

Uttlesford District Council –Polling District and Polling Place Review 2019 (including Parliamentary Constituency of Saffron Walden)

In accordance with Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 Uttlesford District Council is currently carrying out a review of polling districts and polling places within the Uttlesford local authority area and in liaison with the neighbouring City of Chelmsford, where this impacts the Saffron Walden Parliamentary Constituency.

The purpose of the review is to seek to ensure that:

- all electors in the District and Parliamentary Constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and
- so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places in the foresaid area, are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled.

The following Guidelines are also recognised as good practice, but may not always be obtainable

- Suitable transport links within the polling district and conveniently located for the polling place.
- Polling place's ability to accommodate additional seating or more than one polling station.
- Premises readily available in the event of unscheduled elections.
- A polling station should not be allocated an electorate of greater than 2,500 electors. In these circumstances, double polling stations can be adopted within the polling place.

Uttlesford currently has 80 polling districts within the local authority boundary and generally remain the same for all types of elections. There are also 17 polling districts in neighbouring Chelmsford City Council area covering the Parliamentary Constituency of Saffron Walden

This report outlines the District Council's proposals for amendments to the current polling arrangements that were set out in the interim review exercise completed in May 2018.

Comments on the Returning Officer draft proposals were invited until 31 October 2019. All comments have been considered, and this report with recommendations for changes to the current arrangements, is presented to Governance and Audit Committee on 13 January 2020. This Committee has been given delegated authority by full Council, to approve any changes.

The final amendments will be implemented on the electoral register on 31 January 2020; any election called before that date will be delivered under the current arrangements.

**Review of Polling Districts in the Saffron Walden Parliamentary Constituency -
Consultation Responses and Returning Officer's Comments**

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| AAA 716 | Ashdon - Ashdon Village Hall | <p>Consultees comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ashdon Village Hall - Suitable. The hall is accessible to everyone with a disabled entrance and parking. The smaller hall used for voting is separate from the main hall so any regular bookings can continue without any disturbance. No changes Suitable. Central location, sufficient space inside for the activity required. No changes <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Central location for electors, accessible entrance, and good parking facilities acceptable as a polling station. The larger hall can be in use for other activities. However for a Parliamentary Election where there is a higher turnout, arrangements should be made to ensure this room is available on polling day.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed. It is acknowledged that the larger room is preferred day for Parliamentary elections.</p> |
| AAB 275 | Hadstock - Hadstock Village Hall | <p>Consultees comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable. Local, accessible, car parking readily available. No changes Suitable. It is in the centre of the Village, parking available, spacious and light inside, toilet facilities available. There are two approach paths. It is the Village community space and recognised as such. Also, sign on the Village green indicating route. Disabled entry, parking and toilets available. No changes <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Central location for electors, accessible entrance, good signage. Whilst the Hall is hidden away in the churchyard, it does have parking next to the building. However this is at the end of a lengthy drive that is not lit other than in the vicinity of the polling station itself, which has external lights.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed but additional lighting at the entrance will be investigated.</p> |
| AAC 191 | Little Walden - Little Walden Village Hall | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. The hall building is acceptable in all respects, but the access onto the B1052 is very narrow over a stream bridge with limited visibility to the south when exiting.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| AAD | Sewards End - Sewards End | <p>Consultees Comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable. No changes |

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| 420 | Village Hall | <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. No issues, easy access and with kitchen, toilets, good lighting and plenty of parking. No changes.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| ABA 379 | Great Canfield - Great Canfield Village Hall | <p>Consultees comments 1. Great Canfield Community Trust: Suitable. Central to our linear village. Good parking. Easy to locate. Visible from the road and signposted. The Village Hall is we believe the most suitable - for location, accessibility, familiar to residents as a community hub. No changes.</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. There is only a handful of parking spaces at the hall itself, but cars can also be left at the side of the road outside. The hall is well-equipped with kitchen, toilets and good lighting.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| ABB 610 | Great Hallingbury - Great Hallingbury Parish Hall | <p>Consultees comments 1. Great Hallingbury PC – Suitable. No changes 2. Suitable. Meets the needs of a polling station well. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. No issues, easy access and with kitchen, toilets, good lighting and plenty of parking. There are however well lit spaces at the front of the building. No changes.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| ABC 880 | Hatfield Broad Oak - Hatfield Broad Oak Village Hall | <p>Consultees comments Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council has written to give its support to the current location</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Suitable. Well located at the bottom of the village, plenty of parking, step free access into the hall and a good sized hall. Kitchen and toilets available. No changes.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| ABD 100 | Bush End - The Ancient Foresters, Bush End, Takeley | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Returning Officer comments: This polling station is located in a private house and the shared use is of concern. At the elections in May and December 2019, St John The Evangelist Church was used as an alternative.</p> |

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| | | <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments St John The Evangelist Church is suitable. The polling station is in the church itself; there is no attached hall. The staff set up in the nave and the polling booths are located at the back of the church. This was a satisfactory arrangement. There are toilets and a kitchen. There is parking in a layby outside for four cars and then a walk up a slightly uneven gravel path to the church. In addition there is a church car park at the side of the building. This is on grass and only lit from the external lighting on the church itself so it is a bit dark; however it presents a shorter walk to the door. The church is not located in the main part of Bush End, as the previously used conservatory of a private house (Ancient Foresters) is. However, residents on the electoral roll know where the church is so this is not considered to be an issue with its continued use.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. The continued use of the Ancient Foresters is not suitable. Proposed that St John The Evangelist Church, being suitable, is designated as the new polling place for Bush End.</p> |
| ABE 1226 | Little Hallingbury - Little Hallingbury Village Hall | <p>Consultees comments Little Hallingbury Parish Council has written to support the current location</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. This is a typical village hall – kitchen, toilets, adequate lighting, etc. Plenty of parking available. No changes.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| ACA 290 | Arkesden - Arkesden Village Hall | <p>Consultees comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Easy access. Parking (limited). Good kitchen facilities for polling staff. Efficient heating system. Centrally located. No changes 2. Suitable. Because it is at the Village Hall. No changes. <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Has suitable heating and kitchen facilities.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| ACB 1084 | Clavering - Clavering Village Hall | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Has suitable heating and kitchen facilities.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |

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| <p>ACC</p> <p>306</p> | <p>Langley - Langley Community Centre</p> | <p>Consultees comments</p> <p>1. Suitable. It's the best place available and doesn't inconvenience anyone. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>ACD</p> <p>197</p> | <p>Wicken Bonhunt - St Margaret's Church</p> | <p>Consultees comments</p> <p>1. St Margaret's Church - Suitable. It's central to the village - apart from the pub, the only public access building in the village. It has served as the Polling Station for a number of years now since it was modernised. It has disabled access, toilets (for staff and visitors), a well-fitted kitchen with fridge, cooker and microwave. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable as a polling station now the heating has been upgraded. Central location for electors and whilst there is limited parking, it is sufficient for the number of people using the polling station.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>ADA</p> <p>662</p> | <p>Debden - Debden Memorial Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments</p> <p>None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable. Easy access and with kitchen, toilets, good lighting and plenty of parking.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>ADB</p> <p>591</p> | <p>Wimbish (Carver Barracks) - The Community Hall, Carver Barracks</p> | <p>Consultee comments</p> <p>None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable. Easy access and with kitchen, toilets, good lighting and limited parking, although this is not an issue as most voters walk to the polling station.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |

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| <p>ADC</p> <p>476</p> | <p>Wimbish (Village) - Wimbish Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultees comments</p> <p>1. Suitable. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable. Easy access and with kitchen, toilets, good lighting and adequate parking.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AEA</p> <p>2514</p> | <p>Elsenham - Elsenham Memorial Hall</p> | <p>Consultees comments</p> <p>1. Suitable. I can walk there and because it's not in a school it means that the school can operate as normal. The alternative in the village is the Village hall which is also the school hall during the day meaning that the school would have to be closed on a polling day. The Memorial hall is much more suitable. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AEB</p> <p>1033</p> | <p>Henham - Henham Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments</p> <p>None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AFA</p> <p>376</p> | <p>Felsted East - Crix Green Mission Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments</p> <p>None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable. Compact hall. Heating and lighting have been a problem in May and would need additional heat and light for an Autumn or Winter election but this can be arranged.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed; additional heating and lighting for elections held during the winter will be provided.</p> |
| <p>AFB</p> <p>1946</p> | <p>Felsted West - Felsted Memorial Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments</p> <p>None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable. Parking is available at the rear of the building.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |

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| <p>AFC 1101</p> | <p>Stebbing - Stebbing Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultees comments 1. Adequate. Centre of village. Adequate parking but does not cater well for wheelchairs / disabled access. Steps and narrow doors. No changes.</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Acknowledged that steps and narrow doors do not meet accessibility standards; however there are no other suitable locations.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AGA 1605</p> | <p>Flitch Green - Flitch Green Community Hall</p> | <p>Consultees comments 1. Suitable. Local, easy access. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Gets very busy when the other rooms of the hall are in use and Buffy bus on site. Sufficient car parking is available.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AGB 307</p> | <p>Little Dunmow - Community Meeting Room, Recreation Ground</p> | <p>Consultees comments 1. Small, cramped and in a hard to reach location for the generally elderly population. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments It is small, being a converted container, located on the edge of the playing field. It has suitable toilet and kitchen facilities for the staff and adequate parking.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AHA 2073</p> | <p>Great Dunmow North-East - The Dourdan Pavilion, Recreation Ground</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Plenty of parking and surrounding lighting.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AHB 1575</p> | <p>Great Dunmow North-West - Great Dunmow Primary School</p> | <p>Consultees comments 1. The Governing Body of Great Dunmow Primary School - Polling days happening at short notice cause disruption to the children's education. During the recent European elections the Head and Governors of the school felt it unreasonable to close the school at short notice putting undue pressure on child care issues for working parents. This caused a massive child safeguarding issue. Longer term, planned polling days still impact the school timetable as they require Inset training days to coincide with the polling day. This can prevent the school from taking part in training organised by cluster groups because</p> |

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| | | <p>we have to have our closure day to match the polling day. Inset training is also disrupted by the process of public polling within the same building. Parents of children at the school know that there are three entrance points to the school. General members of the public are confused by this. Access from the main road and car parking is designed for parents to drop their children off and for the school staff. It is not designed as a public car park and there are significant traffic issues for people leaving and joining this busy road. There are multiple rooms and corridors which have to be made secure. This means that there is no easy access to toilet facilities for electoral staff and the public. This would be an even more onerous situation to manage if the school was in session due to the short notice of an election.</p> <p>Change - The Governors of Dunmow Primary School strongly oppose the use of the school as a polling station for reasons given above. Governors would request that UDC approach Tesco with the view to siting a temporary polling station when necessary within the car park there. This is in a physical location similar to the school but with much better access on foot or by car, copious car parking and disabled access in store to toilets and other facilities. It is also very well known by all local residents. As a commercial organisation which supports the school throughout the year we would hope that Tesco would look favourably on this as part of its duty towards the community from which it benefits so greatly. Parents of children at the school would also approve this move to ensure that the proper and essential business of the school and its responsibilities towards their children are fully met without interruption.</p> <p>2. The use of the school is an issue for the school as it cannot function as normal due to safeguarding issues. We have been informed that the gates have to remain unlocked which goes against all safeguarding advice that we are given. We cannot use the hall where voting takes place and have to lock the hall doors to stop strangers from entering the building. There is no parking for the voters as the school car park is full. There is a conflict of safeguarding as we are told to make the site secure yet when polling the gates have to be open. Change - Using Tesco in Great Dunmow would be suitable. It is easily accessible, has lots of car parking and is open 24 hours a day. Polling could be located in the car park or in store, especially as planning permission has been granted for an extension.</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector No parking facilities with limited parking on road and quite a long walk for those voters with mobility issues. There are multiple rooms and corridors which have to be made secure. This means that there is no easy access to toilet facilities for electoral staff. Election staff are reliant on school care taker to get them hot water.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. The school provides a suitable venue for polling but presents safeguarding challenges for the school, such that for scheduled elections the school normally closes. When unscheduled elections are called, closure is not always an option, such as for the Parliamentary General Election in</p> |

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| | | December 2019. On this occasion, in consultation with the head teacher, the council provided further security fencing that enabled the school to remain open whilst meeting its safeguarding responsibilities. In the absence of a suitable alternative location, it is recommended that the school remains the designated polling place. |
| AJA 760 | Barnston - Barnston Village Hall | <p>Consultees comments</p> <p>1. Barnston Village Hall Management Committee - Suitable. We have around 600 people living in the village. A high proportion is senior citizens and find it convenient to attend the polling station in the Barnston Village Hall as opposed to having to travel to other polling stations further afield.</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| AJB 2160 | Great Dunmow South-East - United Reformed Church | <p>Consultees comments</p> <p>1. United Reformed Church - We welcome your use of our premises. We aim to keep our premises to a high standard but there are times when Thursday can be double booked (Tiny Tots and NHS Blood Transfusion bookings). Our old hall is closed pending redevelopment plans which might take a while to progress (summarised).</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. There are a couple of steps into the church.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| AJC 2049 | Great Dunmow South-West - ET Foakes Memorial Hall | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |

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| AKA 1513 | Hatfield Heath - Hatfield Heath Village Hall | <p>Consultees comments</p> <p>1. Hatfield Heath Village Hall Trust - Suitable. The Village Hall has been used for the local polling station for decades and to the best of my knowledge there have been no complaints. It is central to the parish, it has an attached car park and it is accessible for wheelchairs. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable. The village hall is next door to the school which means at drop off and pick up time, the car park can become quite congested. The hall itself is quite small although at recent elections, the staff set it up in a different way than had been done previously and this worked much better.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| AKB 266 | White Roding - White Roding Sports and Social Club | <p>Consultee comments</p> <p>None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable. Plenty of parking, permanent ramp to door, kitchen and toilets accessible, good lighting.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| ALA 212 | Aythorpe Roding - Aythorpe Roding Village Hall | <p>Consultee comments</p> <p>None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable. Good parking, large room, kitchen and toilets, flat access into polling station.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| ALB 623 | High Easter - High Easter Village Hall | <p>Consultee comments</p> <p>None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable. Step free access, good lighting, plenty of parking.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |

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| <p>ALC 424</p> | <p>High Roding - WI Hall</p> | <p>Consultees comments 1. High Roding & Great Canfield WI - Suitable. The WI Hall has been used for elections for many years. It is the only hall in High Roding. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. There is limited on-street parking directly outside the hall and a free public car park nearby. Being located in the middle of the village, it is likely many voters walk to the polling station. I am not aware of anyone complaining about the parking at any previous election at this location.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>ALD 527</p> | <p>Leaden Roding - Leaden Roding Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Sufficient parking, adequate lighting, kitchen, toilets, step-free access available.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>ALE 158</p> | <p>Margaret Roding - The Reid Rooms</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. The Reid Rooms is a wedding venue with several rooms set around a gravelled courtyard. Usually the polling station is situated in the bar of the main building. The main issue with the Bar is that it is dark as it is lit only by wall sconces. Additional lighting will need to be investigated as a priority to assist with this.</p> <p>At the European Parliamentary elections, as there was a wedding reception taking place, the polling station was moved to a separate, smaller building called 'The Architects Unit' as an emergency measure. This presented a number of issues and should only be used as a last resort.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable. Additional lighting will be provided.</p> |
| <p>AMA 446</p> | <p>Chrishall - Chrishall (New) Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Good parking facilities. This is a large village hall and sufficient for the requirements at this location.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |

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| AMB1 176 | Duddenhoe End & Wenden Lofts (part in Elmdon parish) - Duddenhoe End Village Hall | <p>Consultees comments</p> <p>1. Elmdon & Wenden Lofts Parish Council – Suitable and adequate. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Large village hall. Good parking facilities.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| AMB2 66 | Duddenhoe End & Wenden Lofts (part in Wenden Lofts parish) - Duddenhoe End Village Hall | <p>Consultees comments</p> <p>1. Elmdon & Wenden Lofts Parish Council - Suitable and adequate. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Large village hall. Good parking facilities.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| AMC 277 | Elmdon - Elmdon Village Hall | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Adequate for single polling station and size of electorate. Parking is quite poor. It is possible to park on the road a short distance from the polling station. Poor mobile signal.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| AMD 1256 | Great Chesterford – Great Chesterford Community Centre | <p>Consultees comments</p> <p>1. Great Chesterford Community Centre - Suitable. Good central place and good parking. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. On a bus route. Quite close to a railway station. Good parking. There is a quite narrow corridor to the room that is used for polling, which obviously can get congested in the event of queueing voters.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |

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| <p>AME1 196</p> | <p>Littlebury Green & Strethall (part in Littlebury parish) - St Peter's Church</p> | <p>Consultees comments 1. Suitable. It is in the heart of the Village next to the road. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Adequate. There is no dedicated car parking provision for these premises. Access may be potentially difficult for motorised wheelchairs.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AME2 25</p> | <p>Littlebury Green & Strethall (part in Strethall parish) - St Peter's Church</p> | <p>Consultees comments 1. Suitable. It is in the heart of the Village next to the road. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Adequate. There is no dedicated car parking provision for these premises. Access may be potentially difficult for motorised wheelchairs.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AMF 485</p> | <p>Littlebury - Littlebury Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. There is limited parking – 3 or 4 spaces. Street parking is possible.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AMG 171</p> | <p>Little Chesterford - Little Chesterford Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultees comments 1. Little Chesterford Village Hall Management Committee - Suitable. It is the only place in the village which could be used. No changes.</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Adequate. There is access for disabled voters. Good parking.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AMH 352</p> | <p>Wendens Ambo - Wendens Ambo Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Close to Audley End Rail Station and has good parking.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |

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| ANA 2035 | Newport - Newport Village Hall | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Has all necessary facilities.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| ANB 532 | Quendon & Rickling - Quendon and Rickling Village Hall | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Has all necessary facilities. The absence of an inner door means that on winter days, such as the December 2019 Parliamentary General Election, the hall gets very cold but there is no reasonable alternative.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| ANC 385 | Widdington - Widdington Village Hall | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. However, does lack kitchen facilities – staff need to bring their own prepared food and drink, although there is a pub nearby that can provide hot food if required.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| AOA 1258 | Audley North - Committee Room, Town Hall, | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| AOB 2278 | Audley South - Mobile polling unit at The Council Offices | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. From a voter perspective, these arrangements work well, although it does cause some inconvenience to the occupiers of the site.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |

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| APA 1499 | Castle East - Mobile polling unit located in the car park at Homebase | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed. (In the event the Homebase site is no longer available, it will be necessary to find an alternative location and arrangements will be made to identify suitable premises.)</p> |
| APB 1929 | Castle West - Saffron Walden Community Church | <p>Consultees comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suitable. Use of the Community Church worked well. Otherwise, the Primary School has to be closed, with the loss of a day's teaching for the pupils and considerable inconvenience for single parents. Alternatives - There are two alternatives; St Mary's Church Hall, which is nearby, and the Football Club. In my view, neither of these is as good as the Community Church on Castle Street, which was used for the election in May 2019. 2. Suitable. Location is easily reached by walking from home. I am pleased to note that my polling station for Castle Ward West in Saffron Walden is now given as Saffron Walden Community Church in Castle Street. Previously the polling station for this area has been St Mary's Primary School. It did not seem right to me that a school should be closed for polling day for any election, national or local. Having worked in education for all my working life, a "day off" can seem an ideal prospect but I have always wondered what message this was giving to pupils in that an administrative function use for their school, such use as a polling station, should override their learning for a day. Looking down the list of polling areas I did notice that other areas have schools as their polling stations despite a note on the polling review that schools would not be used if at all possible. It was always lovely to visit St Mary's Primary in Castle Street where our three children spent their very happy primary years but I always felt that somehow it wasn't acceptable to use schools in this way to the detriment of children's learning. 3. Unsuitable. It is situated in Castle Street, a busy one-way road. It would be better to use Catons Lane Football Ground Buildings where there is plenty of parking and easy access to the building. <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Whilst the Saffron Walden Community Church in Castle Street worked well, the close proximity of the polling station to the highway may need to be considered. There was limited external space suitable for tellers and they had to be removed during elections from an internal porch which is only separated from the main body of the building by internal glazed doors which had been fixed back in the open position. However this is not a consideration for voters. The location is suitable and avoids use of the School. The use of the Kings Arms PH for the European Parliamentary election, due to the unavailability of the church, generated a number of issues and is not</p> |

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| | | <p>a suitable alternative, except as an emergency.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AQA</p> <p>2990</p> | <p>Shire North - Saffron Walden Shire - The School Hall at the R A Butler Academy</p> | <p>Consultees comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. R A Butler Academy - Unsuitable. The school hall is located at the front entrance of the school, which is very busy especially at school drop off and collection times. The hall has classrooms that open into the hall area. Staff and children need to have access to part of the hall during the day. There is limited parking. No change 2. Saffron Walden Town Council - Unsuitable. Disruptive to school day. Change. Fairycroft House, Fairycroft Road or Four Acres Common Room. 3. Suitable. It's close to my home, of adequate size, and the school does not have to close for polling day but carries on in separate accommodation alongside the polling hall. Change. If RA Butler was unable to be used, you could re-locate perhaps to Fairycroft House 100m to the north. 4. Unsuitable. For the last few years I have considered the use of the hall at R A Butler School unsuitable for use as a polling station. I have worked as a presiding officer elsewhere for years and I understand the difficulty in using schools and ensuring adequate access for all. Whilst the hall provides good access, with only one step to navigate, the conflict of the station at the school particularly during drop off and pick up times and during times when classes leave the school during that day for sports matches or swimming (which often happen on a Thursday) result in an unhelpful clash of pedestrian movements in opposite directions and often resting in confusion near the school gates closest to the school hall doors. This adds further pressure to staff at the school and the station and leads to confusion for the pupils which is highly relevant given the size of the school now being 3 form entry and the biggest primary in the town. It was a particular problem this year with party tellers lingering at the entrance and blocking access to the entrance gate! I firmly believe that this school should not be used in the future if possible. A better idea would be to make use of the nearby Fairycroft House at the junction of Audley Rd / Fairycroft Rd located less than 200ms south of the school and therefore just as close. This site has a car park, identical access facilities and suitable large rooms which could be used as a station. The site is used for community uses regularly and the owners would be interested in any possible revenue they could generate for use a station to ensure the sites continued access. Change. <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable. Whilst I note the school's grounds of objection, the arrangements do work well, albeit representing a compromise. Harras fencing is used to separate the area for the polling stations from the southern end of the hall, which the school needs for</p> |

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| | | <p>internal circulation. Most voters walk to their polling station as it is a town ward and they live close enough. There is sufficient parking available on site for those with mobility impairments.</p> <p>The Fairycroft House, as a former domestic building, has room sizes that are small and access routes that are not adequate and in some rooms lighting is also not adequate.</p> <p>Previously, the Common Room of Four Acres (UDC sheltered housing development) was used for a single station location but this was also abandoned because of its domestic type access corridor, which cannot accommodate mobility scooters. The polling district contains a number of properties for older persons and the use of the RA Butler School does help meet these mobility needs.</p> <p>At the Parliamentary General Election in December 2019, the Grove Tennis Club was used due to the unavailability of the school. The tennis club were most accommodating of the needs of the Returning Officer and electors but the use of the facility was not suitable. The pavilion was just about big enough for use as a double polling station but the car park became very congested. In addition the walk to the station for voters was considered to be too far and hazardous when the car park was congested, as there is no defined separation for pedestrians and cars.</p> <p>Returning Officer comments In addition to the alternative locations mentioned by consultees that are not deemed suitable, the Returning Officer has explored with the school the use of a mobile classroom and the practicalities of having a mobile unit in the school car park; neither of these options were suitable to the school or the Returning Officer</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. In the absence of any suitable and practical alternative no changes are proposed.</p> |

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| <p>AQB</p> <p>2431</p> | <p>Shire South - The School Hall at the Katherine Semar Junior School</p> | <p>Consultees comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saffron Walden Town Council - Unsuitable. Disruptive to the school day. Change. 2. Suitable. It is 2 minutes' walk from my flat and I don't even have to cross over to the other side of the road. 3. Suitable. Very close to my home. Easily accessible. Parking available at Golden Acre Comm Centre for those who need it 4. Suitable. It is a central location that is easy to walk to. There is also some parking for those who drive. Change. Perhaps we could consider using the Golden Acre Centre, then school schedule would not be disrupted. <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. The use of Turpins indoor bowls centre for the European Parliamentary and General elections, due to the unavailability of the school, generated some issues and is not a suitable alternative, except as an emergency.</p> <p>Returning Officer Comments Although preferable to avoid the use of a school on polling day, there are no suitable alternative locations, other than premises that might be identified as a last resort, in an emergency only. Golden Acre Community Centre has been considered previously but is too small to accommodate a station accommodating such a large electorate. Whilst it might inconvenience pupils, parents and school staff, it does meet the needs of electors and polling staff.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>ARA</p> <p>1743</p> | <p>Stansted East - St John's Church Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments The hall has good facilities and is readily accessible. There is no car parking on site but parking is available nearby.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |

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| ARB 1729 | Stansted West - Bentfield Primary School | <p>Consultees comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bentfield Primary School - Unsuitable. Our school has to close during polling for safeguarding reasons as there is no suitable area that is separate from where the children are to house the polling booths. This is proving to be impossible to accommodate on our annual calendar and interferes with our ability to allocate our training days evenly across the school year. We are not central on a main road. The school is required to close during polling and the site can be difficult to secure when there are members of the public who require access. Voting takes place in the school hall which is in the centre of the school site and is more than 100m walk from the school gate. There are 4 doors which would need to be used in order to get to the school hall. Change. I understand that the Stansted Football club which is on Cambridge Road has been used for polling when our school was not available. As it is on the main road, I would think it would be far more suitable as a polling station than our school. Unsuitable. Schools should not be closed for these events. parents are fined if child misses school for a day out or holiday, but its okay to miss a day's school for voting? Working parents should not have to find child care for voting days. Change. Stansted East and West could all vote at St John's church hall. Or the Stansted Day centre, or new Community Hub when it opens <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. It is readily accessible, has on-site parking and good facilities for the polling staff.</p> <p>Returning Officer comments: The use of Stansted Football Club for the European Parliamentary election, due to the unavailability of the school, generated a number of issues and is not a suitable alternative, except as an emergency. The new community hub in the centre of Stansted Mountfitchet would make a very suitable polling station but is not located in Stansted West; whilst this would not prevent designation, it would not be appropriate having regard to the development of some 200 homes at Walpole Farm. Whilst acknowledging the comments regarding the impact of school closure, this is a suitable polling station that meets the needs of voters exercising their right to vote in person and there is no suitable alternative.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| ASA 701 | Birchanger - St Mary's Church Hall | <p>Consultees comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable. No changes Suitable. In the centre of the village. Large enough main hall with kitchen and toilet facilities. Also wheelchair accessible. Until a few years ago Birchanger had its own District Councillor. Then Birchanger was joined with Stansted South and there are two District Councillors so what happens is one concentrates on Birchanger and the other Stansted South. Ridiculous idea. Give Birchanger back it's own District Councillor and give the |

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| | | <p>other one to the other half of Stansted known as Stansted North. Birchanger and Stansted are separate villages and both wish to remain that way.</p> <p>3. Suitable. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Central location for electors, with parking and readily accessible.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed.</p> |
| <p>ASB 2615</p> | <p>Stansted South - The School Hall at St Mary's C of E Primary School</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed.</p> |
| <p>ATA 392</p> | <p>Berden - Berden Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Adequate parking available, good facilities for electors and polling staff</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed.</p> |
| <p>ATB 325</p> | <p>Farnham - Farnham Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultees comments:</p> <p>1. Farnham Parish Council - Suitable. Central to the village and within easy walking distance. There are some outlying areas of the village but access to the village hall is easy. The village hall is in the centre of the main village and equidistant from outlying areas such as Farnham Green, Hassobury, Levels Green. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Large hall, good facilities and on site parking</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed.</p> |
| <p>ATC 539</p> | <p>Manuden - Manuden Village Community Centre</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments This is a high quality venue which is most suitable as a polling station. It is readily accessible, has on-site parking and good facilities for electors and the polling staff.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |

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| <p>ATD</p> <p>372</p> | <p>Ugley - Ugley Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultees comments:</p> <p>1. Ugley Village Hall Committee - Suitable. The Patricia Lawrence Room, which is a small hall at the side of Ugley Village Hall, has its own separate entrance. There is access to kitchen and toilets. The Village Hall is on the B1383 and is easily accessible. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. These premises offer good facilities for electors and polling staff. The absence of an inner door or corridor means that on winter days, such as the December 2019 Parliamentary General Election, the hall gets very cold but there is no reasonable alternative.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AUA1</p> <p>421</p> | <p>Broxted & Chickney (part in the parish of Broxted) - Broxted Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultees comments</p> <p>1. Broxted Parish Council have written to support the location including the benefit of being equidistant between the north and south of the parish.</p> <p>2. Unsuitable. I live in the top end of Chickney Parish one mile from the village of Henham on the road towards Debden. I have no interest in Takeley ward and the councillors there have no interest in me. I am part of Henham village and since they have included us under Takeley ward I no longer vote!!!!!!! I was not consulted by this change. Too far to go ---a 14 mile round trip. The nearest poll station in Henham is 1 mile away from my house. I live 1 mile from Henham and should be part of that parish and not be included in Takeley parish which is 11miles from my house!</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Good quality village hall with good access and car park. A temporary ramp is provided to allow access for people in wheel chairs.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AUA2</p> <p>42</p> | <p>Broxted & Chickney (part in the parish of Chickney) - Broxted Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultees comments</p> <p>1. Broxted Parish Council have written to support the location including the benefit of being equidistant between the north and south of the parish</p> <p>2. Unsuitable. I live in the top end of Chickney Parish one mile from the village of Henham on the road towards Debden. I have no interest in Takeley ward and the councillors there have no interest in me. I am part of Henham village and since they have included us under Takeley ward I no longer vote! I was not consulted by this change. Too far to go ---a 14 mile round trip. The nearest poll station in Henham is 1 mile away from my house. I live 1 mile from Henham and should be part of that parish and not be included in Takeley parish which is 11miles from my house!</p> |

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| | | <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Good quality village hall with good access and car park. A temporary ramp is provided to allow access for people in wheel chairs.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AUB 899</p> | <p>Little Canfield - Little Canfield Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. No problems at this location, good access with reasonably sized car park and accessible entrance.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AUC 104</p> | <p>Mole Hill Green – Mole Hill Green Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Trustees of Mole Hill Green Village Hall support the designation of hall as a polling place. However, they have advised that the hall is in a very poor state of repair and not suitable for letting at the time of the consultation. They are working hard to raise funds and hope it will be back in use soon. They are aware the Three Horseshoes PH was used for the May 2019 elections and also advised that the new cricket club facility may be an option in the future. <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments The village hall has been a suitable location and once repaired will be preferable to the Three Horseshoes PH. The marquees adjacent to the pub was used for the May and December 2019 elections. It was not ideal as a polling station however there was no viable alternative. The station is annexed to a busy pub and normally forms part of the thoroughfare to the pub garden. Staff found it difficult to prevent customers walking through the polling station. It was initially cold in December although fan heaters were provided, which eventually provided adequate heat to maintain the marquee at a comfortable temperature. The lighting was just about acceptable but improvements could be investigated.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. That the Mole Hill Green village hall remains the designated place and the public house is used in the event of an election occurring before the village hall is repaired, subject to additional lighting being provided. No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AUD 1390</p> | <p>Takeley Priors Green - The Priors Green Community Centre</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Good modern facility.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |

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| <p>AUE 2203</p> | <p>Takeley Village - The Silver Jubilee Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments 1. Takeley Silver Jubilee Hall. Suitable. Easy access and large room. It's a community building with easy access for all members of the community. Kitchen and toilet facilities for Uttlesford staff and public.</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Good facility.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AVA 321</p> | <p>Duton Hill - The Three Horseshoes Public House</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Returning Officer Comments: The use of Great Easton Village Hall for the European Parliamentary election, due to the unavailability of the public house, was a more suitable location for the needs of voters and polling staff. This polling station is not suitable and an alternative location is required. However, Duton Hill, constitutes a ward for the purposes of Great Easton parish council elections.</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Not suitable. The station is located in the function room, accessed by a flight of steep stairs. At European Parliamentary election, this station was not available and AVB/AVB1 was used as alternative which is much better suited and has reasonable access.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations That Great Easton Village Hall (AVB1) be used permanently as an alternative location, except in the event of a parish council election when the option of a portacabin in the ward will be investigated.</p> <p>Further comments received post RO recommendations: The former democratic and electoral services manager at the Council has commented that he does not agree that electors at Duton Hill should be designated Great Easton Village Hall as their polling place. He states 'Duton Hill is a quite separate community distanced from the main village and, as pointed out, is a distinct parish ward. Arrangements for polling at the Three Horseshoes were far from ideal but worked generally well. I always ensured that a separate polling booth was situated in the bar downstairs for the use of any elector unable to ascend the stairs to the function room. I believe the Three Horseshoes should be retained as the polling place.'</p> <p>Returning Officer Comments: The polling station staff are not located downstairs to administer the poll; it requires the attention of the polling staff in the first floor room to be attracted, in order that they can attend to the voter. It is considered unacceptable to require voters with limited mobility to have to draw attention to themselves in a way not required by other voters. In addition, voters with visual impairment and other mobility issues as well as voters attending with children in pushchairs are</p> |

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| | | also inconvenienced and risk injury by attempting to climb steep stairs. There were no complaints arising from the use of Great Easton Village Hall for the European Parliamentary Election or the General Election and no other responses to the proposal to designate Great Easton Village Hall. The RO's recommendations above therefore remain. |
| AVB1 487 | Great Easton & Tilty (part in the parish of Great Easton) - Great Easton Village Hall | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Good overall. Disabled access is via a separate entrance but clearly signposted.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - no changes proposed</p> |
| AVB2 81 | Great Easton & Tilty (part in the parish of Tilty) - Great Easton Village Hall | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Good overall. Disabled access is via a separate entrance but clearly signposted and would be considered a reasonable alternative though not ideal. No changes.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| AVC 208 | Lindsell - Lindsell Village Hall | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Additional lighting may be necessary during winter elections.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed subject to provision of additional lighting.</p> |
| AVD1 353 | Little Easton - Little Easton Memorial Hall | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Excellent facility with good access.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| AVD2 0 | Great Dunmow West North West - Little Easton Memorial Hall | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Excellent facility with good access.</p> <p>Returning Officer Comments This has been designated in anticipation of development at sector 4</p> |

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| | | <p>Woodlands Park (and subject to further administrative changes).. However there are no completed properties yet, hence the electorate being zero.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AVE 2583</p> | <p>Thaxted - Bolford Street Hall</p> | <p>Consultees comments</p> <p>1. Suitable. This is a well-known and established community hub within the village of Thaxted. It has been used for many years as the polling station. No changes</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable. Easy access and with kitchen, toilets, good lighting and plenty of parking.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AWA1 479</p> | <p>Great & Little Sampford (part in the parish of Great Sampford) – Baptist Church Hall, Great Sampford</p> | <p>Consultee comments</p> <p>None</p> <p>Returning Officer Comment</p> <p>The Baptist Church was unavailable for use for the elections in May 2019. The Primary School was used for the Local Elections on the 2nd May and the Anglican Church was used for the European Parliamentary election on 23rd May. The School provided adequate space, with facilities and parking, but the Anglican Church was not suitable with the key issue being very poor disabled access. It is understood that the works being carried out to the Baptist Church will be completed by Christmas and the Church has confirmed that these premises will be available for use as a polling station for all elections from January 2020.</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments</p> <p>Suitable.</p> <p>Returning Officer recommendations. Suitable – No changes proposed. In the event of an election before the end of 2019, the School Hall at Great Sampford Community Primary School will be used.</p> |
| <p>AWA2 199</p> | <p>Great & Little Sampford (part in the parish of Great Sampford) – Baptist Church Hall, Great Sampford</p> | <p>Consultee comments</p> <p>None</p> <p>Returning Officer Comment</p> <p>The Baptist Church was unavailable for use for the elections in May 2019. The Primary School was used for the Local Elections on the 2nd May and the Anglican Church was used for the European Parliamentary election on 23rd May. The School provided adequate space, with facilities and parking, but the Anglican Church was not suitable with the key issue being very poor disabled access. It is understood that the works being carried to the Baptist Church will be completed by Christmas and the Church has confirmed that these premises will be available for use as a polling station for all</p> |

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| | | <p>elections from January 2020.</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable.</p> <p>Returning Officer recommendations. Suitable – No changes proposed. In the event of an election before the end of 2019, the School Hall at Great Sampford Community Primary School will be used.</p> |
| <p>AWB 359</p> | <p>Hempstead - Hempstead Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultees comments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suitable. Good location, good facilities, easy access. No changes 2. Suitable. It's local. 3. Suitable. Available and convenient. No changes <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Easy access and with kitchen, toilets, good lighting and parking available.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |
| <p>AWC 221</p> | <p>Little Bardfield - Little Bardfield Cricket Pavilion</p> | <p>Consultee comments None</p> <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. It is accessible with functional facilities. However, due to the weather conditions in December 2019, when the Parliamentary General Election was conducted, the outfield became extremely hazardous for those visiting the station and was eventually closed and relocated to Bolford Street Hall.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. There are very limited options for an alternative polling place and this appears to be the first time the station has had to be closed. It is recommended that its continued use is monitored as unscheduled closure, albeit for safety reasons, does not provide a good experience for the voter. Suitable - No changes proposed</p> |

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| <p>AWD</p> <p>536</p> | <p>Radwinter - Radwinter Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultees comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Radwinter Village Hall Charity - Suitable. Easy access for all, including ramp for mobility vehicles. The Radwinter Village Hall is in an ideal location with easy access, has been used for many years as a polling station without any comments about problems nor any complaints. No changes 2. Suitable. It is within the village I live and I am able to walk there. No changes 3. Suitable. No changes 4. Suitable. Easy to access and plentiful parking spaces. No changes 5. Suitable. Centre of the village, near car park and school <p>Polling Station Inspector Comments Suitable. Easy access and with kitchen, toilets, good lighting and plenty of parking at the rear of the building.</p> <p>Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed.</p> |
| Chelmsford Polling Districts | | |
| <p>SA</p> <p>1029</p> | <p>Boreham North - Boreham Village Hall</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer Proposal: No change to current polling arrangements at this stage; the proposed community centre will be looked into once complete. The polling district code will be changed to SA1 for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation: The current polling place is well located and fully accessible to all electors in the polling district as it is central to the area and well served by public transport links and a large car park. It is noted that this is an area that will be expanded by housing developments in the next 5 years. With this in mind, it is understood that a community centre will be built as part of the developments, although it is not yet confirmed where. Therefore, this will be explored in greater detail at a later date.</p> <p>There were no complaints reported to The Returning Officer at the recent elections and the member of staff allocated to supervise and assess the venue reported The Boreham Village Hall to be satisfactory and fully accessible</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |

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| <p>SB</p> <p>1654</p> | <p>Boreham South - Boreham Church Hall</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer</p> <p>Proposal: No change to current polling arrangements. The polling district code will be changed to SA2 for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation: The most appropriate alternative venue available in this polling district is Boreham Primary School as it is geographically well located. However, it is recognised that the use of schools can be disruptive, and strategies should be adopted to minimise disruption to the community. With this in mind, the school premises are within a housing estate, which is not convenient for public transport links or footfall. The Church Hall on the other hand, is located on a main road through the village, with a bus stop close by and some parking available. It is expected that this area will be impacted by a housing development of approx. 120 properties in the next 3 years. This has been considered and it is concluded that no additional resources are required as the total electorate will not exceed the recommendations. However, this is something that The Returning Officer will be cautious of at the next review.</p> <p>There were no complaints reported to The Returning Officer at the recent elections and the member of staff allocated to supervise and assess the venue reported The Boreham Church Hall to be satisfactory and fully accessible.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |
| <p>SC</p> <p>2005</p> | <p>Great & Little Leighs - Leighs Village Hall</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer</p> <p>Proposal: No change to current polling arrangements at this stage, but the proposed community centre will be considered once complete. The polling district code will be changed to SA3 for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation: The current polling place serves the electors currently in this area well as it is located centrally to the most populated area of the polling district and has parking available for those who are travelling from the outer areas of the village. Taking into account the draft local plan, it is apparent that this area is expected to grow quite significantly in the next 5 years, with an estimated 420 dwellings being delivered. This will have a significant impact on the electoral arrangements in this area, so additional venues have been considered. Within the new developments it is anticipated that a new community centre will be built, which will be well placed to serve the residents. Therefore, it has been requested that The Returning Officer be kept up to date with the progress of this development, the community centre in particular. If the circumstances arise that a large number of residents move in before the community centre is completed, then the use of The Chelmsford Racecourse or The Leighs Free Church as additional or replacement polling places will be considered in the interim period.</p> |

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| | | <p>There were no complaints reported to The Returning Officer at the recent elections and the member of staff allocated to supervise and assess the venue reported The Leighs Village Hall to be satisfactory and fully accessible.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |
| <p>SD</p> <p>1323</p> | <p>Broomfield North - Chelmer Valley High School</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer</p> <p>Proposal: No change to current polling arrangements. The polling district code will be changed to SB1 for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation: It is recognised that the use of schools for polling can be disruptive to pupils and the community if they take the decision to close. However, Chelmer Valley High School has been able to remain open on polling day for recent elections. It is The Returning Officer's intention to continue to work with schools to agree the most appropriate arrangements for all parties involved. The current polling place is located centrally within the polling district and is served by a car park for electors and a bus route to the city centre. Further to this, as the school is still able to operate, it will be convenient for electors in the area where their children attend the school.</p> <p>There were no complaints reported to The Returning Officer at the recent elections and the member of staff allocated to supervise and assess the venue reported Chelmer Valley High School to be satisfactory and fully accessible.</p> <p>This polling district is expected to be impacted by the expansion of the Beaulieu Park development and other housing developments. This considered, the current polling arrangements will remain suitable whilst the housing developments are being built, but this should be evaluated again at the next review.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |
| <p>SE</p> <p>2289</p> | <p>Broomfield Village - Broomfield Village Hall</p> | <p>Consultee comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Broomfield Village Hall Suitable. Central in the village, disabled access, car park. <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer</p> <p>Proposal: No change to current polling arrangements. The polling district code will be changed to SB2 for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation: The current polling place is conveniently located for electors in the area as it is located on the main route of access for the area, with a bus stop outside with numerous buses running regularly. It is noted that this venue was not available for the short notice European Parliamentary election in May this year, due to a pre-existing booking on this date. In place of this the Broomfield</p> |

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| | | <p>Methodist Church was used. This venue is also located on Main Road, served well by bus routes. This site is however smaller than the village hall, with a significantly smaller car park available. There were no complaints reported to The Returning Officer at the recent elections and the member of staff allocated to supervise and assess the polling places reported both venues to be satisfactory and fully accessible. It is expected that the electorate within this polling district will increase as a new housing development is to be built in the eastern area, which is currently agricultural/unoccupied land. As a result of this, the possibility of an additional polling place in this area will need to be considered at subsequent reviews, as there is currently no infrastructure in this area.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |
| <p>SF 1240</p> | <p>Church End - Great Waltham Village Hall</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer Proposal: No change to current polling arrangements. The polling district code will be changed to SB3 for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation: The current polling place is well located within the polling district, a short walk for those living centrally to the village and has a large car park allocated for use on polling day. The most appropriate alternative venue available in this polling district is Great Waltham C of E Primary School which is located on the same road as the village hall. However, it is recognised that the use of schools can be disruptive, and in these circumstances, would not be in the best interest of electors in the area.</p> <p>There were no complaints reported to The Returning Officer at the recent elections. The member of staff allocated to supervise and assess the venue reported The Great Waltham Village Hall to be satisfactory and fully accessible, provided The Returning Officer continues to be able to allocate a ramp to aid disabled access.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |
| <p>SG 548</p> | <p>Ford End - St. John the Evangelist's Church</p> | <p>Consultee Comments 1. Ford End Church and Ford End Village Hall Totally suitable for everyone. Centre of village with good parking and access. No changes</p> <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer Proposal: No change to current polling arrangements. The polling district code will be changed to SB4 for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation: The most appropriate alternative venue available in this polling</p> |

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| | | <p>district is Ford End C of E Primary School which is located on the main road However, it is recognised that the use of schools can be disruptive, and strategies should be adopted to minimise disruption to the community.</p> <p>The church is well located within the polling district, approx. a 10-minute walk for electors living within the village. Further to this, the venue benefits from good public transport connections and has a large car park allocated for electors to use on polling day.</p> <p>There were no complaints reported to The Returning Officer at the recent elections and the member of staff allocated to supervise and assess the venue reported the St John The Evangelist's church to be satisfactory and fully accessible.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |
| <p>SH</p> <p>988</p> | <p>Little Waltham - Little Waltham Memorial Hall</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer</p> <p>Proposal:</p> <p>No change to current polling arrangements.</p> <p>The polling district code will be changed to SB5 for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation:</p> <p>The current polling place serves the electors central to the village well. The venue is a well-recognised community hub, with an allocated car park and on a regular bus route from the city centre through the village.</p> <p>It is noted that the allocated polling place was not available for hire for the short notice election in May, due to prior arrangements. In place of this the Little Waltham Sports and Social Club was the only available venue within the polling district. Unfortunately, concerns regarding disabled access were raised, thus meaning this venue cannot be considered until this is resolved.</p> <p>There were no complaints reported to The Returning Officer at the recent Local and Parish Elections and the member of staff allocated to supervise and assess the venue reported the Little Waltham Memorial Hall to be satisfactory and fully accessible.</p> <p>Alongside other polling districts, the outskirts of this polling district are expected to be impacted by new housing developments in the next 5 years. This is a matter that is best considered at the next review, when community and commercial sites have been allocated to the new area.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| <p>SJ 357</p> | <p>Chignal - The Chignal and Mashbury Village Hall</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer Proposal: The area of Mashbury will be merged with the current polling district to become Chignal and Mashbury. Extra precautions will be taken to ensure that this has been done for electoral purposes and that Chignal Parish Council and Mashbury Parish Meeting are to remain separate community groups. The polling district code will be change to SC1 for administrative purposes. Evaluation: Mashbury is a small village neighbouring Chignal and Good Easter, which is currently combined with Good Easter for electoral purposes. However, it is recommended that the boundaries are redrawn to include this small area in the polling district of Chignal. This is because it is geographically closer, and the communities are better connected. Further to this, the polling place allocated to serve Chignal is on the route that residents of Mashbury pass through to travel to the city centre. The recommendation for each parish to be a separate polling district is understood. However, in these special circumstances, the decision has been made for the electoral areas to be combined. The reasoning for this is because Mashbury has an electorate of approx. 80 and is represented by a parish meeting. With the expansion in mind, there are 2 suitable venues within this polling district that may be used for polling. The Chignal and Mashbury Village Hall and The Chignal Smealey URC. Both venues have been made use of for polling in recent years, as the village hall has undergone refurbishment. The Village Hall is now open to the public again and The Chignal Smealey URC requested that the matter of accommodating polling be passed back to the village hall, and future bookings were mutually agreed. Further to the recent refurbishment, the village hall has very good facilities to accommodate polling and no complaints were reported to the returning officer at the recent elections. The site and hall that are provided is also larger than that of the church, meaning that it will comfortably be able to welcome additional electors from the Mashbury area. It is expected that the electorate within this polling district will increase as a new housing development is to be built in the western area, which is currently agricultural/unoccupied land. As a result of this, the possibility of an additional polling place in this area will need to be considered at subsequent reviews, as there is currently no infrastructure in this area.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. To accept the CCC RO's proposal (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |
| <p>SK 374</p> | <p>Good Easter & Mashbury - Good Easter Village Hall</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer Proposal: The village of Mashbury will be removed from the polling district and the polling district will be renamed Good Easter. The polling district code will be change to SC2 for administrative</p> |

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| | | <p>purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation: Mashbury is a small village neighbouring Chignal and Good Easter, which is currently combined with Good Easter for electoral purposes. However, it is recommended that the boundaries are redrawn to include this small area in the polling district of Chignal. This is because it is geographically closer, and the communities are better connected.</p> <p>Further to this, the polling place allocated to serve Chignal is on the route that residents of Mashbury pass through to travel to the city centre.</p> <p>The recommendation for each parish to be a separate polling district is understood. However, in these special circumstances, the decision has been made for the electoral areas to be combined. This has been carefully considered at each review that has been conducted. The reasoning for this is because Mashbury has an electorate of approx. 80 and is represented by a parish meeting. The current polling place is the only suitable venue for this area, as it serves electors central to the village well and has parking available for those who may need to travel by car.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. To accept the CCC RO's proposal (and to make administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |
| <p>SL</p> <p>555</p> | <p>Highwood - Highwood Village Hall</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer</p> <p>Proposal: No change to current polling arrangements. The polling district code will be change to SC3 for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation: The current polling place is the most suitable venue available within the polling district. The large village hall benefits from an allocated car park and convenient public transport links. Further to this, it is located on a busy road in a densely populated area of the rural village.</p> <p>Although this venue is located approx. a 15-minute walk from other areas of the village, it serves these electors best as practicable as there are no appropriate buildings in this area. The village hall is also located close to the primary school within the village, which is advantageous for parents in the area.</p> <p>There were no complaints reported to The Returning Officer at the recent elections and the member of staff allocated to supervise and assess the venue reported The Highwood Village Hall to be satisfactory and fully accessible.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| <p>SM 843</p> | <p>Roxwell - Roxwell Memorial Hall</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer Proposal: No change to current polling arrangements. The polling district code will be change to SC4 for administrative purposes. Evaluation: There are 2 alternative venues that are conveniently located within this polling district. St Michael and All Angels Church and Roxwell C of E primary school, both of which are located on the same road as the current polling place, centrally within the village. The Roxwell Memorial Hall is well suited to serve as a polling place as it is a well-recognised and reliable community building with a large car park and good public transport connections. Therefore, it would not be beneficial to relocate this polling place to either the school or the church as this would cause disruption and confusion. There were no complaints reported to The Returning Officer at the recent elections. Further to this, the member of staff allocated to supervise and assess the venue reported The Rowell Memorial Hall to be satisfactory and fully accessible, provided The Returning Officer continues to be able to allocate a ramp to aid disabled access.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |
| <p>SN 222</p> | <p>Pleshey - Pleshey Village Hall</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer Proposal: No change to current polling arrangements. The polling district code will be change to SC5 for administrative purposes. Evaluation: The current polling place suitably serves electors in this area, although it is not central to the area, it is only an approx. 10-minute walk for those living within the most populated area within the polling district. Use of the village hall also means that parking can be provided for electors and staff on polling day. With appreciation of the geographical size of the polling district, this facility is vital to the allocated polling place. For this reason, the current venue is considered a better option than the alternative option that was explored, the Church of the Holy Trinity. There were no complaints reported to The Returning Officer at the recent elections. Further to this, the member of staff allocated to supervise and assess the venue reported The Pleshey Village Hall to be satisfactory and fully accessible, provided The Returning Officer continues to be able to allocate a ramp to aid disabled access.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| <p>SP</p> <p>2035</p> | <p>Writtle North - Writtle Village Hall</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer</p> <p>Proposal: The polling district boundaries in Writtle Ward will be redrawn. The polling district code will be changed to SD1 for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation: The current polling places within the ward of Writtle serve the electors well. However, as the polling place allocated to serve Writtle south currently sits outside of the border, in Writtle North, it causes confusion with electors. Under the current polling district boundaries, some electors in Writtle North are required to walk past the polling place allocated to serve Writtle South when they are travelling to vote. This causes confusion on election day and subsequent complaints.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. To accept the CCC RO's proposal (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |
| <p>SQ</p> <p>2073</p> | <p>Writtle South - Longmeads House</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer</p> <p>Proposal: The polling district boundaries in Writtle Ward will be redrawn. The polling district code will be changed to SD1 for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation: The current polling places within the ward of Writtle serve the electors well. However, as the polling place allocated to serve Writtle south currently sits outside of the border, in Writtle North, it causes confusion with electors. Under the current polling district boundaries, some electors in Writtle North are required to walk past the polling place allocated to serve Writtle South when they are travelling to vote. This causes confusion on election day and subsequent complaints.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. To accept the CCC RO's proposal (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |
| <p>SR1</p> <p>150</p> | <p>Belsteads - Channels Golf Club (Essex Barn)</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer</p> <p>Proposal: No change to current polling arrangements at this stage, any new community buildings will be investigated once complete. The polling district code will be changed to SB7 for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation: Currently, The Channels golf club is used to serve both Belsteads SR1 and Broomfield East SR2. This venue serves the electors Belsteads appropriately, as the only venue currently available for hire in the area. However, this venue is not best located for electors in the neighbouring polling district Broomfield East. The venue does have a large car park allocated for polling and is located approx. 5-minute walk to a bus stop which is part of a city-wide route. The returning officer has explored the option of relocating both polling stations to the Beaulieu Community Centre, currently the</p> |

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| | | <p>polling place for Armistice, CAR. This is a well-recognised community hub in the area, situated amongst shops and schools. However, as this would mean that polling stations serving 3 separate parishes and 2 parliamentary constituencies would all be operating from the same place, it was considered a high risk. As this area continues to develop, there are reports that additional community buildings are to be allocated, which may be considered in future reviews.</p> <p>There were no complaints reported to The Returning Officer at the recent Local and Parish Elections and the member of staff allocated to supervise and assess the venue reported The Channels Golf Club to be to be satisfactory and fully accessible. The only issue that was raised by staff was the risk of stray golf balls as electors pass the golf course. However, it has been reported that this venue will in future only be operating for event hire.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| <p>SR2</p> <p>592</p> | <p>Broomfield East - Channels Golf Club (Essex Barn)</p> | <p>Chelmsford Returning Officer</p> <p>Proposal: No change to current polling arrangements at this stage, any new community buildings will be investigated once complete. The polling district code will be changed to SB7 for administrative purposes.</p> <p>Evaluation</p> <p>Currently, The Channels golf club is used to serve both Belsteads SR1 and Broomfield East SR2. This venue serves the electors Belsteads appropriately, as the only venue currently available for hire in the area. However, this venue is not best located for electors in the neighbouring polling district Broomfield East. The venue does have a large car park allocated for polling and is located approx. 5-minute walk to a bus stop which is part of a city-wide route.</p> <p>The returning officer has explored the option of relocating both polling stations to the Beaulieu Community Centre, currently the polling place for Armistice, CAR. This is a well-recognised community hub in the area, situated amongst shops and schools. However, as this would mean that polling stations serving 3 separate parishes and 2 parliamentary constituencies would all be operating from the same place, it was considered a high risk. As this area continues to develop, there are reports that additional community buildings are to be allocated, which may be considered in future reviews.</p> <p>There were no complaints reported to The Returning Officer at the recent Local and Parish elections and the member of staff allocated to supervise and assess the venue reported The Channels Golf Club to be to be satisfactory and fully accessible. The only issue that was raised by staff was the risk of stray golf balls as electors pass the golf course. However, it has been reported that this venue will in future only be operating for event hire.</p> <p>(UDC) Returning Officer Recommendations. Suitable - No changes proposed (other than administrative designation in line with CCC).</p> |
| | | <p>Additional Public Responses</p> <p>I am writing in my capacity as former democratic and electoral services manager at the Council to give you my observations on the 2019 review of polling districts and polling places in the Uttlesford District.</p> <p>The formal review notice states that the use of schools will be avoided wherever possible. I believe it is unwise to discount potentially suitable locations before the review has even begun. From my long experience, there are a number of polling districts in which a school has been designated where no suitable alternative building is available.</p> <p>Schools are widely used as polling locations across the country. This is for the very good reason that schools often provide ideal facilities for polling use in generally central locations that are convenient for electors. The government has quite deliberately</p> |

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| | | <p>legislated to allow returning officers the automatic right to use publicly funded buildings such as schools. It seems to me ill-advised to reject this option.</p> <p>The Returning Officer's statutory responsibility is to electors and not to parents or children. It is undeniably sensible that if two buildings are equally suitable and one is a school, then the alternative should be used wherever possible. But the sole legal duty of the Council is to designate the most suitable building for polling use, both in terms of suitability of the facilities and convenience of location. That will often be a local school because in many areas there is a lack of community buildings. To rule out designating locations that may be the most suitable option is in my view a mistaken approach and one that I believe no professional electoral officer would consider adopting. If elected councillors choose not to designate schools for polling that is a political decision not necessarily supported by evidence gathered at the review.</p> <p>Prior to the recent European election, a statement was published on the website indicating several changes to polling stations, deviating from the adopted polling scheme. I cannot remember all of the details, and there now appears to be no trace of these changes available to view, but from memory at least six changes were made. However, no reasons were given for any of the changes to the published scheme and the statutory notice of polling stations to be used at that election seems not to have published.</p> <p>I had expected that details of these changes would be published as part of the statutory review but that has not been done. In fact, the review documents seem to consist entirely of the existing polling scheme and the list of polling districts and the number of electors registered in each. A more logical approach would have been to publish a short review paper highlighting polling districts and places where problems have arisen, or where potential changes are being considered. It is difficult to make sensible comments without being aware of the areas where changes are under consideration.</p> <p>Only one of the European election changes made any sense to me although it was difficult to form a judgement without any reasons being given. From memory, one of the changes was to move the location for the Castle West PD from the Community Church in Castle Street to the function room of the Kings Arms. This location certainly seems less convenient for the majority of electors and I believe is not situated within the Castle West polling district. So my immediate reaction is that the location used would not be a suitable long-term arrangement. The community church was identified and designated as part of the interim review I carried out in 2018 and seemed at the time a good alternative location to St Mary's School further along Castle Street.</p> <p>Another change was to move the polling place for Shire South from the Katherine Semar School to a location at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre. Again, this location is considerably less central for electors in the Shire South area and therefore seems to me not a sensible long-term alternative. The school is certainly far more central for the majority of electors residing mainly on the Fairview estate and therefore seems a better polling location. The community hall at Golden Acre has previously been used but I proposed relocating to the school opposite because the Golden Acre building is, in my estimation, too cramped in floor size to locate the two polling</p> |

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| | | <p>stations necessary for major elections.</p> <p>A third change was to move the location for Stansted West from Bentfield Primary School to the football club on Cambridge Road. The football club was used a few times many years ago but the location was changed to the school because the facilities were not then considered of sufficient standard for the location of polling facilities. It is possible that facilities at the football club are now much improved but as no evidence has been produced explaining these changes it is hard to form a proper judgement.</p> <p>I seem to recall that electors at Duton Hill were directed to the Great Easton Village polling station instead of the Three Horseshoes function room. I am unsure why this was done but it seems obvious to me that travelling to a more distant polling location is less convenient for those electors. Duton Hill is a designated polling district so that separate polling facilities are legally required for the convenience of electors living there. In any case, Duton Hill and Great Easton are separated into wards for parish council election purposes and so a continued separation for polling will continue to be necessary.</p> <p>A further change was at Great and Little Sampford where the school was designated for a temporary period until the refurbishment of the Baptist church hall could be completed. In May last year I believe that the polling venue moved to the parish church. I am not sure whether the refurbished Baptist church is yet available but I do know that the head teacher at the Sampfords school was very enthusiastic about the temporary change as he felt it gave the children a real stake in the democratic process.</p> <p>In general terms, I believe the polling scheme I left for my successor was sound and sustainable for electors throughout Uttlesford. The scale of new housing development in Saffron Walden makes it seemingly inevitable that polling district boundaries will have to be reviewed in the longer term but the present scheme will probably remain viable for the immediate future. However, two polling places do seem unsatisfactory and might benefit from review. These are the London Road Offices serving electors in Audley South and the Homebase site for electors in Castle East. Both of these polling places involve the expense and difficulty of locating mobile units in the respective car park areas and I believe finding alternative locations will benefit electors in the longer term, as well as reducing costs.</p> <p>I continue to believe that the County High School site, very carefully researched on at least two occasions, is the best option for the location of a polling place in Audley South, but councillors have twice now decided not to designate this building.</p> <p>The Homebase site has been used since at least 2016 following the decision of the privately run Dame Bradbury School to discontinue the use of a facility at the school. After having at the time made extensive enquiries, I am not aware of any other community building (other than the hospital site) in Castle East and so the designation of the Homebase site was really a last resort. However, it should be changed as soon as a suitable alternative becomes available.</p> <p>I am aware that, for quite understandable reasons, it is intended to relocate the polling venue at Bush End from a private dwelling to the church.</p> <p>Finally, a new polling district had to be created at Woodlands Park</p> |

| PD ref & Electorate Figures | Polling District and Place | Responses (Summary) and Returning Officer's recommendations |
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| | | <p>because a parish boundary change has resulted in the sector 4 site being moved from Little Easton to Great Dunmow. However, it has not yet been possible for the necessary order to be made transferring the area to the correct district ward. Once this has been done it will be possible to integrate the area fully into Great Dunmow North but until then it will be necessary to designate a polling place for any registered electors.</p> <p>I shall be grateful if my representations will be considered as part of the review.</p> <p>Yours sincerely Peter Snow</p> <p>Returning Officer Comments</p> <p>Schools: At the start of the review it was indicated that, as part of the consultation, the RO was particularly keen, where possible, to avoid the use of schools as polling stations and consider suitable alternatives. The intention was not to discount potentially suitable locations before the review had begun but to convey that comments were welcome, even if other options had been discounted previously. The succession of unscheduled elections has had an impact on all venues used as polling stations, but has had a greater impact on schools, pupils, staff and families. Therefore where potentially suitable alternatives are available, these will be carefully considered.</p> <p>Consultation format: To ensure consultees were given the widest opportunity to comment on any aspect of any station currently designated or used at any time, only the list of designated polling places were published. To only publish a list of places where problems had occurred (as experienced by or reported to officers) may have led the public to believe that that was all the RO was interested in hearing about.</p> <p>Polling places changes: Departures from the designated polling place are only made where the designated place is not available for exceptional reasons. This normally arises when maintenance work coincides with scheduled elections; when unscheduled elections are held (or notified late as in the case of the European parliamentary elections), the need to identify alternative locations than the designated place is more frequent. The most suitable and available alternative is always selected but will often result in a compromise of voters' needs.</p> <p>Audley South: The RO considered very carefully the two options available as did the members of the GAP committee. On balance the council offices were designated and this has worked very well for voters on the three occasions it has been used to date.</p> <p>Castle East and Bush End: see specific entry for further details.</p> <p>Great Dunmow North: work is programmed to regularise the polling districts and places, ahead of occupation of any dwellings here.</p> |

Consultees

As well as consulting all Uttlesford District Councillors, Essex County Councillors within the Saffron Walden Constituency, Town and Parish Council Clerks, and owners and operators of the current polling stations, we have also invited response from the following Community Groups / Charities / organisations and bodies:

Accuro
Acting Returning Officer for the Saffron Walden Constituency
Age UK Essex
Alzheimer's Society
CAB Citizens Advice
Carers First
CVSU
Green Party
Hearing Help Essex
Home-Start Essex (Uttlesford)
League of Friends Saffron Walden Community Hospital
Liberal Democrats
Lioness Club
Member of Parliament for Saffron Walden
MEPs for the Eastern Region
Mind in West Essex
Polling Station Inspectors
Royal British Legion
Saffron Walden Dementia Alliance
Saffron Walden Mencap
Saffron Walden Teenage Cancer Trust Association
Saffron Walden Youth Outreach Project
St Claires Hospice
Support 4 Sight
Thaxted centre for the disabled
The Acting Returning Officer for Braintree
The Acting Returning Officer for Chelmsford
The Brexit Party
The Conservative and Unionist Party
The Labour Party
United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP)
Uttlesford Community Travel
Uttlesford Dementia Action Alliance
Uttlesford Foodbank
Uttlesford Frontline

Notes

1. Responses are from consultees.
2. Individuals have not been personally identified unless they have requested.
3. Where a response is on behalf a body or organisation it has been identified in **Bold**
4. Polling Station Inspector comments are identified
5. Public responses on the review as whole are set out at the end

