

Officer decision record

Officer: Ian Gallin	Service: Chief Executive
<p>Delegated power being exercised</p> <p>At its meeting on 19 December 2023 West Suffolk Council approved the amended scheme of polling districts and polling places, as set out at Appendix A to Report number: COU/WS/23/023. They also authorised the Chief Executive, to amend the scheme of polling districts and polling places for Moreton Hall Ward and Haverhill West Ward following completion of the necessary assessments, as detailed in the Report number: COU/WS/23/023, and in consultation with relevant ward members.</p> <p>In accordance with the delegation, the Chief Executive has taken the decision to approve the amended scheme of polling places with the changes set out below.</p>	
Subject of decision	As set out in report number COU/WS/23/023
Decision taken (specify precise details)	<p>That the following changes be made to the scheme of polling districts and polling places:</p> <p>Polling Place for W-HH-W1 Haverhill (West) 1 and W-HH-W2 Haverhill (West) 2 be confirmed as Haverhill Rugby Club.</p> <p>An additional polling district be created for Moreton Hall in Bury St Edmunds with the polling districts and places confirmed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - B-BE-MH1 Bury St Edmunds (Moreton Hall) 1 polling at Moreton Hall Community Centre (no change) - B-BE-MH2 Bury St Edmunds (Moreton Hall) 2 polling at Moreton Hall Community Centre (change of polling place) - B-BE-MH3 Bury St Edmunds (Moreton Hall) 3 polling at Skyliner Sports Centre (no change) - B-BE-MH4 Bury St Edmunds (Moreton Hall) 4 polling at Skyliner Sports Centre (no change)
Reasons for the decision (specify all reasons for taking the decisions including where necessary reference to Council policy)	The Unity Schools Partnership Offices is not available for future use as a polling place and a change of polling place was required for W-HH-W1 Haverhill (West) 1 and W-HH-W2 Haverhill (West).

	The polling district B-BE-MH2 Bury St Edmunds (Moreton Hall) 2 exceeded the Electoral Commission guidance limit of 2250 electors per polling place.
Alternative options considered (if appropriate)	<p>The Army Cadet Centre in Haverhill was assessed as an alternative to the Unity Schools Partnership Offices but determined as not being suitable as the increase in electorate could impact on access to the venue by car due to the single vehicle access from a busy road and limited parking.</p> <p>The polling district "Bury St Edmunds (Moreton Hall) 2" could have been left unchanged and the polling district streets split alphabetically between two polling stations in the same venue. However, it was considered more appropriate to review the polling district boundaries to determine if an additional polling district may be required and to consider which polling places would be more practical based on the new boundaries.</p>
Background/reports/information considered and attached (Legal, Personnel, Financial Implications and so on)	As set out in report number COU/WS/23/023
Parties consulted before the decision has been taken.	Consultation on proposals was undertaken with ward members and the proposed changes were supported by those ward members.
Conflicts of interest declared by executive members consulted, including whether the Chief Executive has authorised councillors with conflicts to continue to act	None applicable
Decision	As outlined in 'decision taken' section of this form above.
Signature and Date:	
Ian Gallin 29 January 2024	