

Representations received, considerations and recommendations of the Panel for the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

The panel would like to thank those people and organisations who have made representations to the review. These together with proposals from the Returning Officers and comments collected throughout the elections in 2014 have been brought together for the purpose of informing this review. Investigations of the areas have been conducted in each affected area taking into consideration the requirements of the review and guidance issued by the Electoral Commission.

The panel would also like to thank all those premises who made themselves available for inspection and consideration during this review.

District AA in Bargate ward
Sembal House
Handel Terrace
Southampton

Representation of the Returning Officer

To keep the situation with the new halls of residence under review. Sembal House has capacity for two polling stations within.

Recommendation

Whilst the status of this building is noted it is possible that the building may still be able to accommodate future elections and the accessibility and location remain the most appropriate for this district. The panel therefore recommend that this polling place remain for the time being. However St Marks Church Centre in Archers Road has been identified as potential replacement should the need arise.

District EB in Bitterne Park Ward
Bitterne Park School
New Sixth Form Building
Dimond Road
Southampton

Representation of the Returning Officer

To continue to use the Sixth Form entrance, instead of using the Sixth Form foyer as the polling station we will use the side room at the entrance which also has capacity for an additional polling station should the need arise.

Recommendation

Continue to use the Sixth Form entrance as this provides the least interruption to the school and also allows for the best access for voters.

District ED in Bitterne Park ward
All Hallows Church
Junction Wakefield Road
Witts Hill

Representation of the Returning Officer

To continue using the Church Hall if still available after November 2014.

Recommendation

No suitable alternatives in the polling district, continue to use if still available.

District EE in Bitterne Park ward
Charlton House School
55 Midanbury Lane
Southampton

Representation of the Returning Officer

Charlton House is no longer available. The Church of Ascension on Thorold Road was identified as an alternative and is within the polling district.

Recommendation

The polling place should be moved from Charlton House to The Church of Ascension on Thorold Road.

District FA in Coxford ward
Zoe Braithwaite Play Centre
Fraser Close
Southampton

Representation of the Returning Officer

Sinclair Primary School was temporarily used in 2014 as a polling place. This was a temporary measure while Zoe Braithwaite Play Centre was closed.

Recommendation

The polling place should revert back to Zoe Braithwaite Play Centre to avoid Sinclair Primary School closing.

District FD in Coxford
Lordshill Community Centre
Andromeda Road
Southampton

Representation of the Returning Officer

The exact location of the Community Centre is being moved to a site very nearby. Site visit will be carried out in January 2015, once works has been carried out, to confirm the Community Centre will be fully accessible.

Recommendation

To continue to use the Community Centre as the polling place but carry out site visit to confirm accessibility.

District GC in Freemantle
Banister School
Archers Road
Southampton

Representation of the Returning Officer

Concerns were raised about parking availability at the school at the elections in 2014. The school has confirmed there will be a solution for parking in future years.

Recommendation

This polling place remains the most appropriate site for the purposes of the review. Continue to use but remind school about parking nearer the election.

District IB in Millbrook ward
Toronto Court (Community Room)
Brendon Green
Southampton

Representation of the Returning Officer

Additional signage is provided to make sure electors are clear on how to get to Toronto Court. The only alternative in the area is to close the school.

Recommendation

The Polling Place remains the most appropriate site for the purposes of the review. Continue to use but monitor situation regularly.

District ID in Millbrook ward
Tanners Brook Junior School
Elmes Drive
Southampton

Representation of the Returning Officer

Submissions to the Consultation were received from both the Head of Governors and Head Teacher of the School. Alternatives were looked at in the polling district. The most suitable alternative was agreed by the panel to be the Scout Hut in Whitehouse Gardens. Moving to the Scout Hut would avoid having to shut the School.

Recommendation

The panel recommends that the Polling Place changes from Tanners Brook School to the Scout Hut in Whitehouse Gardens but that the situation is kept under review.

District LB in Portswood
Colne Avenue Baptist Church Hall
Colne Avenue
Southampton

Representation of the Returning Officer

A query was raised at the panel regarding parking for voters with disabilities and access to the building.

Recommendation

This polling place remains the most appropriate site for the purposes of the review. The panel therefore, recommends that its use continues but will review closer to the elections with a view to providing a sectioned off area for parking for voters with disabilities in order to provide easier access.

District PE
Community Room
Weston Court
Kingsclere Avenue

Representation of the Returning Officer

The Community Room at Weston Court is being refurbished and is unavailable for May 2015. The only alternative within the Polling District is Weston Shore Primary School. There is no alternative in this instance to closing the school

Recommendation

The Polling Place should move from Weston Court to Weston Shore School but keep under review.
