

03 September 2019

Report of	Assistant Director - Customer	Author	James Bennett 282242
Title	Polling Districts and Polling Places Review		
Wards affected	All Wards		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Local Authorities are required by law to review all polling districts and polling places every five years to ensure suitability. Colchester's previous polling districts and polling places review was completed in 2015, to coincide with the ward boundary changes.
- 1.2 During 2019 a further review of polling districts and polling places was undertaken. Electoral area boundaries remain unchanged and only limited changes to polling places. For the full schedule of proposed polling districts and polling places see Appendix A. The eight proposed changes to polling places are detailed within Appendix B. Responses to the public consultation are detailed in Appendix C.

2. Recommended Decisions

- 2.1 To recommend to Full Council that it approves and adopts Appendix A – Proposed schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 The Polling Districts and Polling Places Review needs to be agreed and approved before the annual register is published on 1 December 2019.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 None. This review is a statutory requirement set out by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, Part 2, Section 17.

5. Background Information

5.1 Electoral procedure uses the following terminology:

- Polling district – the geographical area created by sub-dividing a ward.
- Polling place – a polling place is the area in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer.
- Polling station – the building within the polling place where voting takes place.

5.2 The previous polling districts and polling places review was completed in 2015, to coincide with the ward boundary changes. No electoral area boundaries will be changed in 2019.

5.3 The majority of polling places remain unchanged from the previous review. The limited amendments are detailed below and listed in Appendix B.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

6.1 The recommended schedule ensures, so far as is reasonable and practicable, accessibility for all electors.

7. Strategic Plan References

7.1 The Council's Strategic Plan sets out four themes one of which being: Responsibility – Encouraging everyone to do their bit to making our borough even better

7.2 One of the five priorities under the Responsibility theme is to: 'Promote responsible citizenship by encouraging residents to get involved in their communities and to identify solutions to local issues.'

7.3 The schedule of polling districts and places supports the above by providing robust infrastructure for residents to exercise their democratic rights.

8. Consultation

8.1 A public consultation period was open from Monday 4 March 2019, when the Notice of Polling District and Polling Place Review was published, until Monday 15 April 2019.

8.2 The responses received are reproduced verbatim within Appendix C.

9. Publicity Considerations

9.1 During the period of consultation, maps, current polling districts, elector numbers, and any other relevant information was available for public inspection, along with details listed on the Colchester Borough Council website.

9.2 The electoral areas for Colchester are available to the public.

9.3 The final schedule of polling districts and polling places will be available for public inspection and details listed on the council's website.

10. Financial implications

10.1 There are no financial implications.

11. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

11.1 There are no Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

12. Health and Safety Implications

12.1 Each polling station is assessed for Health and Safety purposes.

13. Risk Management Implications

13.1 There are no risk management implications.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Proposed schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places
- Appendix B – Explanation of changes to Polling Places and Polling Stations
- Appendix C – Responses received during public consultation

Appendix A - Proposed Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places



Proposed Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Appendix A - Proposed Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Changes
Berechurch Ward				
AA Berechurch	Nancy Smith Close	Plum Hall Common Room	1513	None
AB Willows & Monkwick	Willows & Monkwick and Barnhall Polling Districts	Thomas Lord Audley School	1052	Change
AC Mersea Road	St Margaret's Church Hall Stansted Road	St Margaret's Church Hall Stansted Road	2096	None
AD Blackheath	Polling District of Blackheath	Orchard Baptist Church Blackheath	2310	None
EC Cherry Trees	Sexton Close	Cherry Trees Community Hall	512	None
Castle Ward				
AE Jumbo	Quaker Meeting House	Quaker Meeting House	1241	None
AF Castle	Castle Methodist Church	Castle Methodist Church	1702	None
AG Riverside	The Celtic Rose Centre	The Celtic Rose Centre	2214	None
AH Cowdray Avenue	Belle Vue Social Club	Belle Vue Social Club	2469	None
Greenstead Ward				
BH Hawthorn Avenue	Greenstead Community Centre	Greenstead Community Centre	2965	None
BI Avon Way	Forest Road Meeting Hall	Forest Road Meeting Hall	3399	None
BJ Greenstead Road	Polling District Greenstead Road	St John Ambulance HQ	695	None
BM Longridge	Hazelmere Junior School	Hazelmere Junior School	1515	None
Highwoods Ward				
AN East Highwoods	Highwoods	St Johns & Highwoods Community Centre	4135	None
AO West Highwoods	Jack Andrews Drive	The Ark Church, Highwoods	792	None
AP Myland East	Jack Andrews Drive	The Ark Church, Highwoods	2407	None
Lexden & Braiswick Ward				
AQ Trafalgar	Lexden & Braiswick and Prettygate Wards	Praiseway Church Straight Road	598	Change
AS East Lexden	Kingswode Hoe School	Kingswode Hoe School	1639	None
AT Braiswick	Woods Bowling Pavillion	Woods Bowling Pavillion	721	None
EJ Aldham	Polling District of Aldham Village	Aldham Village Hall	388	None
ET Eight Ash Green	Eight Ash Green Village Hall	Eight Ash Green Village Hall	1328	None
EU West Bergholt	Orpen Memorial Hall	Orpen Memorial Hall	2596	None
Marks Tey & Layer Ward				
GA Birch	The Parish of Birch	Birch Memorial Hall	636	None
GB Layer De La Haye	Queen Elizabeth Hall New Cut	Queen Elizabeth Hall Annexe	1460	None
GC Layer Marney	Layer Marney Polling District	Layer Marney Tower	165	None

Appendix A - Proposed Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places

GD Layer Breton	Layer Breton Heath Polling District	St Marys Church, Layer Breton Heath	216	None
GE Messing	The Parish of Messing	Messing Village Hall	238	None
GF Inworth	The Parish of Inworth	Inworth Parish Church	74	None
GG Gt Wigborough	Peldon and the Wigboroughs Polling Districts	Peldon & Wigboroughs Community Hall	171	Change
GH Lt Wigborough	Peldon and the Wigboroughs Polling Districts	Peldon & Wigboroughs Community Hall	26	Change
GI Salcott	The Parish of Salcott	Salcott Old School Hall	168	None
GJ Virley	The Parish of Salcott	Salcott Old School Hall	56	None
GL West Stanway	Marks Tey & Layer Ward	Stanway Village Hall	691	Change
GM Copford	The Parish of Copford	Copford Village Hall	1214	None
GN Easthorpe	The Parish of Easthorpe	Easthorpe Church Hall	142	None
GO Marks Tey	Polling District of Marks Tey	Marks Tey Parish Hall	2080	None
Mersea & Pyefleet Ward				
EO Abberton	Abberton & Langenhoe Polling District	Abberton & Langenhoe Village Hall	355	None
EP East Mersea	The Parish of East Mersea	East Mersea Village Hall	215	None
EQ Fingringhoe	The Parish of Fingringhoe	Fingringhoe Village Hall	660	None
ER Langenhoe	The Parish of Abberton	Abberton & Langenhoe Village Hall	496	None
ES Peldon	Peldon Polling District	Peldon & Wigborough Community Hall	463	Change
EV West Mersea	The Parish of West Mersea	The Mersea Centre	5929	None
Mile End Ward				
AU Bergholt	Mile End Road	Myland Parish Halls	1924	None
AV Mile End Road	Mile End Road	Myland Parish Halls	2667	None
AW Turner Road	Highwoods Country Park	Highwoods Country Park Visitor Centre	3209	None
Newtown & Christ Church Ward				
AI Christchurch	Christ Church	Christ Church Hall	1698	None
AJ Hamilton Road	Hamilton Road Primary School	Hamilton Primary School	2037	None
AX St Johns Green	YMCA Magdalene Street	YMCA Community Hall	3744	None
AZ Canterbury	St Stephens Church Canterbury Road	St Stephens Church Centre	1862	None
Old Heath & Hythe Ward				
AK Scarletts	Winsley Square Polling District	Worsnop House	495	None
AL Barnhall	Abbots Community Hall Ladbroke Drive	Abbots Community Hall	1569	None
AM Old Heath	Old Heath Community Centre D'Arcy Road	Old Heath Community Centre	2299	None
AY Hythe	Hythe Community Centre, Ventura Drive	Hythe Community Centre	2311	None
BA Winsley Square	Worsnop House Old Heath Road	Worsnop House	663	None

Appendix A - Proposed Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places

ED Rowhedge	The Parish of Rowhedge	Rowhedge Village Hall	1514	None
Prettygate Ward				
AR Home Farm	Prettygate Ward	Home Farm School	2051	Change
BB East Prettygate	Plume Avenue United Reform Church	Plume Avenue United Reform Church	2372	None
BC West Prettygate	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	512	None
BD James Carter	Straight Road Community Centre	Straight Road Community Centre	1450	None
Rural North Ward				
EA Dedham	The Parish of Dedham	The Assembly Rooms High Street	1602	None
EB Langham	The Parish of Langham	Langham Community Centre	859	None
EE Boxted	The Parish of Boxted	Boxted Village Hall	1080	None
EF Fordham	The Parish of Fordham	Fordham Village Hall	700	None
EG Great Horkesley	The Parish of Great Horkesley	Great Horkesley New Village Hall	2044	None
EH Little Horkesley	The Parish of Little Horkesley	Little Horkesley Village Hall	161	None
EI Wormingford	The Parish of Wormingford	Wormingford Village Hall	357	None
EK Chappel	The Parish of Chappel & Wakes Colne	Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall	402	None
EL Great Tey	The Parish of Great Tey	Great Tey Village Hall	763	None
EM Mount Bures	The Parish of Mount Bures	Mount Bures Village Hall	188	None
EN Wakes Colne	The Parish of Chappel & Wakes Colne	Chappel & Wakes Colne Village Hall	419	None
Shrub End Ward				
BE Rainsborowe Road	Shrub End Community & Sports Centre	Shrub End Community & Sports Centre	2290	None
BF Shrub End	Shrub End Polling District	Shrub End Social Centre	2854	Change
BG Lordswood Road	The Community Hall (Musket Club)	The Community Hall (Musket Club)	2807	None
St Johns & St Annes Ward				
BK St Annes	St Annes Church Compton Road	St Annes Church	3042	None
BL Churnwood	Oak Tree Community Centre	Oak Tree Community Centre	1069	None
BN Ipswich Road	St Johns Church Community Centre	St Johns Church Community Centre	1498	None
BO Parsons Heath	Friars Grove Primary School	Friars Grove Primary School	2560	None
Stanway Ward				
GP Stanway	Stanway Village Hall	Stanway Village Hall	6668	Change
Tiptree Ward				
GK Tiptree Grove	Tiptree Grove Polling District	Tiptree United Reformed Church	1198	None
GQ Tiptree Church	St Luke's Church	St Luke's Church Extension	1667	None
GR Tiptree Heath	Tiptree Heath Primary School	Tiptree Heath Primary School	2257	None

Appendix A - Proposed Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places

GS Tiptree Maypole	Tiptree Ward	St Luke's Church Extension	2141	Change
Wivenhoe Ward				
EW University	University of Essex	Student Centre University of Essex	1966	None
EX Wivenhoe Cross	Broomgrove School	Broomgrove School	1624	None
EY Wivenhoe Quay	William Loveless Hall	William Loveless Hall	3111	None
EZ Broome Grove	Broomgrove School	Broomgrove School	1134	None

Appendix B - Explanation of Changes to Polling Places and Polling Stations

Polling District	Peldon – ES
Ward	Mersea and Pyefleet
Polling Station	Peldon and Wigboroughs Village Hall, Church Road, Peldon, CO5 7PT
Electorate	463
Background	<p>The recently constructed Peldon and Wigboroughs Community Hall is the most suitable venue.</p> <p>The Community Hall is a combined polling station with two presiding officers (POs). One PO oversees both the Great and Little Wigborough registers, the other PO oversees the Peldon register. Therefore, the one building has electors from two separate Wards. However, it has proved an effective polling station at recent elections.</p>
Polling Place	Peldon polling district.

Polling District	Great Wigborough – GG and Little Wigborough – GH
Ward	Marks Tey & Layer
Polling Station	Peldon and Wigboroughs Village Hall, Church Road, Peldon, CO5 7PT
Electorate	171 and 26
Background	The recently constructed Peldon and Wigboroughs Community Hall is the most suitable venue. Please see above under Peldon ES.
Polling Place	Peldon and the Wigboroughs polling districts.

Polling District	Tiptree Maypole – GS
Ward	Tiptree
Polling Station	St Luke's Church, Church Road, Tiptree, CO5 0SU.
Electorate	2141
Background	St Luke's Church is the most suitable venue, although it is slightly outside of the polling district it is in the same ward. It has proved an effective polling station at recent elections.
Polling Place	Tiptree Ward.

Appendix B - Explanation of Changes to Polling Places and Polling Stations

Polling District	West Stanway – GL
Ward	Marks Tey and Layer
Polling Station	Stanway Village Hall, Village Road, Stanway, CO3 0RH.
Electorate	691
Background	<p>Historically, Copford Village Hall was used as the polling station. However, it is too small to accommodate the growing Stanway population. Stanway Village Hall is slightly outside of the polling district and in a different ward. Nonetheless, it is easily accessible and has proved an effective polling station at recent elections.</p> <p>We are aware of a new community centre being built, once complete we will consider these facilities.</p>
Polling Place	Copford & Stanway polling districts.

Polling District	Shrub End – BF
Ward	Shrub End
Polling Station	Paxman Academy, Paxman Avenue, CO2 9DQ.
Electorate	2854
Background	<p>It is our intention to adopt Paxman Academy as the polling station, when the new school opens in Autumn 2019. Negotiations with the school have opened. As an interim measure and prior to securing space within the new school it is intended to use Shrub End Social Centre as a polling station.</p>
Polling Place	Shrub End polling district.

Appendix B - Explanation of Changes to Polling Places and Polling Stations

Polling District	Trafalgar – AQ
Ward	Lexden & Braiswick
Polling Station	Praiseway 27-31, Straight Road, Lexden, Colchester, CO3 9BY.
Electorate	598
Background	<p>The polling station has been changed to Praiseway Church on Straight Road. Although Praiseway is outside of the polling district and ward it is convenient for the electorate and has proved an adequate polling station.</p> <p>To allow scope to adopt a more suitable polling station if one becomes available, the proposal is to adopt Lexden & Braiswick and Prettygate Wards as the polling place. The team will provide an update to the Government and Audit Committee within six months of this report.</p>
Polling Place	Lexden & Braiswick and Prettygate Wards.

Polling District	Home Farm – AR
Ward	Prettygate
Polling Station	Home Farm Primary School, Shelley Road, CO3 4JL.
Electorate	2051
Background	<p>Home Farm School has been redeveloped and at recent elections we have used temporary structures in school grounds. Home Farm School has assisted Colchester Borough Council in conducting elections and allowed us to move in to the classrooms after school hours.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with the school to reach a long term solution. To allow scope to adopt a more suitable polling station if one becomes available, the proposal is to adopt Prettygate Ward as the polling place. The team will provide an update to the Government and Audit Committee within six months of this report.</p>
Polling Place	Prettygate Ward.

Appendix B - Explanation of Changes to Polling Places and Polling Stations

Polling District	Willows & Monkwick - AB
Ward	Berechurch
Polling Station	Thomas Lord Audley School, Monkwick Avenue, Colchester, CO2 8NJ.
Electorate	1052
Background	<p>At the European Parliamentary Election on 23 May 2019, the Thomas Lord Audley School was unavailable due to exams. As an interim measure, the Abbots Community Hall, Ladbroke Drive, was used as the polling station with no issues.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with Thomas Lord Audley School to reach a long term solution. Following feedback from the Committee we have begun to explore the possibility of using the Ormiston Centre. The Ormiston Centre is adjacent to Thomas Lord Audley and a site visit has been arranged.</p> <p>To allow the use of Abbots Community Hall as a contingency during this interim period, the proposal is to adopt Willows & Monkwick AB and Barnhall AL as the polling place.</p> <p>The team are confident a long term solution for a polling station will be secured within the polling district AB. The team will provide an update to the Government and Audit Committee within six months of this report.</p>
Polling Place	Willows & Monkwick and Barnhall polling districts.

Appendix C - Responses Received in Relation to the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review

The public consultation was open from Monday 4 March 2019, when the Notice of Polling District and Polling Place Review was published, until Monday 15 April 2019. The below comments are reproduced verbatim and were received during the public consultation.

1. Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the Colchester BC Polling Station provisions identified for Parliamentary elections within the Witham constituency.

As Returning Officer, I am content that the locations identified represented proportionate provisions for the conduct of the UKPE in 2015 and 2017 and have no concerns regarding these locations for future Parliamentary elections.

2. I feel the polling district Ab needs looking at as the facilities at Thomas lord audley gym do not suit the needs of handicapped and disabled voters. Also it is open to elements to any winter election, which is possible for general elections or by elections.

What is needed is a portacabin or something near top end of school road . And a rebalance of voters north and south so less to vote in st Margaret's church and more in a portacabin

As far as Shrub end (a piece of my county council division).. Northern section of Shrub end (ie. the abbey view area and Kensington road areas and as residents have a long way to go ,) a polling station is needed in this area. Perhaps the new community centre (old mercury site) next to abbey field surgery would be an option

3. Thank you for sending the attached to consult with the borough councillors on moving voters to another polling station instead of Copford Village Hall.

I am happy for the GL West Stanway residents to use Stanway Village Hall.

Regarding polling districts a few changes in Old Heath and the Hythe I would recommend are;

Merge BA and AK as one as they use the same polling station. Move voters who live from 50-66 Port Lane and those on Rec rd to vote at Worsnop House rather than the Hythe CC Voters in Speedwell, Fingringhoe and Rowhedge Rd need a polling station that is closer. Some have a mile walk to the polling station. There is a church on Fingringhoe rd that could be used.

4. No problem for the Stanway Ward, which has one Polling Station - the Village Hall. West Stanway (as part of the Marks Tey/Layer Ward) remains of concern to me. It did have a Polling Station St Albrights Church. Currently it is in Copford and some need to travel nearly two miles. I think when the new Community Centre is built it should be considered as a Polling Station for West Stanway.

The only proposal I can see there which affects Stanway is the mooted idea of moving the Copford Village Hall polling station to Stanway. However, it does not seem to contain any firm proposals.

I would suggest, that if it were an agenda item, the only comment we could/would make is that we would be generally supporting of moving the polling station for West Stanway into a convenient place in the Parish if a location could be found.

Appendix C - Responses Received in Relation to the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review

5. As discussed I find the BF polling station at SE Community Centre unsatisfactory ... a number of residents from the estate have failed to vote owing to these changes . It was far better when it was in the heart of the community and easily accessible on foot for many . Car parking is minimal at this venue.

The new school is opening soon and I would like to ask that they be approached and we revert to using the local school as a polling station.

6. I know I am late to the consultatuion but i would like to ask if there can be a new polling station to serve the people in the new estates in Mile End. Chesterwell is already into phase 2, Forest View is over 50 % completed and Kingsway Heath will come on stream very soon.. There is already a significant development called Rosewood which is off Via Urbis Romane which I believe is in Mile End and not Highwoods.

To stop potential voter apathy amongst these residents I suggest that if it is possible we could use Camulous Academy school until the new community centres arrive in a few years time in Chesterwell and Severalls estates. Alternatively I suggest we look at Mile End Methodist church hall which is much closer to the new estates than St John's church hall for these residents. Parking can be on Fords Lane or on Boxted road or Wildeve Avenue.. The church building is fully disabled friendly with a ramp available and a disabled toilet.

There is a pre-school there on Thursday mornings but they do not use the church part of the building for this.

I must declare an interest in this church as I am a regular attendee but i am not a member so have no financial involvement with the church.

7. Happy with the situation in Aldham so approve of current station remaining as it is.
8. I wish to complain about Broomgrove school in Wivehoe, being used as a polling station again on the 23rd may.

Wivehoe has two schools and multiple community centers that could be used instead of it always being at Broomgrove. Finding childcare at short notice as a single working mum is hard work and costly.

I am also frustrated at the double standard applied to children's education. If I were to not send my child to school for a day I would need a good reason and the child penalised, by not receiving prizes for attendance etc but we all have to keep our children home on random days you decide.

If there were no alternatives I would understand but given that there are two schools it could alternate between and several community centers (William loveless and the scout hall to name but two) all of whom should be able to offer disabled access and appropriate facilities. If you must use Broomgrove can it not be kept to the after school Bungalow.