

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting name & Date	COUNCIL - 18 November 2020
Agenda item	10
Report title	Revision of Polling District Boundaries in Aldenham West
Report reference no.	C/20/43
Wards affected	Aldenham West
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List of Appendices	Appendix 1 - HBC boundaries Feb 2019 Appendix 2 - Aldenham NPR boundaries Appendix 3 - Properties affected by the change
Reason for urgency	Not applicable

PUBLIC REPORT - this report is available to the public.

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 **That the boundary lines for polling districts EB and EC located within the Aldenham West ward are amended so that the properties identified in Appendix 3 to the officer's report form part of polling district EC.**
- 1.2 **That the Council's adopted Polling District and Polling Places Scheme be amended accordingly with immediate effect.**

2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 2.1 This report proposes a desirable change to the polling district EB and EC boundaries approved by Council on 23rd January 2019 (See Appendix 1).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Hertsmere (Electoral Changes) Order 2018 made on 25 April 2018 implemented the recommendations made by the Local Government Boundaries Commission for England for new electoral arrangements in Hertsmere. As a consequence the Council was required to undertake a polling districts, polling places and polling stations review as the existing

polling districts no longer fell within the new ward boundaries which would apply from the date of the elections in May 2019.

- 3.2 Following completion of the polling district review the Polling Districts and Polling Places Scheme was approved by Council on 23rd January 2019 and on 2 May 2019 the Council delivered its all-out elections as per the new ward arrangements and polling district boundaries.
- 3.3 In the meantime Aldenham Parish Council had been working with the Council on the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan and following external examination, the Plan was due to be put forward to the residents of Radlett by way of a referendum - called a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum (NPR).
- 3.4 It had originally been agreed that the NPR would take place on 7th May 2020 to coincide with the scheduled election for the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). However, as members will be aware, one of the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic was the postponement of the PCC election and the Radlett NPR and these are now scheduled to take place on 6 May 2021 alongside the elections for Hertfordshire County Council and a by-election for a vacancy in the Aldenham West ward of Aldenham Parish Council.
- 3.5 However, one of the issues to be addressed in the lead up to the various elections on May 2021 is that the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan area is not co-terminus with the Borough ward or polling districts. This disparity is illustrated in the Map attached as Appendix 2 where it has been identified that 24 properties included in the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan area and therefore entitled to vote in the NPR at the Philimore Centre in Radlett, currently fall outside of the Radlett polling stations. These properties currently sit in polling district EB where electors are required to vote at Parliamentary, PCC, County Council, Borough Council and Parish Council elections at the Aldenham War Memorial Hall. A list of the affected properties is attached as Appendix 3.
- 3.6 The consequence of this is that unless the Council's Polling Districts and Polling Places Scheme is amended, the electors residing in the 24 properties identified in Appendix 3 will be required to vote in the PCC, County Council elections and Aldenham Parish Council by-election at the Aldenham War Memorial Hall but in the Philimore Centre for the NPR.

4. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CURRENT SCHEME

- 4.1 As Polling districts EB and EC vote in the same electoral areas for all elections, it is proposed to address this by changing the polling district boundaries in the Aldenham West ward to ensure that the 24 affected properties currently identified in polling district EB, are relocated to polling district EC for all electoral events. Should Council agree to this change, the electors in the affected properties will be entitled to vote in all the elections taking place in May 2021, including the NPR, at the Philimore Centre only.

5. CONSTITUTION AND MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

- 5.1 The proposal to amend the Council's adopted Polling Districts and Polling Places Scheme to adjust the Polling District boundaries to relocate the 24 affected properties from Polling District EB to Polling District EC, was considered and by the Constitution and Member Development Panel (CDMP) on 16 March 2020. CDMP agreed that the proposed boundary changes should be recommended to Council for approval.

6. FINANCIAL AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Amending the boundaries of Polling Districts EB and EC in the manner recommended by the CDMP will not result in an increase in election costs.

7. LEGAL POWERS RELIED ON AND ANY LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.2 To comply with Section 17 of the Electoral Administration Act 2013, Hertsmere Borough Council is required to conduct a review of all parliamentary polling districts and polling places within the Hertsmere every five years. This does not prevent the Council from carrying out a review at any time and from making amendments to its Polling Districts and Polling Places Scheme.

8. EFFICIENCY GAINS AND VALUE FOR MONEY

- 8.1 The amended Polling Districts and Polling Places Scheme will result in a more positive voter experience for the electors in the Radlett Neighbourhood Plan areas who currently reside in Polling District EB as they will not have to travel between polling station to vote in the NPR, PCC and County Council elections and the by-election in Aldenham Parish Council.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The change will eliminate the need to vote in two polling stations and by making the change permanent it will eliminate voter confusion for all future elections.
- 9.2 All 24 properties will be notified of the change in writing and will also receive separate poll cards. The Polling Station Finder on the Council's web site will also be updated.

10. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 None for the purposes of this report

11. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Council must seek to ensure that all the electors in the Borough/Constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those with a disability, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of

disabled persons. The proposed amendments to the Polling Districts and Polling Places Scheme will comply with these obligations.

12. CORPORATE PLAN and POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None for the purposes of this report

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None for the purposes of this report

14. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

14.1 None for the purposes of this report

15. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS USED TO PREPARE THIS REPORT

Document Title:	Filed at:
None	N/A

16. CONSULTATION ON DRAFT REPORT

A draft of this report was sent to the following on the following dates:

Consultee	Report sent	Comments rcvd
Managing Director (COB)		
Head of Legal & Democratic Services		