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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

General Purposes Committee

Date: Monday, 27th November, 2023

Time: 6.30 pm

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Contact: Tim Row - Principal Committee Officer

Email: committeesection@southend.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 3 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 9 February 2023 (Pages 3 - 4)**
- 4 Freedom of the City Nomination (Pages 5 - 8)**
Report of Executive Director (Strategy and Change)
- 5 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places - Polling Stations (Pages 9 - 32)**
Report of Executive Director (Strategy and Change)
- 6 Exclusion of the Public**

To agree that, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the item of business set out below on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
- 7 Honorary Alderman Nominations (Pages 33 - 42)**
Report of Executive Director (Strategy and Change)

TO: The Chair & Members of General Purposes Committee:

Cllr D Jones (Chair), Cllr C Campbell (Vice-Chair), Cllr J Courtenay, Cllr G Leroy, Cllr A Line, Cllr R McMullan, Cllr K Murphy, Cllr D Nelson and Cllr M O'Connor

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of General Purposes Committee

Date: Thursday, 9th February, 2023
Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

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Present: Councillor A Line (Chair)
Councillors A Jones (Vice-Chair), J Courtenay, T Cox, M Dent,
K Evans, D Jarvis and M Kelly

*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

In Attendance: Councillors
R Harris

Start/End Time: 6.30 - 7.30 pm

676 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Thompson (no substitute).

677 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

678 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 5 October 2022

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 5 October 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

679 Review of the Constitution

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Strategy, Change and Governance) presenting the revised Council Procedure Rules and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules for adoption by Council.

The Rules had been reviewed following consultation with the political groups on the Council and the non-aligned Councillors and in the light of the feedback from the Informal meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 16th January 2023. The report also presented the terms of reference for the Independent Remuneration Panel and dealt with the appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officers.

Resolved:

1. That the revised Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and Council Procedure Rules (Appendices A and B to the submitted report), be adopted for implementation at the beginning of the Municipal Year 2023/24

2. That the Terms of Reference for the Independent Remuneration Panel (Appendix C to the report), be approved.

3. That the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) be authorised to appoint Deputy Electoral Registration Officers to carry out his powers and duties either in full or part in accordance with section 52(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

4. That the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly (to include the transfer of the relevant provisions in the existing Council Procedure Rules to other parts of the Constitution as appropriate).

680 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the item of business set out below, on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

681 Freedom of the City Nomination

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director (Strategy, Change and Governance) relating to a nomination received from a member of the public, supported by the Group Leaders, to confer the Freedom of the City of Southend-on-Sea to Mr David Stanley BEM who has rendered eminent service to the City.

The Committee also considered a nomination to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Mr Andrew Moring who had served for at least 15 years and who had rendered eminent services to the Council.

Resolved:

1. That, pursuant to Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council be recommended to confer the title of Honorary Alderman Mr Andrew Moring. Further that a Special Council meeting be convened at a date to be determined, to confer the honour and present the Honorary Alderman badge.

2. That pursuant to Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council be recommended to confer the Freedom of the City of Southend-on-Sea on Mr David Stanley BEM in recognition of the eminent and outstanding service he has rendered to the City of Southend-on-Sea. Further that a Special meeting of the Council be convened at a date to be determined, to confer the honour and to present the ceremonial scroll.

Chairman: _____

Meeting: General Purposes Committee
Date: 27th November 2023
Classification: Part 1
Key Decision: No
Title of Report: Freedom of the City – Kevin Andrew Maher

Executive Director: Claire Shuter – (Executive Director of Strategy and Change)
Report Author: Robert Harris – Principal Democratic Services Officer
Executive Councillor: Councillor Cox (Leader of the Council)

1. Executive Summary

For the General Purposes Committee to consider a proposal by Anna Firth MP, supported by the Group Leaders, to confer the Freedom of the City of Southend-on-Sea on Mr Kevin Andrew Maher.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That, pursuant to Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council be recommended to confer the Freedom of the City of Southend-on-Sea on Mr Kevin Andrew Maher in recognition of the eminent and outstanding services he has rendered to the City and Southend United Football Club.

2.2 That Kevin Andrew Maher be presented with a ceremonial scroll at a Special Council meeting to be arranged.

3. Background

3.1 S.249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council the power to confer the title of Honorary Freeman on a person of distinction and a person who in the opinion of the local authority has rendered eminent services to the City. A special Council meeting must be convened for this purpose and the resolution passed by not less two thirds of the Council voting on it.

3.2 Mr Maher has been associated with Southend United Football club since 1998 when he joined Southend United from Tottenham Hotspur and quickly made his mark, making 18 appearances during his first season.

- 3.3 During his ten years as a Southend player Mr Maher made over 420 appearances for the club and captained Southend to promotion twice, from League Two to the Championship, in successive seasons.
- 3.4 Following a 22-year playing career, which included 585 first team appearances, Mr Maher became a coach and in October 2015 he returned to Southend in a coaching capacity, assisting the under 21s and youth teams at the club and at the end of November 2015, he was appointed the U21s manager of the club. After a short absence, he returned to Southend in October 2021 as Head Coach. Since that time, he came close to the promotion play-offs twice. The team would also be towards the top of the National League, if it were not for the current 10 point deduction due to circumstances out of Mr Maher's control.
- 3.5 In early 2023, with the club facing considerable difficulties off the field (non-payment of staff and players) he had a run of 5 wins from 6 matches and was awarded National League Manager of the Month in February 2023.
- 3.6 During a recent period at the Boots and Laces training ground the team were without running water or a working toilet, Mr Maher used his own money to hire more appropriate, hygienic premises.
- 3.7 In summary, Anna Firth MP considers that Mr Maher's commitment to the club and the City has gone far above and beyond that of what one could reasonably accept from a normal coach and believes to confer the honour of Freedom of the City would be an appropriate reward for a man who has given so much to Southend.

4. Reasons for Decision

- 4.1. To make a recommendation to Council to confer the Freedom of the City of Southend-on-Sea on Mr Kevin Andrew Maher.

5. Other Options

- 5.1. None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The Council has the power under Section 249(9) of the Local Government Act 1972 to spend a reasonable sum as thought fit for the purpose of conferring the honour of Freedom of the City.
- 6.2. It is proposed to present a ceremonial scroll to Mr Maher, with the costs to be met from existing budget provision.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. As set out in the report.

8. Policy Context

8.1 None

9. Carbon Impact

9.1. None

10. Equalities

10.1. None

11. Consultation

11.1. Group Leaders

12. Report Authorisation

This report has been approved for publication by:		
	Name:	Date:
S151 Officer	Joe Chesterton	14 th November 2023
Monitoring Officer	Kim Sawyer	15 th November 2023
Executive Director(s)	Claire Shuter	14 th November 2023
Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Cox	17 th November 2023

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Meeting: General Purposes Committee
Date: 27 November 2023
Classification: Part 1
Key Decision: N/A
Title of Report: **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places/Polling Stations**

Executive Director: Claire Shuter (Executive Director of Strategy and Change)
Report Author: Colin Gamble (Head of Democratic and Electoral Services)
Executive Councillor: Councillor Moyies (Cabinet Member for Public Health, Adult Social Care and Constitutional Affairs)

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The Representation of the People Act 1983 ('1983 Act') places a duty on the Council to divide the City into polling districts and designate polling places for the districts. The Council has a duty to keep these polling arrangements under review.
- 1.2. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a number of changes to the 1983 Act in respect of the way reviews must be undertaken. Under the 2006 Act, the Council is required to undertake a review of polling districts and polling places/stations within their area on a four yearly cycle. The last general review in Southend was completed on 9th January 2019.
- 1.3. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of the statutory reviews. The next compulsory review has to take place within a 16 month period between 1st October 2023 and 31st January 2025.
- 1.4. This report sets out the results of the consultation regarding the polling districts and polling places that fall within the City and the recommendations of the Returning Officer in respect of the responses received.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **That that the recommendations of the Returning Officer in Appendix 2 to this report be endorsed and the current polling districts and polling places/stations remain unchanged pending the completion of the ward boundary review.**

3. Background

- 3.1. **A polling district** is a geographical area created by the sub-division of a constituency into smaller parts. For voting purposes, each parliamentary constituency and every local government ward is divided into one or more polling districts. The polling districts for the City elections mirror those for the parliamentary elections.
- 3.2. The review can only address issues within the current ward structure of the City. It cannot make changes to the ward (or City) boundaries. There are some areas where moving a ward boundary might resolve an anomaly concerning the allocation of voters to polling stations, but this cannot be achieved as part of the review.
- 3.3. **A polling place** is an area within a polling district in which a polling station is located. There is no legal definition of a polling place which could be as large as a polling district or as small as a particular building. The Electoral Commission is aware that some authorities designate the entire polling district as the polling place. However, Section 18 of the 1983 Act states that 'the polling place must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of a district how they will be able to reach the polling station'. The Commission therefore recommends that the polling place should always be defined. It was agreed at the meeting of the General Purposes Committee on 16th November 2011 that a polling place be defined as the building (including the surrounding grounds) within which the voting may take place.
- 3.4. **A polling station** is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place. Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are determined by the Returning Officer for the election.
- 3.5. The aims of the review were to seek to ensure that:
- all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
 - as far as is practicable, every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled.
 - the polling place(s) for a polling district is within the area of the polling district unless special circumstances make it desirable for the polling place to be outside the polling district area (i.e. because suitable alternative buildings are not available in the area).
- 3.6. In an ideal world, the Returning Officer would have the choice of a range of fully accessible buildings, conveniently located for the electors. The Electoral Commission recognises that, in practice, this is not the case and there may actually be little choice available. Where it is necessary to use a polling place where the access is not ideal, the Commission expects the Council to make reasonable adjustments to provide access to all electors.
- 3.7. The Commission also recognises that in reality the choice of polling place will often be the balance between the quality (access, facilities etc) of a

building and the distance between the residents and that building compared to other options for polling places.

- 3.8 The law makes provision for the Returning Officer to use schools (including academies) free of charge for the purposes of an election, subject to covering certain costs including heating, lighting and caretaking charges. Returning Officers do use schools because they are well known venues within the community and can be provided at less cost to the public purse. In the City, the use of the smaller schools are generally avoided where possible as this could result in the closure of a school or part of a school on polling day. However, it must be emphasised that there are areas in the City where there are no suitable alternatives available.
- 3.9 The use of portable buildings as polling stations are also avoided where possible, primarily because of the additional costs to the public purse that arise from the hire, delivery, siting, setting up and equipping of a portable unit. The number of suppliers in this region have reduced, putting pressures on the availability of suitable units. This form of accommodation is less than satisfactory in comparison with most of the buildings used as polling stations and problems are often experienced with the use of portable buildings at election time, such as:
- limited in size and location;
 - difficult to site in certain locations;
 - limited facilities for polling staff;
 - suitability in cold/wet/inclement weather;
 - poor public perception;
 - power supply limitations;
 - prone to vandalism
- 3.10 The Electoral Commission recommends that there should be a minimum of one polling station for every 2,250 electors voting in person. This is lower than the level set out in previous guidance, but has been set to reflect the additional requirements of the polling station process, both for polling station staff and electors as a result of changes made by the Elections Act 2022, particularly in relation to voter ID. Generally, where elector numbers are of concern and exceed the recommended threshold, the best solution is the addition of a further polling station within the same polling place. In the case of the last election, 17 out of the 66 buildings used were double polling stations.

The Review Process

- 3.11 In undertaking the review, local authorities are required to:
- Publish a notice of holding a review.
 - Seek representations from such persons that it thinks have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons with any type of disability.
 - Consider the proposals of the Returning Officer.

- On completion of the review, complete and adopt revised arrangements, which must be published.
- 3.12 The formal consultation on existing polling districts and polling places/stations (Appendix 1) commenced on 2nd October 2023 upon the publication of a notice seeking comments by 30th October. Details of the review were publicised through the Council’s website (via the “Your Say Southend” consultation portal) and a public notice in the local the press and comments were sought from the local Members of Parliament, Southend Councillors and a number of other individuals/organisations.
- 3.13 Only two representations were received in response to the consultation exercise. A copy of the Returning Officer’s responses to these suggestions are attached at [Appendix 2](#) to this report. A map and photographs (taken from Google Street view) showing the suggested changes is attached at [Appendix 3](#) to this report. These are in relation to the location of the portable polling station for polling district WHZ within Chalkwell Ward and the relocation of the polling place/station for polling district WV within Blenheim Park Ward.
- 3.14 Councillors are asked to be mindful that over the years, much work has been undertaken to ensure that the polling arrangements are convenient to electors across the City. There have been a number of improvements made to polling districts and places/stations following the previous reviews in 2014 and 2019. Any amendments recommended following these reviews have been implemented. After each election, observations received from the Returning Officer, polling station inspectors and presiding officers are considered and used to implement any necessary changes. This feedback has helped to highlight premises where additional measures are required from the simple provision of more direction signage to the installation of ramps, or even a change in a polling place. An access survey was undertaken in respect of all of the buildings used as polling stations as part of the last review and prior to the last election. The findings have resulted in some accessibility improvements to a number of the buildings.
- 3.15 In January 2024, the Council will begin the ward boundary review as required by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. As a consequence of the review, the Council will need to carry out a full review of the polling districts and the location of polling places/stations to serve each polling district. This exercise will commence following the publication of the Commission’s final recommendations in July 2025. In the light of this the Commission has recommended that a light touch approach be taken in respect of the current polling review.

4. Other Options

- 4.1. A number of alternative premises have been considered for use as polling stations and recommendations made accordingly where it is felt that an alternative would provide better voting arrangements or the premises concerned would improve accessibility.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. There is no separate budget provision for the costs of carrying out the review. These have been met from existing budgets.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1. These are addressed in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.3 of the report.

7. Policy Context

- 8.1 This supports the Council's Vision in becoming an excellent and high performing organisation.

8. Carbon Impact

- 8.1. The location of polling stations closer to residential properties can help to reduce car journeys.

9. Equalities

- 9.1. Local authorities have a duty to review the accessibility of all polling places to disabled voters and ensure that every polling place, and prospective polling place, for which it is responsible is accessible to disabled voters 'so far as is reasonable and practicable'.

- 9.2. In preparation for the City Council elections in 2023, all the polling stations were assessed against an accessibility checklist provided by the Electoral Commission and a risk assessment was undertaken. As a result of this exercise a number of accessibility adjustments were made to the polling stations.

- 9.3 All polling staff receive equalities training as part of the mandatory staff training for each election.

10. Consultation

- 10.1 This is set out in paragraphs 3.11 to 3.14 of this report.

11. Appendices

Appendix 1: Existing polling districts and polling places/stations

Appendix 2: Report of Returning Officer in respect of suggestions

Appendix 3: Plans of polling districts and photographs of suggested locations

Report Authorisation:

This report has been approved for publication by:		
	Name:	Date:
S151 Officer	Joe Chesterton	14 November 2023
Monitoring Officer	Kim Sawyer	13 November 2023
Executive Director(s)	Claire Shuter	14 November 2023
Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Moyies	17 th November 2023

Southend on Sea City Council

Electoral Administration and Registration Act 2013
Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places/Stations 2023

Ward	Polling District	Polling Place (this is taken from polling stations 2023)	Elector Count	No. of Postal Votes	Net No. of Voters
Belfairs	WCZ-1	Booth 1, John Wesley Hall, Belfairs Methodist Church, Eastwood Road North, SS9 4NG	1,591	269	1,322
Belfairs	WCZ-2	Booth 2, John Wesley Hall, Belfairs Methodist Church, Eastwood Road North, SS9 4NG	1,222	229	993
Belfairs	WDZ-1	Booth 1, St. Aidans Church Hall, The Fairway, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 4QW	1,548	319	1,229
Belfairs	WDZ-2	Booth 2, St. Aidans Church Hall, The Fairway, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 4QW	1,184	249	935
Belfairs	WW	Portable Polling Station, Bonchurch Park, Manchester Drive, SS9 3ES	603	96	507
Belfairs	WZ	The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Throne of Grace, 39 Elmsleigh Drive, SS9 3DW	1,150	204	946
Blenheim	WT	Chalkwell Park Methodist Church Hall, Eastwood Lane South, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9XF	1,765	288	1,477
Blenheim	WU	Darlinghurst Primary School, Pavilion Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3JS	1,617	257	1,360
Blenheim	WV	St James the Great Church, Elmsleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3DP	1,491	256	1,235
Blenheim	WX	Blenheim Children`s Centre, Willow Room, Blenheim Chase, SS9 4HX	1,026	205	821
Blenheim	WY	Saint Cedds Church, Bridgwater Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 0DS	2,050	255	1,795
Chalkwell	WEZ	Booth 1, St. Saviours Church, Chadwick Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 8LL	1,869	263	1,606
Chalkwell	WFZ	Booth 2, St. Saviours Church, Chadwick Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 8LL	1,143	205	938
Chalkwell	WGZ	St Michaels Room, Church Centre, Rear of St Michaels Church Hall, Leigh Road, SS9 1LF	2,314	385	1,929
Chalkwell	WHZ	Portable Polling Station - Chalkwell Esplanade, Western Extremity Chalkwell Esplanade Car Park, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 8JJ	1,553	273	1,280
Eastwood Park	WA	St. David`s Church Hall, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, SS9 5PT	1,618	327	1,291
Eastwood Park	WB	Eastwood Baptist Church, Nobles Green Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 5PY	1,675	360	1,315
Eastwood Park	WC	Booth 1, Studio Theatre, Eastwood Academy, Rayleigh Road, SS9 5UU	1,647	308	1,339
Eastwood Park	WD	Saloon Bar, The Oakwood Public House, 564 Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, SS9 5HX	2,377	478	1,899
Kursaal	EO	Centre Place Community Centre, 15 Prospect Close, Essex, SS1 6XY	1,718	217	1,501
Kursaal	EP	Booth 1, Southend Adult Community College (Room 7), Ambleside Drive, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2UP	1,050	129	921
Kursaal	EQ	Booth 2, Southend Adult Community College (Room 7), Ambleside Drive, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2UP	1,517	147	1,370

Kursaal	ER	Sacred Heart Church Hall, 418 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2QB	1,612	208	1,404
Kursaal	ES	Belle Vue Baptist Church, Belle Vue Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2QZ	1,431	152	1,279
Leigh	WJZ	The Stables, Leigh Road Baptist Church, Chalkwell Park Drive, SS9 1LX	2,234	398	1,836
Leigh	WKZ	Booth 1, Leigh Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SJ	1,504	249	1,255
Leigh	WLZ	The Fishermen's Chapel, New Road, SS9 2EA	353	58	295
Leigh	WMZ	Booth 2, Leigh Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SJ	1,978	278	1,700
Leigh	WNZ	Glendale Room, West Leigh Baptist Church, 1150 London Road, SS9 2AJ	1,196	158	1,038
Milton	ELZ	St. Johns Church, Church Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2AL	771	68	703
Milton	ET	Salvation Army Hall, Clarence Road/Clarence Street, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 1BD	1,066	118	948
Milton	EU	Booth 1, Room at Rear of Avenue Baptist Church, Milton Road, Southend-on-Sea (Access from Car Park), SS0 7PL	1,522	274	1,248
Milton	EV	Trinity Methodist Church, Argyll Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 7HL	970	172	798
Milton	EW	Booth 2, Room at Rear of Avenue Baptist Church, Milton Road, Southend-on-Sea (Access from Car Park), SS0 7PL	1,203	157	1,046
Milton	EX	St Marks Church Hall, Princes Street, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 1QA	1,925	222	1,703
Prittlewell	WK	The Bridgwater Drive Church, (United Reformed Church), Junction of Bridgwater Drive & Cockethurst Close, SS0 0DS	1,648	297	1,351
Prittlewell	WL	Booth 1, Earls Hall Primary School, (Colemans Avenue Entrance), Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 0QH	1,305	224	1,081
Prittlewell	WM	Earls Hall Baptist Church, Holeythick Lane, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 0RJ	1,669	304	1,365
Prittlewell	WN-1	Booth 2, The Westborough School, Macdonald Avenue, SS0 9BS	863	118	745
Prittlewell	WN-2	The Guild Hall, Hill Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6JT	899	90	809
Prittlewell	WO	Booth 2, Earls Hall Primary School, (Colemans Avenue Entrance), Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 0QH	1,214	216	998
Shoeburyness	EA-1	St. Peters Church, Small Hall, Hinguar Street, SS3 9AN	1,773	267	1,506
Shoeburyness	EA-2	Hinguar School, New Garrison Road, Shoeburyness, SS3 9FE	849	199	650
Shoeburyness	EB-1	Booth 1, Friars Baptist Church, Eagle Way, Shoeburyness, SS3 9RJ	973	118	855
Shoeburyness	EB-2	Booth 2, Friars Baptist Church, Eagle Way, Shoeburyness, SS3 9RJ	1,210	178	1,032
Shoeburyness	EC	Salvation Army Hall, Frobisher Way, Shoeburyness, SS3 8UT	2,341	331	2,010
Shoeburyness	ED	Sandpiper Pre-school, Sandpiper Close/Kingfisher Close, Shoeburyness, SS3 9YB	1,272	151	1,121

Southchurch	EHZ	Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, Old School House, 62 Southchurch Boulevard, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 4XA	2,519	528	1,991
Southchurch	EJZ	Hamstel Children & Family Centre, Hamstel Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 4PQ	2,200	218	1,982
Southchurch	EKZ	Bournes Green Junior School, Entrance via Ladram Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 3PX	2,533	647	1,886
St Luke's	ECZ	Booth 2, St. Mellitus Centre, Oakhurst Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5DT	1,455	212	1,243
St Luke's	EDZ	St Edmunds Community Centre, St Edmunds Close, SS2 4AS	2,187	269	1,918
St Luke's	EEZ	Booth 1, Ferndale Baptist Church, Ferndale Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5HU	2,114	308	1,806
St Luke's	EFZ	Booth 2, Ferndale Baptist Church, Ferndale Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5HU	1,928	339	1,589
St Laurence	WE	Eastwood Community Centre, Western Approaches, SS2 6XY	1,720	285	1,435
St Laurence	WF	St Stephens Church, 90 Alton Gardens, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6QZ	1,506	237	1,269
St Laurence	WG	Ekco Social & Sports Club, Thornford Gardens, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6PU	1,957	350	1,607
St Laurence	WH	Prince Avenue Academy, Hornby Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 0LG	1,470	240	1,230
St Laurence	WJ	Booth 2, Studio Theatre, Eastwood Academy, Rayleigh Road, SS9 5UU	1,104	249	855
Thorpe	EJ	Booth 1, Thorpe Bay Methodist Church, Johnstone Road/The Broadway, Thorpe Bay, SS1 3HQ	1,458	371	1,087
Thorpe	EK	Booth 2, Thorpe Bay Methodist Church, Johnstone Road/The Broadway, Thorpe Bay, SS1 3HQ	1,095	282	813
Thorpe	EL	Christ Church, Colbert Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 3BP	1,287	230	1,057
Thorpe	EM	Greenways Primary School, Community Room, Greenways, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 3BS	1,432	325	1,107
Thorpe	EN	Scout Hut, Southchurch U R Church, Kensington Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2TH	1,857	241	1,616
Victoria	EAZ	Booth 1, St. Mellitus Centre, Oakhurst Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5DT	1,746	168	1,578
Victoria	EBZ	Cornerstone Church, Junction of Central Avenue and Bournemouth Park Rd, SS2 5JL	1,851	211	1,640
Victoria	EY	Lounge at rear Balmoral Community Centre, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 7AU	2,418	275	2,143
Victoria	EZ	Jubilee Room at the Civic Centre, Entrance via Civic Centre Car Park, Carnarvon Road, SS1 9SB	2,281	259	2,022
West Shoebury	EE	Portable Polling Station, Maplin Way North, Junction of Maplin Way North & Bishopsteignton, Thorpe Bay, SS3 8AD	2,055	380	1,675
West Shoebury	EF	Booth 1, St Andrews Methodist Church, St Andrews Road, Shoeburyness, SS3 9HX	1,856	231	1,625
West Shoebury	EG	Booth 2, St Andrews Methodist Church, St Andrews Road, Shoeburyness, SS3 9HX	2,081	361	1,720
West Shoebury	EH	Shoebury Leisure Centre, Delaware Road, Shoeburyness, SS3 9NS	1,234	122	1,112
West Leigh	WAZ	Portable, Marine Parade, Opp Theobalds Rd, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2NB	761	118	643
West Leigh	WOZ	Elim Church, Glendale Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2BE	1,028	217	811

West Leigh	WPZ	Portable, Marine Parade, Opp Canvey Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2NL	1,239	203	1,036
West Leigh	WQZ	Polling Station 2, Highlands Methodist Church Hall, Olive Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3PT	1,033	262	771
West Leigh	WRZ	Adult Community College, Belfairs High School, Highlands Boulevard, SS9 3TG	1,232	201	1,031
West Leigh	WSZ	Polling Station 1, Highlands Methodist Church Hall, Olive Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3PT	1,778	365	1,413
Westborough	WP	Booth 1, The Westborough School, Macdonald Avenue, SS0 9BS	1,457	182	1,275
Westborough	WQ-1	Booth 1, St Andrews Parochial Church Hall, Southview Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9PW	1,209	134	1,075
Westborough	WQ-2	Booth 2, St Andrews Parochial Church Hall, Southview Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9PW	1,422	173	1,249
Westborough	WR	Booth 1, Westcliff Free Church, Ronald Park Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9PE	1,442	154	1,288
Westborough	WS	Booth 2, Westcliff Free Church, Ronald Park Avenue, Westcliff on Sea, SS0 9PE	1,662	214	1,448

CHALKWELL WARD

Polling District: WHZ

Suggestion: Relocate the portable polling station from current position to new location in Crowstone Avenue

From: A local resident

Comments: The current location of the polling place / portable polling station was considered as part of the previous polling review that took place in 2019. The polling station for this polling district had previously been located at The Grosvenor Hotel, Grosvenor Road, but this is no longer available for our use. Alternative suitable premises have previously been investigated but without any success.

For the last seven years a portable polling station has been located at the western extremity of Chalkwell Esplanade car parking area, at the western extremity of the polling district. This position was selected due to its location away from busy roads, proximity to public conveniences and plenty of car parking. The polling district is mainly residential and the geography and physical barriers at the boundaries of this polling district restrict the availability of alternative appropriate options. There had been issues of anti-social behaviour outside this polling station at the European Parliamentary elections in May 2019 but no further incidents have been experienced or reported.

A request has now been received from a local resident in response to the public consultation as part of this review, to relocate the portable polling station to a new position, in the main carriageway in front of the flank wall of Crowstone House Care Home at the southern end of Crowstone Avenue. Although the suggested location would be more central within the polling district, the siting of a portable in the main carriageway of this road would create an unacceptable obstruction and hazard to traffic, pedestrians and users. A new electricity supply, feeder pillar would also need to be constructed at this site to facilitate any such relocation. It is therefore not recommended to proceed with this suggestion for the reasons outlined above.

Recommendation: The current location of the portable be retained as the polling place / polling station for WHZ.

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BLenheim PARK WARD

Polling District: WV

Suggestion: Relocate Polling Place / Polling Station from St James the Great Church, Elmsleigh Drive to Trafford House, Manchester Drive

From: Councillor Helen Boyd

Comments: A suggestion has been received from Councillor Boyd that Trafford House, in Manchester Drive would be a better venue as an alternative to St James the Great Church, Elmsleigh Drive for polling district WV within Blenheim Park Ward. This is on the grounds that many elderly people do not like the trek up to St James the Great Church.

The polling place for this polling district has been located at St James the Great Church, Elmsleigh Drive for approximately 10 years. Before this, the polling place was situated at Trafford House. Initially, the polling station was located in a portable building on the car park area of the premises. This was subsequently moved to the lounge at Trafford House, with the entrance to the polling station being from the single set of sliding doors fronting the building. It should be noted that we would require exclusive use of the room made available for a polling station on election day from 6.00 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. The lounge would, therefore, not be available for use by the residents/tenants at any time on election day, and this may not be acceptable for its residents. As a result of such concerns in 2014, the polling station was relocated to St. James the Great Church.

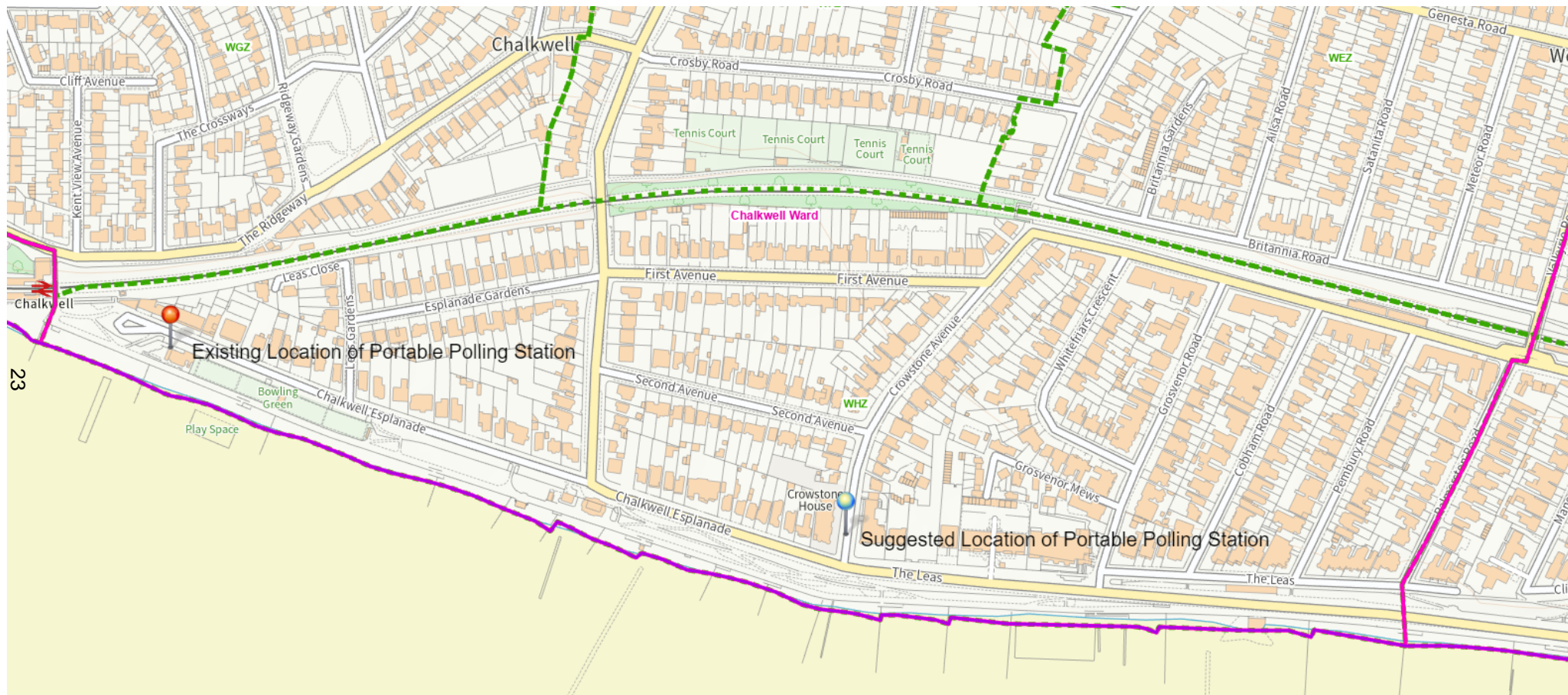
The use of portables is an extremely expensive option and are not particularly user friendly. They should only really be considered where there are no other suitable alternatives available. There is also currently no provision for mains power supply to a portable building at this site. The cost of installing this would need to be borne by the Council. The only suitable place to locate a portable polling station would either be at the front of the main entrance to Trafford House or in its car parking area. Portable buildings are in situ for up to one week which may inhibit residents or visitors to Trafford House.

Enquiries have been made with South Essex Homes about the availability of the premises as a polling place and where a polling station could be located. These discussions are ongoing. St James the Great Church is, however, now well established as the polling station for this polling district and has a good amount of off-street parking. Any voters with mobility issues do also have the ability to either request a postal vote or a proxy vote.

Recommendation: The current location of the polling place / polling station be retained for the polling district WV.

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Map of Polling District WHZ (Chalkwell Ward) with Existing and Suggested Locations of Portable



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Photos of Suggested Site from Google Maps

Northwards from junction with Chalkwell Esplanade/The Leas



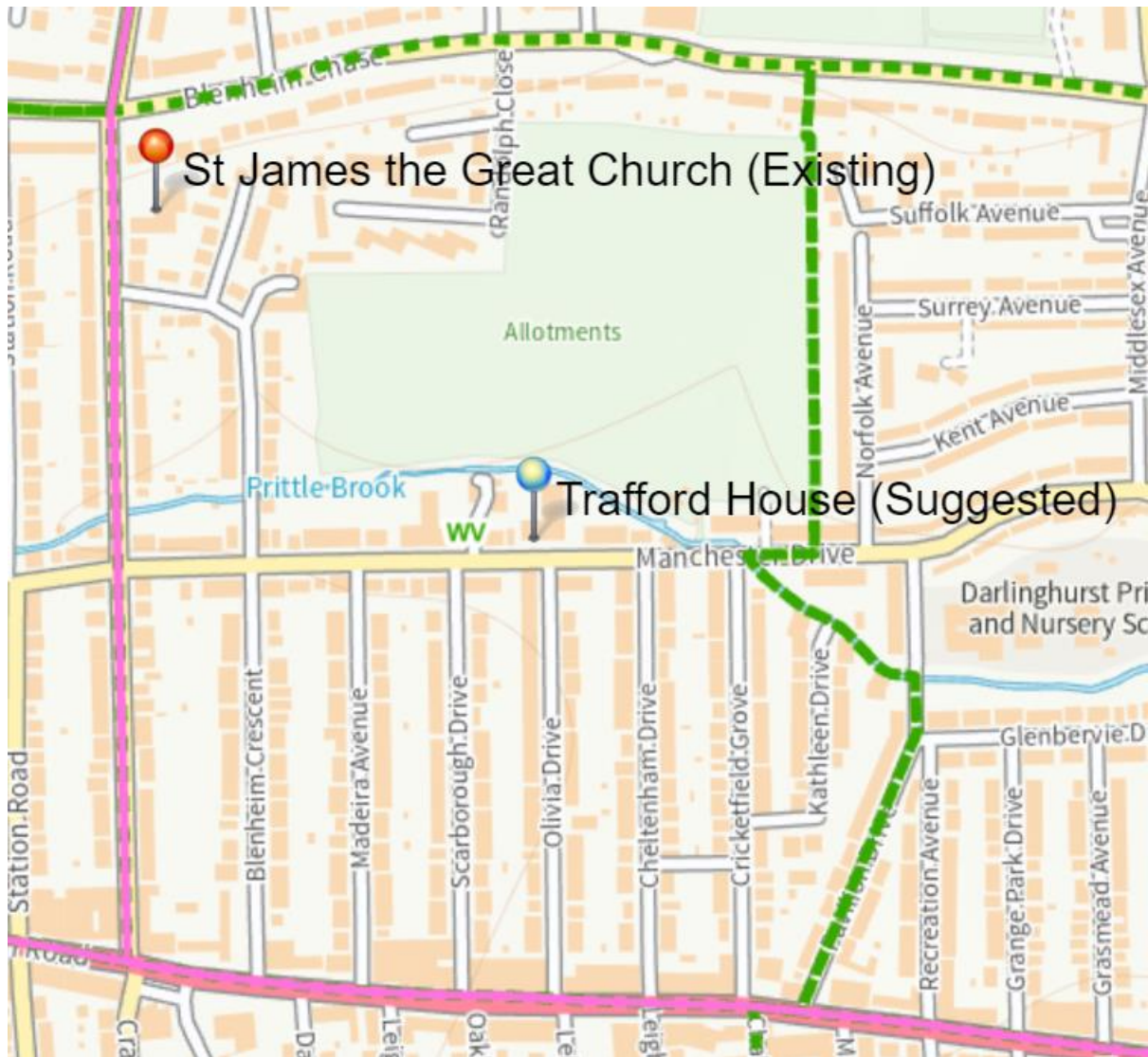


Southwards looking to Chalkwell Esplanade



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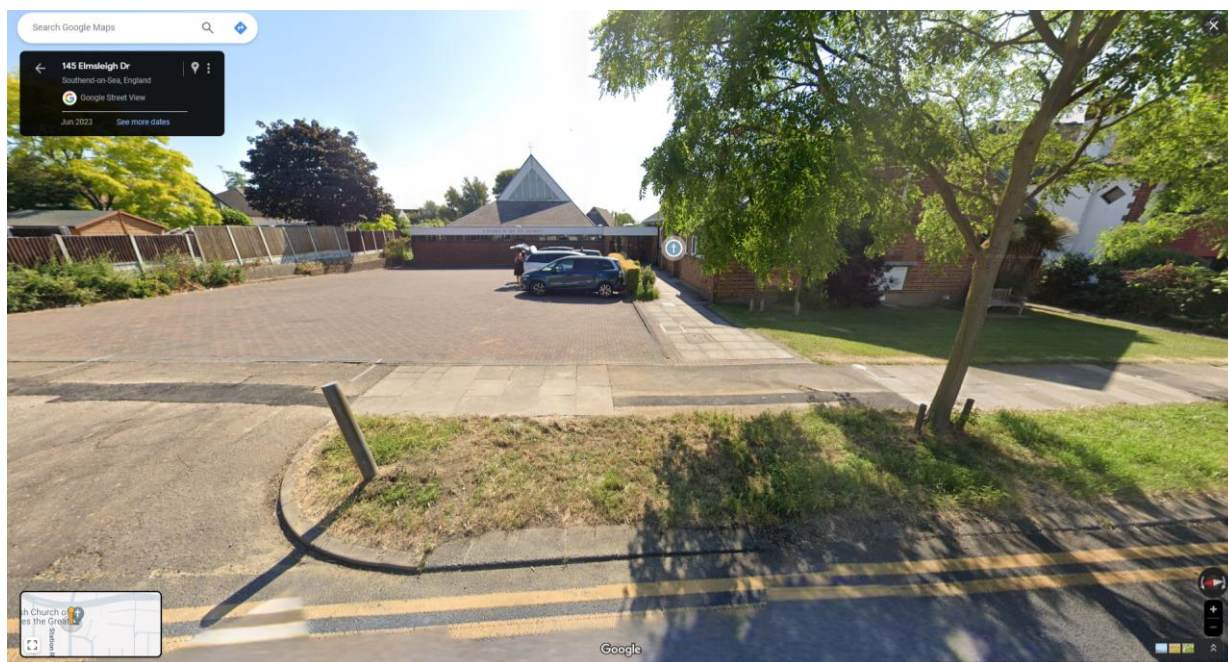
Map of Polling District WV (Blenheim Park Ward)



Photos of Suggested Polling Place from Google Maps



Photo of Current Polling Place from Google Maps



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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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