

APPENDIX 2: Review of Polling Districts/Polling Places/Polling Stations

SUMMARY of Responses to Consultation 2014

Polling District/Place	Contributor	Details of Comments	Returning Officer's Response and Recommendation
Beckenham Constituency			
Polling District BC3 – Bromley Education Development Centre	Cllr Alexa Michael	<p>Thank you for your message. I have looked at the website and I agree that the current polling station arrangements in the BC1, BC2, BC4 and BC5 polling districts in Bromley Common & Keston Ward are satisfactory and do not need to be changed.</p> <p>The exception may be the BC3 polling station at the former Bromley Education Development Centre site. With the new development at Trinity Village, BC3 is now a very large polling district in terms of numbers of voters and I agree that the polling place may need to be split into three polling stations in due course in order to cope with the additional voters. It is also crucial that voters have full access to the former Bromley Education Development Centre site when they come to vote, so it is important for Electoral Services to liaise with the head teacher at Princes Plain Primary School to resolve any problems of access prior to polling day. The BC3 polling station needs to be kept under review and any proposed changes reported to Ward Members ahead of the next set of elections.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>	<p>I will keep the number of voters in this polling district, under review .</p> <p>I will make sure that contact is made with the Head teacher at Princes Plain Primary School to ensure that full access is given to voters on polling day.</p> <p align="center">RECOMMEND: No Change</p>
Polling District BC4 – Southborough Primary School	Patrick Foley, Head teacher, Southborough Primary School	<p>I would like to formally request that the council seek alternative polling station premises.</p> <p>In recent years we did try on a number of occasions to keep the school open and locate the polling stations in classrooms. This did not work. It meant certain areas of the school being inaccessible to staff and some parents told us that they were choosing not to send their pupils to school as they felt there children were not safe. The building was accessible to the public and this was far too disruptive for the school. I was very concerned about the security of the school on these days. We were also not able to provide the correct facilities for polling station staff, access to toilets and refreshments, for example.</p> <p>Consequently, for 2014, the school closed to pupils as on this occasion we were able to rearrange an inset day. It was however noticeable that our attendance dropped considerably on the Friday (91.2% attendance) as opposed to 96.5% on the Wednesday.</p>	<p>I have looked into the possibility of using alternative premises and in September 2014 contacted Bromley Youth Music Trust and Southborough Baptist Church in this regard.</p> <p>Bromley Youth Music Trust are not willing to make their premises available for this purpose (see Sue Brown's response below) and to date I have received no response from the Administrator at Southborough Baptist Church.</p> <p>I am not aware of any other suitable alternative premises in this polling</p>

		<p>Both of the above are detrimental to the school's initiatives to improve attendance which is a priority following our last Ofsted report.</p> <p>Additionally, from the schedule of elections it is apparent that the majority of proposed elections are in early May, just before Year 6 SATs tests. It is not an ideal situation for Year 6 to either have to vacate their rooms, or have a day out of school at this stage of the year. Raising levels of achievement is another priority in our school improvement plan.</p> <p>Although we have been able to hold Inset days on elections over the last two years it is not the case that every election in the future will be planned for with sufficient notice for us always to be able to do this. If we do not have sufficient notice we would have to close the school and this would mean that the children would miss a day of their education. Schools can only have five inset days in a year. These are planned for two years in advance. This would have financial implication for the school due to our catering contract that guarantees that we will open for the required number of days and when we are closed we pay for the meals not taken.</p> <p>In the future there may be more than one Election Day a year, this has happened in the past when there has been Local Elections and European Elections on different days and there has also been referenda and general elections on separate dates in the same year. More than one election in a year would be very disruptive of the school and education of the children.</p> <p>I believe that there are a number of alternative options for polling stations in the local vicinity; the BYMT is a building owned by the Borough and additionally there are a number of church halls and I would ask that consideration be given to relocating the polling station in BC4 to allow the school to maximise learning times for our pupils.</p>	<p>district.</p> <p>RECOMMEND: No Change</p>
	<p>Sue Brown, Head of Administration, Bromley Youth Music Trust</p>	<p>Thank you for your enquiry.</p> <p>Unfortunately, this would prove to be a real headache for us as we would have to cancel all the lessons, groups and ensembles that parents have paid a termly fee for. The Centre is used throughout the day by children as young as 3 months upwards (Baby Ukulele) as well as Southborough Primary School pupils having piano / clarinet / brass lessons (charged to parents). After School we have activities throughout the Centre (13 rooms) from 3.30 pm - 9.30 pm and a risk assessment proves that it would be extremely problematic to manage members of the public on the same site at that time.</p> <p>I am sure you can appreciate the safeguarding issues as well as the difficulty that would arise from cancelling lessons and rehearsals already paid for in</p>	<p>See above.</p>

		<p>advance.</p> <p>In fact, the Polling Station was once in the Music Centre but moved to Southborough Primary School for the above reasons, therefore I must admit to being a little surprised to receive your request.</p> <p>I am sorry not to have been more helpful but hope that you can find alternative accommodation.</p> <p>Please get back to us should you wish to discuss this further</p>	
<p>Polling District CC1, Worsley Bridge Community Primary School</p>	<p>Jacky Pike, Head teacher, Worsley Bridge Community Primary School</p>	<p>I would like to bring to your attention again the concerns that my governors and myself have regarding closing the school for the day to allow it to be used for polling.</p> <p>After the last polling day, our attendance dropped to only just over 96%. I am very concerned about the effect this has on children's education and I hope you have been able to find somewhere else for the polling to take place. However, I see from your letter that you want to book the school for the next general election so there appears to be no way this is changing.</p> <p>We have a huge building programme taking place this academic year and there is absolutely no where we could put the polling and it will put even more strain on the school and the building.</p> <p>Next year I cannot close the school using a training day as I have been forced to do in the past, as we are planning on having 4 in the first few days of term to allow for building overrun and for us to be able to get the school pupil ready and to begin without hindrance.</p> <p>Perhaps you would like to visit the school to discuss this further</p> <p>I look forward to hearing from you.</p>	<p>I am aware of the Head teacher's ongoing concerns and have during the last 12 months or so, actively looked into the possibility of finding alternative premises.</p> <p>However, the only alternative building identified in the polling district is at St Paul's Church Hall in Brackley Road, and (following a site visit) this was assessed as unsuitable due to significant issues with parking facilities/restrictions (which would make the polling place less accessible to those who drive and the disabled).</p> <p>As no viable and suitable alternative location has been identified, I am recommending that Worsley Bridge Community Primary School remains the official polling place for this polling district as it is the only suitable site for the purpose of voting.</p> <p>I note that the usual accommodation will not be available in 2015 as a result of planned building works. I will make sure that a visit is made to the school to look at using alternative space in the school to avoid full school closure.</p>

			RECOMMEND: NO CHANGE
<p>Polling District CC2, Bromley Road Primary School</p>	<p>Karen Minnis, Head teacher, Bromley Road Primary School</p>	<p>Thank you your message regarding the Polling District Review 2014, specifically regarding the issues around Bromley Road Infant (now Primary) School.</p> <p>I have read the Returning Officer's comments within the Provisional Recommendations and understand the points raised. My responses are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plans for Bromley Road School to remain open to children on the day of the election were thwarted by the Council's lack of success in finding an alternative Polling Station venue to Worsley Bridge Primary School. You will recall my endeavours to find an alternative venue for my school and our attached Junior School were echoed by both the Head Teacher at Worsley Bridge School and Councillor Wells. • With both schools undergoing a period of transformation 2013-15, we continued to share a high number of families 2013-14. By closing only one school, the attendance rates at BOTH schools would have dramatically reduced. Neither Mrs Pike nor I were prepared to jeopardise our attendance rates for this year - as Councillor Wells know. • Mrs Pike and I are investigating the proportion of shared families across both schools for 2014-15, now that the transformation process to becoming separate entities is well underway. If the rate is low, we will have separate term dates that will reflect the training needs of staff and the local communities we serve. This could mean that Bromley Road would be able to remain open to children during the May 2015 election, regardless of Worsley Bridge School's arrangements. I will report back to you and the Returning Officer after May 2015. • The comments about voters trying to vote at the school made me smile. As in most areas of life, changing a habit does take time - particularly an irregularly occurring activity. My staff reported only a handful of visitors who had not realised there was a change of venue and decided to help by displaying a notice by the pedestrian entry to the school. <p>I note that the Returning Officer comments about the need for more signage at the Pickhurst Academies in order to clarify which polling station voters should use. Confusion seems to be a recurring theme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obviously we do not want to upset voters and make them 'unhappy'. 	<p>Following previous concerns expressed by the Head teacher at Bromley Road Primary School, an alternative building was identified at St George's Church Hall and used at the 2014 election.</p> <p>Although there were a number of reported issues with this building, I am recommending that we use the Church Hall again at the General election in May 2015 and review the situation after this to see if this arrangement should become permanent.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND: CHANGE TO POLLING PLACE to St Georges Church Hall (to be review after the next election)</p>

		<p>Was any explanation offered to them? I would gladly show them the statistics that proves that attendance dip after an election. With the government's great emphasis on attendance and learning, it's a convincing argument.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can't offer any solution for puddles and leaks at St George's Church Hall, except to sympathise, as we've had our fair share in recent years. <p>Please rest assured, I understand and support due democratic process and want the Returning Officer to be assured of that. However, as Head Teacher charged with ensuring the learning, progress and achievement of more than 200 children, I need to effectively respond to situations, events or activities that thwart the learning process. Hosting a Polling Station has an immediate negative impact on school attendance and thus the levels of learning and achievement for the future electorate.</p>	
<p>Polling Districts HA1, HA2 & WW3, Pickhurst Infant School, Victory Social Club & Pickhurst Junior Academy</p>	<p>Cllr Neil Reddin</p>	<p>We ward members for Hayes & Coney Hall have considered the current arrangements and, given the rise in postal voting and the relative turnout figures for each polling district, we would suggest that the polling station at Pickhurst Infant School no longer be used. For those electors currently using this venue the Victory Social Club in Kechill Gardens is equally accessible in terms of distance (even for the furthest flung electors, in Hayesford Park). This would hopefully reduce election costs and negate the need to close a school on polling days.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>If it's not too late ... It has occurred to us that the deletion of Pickhurst Infants may achieve little if West Wickham aren't also going to cease use of Pickhurst Juniors. Therefore, as an alternative, we would suggest deleting Victory Social Club. The users of this polling station will be little inconvenienced, if at all, by switching to Hayes Village Hall.</p>	<p>It would not be practicable to merge these two polling districts into one by sending the electors from polling district HA1 to the adjoining polling district HA2 at the Victory Social Club.</p> <p>The Victory Social Club does not have sufficient space to accommodate an additional polling station and an extra 1,800 electors going into and out of the polling place - the Electoral Commission's guidance advises that the figures which have to be used when establishing the size of polling stations, is the size of the electorate and not the size of voter turnout as we need to assume that everyone may wish to exercise their right to vote)</p> <p>I am recommending that the current arrangements at Pickhurst Infant School and Victory Social Club are satisfactory and no changes to these polling districts are proposed.</p>

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Bromley & Chislehurst Constituency			
Polling District BT2, Christ Church	Debbie Shepherd, Administrator, Church Office	<p>I refer to your letter dated 16th September and wonder if I am too late to request a slight change of venue please. You currently use our Church Halls in Highland Road which are directly opposite the main Church building.</p> <p>The Church Halls are used Thursday mornings & afternoons by our thriving Toddler group and this causes considerable disruption on Polling days. The</p>	<p>I will make sure a visit is made to the Church to establish suitability of this proposed change of building within the polling place.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND:</p>

		<p>Halls are also on a bend on the hill so parking or dropping off is difficult.</p> <p>We would like to request you use the main Church Building. We had an extension built some 10 years ago which would be ideal with large, double doors & downstairs disabled loo. There is a small kitchenette for your staff to make tea/coffee etc. and the building is generally warmer. Access is also much easier with parking and it would mean our Toddlers and evening youth group wouldn't have to move all their equipment for the days concerned.</p> <p>If you could give this your consideration we would be most grateful. Either way, please let me know and in the meantime I note the dates you have provided.</p>	NO CHANGE
Polling District BT6	Cllr Michael Rutherford	<p>Please could the review consider adding a second polling station to district BT6? It is one of the largest polling districts by number of residents in the borough and is quite a way from the Godwin/Gundulph end of the polling district to the current polling station.</p> <p>As Bromley Town councillors, we feel the residents of the area are rather inconvenienced at the moment and could do with having two polling stations.</p>	See below.
Polling District BT6 & BT7	Andrew Lee, Agent, Bromley & Chislehurst Conservatives	<p>Overall the current Polling district divisions are good, closely adhering to the very well defined parts of this 'bits and pieces' ward, where various communities look to Bromley Town itself, but also t Shortlands, Hayes, Bromley Common or Sundridge.</p> <p>However the BT6 Polling district is socially part of Hayes, but the current boundary crosses the Main road at Masons Hill and takes in a number of roads that join Homesdale road and which would consider themselves Bromley. BT6 is currently a Polling District where a substantial number of voters have to cross a very busy physical divide in order to cast their vote.</p> <p>BT7 is well defined, with the northern boundary being Holmesdale Road.</p> <p>Our proposal is that in BT6 the area to the east of the centre of Masons Hill should join BT7, with the new boundary being the Centre of the Main Road, continuing the boundary line used between BT4 & BT5 and that a new Polling Place is found, more central to the new combined district.</p> <p>This would have the effect of having the area to the North of the A21, who naturally look to Bromley, being able to vote without crossing the main arterial road, and the remainder of the old BT6 ward, who naturally consider themselves part of Hayes, continuing to use the existing Polling Place, again without the need to cross the A21.</p>	<p>I agree that the geographical division of Polling Districts BT6 is not ideal with the district taking in a number of roads east of Masons Hill.</p> <p>Whilst I concur that the electors (approximately 1,200) east of the centre of Masons Hill should join BT7 (currently 1,7001), I am concerned that the current Polling Place for BT7 (St Swithun's Church Hall) is located right on the edge of the polling district.</p> <p>Many electors will have to travel a greater distance to the polling place than they do under the current arrangement. This may be inconvenient and/or inaccessible to some electors.</p> <p>A postal vote could be offered to these electors who feel that the venue is inconvenient to attend</p>

		<p>This arrangement would also follow the natural road layout more naturally.</p>	<p>however I believe that this may affect turnout at the next election.</p> <p>Enquiries have been made but I am unable to identify a more centrally located building in the area (which is also able to accommodate a double polling station).</p> <p>If, such a building is identified before the next review, I will reconsider this proposal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND: NO CHANGE (but keep under review)</p>
<p>Polling District CH3, Edgebury Primary School</p>	<p>Janice Box, Head teacher, Edgebury Primary School</p>	<p>I am writing to object to Edgebury Primary School being used as a polling station.</p> <p>Every time there is an election, due to the size of the site being quite large and making it impossible to section off an area for the polling team to use I have to close my school for the day. Therefore I have no option but to use it as one of the designated training days which does not fit in with the schools development cycle.</p> <p>Polling days being held on a Thursday can sometimes mean that some parents also take the Friday off so that they have a long weekend, therefore taking their children out of school unnecessarily.</p> <p>The week polling day falls on every year is the week before the Year 6 government SATs tests when it is imperative for all year 6 children to be in school.</p> <p>I have considered keeping the school open for just this year group however due to the way the school and site are organised it would be a breach of safeguarding.</p> <p>If the council are truly committed to the best education for children they should not be dictating when a school should close and should find an alternative place to have the polling station.</p> <p>Alternatively perhaps if the council could provide some sort of secure cordon to ensure that the public enter through the small gate on Belmont lane and can only go through the front door into the hall I may be able to have some</p>	<p>Since no alternative building in the polling district has been identified, I am happy that we work with the Head teacher to try and find solutions to enable the school to remain open while being used as a polling station on polling day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND: NO CHANGE</p>

		<p>classes still attend school on that day. The council could also provide additional people and barriers during school hours to man the corridors either side of the hall and the path leading from the road to the front door to ensure no one strays into the school grounds or building. I would be happy to discuss any alternative arrangements we could come up with to ensure the least disruption to our children's education.</p>	
<p>Polling District CH4, Chislehurst CE Primary School</p>	<p>Andrew Lee, Agent, Bromley & Chislehurst Conservatives</p>	<p>This Polling District is geographically huge and has high turnouts. In addition the current Polling place is located in a difficult access road and in school premises with highly restricted access, not least for the disabled.</p> <p>We suggest that the option of dividing the CH4 Polling district down the centre of the A208 (Centre Common Road/Royal Parade/St Paul's Cray Road) be looked at and, since the 2007 review basically agreed that the present arrangements were not satisfactory but ordered no change due to lack of suitable premises, we would urge the use of more centrally located modern temporary Polling Stations in locations with better parking and access.</p>	<p>The present polling place is about as centrally located as can be found for this large polling district.</p> <p>There is ample space to accommodate 3 polling stations. It has good facilities for both staff and electors. We received no complaints or comments about accessibility to this polling place at the last election.</p> <p>Temporary polling stations are less convenient and accessible to electors and staff, and extremely expensive (some £3,500).</p> <p>Since no permanent premises have been identified, and the current arrangements work well, I am recommending that the current arrangements remain the same.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND: NO CHANGE</p>
<p>Polling District MO2, Castlecombe Primary School</p>	<p>Roger Ward, Head teacher, Castlecombe Primary School</p>	<p>I am contacting you to see if the change in arrangements that were organised this year at our school were satisfactory to your needs. We would like to continue this arrangement for the General Election next year so that we can keep the school open.</p>	<p>The new arrangements at this year's elections worked well.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND: NO CHANGE (see below)</p>
<p>Polling District MO2 & MO3, Castlecombe Primary School, Mottingham Children & Family Centre</p>	<p>Andrew Lee, Agent, Bromley & Chislehurst Conservatives</p>	<p>The Mottingham Estate is a clearly defined community, with the current division into two polling district artificial.</p> <p>The Polling station for MO2 is in the extreme corner of the Polling district at Castlecombe Primary School (Located in a dead end) whilst the MO3 Polling</p>	<p>Mottingham School is NOT used as the polling place for MO3 - some years ago the polling place was moved to the Mottingham Children & Family Centre.</p>

		<p>station is sited on the opposite edge of the ward at Mottingham School. Our suggestion is that the two districts should be merged into one, with a new polling place being set up at the New Mottingham Community Centre, which is centrally located.</p> <p>This is a modern facility, meeting all the requirements for disabled access and conveniently sited at the heart of the community. This new arrangement would be more convenient for most of MO2, be slightly more central for MO3, remove the need to use two schools and would save on staffing an unnecessary Polling Station. I believe this revision was considered but that the premises were not available due a contract with a group using the facility. I believe that this situation may have changed and that this option should in any case be revisited. St Edwards Church Mottingham, situated just a few yards away and therefore in a similarly advantageous position, is also available for hire.</p> <p>When this was suggested in 2007 and 2011 reviews the only argument for retaining the present arrangement was the size of the new combined district; however in election after election the turnout figures in these two districts is between half to two thirds that of most of the rest of the Borough. This was again the case in the combined poll in May of this year.</p> <p>Given this well established pattern of low turnouts a district of this size would be no more administratively inconvenient than smaller ones with much higher turnouts.</p> <p>The argument against merging these two districts is also undermined by the fact that the Chislehurst CH4 Polling District is, to within a few hundred voters, the same size as our proposed combined district in Mottingham and has a much higher turnout with regular queuing outside the entrance.</p>	<p>Both Castlecombe Primary School and the Mottingham Children & Family Centre are happy with current arrangements, and have confirmed bookings for next year's election.</p> <p>We have received no complaints from any electors about the location and/or accessibility of either polling place.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Electoral Commission's guidance advises that the figures which have to be used when establishing the size of polling districts/number of polling stations, is the size of the electorate and not the size of voter turnout as we need to assume that everyone may wish to exercise their right to vote.</p> <p>The current arrangements have proved to be convenient and accessible to most electors in both polling districts for a number of years. I see no valid reason to change these arrangements, as I do not believe that the suggested proposal would be better and/or increase accessibility for most of the electors.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND: NO CHANGE</p>
Polling District PS2, St Andrews Church Hall	Mrs K Goodwin, Booking Agent, St Andrews Church Hall	<p>I would like to register St Andrew's Church Community Hall, 134B Burnt Ash Lane, Bromley BR1 5AF as a Polling Station.</p> <p>The old hall on the same site has been used for possibly 30 years as a Polling station and a new hall is now being rebuilt. This will be ready for use in January and available for 7th May 2015 Parliamentary Election.</p>	<p>I am happy with the proposed new arrangements.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND: NO CHANGE</p>

		<p>For your information the dimensions of the new building are as follows:- Main Hall is roughly 200 sq m capacity about 135 by 21.6m long overall (including stage) by 9.3 mtrs Under floor heating, stage and semi-sprung wooden floor with badminton court markings Modern fully fitted kitchen with hatches to main hall Small Hall is roughly 63 sq m capacity 50 people 9.3 mtrs by 7.4 mtrs including kitchenette with tea/coffee making facilities Wheelchair accessible toilet with baby changing area and Male and Female toilets</p>	
Lewisham West & Penge Constituency			
Polling District CL2, St Michael's Church Hall	Cllr Sarah Phillips	There was a problem this year at the St Michael's church polling station and we had a number of complaints re the access which were reported to the officer in charge there. It was because the access moved from one road to another due to major building works. The building will be even more different next time.	See below.
	Cllr Ian Dunn	I can certainly confirm there were problems with access at St Michael's Church.	See below
	Cllr Vanessa Allen	<p>The issues with St Michael's were two-fold.</p> <p>The address was given as Birkbeck Road but the access was actually in Ravenscroft Road and it was very poorly signed, we directed quite a number of people during the course of Election Day.</p> <p>The second issue was the access as described by the other Clock House councillors, several steps and no ramp.</p>	<p>I will ensure that suitable ramps and additional signage are provided to enable full access.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND NO CHANGE (but that the official name and address of the polling place be amended to confirm the access arrangements)</p>
Polling District CP4, Anerley Town Hall	Cllr Angela Wilkins	<p>Richard and I have only one concern, and that is in relation to CP4 and the location of the current polling station, which we feel is a long way from the concentration of voters on what is known locally as the South Penge Estate.</p> <p>As I live in CP4, I know only too well that there isn't an alternative building within the polling district, but I would like to request that we consider a mobile unit, for which there would be a number of alternative sites.</p>	<p>Electors in the polling district of CP4 have been voting at Anerley Town Hall, for a number of years.</p> <p>Although it is in the neighbouring polling district of CP3, it is a well-known building, has proved to be capable of accommodating three polling stations, and is convenient and accessible to most electors in both polling districts.</p>

			<p>No complaints have been received about the location of the polling place.</p> <p>As there is no other permanent building in the polling district, the only alternative is a temporary polling station. However, this would cause both more inconvenience to both electors and staff, and at a significant additional cost.</p> <p>I am therefore recommending the retention of the Town Hall as a polling place.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND NO CHANGE</p>
Polling District PE2, Christ Central Church	Peter Heath, on behalf of Christ Central Church	<p>We are currently reviewing the terms, costs and usage of our building as we are experiencing a significant increase in its demand and use. Although we are happy to be of service to the community in this way we would not necessarily be able to commit the use of our premises up to the year 2025 without considering the cost.</p> <p>Please could you confirm the rate that the council is willing to pay for the hire of our downstairs area for May 2015, as this would help us to budget and decide the best use as we plan ahead.</p>	<p>Discussions with Mr Heath are ongoing but are expected to be successfully resolved.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND NO CHANGE</p>
Orpington Constituency			
Polling District BH1, BH2 & BH3	Cllr Julian Benington	<p>I think I can say that the three Polling Stations in Biggin Hill ward, are fine, they include disabled access etc and are located roughly in the middle of the Polling District.</p> <p>The use of the rooms at Oaklands School, as far as I am aware worked well, thus avoiding the problems of school closure for the day.</p>	I am grateful for the Cllr's comments
Polling District BH1, Oaklands Primary School	Miss Becky Sharp, Head teacher, Oaklands Primary School	<p>I'm the head teacher at Oaklands Primary School, Biggin Hill and we have been used as a polling station since I joined 3 years ago. I am happy for it to be used in the same manner as arrangements this year with a few safeguarding changes needed.</p> <p>We used the year 3 huts this year for council elections and this enabled the</p>	I will ensure that we continue to work closely with the Head teacher to try and ensure satisfactory arrangements are put in place so as to avoid the full closure of the school on polling day.

		<p>school to continue operating. The security fencing provided was in no way adequate, can I request that we use the same part of the school but that sturdier security fencing is erected. Is this possible and is this bill paid for by the Council as I don't feel the school budget should be used to ensure the pupils are better protected.</p>	<p>RECOMMEND: NO CHANGE</p>
<p>Polling District CE5, Perry Hall Primary School</p>	<p>Angela Ward, Head teacher, Perry Hall Primary School</p>	<p>I was disappointed to receive your letter detailing unchanged arrangements to use of Perry Hall as a polling station.</p> <p>The Governors of Perry Hall were united in their disapproval of closing the school for elections when there are other properties in the area which could be used as an alternative.</p> <p>I believe that the London Borough of Bexley has a much more flexible approach to elections, using a variety of alternative premises and minimising disruption to children's education.</p> <p>The education of 425 pupils is disrupted when Perry Hall is forced to close for elections. The Council remains stubbornly disinterested in the impact such a closure has on families and children.</p> <p>Your review states that after several site visits and a full assessment, the Hope Church premises were deemed as unsuitable for use as a polling station. The Governors of Perry Hall would be interested to see your report on this premises and the criteria which you used to arrive at such a judgement.</p> <p>The Governors of Perry Hall would also like to review the charges paid to other schools in Bromley. The Governors wish to judge whether the charge of £892.50 claimed by Perry Hall was reasonable and in line with costs paid to other schools in the Borough. Many schools would be interested to review the charges paid to them for use as an electoral polling station. I assume that this information is freely available as you have published the Perry Hall charges on your website.</p>	<p>Full details of the assessment of the suitability of Hope Church were reported to and accepted by the Leader of the Councillor and the Chairman of the General Purposes & Licensing Committee on 24 October 2011.</p> <p>I am recommending that Perry Hall Primary School remain the official polling place for this polling district as it is the only suitable site for the purpose of voting in this polling district.</p> <p>I have dealt with the issue of charges in my Report to the General Purposes & Licensing Committee dated 13 November 2014.</p> <p>RECOMMEND: NO CHANGE</p>
<p>Polling District CE6</p>	<p>Adam Lowing, Head teacher, St Mary Cray Primary School</p>	<p>Happy for us to visit premises to checkout layout and facilities.</p> <p>Suggested alternative premises at Sea Cadet premises</p>	<p>The polling place for CE6, Duke Youth Centre is no longer available and an immediate replacement is necessary.</p> <p>St Mary Cray Primary School has been identified as a viable and suitable replacement.</p> <p>Contact has been made with the</p>

			<p>Head teacher and he is happy for us to check out the layout and facilities.</p> <p>However, he has also suggested the possibility of alternative premises at the nearby Sea Cadet building being used.</p> <p>We have had no success to date in making contact with the Sea Cadets.</p> <p>I am recommending St Mary Cray Primary School as a replacement but I will ensure that continued efforts are made to contact the Sea Cadets to ascertain if the building is viable as a replacement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND: CHANGE TO POLLING PLACE to St Mary Cray Primary School (unless the Sea Cadet Building is more suitable)</p>
<p>Polling District OR2, Hillside Primary School</p>	<p>Vikki Melhuish, Operations Manager, Hillside Primary School</p>	<p>We note that the date booked for next year's General Election falls the week before SATs week.</p> <p>At the moment, our school hall is used as the polling station which means that we have to close the school to pupils.</p> <p>We would really like to keep the disruption to our Year 6 students before their test week to a minimum; obviously closing the school for a day that week is not ideal.</p> <p>I wonder whether you would be able to visit us at a convenient time in order for you to view the site, and assist us in keeping the school open on 7 May. We do have something in mind, but are not sure whether it will meet your requirements.</p>	<p>I will ensure that we work closely with the Operations Manager to try and find solutions to enable the school to remain open while being used as a polling station on polling day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND: NO CHANGE</p>
<p>Polling District OR3, OR4 & OR5, Blenheim Primary School, Methodist Church Hall and Burwood School</p>	<p>Cllr William Huntington-Thresher</p>	<p>A few comments for Orpington Ward. OR3 – Can we consider using the Priory Link Community Hub (part of Priory School) instead of Blenheim School for the polling station and avoid those children losing a day of education?</p>	<p>OR3: Although as a Returning Officer, I have the right by law to use any school as a polling place, I am mindful that more disruption can</p>

		<p>OR5 – with the change of PD boundary Burwood School is now in the PD. However there may be developments with/at Burwood School that may make it difficult to use at some point in the future. I would suggest you consult education colleagues regarding the continuing ability to use the school. It might be good to start discussions to see if the community space planned at Orpington Fire Station (Avalon Rd) would be suitable for a polling station. If a change to Orpington Fire Station does work it might be worth considering the balance between OR3 & OR5 (e.g. Gillmans Rd).</p> <p>OR4 – can I suggest a reorganisation of the polling station so that all residents enter/leave through the normal entrance rather than the fire exit of the hall? When it is wet the entrance gets crowded as people adjust coats and umbrellas on arrival & departure.</p>	<p>be caused in May to Senior schools and the education of the children when pupils are getting ready for/sitting public examinations.</p> <p>I have always tried to limit the use of senior schools in the Borough unless there is no other alternative building in the polling district.</p> <p>In this case, Blenheim primary School has been used for many years . It is accessible to most electors in the polling district and the head teacher is amenable to us booking this venue.</p> <p>I see no valid reason to change the current arrangements.</p> <p>OR4: the main entrance to the polling place faces Sevenoaks Road and is solely for electors using the polling stations.</p> <p>The other entrance to the polling place is through the vestibule which is used by all other visitors to the many halls on site, and indeed at the last election was used for a separate fund raising event on polling day. This entrance is the designated disabled access to the polling place – however it is also used by a number of electors, who are familiar with the building.</p> <p>OR5: The Cllr's comments are noted and I will keep the use of Burwood School as a polling place under review.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND: NO CHANGES</p>
Polling district PW2,	Cllr Simon Fawthrop	As you know we have been concerned about the use of Crofton School for	As mentioned in 2011, Electoral

<p>Crofton Infant School</p>		<p>PW2 polling district. This is a small district with approximately 720 voters and should be able to be accommodated in the Church Hall on Crofton Lane opposite as this is actually closer to the majority of residents.</p> <p>In the recent May elections because the hall used was at the back of the school for those voting late at night the path was in many respects hazardous as there was no lighting between the road and the school hall where people cast their ballots.</p> <p>Whilst we appreciate that this was in an attempt to limit disruption to the school and in that regard was successful, it did create other risks in terms of the lighting.</p> <p>I would urge this to be reconsidered as I really cannot see any reason against using the Church Hall on Crofton Lane and directing PW2 residents to a different side of the room.</p>	<p>Commission guidance is quite clear that no polling place should be shared by two wards because of the risk associated with holding different elections in the same polling place.</p> <p>I am not prepared to take such risks that could interfere with the effective administration and integrity of the poll.</p> <p>Earlier this year, we worked closely with the Executive Head teacher (of both the Infant and Junior School) and following a site visit agreed to use Sparrow Hall in the Junior School for the polling station at the last election so that both schools could remain open on polling day.</p> <p>I received no complaints or comments about either the re-location of this polling station or the lack of lighting to the polling station.</p> <p>I am recommending that the arrangements adopted at the last election are satisfactory and should become permanent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMEND: CHANGE TO POLLING PLACE to Crofton Junior School</p>
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