

**Bracknell Forest Council  
Record of Decision**

<b>Work Programme Reference</b>	<b>I030524</b>
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1. **TITLE:** Polling District and Polling Place Review

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Corporate Services

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

Review required by legislation every four years - Steering Group to report to Council/Executive and consider if any representations should be made for changes to be effected from the publication of the revised register on 1 December 2011.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

It be **RECOMMENDED** to Council that:

1. No changes be made to the following Polling Districts and Polling Places which meet the statutory criteria and provide reasonable and accessible facilities;

BA	BG	BM	CN	SP	WN	WV	WZ
BD	BH	BN	CS	SQ	WP	WW	
BE	BJ	BP	SJ	WG	WQ	WX	
BF	BK	BW	SO	WM	WS	WY	

2. No changes be made to polling districts BB (Binfield) and BL (Harmans Water) which also meet the statutory criteria and provide reasonable and accessible facilities, but that they be kept under review as developments progress;

3. The new Jennett's Park Community Centre be designated as the Polling Place for BQ (for reasons given in the associated report);

4. No change be made to Polling District BT but that the Kerith Centre buildings be designated as the new Polling Place (for reasons given in the associated report);

5. The Polling Districts and Polling Places for the Borough of Bracknell Forest be approved, as set out at Annex C to the associated report, with effect from 1 December 2011.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

The Steering Group considered carefully the present arrangements for polling districts and polling places in the Borough and paid particular attention to representations received, available alternative options and the following issues:

- Polling districts where polling places were outside the polling district;

- Schools used as polling places, specifically BW, SO and BJ;
- Areas where significant development had commenced or was planned and the impact on current arrangements and facilities;
- Issues brought to light following the May 2011 elections

The Group considered whether the current arrangements met the needs of voters in the area and considered their accessibility particularly for disabled people. The Group were of the opinion that changes should be made only where absolutely necessary to avoid confusion and disruption and only where this brought a material benefit to voters and disabled voters. As a result changes to only two polling places are recommended, one as a result of the opening of a new facility within a polling district to replace an existing polling place which was outside the polling district (BQ) and the other to provide improved access and facilities and more sustainable, longer term arrangements for voters (BT).

#### 8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

This review is a statutory requirement. The Group received and considered a number of representations in addition to the views of the (Acting) Returning Officer, and these are contained at Annex A to this report.

9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:** All members of the Council; all main constituency parties; all independent candidates and candidates with no description at the May 2011 elections; all designated polling stations; Age Concern, Bracknell; Acting Returning Officer at both Wokingham Borough Council and Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead; Berkshire Blind Society; BFVA; DIS: Course at the Ark Studio; The Look In on the Broadway; Scope

10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Director of Corporate Services

11. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None.

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
15 November 2011	23 November 2011