

Report Title:	Polling district and polling places review 2019/2020
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No - Part I
Member reporting:	Councillor Rayner, Lead Member for Resident and Leisure Services, HR, IT, Legal, Performance Management and Windsor.
Meeting and Date:	Full Council - 25 February 2020
Responsible Officer(s):	Karen Shepherd, Head of Governance David Scott, Returning Officer
Wards affected:	Clewer & Dedworth West, Furze Platt, Oldfield.

REPORT SUMMARY

1. This report sets out the recommendations of the cross-party Polling District and Polling Places Working Group and the Returning Officer for reviewing the boundaries of the Borough's parliamentary polling districts and designation of polling places for all types of elections.
2. The Council has a duty to review polling districts and polling places to ensure that they are located in positions that are convenient and accessible to the majority of electors. The Council must also seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places it designates are accessible to all electors, including taking into account the accessibility needs of people with disabilities.
3. The last polling district and polling places review took place in 2018 following the electoral review of the Borough's ward boundaries. The changes to the scheme took effect at the local elections in May 2019. Following the local elections, it was agreed to carry out an interim polling district review. The interim review makes recommendations for three minor changes made to the current scheme.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That Council notes the report and:

- i) The revised polling district boundaries and designation of the polling places affecting the following wards be approved, (as detailed in Appendix 1):
 - Clewer & Dedworth West, Furze Platt, and Oldfield.

2. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Following the implementation of the revised polling district and polling places scheme which took effect at the May 2019 elections, the decision was made to

review the suitability of the new polling places after the elections. The polling district and polling places review working group reconvened in the autumn of 2019 and met three times between September and November 2019 to assess the suitability of the current polling places and boundaries in light of voting experiences at the 2 May and 23 May 2019 polls (at the Borough, Parish and Euro elections).

- 2.2 The polling district review for 2019/2020 is an interim review as it concerns only limited recommendations for change affecting three wards; Clewer & Dedworth West, Furze Platt and Oldfield. The general principle underpinning the interim review has been to recommend further change or revisions to the scheme only where necessary, in light of feedback raised about the suitability of venues at the polls taking place in May 2019, with the aim of further improving voter experience.
- 2.3 A limited public consultation on the changes affecting the three wards commenced on 13 January 2020 and ran for three weeks until 2 February 2020. The council consulted directly with a number of stakeholders directly affected by the changes proposed, including Borough councillors, parish councils, and the booking co-ordinators of polling station venues. There were six formal, written representations received, which supported the working group's proposed changes.
- 2.4 **Clewer & Dedworth West**
The polling place for Dedworth Green (WCDW3) is Tinkers Lane Depot. Officers have recommended that future use of Tinkers Lane as a polling station should discontinue as it does not conform to elector accessibility criteria as specified by the Electoral Commission. Electoral Services have received numerous complaints from electors about the suitability of this venue at previous elections in recent years, relating specifically to health and safety concerns when accessing the site and the conflict with other users of the depot.
- 2.5 An alternative polling place for Dedworth Green has been sought. It is proposed to relocate electors from Tinkers Lane to the Gospel Hall (Kerith Church) on Riddlesway. As the existing polling place for electors at the Willows, the venue already satisfies the criteria to operate as a polling station. The number of electors currently allocated to this venue is modest (751 electors as at May 2019) and the venue could easily operate as a double polling station, serving both the electors of Dedworth Green and the Willows. In addition, the Gospel Hall is in very close proximity to Tinkers Lane Depot and electors would not be required to travel very much further than they do already to access their polling station. It is therefore recommended that the Gospel Hall replaces Tinkers Lane Depot as the polling place for Dedworth Green (WCDW3).

- 2.6 **Furze Platt**
Feedback had been received at the May 2019 polls from polling station staff working at St Mary's School, the polling place for Furze Platt East, relaying concerns that the polling place was too small to accommodate the number of people allocated to the venue. The number of electors allocated to St Mary's School was 2,166 electors at the May 2019 elections whereas only 1,117 electors were allocated to the neighbouring polling place for Furze Platt

Central at St Peter's Church. It is proposed to revise the polling district boundary between Furze Platt Central (MFP2) and Furze Platt East (MFP3) and to distribute electors more equally between the two polling districts. It is proposed to transfer properties in the northern pocket of Furze Platt East (properties north of Gardner Road and east of Switchback Road North) to Furze Platt Central. Electors at these properties would vote at St Peter's Church instead of St Mary's School. The roads affected by this change are: Abingdon Walk, Burcot Gardens, Culham Drive, Grafton Close, Hambleden Walk, Hungerford Drive, Mapledurham Walk, Osney Road, Radcot Close, Shifford Crescent and Whitchurch Close. Approximately 500 electors are expected to be affected by this change and there are no concerns about St Peter's Church being unable to accommodate the additional number of electors allocated to this venue.

2.7 Oldfield

Forest Bridge School is a new polling station introduced at the May 2019 elections serving the Fisheries (MOF3) and Oldfield North (MOF4). Following the elections in May 2019, the school expressed its concerns that a disproportionate amount of disruption is caused to children and parents when facilitating an election for approximately 700 electors between both polling districts. Furthermore, the room on site allocated to polling is too small with poor facilities; the lighting is inadequate and access from the main school entrance is not ideal. An alternative venue for Forest Bridge School is recommended. The alternative venue is Desborough Bowls Club on Green Lane. Officers visited the venue to carry out a site inspection in October 2019 and deemed the building to meet accessibility criteria to serve as a polling station. It is therefore proposed to relocate electors for the Fisheries (MOF3) and Oldfield North (MOF4) from Forest Bridge School to Desborough Bowls Club.

Options

Table 1: Options arising from this report

Option	Comments
1. Council supports and approves the polling district and/or polling places proposed affecting ALL wards as detailed in the report and summarised in Appendix 1 of the polling district schedule.	The changes affect only five polling districts in three wards (Clewer & Dedworth West, Furze Platt and Oldfield).
This is the recommended option	
2. To make no changes to the boundaries of the current polling districts and designation of polling places.	The council has a duty to ensure that the most appropriate buildings are designated as polling places and accessible to all electors.
3. To agree a different allocation of polling places and	The polling districts and polling places for use at the Police & Crime Commissioner elections on 7 May

Option	Comments
alternative ward boundaries where changes are required.	2020 must be approved by the end of February 2020 so that preparations for the elections can commence.

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

Table 2: Key Implications

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date of delivery
Electors are able to cast their vote in a place that is convenient and accessible.	All electors are unable to cast their vote.	All electors are able to cast their vote and turnouts at previous elections are maintained.	All electors are able to cast their vote and there is a notable (3%) increase in the turnout at future elections.	All electors are able to cast their vote and there is a significant (more than 3%) increase in the turnout at future elections.	May 2020

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations, although it is anticipated that the overall costs associated with booking venues may be slightly higher than in previous years, as it is proposed that an additional, private hire venue is used (Desborough Bowls Club).

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 places a duty on councils to conduct a review of polling places and polling districts every four years. Although the last full review was only undertaken as recently as 2018, it was agreed to carry out an “interim” review following the local elections in 2019 to assess the suitability of the new polling places and polling districts introduced at the May 2019 elections.
- 5.2 In making recommendations for the designation of suitable polling places and polling districts, officers have acted in accordance with all appropriate legislation, principally the Representation of the Peoples Act, Electoral Administration Act and the Disability Discrimination Act.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Table 3: Impact of risk and mitigation

Risks	Uncontrolled risk	Controls	Controlled risk
Failure to carry out a review of polling districts and polling places.	Failure to carry out a review could result in a legal challenge.	Ensure that the review is undertaken.	Carry out a review of polling districts and polling places following each electoral event in accordance with published guidance.

7. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 7.1 The Council must seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places it designates are accessible to all electors, including taking into account the accessibility needs of people with disabilities.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 A Notice of Review was published in January to advise the public that the consultation on the proposed changes for the three affected wards would run from 13 January until 2 February 2020.
- 8.2 The Council's website was also updated and stakeholders contacted directly, including Borough councillors, Parish councils and booking contacts for current and new polling station venues. The cross-party polling district and polling places working group have considered all responses and comments received during the consultation which have been used to formulate the recommendations for the three changes to the existing polling district scheme.

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 9.1 The full implementation stages are set out in table 4.

Table 4: Implementation timetable

Date	Details
25.02.2020	Full Council endorse the revised Polling District & Polling Places schedule for 2020 as recommended unanimously by the cross-party working group.
07.05.2020	The revised polling district and polling places scheme takes effect at all elections from March 2020; the next elections scheduled to be the Police & Crime Commissioner elections on 7 May 2020.

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 This report is supported by one appendix:
- Appendix 1 – Polling district and polling places schedule 2020

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 11.1 This report is supported by two sets of background documents:
- Polling district and polling places working group – Terms of Reference
 - Summary notes from polling district and polling places working group meetings (September – November 2019)

12. CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
Cllr Rayner	Lead Member for Resident and Leisure Services, HR, IT, Legal, Performance Management and Windsor	13.2.20	17.02.20
Elaine Browne	Head of Law	17.02.20	17.02.20
Karen Shepherd	Head of Governance	13.2.20	14.02.20
David Scott	Returning Officer	13.2.20	13.02.20

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type: Council decision	Urgency item? No	To Follow item? No
Report Author: Suzanne Martin, Electoral & Information Governance Services Manager, 01628 682935		

Appendix 1 – Polling District & Polling Places Schedule 2020

Ward	Polling District	Polling District Code	Polling Place	Polling Station Electorate (May 2019)	No. Polling Stations required at Polling Place	Recommendations of the Acting Returning Officer
Belmont	Belmont West	MBE1	Mobile unit, St.Marks Hospital, St. Marks Road, SL6 6DU	2,659	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors.
	Belmont East	MBE2	St.Luke's Community Hall, Norfolk Road, SL6 7AX	1,727	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Bisham & Cookham	Bisham	MBC1	Bisham Primary School, Church Lane, SL7 1RW	657	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors

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	Cookham	MBC2	Rogers Room, Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Churchgate, SL6 9SP	403	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Cookham Rise	MBC3	Pinder Hall, Lower Road, SL6 9EH	1,224	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Cookham West	MBC4	Cookham Dean Village Hall, Church Road, SL6 9PD	1,170	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Boyn Hill	Boyn Hill Central	MBH1	All Saints Parish Centre, Church Close, Boyn Hill Road, SL6 4HE	2,188	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Boyn Hill West	MBH2	St.Edmund Campion Parish Centre, 40a Altwood Road, SL6 4PY	2,107	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no

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						adverse comments received from electors
Bray	Bray Village	MBR1	Bray Village Hall, High Street, SL6 2AR	1,874	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Holyport	MBR2	Holyport Primary School, Stroud Farm Road, SL6 2LP	2,185	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Oakley Green and Fifield	MBR3	Braywood Memorial Hall, Fifield Road, SL6 2NX	697	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Cox Green	Cox Green South	MCG1	Cox Green Community Centre, 51 Highfield Lane, SL6 3AY	1,288	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Cox Green North	MCG2	Cox Green Community Centre, 51 Highfield Lane, SL6 3AY	1,560	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been

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						used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Cox Green East	MCG3	The Scout Hut, Cox Green Road, SL6 3ED	1,898	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Furze Platt	Furze Platt West	MFP1	Furze Platt Memorial Hall, Furze Platt Road, SL6 7NG	1,527	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Furze Platt Central	MFP2	St.Peter's Church, St Peters Road, SL6 7QU	1,117	1	Change to polling district boundary. Properties north of Gardner Road and east of Switchback Road North to transfer from MFP3 to MFP2.
	Furze Platt East	MFP3	St Mary's RC School, Cookham Road, SL6 7EG	2,166	1	Change to polling district boundary. Properties north of Gardner Road and east of Switchback Road North to transfer from MFP3 to MFP2.
Hurley & Walthams	Hurley North	MHW1	Hurley Village Hall, High Street, Hurley, SL6 5LT	602	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no

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					adverse comments received from electors
Hurley South	MHW2	Knowl Hill Village Hall, The Terrace, Bath Road, RG10 9XB	603	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Shottesbrooke	MHW3	White Waltham Parish Hall, Holly Cottage, Waltham Road, SL6 3SG			No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Waltham St Lawrence	MHW4	The Neville Memorial Hall, Milley Road, RG10 0JP	847	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Littlewick Green	MHW5	Gilchrist Memorial Hall, Littlewick Green, SL6 3RF	311	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
White Waltham and Paley Street	MHW6	White Waltham Parish Hall, Holly Cottage, Waltham Road, SL6 3SG			No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been

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						used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Woodlands Park	MHW7	Woodlands Park Village Centre, Manifold Way, SL6 3GW	1,238	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Oldfield	Oldfield West	MOF1	Larchfield Community Centre, Desborough Park, SL6 2TN	2,523	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Oldfield Central	MOF2	Ascot/Bray rooms, Town Hall, St Ives Road, SL6 1RF	878	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Fisheries	MOF3	Forest Bridge School, Chiltern Road, SL6 1XA	191	1	Change to polling place. Relocate polling place from Forest Bridge School to Desborough Bowling Club, Green Lane.
	Oldfield North	MOF4	Forest Bridge School, Chiltern Road, SL6 1XA	586	1	Change to polling place. Relocate polling place from Forest Bridge School to

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						Desborough Bowling Club, Green Lane.
Pinkneys Green	Pinkneys Green South	MPG1	The Methodist Church, St Mark's Crescent, SL6 5DG	2,314	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Pinkneys Green North	MPG2	Pinkneys Green Youth & Community Centre, Blenheim Road, SL6 5HE	2,208	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Riverside	Maidenhead Riverside West	MRS1	Riverside Children's Centre, West Dean, SL6 7JB	970	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Maidenhead Riverside North	MRS2	Mill House Family Centre, 18-20 Ray Mill Road East, SL6 8ST	1,333	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Maidenhead Riverside South	MRS3	Thames Hotel, Ray Mead Road, SL6 8NR	2,199	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and

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						polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
St Mary's	St Mary's North	MSM1	Marlow Road Community Centre, 4 Marlow Road, SL6 7YR	1,677	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	St Mary's South	MSM2	Council Chamber, Town Hall, St Ives Road, SL6 1RF	2,284	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Ascot & Sunninghill	North Ascot	WAS1	All Saints Church Hall, London Road, Ascot Heath, SL5 8DQ	2,782	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	South Ascot	WAS2	South Ascot Church Hall, Church Road, South Ascot, SL5 9DP	2,295	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors

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	Sunninghill	WAS3	Ascot District Day Centre, Bagshot Road, Sunninghill, SL5 9PD	1,817	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Clewer & Dedworth East	Dedworth Manor	WCDE1	The Manor Youth Centre, Hanover Way, SL4 5NW	1,929	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Clever Hill	WCDE2	The Spencer Denney Centre, Park Corner, Clewer Hill Road, SL4 4EB	1,924	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	St Leonard's	WCDE3	Mobile unit at St Leonard's Hill, SL4 4AL	707	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Clewer & Dedworth West	Dedworth Riverside	WCDW1	Dedworth Middle School, Smiths Lane, SL4 5PE	2,094	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no

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						adverse comments received from electors
	Willows	WCDW2	Windsor Gospel Hall, Riddlesway, SL4 5SJ	751	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Dedworth Green	WCDW3	Tinkers Lane Depot, Tinkers Lane, Dedworth, SL4 4LR	1,901	2	Change to polling place. Relocate polling place from Tinkers Lane Depot to Windspr Gospel Hall, Riddlesway.
Clewer East	Clewer New Town	WCE1	Clewer First School, Hatch Lane, SL4 3RL	1,588	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Oakfield	WCE2	Kipling Court, York Road, SL4 3NX	1,945	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Clewer Village	WCE3	Clewer Youth & Community Centre, 39A Parsonage Lane, SL4 5EW	806	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no

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						adverse comments received from electors
Datchet, Horton & Wraysbury	Datchet West	WDHW1	Datchet Village Hall, Allen Way, Datchet, SL3 9HR	1,569	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Datchet East	WDHW2	Datchet Village Hall, Allen Way, Datchet, SL3 9HR	1,721	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Horton	WDHW3	The Champney Hall, Stanwell Road, Horton, SL3 9PA	731	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Wraysbury	WDHW4	Wraysbury Village Hall, The Green, Wraysbury, TW19 5NA	2,745	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Eton & Castle	Castle South	WEC1	All Saints Church Hall, Alexandra Road, SL4 3AJ	2,738	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been

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						used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Castle North	WEC2	St.Stephen's School Rooms, St Stephen's Church, Vansittart Road, SL4 5EA	1,873	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors	
Eton	WEC3	Eton Town Council Office, 102 High Street, Eton, SL4 6AJ	1,038	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors	
Eton Wick	WEC4	Eton Wick Youth Centre, Eton Wick Road, Eton Wick, SL4 6LT	1,636	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors	
Old Windsor	Great Park	WOW1	The York Club, Windsor Great Park, SL4 2HT	206	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors

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	Old Windsor	WOW2	Old Windsor Memorial Hall, Straight Road, Old Windsor, SL4 2RN	3,189	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Home Park	WOW3	Old Windsor Memorial Hall, Straight Road, Old Windsor, SL4 2RN	76	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Boltons	WOW4	Gardener's Hall, 213 St. Leonard's Road, SL4 3DR	1,312	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
Sunningdale & Cheapside	Cheapside	WSC1	Cheapside Village Hall, Cheapside Road, Ascot, SL5 7QH	544	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
	Sunningdale North	WSC2	Sunningdale Village Hall, Church Road, Sunningdale, SL5 0NJ	1,914	2	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no

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					adverse comments received from electors
Sunningdale South	WSC3	Mobile unit at Waitrose carpark, London Road, Sunningdale, SL5 0HD	1,317	1	No change. An established polling district boundary and polling place which have been used successfully for a number of years with no adverse comments received from electors
90,359 81					