APPENDIX B



REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS IN HEREFORDSHIRE 2010 – 11

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Introduction

Purpose of Review

At the recent UK Parliamentary Election some problems were encountered at a handful of polling stations around the country at the close of poll. These problems were largely due to significant numbers of voters being unable to cast their vote by the deadline of 10:00pm on 6 May 2010 despite the fact that many voters had been queuing at the polling stations for some time. The Electoral Commission has produced an interim report on these problems and has recommended that all local authorities conduct an immediate review of polling districts and polling places to address those problems highlighted in their report.

Background

As per the Representation of the People Act 1983 (s18A to 18E) local authorities have a responsibility for determining and keeping under review polling districts and polling places within their area, whilst Returning Officers are responsible for selecting polling stations within each polling place. The UK government has also issued guidance on allocation of electors to polling stations with the recommendation that the number of electors allocated to a polling station should not exceed 2,500 if this can be avoided. If there are exceptional circumstances where this is not possible, then suitable provisions are to be made bearing in mind likely demand at an election.

At the 6 May 2010 Parliamentary election, in Herefordshire, 167 polling stations were made available for the electorate to vote at. The polling stations opened at 7:00am and closed at 10:00pm as per legislation. The minimum staffing levels for a polling station were one Presiding Officer and one Poll Clerk. At the largest polling station, in terms of electorate allocated (Hampton Dene Primary School: 3723 electorate) there was one Presiding Officer and three Poll Clerks allocated.

During the Parliamentary election, polling station supervisors made regular inspections of polling stations and reported back to the Electoral Services Office if they felt additional staff were required to help manage voter queues. Very few polling stations in Herefordshire had any appreciable build up of voters. Hampton Dene Primary School was very busy all day but the staff were able to keep queues to manageable levels. Belmont Community Centre housed two polling stations with a total of two presiding officers and four poll clerks one of whom was delegated to direct voters to the correct station. The biggest queues occurred at St Katherine's Hall, Ledbury, in part due to the number of electorate in the N-UC polling district.

In response to The Electoral Commission's recommendations for a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations and following up on feedback from various quarters after the 2010 election this review is looking at the polling arrangements in Aylestone and Ledbury Wards and at those polling stations where there are over 2500 electorate allocated to vote.

In May 2011 Herefordshire will have full term local elections and may be required to combine these elections with a national referendum on voting reform. As this may well increase the turn out, this review has also looked at polling stations with electorate numbers for between 2000 and 2500.

For each ward under review the present situation is set out, followed by options for consultation.

AYLESTONE WARD

All the current polling stations within Aylestone Ward serve between 1000 and 1500 electorate. However there have been several requests to review the polling districts to minimise the problem of electors having to walk up and down College Green hill.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total	% Turnout on 6/5/10
Bryngwyn Court (Residents Lounge), Bulmer Avenue, Hereford HR1 1ER	H-AA	Hereford (Aylestone)	Aylestone	1486	1486	65.34
RNCB, The Gardner Hall (Norwood Rm), Venns Lane, Hereford HR1 1EB	H-AB	Hereford (Aylestone)	Aylestone	1081	1081	46.59
RNCB, QB2 (Beacon Rm), College Road, Hereford, HR1 1EB	H-AC	Hereford (Aylestone)	Aylestone	1378	1378	70.96
The Rose Garden (Fred Bulmer Hall), Ledbury Road, Hereford, HR1 2TR	H-AD	Hereford (Aylestone)	Aylestone	1090	1090	67.95

AYLESTONE WARD cont.

Proposal

There are three options proposed:

Option 1: To alter polling districts H-AA and H-AC to better reflect the topography of the area. College Green and Penn Grove Road (including Admirals Close) would form the boundary between the two polling districts. The boundary would run along the middle of the two roads with H-AA becoming the lower polling district and H-AC becoming the upper polling district. Polling district H-AB and H-AD would not be affected and there would be no change to the polling station arrangements in the ward.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total
Bryngwyn Court (Residents Lounge), Bulmer Avenue, Hereford HR1 1ER	H-AA	Hereford (Aylestone)	Aylestone	1896	1896
RNCB, The Gardner Hall (Norwood Rm), Venns Lane, Hereford HR1 1EB	H-AB	Hereford (Aylestone)	Aylestone	1081	1081
RNCB, QB2 (Beacon Rm), College Road, Hereford, HR1 1EB	H-AC	Hereford (Aylestone)	Aylestone	968	968
The Rose Garden (Fred Bulmer Hall), Ledbury Road, Hereford, HR1 2TR	H-AD	Hereford (Aylestone)	Aylestone	1090	1090

AYLESTONE WARD cont.

Option 2: To alter polling districts H-AA and H-AC and add a new polling district H-AE. College Green Road would become part of H-AC, and H-AE would be created between Venns Lane to the north and Penn Grove Road to the south. Polling district H-AB and H-AD would not be affected and there would be no change to the polling station arrangements in the ward.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total
Bryngwyn Court (Residents Lounge), Bulmer Avenue, Hereford HR1 1ER	H-AA	Hereford (Aylestone)	Aylestone	1677	1677
RNCB, The Point 4, Venns Lane, Hereford HR1 1EB	H-AB	Hereford (Aylestone)	Aylestone	1081	1081
RNCB, QB2 (Beacon Rm), College Road, Hereford, HR1 1EB	H-AC	Hereford (Aylestone)	Aylestone	533	533
The Rose Garden (Fred Bulmer Hall), Ledbury Road, Hereford, HR1 2TR	H-AD	Hereford (Aylestone)	Aylestone	1090	1090
RNCB, The Gardner Hall (Norwood Rm), Venns Lane, Hereford HR1 1EB	H-AE	Hereford (Aylestone)	Aylestone	655	655

Option 3: To leave the existing polling districts as they are.

BELMONT WARD

In the 2008 European elections, polling districts H-CB and H-CC used the St Francis Social Centre, Goodrich Grove, Hereford. However that venue is no longer available and efforts to find another location proved unsuccessful. An inspection was made of Belmont Community Centre which was already being used as a polling station and the decision made to add a second polling station in the Main Hall. During the 2010 Parliamentary election the queues were kept to a minimum due to efficient use of polling station staff

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total	% Turnout on 6/5/10
Belmont Community Centre 1, Belmont Road, Hereford	H-CA	Belmont Rural	Belmont	2631	2631	63.04
Belmont Community Centre 2, Belmont Road, Hereford	H-CB	Hereford (Belmont)	Belmont	1679	2768	43.63
	H-CC	Hereford (Belmont)	Belmont	1089		
Scout Hut, Blackmarston Road, Hereford, HR2 7AN	H-CD	Hereford (Belmont)	Belmont	1180	1180	48.69

BELMONT WARD cont.

Proposal

To move polling district H-CC electorate to the Scout Hut, Blackmarston Road, Hereford. Also to ensure that there are adequate staffing levels at all three polling stations.

Option 1					
Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total
Belmont Community Centre 1, Belmont Road, Hereford	H-CA	Belmont Rural	Belmont	2631	2631
Belmont Community Centre 2, Belmont Road, Hereford	H-CB	Hereford (Belmont)	Belmont	1679	1679
Scout Hut, Blackmarston Road, Hereford, HR2 7AN	H-CC	Hereford (Belmont)	Belmont	1089	2269
	H-CD	Hereford (Belmont)	Belmont	1180	

Option 2:

Polling	Register	Polling	Ward	Electorate	Total
Station	Code	District			
Northolme Community Centre , Northolme Road, Hereford	H-CA	Belmont Rural	Belmont	2631	2631
Belmont Community Centre 1, Belmont Road, Hereford	H-CB	Hereford (Belmont)	Belmont	1679	1679
Belmont Community Centre 2, Belmont Road, Hereford	H-CC	Hereford (Belmont)	Belmont	1089	1089
Scout Hut, Blackmarston Road, Hereford, HR2 7AN	H-CD	Hereford (Belmont)	Belmont	1180	1180

KINGTON WARD

In 2007 Kington Town Council requested that the polling station arrangements be moved from the Lady Hawkins Youth Centre to a more central location in Kington. This request was agreed to and since 2008 the Kington electorate have voted at Markwick Close Community Hall. The current review is being undertaken because the electorate numbers are close to the 2500 recommended maximum per polling station.

Current Situation

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total	% Turnout on 6/5/10
Markwick Close Community Hall, Markwick Close, Kington, HR5 3UE	N-TA	Kington	Kington	1930	2425	63.39
	N-TB	Kington Rural	Kington	465		
	N-TC	Lower Harpton	Kington	30		

Proposal

No change to current arrangements

LEDBURY WARD

Voting in Ledbury Ward caused significant problems for the electorate in terms of the length of time queuing to vote. Polling District N-UE at Ledbury Community Centre 2 was staffed by one presiding office and two poll clerks. The station was busy through out the whole of the day but the staff managed to keep the queues to a minimum. Polling district N-UC has the second largest electorate in Herefordshire and also had the most problems with queues at the parliamentary election. The polling station at St Katherine's Hall initially had one presiding officer and three poll clerks allocated as staff. As it became apparent that the staff were unable to cope with the work load another very experienced presiding officer was sent to assist them. This greatly improved the throughput of electors.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total	% Turnout on 6/5/10
Ledbury Community Centre 1, Lawnside Road, Ledbury	N-UA	Donnington	Ledbury	70	1220	82.64
	N-UD	Ledbury	Ledbury	1150		
Eastnor Castle Visitor Centre, Eastnor, Ledbury HR8 1RL	N-UB	Eastnor	Ledbury	203	203	71.84
St Katherine's Hall, High Street, Ledbury	N-UC	Ledbury	Ledbury	3278	3278	60.93
Ledbury Community Centre 2, Lawnside Road, Ledbury	N-UE	Ledbury	Ledbury	2988	2988	64.96

LEDBURY WARD cont.

Proposal

There are three options proposed:

Option 1: To reduce polling districts N-UC and N-UE by creating a new polling district N-UF based on the New Mills estate and including some roads to the east of The Homend. The polling station would be based at the Ledbury Primary School campus, using either the primary school itself, or the Children's Centre, or the Co Location Team Building. This latter venue is due for completion in March 2011.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total
Ledbury Community Centre 1, Lawnside Road, Ledbury	N-UA	Donnington	Ledbury	70	1220
	N-UD	Ledbury	Ledbury	1150	
Eastnor Castle Visitor Centre, Eastnor, Ledbury HR8 1RL	N-UB	Eastnor	Ledbury	203	203
St Katherine's Hall, High Street, Ledbury	N-UC	Ledbury	Ledbury	2503	2503
Ledbury Community Centre 2, Lawnside Road, Ledbury	N-UE	Ledbury	Ledbury	1640	1640
Ledbury Primary School Campus, Longacres, Ledbury, HR8 2BE	N-UF	Ledbury	Ledbury	2123	2123

LEDBURY WARD cont.

Option 2: To reduce polling districts N-UC and N-UE by creating a new polling district N-UF based on the New Mills estate and using the northern part of The Homend as the boundary. The polling station would be based at the Ledbury Primary School campus, using either the primary school itself, or the Children's Centre, or the Co Location Team Building. This latter venue is due for completion in March 2011.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total
Ledbury Community Centre 1, Lawnside Road, Ledbury	N-UA	Donnington	Ledbury	70	1220
-	N-UD	Ledbury	Ledbury	1150	
Eastnor Castle Visitor Centre, Eastnor, Ledbury HR8 1RL	N-UB	Eastnor	Ledbury	203	203
St Katherine's Hall, High Street, Ledbury	N-UC	Ledbury	Ledbury	2607	2607
Ledbury Community Centre 2, Lawnside Road, Ledbury	N-UE	Ledbury	Ledbury	1640	1640
Ledbury Primary School Campus, Longacres, Ledbury, HR8 2BE	N-UF	Ledbury	Ledbury	2019	2019

LEDBURY WARD cont.

Option 3: To reduce polling districts N-UC and N-UE by creating a new polling district N-UF based on the New Mills estate and including some roads to the east of The Homend. The polling station would be based at the Ledbury Primary School campus, using either the primary school itself, or the Children's Centre, or the Co Location Team Building. To reduce the pressure on the Ledbury Community Centre which currently takes two separate polling stations, by allocating polling district N-UD to the Ledbury Leisure Centre at John Masefield High School. The Leisure Centre lies within polling district N-UD, however it is poorly served by public transport and parking might be an issue during school hours.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total
Ledbury Community Centre , Lawnside Road, Ledbury	N-UA	Donnington	Ledbury	70	1710
-	N-UE	Ledbury	Ledbury	1640	
Eastnor Castle Visitor Centre, Eastnor, Ledbury HR8 1RL	N-UB	Eastnor	Ledbury	203	203
St Katherine's Hall, High Street, Ledbury	N-UC	Ledbury	Ledbury	2503	2503
Ledbury Leisure Centre, John Masfield High School, Mabel's Furlong, Ledbury	N-UD	Ledbury	Ledbury	1150	1150
Ledbury Primary School Campus, Longacres, Ledbury, HR8 2BE	N-UF	Ledbury	Ledbury	2123	2123

ROSS-ON-WYE EAST WARD

Current Situation

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total	% Turnout on 6/5/10
Ross-on- Wye Y Zone Youth Centre, Hill St, Ross-on- Wye	H-DDA	Ross-on- Wye	Ross-on- Wye East	2566	2566	71.24
Tudorville Youth Centre, Walford Road, Ross- on-Wye	H-DDB	Ross-on- Wye	Ross-on- Wye East	832	832	58.27
Larruperz Community Centre, Grammar School Close, Ross- on-Wye	H-DDC	Ross Rural	Ross-on- Wye East	348	348	74.64

Proposal

As the H-DDA polling district is only just over the recommended maximum electorate number is it proposed not to change the current arrangements but to keep the situation under review.

ROSS-ON-WYE WEST WARD

Current Situation

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total	% Turnout on 6/5/10
Brampton Abbotts C of E School, Brampton Road, Ross-on- Wye	H-EEA	Ross-on- Wye	Ross-on- Wye West	1333	1833	71.24
	H-EEC	Ross-on- Wye	Ross-on- Wye East	500		58.27
Ross-on- Wye Bowling Club, Old Maids Walk Ross-on- Wye	H-EEB	Ross Rural	Ross-on- Wye East	2514	2514	74.64

Proposal

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As the H-EEB polling district is only just over the recommended maximum electorate number is it proposed not to change the current arrangements but to keep the situation under review.

ST MARTIN'S AND HINTON WARD

In previous elections, registers H-FFC and H-FFG were allocated to two polling stations in the Main Hall at Putson Baptist Church, Web Tree Avenue. However in 2009, the Church authorities would not make the Main Hall available and could only offer the Minor Hall which was not large enough to accommodate two polling stations. An alternative venue at the Saxon Community Hall, Hoarwithy Road was used for the 2009 European Parliamentary election and also for the 2010 UK Parliamentary election. For the 2010 Parliamentary election H-FFC register was allocated one presiding officer and two poll clerks and did not experience any problems with queuing.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total	% Turnout on 6/5/10
Hinton Community Centre, Ross Road, Hereford	H-FFA	Hereford	St Martin's and Hinton	952	1899	50.80
	H-FFB	Hereford	St Martin's and Hinton	947		
Saxon Community Hall 1, Hoarwithy Road, Hereford	H-FFC	Hereford	St Martin's and Hinton	2551	2551	51.92
Hunderton & Belmont Residents Assoc., Belmont Ave. Hereford	H-FFD	Hereford	St Martin's and Hinton	769	769	46.30
Pentwyn Court, Pentwyn Ave, Hereford	H-FFE	Hereford	St Martin's and Hinton	1122	1122	47.57
Redhill Golden Jubilee Hall, Stanberrow Road, Hereford	H-FFF	Hereford	St Martin's and Hinton	1055	1055	53.60
Saxon Community Hall 2,	H-FFG	Lower Bullingham	St Martin's and	1074	1074	54.39

Hoarwithy		Hinton		
Rd.				

Proposal As this polling district is only just over the recommended maximum electorate number it is proposed not to change the current arrangements but to keep the situation under review.

THREE ELMS WARD

There have been continuing problems finding a suitable venue for a polling station to cover polling district H-JJE. To address this difficulty both H-JJB and H-JJE have been allocated to Westfields Hall. Unfortunately for the last two elections the management of the hall have only allowed their small committee room to be used. This has proved to be inadequate for the number of electorate allocated to the polling station.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total	% Turnout on 6/5/10
Holy Trinity Church Hall, 152 Whitecross Road, Hereford	H-JJA	Hereford		1650	1650	47.72
Westfields Hall, Highmore Street, Hereford	H-JJB			1985	3142	61.60
	H-JJE			1157		
Hereford Leisure Centre, Holmer Road, Hereford	H-JJC			1005	1005	56.39
Whitecross High School, Three Elms Road, Hereford	H-JJD			1917	1917	62.55

THREE ELMS WARD cont.

Proposal

Following representations made by the Electoral Services Office, the hall management have agreed to allow their main hall to be used as a venue. This room is large enough to accommodate two separate polling stations and therefore allow the polling districts H-JJB and H-JJE to be split. The venue will however need to be adequately staffed to ensure that voters do not have to wait too long in order to vote.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total
Holy Trinity Church Hall, 152 Whitecross Road, Hereford	H-JJA	Hereford	Three Elms	1650	1650
Westfields Hall, 1 Highmore Street, Hereford	H-JJB	Hereford	Three Elms	1985	1985
Hereford Leisure Centre, Holmer Road, Hereford	H-JJC	Hereford	Three Elms	1005	1005
Whitecross High School, Three Elms Road, Hereford	H-JJD	Hereford	Three Elms	1917	1917
Westfields Hall, 2 Highmore Street, Hereford	H-JJE	Hereford	Three Elms	1157	1157

TUPSLEY WARD

Hampton Dene Primary School was allocated one Presiding Officer and three Poll Clerks. The presiding officer reported that the station was very busy all day but the staff were able to keep queues to manageable levels.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total	% Turnout on 6/5/10
Broadlands Primary School, Prospect	H-KKA	Hereford	Tupsley	1726	1726	61.88
WRVS Riverside Learning Centre, 26 Vicarage Rd, Hereford	Н-ККВ	Hereford	Tupsley	1669	1669	66.18
Hampton Dene Primary School, Church Road, Hereford	Н-ККС	Hereford	Tupsley	2350	3723	71.50
	H-KKD	Hereford	Tupsley	1373		

TUPSLEY WARD cont.

Proposal

There are two options proposed:

Option 1: To re-allocate H-KKC polling district to Hampton Park United Reformed Church Hall, Hampton Dene Road, Hereford. This venue has been inspected and has good facilities and is situated just within the H-KKC polling district.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total
Broadlands Primary School, Prospect	H-KKA	Hereford	Tupsley	1726	1726
WRVS Riverside Learning Centre, 26 Vicarage Rd, Hereford	Н-ККВ	Hereford	Tupsley	1669	1669
Hampton Park United Reformed Church Hall, Hampton Dene Road, Hereford	Н-ККС	Hereford	Tupsley	2350	2350
Hampton Dene Primary School, Church Road, Hereford	H-KKD	Hereford	Tupsley	1373	1373

TUPSLEY WARD cont.

Option 2: To place two polling stations at Hampton Dene Primary School; one for H-KKC and one for H-KKD and ensure good level of staffing at each polling station.

Polling Station	Register Code	Polling District	Ward	Electorate	Total
Broadlands Primary School, Prospect	Н-ККА	Hereford	Tupsley	1726	1726
WRVS Riverside Learning Centre, 26 Vicarage Rd, Hereford	Н-ККВ	Hereford	Tupsley	1669	1669
Hampton Dene Primary School, Church Road, Hereford 1	H-KKC	Hereford	Tupsley	2350	2350
Hampton Dene Primary School, Church Road, Hereford 2	H-KKD	Hereford	Tupsley	1373	1373





