

# POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW

*Reporting Officers: Head of Democratic Services and Electoral Services Manager*

## SUMMARY

1. At the Council meeting in November 2024, polling places for 2025 onwards were approved following the latest regular review aimed at ensuring:
  - a) all the electors in the borough have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and
  - b) so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places are accessible to all electors, including those with disabilities.
2. As well as approving the polling arrangements within the Borough, Council also instructed the Returning Officer to seek the use of alternative venues, where possible to school buildings in a number of Wards.
3. This report seeks to inform Council of the subsequent changes in polling places following that further exercise. Although the polling places are for parliamentary elections they will, of course, be used at all elections where possible and, most notably at the local elections in May 2026.

**RECOMMENDATION: That the changes to polling places, as set out on the attached list, be approved.**

## INFORMATION

### DEFINITION OF TERMS

4. To ensure clarity in discussing issues arising from the review the following definitions are used:
  - **polling district;** a geographical sub-division of an electoral area i.e. a UK parliamentary constituency, a European parliamentary electoral region, a ward or an electoral division.
  - **polling place;** a geographical area in which a polling station is located. However, as there is no legal definition of what a polling place is, the geographical area could be defined as tightly as a particular building or as widely as the entire polling district.
  - **polling station;** the actual area where the process of voting takes place, which must be located within the polling place designated for the particular polling district.

### REVIEW PROCESS

5. The final stage of the polling places review conducted last year, was for Council to consider all the proposals and then publish the results of the review. This was done at the November 2024 Council meeting subject to the Returning Officer being asked to seek alternative venues for a number of schools across the Borough as this was a recurring theme of the responses received in the review.

6. The following list shows the results of that exercise and is for Member approval. The net result is that the number of schools to be used as polling stations in 2026 has reduced from 11 to 4.
7. Completion of this review does not preclude a further review of polling places should circumstances change e.g. a better venue becomes available or an existing polling place is no longer available.

Ward	Proposed Polling Station	Note:
<b>Belmore</b>	Grange Park Infant School, Lansbury Drive, Hayes.	<i>Retain school as no suitable alternative available. School content with arrangements</i>
<b>Charville</b>	Hayes End Scout Hut, Len Taylor Close, Hayes.	<i>Additional Polling Station in Charville (as requested by Council) as library overloaded</i>
<b>Hayes Town</b>	Botwell Parish Social Centre, Botwell Lane, Hayes.	<i>To replace Botwell House RC School, Botwell Lane, Hayes.</i>
<b>West Drayton</b>	Yiewsley & West Drayton Community Centre, Harmondsworth Road, West Drayton.	<i>To replace West Drayton Academy, Kingston Lane, West Drayton.</i>
<b>Wood End</b>	Hayes End Community Centre, 70a Kingsway, Botwell.	<i>To replace Wood End Park School, Judge Heath Lane, Hayes.</i>
	Minet Junior School, Avondale Drive, Hayes.	<i>Retain school as no suitable alternative available. School content with arrangements</i>
<b>Yeading</b>	Brookside School, Perth Avenue, Hayes.	<i>Retain school as no suitable alternative available. School content with arrangements</i>
<b>Eastcote</b>	The Tudor Club, 461 Field End Road, Ruislip.	<i>To replace Newnham Primary School, Newnham Avenue, Ruislip.</i>
<b>Northwood Hills</b>	The Central Middlesex Skills Centre, Wiltshire Lane, Northwood.	<i>To replace Haydon School, Wiltshire Lane, Northwood Hills.</i>
<b>Colham &amp; Cowley</b>	Sir Alec Rose Hall, Moorfield Road, Cowley.	<i>To replace Cowley Bowls Club, which was being used as a temporary solution</i>
<b>Hillingdon East</b>	Oak Farm Library, Sutton Court Road Hillingdon.	<i>To replace Ryefield Nursery School, Ryefield Avenue, Hillingdon.</i>
<b>Ruislip Manor</b>	Ruislip Rugby Club, West End Road, Ruislip.	<i>To replace Sacred Heart RC School, Herlwyn Avenue, Ruislip.</i>
<b>Yiewsley</b>	Yiewsley Scout Group, High Street, Yiewsley.	<i>To replace Yiewsley Library, 176 High Street, Yiewsley, UB7 7BE (will be unavailable in May '26)</i>

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The costs of the public consultation were met from existing budgets. The cost of running elections are met by the body overseeing the poll and it is only for local elections where this cost is met by the authority.

9. Naturally, venues used as polling places are entitled to make an appropriate charge and, although this is a consideration, it should not be the overriding factor when Council is selecting the number of and suitable locations.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. The Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2013, places a duty on all local authorities to review all parliamentary polling districts and polling places every five years. Amendments to polling places for other elections is the responsibility of the Returning Officer.

## **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

11. In accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty, the proposals of the review have been assessed with regard to any potential adverse impact on groups with protected characteristics. It is not considered that there is any significant adverse effect arising from these recommendations.

## **EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES**

12. The review was based on the number of electors on the current register of electors and the current warding arrangements. The aim of the exercise was to make voting convenient to electors, providing places that are well located within communities, avoiding road safety hazards and using any existing boundaries.
13. The borough currently has 59 polling districts. Each polling district should serve approximately equal numbers of electors and polling locations should be 'logical' i.e. electors should not have to travel past another polling place to get to their own and none should be shared by different wards.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

## Appendix A – Warding Arrangements from May 2022

