this purpose. The main drawback is that there are three quite steep steps leading up to this entrance, with a further step up at the door itself. If necessary, because the Council has a statutory duty to designate only those buildings that are fully accessible, a temporary ramp can be provided. Alternatively, it might be possible to arrange for elderly and disabled electors to access the polling station via the main security entrance. Parking would also not be generally available as it is mostly taken up during the day. There is scope for some on-street parking provision in the vicinity of the building.
- 49 Mr Elliott has undertaken to consult the occupiers and give me their reaction by the beginning of November.
- 50 If it were decided to designate Grove Court as well as the Foakes Hall, the PRWG will need to determine the exact PD boundary to settle. The following is suggested:
- 51 Great Dunmow South East: that portion of the Great Dunmow South ward following a line, from the western edge of the parish, along the disused railway line in an easterly direction, with a diversion to skirt round the boundary of The Roundhouse, Buttleys Lane, to the point where it meets with the A120 road, then following the line of that road easterly to the junction with

the A130 road, then easterly in a straight line to the parish boundary (this area is illustrated on map 19B).

52 The following streets would be included in the PD area:

Ash Grove; Chelmsford Road; Clapton Hall Lane; Flitch Lane; Gatehouse Villas; Harris Green; Heywood Lane; Lower Mill Field; Lukins Drive; Normansfield; Nursery Rise; Oliveswood Road; Ongar Road; Pharisee Green; Philpot End; The Close; and Upper Mill Field.

53 On 2002 register figures (as first published) there would be 1090 electors in this PD.

54 The remainder of South ward would be included in Great Dunmow South Central PD (on present figures, there would be 2457 electors in this area).

RECOMMENDED that members determine which of these two arrangements they would prefer

Hatfield Heath/Littlebury/Newport

55 No comments or suggestions regarding any of these wards have been received. There are no issues to bring to members' attention except to note that the tiny parish of Strethall is attached to Littlebury Green for polling purposes. This arrangement would only cause difficulty in the event of any contest for Littlebury parish council.

56 The location of the respective PPs is shown on maps 20 to 27 inclusive.

Saffron Walden Audley

57 As in the case of Great Dunmow South, there are potential problems associated with each of the new Saffron Walden wards due to their electorate size. It is also difficult to identify suitable buildings located centrally to the populations they would serve in many parts of the town.

58 The existing Audley ward has 2,800 electors. This number will be increased to 3,800. The extra electors will be drawn mainly from Plantation ward west of Landscape View. At present, there are two PDs, Audley North and South. The division between the two areas is described on appendix 1 and shown on map 29A.

59 Audley North consists of most of the town centre polling at the Town Hall (843 electors). Audley South has nearly 2,000 electors polling at the Council Offices. As the internal ward boundaries within Saffron Walden will be different, the north/south division is really redundant and we start with the concept of one PD for the whole of the ward.

60 The available options seem to be as follows:

- (a) Retain two PDs with a revised boundary incorporating the whole of High Street, Audley Road and Station Street in Audley North. This area includes many elderly people (more than a third of electors are over 70, the highest proportion in the district) and it might be

considered a useful service to these electors to provide separate polling facilities within reasonable walking distance.

- (b) Revert to one PD covering the whole of Audley ward and designate one building that would need to accommodate three stations.

- 61 There are a number of possible candidates to act as polling places. These are described below with comments regarding their suitability.
- 62 St Mary's Church Parish Room (see map 30) – this is the existing PP for Castle ward; now that some of Castle ward has been transferred to Audley, the Parish Room is situated in Audley ward. It is large enough to accommodate two stations but there is no parking available. However, it is possible that the Parish Room will continue to be used for electors in Castle ward.
- 63 The Town Hall, Market Place (although the rear entrance off Butcher Row is used – see map 28) – at present used for Audley North electors; may be big enough for two stations, especially as the Council Chamber is also available. The main drawback is a lack of parking space. The Town Hall is situated conveniently for many of the elderly people who live in this area. However, it would not be able to accommodate 3,800 electors if it is decided to allocate one PD only.
- 64 URC Church Hall, Abbey Lane (see map 29B) – provides a good alternative to the Town Hall. The hall is easily accessible and does have some parking space, although vehicles would have to reach the hall via Margaret Way and Gibson Way. The hall is actually large enough for three stations but access and parking arrangements are not really adequate to cope with so many electors. As a PP for Audley North, however, it would be ideal, situated as it is close to where many elderly electors in the ward live.
- 65 Day Centre, Jubilee Gardens – this building has not actually been examined but it suffers from the twin drawbacks of lack of parking and difficulty of access. For these reasons, use of the Day Centre has been discounted by officers.
- 66 Friends' Meeting House, High Street – there is good accommodation available in this building but the same comment about lack of parking applies.
- 67 Baptist Church Hall, Audley Road – easy access and parking would also be a problem at this location.
- 68 Friends School, Mount Pleasant Road (see map 29C) – this is an independent school and so the RO would have no automatic right to use it as would be the case with state schools. It is actually located just outside the ward boundary but is ideally situated for most of the electors in Audley ward. The Headmaster and Bursar are both prepared to make the assembly hall available provided it is not required for exams. During the exam period, it is possible that the sports hall might be made available instead. The assembly hall is easily accessible either by vehicle or on foot and is a pleasant and capacious building that would serve very well as a polling venue. It could probably accommodate three polling stations, if needed, or could equally be used to serve electors in the southern part of the PD in conjunction with the Town Hall, or other building, if this was the agreed arrangement. The main

drawback is that the hall would probably not be available for elections held in June.

- 69 County High School, Audley End Road – the School would be well situated for polling in Audley ward although many electors would need to travel to it by car. The RO has the right to use the school free of charge and even to shut the school, if required. It is fair to say that the school authorities would be most unhappy if activities at the school were to be disrupted in this way. In any case, it appears that suitable accommodation for polling is in short supply.
- 70 The Council Offices, London Road (see map 29) – one half of the staff room area has been used for polling for several years now. Use of this accommodation has never been entirely satisfactory, especially since it has been necessary to locate two stations in the rather restricted space available, which includes internal pillars. With the advent of the larger Audley ward, it is no longer considered feasible to use this accommodation. No other room appears to be available for this purpose.
- 71 Saffron Walden Town Council has written suggesting a number of potential venues, most of which are explored above. Other venues mentioned are Walden Place and the St Raphael Club House.
- 72 Conclusion: It appears to the officers that either of the following two options would represent the best way forward.

Option 1: retain the whole of Audley ward in one PD, polling at the Friends' School, Mount Pleasant Road. The assembly hall would be used for most elections; if this were not, for any reason, available, the sports hall could be used instead.

Option 2: continue to split Audley ward into two PDs, North and South, with a slightly revised boundary, as indicated below. The PP for Audley North would be either the Town Hall, as at present, or the URC Church Hall in Abbey Lane. The PP for Audley South would be the Friends' School.

- 73 The boundary between Audley North and South would be defined as follows:

'A line commencing on the eastern boundary of the ward south of the junction of South Road with Audley Road, and following the rear gardens of properties fronting Audley Road, Station Street and High Street, then crossing the road at the point where High Street and London Road meet, and continuing along the rear gardens of properties fronting the northern side of London Road, and then in a generally north-westerly direction to the east of Beck Road and the north of Saxon Way, and then along the line of The Slade to the parish boundary.'

- 74 The following streets would be included in Audley North:

Abbey Lane; Audley Road; Barley Court; Barnards Yard; Bridge Street (odds); Butcher Row; Castle Street (evens); Central Arcade; Church Street; Common Hill; Cross Street; Elm Grove; Fairycroft Road (odds); Freshwell Gardens; Freshwell Street; George Street; Gibson Close; Gibson Gardens; Gibson Way; Gold Street; Goul Lane; High Street; Hill Street; Jacobs Green; King Street; Margaret Way; Market Hill; Market Row; Market Street; Mercers Row;

Museum Street; Myddylton Place; Oast House Court; Park Lane; Parkside; Prime's Close; Station Street; The Cockpit; The Maltings; and Walden Place.

- 75 On current figures there would be 1254 electors in this PD.
- 76 The remainder of Audley Ward, including 2530 electors on present figures, would be in a revised Audley South PD.

RECOMMENDED that members decide which of the options presented in this report should be adopted.

Saffron Walden Castle

- 77 The new Castle ward does not actually include the Castle but it was decided to retain the familiar name. The ward will be enlarged by the inclusion of electors in the area between Ashdon Road and Radwinter Road, less a smaller number of electors transferred to Audley ward (see above).
- 78 This need have no direct impact on the Little Walden part of the ward, polling at Little Walden village hall (see map 31). Planning permission has been granted for a replacement village hall on land adjoining St John's Church but it seems that this project is still some distance in the future.
- 79 However, one minor change is required to the PD scheme because the existing straight line that defines the division between Little Walden and Castle South runs to the south of Butlers Farm whereas it would be more convenient to the occupiers to be included in Castle south (or south-east – see below).
- 80 Instead, it is suggested that the PD boundary is adjusted as follows:

Little Walden: that portion of the Castle ward lying to the north of a straight line commencing on the eastern boundary of the ward at the point where it is crossed by footpath 42, and then continuing in a westerly direction to the point where the access road to Rowley Hill meets Little Walden Road immediately south of Rowley Hill Lodge, then continuing westerly in a straight line to the parish boundary immediately to the south of Rowley Hill Farm.

- 81 The number of electors in the town part of Castle ward is presently 3576, an increase of about 670 on the existing figure. This area has always consisted of a single PD, polling at St Mary's Church Parish Room. There are undeniably drawbacks to the use of this building. It is certainly cramped on polling day, even with two polling stations, and no parking spaces are available for electors within the Parish Church grounds. This problem is exacerbated by the operation of a residents parking scheme in surrounding streets. Unless another building can be found, it seems that the logistical problems of housing three polling stations there may prove insurmountable.
- 82 Before the review formally commenced, a letter was received from town councillor Peter Preece asking for consideration to be given to alternative polling premises for this ward and suggesting a number of possible venues.
- 83 It is probably a widely shared view that polling arrangements in Castle ward are inadequate. The Town Council has stated that it now considers the

Parish Rooms to be unsuitable because of access difficulties. However, there is no evidence to support councillor Preece's view that turnout has suffered as a result.

- 84 Unfortunately, there is no building central to the population of the ward. Other options are very limited. They are:

St Mary's Church Parish Room – refer to the comments already made above and see map 30. Although the available space is cramped, there are double doors that could be drawn back to provide some extra floor space. This would allow an extra 5X5m of space. However, the configuration of the room (long and narrow) is difficult from the viewpoint of setting up polling stations and it is hard to imagine three stations being located in this space.

Methodist Church, Castle Street – this building suffers from the same difficulties of lack of car parking provision as the Parish Room. The Church was used once (at a parish poll, with low turnout) when the Parish Room was unavailable. Again, it is hard to see that this building could accommodate the number of electors registered in Castle ward.

- 85 St Mary's Primary School, Castle Street (see map 30A) – there is a good sized assembly hall with rear access, and some limited car parking provision. There would be the usual problems associated with school use although the RO has the right to request that the school is closed for the day. From the point of view of access and space, this is probably the best bet of those buildings in, or near, Castle Street. Another advantage is that Catons Lane car park is located nearby.
- 86 Football Club, Catons Lane – in the officers' view, the Football Club is totally unsuitable. The only advantage seems to be the availability of good parking facilities, both at the club itself (though the car park area is unmade and rather uneven) and at Catons Lane.
- 87 Dame Johane Bradbury School, Ashdon Road (see map 30B) – this is an independent school and, as such, there is no automatic right to use accommodation there. However, the school has been very helpful and will assist where possible. A free-standing sports hall is being constructed to the north of the existing school buildings, close to the car parking area. Completion is due to take place next March. The school's head has consulted her chairman of governors who has raised no objection to using this building. However, the school is understandably reluctant to sanction use of existing accommodation as electors would be crossing areas used by pupils. It is likely that the sports hall will be both suitable and spacious enough to act as the PP for the entire ward. Of course, there is a risk of designating now a building that is not yet completed.
- 88 Apart from the buildings listed above, the Town Council suggests placing a portacabin at Homebase off Elizabeth Way.
- 89 In making arrangements for this ward there is the further possibility that the ward could be sub-divided into more than one PD. This could be achieved as follows:

Castle South-East polling district – that portion of Castle ward lying to the south and south-east of a line running in an easterly direction from the western boundary of the ward with Audley ward along the centre of Ashdon Road to a point west of the junction with Highfields, then in a northerly direction along the western edge of 2 Ashdon Road, then along the rear boundaries of those properties on the western side of Highfields, to the junction of Highfields with Sheds Lane, then along the rear boundaries of 10 to 16 Sheds Lane (evens) and 6 to 2 Neville Road (evens), to join with Sheds Lane then in a north-easterly direction along the centre of Sheds Lane, then along the rear boundaries of 22 to 26 Usterdale Road (evens) to join with bridleway no 1, and then continuing along the line of that bridleway to the point where it meets with byway no 3 at Butlers Lane, and continuing along that byway to the point where it meets the polling district boundary with Little Walden (this is illustrated on map 30D).

Castle south-west PD would consist of the remainder of Castle ward not included in Little Walden PD.

- 90 On 2002 figures, there would be 1789 electors in the Castle south-east polling district and 1787 in Castle south-west.
- 91 The rather complicated description has been devised in a deliberate attempt to minimise the number of streets that are divided between two areas. Under such a scenario, it is likely that two polling stations will be required for each of the separate PDs. However, this might have the advantage that the flow of electors to the selected PPs will be much smoother.
- 92 The way in which these suggestions can be drawn together is illustrated below.
- 93 The first option is that the ward could be sub-divided as suggested with electors in Castle south-west allocated to whichever of the buildings investigated is considered the better option. In the officers' view the best option would be St Mary's Primary School, with the existing Parish Room as the next best choice. If members are reluctant to use the school, the option of retaining the Parish Room is still available.
- 94 Electors in Castle south-east could then be allocated to the new Sports Hall at Dame Johane Bradbury school off Ashdon Road. A caveat would have to be entered that the RO should be allowed discretion to make whatever arrangements were most suitable, or possible at the time of the next election, bearing in mind that the sports hall may not be completed.
- 95 If that is the case then it may prove necessary to utilise both the Parish Room and St Mary's Primary school for the next poll only. After that, it would be possible to revert to plan A. Assuming the new hall proves suitable from the point of view of both size and accessibility, the sub-division of Castle ward could then be abandoned with all electors polling at Dame Johane Bradbury school.
- 96 The second option is not to sub-divide Castle ward in the first place (apart from Little Walden), but to allocate what is considered the most suitable building to accommodate all electors and to review the arrangement after 1 May next year.

- 97 Members may be prepared to be flexible to the extent that they do not designate a PP at all but leave the officers to make the most appropriate arrangement next year. This is effectively a third option.

RECOMMENDED that members determine the most appropriate arrangements for Castle ward from the options identified above, and that the line defining Little Walden PD is adjusted as proposed.

Saffron Walden Shire

- 98 The reconstructed Shire ward will contain all of existing Shire ward less those electors transferred to Castle, and all of Plantation ward less those electors transferred to Audley ward. On 2002 figures, there will be 3852 electors.
- 99 There are three PPs serving the remnants of the two merging wards. These are the Katherine Semar Junior School and the Golden Acre Community Centre serving Plantation ward and Fairycroft House serving Shire.
- 100 It is a slightly odd arrangement that there are two polling stations in such close proximity but that is because no suitable building was available in the old Plantation west PD, so electors had to be 'imported' to the adjoining east PD.
- 101 What are the available options? As in the case of the other two Saffron Walden wards, the number of electors in the new ward will be such that three polling stations may need to be provided for most elections. It will therefore be necessary either to split the ward into two separate PDs or to provide one building large enough to accommodate three stations.
- 102 The report will first examine the available polling locations and then go on to look at the possibility of splitting the ward. They are described below:
- Fairycroft House, Audley Road – the complex of buildings at Fairycroft is located in Audley ward, both under existing and new arrangements, but close to the ward boundary (see map 33). Fairycroft House comes under the wing of Uttlesford Youth Service rather than Social Services. It was designated in early 1999 in succession to the RA Butler School after the school authorities had complained about the disruptive effects on school activities, and the inherent security risks, caused by polling.
- 103 Members decided that Fairycroft was the most central and easily accessible location available. However, it must be said that Fairycroft has never been regarded by officers as a satisfactory location. The room allocated is the games room which is used as part of the youth club but it is scruffy and ill-lit and there is only very limited parking available during the working day. On each occasion that it has been used it has been necessary to arrange for additional lighting to be set up within the room. When the building was first designated, a small budget was allocated for improvements to the access.
- 104 Four Acres Common Room – at the time of the last review in 1998, the common room at Four Acres was investigated for possible use. The building is fully accessible but parking facilities are very restricted and the common

room itself is probably too small to accommodate the two or three stations that would be required.

- 105 RA Butler Infant School, South Road (see map 33A) – notwithstanding the school's previous objections, officers continue to believe that the school offers the best available facilities for polling in this part of the ward. No approaches have been made to the school at this stage and it is therefore not known what reaction there would be but the RO retains the usual statutory rights of use.
- 106 St Thomas More Primary School, South Road – when the last review was conducted in 1998, it was felt there would be little point in moving polling facilities from one school to another.
- 107 Bell College, South Road (see map 33B) – at the time of the previous review an outbuilding at the College was identified that officers felt to be more suitable than Faircroft. No further investigations have been made at this stage.
- 108 Lord Butler Leisure Centre – the main sports hall has recently been used for election counts. The Town Council has suggested it as a possible polling location but it is hard to imagine such an arrangement working in practice.
- 109 Friends' School, Mount Pleasant Road – refer to comments under Audley ward; the school is actually located within the new Shire ward.
- 110 Katherine Semar Junior School, Ross Close (see map 32) – the school currently houses two polling stations. The hall is a good size and could probably, with a little imagination, accommodate three stations.
- 111 Golden Acre Community Centre, off Long Horse Croft (see also map 32) – this is another good sized venue which might be able to accommodate three stations if needed. There is also good access and ample car parking.
- 112 In addition, the Town Council has suggested placing a portacabin at Tesco's or the Pentecostal Church at Shire Hill.
- 113 In considering the relative merits of each building, it is probably worth considering the advisability of splitting the ward into constituent parts, even if one or more of the venues discussed is felt capable of dealing with nearly 4000 electors. This is because, although the ward is quite homogenous, there are two or three distinct areas of population.
- 114 A simple division between the Shire and Plantation parts of the new ward will give an elector split of 1427/2425. By transferring the north side of Peaslands Road to join with the Plantation section, the elector split changes to 1349/2503. This seems a better option.
- 115 The PD boundary under this option would be as follows:

Shire North polling district – that portion of Shire ward north of a line commencing on the western boundary of the ward boundary 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, then continuing in a generally easterly direction along the rear boundaries of

the properties fronting the north side of Peaslands Road, including Bromfield, 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 (see map 33C).

- 116 Shire South would then consist of the remainder of Shire ward.
- 117 This report identifies two options for dealing with polling arrangements in Shire ward.

Option 1 – retain the whole of Shire ward as one PD polling at either Golden Acre Community Centre, the RA Butler school, or the Bell College (in order of preference).

Option 2 – split the ward into two PDs, as suggested in this report; electors in Shire North would vote at either the RA Butler school, or at the Bell College; electors in Shire South would vote at the Golden Acre Community Centre.

- 118 The reason that preference is expressed for the Community Centre rather than the Katherine Semar school is to avoid unnecessary disruption to school activities. In terms of suitability, there is otherwise little to choose between the two venues.

RECOMMENDED that members determine the most appropriate arrangements for Shire ward from the options identified in this report

Summary of possible arrangements for Saffron Walden wards

Audley

- 119 Option 1 – retain the whole ward (3784 electors) within one PD, polling at the Friends' School.
- 120 Option 2 – split the ward into an Audley North PD (1254 electors), polling at the URC Hall in Abbey Lane or the Town Hall, and an Audley South PD (2530 electors), polling at the Friends' School.

Castle

- 121 Option 1 – split the ward into a Castle South-East PD (1789 electors), polling at the Dame Johane Bradbury School, Ashdon Road, and a Castle South-West PD (1787 electors), polling at either St Mary's Primary School, Castle Street or at St Mary's Church Parish Room.
- 122 Option 2 – retain the whole ward within one PD (3576 electors), polling at the Dame Johane Bradbury School.
- 113 Note: a third option, in view of uncertainty about the availability of the new sports hall at the Dame Bradbury school, is not to designate a particular building or buildings and to give officers the discretion to make the most suitable arrangements that are possible on the day. A further review could be carried out, and firmer arrangements made, after the local elections in May 2003.

- 114 Note also that regardless of what is decided, Little Walden will remain as a separate PD, polling at Little Walden Village Hall, with a slightly revised PD boundary as suggested in this report.

Shire

- 115 Option 1 – retain the whole ward within one PD (3852 electors), polling at either Golden Acre Community Centre, the RA Butler School or Bell College.
- 116 Option 2 – split the ward into a Shire North PD (1349 electors), polling at the RA Butler School or at the Bell College, and a Shire South PD (2503 electors), polling at the Golden Acre Community Centre.

Stansted North/South

- 117 Stansted Mountfitchet has always formed a single district ward electing three councillors. Under the new arrangements, there will be a Stansted North ward, incorporating Ugley, and a Stansted South ward, both electing two members.
- 118 There are now three separate PDs all of which cut across the new ward boundary to some extent. The three existing PPs for Stansted are Stansted Youth Centre, Lower Street (Stansted Central PD) – see map 34, the Peter Kirk Centre, St John's Road (Stansted East PD) – see map 35, and Mead Court Common Room, Cannons Mead (Stansted West PD) – see map 37. Ugley Village Hall, the PD for Ugley parish, is shown on map 36.
- 119 Polling facilities in Stansted have been less than entirely satisfactory for some time. Mead Court has been used in recent years and is the successor to the Football Clubroom at Hargrave Park. This building proved unsatisfactory for a number of reasons but Mead Court is considered to be too cramped to provide adequate facilities to cater for over two thousand electors.
- 120 At the most recent election, the Peter Kirk Centre was used as a successor to the Day Centre at Crafton Green. Pressure had been exerted by the Day Centre committee for the Council to look elsewhere in view of the disruption caused to the daily meal preparation arrangements there. The RO retains a right to use that building if required. The gymnasium at the Peter Kirk Centre has good facilities but access to the building by vehicle is gained via the unmade St John's Road and pedestrian access is not always possible via Chapel Hill.
- 121 The only constant factor during this time has been the Youth Centre, which has generally good facilities. However, that building has alternated between catering for electors in Stansted East and Central PDs.
- 122 Stansted Parish Council has suggested either the Day Centre or the Friends Meeting House on Chapel Hill for Stansted North, and the Youth Centre for Stansted South.
- 123 Unfortunately, no suitable building seems to be available on the Croasdaile Road/Rainsford Road estate area or in Bentfield End. Bentfield Primary School is not suitable owing to the layout of the building. The only other

building in Stansted that might conceivably be able to serve as a polling venue is the Mountfitchet School.

- 124 As long as the buildings selected are adequate, there should be no difficulty in dealing with the number of electors contained in each ward and there is no suggestion that the wards should be split down into smaller units.
- 125 The officers suggestion is that the Youth Centre should be designated as the PP for Stansted North, with the Peter Kirk School acting in this capacity for Stansted South. If members prefer, the designated buildings can be swapped as envisaged by the Parish Council.

RECOMMENDED that one of the arrangements suggested above be adopted

Stebbing

- 126 No suggestions for any change have been made for this ward. Refer to maps 38 and 39 for the location of existing PPs.

Stort Valley

- 127 The PPs for each of the parishes within this ward are illustrated on maps 40, 41 and 42. In the long term, it is intended to build a new village hall in Manuden but it is understood that the plans for this are still some way off. The intended location for the new hall is on the recreation ground.

Takeley and the Canfields

- 128 Again, there are no suggestions for any change in relation to the polling arrangements for this new ward. The various locations are shown on maps 43 – 46.

Thaxted

- 129 At this stage there is no need to alter any of the arrangements for polling in this ward, except in relation to Duton Hill (see also The Eastons ward). This will not affect arrangements in Duton Hill itself but it will be necessary to detach the small parish of Tilty from the rest of the PD as the two settlements now find themselves in different wards.
- 130 In fact, Duton Hill is the only part of the district where a PP is not presently designated – see appendix 1. The reason for this is that a number of defects with the then PP were found at the time of the last review in 1998. However, the Three Horseshoes Public House has remained the recognised polling venue for Duton Hill. There is a flight of stairs leading to the upstairs function room used for this purpose. A survey conducted by the Head of Building Surveying commented that 'it would not be possible to make this venue accessible without the installation of a chair lift'.
- 131 Accordingly, the Council agreed not to designate a building but to allow the RO to make whatever arrangements were possible at each particular election. In the event, no other building is available and the function room has continued to be used. To help overcome the access problem, the landlord

(who is also the local postmaster) has made his garage space available to allow a voting screen to be located for use by elderly/disabled electors.

- 132 This is clearly not ideal but it is suggested that the function room now be designated as the PP for Duton Hill in the absence of any alternative location. In addition, members are asked to confirm a revised PD description as follows:

‘Duton Hill: that portion of the parish of Great Easton included in the Duton Hill parish ward as described in The District of Uttlesford (Electoral Changes) Order 2001 and illustrated on the accompanying maps.’

- 133 Little Bardfield PCC intends to sell the village hall site for redevelopment (see map 48); planning permission for this scheme has been granted. However, it seems that the hall will continue to be available for the foreseeable future.
- 134 Discussions have taken place with representatives of the cricket club in Little Bardfield who have indicated their willingness that polling can take place in the club’s pavilion if required.
- 135 The various PPs for this ward are shown on maps 47, 48 and 49.

RECOMMENDED that the changes indicated above relating to Duton Hill be adopted.

The Chesterfords

- 136 Great Chesterford village hall was sold for site redevelopment prior to last year’s elections. As a one-off arrangement, the Primary School was used for polling in 2001. The new Community Centre at the Recreation Ground is now available for use and it is recommended that this building be designated instead. The site of the new Community Centre is shown on map 50.
- 137 No change is needed at Little Chesterford – see map 51.

RECOMMENDED that the polling place for Great Chesterford be changed as proposed.

The Eastons

- 138 Following on from the proposed change at Elsenham and Henham ward, it will be necessary to detach Chickney from the PD for the parish of Broxted. The revised description need only refer to Broxted with the words ‘and Chickney’ deleted. Broxted village hall is shown on map 52.
- 139 In similar terms, it will be necessary to make arrangements for electors in Tilty parish (88 electors). As explained under the section relating to Thaxted ward, Tilty must now be detached from Duton Hill as it will, in future, form part of that ward. The options relating to Tilty are:

- 1 Designate a separate PP for Tilty parish; or
- 2 Attach Tilty to either Broxted or Great Easton for polling purposes.

140 The first option can really be ruled out as no request for separate facilities has ever been received from that area and it seems unlikely that a suitable building can be identified. Most of the population of Tilty seems to be located nearer to Great Easton than to Broxted. It is therefore suggested that Great Easton PD be expanded to include Tilty, with a register division maintained for parish election purposes. Electors in the revised PD would continue to vote at Great Easton village hall (see map 53).

141 The description would need to be altered to read:

‘Great Easton and Tilty: that portion of the parish of Great Easton included in the Great Easton Village parish ward as described in The District of Uttlesford (Electoral Changes) Order 2001 and illustrated on the accompanying maps, together with the parish of Tilty.’

142 No change is needed at Little Easton – see map 54.

RECOMMENDED that Tilty be added to the polling district of Great Easton and that the description be amended as proposed above.

The Rodings/The Sampfords/Wenden Lofts/Wimbish and Debden

143 It appears that no changes are required to any of the polling arrangements for these wards, three of which are totally unaltered by the warding review. Members should note that the separate parishes of Great and Little Sampford effectively form a single PD. This has been so for many years and it remains the case that no building exists in Little Sampford that could be designated for polling.

144 The small parish of Wenden Lofts is attached to Duddenhoe End for polling purposes. A separation would only be needed in the event that both parish wards were contested at the same time (but polling would still take place in the same building).

145 Please refer to maps 55 to 68 inclusive to see the polling venues in each of the locations concerned.

General conclusion

146 To assist officers in making suitable arrangements for polling, it is suggested that a sentence is added to the adopted PD scheme allowing the RO to deviate from the designated PP in appropriate circumstances, ie where a designated building is not, for any reason, available on a particular day.

RECOMMENDED accordingly.

Background Papers: Representations received as part of the Council’s consultation process