

ELECTORAL ADMINISTRATION AND REGISTRATION ACT 2013

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019

Representations made in response to Proposals of Returning Officer

Proposal: Relocate Polling Station from a double station at Southend Adult Community College (outside polling district) to Centre Place Community Centre, Prospect Close			
No.	From	Date Received	Comments submitted
1.	Councillor Jones	29 th October 2019	Please reinstate Centre Place as a polling station.
2.	Councillor McDonald	29 th October 2019	Supports a polling station to be located at Centre Place on the Woodgrange Estate. This location will serve the immediate locality better than the existing location at the Adult Community College, as its location on Ambleside Drive requires residents to walk a significant distance uphill which is challenging for those with children or mobility issues.
3.	Resident	29 th October 2019	There should be a polling station at Centre Place on the Kursaal Estate for the residents. I live on the estate and do not enjoy having to go out of my way to vote.
4.	Resident	29 th October 2019	Supports the polling station to be moved to Centre Place as parents are disabled and it would make it a lot easier for people like them on the estate.

Proposal: Amend Locations of Polling Stations (Milton Ward)			
No.	From	Date Received	Comments submitted
1.	Councillor George	22 nd October 2019	<p>Disappointed at the suggestion that the number of Polling Districts should be reduced from six to five and that these should be served by only four polling stations. The loss of the ELZ polling district and the St Johns polling station will be disruptive to several voters who will be deterred from using the new polling stations, whether we like it or not Chichester Road and the High Street act as a double barrier to the electorate in this area and I am concerned that this change will lower voter turnout further. I believe that the current arrangement whilst not ideal is better than the one being proposed.</p> <p>Also concerned that under these proposals a very large geographic area is being served by only four polling districts and further that the change of venue from St Marks Church to The Forum will add to the creation of a democratic deficit as several voters will be deterred from using the 'new' polling station at The Forum.</p> <p>Prefers the current arrangement of six polling districts and five polling stations and strongly feel that the proposals will lead to lower voter turnout and the creation of an even greater democratic deficit.</p>
2.	Councillor Nevin	22 nd October 2019	Would rather keep the polling arrangements as they are. EU & EW arrangements are adequate at Avenue Road Baptist Church in Milton Road, but adding more voters to these 2 sizeable registers would put undue pressure on this polling station, with young children being dropped off at playgroup and other activities as well.

APPENDIX 5

			<p>Moving St. John's would worsen electoral representation in ELZ, Chichester Road and the High Street does act as a barrier.</p> <p>Unhappy to move St. Marks which is well known and well used and central to the largest register.</p>
3.	Councillor Mitchell	22nd October 2019	<p>Having already lost a polling station and therefore Avenue Baptist Church managing two registers, it would create more confusion and greater pressure to make further changes to the boundary of polling district of EW.</p> <p>The polling district of ELZ has an identity with a physical boundary formed by the High Street and as has been said, this district needs to be retained with St John's continuing to offer the polling station.</p> <p>I do not think it is in the best interest of voters to move the Polling Station from St Marks which is central to the district of EX, whereas a polling station at the forum would be daunting for some people to access given its proximity to the town centre and college, in a busy pedestrian thoroughfare with no vehicle access for the less mobile.</p> <p>In order to avoid a democratic deficit we need to continue to give Milton voters the greatest opportunity to access a polling station and therefore retain six polling districts.</p>
4.	Resident	27th October 2019	<p>The loss of a convenient, polling station for that part of the ward that is between the ring road and high street, is vital for democracy, as most of the residents there do not have their own vehicles and Avenue road is a good walk away.</p> <p>The current system works reasonably well. Why change for it's own sake.</p>
5.	Resident	28th October 2019	<p>Objects to the proposed merging of ELZ and EX polling districts in Milton on two counts.</p> <p>The present locality of the EX polling station at St Mark's is easily accessible for disabled and infirm voters to be dropped off directly outside to go and vote. If this is moved to the Forum that would no longer be the case, bearing in mind it is a pedestrianised area. For people who live in the South part of ELZ, this would mean some considerable extra distance to walk to the Forum instead of St John's church if they have difficulty walking.</p> <p>With relation to the elector count, the merging of the two polling stations would make it needlessly over twice the size of the other polling stations in Milton.</p>

Proposal: Split EA into 2 Polling Districts to create a new Polling District for the Garrison

No.	From	Date Received	Comments submitted
1.	Resident	30th October 2019	<p>Has considered the proposed polling station at Hinguar school in Shoeburyness Ward and has sought opinions from local residents via social media. I would make the following comments/observations to be considered as part of the consultation process:</p>

			<p>1. The reviews assessment of the Garrison area is accurate and the need for an additional polling station to serve residents on the Garrison is clear.</p> <p>2. Concerns raised that by locating the polling station in a school would mean school closure on polling days have been assuaged by Cllr Matt Dent who informs me that the school will not need to close, having a dedicated room which can be used.</p> <p>3. There is no public transport to this site, therefore, if intended for residents outside of the Garrison, this would cause significant difficulties for those less mobile.</p> <p>However, generally the proposal of an additional polling station to serve the Garrison has been well received and should be considered.</p>
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