

Notice of Meeting

Council

Councillor Ejaz (Mayor)
Councillor Penfold (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Allen, Bailey, Barnard, Bidwell, Brown, Cochrane, Collings, C Eberle, T Eberle, Egglestone, M Forster, S Forster, Frewer, Frost, Gaw, Gillbe, Haffegée, Harrison, Hayes MBE, Jefferies, Karim, McKenzie-Boyle, McLean, Mossom, Neil, O'Regan, Pickering, Purnell, Robertson, Smith, Temperton, C Thompson, P Thompson, Virgo, Watts, Webb, Welch, Wright and Zahuruddin



Wednesday 10 January 2024, 7.30 pm
Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, RG12 1JD

Susan Halliwell
Chief Executive

Agenda

All councillors at this meeting have adopted the Mayor's Charter which fosters constructive and respectful debate.

Item	Description	Page
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	5 - 16
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 November 2023.	
3.	Declarations of Interest	
	<p>Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or affected interests in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.</p> <p>Any Member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter should withdraw from the meeting when the matter is under consideration and should notify the Democratic Services Officer in attendance that they are withdrawing as they have such an interest. If the Disclosable Pecuniary Interest is not entered on the register of Members interests the Monitoring Officer must be notified of the interest within 28 days.</p> <p>Any Member with an affected Interest in a matter must disclose the interest to the meeting. There is no requirement to withdraw from the meeting when the interest is only an affected interest, but the Monitoring Officer should be notified of the interest, if not previously notified of it, within 28 days of the meeting.</p>	
4.	Mayor's Announcements	

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5.	Executive Report	17 - 22
	To receive the Leader's report on the work of the Executive since the Council meeting held on 29 November 2023.	
6.	Polling District and Polling Place Review 2024	23 - 84
	To agree the Returning Officer's proposed polling district and polling place scheme following public consultation and consideration by the Electoral Review Steering Group.	

Exclusion of the Press and Public

Agenda item 7 is supported by an annex containing exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. If the Committee wishes to discuss the content of this annex in detail, it may choose to move the following resolution:

That pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and having regard to the public interest, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following item which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of that Act:

- (3) *Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).*

7.	Bracknell Forest Council's Participation in the Department for Education's Safety Valve Intervention Programme	85 - 134
	To recommend a final proposal to be submitted on 12 January to the Department for Education for the Council's inclusion in its Safety Valve Intervention Programme and to seek approval for related investment in local school provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).	
8.	Question Submitted Under the Public Participation Scheme	
	<p><u>By resident, Dr Michael Brown, to Councillor Gillbe, Executive Member for Planning and Transport:</u></p> <p>I would like to understand the latest status of the diverted footpaths at the Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club fields in Winkfield. As you know this issue has been ongoing for more than 3 years without resolution despite numerous efforts by the public and councillors to resolve. There is a proposed diverted path however it is,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Still not signposted (temporary signs have been removed from a significant proportion of the route) and therefore not clear 2. The diverted route is partly along a road shared with cars, vans and heavy trucks - this is not a footpath and has the potential to increase the council's liability to maintain it in the future 3. Large sections of the "path" are entirely waterlogged and virtually unusable - it is the responsibility of the local authority to maintain the surface of public footpaths. 	

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	My question therefore is when and how will this all be resolved so the users of the public footpath can do so safely and free of risk of injury?	
9.	Questions Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 10	
	<p><u>By Councillor McLean to Councillor Wright, Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing</u></p> <p>Could the Executive Member please confirm the numbers of homes delivered annually in Bracknell Forest, which were available on the basis of affordable rents and shared ownership since 2017?</p> <p><u>By Councillor Gaw to Councillor Bailey, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning</u></p> <p>Can the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning please update Council on the progress, completion and implementation of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's) during the last six months and provide statistical information on those EHCP's still outstanding/ in progress?</p>	
10.	Motion (or Motions) Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 11	
	<p><u>Motion 01/2024 moved by Councillor McLean and seconded by Councillor McKenzie-Boyle</u></p> <p>Residents and local businesses across the Borough have suffered travel chaos and inconvenience over the last few months, caused by a series roadworks. This Council, working with our local MPs, will lobby central government for greater powers to better plan all but emergency works, and to issue higher penalties for those that over-run, in order to minimise disruption.</p>	
11.	Presentation by Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner	135 - 152
	<p>To receive a presentation from Chief Constable Jason Hogg, Superintendent Andrew Cranidge, and Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber.</p> <p>Members are asked to submit any questions on this item to committee@bracknell-forest.gov.uk by the end of the day on 5 January 2024 for collation.</p>	

Sound recording, photographing, filming and use of social media is permitted. Please contact Lizzie Rich, 01344 352253, committee@bracknell-forest.gov.uk, so that any special arrangements can be made.

Published: 2 January 2024

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COUNCIL
29 NOVEMBER 2023
7.35 - 10.05 PM



Present:

Councillors Ejaz (Mayor), Penfold, Allen, Bailey, Barnard, Bidwell, Brown, Cochrane, Collings, C Eberle, T Eberle, M Forster, S Forster, Frewer, Gaw, Gillbe, Haffegge, Harrison, Jefferies, McLean, Neil, Pickering, Purnell, Robertson, Smith, Temperton, C Thompson, P Thompson, Virgo, Webb, Welch and Zahuruddin

Present Virtually:

Councillors Egglestone, Hayes MBE, McKenzie-Boyle, Mossom, O'Regan, Watts and Wright

Apologies:

Councillors Frost and Karim

27. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 September 2023 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

28. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ejaz declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 7 as she was a licensee. The Deputy Mayor would take over for that item whilst the Councillor Ejaz withdrew from the meeting and left the Council Chamber.

29. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reported on her activities since the last Council meeting in September. These included:

- Bracknell Foodbank Advent Calendars
- Unveiling of Royal Title at Berkshire Archives
- Judicial Service Parade
- Silver Sunday Tea Dance
- Home Start 30th Anniversary.
- Navratri
- Poppy Pod
- Diwali
- Remembrance Sunday Parade

The Mayor was pleased to announce that her nominated charity for the remainder of her mayoral year would be Berkshire Women's Aid who, while found outside of the borough, provided support to Bracknell Forest families experiencing domestic abuse and domestic violence. This was particularly timely given the recent White Ribbon Day on 25 November 2023 which aimed to end men's violence on women and girls. The Mayor invited all Councillors to participate in the White Ribbon Campaign Vigil event on 9 December 2023.

The Mayor drew particular attention to the Foodbank's Advent Calendar campaign, and encouraged all Councillors to generously contribute to the Foodbank this festive season.

The Mayor commented that she had been pleased to attend two major Hindu celebrations, Navratri and Diwali, which had been hosted by two different community groups. It had been a huge opportunity to be a bridge between communities.

The Judicial Service led by the High Sheriff of Berkshire had raised money for Legal Aid to support those who could not afford legal services, and the Mayor had also attended the Crown Court open day which had been eye-opening.

The Mayor had attended the retirement party for the Lord Lieutenant James Puxley, and she thanked him for his service and wished him all the best.

On 12 November 2023, the Mayor had attended the Remembrance Sunday service which had been very well attended by residents and members of the armed forces to remember those who served in the line of duty. The Mayor commented that her grandfather had served 6 years in active duty, and had provided soldiers from his clan to the British Army, and that the sacrifices of all servicemen and women would not be forgotten.

30. **Executive Report**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Temperton, presented her report on the work of the Executive since that reported at the Council meeting on 13 September 2023. The Executive had met three times on 19 September, 17 October and 14 November 2023.

The Leader highlighted the following matters that had been considered:

Environment and Community Cohesion | Waste Collection Vehicle Purchase

- Existing garden waste collection rounds were over capacity due to a growing borough and increased sign up to the garden waste collection service.
- The Executive had agreed the purchase of a new 26-tonne waste collection vehicle in 2023 for delivery in 2024, subject to Council approval.
- A trial of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil had been agreed for this vehicle subject to viability testing.

Adult Services, Health and Housing | Bridgewell Supported Living

- The Executive had considered the progress on design development, timetable and work to improve sustainability for the new Bridgewell from the design and build contractor who had been appointed in January 2023.
- Bridgewell would be a new supported living scheme for adults with learning disabilities, which would provide for vulnerable people whose current accommodation did not meet their needs.

Finance and Business Change | Budget Update

- The Executive had considered the financial pressures faced by this Council due to inflation and service demand.
- The predicted financial position for the current year and the medium-term financial prospects were also noted.

- The Executive agreed the proposed use of Council funding to support delivery of affordable housing as detailed in the report.

Children, Young People & Learning | SEND Written Statement of Action (WOSA) – Implementation

- The progress on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Written Statement of Action (WOSA) as noted by the Executive, including most recent feedback from the Department for Education and NHS England from the third review meeting on 10 July 2023. It was noted that there had been a great deal of activity since the last review meeting, and that improvements had moved on at pace.
- The Executive also noted the Department for Education's invitation to take part in the Safety Vale intervention programme 2024-25, for local authorities with high Designated Schools Grant (DSG) deficits.

Children, Young People & Learning | New SEND School Site

- The Executive agreed Buckler's Park as the site for a new Autistic Spectrum Condition school to provide new Special Education Needs and Disabilities school places, reducing the need for pupils to be educated out of the borough.
- The Executive delegated authority to the Executive Director: People and the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning for minor amendments.

Strategies and Policies:

- The Executive approved and adopted the Bracknell Forest Prevent Strategy 2024-27.
- The Executive approved the proposed changes to the Housing Allocation Policy, and approved a consultation plan to ensure partners, Councillors and the public could all have an input.
- The Executive approved the draft All-age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029 for public consultation, and a revised draft would return to a future Executive meeting.
- The Executive approved the draft Bracknell Forest Economic Strategy 2024-2034 for public consultation.

Procurements and Contracts:

- The Executive approved the award of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service for a five-year term with two 12-month optional extensions.
- The Executive approved a two-year direct award to ensure continuity of specialist and integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health services across East Berkshire beyond 30 June 2024.
- The Executive agreed the proposed re-procurement of Occupational Health service contract for Council staff including school staff.
- The Executive approved the procurement plan for an Integrated Therapies service, joint with NHS Frimley, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Slough Borough Council.

Councillor Barnard asked about the current percentage of Educational Health Care Plans completed within the designated 20-week period. In response, Councillor Bailey commented that while the exact figure was not available at the meeting, he

was assured that progress was being made and every effort was being made to progress each EHCP at pace.

Councillor S Forster asked for assurance that the borrowing arrangement for the new waste collection vehicle was the most financially responsible means of purchasing the new vehicle, particularly when compared to choosing to defer the purchase to the next financial year. In response, Councillor Purnell explained that the lead time for a new vehicle was 12 months and the Council would not have to pay for the vehicle until it was delivered in or around December 2024. An interim measure would be to hire a vehicle after April 2024 to cover the period until the new vehicle was delivered, however this would depend on capacity and waste volumes. There would be no expenditure in relation to this decision during the current financial year, and officers had advised that outright purchase was the best option for this service.

As a supplementary question, Councillor S Forster asked for assurances that residents who do not use the garden waste collection service would not be unfairly burdened due to the additional costs and reductions being made to other more general services to achieve the indicated saving.

In response, Councillor Purnell explained that while the new truck would predominantly be used for garden waste collection, it would also be used for general waste and dry recycling collection where required which was normal practice for all 26-tonne waste collection vehicles. Garden waste collection was a non-statutory and subscription service and the recommendation was to increase subscription costs to cover some of the revenue costs of the new vehicle. The remaining revenue cost would be offset by including the £75,000 saving from the waste collection budget as part of the 2024/25 budget.

Councillor T Eberle asked a question about the project costs of Bridgewell's construction, and asked for assurances that the Council would be adequately protected from further cost increases as the project progresses.

In response, Councillor Temperton advised that the contract for Bridgewell was very tight. The absolute timescale and cost of Bridgewell's construction could not be guaranteed due to build uncertainties and land characteristics, however a contingency plan was in place for any unexpected eventualities.

The report contained recommendations that the Council was asked to resolve in respect of the following matters.

Additional waste collection vehicle

On the proposition of Councillor Purnell, Executive Member for Environment and Community Cohesion and seconded by Councillor Welch it was **RESOLVED** that a supplementary capital approval of £0.205m with the associated borrowing costs being accounted for within the figures in section 5.15 of the report, be approved for the purchase of an additional waste collection vehicle.

Bridgewell

On the proposition of Councillor Temperton, Leader and Executive Member for Council Strategy and Climate Change and seconded by Councillor Gillbe it was **RESOLVED** that the additional cost of works for the new supported living accommodation at Bridgewell of £400k be approved increasing the budget from £7.15m to £7.55m.

31. **Council Plan 2023-2027**

Council discussed the Council Plan setting out agreed priorities for the period 2023 to 2027 and the new business change programme, following engagement and development with councillors and staff. It was proposed that the Council should adopt a flexible use of capital receipts strategy to maximise funding opportunities to support the delivery of the business change programme.

The plan included a core enabling priority to be an ambitious, resilient and sustainable organisation. Much of this was to be delivered through the business change programme to ensure the organisation was fit for the future. The proposed flexible use of a capital receipts strategy would enable the council to use capital receipts to support and enable the delivery of the business change programme's priorities and facilitate the delivery of savings and improved outcomes for service users.

The Leader stressed the financial background against the Plan, with significant financial challenges across the country. The Council Plan had been carefully created to make realistic commitments within the Council's means.

Councillors celebrated the fact that the Council Plan could be supported across political parties and welcomed the collaborative approach for its creation. It was recognised that the plan, which aimed to further develop Bracknell Forest as an excellent place to live, work and visit, could only be delivered in partnership.

The progress against each element of the Council Plan would be reported through the Quarterly Service Reports.

Councillors thanked all officers for their support of the new administration thus far.

On the proposition of Councillor Temperton, Leader and Executive Member for Council Strategy and Climate Change and seconded by Councillor Pickering it was **RESOLVED** that:

- 1 The Council Plan as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved;
- 2 To support delivery of the Council Plan and ensure the organisation remains resilient and sustainable, the proposed Business Change programme summarised in Appendix A of the report be endorsed;
- 3 With effect from 1 December 2023, a flexible use of capital receipts strategy as set out at Appendix B of the report be approved to provide funding needed to ensure the Council Plan and Business Change programme are successfully delivered.

32. **Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy**

The deputy mayor chaired the meeting for this item as the mayor, Councillor Ejaz withdrew from the meeting as she had a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Council considered a report inviting it to adopt the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy following the consultation undertaken in 2022 and discussion at the Licensing and Safety Committee in October 2023. The revised policy had been prepared to comply with Department for Transport statutory standards of vehicle licensing requirements and recent legislative changes. Revised best practice guidance to help local licensing authorities to carry out their taxi and private hire

vehicle licensing functions had also been issued on the 17 November 2023. Officers were considering this guidance and would present any proposed further modifications at the February 2024 Licensing and Safety Committee meeting.

The draft policy had been created with members of the trade, and the consultation process had received 27 responses between July and September 2022. All responders and members of the trade were thanked for their input. The consultation raised additional issues relating to the draft policy, including the frequency of MOT tests, frequency of medical examinations, taxi signage and use of armbands. As a result of the consultation responses being considered, a number of changes had been made to the final policy around these issues.

The age of vehicles requirements had been adapted as a result of consultation to take into account the views of the trade while also aligning with the Council's climate change priorities. In order to protect the most vulnerable passengers, the training requirements had not been amended.

The draft policy also reflected changes to the Knowledge Test requirement which had been consulted on with the trade.

The Council noted thanks to the previous Chair of the Licensing and Safety Committee, John Porter, as this plan had been put together across two administrations.

On the proposition of Councillor Gillbe, Executive Member for Planning and Transport and Chair of the Licensing & Safety Committee and seconded by Councillor Jefferies it was **RESOLVED** that:

- 1 The proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy be adopted and implemented with effect from 1 December 2023.
- 2 The Licensing and Safety Committee be requested to keep the policy under review and make any necessary amendments.

33. **Schedule of Meetings 2024/25**

Council considered a recommendation relating to the meetings schedule for 2024/25.

It was commented that the 6:30pm start for Planning Committee meetings had proved disadvantageous to those Councillors and members of the public who travelled to meetings after work. It was requested that views be canvassed on a later start time.

On the proposition of Councillor Temperton, Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Barnard it was **RESOLVED** that the schedule of meetings 2024/25 as set out in the annex to the report be approved.

34. **Establishment of an Appointment Committee**

Council considered a report inviting it to establish an appointments committee to appoint a Joint Director of Public Health for Bracknell Forest Council and the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM). Following the ongoing reorganisation of the East Berkshire Public Health System, the councils were now in a position to appoint a new joint Director of Public Health.

The Officer Employment Procedure Rules (Part 4, Section 12 of the Council's Constitution) were relevant to the appointment.

The planned date for the meeting of the Appointment Committee had been changed, and so an additional recommendation was proposed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to agree the final appointments on behalf of Bracknell Forest Council once a new date had been agreed.

On the proposition of Councillor Temperton, Leader and Executive Member for Council Strategy and Climate Change and seconded by Councillor Purnell it was **RESOLVED:**

- 1 That a committee of the Council of three Bracknell Forest Councillors (2 Labour, 1 Conservative), including the Executive Member for Adult Services Health and Housing and three Councillors of RBWM be appointed, with the following terms of reference:

To interview and appoint on behalf of the Council to the post of:

i) Joint Director of Public Health
- 2 That nominated Members are appointed in accordance with political group wishes
- 3 That substitute Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) Members are appointed in accordance with Labour (5) and Conservative (3) group wishes, including two substitute Executive Members.
- 4 That three substitute Councillors from RBWM also be appointed.
- 5 That the Joint Committee proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the Bracknell Forest Constitution.
- 6 That the Chief Executive is authorised to agree the Bracknell Forest Council appointments in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.

35. Question Submitted Under the Public Participation Scheme

Bracknell Forest resident David McMullen asked Councillor Wright, Executive Member for Adult Services, Health & Housing, the following question:

“Could the Council please let us know what information and support will be available to the approximately 2030 households currently receiving either legacy benefits (Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support) and/or tax credits during the first stage of the upcoming managed migration to Universal Credit, when people living in the Bracknell Job Centre area receive their Migration Notices from the DWP and has the Council plans to update its website to include information advising people to complete a benefit calculation to ensure they are getting their full entitlement to legacy benefits before moving onto Universal Credit and stressing when residents receive their Managed Migration Notice they need to make a claim for Universal Credit themselves by the 3-month deadline giving in this Notice or their benefits will end.”

In response, Councillor Wright provided the following published response:

“The move from legacy benefits, such as Housing Benefit, onto Universal Credit, is being led by the Department of Work and Pensions rather than Bracknell Forest.

The DWP will be the lead agency for providing advice and support to residents about the move, but we have been informed that anyone in scope will receive a leaflet to advise about the change in the first instance. This will then be followed with a migration letter, setting out the timescale that a resident would have to make an application for Universal Credit.

It is very likely that many of those who receive legacy benefits and so are in scope to move over to Universal Credit, may feel anxious about the change, but a high number may also not be known to the Council. As we do at present, where a customer reaches out for assistance, we refer into the Citizens Advice Help to Claim service for new claims to Universal Credit. All staff within the Housing Benefit team and wider Welfare Service are aware of the change, and the process that residents will need to follow and will be available to assist with any queries regarding the benefits that we administer.

Our website has been updated and includes information to signpost people to the government information on migration to Universal Credit.

In many cases, those who are in scope to move, may receive a benefit such as Housing Benefit and may already have been advised to complete an online calculation, as many who are in work, are better off on Universal Credit, than the legacy benefits it replaces. We will maintain our commitment to provide guidance and support to residents in the borough who reach out for assistance, and to seek to support those in scope to move, during this challenging period.”

In response to the published answer, Mr McMullen asked the following supplementary question:

Can the Council confirm that they have suitably briefed other Councillors given then amount of casework that they do and will be meeting members to explain that although it states ‘migrating’ that this won’t happen automatically, and that residents will need to contact the DWP and request to be moved over or risk losing their legacy terms?

In response, Councillor Wright thanked Mr McMullen for bringing the issue to the Council’s attention and advised that there is an option for residents to request an advance payment to be repaid over 24 months. The Council has a Welfare team who are all trained to give advice to people in financial hardship. All Councillors were reminded that they should direct any residents with concerns about migration to Universal Credit towards the Welfare team for advice.

36. **Questions Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 10**

Councillor C Eberle asked Councillor Gillbe, Executive Member for Planning and Transport, the following question:

“Can the Executive Member give an update on the Council’s plans and progress in increasing the use of public transport, both in pursuance of the Climate Change Action Plan, and also to help those residents who do not have access to car transport; particularly in relation to bus transport to and from Crowthorne and Sandhurst railway stations?”

Councillor Gillbe provided the following published response:

“Bus patronage within Bracknell Forest is continuing to grow back following the COVID pandemic. Data from Thames Valley Buses, who operate 80% of routes

within borough, shows that overall patronage is up 17% since the start of 2023 and up by 26% compared to this time last year. Whilst patronage on individual services will vary, these figures show that travel by bus is broadly 3% down on pre-pandemic levels.

Commercial services are performing better than council supported routes, and fare paying passengers have returned in much greater numbers than bus pass holders. In part this is due to the positive impact of the national £2 single fare cap, but also the national change in travel habits of our older population.

Promotion of bus travel by operators is key, but the council can also play a part. Next month we are promoting bus use on our supported services through a free bus offer for journeys heading to the town centre on the first four Saturdays in December. We hope to encourage non-bus users to leave the car at home during this busy period and instead enjoy the experience of modern bus travel. Hopefully for many this will be an introduction to the range of benefits that bus travel has to offer.

We will also continue to work closely with bus operators to identify how bus travel can be made easier and more convenient. Technology has its part to play, not only on the bus but also through the use of real-time information for bus arrival and departure times and to simplify how passengers pay for their fare. I am pleased to say that local bus operators are equally keen to drive these improvements forward.

However, it is important to encourage our residents to use their local bus services. The contribution that bus travel can make to the environment is clear, but for those without any other form of transport it can also be a life-line. Alongside our work with community transport providers, and voluntary groups such as the Arc, (who run a voluntary car scheme), the Council continues to fund a network of bus services that keep the borough connected. But the cost of these services continues to grow.

Against the backdrop of local authority funding pressures, providing new bus services that cannot otherwise be provided commercially by operators is now unaffordable. Therefore partnership working with local town and parish councils will be key in order to share the challenges of keeping our communities connected. This is a conversation which I hope can take place with regard to connecting people and facilities within Crowthorne and Sandhurst, for example, and I know that officers are continuing to explore the practical opportunities available.

In closing, I would like to encourage our residents to support their local bus services in the best way possible – and that is to travel by bus whenever they can. Not just to enjoy a journey that helps the environment, but also to help maintain the viability of those services for those who rely on them.”

Councillor C Eberle asked Councillor Gillbe the following supplementary question:

The answer discusses conversations with relevant partners to improve community transport connections. Please can the Executive Member provide more detail on the actions proposed and the likely timeframes, specifically in relation to Crowthorne and Sandhurst?

In response, Councillor Gillbe explained that it was not possible for the Council to create new local services in the current financial situation. An informal meeting between Bracknell Forest Council and Wokingham Borough Council had been held, part of which discussed a bus service to serve Crowthorne train station. Costed options were being developed to be shared with the two Borough and three Parish Councils who intersected the Crowthorne area. With regards to Sandhurst, members

and residents were encouraged to submit their ideas and thoughts to the upcoming consultation on the new Bracknell Forest Local Transport Plan. Councillor Gillbe offered to meet with Sandhurst Councillors to discuss their proposals for local transport in the area.

Councillor Harrison asked Councillor Jefferies, Executive Member for Culture, Delivery and Public Protection, the following question:

“Following the agreed motion of the Council on 12 July 2023, when the Executive was called on to consider additional CCTV cameras to detect and deter fly tipping in the Borough, how many new CCTV cameras has the Council acquired for this purpose?”

Councillor Jefferies provided the following published response:

“I thank Cllr Harrison for the question.

The Council’s Officers in the Public Protection Partnership, continue to successfully target Envirocrime, including flytipping. When last the issue was presented to council, there was broad agreement that the service has been effective in this area of work using their “intelligence led” approach. This success is based upon using CCTV as part of their approach, in addressing antisocial behaviour. Therefore there has been no call from the service to ask for additional CCTV cameras to meet their objectives, so none have been purchased.

The relevant section of the motion calls on the Executive to commit to a “...review of the most effective use of the funds available due to any budget underspend in 2023/24, with specific consideration of whether additional CCTV cameras to tackle fly tipping represents value for money for residents”.

I remain committed to doing this review when the financial outturn of the council is known at the end of the financial year.”

Councillor Harrison asked Councillor Jefferies the following supplementary question:

In light of yet another incident of serious fly tipping, this time in Wellers Lane in Warfield, will you put residents first by reconsidering the effect of refusal to step up the PPP’s CCTV capacity, or are you going to continue to give the green light to cowboy waste carriers given that it’s hard to get prosecutions without evidence?

Councillor Jefferies responded that he was aware of the recent fly-tipping incident and following investigation, some information was found which would be followed up. As debated at Council in July 2023, the CCTV capacity would be reviewed with a clearer view on the budget and Councillor Jefferies explained that he remained committed to this. The importance of CCTV was recognised in fighting fly-tipping, however it was not the only solution and a robust, holistic approach was required. CCTV was in place at fly-tipping hotspots around the borough, but it is not the only tool used in identifying individuals who fly tip. Data gathered showed a reduction in fly tipping incidents year on year from 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023. The number of fly tipping incidents to date for 2022 to 2023 was 633 incidents compared to 714 incidents in 2021 to 2022, a reduction of 11.5%. The Executive was in the process of doubling the fixed penalty notice charge for fly tipping. All identified perpetrators would be dealt with through fixed penalty charge or prosecution.

37. **Motion (or Motions) Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 11**

Motion 08/2023

Motion 08/2023 was moved by Councillor Temperton and seconded by Councillor Bailey:

“In 21/22, 22/23 and 23/24 Bracknell Forest administered many grants on behalf of central government in support of our most vulnerable residents.

In 23/24 a total of £1,649,426 was distributed in Household Support grants, Council tax energy rebate scheme, support for energy bills and Council Tax support fund- all supplied from central government.

This Council urgently asks the Government to award similar grants for the 24/25 financial year so that we can again support our most vulnerable residents in these very hard times. Like all other local councils, we do not have sufficient funds to replace such support ourselves but help is still urgently needed.”

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Motion 09/2023

Motion 09/2023 was moved by Councillor T Eberle and seconded by Councillor Zahuruddin, with the following amendment as indicated:

“Council notes reports from residents of aggressive and dangerous driver behaviour on roads near to schools in the borough.

Council also notes that a pedestrian is multiple times more likely to die if hit by a car travelling at 30 mph than they are at 20 mph.

Council recognises our responsibility to protect residents in the borough, particularly children and young people, and therefore requests the Executive Member for Highways and Transport work with officers to explore options for making further improvements to road safety for pupils on their journey to and from school, including implementing 20 mph speed limits on roads adjacent to schools where needed.”

An amendment was made to the motion by Councillor McLean which was agreed by Councillors T Eberle and Councillor Zahuruddin, therefore the motion would be read as follows:

“Council notes reports from residents of aggressive and dangerous driver behaviour on roads near to schools in the borough.

Council also notes that a pedestrian is multiple times more likely to die if hit by a car travelling at 30 mph than they are at 20 mph.

Council recognises our responsibility to protect residents in the borough, particularly children and young people, and therefore requests the Executive Member for Highways and Transport work with officers ***in consultation with local headteachers*** to explore options for making further improvements to road safety for pupils on their journey to and from school, including implementing 20 mph speed limits on roads adjacent to schools where needed.”

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Motion 10/2023

Motion 10/2023 was moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Cochrane

“Council recognises that subsidised school transport provides vital support for many families within the borough, particularly for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Decisions around school transport provision should always aspire to compassionately address the specific needs of the individual and ensure that every child has equitable access to an appropriate place of education.

Council notes that:

- National policy requires transport be provided for eligible children of statutory school age, including to schools named on an education, health and care (EHC) plan.
- Post-16 schools transport is discretionary, with each local authority determining its own policies.
- Young people are now required to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18.
- In accordance with its Post-16 Transport Policy Statement 2023-2024, Bracknell Forest Council will not currently provide post-16 transport support to a school or college named on an EHC plan where there is a nearer institution able to offer a suitable level of study.
- EHC plans (with named schools) are only provided under limited circumstances, where there is a genuine requirement for the pupil to attend a specific institution due to their individual needs.

Council considers that we could be doing more to support families of SEND pupils post-16. Council therefore requests that the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning works with schools transport officers to explore options to extend our post-16 transport policy when it is reviewed for the 2024-2025 academic year, to cover transport support to institutions named on an EHC plan, so far as is financially viable.”

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

CHAIRMAN

To: Council
10 January 2024

Executive Report to Council The Leader

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Since the Council agenda for the meeting on the 29 November 2023 was published, the Executive met on the 12 December 2023. This report summarises decisions taken by reference to the relevant portfolio within which they fall.
- 1.2 Updated Forward Plans for the Executive and other Council meetings are published every Friday and can be viewed online at www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk. Full details on the decisions taken by individual portfolio holders can also be accessed online through the Council's website.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 Council is asked to note the report.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The reasons for recommendations are set out in the supporting information and in the reports considered by the Executive. The relevant reports that the Executive considered can be found [here](#).

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Alternative options are discussed in the relevant individual reports considered by the Executive. The relevant reports that the Executive considered can be found [here](#).

5 Supporting Information

Finance and Business Change

5.1 [Capital Programme 2024/25 - 2026/27 and Revenue Budget 2024/25](#)

- 5.1.1 The Executive approved for consultation a draft capital programme based on total spending of £8.328m of which:
- £4.554m of expenditure to be externally funded including £0.380m of S106 funding.
 - £1m would be reserved for Invest-to-Save schemes.
- 5.1.2 The Executive also agreed its draft revenue budget proposals for 2024/25 as the basis for consultation. These proposals included the Treasury Management Strategy

and associated documents, which the Executive requested be reviewed by the Governance and Audit Committee.

- 5.1.3 The Executive approved the write-off of £54,150 for a commercial property debt that was no longer recoverable.
- 5.1.4 Both the draft revenue budget and capital programme will now be considered by Overview & Scrutiny, and their views along with any submitted by residents, local groups and businesses would be reported to the Executive and Full Council in February when the final budget proposals for 2024/25 will be agreed.

5.2 Building Maintenance and Repair Service Contract

- 5.2.1 That the Executive approved the Strategic Procurement Plan to tender the services for a single organisation to provide 24 hour Building Maintenance and Reactive Repairs Services for the Councils corporate stock and buy back schools.
- 5.2.2 The current contract for Building Maintenance and Reactive Repair Services contract has been in place since 3 February 2020, which has been successfully carried out. The contract was based on a fixed price for the 3 years with an option to extend for a further 2 year from 2023 until 2 February 2025.
- 5.2.3 On the 9 February 2023, the Council granted an extension to the current contractor for one further year, which expires on 2 February 2024. Based on the current provider KPI's and performance the Council would extend the contact for a further year and therefore the contract would expire on 1 February 2025.

5.3 Procurement of Neutral Agency Vendor/Specialist Providers of Agency Staff

- 5.3.1 The Executive approved the re-procurement of a neutral vendor contract to provide the Council with agency staff in accordance with the strategic procurement plan.
- 5.3.2 The Council spends in excess of £7m a year on agency staff, of which on-contract spend through Matrix currently accounts for between 65 and 70% of the total spend. Whilst generally successful, the contract with Matrix (and any neutral vendor) will have gaps in their ability to provide all the Council's agency worker needs due to the specialist nature of some roles.
- 5.3.3 Procurement would be split into three Lots to address the current issues with recruiting specialist social care and education roles under a neutral agency vendor arrangement. It is intended that this approach will reduce the overall costs to the council through more on-contract spending and higher levels of fulfilment thus improving compliance and governance around agency worker recruitment.

Planning and Transport

5.4 Making (adoption) of the Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2037

- 5.4.1 The Executive agreed the formal "making" (keeping in legal force) of the Winkfield Neighbourhood Development Plan to continue to form part of the statutory Bracknell Forest Development Plan pursuant to Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended); and the form, content and publication

of the Decision Statement pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

- 5.4.2 The Council in its capacity as the Local Planning Authority has a statutory duty, to make a neighbourhood development plan if more than half of those voting at a referendum have voted in favour of making the neighbourhood development plan. This must be done within 8 weeks of the referendum. Regulation 19 requires the Council to then publish a statement setting out the decision and details of where and when the decision statement may be inspected. This must be done as soon as possible after deciding to make the neighbourhood development plan.
- 5.4.3 The referendum was held on Thursday 23 November 2023 with a total of 1,245 votes being cast. Of these:
- the number of votes in favour of a 'yes' was 1,097
 - the number of votes in favour of a 'no' was 142
 - Six votes were rejected
 - the turnout was 10.6%

Children, Young People & Learning

5.5 [Personal Budgets Policy](#)

- 5.5.1 The Executive approved the revised Personal Budgets Policy and agreed that it be published and implemented December 2023.
- 5.5.2 In accordance with the SEND Code of Practice January 2015, local authorities must provide information on Personal Budgets as part of the Local Offer. This should include a policy on Personal Budgets that sets out a description of the services across education, health and social care that currently lend themselves to the use of Personal Budgets, how that funding will be made available, and clear and simple statements of eligibility criteria and the decision-making processes.

5.6 [Safety Valve Programme Plan](#)

- 5.6.1 The Executive approved the Council's initial Safety Valve proposal for submission to the Department for Education by 15 December 2023 and delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to amend the initial proposal if necessary in response to feedback from the Department for Education prior to a final Safety Valve proposal being presented to the Council meeting on 10 January 2024.
- 5.6.2 The Council was invited by the Department for Education (DfE) to participate in its Safety Valve Intervention Programme 2023/24 in July. The Safety Valve programme aims to agree a package of reforms to local education systems for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) through which the systems will become financially sustainable within the level of grant provided by the Department for Education, while improving the experiences of children and young people. Bracknell Forest is one of five authorities invited to participate in the programme this year, due to its large and rising deficit.
- 5.6.3 Participation in the programme can secure access to additional capital funding for new local provision and a material financial contribution from the DfE towards the accumulated Dedicated School Grant (DSG) deficit, should proposals for reform

submitted by the Council be accepted. A significant financial commitment is also required from the Council, both to secure delivery of the proposed programme of activity and to write off the remainder of the accumulated deficit not funded by the DfE.

Culture, Delivery and Public Protection

5.7 [Bracknell Forest Serious Violence Strategy](#)

- 5.7.1 The Executive endorsed the Bracknell Forest Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2027 and agreed that a more detailed Action Plan be compiled which will be subject to review and approval by the Executive Director together with the Executive Member for Culture, Delivery and Public Protection.
- 5.7.2 The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced a Serious Violence Duty on specified authorities within a local government area. As part of the Duty, a Strategy was required to be prepared, publicised and implemented.
- 5.7.3 The Serious Violence and Exploitation Strategic Sub-Group of the Community Safety Partnership will now work within the recommendations contained in the Strategy to develop an action plan which will be the framework for partners to deliver against local ambitions.

Adult Services, Health and Housing

5.8 [Community Support: Winter Update](#)

- 5.8.1 The Executive endorsed the updated financial hardship action plan and agreed the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) spending plan.
- 5.8.2 In 2022, the council recognised a need for a strategic, sustainable, and preventative approach to supporting residents who may be at risk of, or experiencing, financial hardship. Support throughout this period has been facilitated in large part by one off government grant funding and the development of a financial hardship action plan.
- 5.8.3 There continues to be a lasting impact from the pandemic on health and wellbeing for communities across the borough. Local research was conducted exploring the impact of COVID during 2023, which has supported the identification of key areas of focus. Specific funding has been identified from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to support programmes that address these challenges.

6 Advice Received from Statutory and Other Officers

Leader Appointments

- 6.1 The Leader of the Council has appointed Councillor Gillbe, Executive Member for Planning & Transport and Councillor Robertson as the councillor representatives on the Broadmoor Local External Stakeholder Group.

Legal Advice

- 6.2 The Borough Solicitor's comments have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

Financial Advice

- 6.3 The Executive Director: Resources' comments have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.4 Equalities issues, where appropriate, have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.5 Any strategic risks have been identified in the reports to the Executive.

Climate Change and Ecological Implications

- 6.6 The recommendations in Section 2 above are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO₂.

The reason the Council believes that this will have no impact on emissions is that the report is providing an update on decisions taken rather than proposing any action. The impact or not of each of the individual decisions was set out in the respective reports.

Health & Wellbeing Considerations

- 6.7 There are no considerations.

Background Papers

Executive Agenda – [12 December 2023](#)

Contact for further information:

Hannah Harding, Delivery - 01344 352308
Hannah.harding@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

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To: Council
10 January 2024

Polling District and Polling Place Review 2024 Returning Officer

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report asks the council to agree the Returning Officer's proposed polling district and polling place scheme following public consultation and consideration by the Electoral Review Steering Group.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Returning Officer's proposed polling district and polling place scheme, summarised in Annex B is agreed.**

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (ERA 2013) requires the council to undertake a polling district and polling place review within a specified period. The period for this review commenced on 1 October 2023 and concludes on 31 January 2025.
- 3.2 Since the council concluded the last polling district and polling place review, the Parliamentary Boundary Commission has published revised parliamentary constituency boundaries which will come into effect at the next UK General Election.
- 3.3 Undertaking the compulsory review during this period allows the council to meet its statutory obligations set out in the (ERA 2013).

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Several alternative polling locations were investigated by officers as part of the review process in line with suggestions made by the public during the consultation period. The Electoral Steering Group reviewed the proposed responses to the consultation and asked for some areas to be kept under review.

5 Supporting Information

Polling district

- 5.1 A polling district is appointed by the council and is a geographical area created by the sub-division of a UK Parliamentary constituency for the purposes of a UK Parliamentary election. In England, each parish must be a separate polling district. This means that a parish must not be in a polling district which has a part of a different parish within it, or any unparished part of the local authority area within it. A borough ward, however, may be comprised of multiple polling districts across more than one parish.

Polling place

- 5.2 A polling place is designated by the council and refers to the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer. A polling place within a polling district must be designated so that polling stations are within easy reach of all electors from across the polling district.

Polling stations

- 5.3 A polling station is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place. Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the relevant Returning Officer for the election.
- 5.4 No changes to the overall number of polling places have been proposed by this review.
- 5.5 Guidance issued by the Electoral Commission explains that one of the primary purposes of undertaking these reviews is to ensure that the needs of electors with accessibility issues are suitably considered when designating polling places and polling stations.
- 5.6 A full polling review was undertaken in late 2022 with officers visiting each polling place to ensure their continued suitability with specific consideration given to the then forthcoming requirements specified by the Elections Act 2022 and the introduction of Voter ID.
- 5.7 The principal purpose of this most recent review is to comply with the requirements of the ERA 2013 to undertake and conclude the review within the required timescales.
- 5.8 Private organisations are under no obligation to host polling places.

6 Consultation and Other Considerations

Legal Advice

- 6.1 The legal considerations are included within the body of the report.

Financial Advice

- 6.2 There are no financial implications associated with this report. The proposal maintains the current number of polling places and as such there is no change in the financial cost position.

Other Consultation Responses

- 6.3 A public consultation was undertaken commencing on 16 October and concluding on 13 November. 19 representations were received.
- 6.4 The majority of responses were supportive of the arrangements currently in place. There were some requests to look at alternative polling locations in the BTTC, BTWR and the Chavey Down area of Winkfield Parish as well as some additional comments about improving signage and parking at existing locations.
- 6.5 The Electoral Review Steering group considered each of these representations and the proposed responses, which are summarised in Annex B.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.4 An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed at the commencement of the review and highlighted the need to ensure that all venues identified as polling places offered suitable facilities for those with physical or other accessibility requirements.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.5 Failure to follow proper process for the implementation of any polling changes could result in significant financial and reputational damage to Bracknell Forest Council.

Climate Change and Ecological Impacts

- 6.6 The recommendations in Section 2 above are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO2 due to the nature of the exercise which is predominantly administrative using existing resources.

Health & Wellbeing Considerations

- 6.7 None identified.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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Ann.moore@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Philip Sadler, Democratic and Registration Services – 01344 352140
Philip.sadler@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

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Annex A

2023 – 2024 Polling District and Polling Place Review

This document sets out the Returning Officer's proposed polling arrangements in each area of Bracknell Forest detailing the parliamentary, borough and parish/ town electoral arrangements, following consultation with the Electoral Review Steering Group. These arrangements are largely unchanged from those agreed by council on 22 February 2023. The proposed changes are:

- The integration of Garth North (WTGN) polling district into the Garth polling district (BTGA).
- The recoding of polling districts to update these in line with the new parliamentary constituency boundaries.

The codes for each polling district have been selected to aid the administration of elections and electoral events.

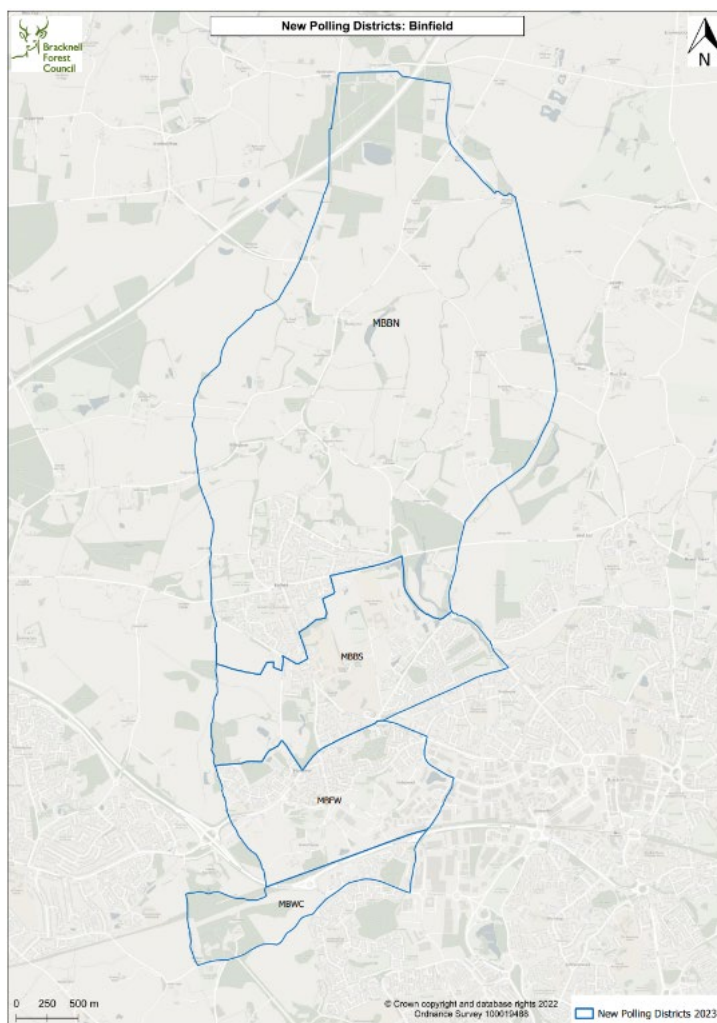
- The first letter corresponds to the parliamentary constituency.
- The second letter the parish/town council area.
- The third and fourth a unique combination based on the district's long-form name.

Parliamentary constituency code: – B = Bracknell M = Maidenhead

Parish/ Town code:

Parish/ town council	Letter designation
Binfield Parish Council	B
Bracknell Town Council	T
Crowthorne Parish Council	C
Sandhurst Town Council	S
Warfield Parish Council	W
Winkfield Parish Council	I

Binfield Parish



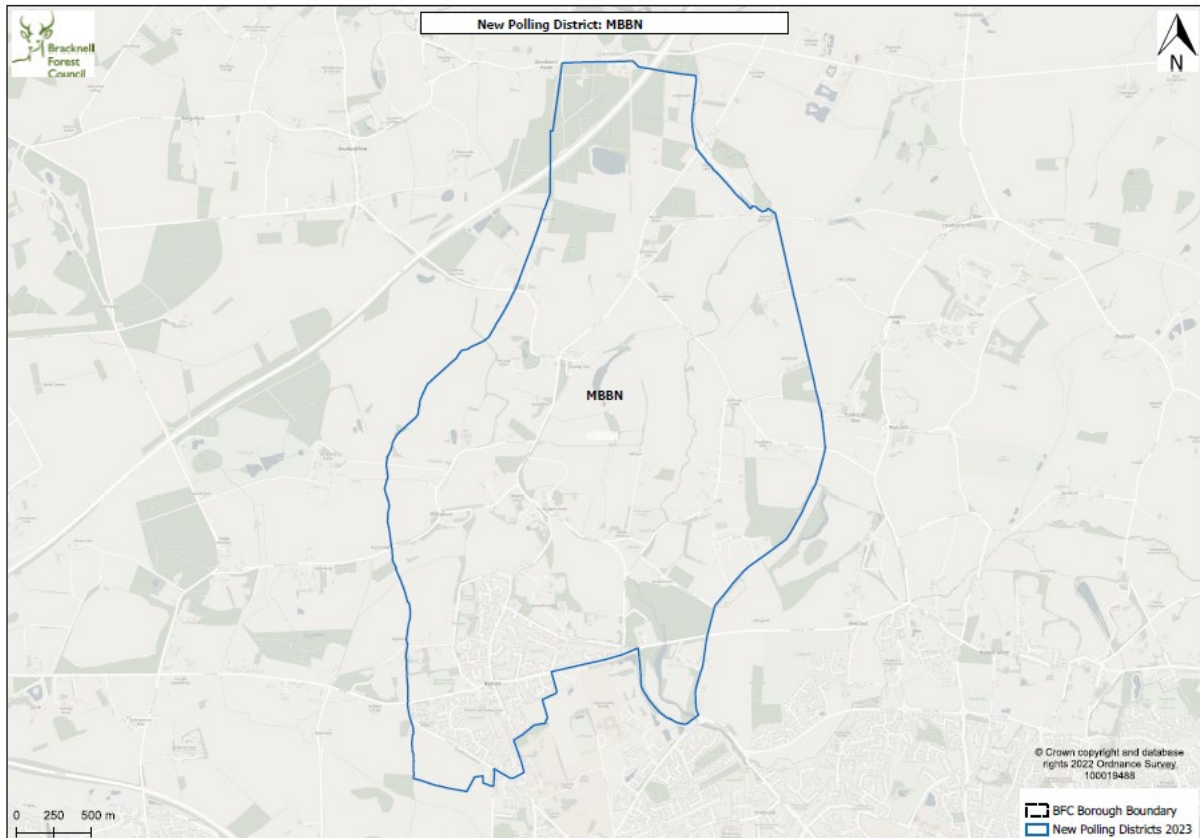
Summary of Polling Districts:

Polling District	Code	Parish Ward	Borough Ward
Binfield North	MBBN	Binfield North	Binfield North and Warfield West
Binfield South	MBBS	Binfield South	Binfield South and Jennetts Park
Farley Wood	MBFW	Binfield South	Binfield South and Jennetts Park
Wykery Copse	MBWC	Binfield South	Binfield South and Jennetts Park

Annex A

Polling District: MBBN – Binfield North

Electorate	2,729
Parliamentary Constituency	Maidenhead
Borough Ward	Binfield North
Parish Ward	Binfield North
Polling Place	Binfield Memorial Hall
Alternate Polling Place	Newbold College



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The Memorial Hall remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location.

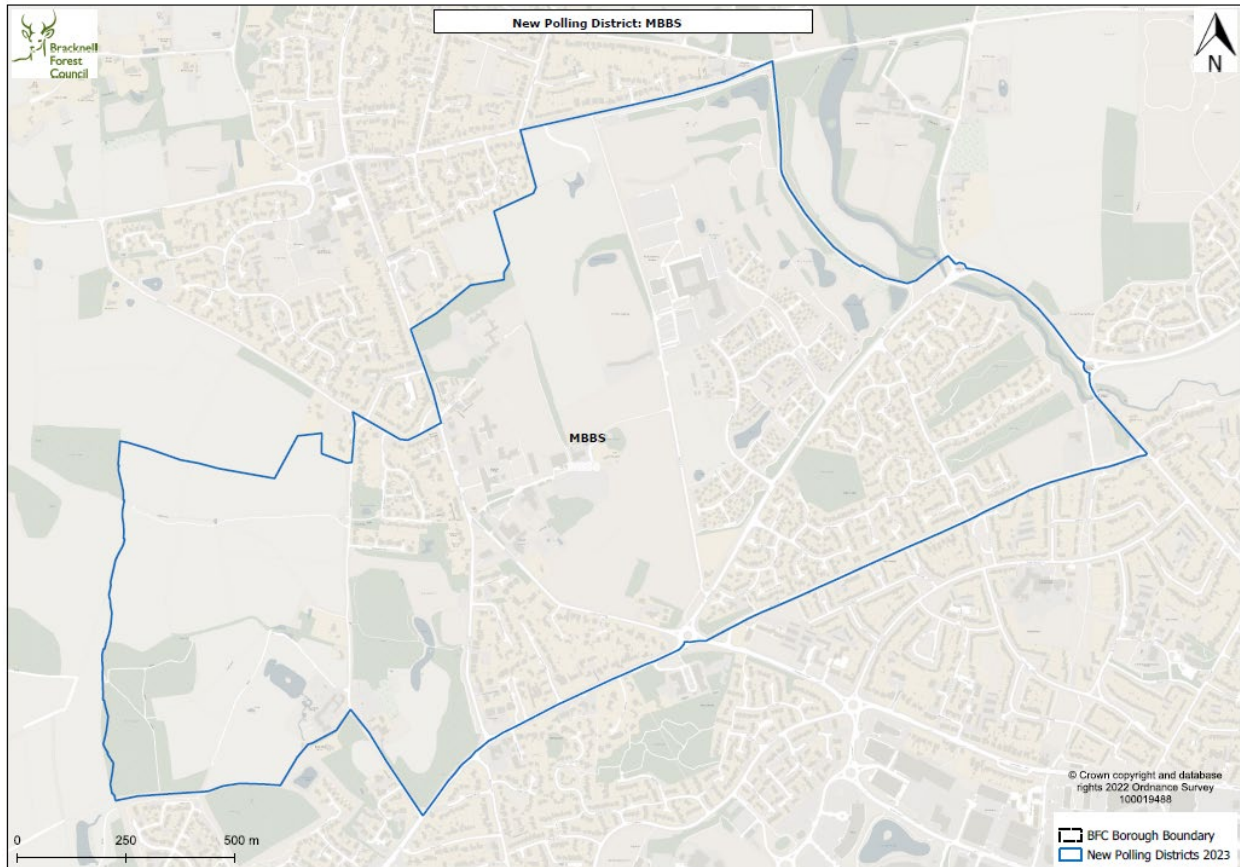
The alternative polling place is still centrally located within the district and a five-minute walk from the primary polling place.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Annex A

Polling District: MBBS – Binfield South

Electorate	2,236
Parliamentary Constituency	Maidenhead
Borough Ward	Binfield South
Parish Ward	Binfield South
Polling Place	Newbold College
Alternate Polling Place	St Marks Church



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The alternative venue identified, St Marks Church, is still within the polling district, and located directly opposite the principal polling place.

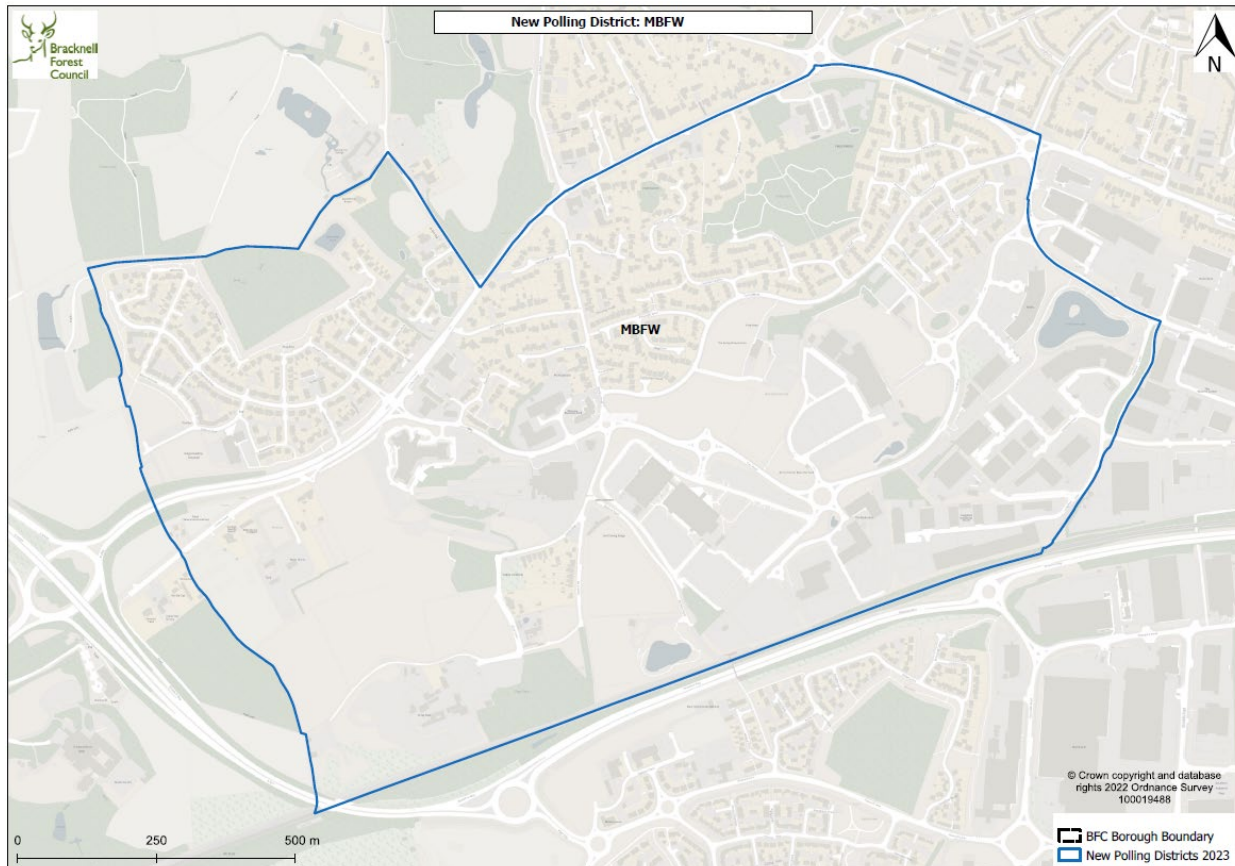
Newbold College remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Annex A

Polling District: MBFW – Farley Wood

Electorate	2,153
Parliamentary Constituency	Maidenhead
Borough Ward	Binfield South
Parish Ward	Binfield South
Polling Place	Farley Wood Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Newbold College



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

Farley Wood remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

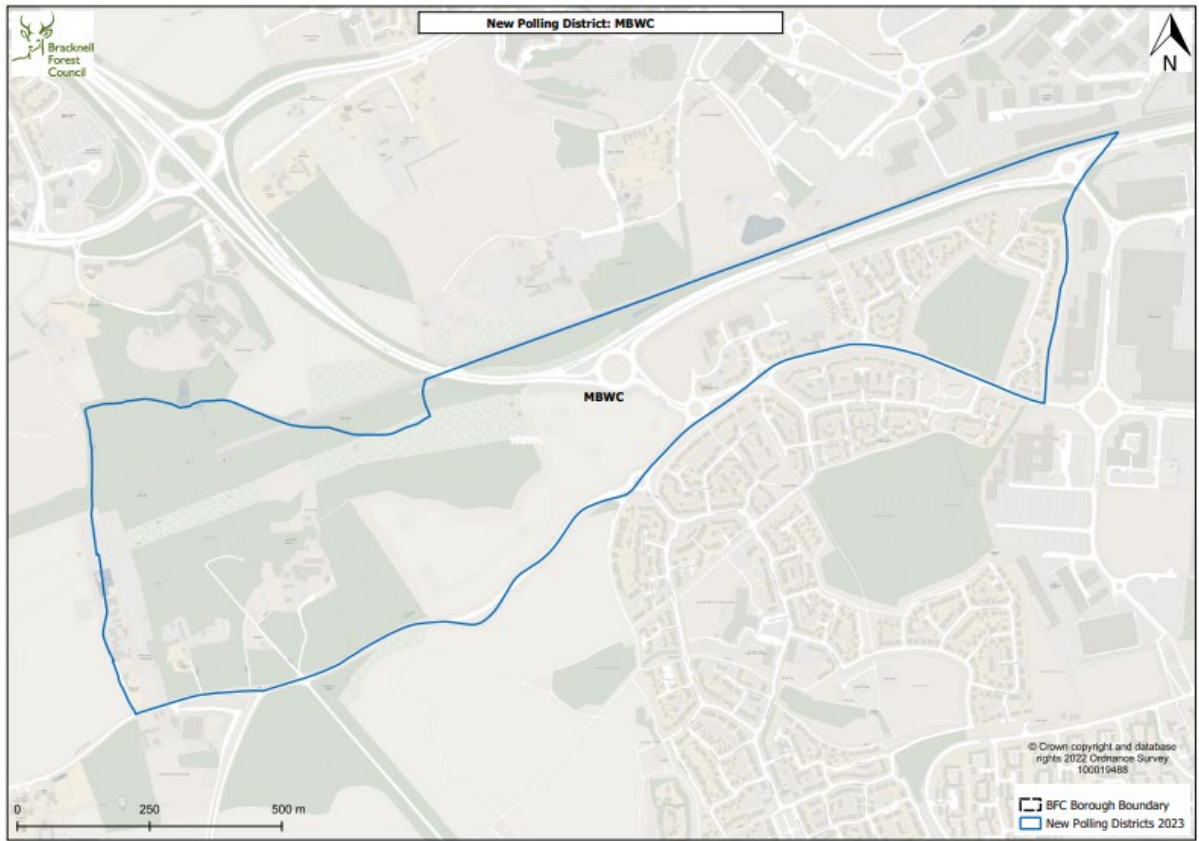
While the alternative venue falls outside of the polling district, it provides good facilities and could sufficiently accommodate the increased numbers of voters should it need to be mobilised while avoiding significant disruption to those electors needing to vote elsewhere.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Annex A

Polling District: MBWC – Wykery Copse

Electorate	551
Parliamentary Constituency	Maidenhead
Borough Ward	Binfield South
Parish Ward	Binfield South
Polling Place	Jennetts Park Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Farley Wood Community Centre



Summary

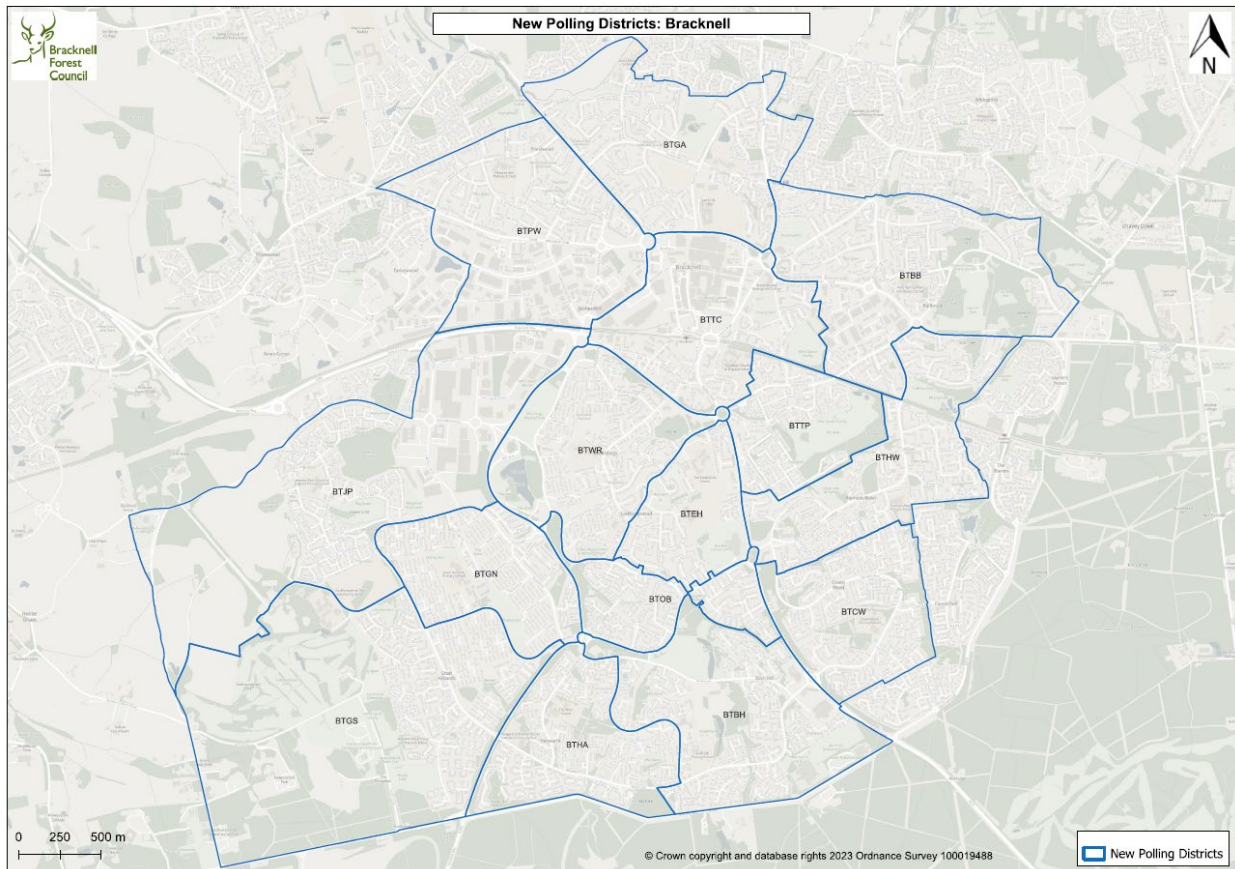
The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

Jennett's Park remains the primary venue as it is more centrally located than the alternative and voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location.

The alternative venue suggested also falls outside of the polling district, it provides good facilities and could sufficiently accommodate the increased numbers of voters should it be needed.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling districts code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Bracknell Town



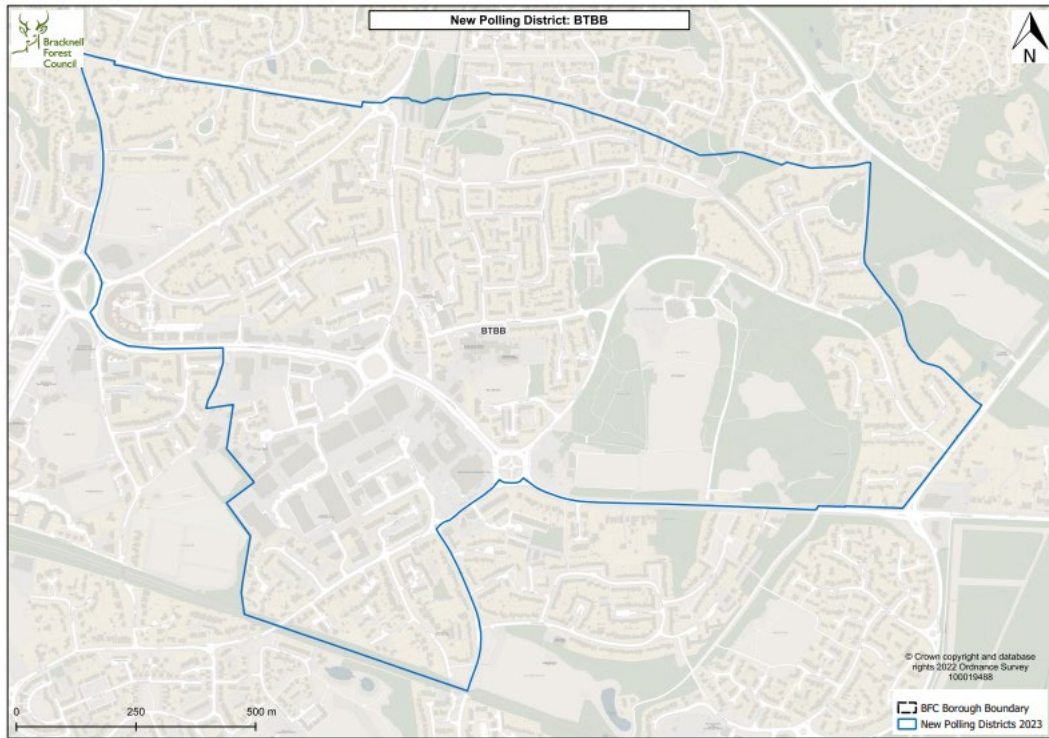
Summary of Polling Districts:

Polling District	Code	Parish Ward	Borough Ward
Birch Hill & North Lake	BTBH	Birch Hill & North Lake	Hanworth
Bullbrook	BTBB	Bullbrook	Bullbrook
Crown Wood	BTCW	Crown Wood	Harmans Water & Crown Wood
Garth	BTGA	Garth	Priestwood & Garth
Garth North	WTGN	Garth	Priestwood & Garth
Great Hollands North	BTGN	Great Hollands North	Great Hollands
Great Hollands South	BTGS	Great Hollands South	Great Hollands
Hanworth	BTHA	Hanworth	Hanworth
Harmans Water	BTHW	Harmans Water	Harmans Water & Crown Wood
The Parks	BTTP	Town Centre and The Parks	Town Centre & The Parks
Old Bracknell	BTOB	Old Bracknell	Easthampstead & Wildridings
Priestwood	BTPW	Priestwood	Priestwood & Garth
Jennetts Park	BTJP	Jennetts Park	Binfield South & Jennett's Park
Town Centre	BTTC	Town Centre and the Parks	Town Centre & The Parks
Wildridings	BTWR	Wildridings	Easthampstead & Wildridings

Annex A

Polling District: BTBB - Bullbrook

Electorate	4,240
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Bullbrook
Parish Ward	Bullbrook
Polling Place	Bullbrook Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Bracknell Rugby Club



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The alternative venue selected, Bracknell Rugby Club, has been used as a polling place once before and while it is a suitable reserve, Bullbrook Community Centre is more centrally located with better access for residents in the area and provides the best overall experience for all users.

Annex A

Polling District: BTBH – Birch Hill & North Lake

Electorate	3,299
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Hanworth
Parish Ward	Birch Hill and North Lake
Polling Place	Birch Hill Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	South Hill Park



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

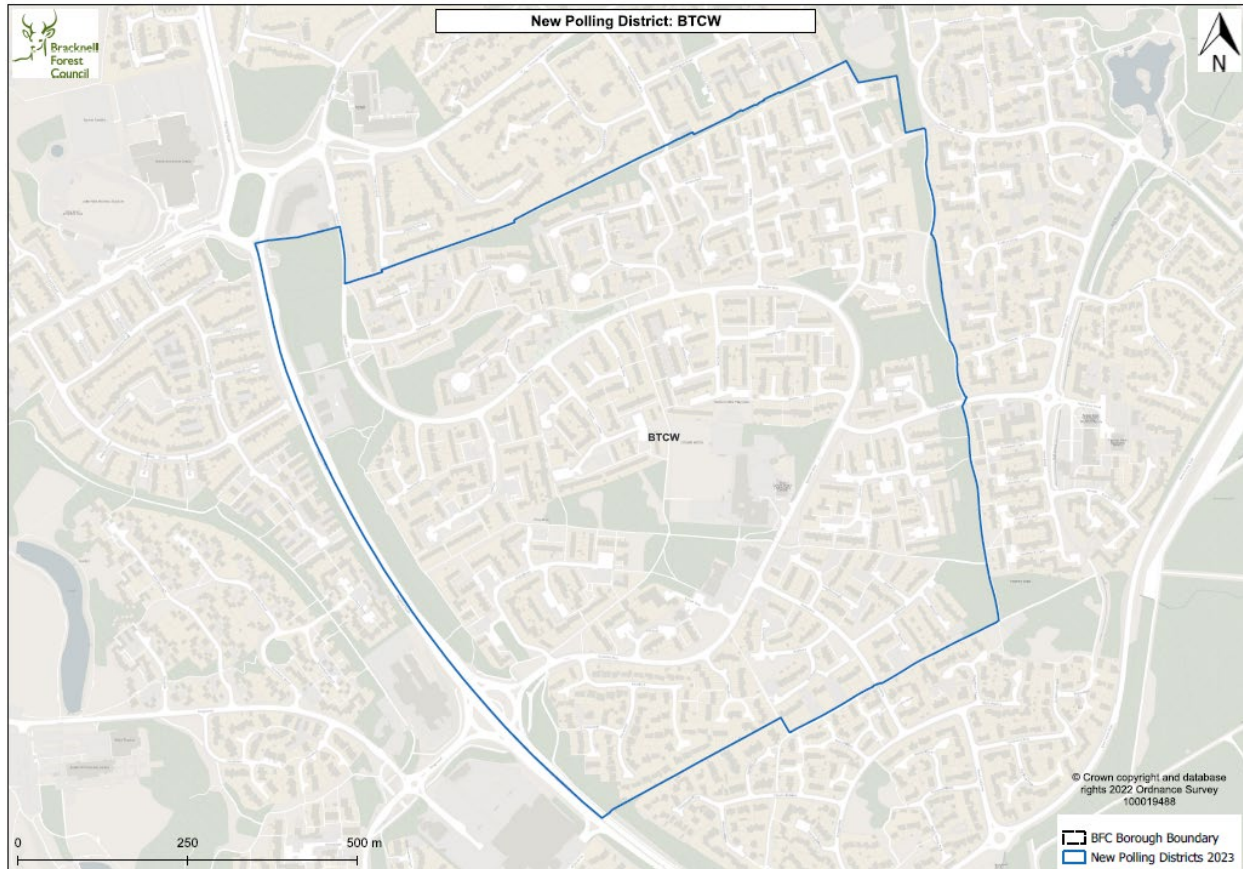
Birch Hill Community Centre remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

The alternative venue suggested has been used as a polling place previously, provides good facilities and could sufficiently accommodate the increased numbers of voters should it need to be mobilised while avoiding significant disruption to those electors needing to vote elsewhere.

Annex A

Polling District: BTCW – Crown Wood

Electorate	2,902
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Harmans Water and Crown Wood
Parish Ward	Crown Wood
Polling Place	Crown Wood Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Bracknell Leisure Centre



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The community centre remains the primary venue as it is contained within the polling district and voters have a longstanding familiarity with the location.

While the alternative venue suggested falls outside of the polling district, it provides good facilities and could sufficiently accommodate the increased numbers of voters should it need to be mobilised while avoiding significant disruption to those electors needing to vote elsewhere.

Annex A

Polling District: BTEH - Easthampstead

Electorate	1,631
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Easthampstead and Wildridings
Parish Ward	Old Bracknell
Polling Place	Easthampstead and Wildridings Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Easthampstead Baptist Church



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

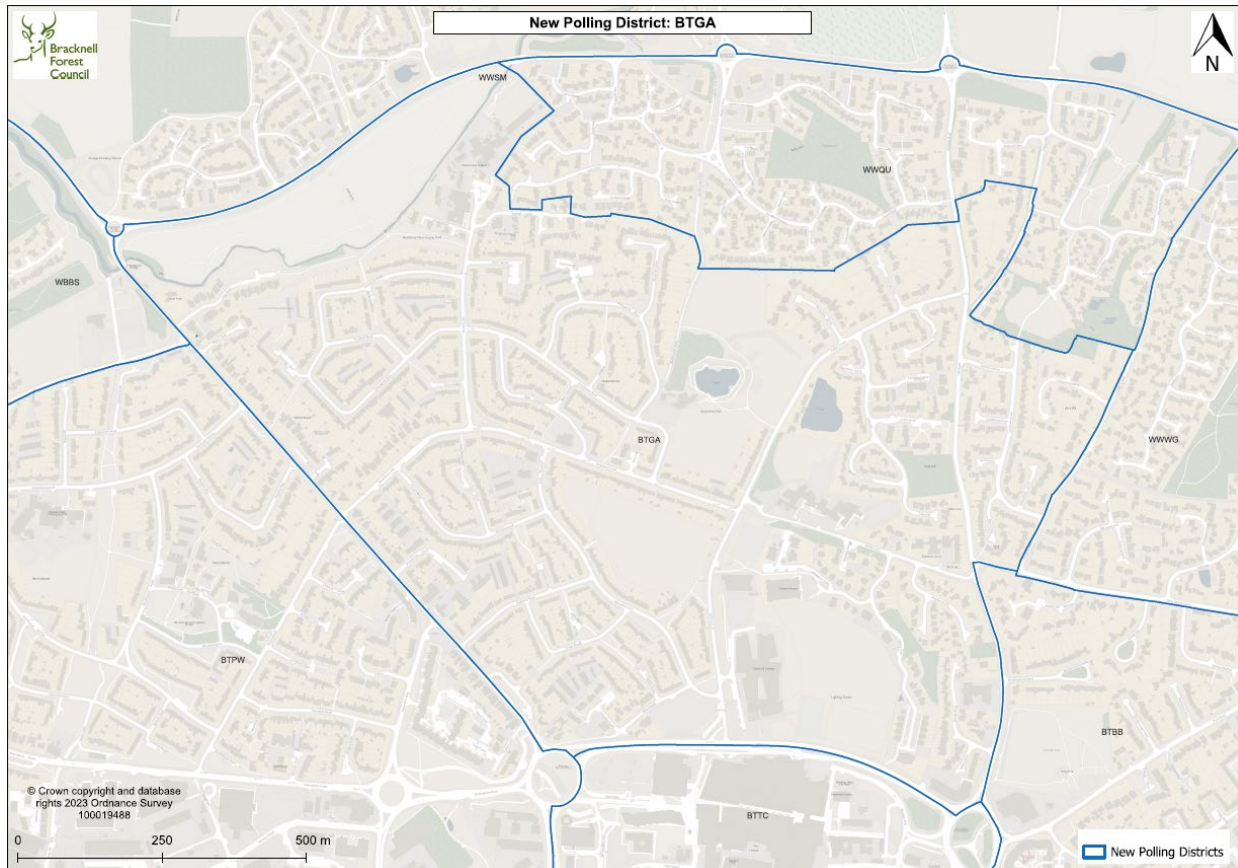
The community centre remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

The alternative venue suggested hosts voters from the other polling district contained within this town ward area and has sufficient capacity to accommodate an increased number of electors should the primary venue not be available.

Annex A

Polling District: BTGA - Garth

Electorate	3,432
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Priestwood and Garth
Parish Ward	Garth
Polling Place	Bracknell Methodist Church
Alternate Polling Place	Jocks Lane Pavilion



Summary

The scheme outlined above has been adjusted to absorb the electors previously contained within the Garth North polling district.

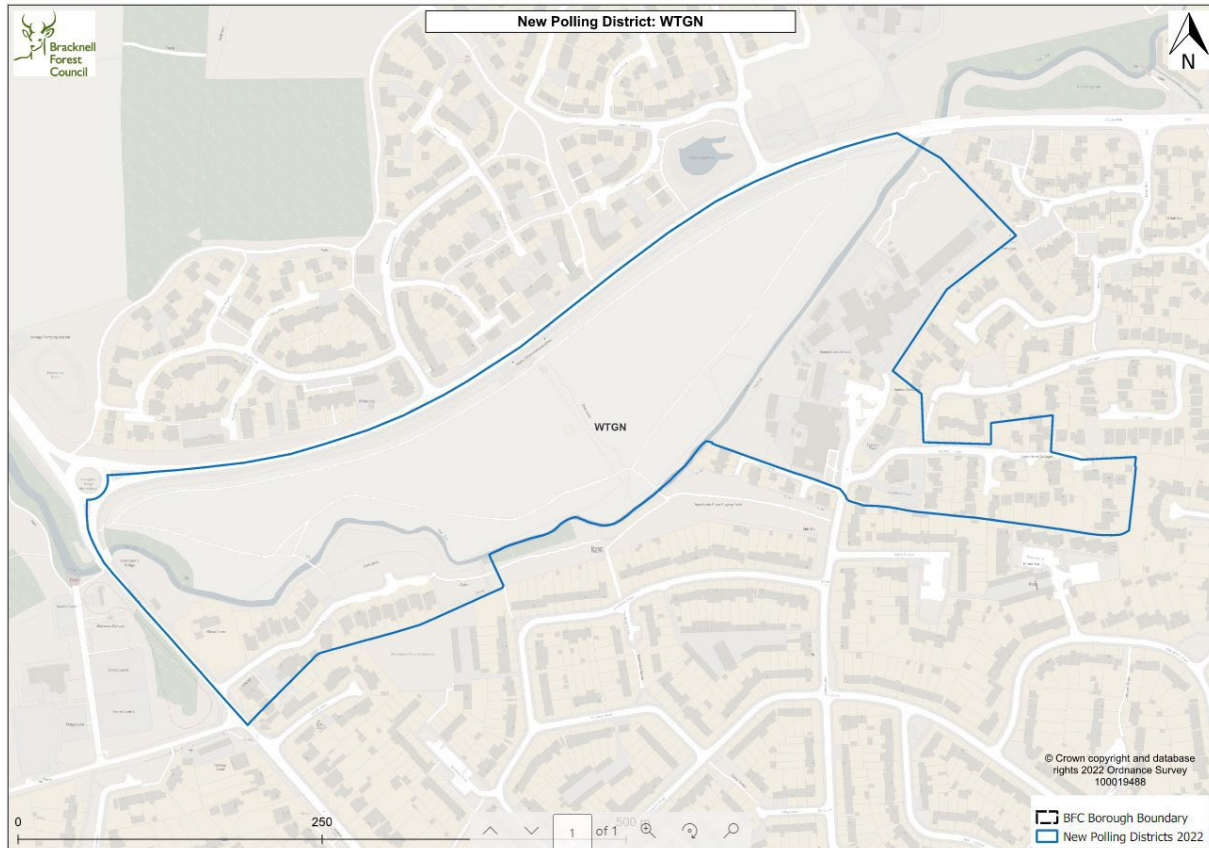
Bracknell Methodist Church remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and it is contained within the polling district. It was already the polling place for electors in Garth North so there are no issues around capacity.

The alternative venue suggested, although outside of the polling district, provides good facilities for both electors and staff, ample car parking and is less than a 15-minute walk from the primary polling place.

Annex A

To be dissolved: Polling District: WTGN – Garth North

Electorate	132
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Priestwood and Garth
Parish Ward	Garth
Polling Place	Bracknell Methodist Church
Alternate Polling Place	Jocks Lane Pavilion



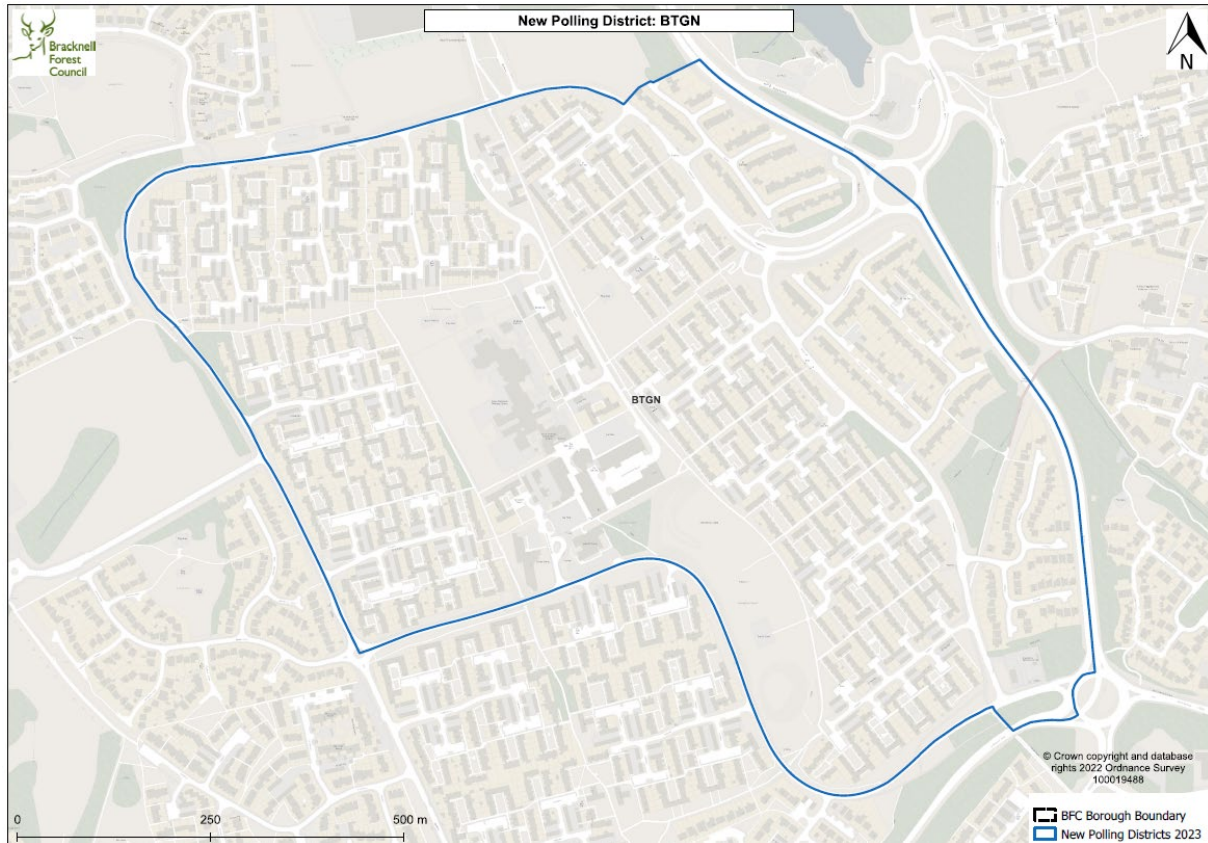
Summary

This polling district is no longer required following the parliamentary boundary review. This polling district and voters can now be absorbed into the Garth (BTGA) polling district with electors continuing to vote at Bracknell Methodist Church.

Annex A

Polling District: BTGN – Great Hollands North

Electorate	2,892
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Great Hollands
Parish Ward	Great Hollands North
Polling Place	Great Hollands Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Fujitsu Headquarters



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

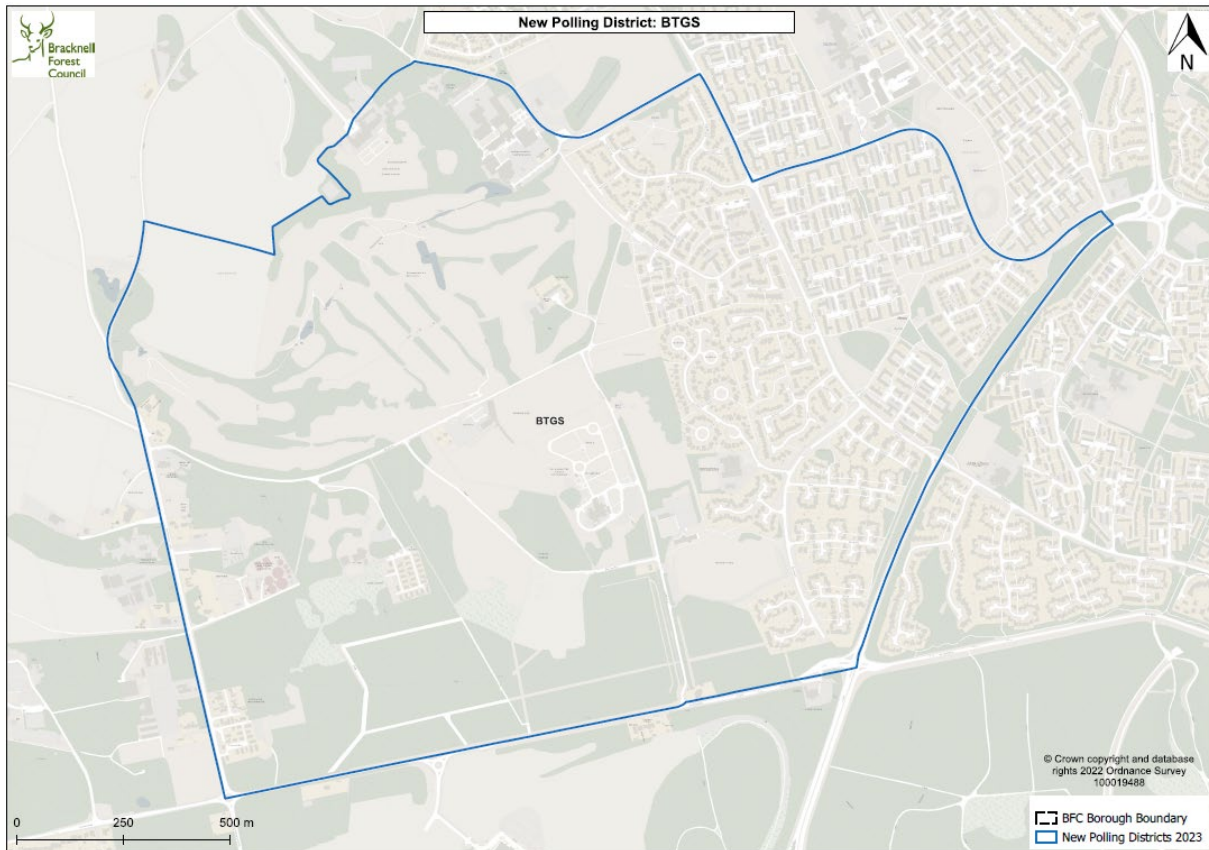
The community centre remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

Due to a lack of alternative suitable venues within the polling district, the closest alternative location available is the Fujitsu Headquarters, which has previously acted as an alternate polling place for residents in Jennett's Park. This is a 15-minute walk from Great Hollands Community Centre or a 5-minute drive. Officers will continue to actively look for a more suitable alternate polling place.

Annex A

Polling District: BTGS – Great Hollands South

Electorate	3,783
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Great Hollands
Parish Ward	Great Hollands South
Polling Place	Great Hollands Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Wooden Hill School



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

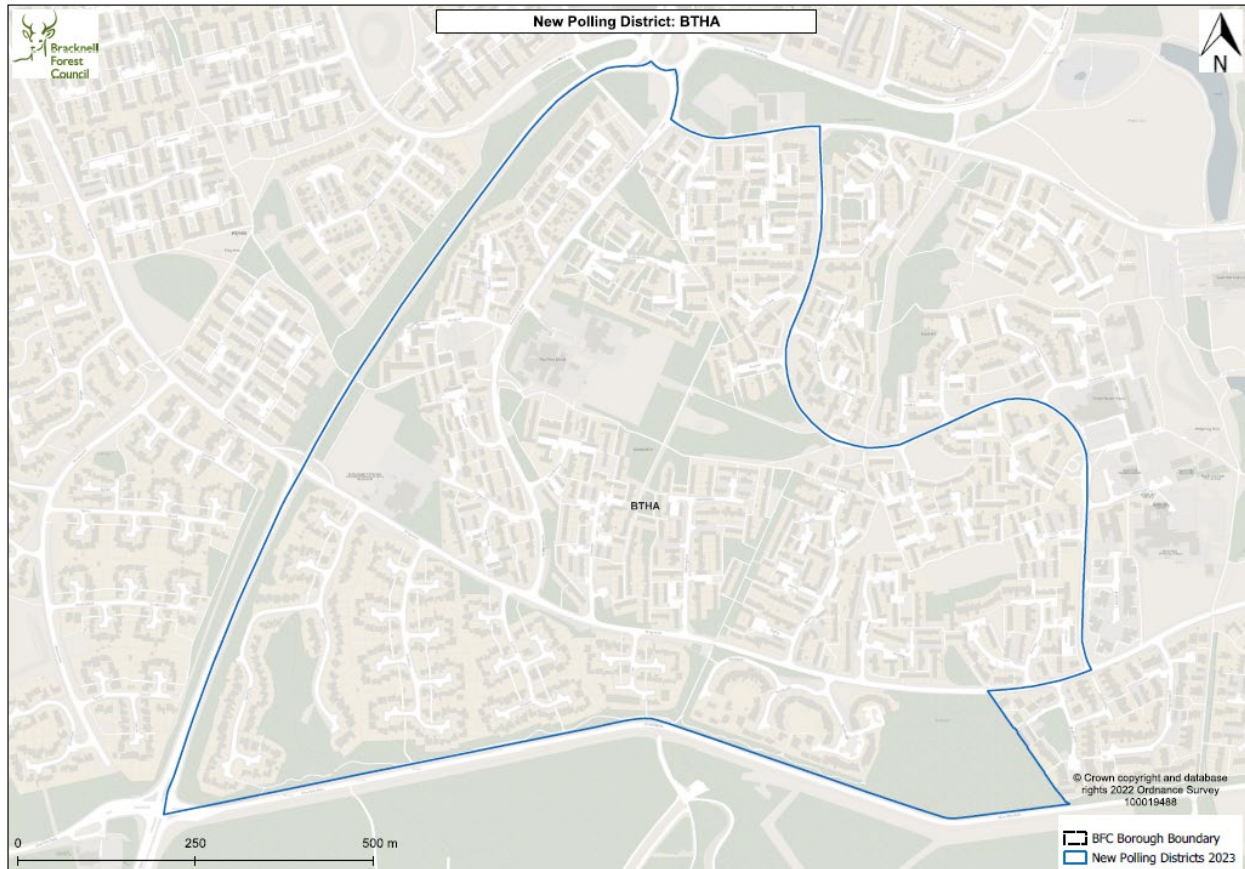
The community centre remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

Wooden Hill School will remain the designated alternative venue if Great Hollands Community Centre is not available. In this scenario all efforts would be undertaken to work with the school to ensure that there is as limited an impact as possible on the school's usual operating practices.

Annex A

Polling District: BTHA - Hanworth

Electorate	3,142
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Hanworth
Parish Ward	Hanworth
Polling Place	The Pines Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	South Hill Park



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The community centre remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

While the alternative venue suggested is outside of the polling district, it has been used as a polling place previously, provides good facilities and can sufficiently accommodate the increased numbers of voters should it need to be mobilised while avoiding significant disruption to those electors needing to vote elsewhere.

Annex A

Polling District: BTHW – Harmans Water

Electorate	3,554
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Harmans Water and Crown Wood
Parish Ward	Harmans Water
Polling Place	St Paul's Church
Alternate Polling Place	Bracknell Leisure Centre



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

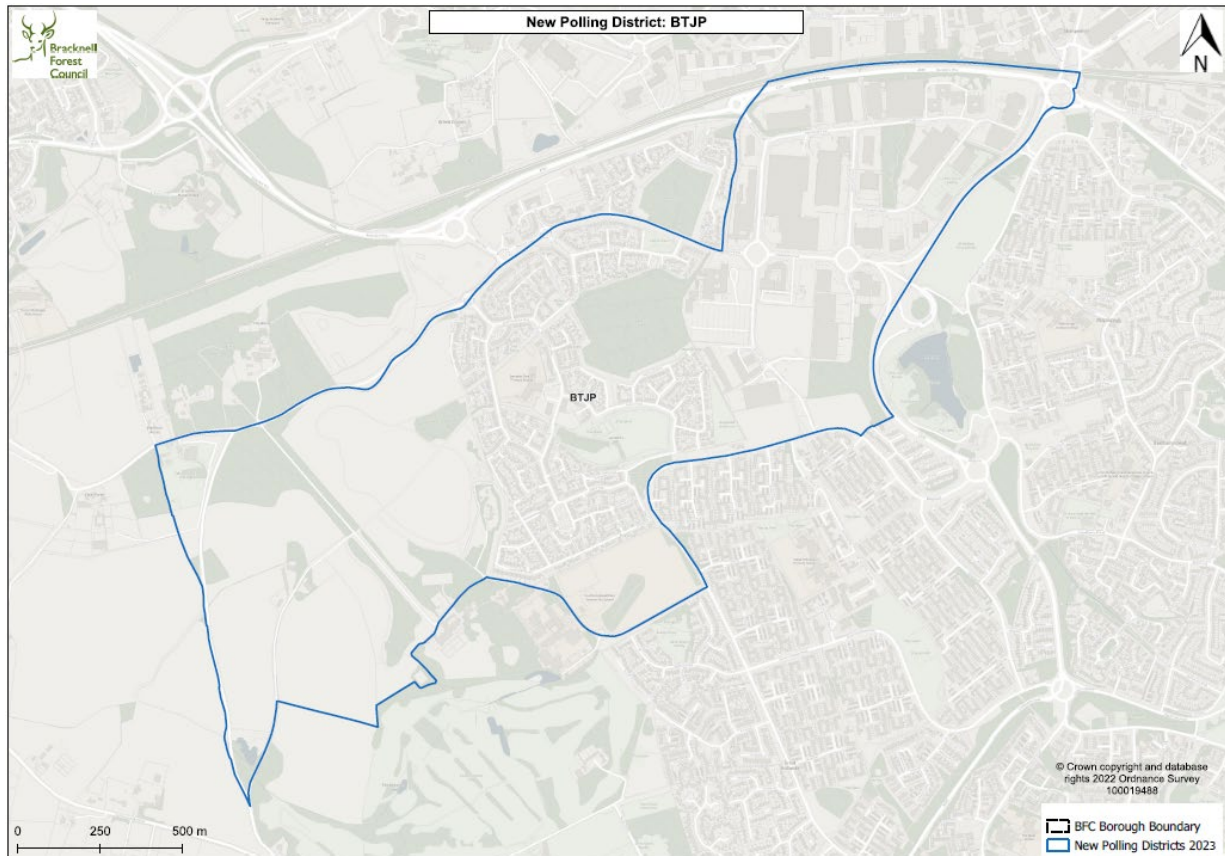
St Paul's Church remains the primary venue as it is contained within the polling district and voters have a longstanding familiarity with the location.

The alternative venue, Bracknell Leisure Centre, although outside of the polling district, offers good parking and is in walking distance for many of the electors and less than a five-minute drive for all others located at the further end of the polling district.

Annex A

Polling District: BTJP – Jennetts Park

Electorate	2,536
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Binfield South and Jennetts Park
Parish Ward	Jennetts Park
Polling Place	Jennetts Park Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Fujitsu Headquarters



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

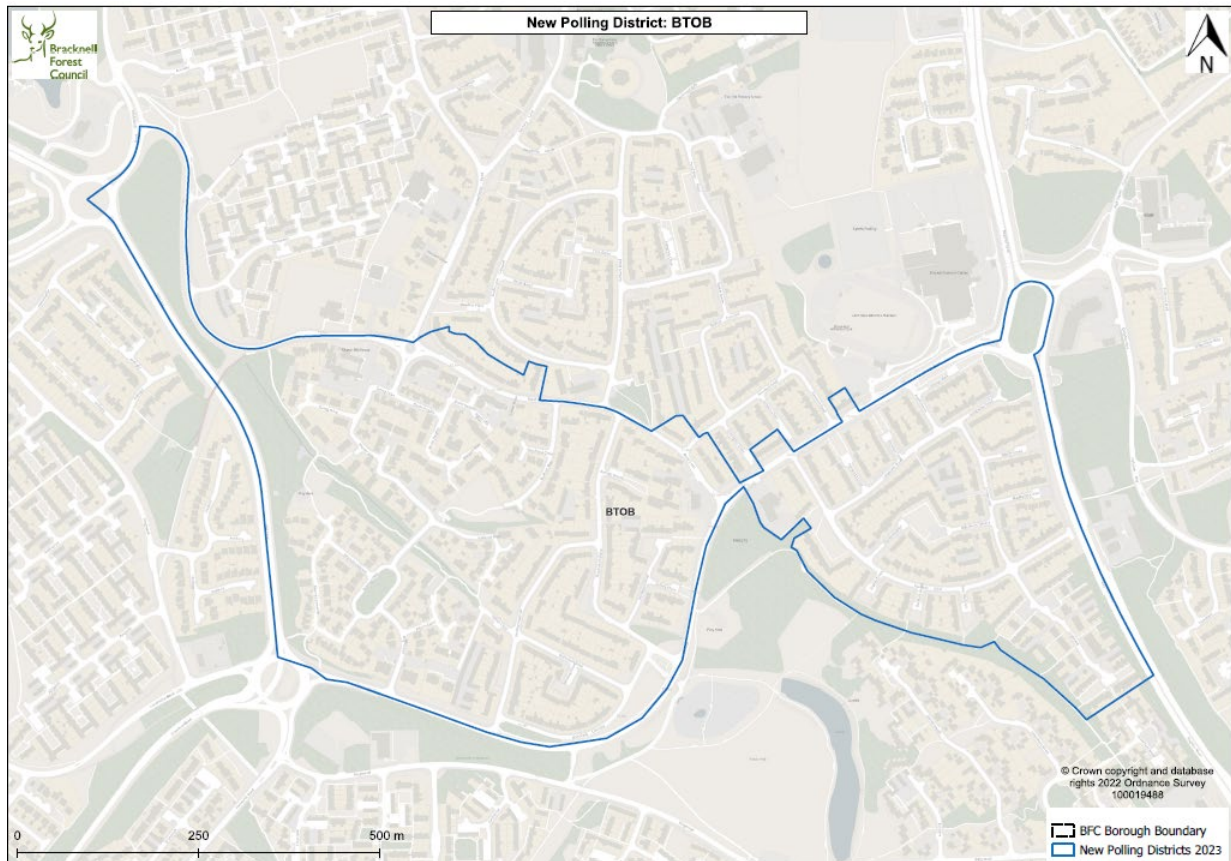
The community centre remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

The alternative venue suggested has been used previously and provides good facilities for both elections staff and voters. However, Jennetts Park Community Centre is more centrally located with better access for residents in the area and provides the best overall experience for all users.

Annex A

Polling District: BTOB- Old Bracknell

Electorate	2,169
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Easthampstead and Wildridings
Town Ward	Old Bracknell
Polling Place	Easthampstead Baptist Church
Alternate Polling Place	Easthampstead and Wildridings Community Centre



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

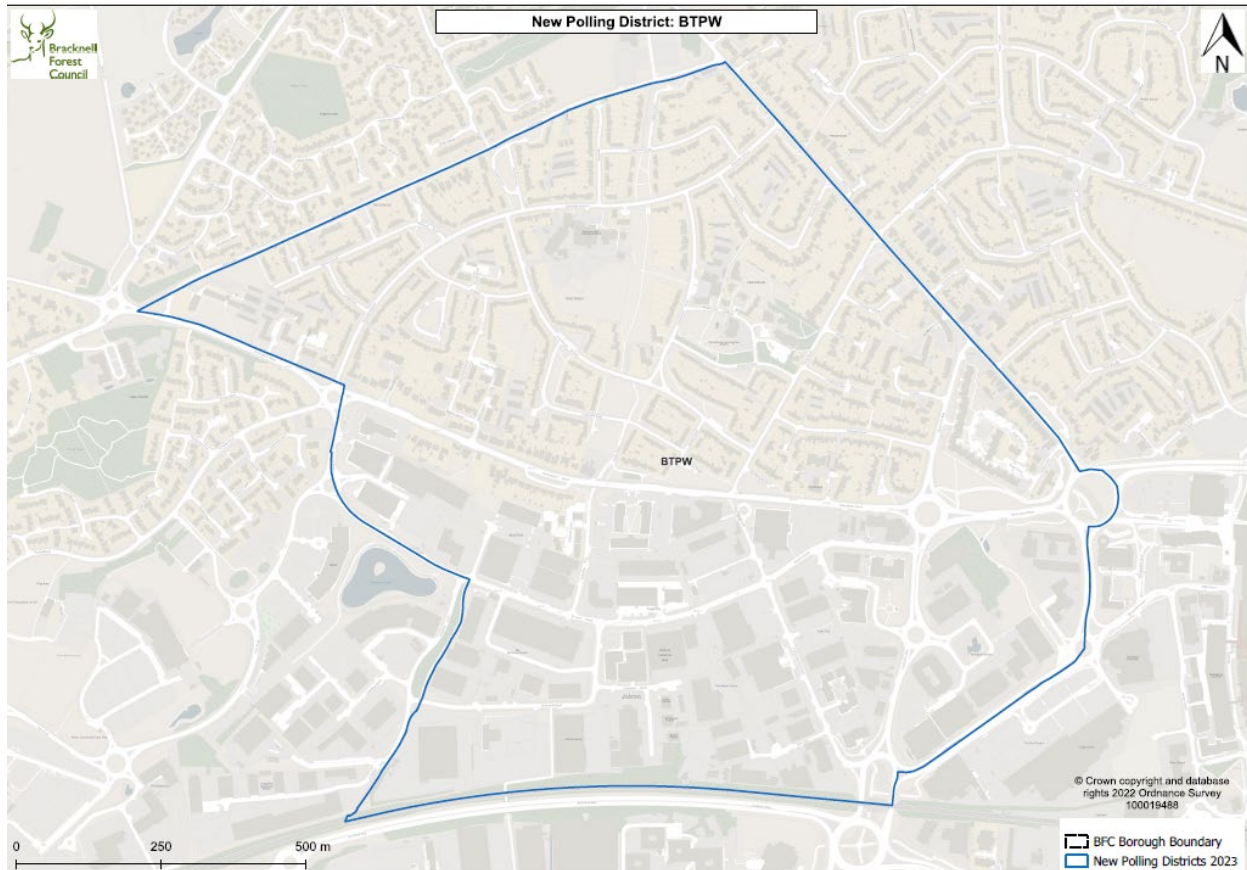
The church remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

The alternative venue is already designated as a polling station for the neighbouring, Easthampstead polling district and has capacity to absorb the additional electorate should it be necessary.

Annex A

Polling District: BTPW – Priestwood

Electorate	3,054
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Priestwood and Garth
Parish Ward	Priestwood
Polling Place	Priestwood Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	St Andrew's Church



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

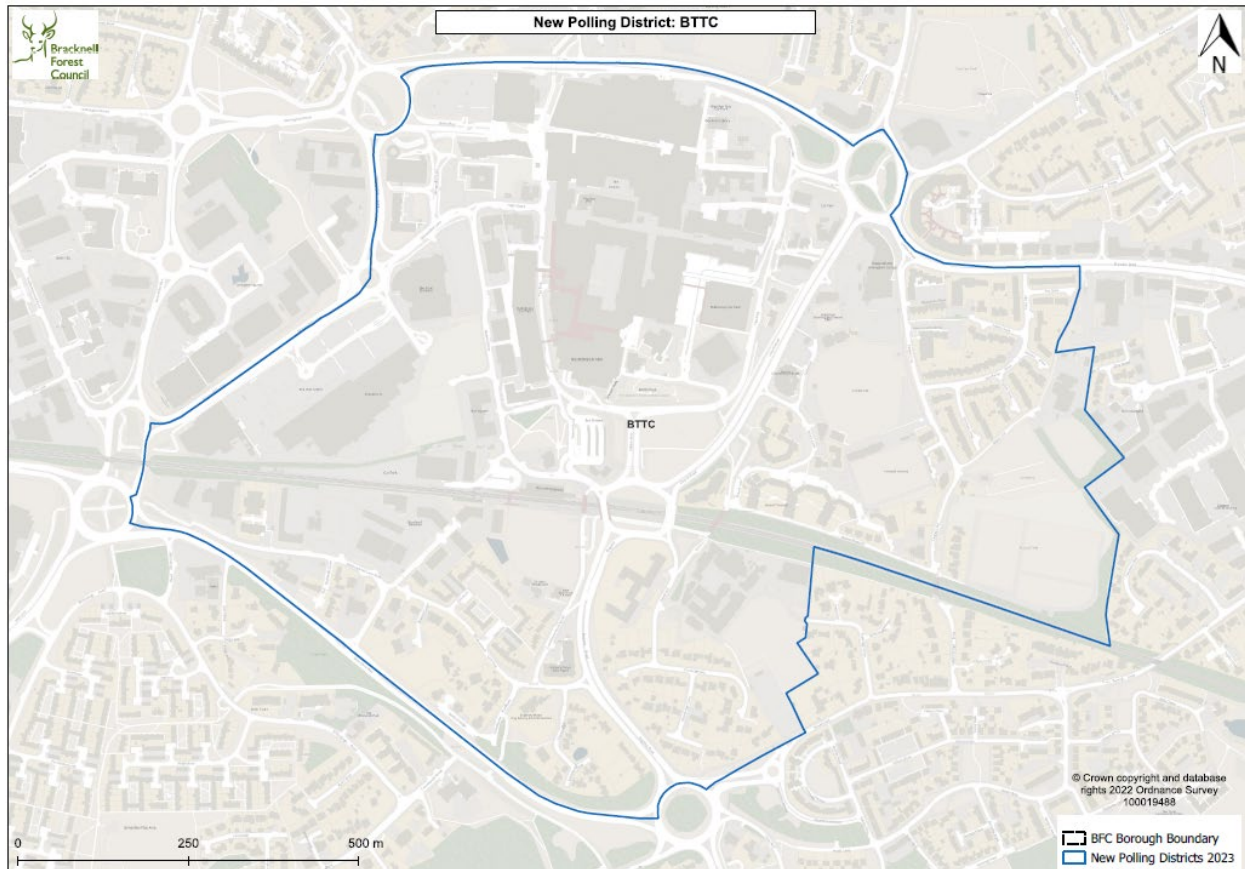
The community centre remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

The alternative venue suggested has been used as a polling location previously and provides good facilities for both elections staff and voters and is located directly next to the primary polling place.

Annex A

Polling District: BTTC – Town Centre

Electorate	2,169
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Town Centre and The Parks
Parish Ward	Town Centre and The Parks
Polling Place	Bracknell Central Library
Alternate Polling Place	Time Square



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

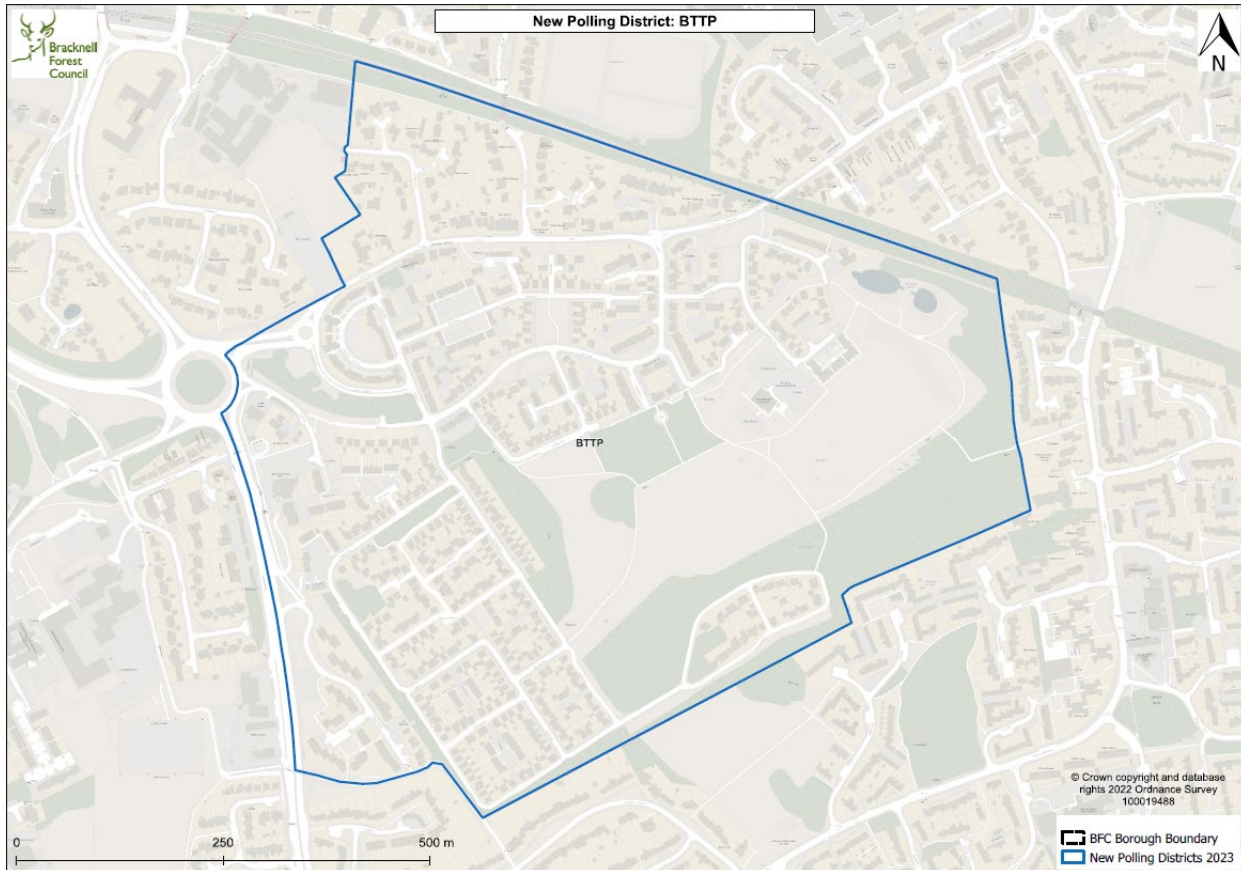
The library remains the primary venue as it has been used for consistently since 2019 and voters have a reasonable degree of familiarity with the location.

The alternative venue suggested is Bracknell Forest Council's Time Square offices and would be able to provide good facilities for both voters and election staff. The offices are located centrally with good access on foot, public transport or by car.

Annex A

Polling District: BTTP – The Parks

Electorate	1,816
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Town Centre and the Parks
Parish Ward	Town Centre and the Parks
Polling Place	The Parks Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Time Square



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

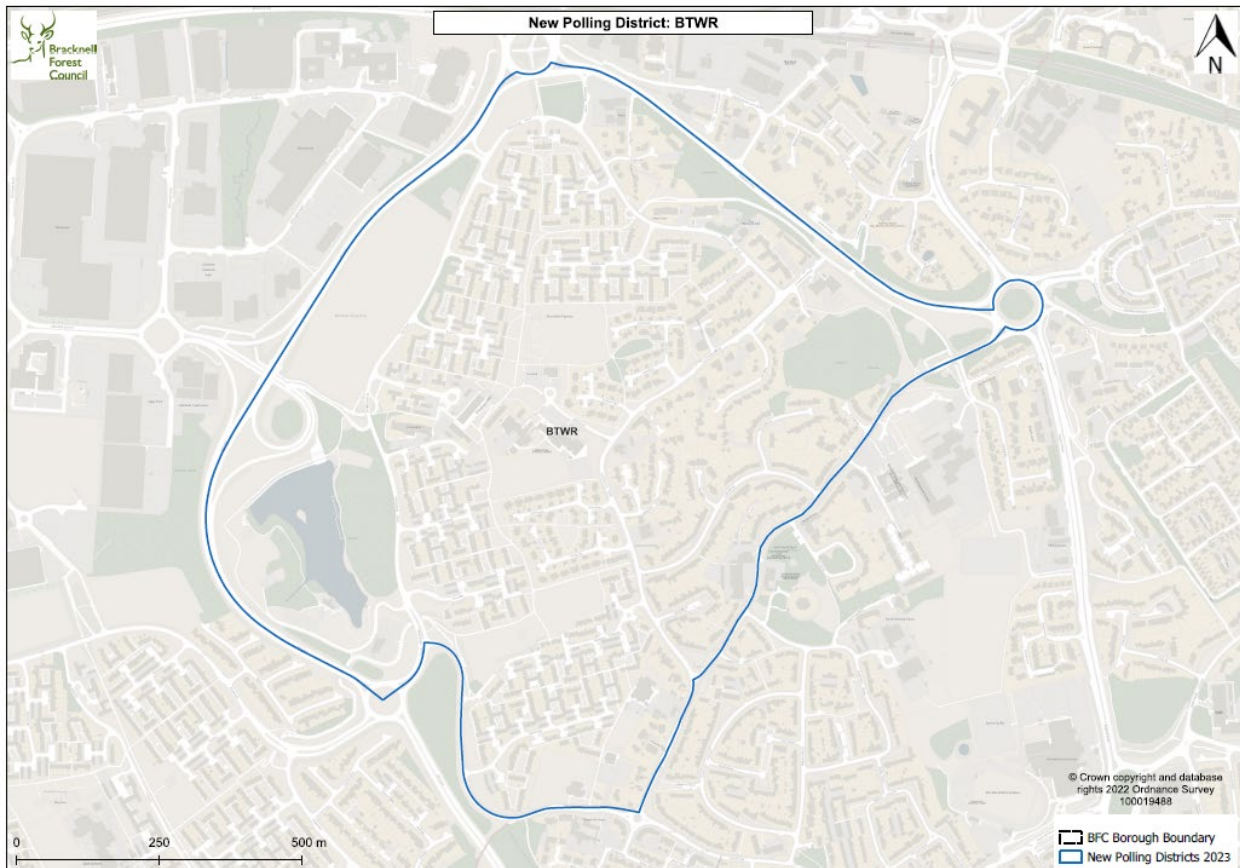
The community centre remains the primary venue as it is contained within the polling district and voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location.

The alternative venue suggested is Bracknell Forest Council's Time Square offices and would be able to provide good facilities for both voters and election staff. While the location is outside of the polling district, it is located centrally with good access on foot, with public transport or by car.

Annex A

Polling District: BTWR - Wildridings

Electorate	2,780
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Easthampstead and Wildridings
Parish Ward	Wildridings
Polling Place	The Open Learning Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Easthampstead and Wildridings Community Centre



Summary

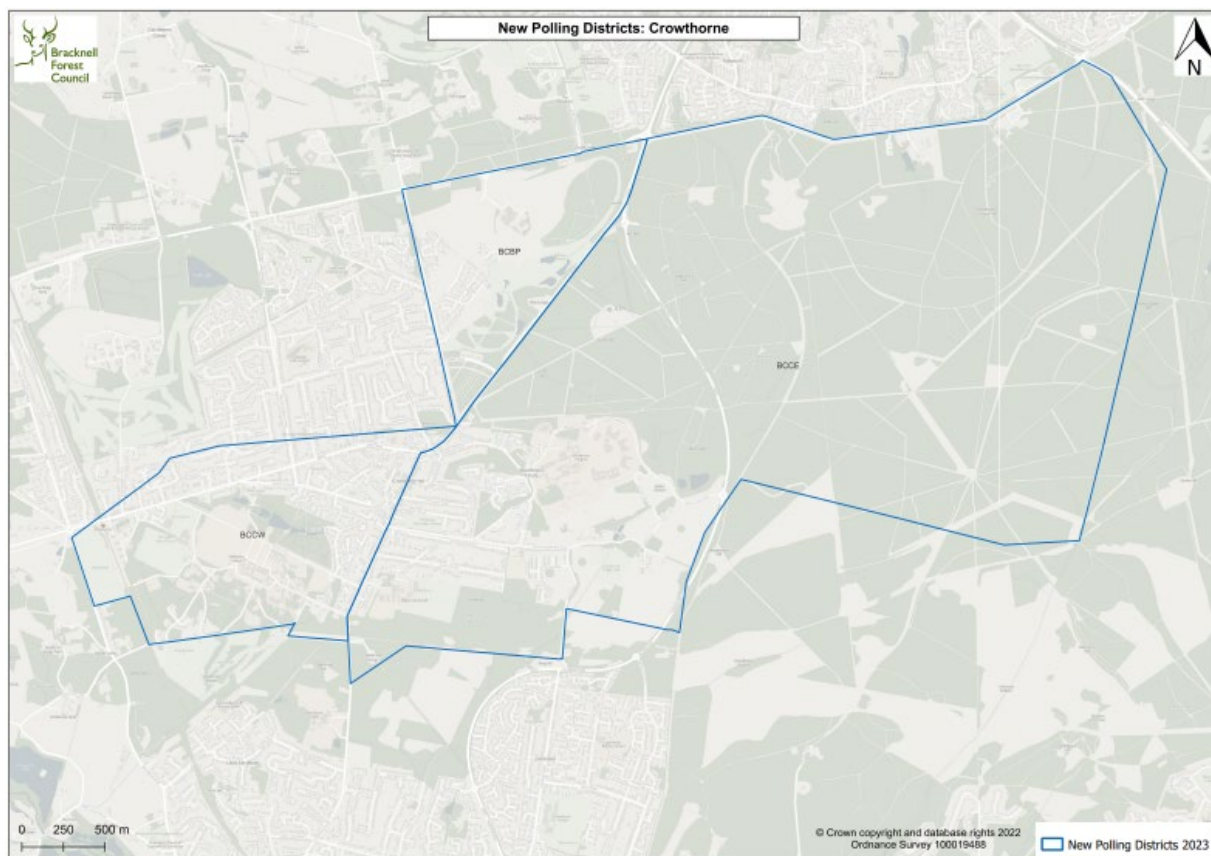
The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The Open Learning Centre remains the primary venue as voters have an existing familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

The alternative venue, Easthampstead and Wildridings Community Centre is designated the alternative venue. This site is an established polling location near the primary polling place and has capacity to accommodate in increased electorate should it be necessary.

Both venues are outside the polling district but currently remain the most suitable polling venues. Officers will continue to actively look for a more suitable alternative venue inside the polling district.

Crowthorne Parish



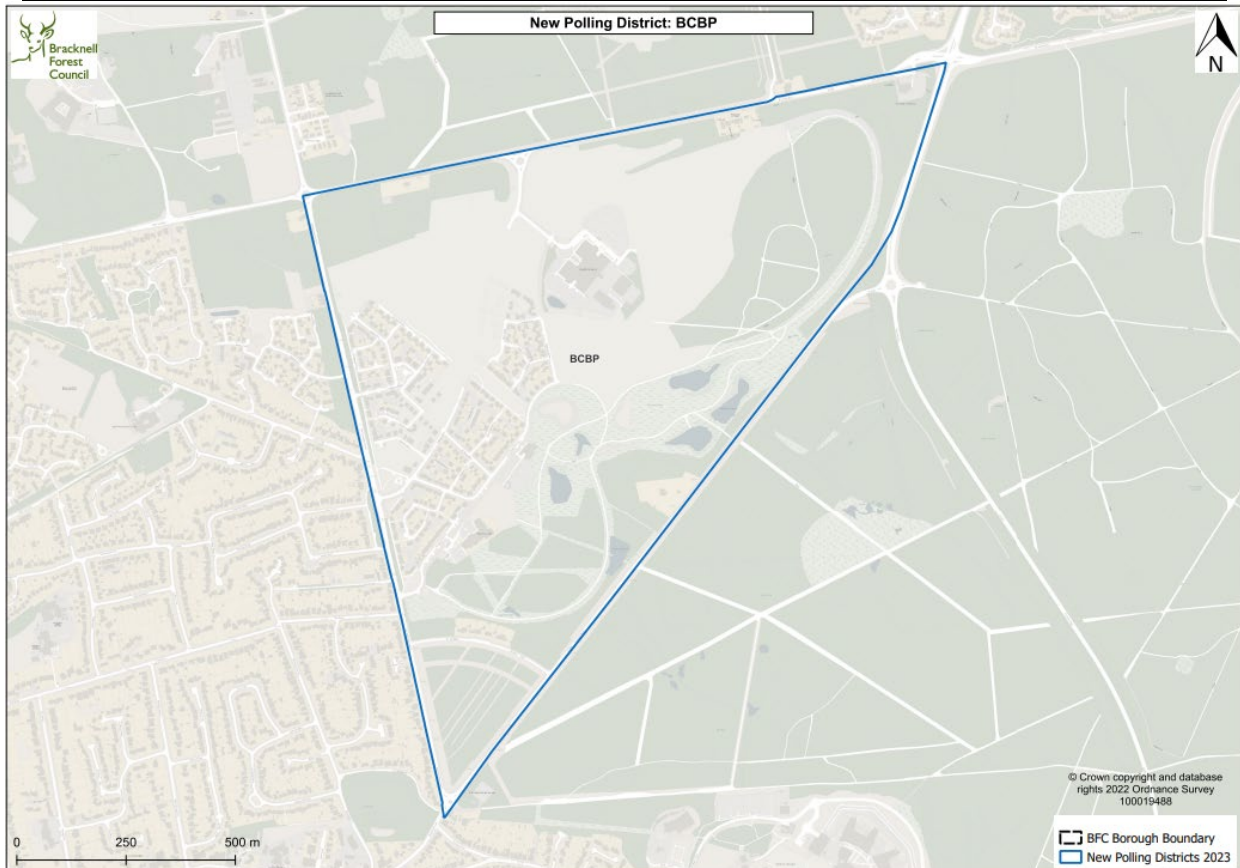
Summary of Polling Districts

Polling District	Code	Parish Ward	Borough Ward
Bucklers Park	BCBP	Crowthorne East	Crowthorne
Crowthorne East	BCCE	Crowthorne East	Crowthorne
Crowthorne West	BCCW	Crowthorne West	Crowthorne

Annex A

Polling District: BCBP – Bucklers Park

Electorate	495
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Crowthorne
Parish Ward	Crowthorne East
Polling Place	Crowthorne Parish Hall
Alternate Polling Place	The Morgan Centre



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

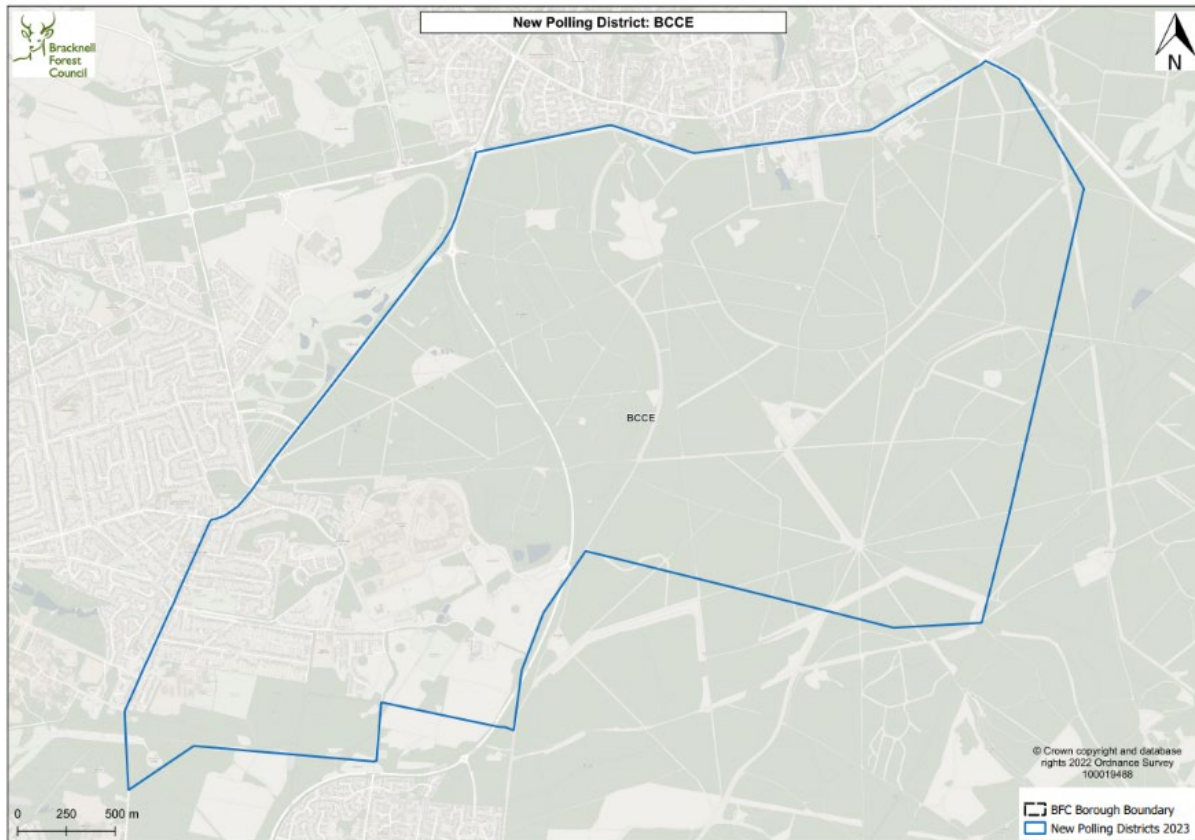
Currently the most appropriate location for these voters to attend is Crowthorne Parish Hall along with the rest of the parish.

The alternative venue selected, The Morgan Centre, has been used as a polling place before and while it is a suitable reserve, Crowthorne Parish Hall is more centrally located with better parking and access for residents in the area and provides the best overall experience for all users.

Annex A

Polling District: BCCE – Crowthorne East

Electorate	2,249
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Crowthorne
Parish Ward	Crowthorne East
Polling Place	Crowthorne Parish Hall
Alternate Polling Place	The Morgan Centre



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

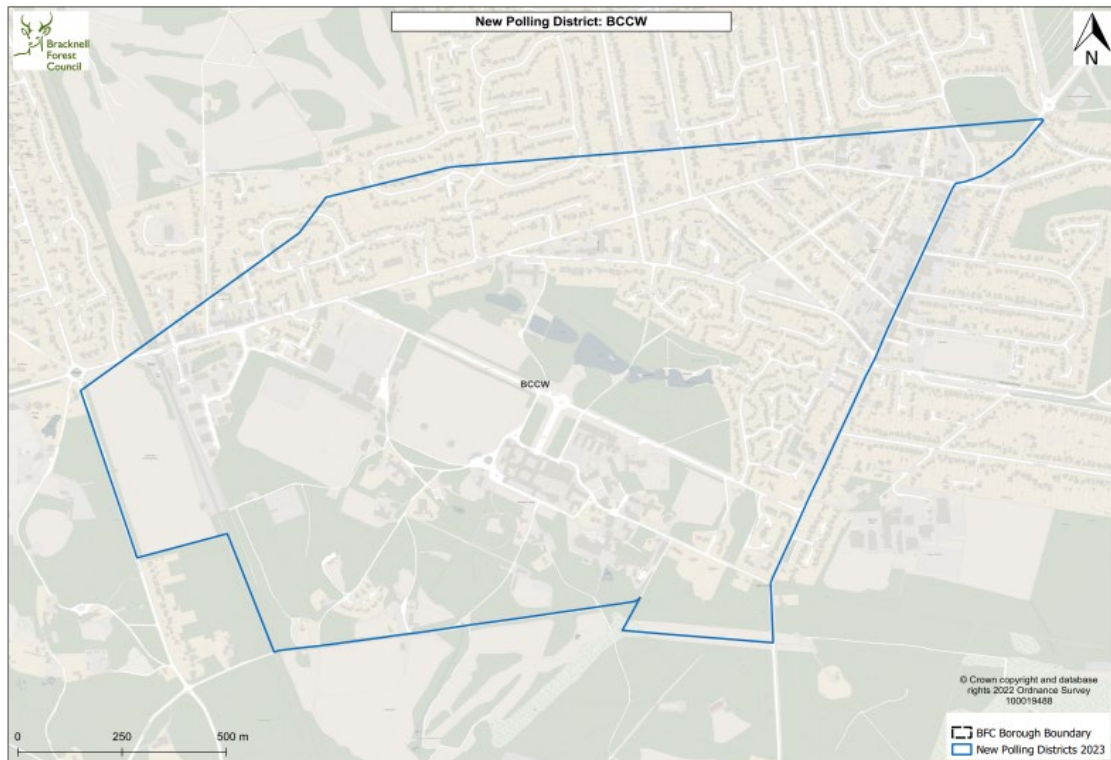
Crowthorne Parish Hall remains the primary polling place as voters have a longstanding familiarity with the venue.

The alternative venue selected, The Morgan Centre, has been used as a polling place before and while it is a suitable reserve, Crowthorne Parish Hall is more centrally located with better access for residents in the area and provides the best overall experience for all users.

Annex A

Polling District: BCCW – Crowthorne West

Electorate	2,622
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Crowthorne
Parish Ward	Crowthorne West
Polling Place	Crowthorne Parish Hall
Alternate Polling Place	The Morgan Centre



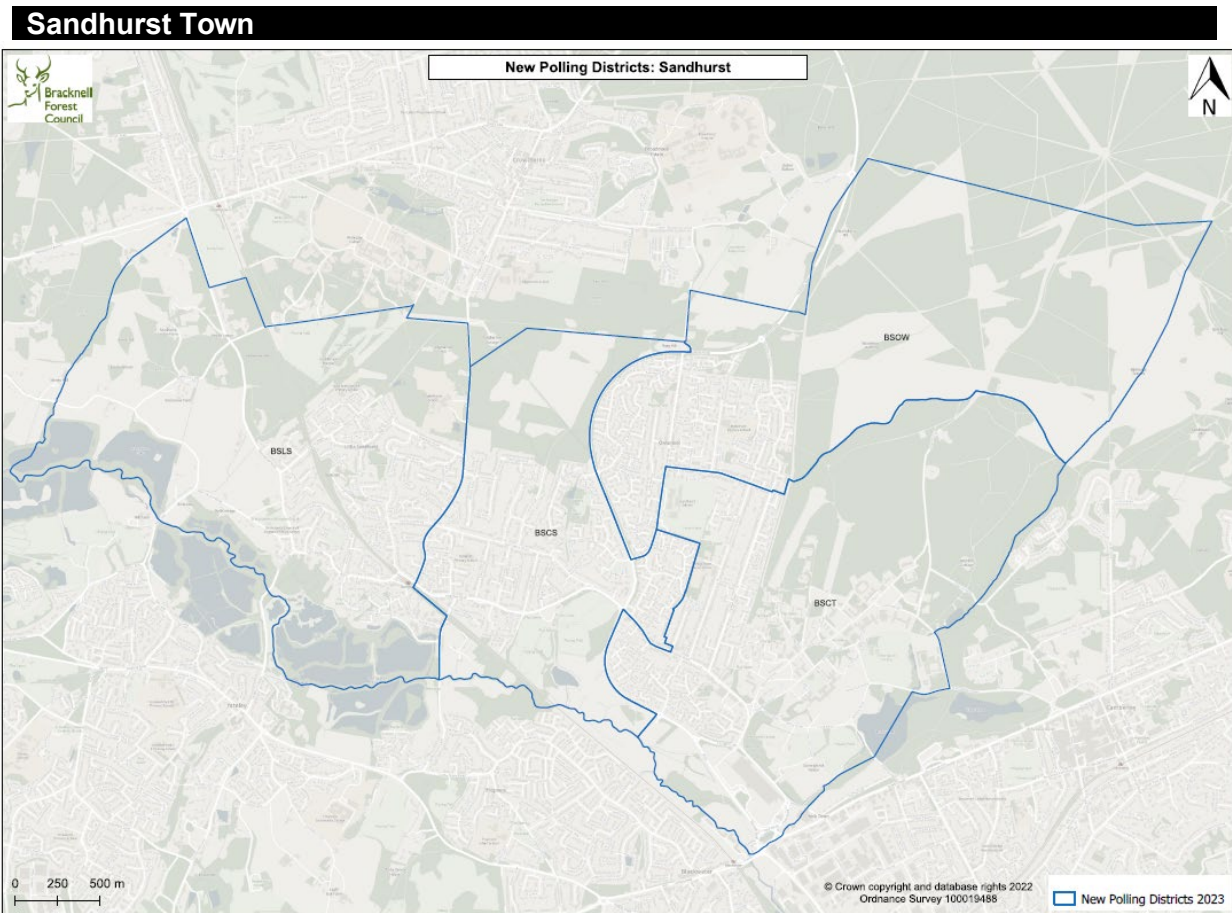
Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

Crowthorne Parish Hall remains the primary polling place as voters have a longstanding familiarity with the venue.

The alternative venue selected, The Morgan Centre, has been used as a polling place before and while it is a suitable reserve, Crowthorne Parish Hall is more centrally located with better access for residents in the area and provides the best overall experience for all users.

Annex A



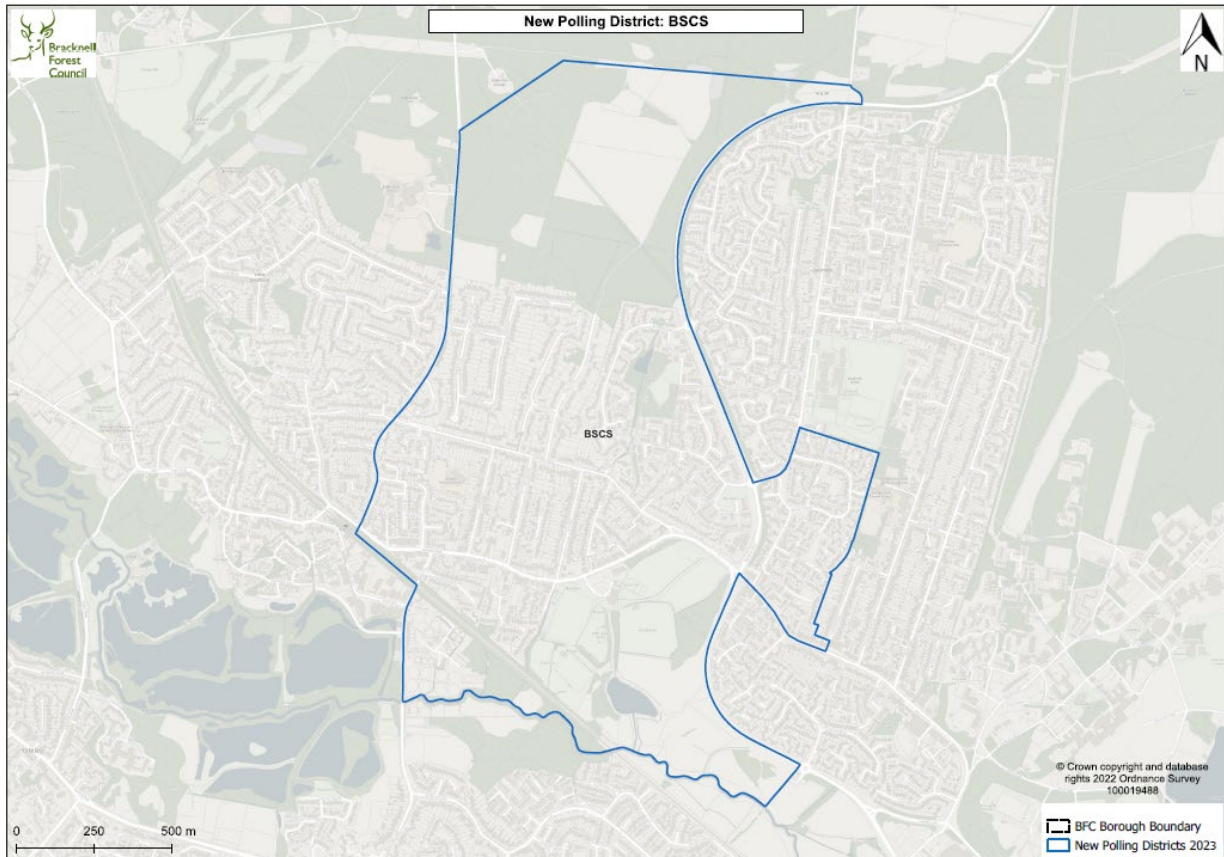
Summary of Polling Districts:

Polling District	Code	Parish Ward	Borough Ward
Central Sandhurst	BSCS	Central Sandhurst	Sandhurst
College Town	BSCT	College Town	Owlsmoor and College Town
Little Sandhurst	BSLS	Little Sandhurst	Sandhurst
Owlsmoor	BSOW	Owlsmoor	Owlsmoor and College Town

Annex A

Polling District: BSCS – Central Sandhurst

Electorate	4,297
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Sandhurst
Parish Ward	Central Sandhurst
Polling Place	Sandhurst Town Council Offices
Alternate Polling Place	Sandhurst Library



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

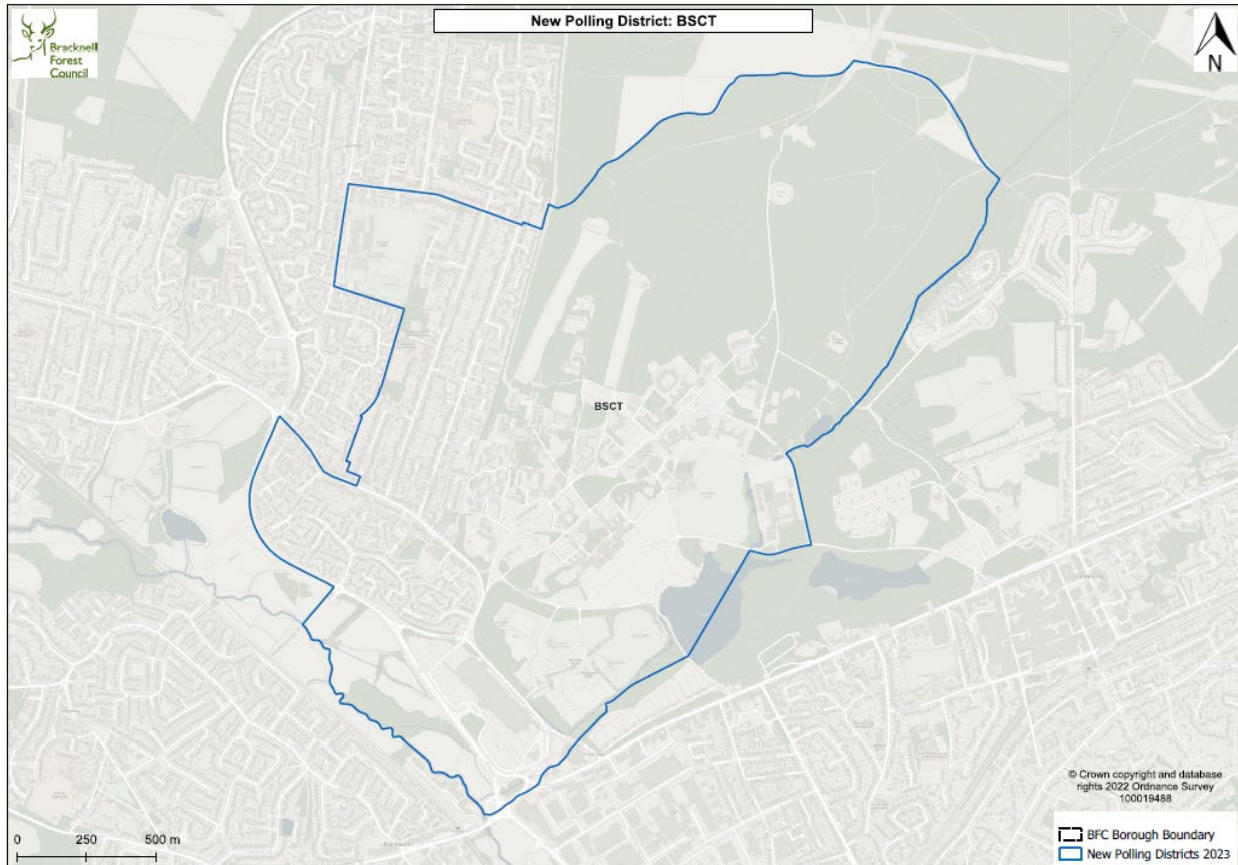
Sandhurst Town Council offices remains the primary polling place as most voters have a reasonable degree of familiarity with the location.

The alternative venue selected, Sandhurst Library, has been used previously as a polling place and provides good facilities for both elections staff and voters. However, Sandhurst Town Council's offices are more centrally located with better access for residents in the area and provides the best overall experience for all users.

Annex A

Polling District: BSCT – College Town

Electorate	2,869
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Owlsmoor and College Town
Parish Ward	College Town
Polling Place	Sandhurst Secondary School, Sports Hall
Alternate Polling Place	St Georges Church



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

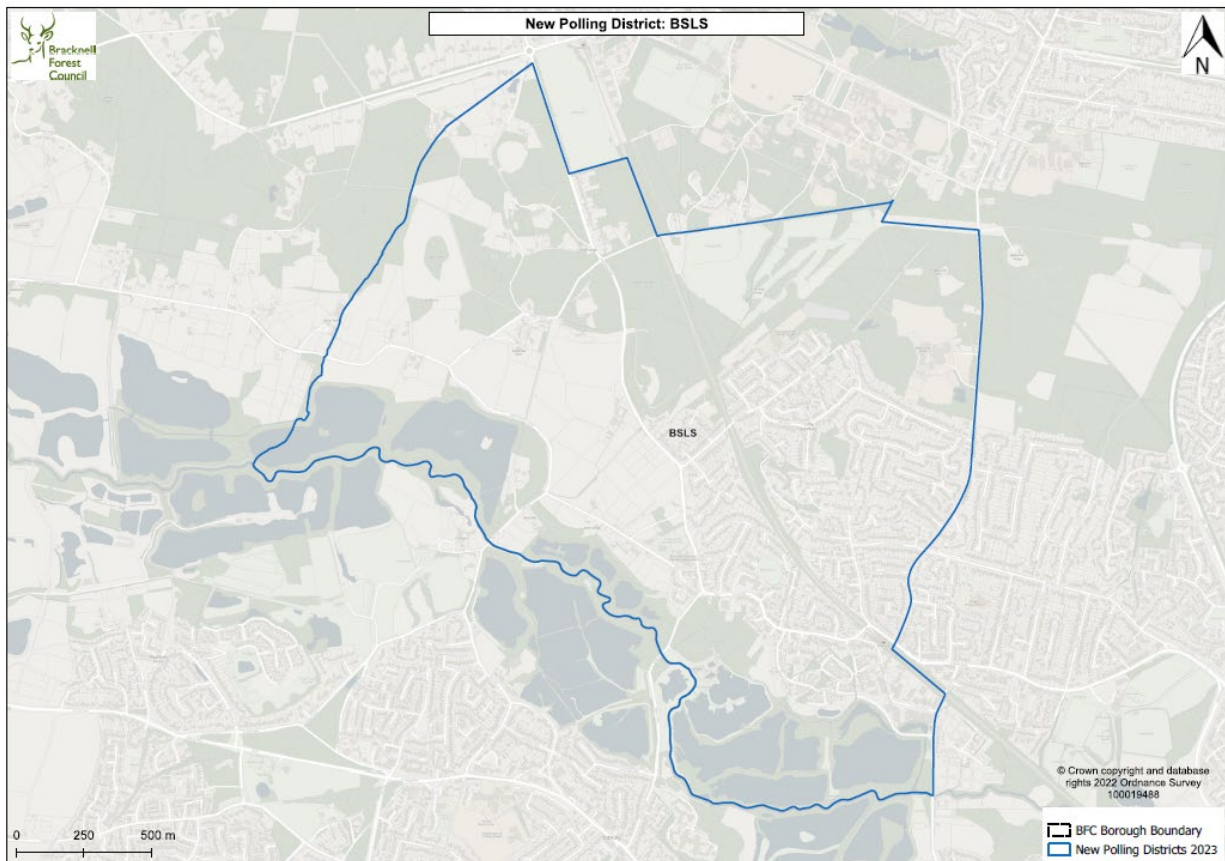
Sandhurst Secondary School remains the primary polling place as most voters have a reasonable degree of familiarity with the location and its use as a polling venue does not disrupt the operation of the school for the majority of the year excluding the examination period.

The alternative venue selected St George's Church has been used as a polling place once before for electors in this area and while it falls outside of the polling district it is a suitable reserve. However, Sandhurst Secondary School is more centrally located with better access for residents in the area and provides the best overall experience for all users.

Annex A

Polling District: BSLS – Little Sandhurst

Electorate	3,075
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Sandhurst
Parish Ward	Little Sandhurst
Polling Place	Sandhurst & Yateley Methodist Church
Alternate Polling Place	Sandhurst Community Venue, Waterside Park



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

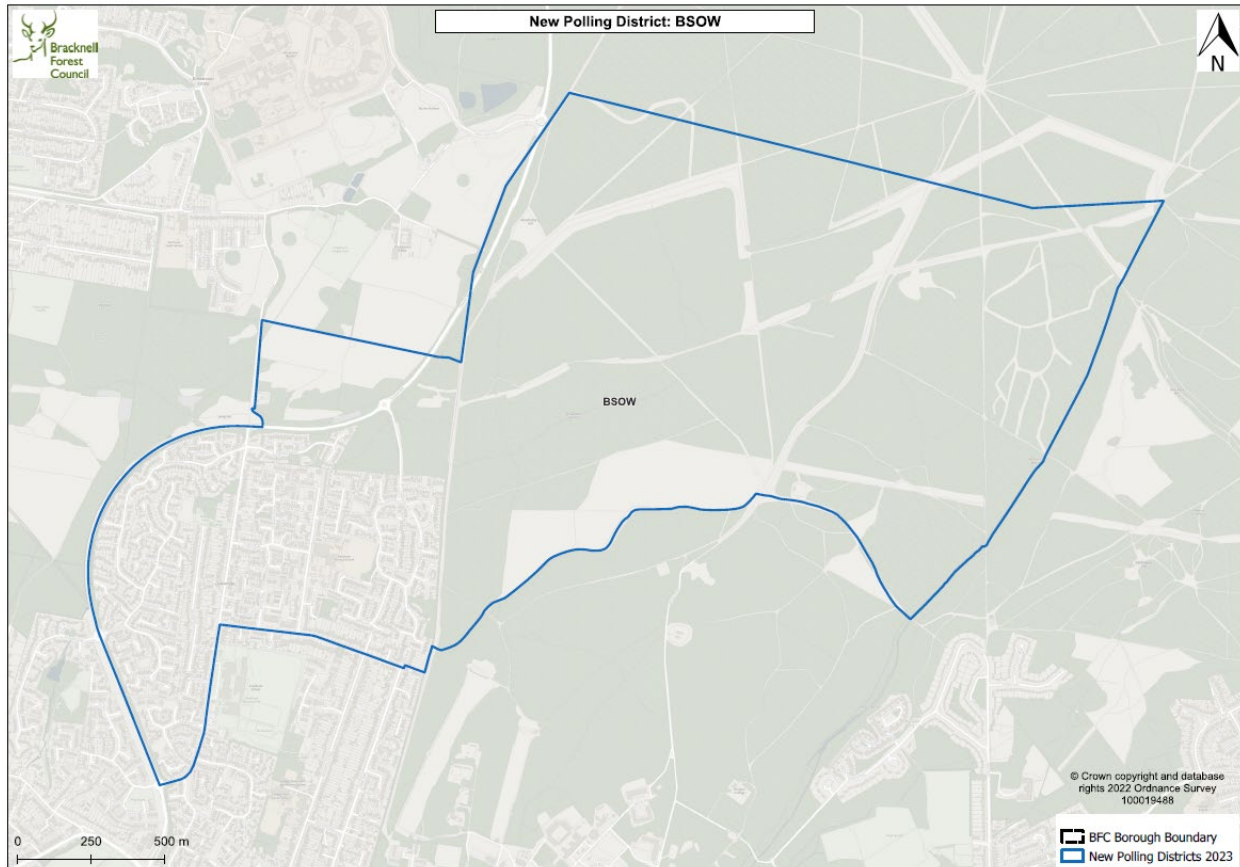
The church remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

The alternative venue is a new community building in the polling district. It contains good amenities for both voters and polling station staff and adequate parking.

Annex A

Polling District: BSOW - Owlsmoor

Electorate	4,144
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Owlsmoor and College Town
Parish Ward	Owlsmoor
Polling Place	Owlsmoor Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	St Georges Church, Owlsmoor



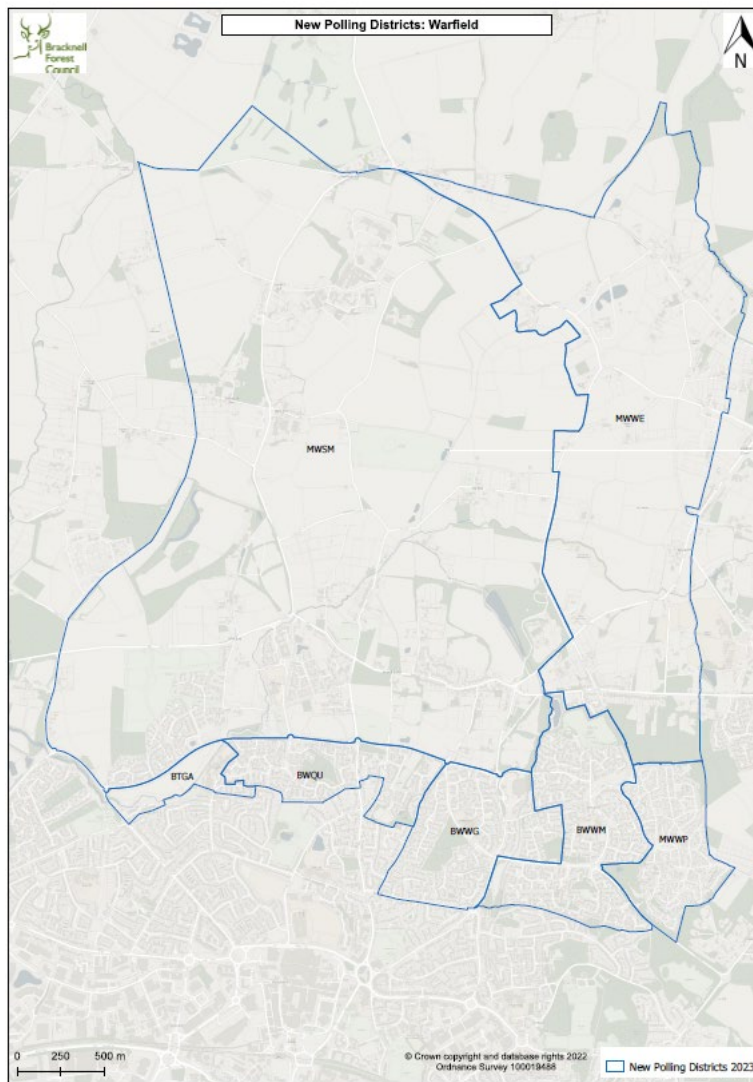
Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

Owlsmoor Community Centre remains the primary polling place as most voters have a reasonable degree of familiarity with the location.

The alternative venue selected, St George's Church, has been used as a polling place once before and while it is a suitable reserve, Owlsmoor Community Centre is more centrally located with better access for residents in the area and provides the best overall experience for all users.

Warfield Parish



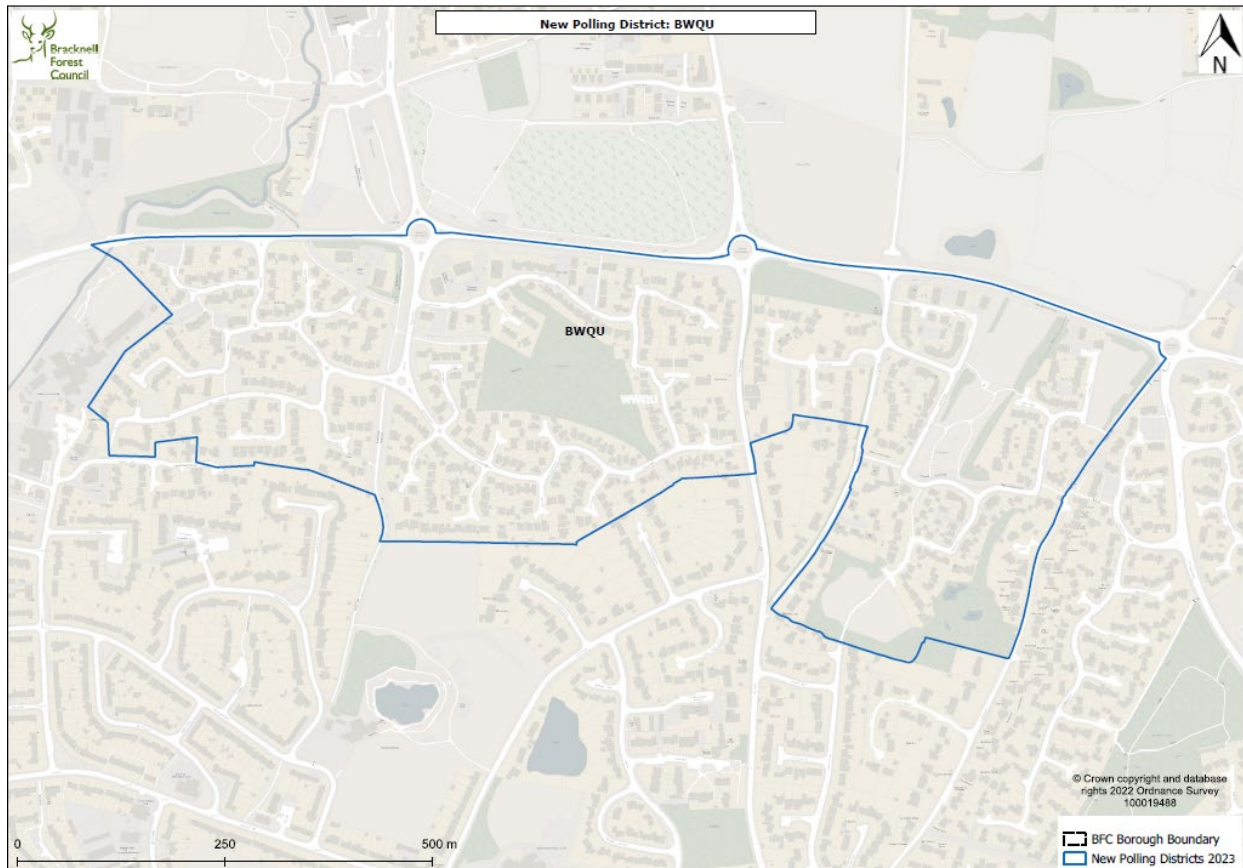
Summary of Polling Districts

Polling District	Code	Parish Ward	Borough Ward
Quelm	BWQU	Quelm	Binfield North and Warfield West
St Michaels	MWSM	St Michael	Binfield North and Warfield West
Warfield East	MWWE	Warfield East and Park	Winkfield and Warfield East
Whitegrove	BWWG	Whitegrove	Whitegrove
Westmorland	BWWM	Whitegrove	Whitegrove
Warfield Park	MWWP	Warfield East and Park	Whitegrove

Annex A

Polling District: BWQU - Quelm

Electorate	1,576
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Binfield North and Warfield West
Parish Ward	Quelm
Polling Place	Whitegrove Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Brownlow Memorial Hall



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The community centre remains the primary venue as voters have a reasonable degree of familiarity with the location.

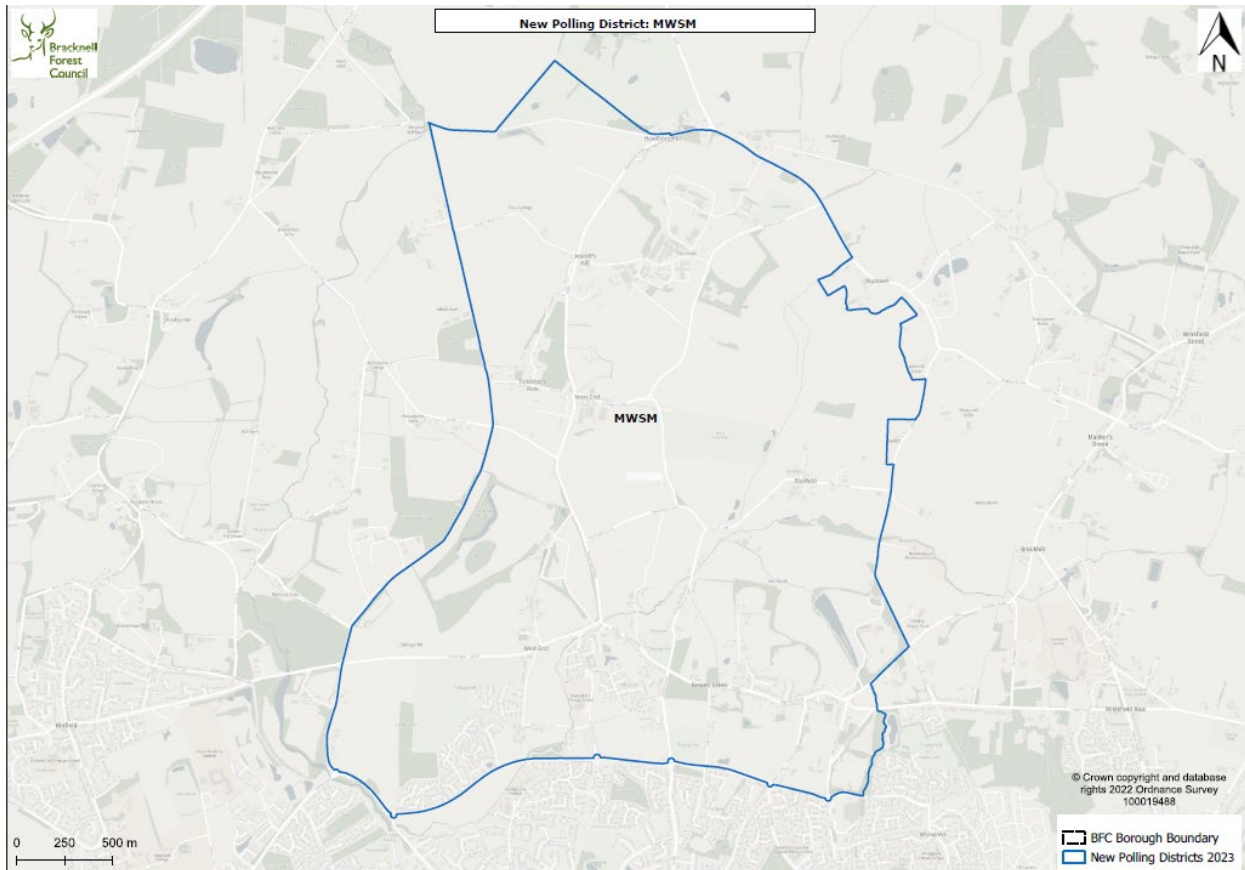
The alternative venue selected, Brownlow Hall, is just outside of the polling district but, is already used as a polling location for the neighbouring St Michael's polling district. It is easily accessible and has the capacity to absorb the additional voters from Quelm if necessary.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Annex A

Polling District: MWSM – St Michaels

Electorate	1,840
Parliamentary Constituency	Maidenhead
Borough Ward	Binfield North and Warfield West
Parish Ward	St Michaels
Polling Place	Brownlow Hall
Alternate Polling Place	Warfield Church



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

Brownlow Hall remains the polling place as voters have a longstanding familiarity with the location.

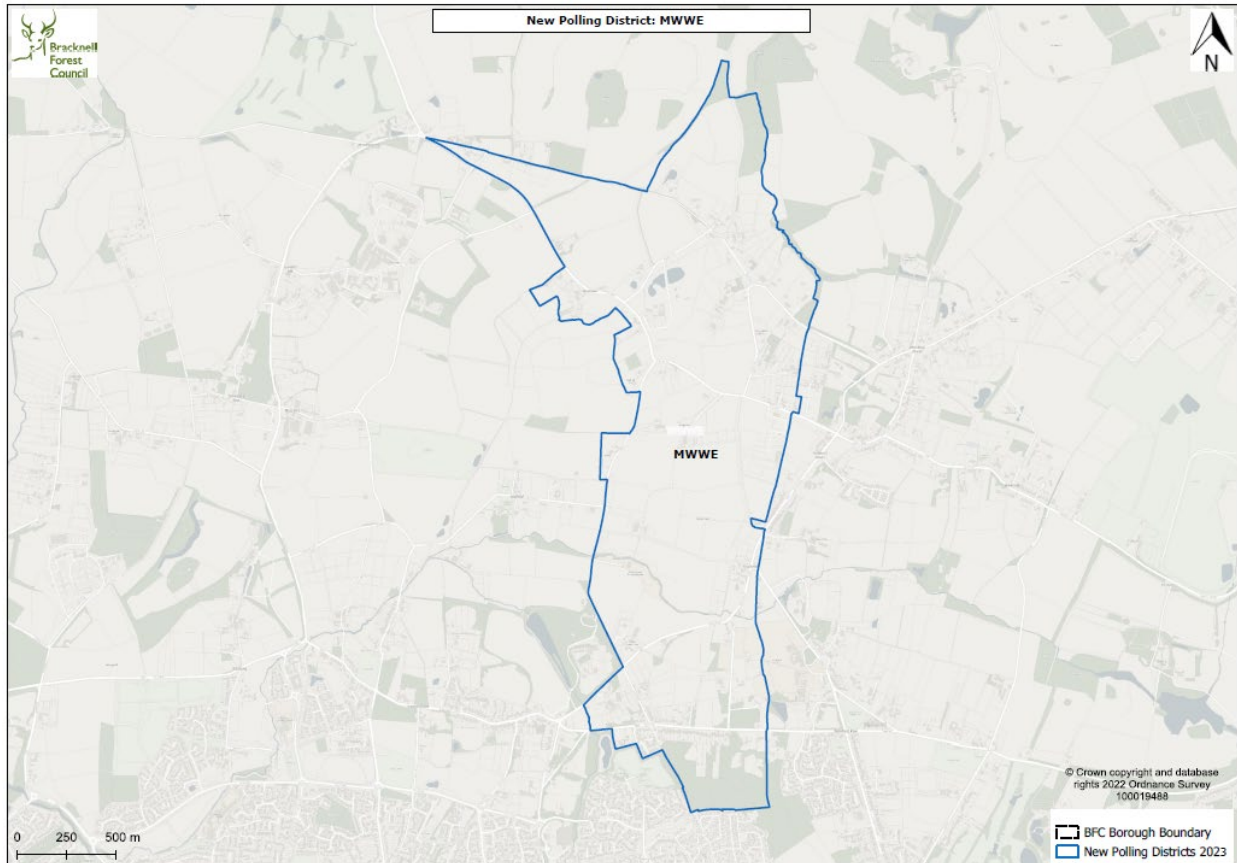
The alternative venue selected, Warfield Church, has been used as a polling place once before and while it is a suitable reserve, Brownlow Hall is more centrally located with better access for residents in the area and provides the best overall experience for all users.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Annex A

Polling District: MWWE – Warfield East

Electorate	319
Parliamentary Constituency	Maidenhead
Borough Ward	Winkfield and Warfield East
Parish Ward	Warfield East and Park
Polling Place	Carnation Hall
Alternate Polling Place	Westmorland Park Pavilion



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The Carnation Hall remains the polling place as voters have a longstanding familiarity with the location.

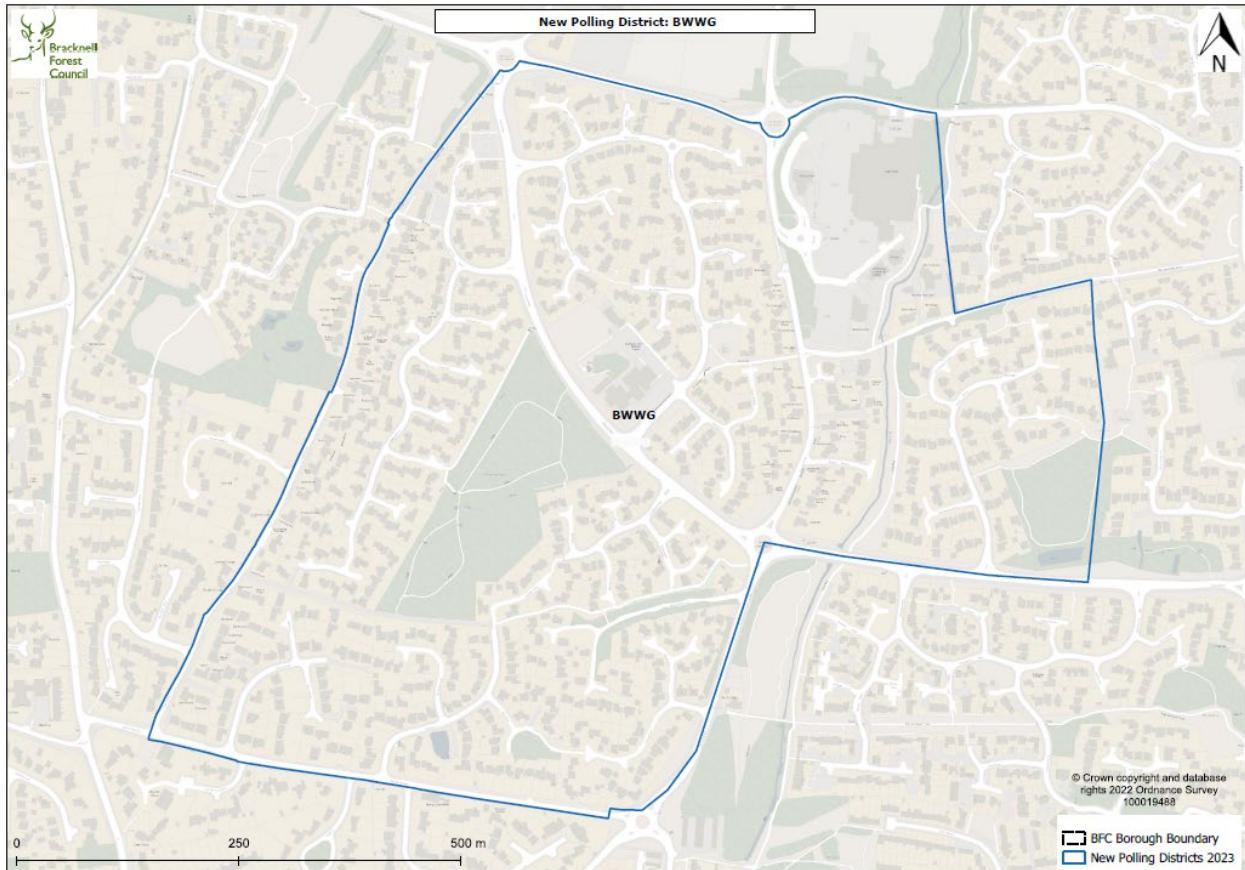
The alternative venue selected, Westmorland Park Pavilion, is just outside of the polling district and is already used as a polling location for the neighboring, Westmorland polling district. It is easily accessible and has the capacity to absorb the additional voters from Warfield East if necessary. The Carnation Hall, though outside of the polling district, remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Annex A

Polling District: BWWG - Whitegrove

Electorate	1,864
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Whitegrove
Parish Ward	Whitegrove
Polling Place	Whitegrove Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Westmorland Pavilion



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The community centre remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

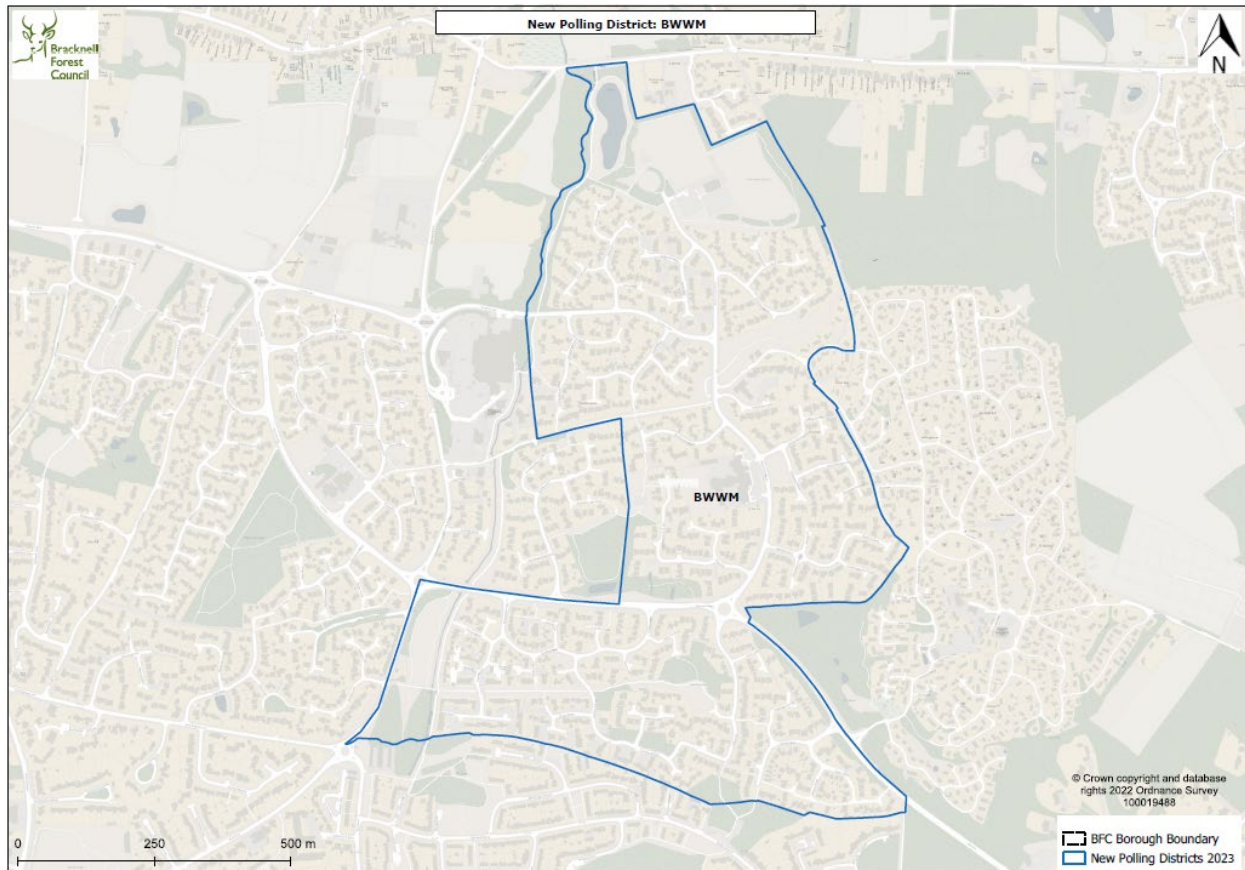
The alternative venue selected, Westmorland Park Pavilion, is just outside of the polling district and is already used as a polling location for the neighbouring, Westmorland polling district. It is easily accessible and has the capacity to absorb the additional voters if necessary.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Annex A

Polling District: BWWM - Westmorland

Electorate	2,670
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Whitegrove
Parish Ward	Whitegrove
Polling Place	Westmorland Pavilion
Alternate Polling Place	Whitegrove Community Centre



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The pavilion remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

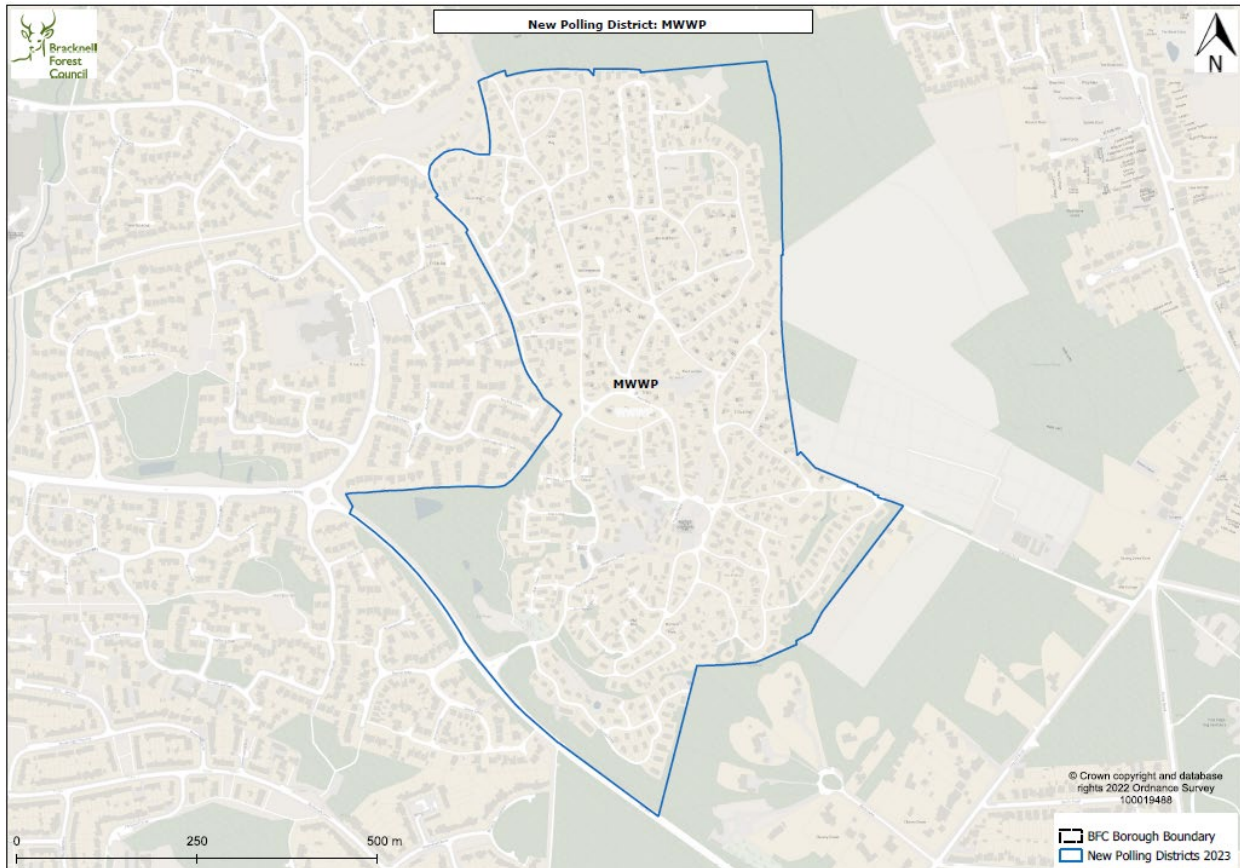
The alternative venue selected, Whitegrove Community Centre, is just outside of the polling district and is already used as a polling location for the neighbouring Whitegrove polling district. It is easily accessible and has the capacity to absorb the additional electorate if necessary.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Annex A

Polling District: MWWP – Warfield Park

Electorate	690
Parliamentary Constituency	Maidenhead
Borough Ward	Whitegrove
Parish Ward	Warfield East and Park
Polling Place	Warfield Park Community Hall
Alternate Polling Place	Westmorland Park Pavilion



Summary

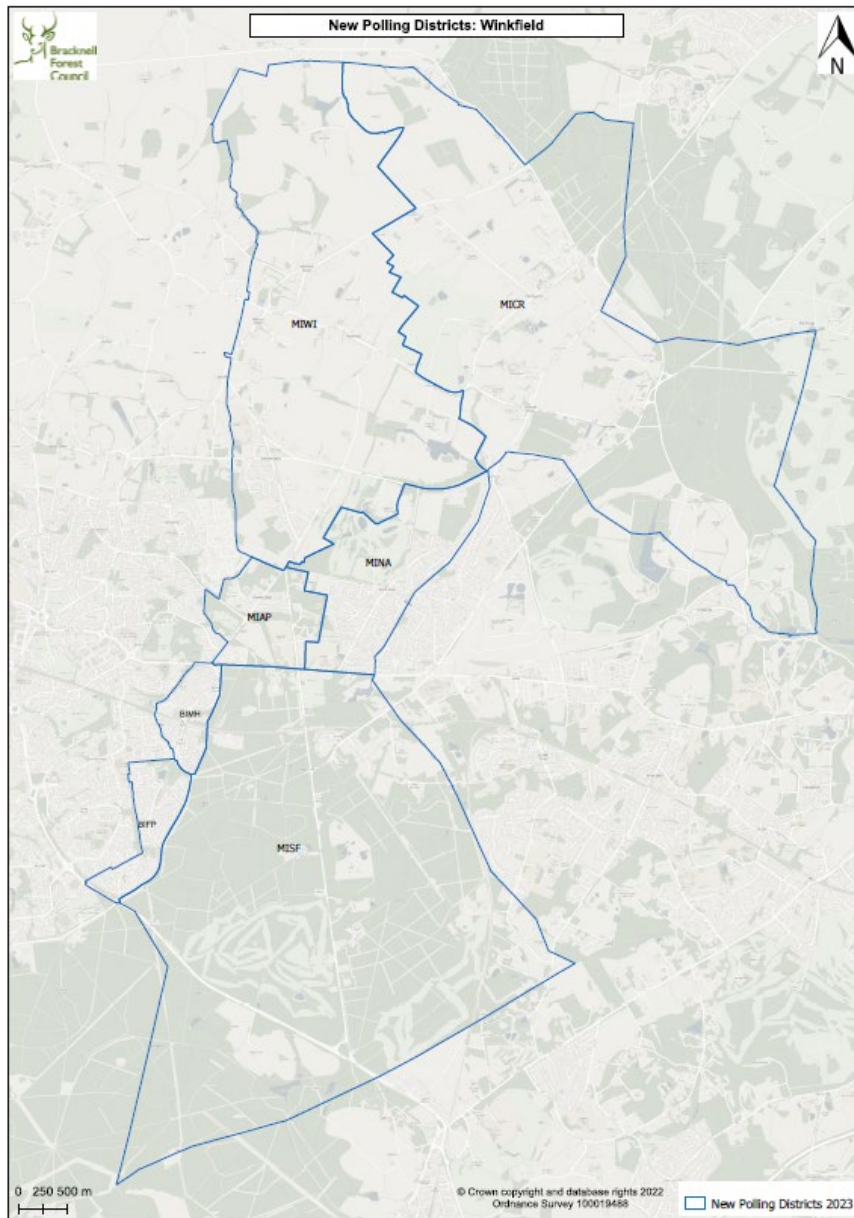
The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The community hall remains the primary venue as it is more centrally located and accessible for voters in the area.

The alternative venue selected, Westmorland Park Pavilion, is just outside of the polling district and is already used as a polling location for the neighbouring, Westmorland polling district. It is easily accessible and has the capacity to absorb the additional voters if necessary.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Winkfield Parish



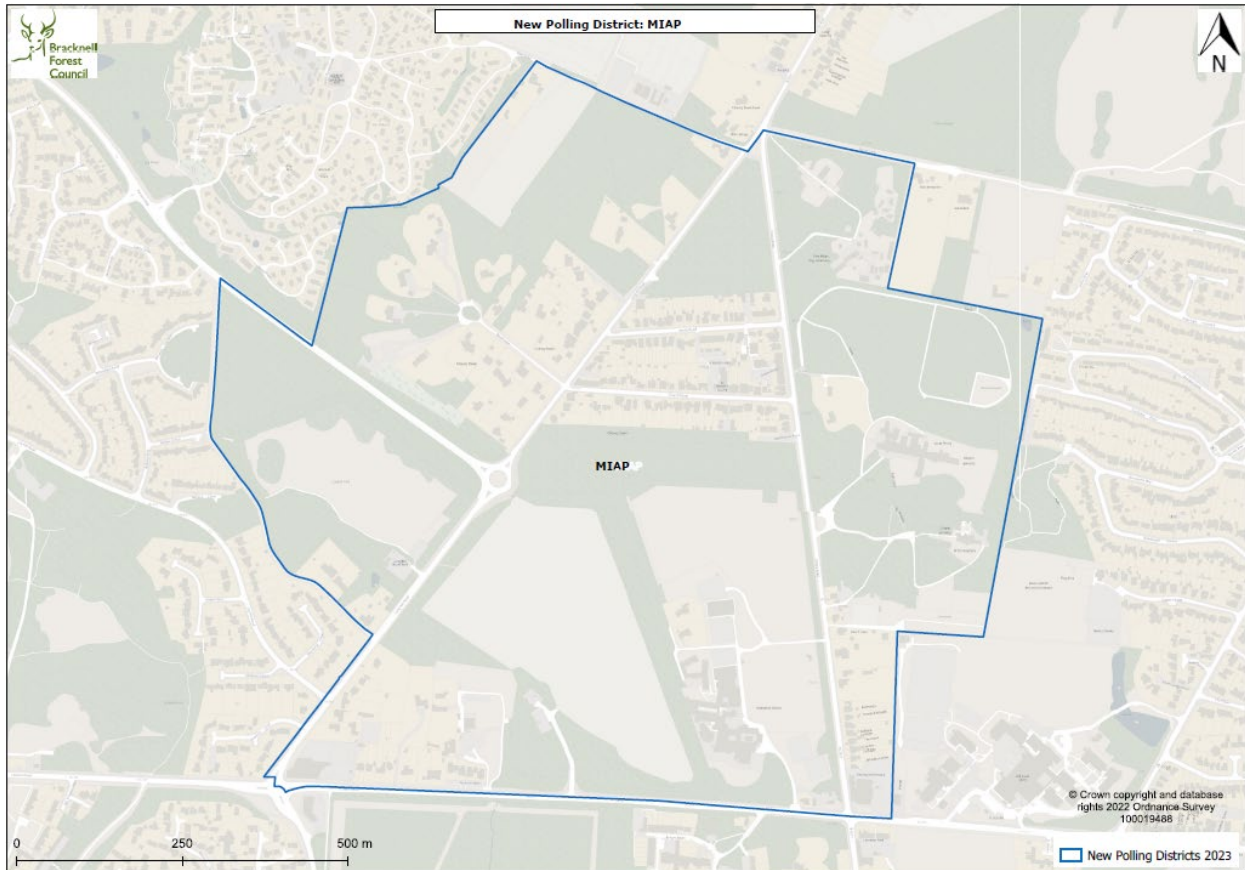
Annex A

Polling District	Code	Parish Ward	Borough Ward
Ascot Priory	MIAP	Ascot Priory	Winkfield and Warfield East
Cranbourne	MICR	Winkfield and Cranbourne	Winkfield and Warfield East
Forest Park	BIFP	Forest Park	Swinley Forest
Martins Heron	BIMH	Martins Heron and Warren with Swinley Forest	Swinley Forest
North Ascot	MINA	Ascot Priory	Winkfield and Warfield East
Swinley Forest	MISF	Martins Heron and Warren with Swinley Forest	Swinley Forest
Winkfield	MIWI	Winkfield and Cranbourne	Winkfield and Warfield East

Annex A

Polling District: MIAP – Ascot Priory

Electorate	639
Parliamentary Constituency	Maidenhead
Borough Ward	Winkfield and Warfield East
Parish Ward	Ascot Priory
Polling Place	St Martin's Church Hall, Chavey Down
Alternate Polling Place	North Ascot Community Centre



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The church remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and the facilities are equal to that of the alternative.

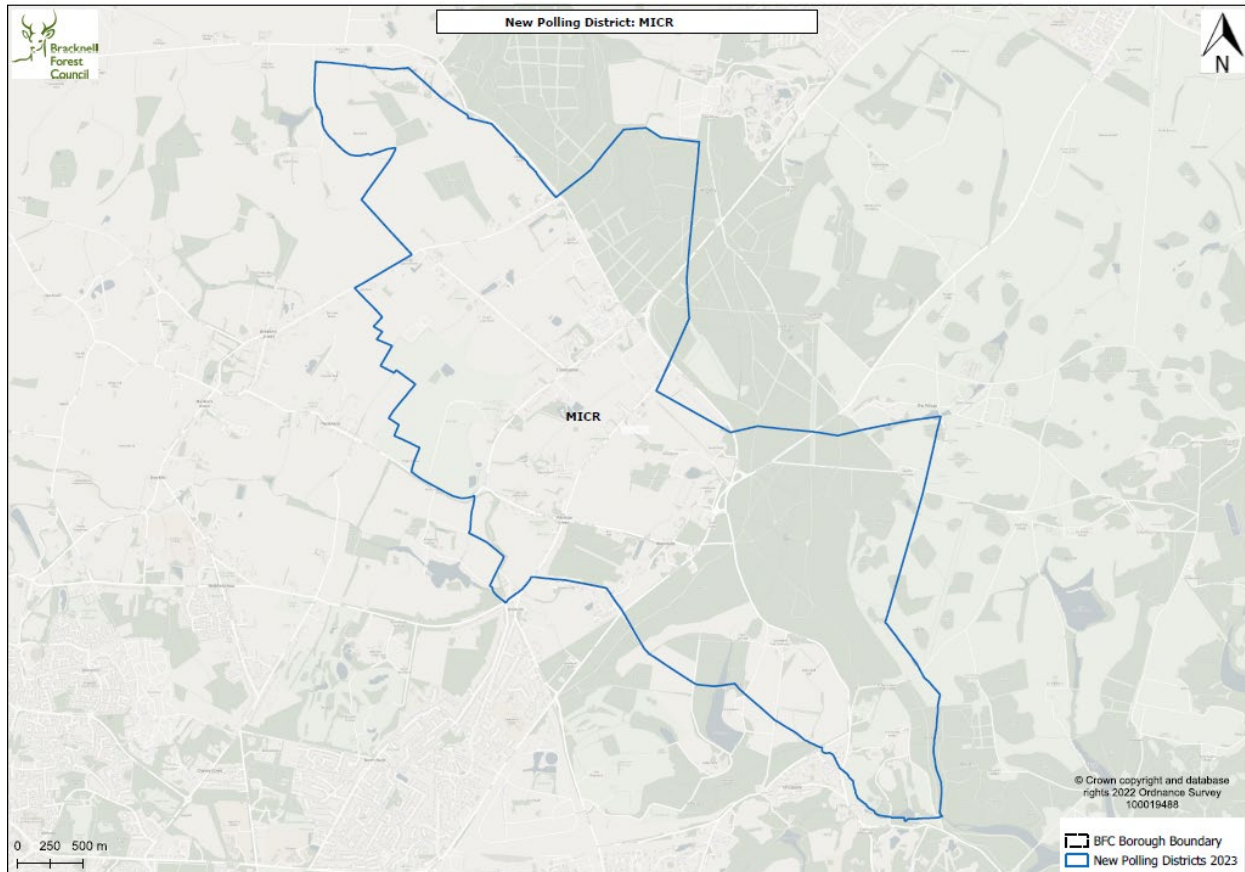
The alternative venue suggested is an established polling place with good facilities for both staff and voters with sufficient capacity to absorb the additional electorate should it be necessary.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Annex A

Polling District: MICR - Cranbourne

Electorate	934
Parliamentary Constituency	Maidenhead
Borough Ward	Winkfield and Warfield East
Parish Ward	Winkfield and Cranbourne
Polling Place	St Peters Church
Alternate Polling Place	North Ascot Community Centre



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The church remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and it is more easily accessible to residents in the area.

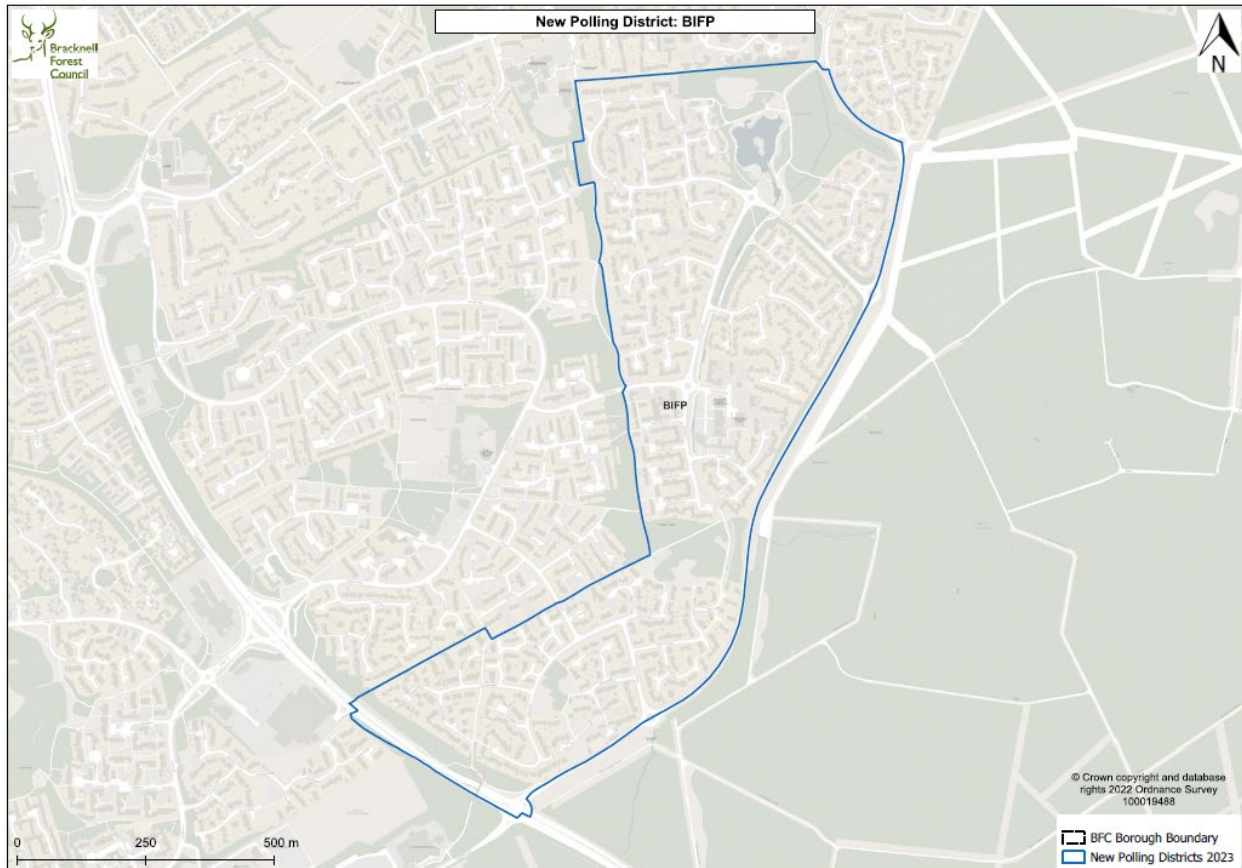
The alternative venue, North Ascot Community Centre, although outside of the polling district is the best option presently available following the closure of the Royal British Legion Hall and can be reached by car within 10-15 minutes for most voters in the area.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Annex A

Polling District: MIFP – Forest Park

Electorate	2,887
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Swinley Forest
Parish Ward	Forest Park
Polling Place	Forest Park Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Martins Heron and The Warren Community Centre



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The community centre remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and it is contained within the polling district.

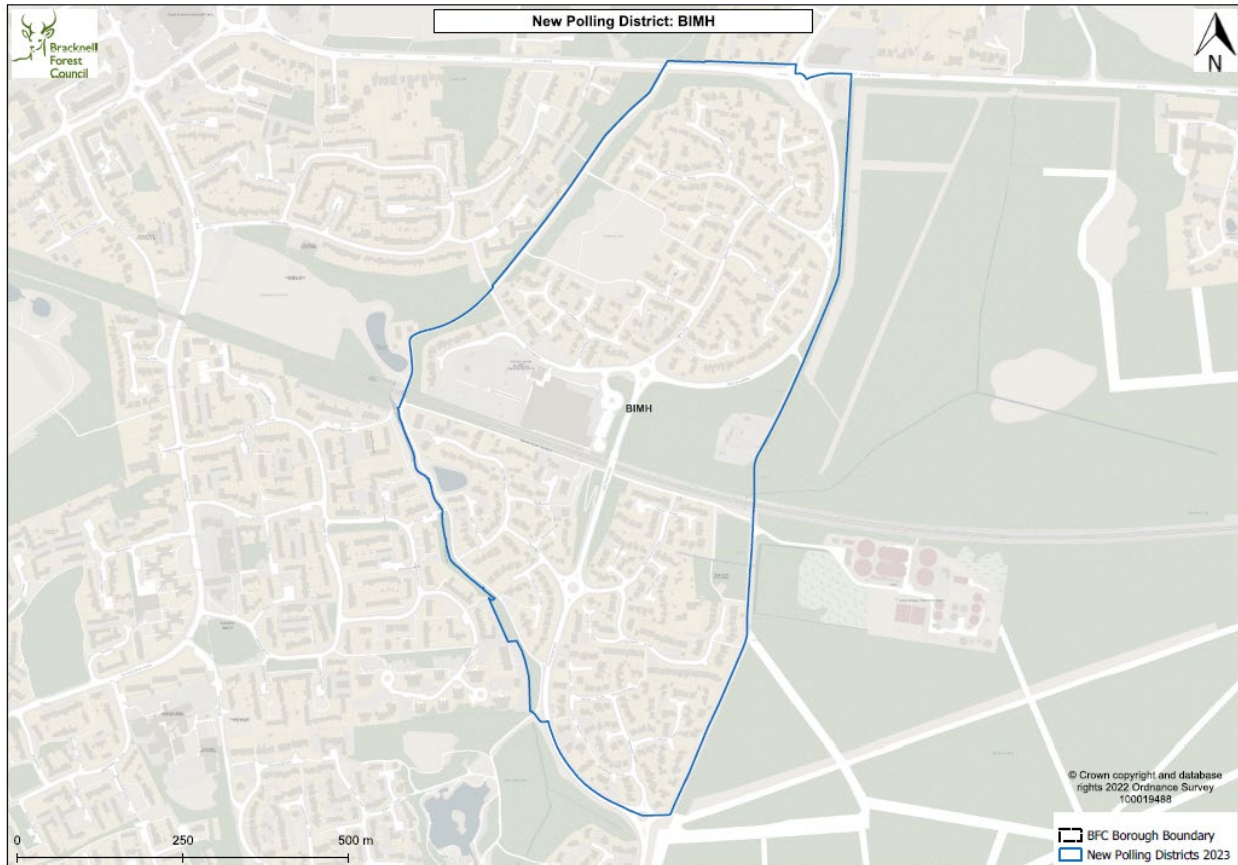
The alternative venue while, outside of the polling district, provides the most suitable alternative and is already used a polling station for residents in Martin Heron and The Warren and would be able to absorb the additional electors from Forest Park should the need arise.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Annex A

Polling District: BIMH – Martins Heron

Electorate	1,412
Parliamentary Constituency	Bracknell
Borough Ward	Swinley Forest
Parish Ward	Martins Heron and Warren with Swinley Forest
Polling Place	Martin's Heron and The Warren Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	Forest Park Community Centre



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The community centre remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and it is contained within the polling district.

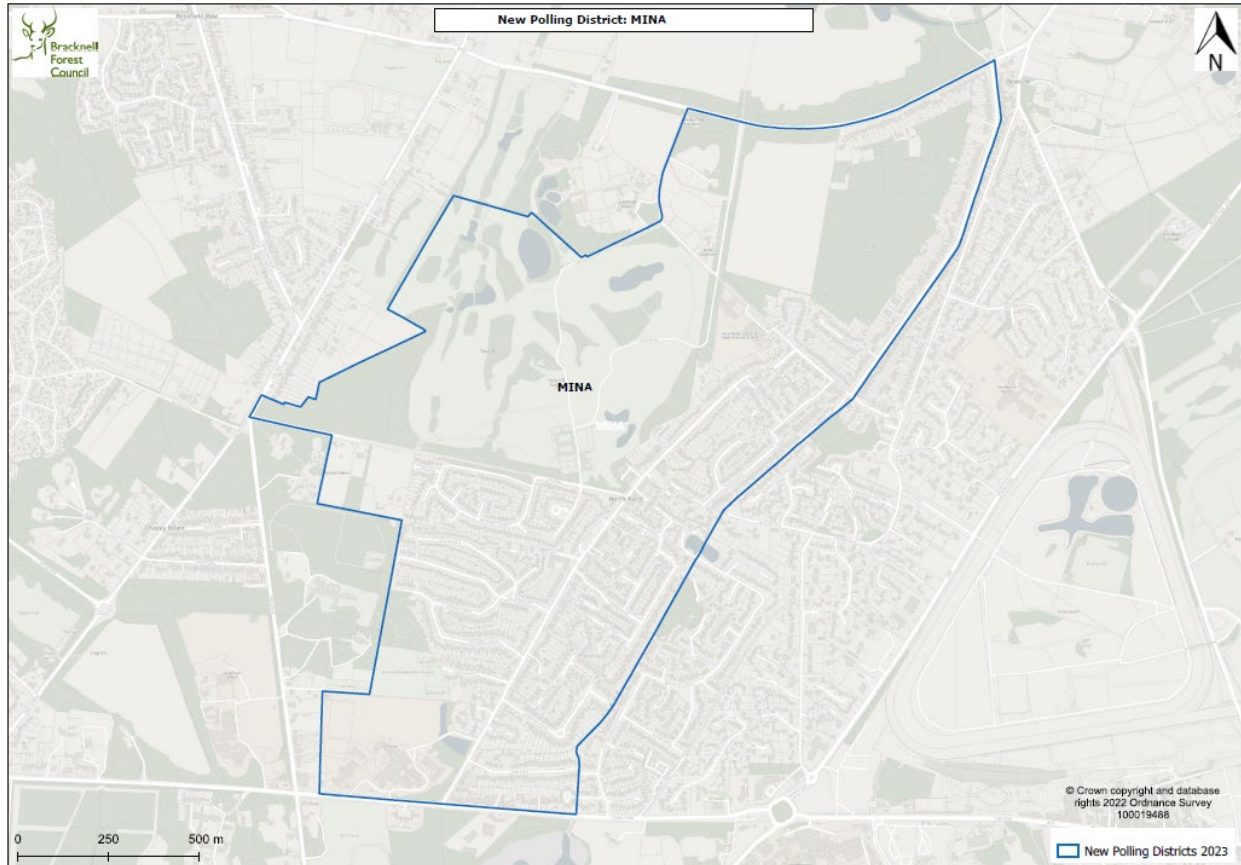
The alternative venue while, outside of the polling district, provides the most suitable alternative and is already used a polling station for residents in the neighbouring Forest Park polling district and would be able to absorb the additional electors from Martins Heron and The Warren should the need arise.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Annex A

Polling District: MINA –North Ascot

Electorate	3,169
Parliamentary Constituency	Maidenhead
Borough Ward	Winkfield and Warfield East
Parish Ward	Ascot Priory
Polling Place	North Ascot Community Centre
Alternate Polling Place	St Martin's Church Hall, Chavey Down



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

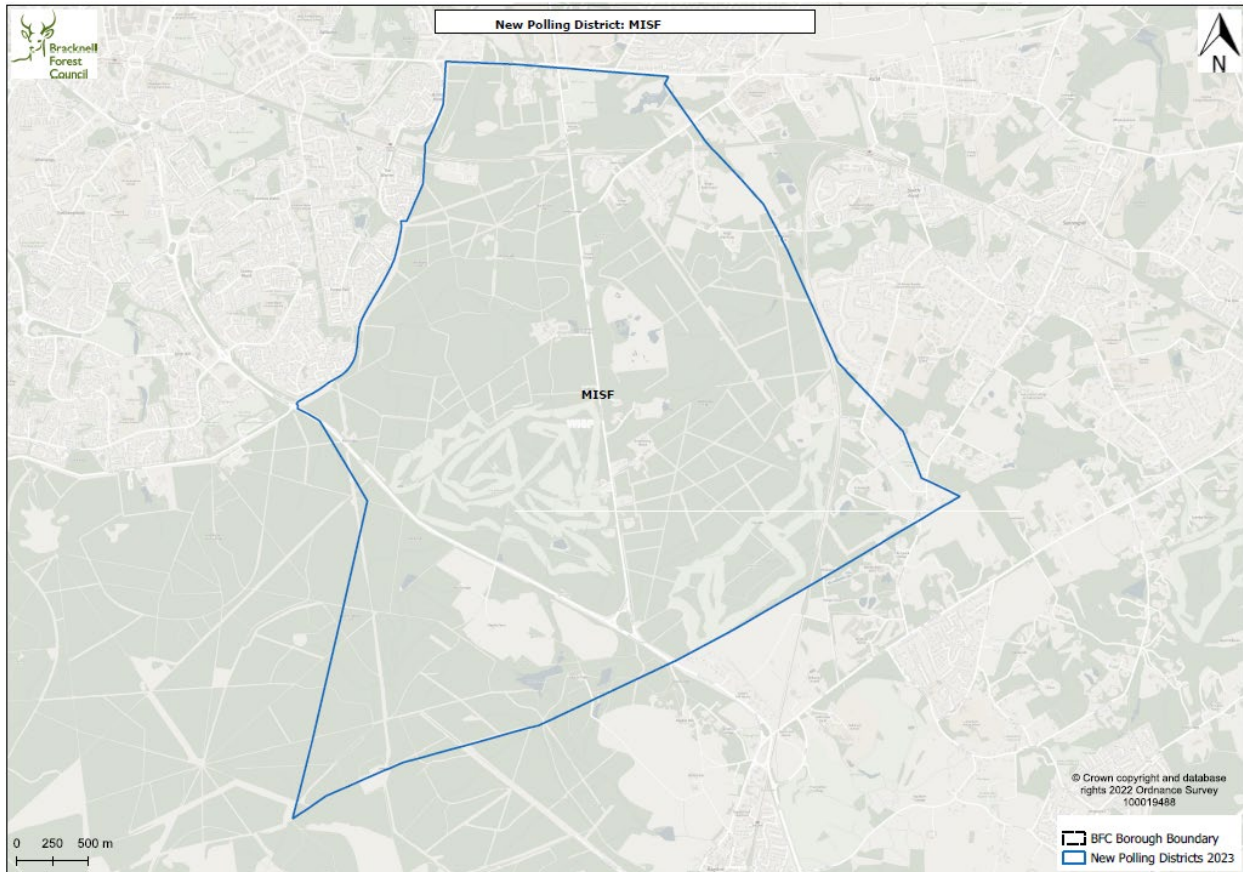
The community centre remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and it is contained within the polling district.

The alternative venue suggested is an established polling place with good facilities for both staff and voters with sufficient capacity to absorb the additional electorate should it be necessary.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Polling District: MISF – Swinley Forest

Electorate	510
Parliamentary Constituency	Maidenhead
Borough Ward	Swinley Forest
Parish Ward	Martins Heron and Warren with Swinley Forest
Polling Place	St Martin’s Church Hall, Chavey Down
Alternate Polling Place	Martins Heron and The Warren Community Centre



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

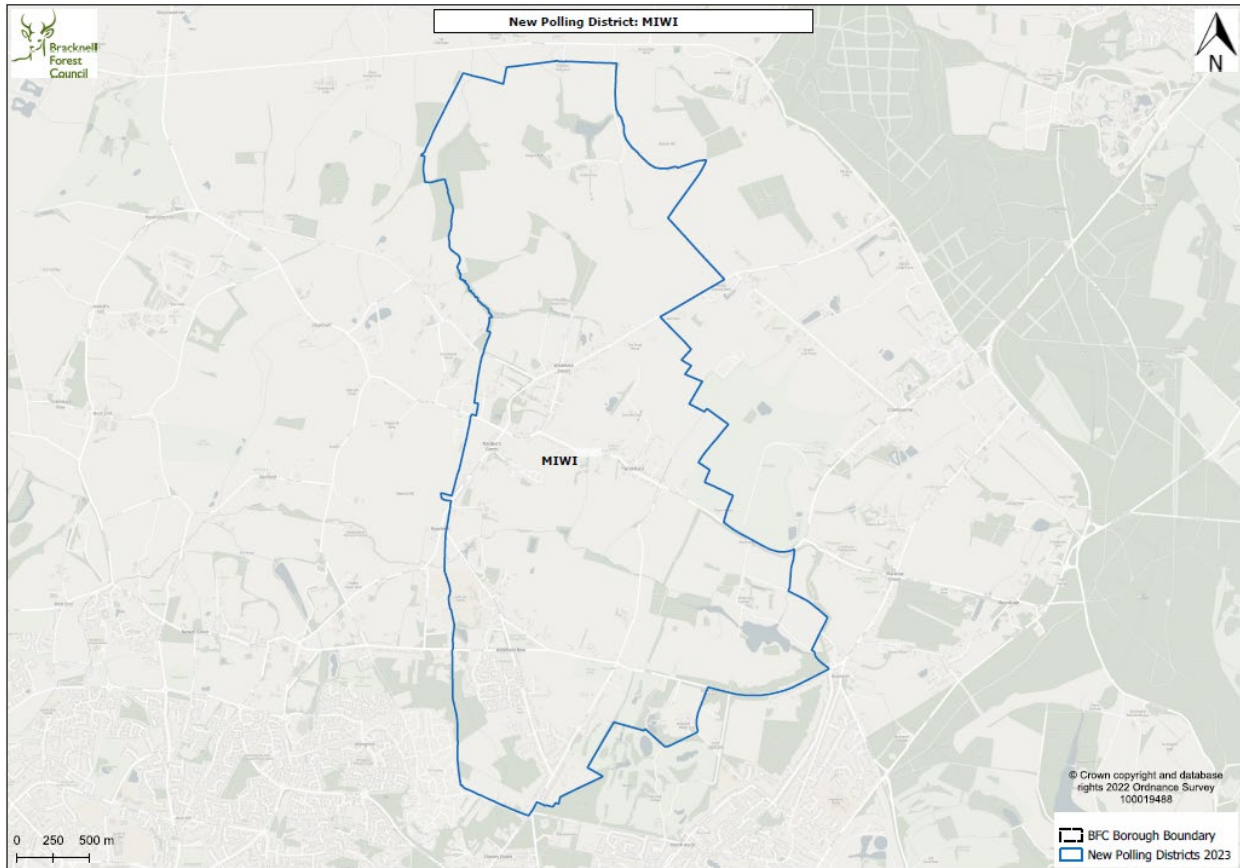
St Martins Church, Chavey Down remains the primary venue. Though this venue is outside of the polling district it remains the best option for electors in the area.

A lack of suitable alternatives in the polling district and comparatively small number of electors in the area means that the best alternative option would be to consolidate all Swinley Forest voters at Martins Heron and The Warren Community Centre.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Polling District: MIWI - Winkfield

Electorate	1,790
Parliamentary Constituency	Maidenhead
Borough Ward	Winkfield and Warfield East
Parish Ward	Winkfield and Cranbourne
Polling Place	The Carnation Hall
Alternate Polling Place	Warfield Church, Church Lane



Summary

The scheme outlined above is unchanged from the polling arrangements currently in place in the area.

The Carnation Hall remains the primary venue as voters have a longstanding familiarity with this location and it is located within the polling district.

The alternative venue, while outside of the polling district, has been previously used as a polling place for electors in the neighbouring Warfield East area. It has good facilities for both staff and voters and would provide limited travel disruption for electors in this polling district should it need to be activated.

No changes proposed other than updating the polling district code to take account of changes to the parliamentary constituency.

Annex B

Response Ref	Polling Place	Borough ward(s)	Please provide your comments on the proposed arrangements	Please provide any suggestions for alternative arrangements	Response from the Electoral Review Working Group
1	Binfield Memorial Hall	Binfield North	<p>Very happy with these arrangements as we are able to walk to the polling station. For those who can't there is parking nearby.</p> <p>Very concerned that a consultation period started on Wednesday 18 October 2023 - before half term and the first I became aware of it was on Tuesday 7 November 2023 (one week left to comment) when I found a link on Binfield Parish Council website.</p> <p>I didn't understand the abbreviation. I read the local paper Bracknell News and I look at the Bracknell Forest Council website. Nothing under news on Bracknell Forest Council website.</p> <p>How can this be meaningful consultation?</p>	<p>Consultation mechanisms need to be improved.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>Leading up to and throughout the review process information has been shared regularly on the Bracknell Forest Council website here:</p> <p>Electoral reviews Bracknell Forest Council (bracknell-forest.gov.uk)</p> <p>The team will review additional methods for sharing information about future consultations.</p>
2	Whitegrove Community Centre	Binfield North and Warfield West + Whitegrove	<p>The existing arrangements are overall good. Clearer signage on which way to turn at the roundabout on</p>		<p>Thank you for your comments. We will liaise with the Bracknell Forest Council Highways Department</p>

Annex B

			the Tesco site would help those new to the area.		around improved and appropriate signage at the roundabout.
3	Whitegrove Community Centre	Binfield North and Warfield West + Whitegrove	Excellent	None	Thank you for your comments.
4	Farley Wood Centre, Turnpike Road	Binfield South and Jennetts Park	Works well, plenty of parking for those that need it, but easy for us to walk to.	The closest existing alternative is Binfield Memorial Hall but it is a bit further for us to walk and parking is not great.	Thank you for your comments.
5	Bullbrook Community Centre	Bullbrook	Very happy with this location and its suitability. Please don't change it.	If you absolutely have to, the nearby school is probably ok. But I'd prefer you to stay with community centre, and its less disruptive for the school anyway.	Thank you for your comments.
6	Bullbrook Community Centre	Bullbrook	It is great as it is. Easy to walk to, good parking.	None	Thank you for your comments.
7	Sandhurst Town Council Offices	Central Sandhurst	Works well, easy to walk to. Plenty of parking for those less mobile.		Thank you for your comments.
8	Sandhurst Town Council Offices	Central Sandhurst	Just to note that notices to public of where the polling station is situated are not always easy to see and not necessarily in the easy to see places. For central Sandhurst the provision of the hall is good for easy access for most people.		Thank you for your comments. We will ensure that additional signage is provided to the polling station team and located appropriately so that access to the site is clear for all attending.

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9		Crowthorne	<p>Crowthorne Parish Council have considered your request for comments on the Polling arrangements in the ward and I am responding on their behalf.</p> <p>In particular we have given consideration as to whether there is a need for an extra polling station in Bucklers Park.</p> <p>We have reached the following conclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are currently only 400 properties • there is an increasing trend to postal voting • thus, for the number of voters likely to benefit it would be an unjustifiable extra cost on Crowthorne PC • we do not want to emphasise the idea of Bucklers Park being a satellite of Crowthorne 	Therefore the Parish Council is satisfied with the current arrangements	Thank you for your comments.
10	Wildridings Primary School	Easthampstead and Wildridings	Using schools are disruptive to pupils, parents and	Gospel Hall, Netherton, Bracknell RG12 7DX.	Thank you for your comments and suggested alternatives.

Annex B

			carers. Consequentially should be avoided.	<p>St Michael & St Mary Magdalene Church hall, Crowthorne Rd, Easthampstead, Bracknell RG12 7EH</p> <p>The Green Man, public house, Crowthorne Rd, Bracknell RG12 7DL</p>	<p>The council aims to avoid the use of schools as polling places wherever possible.</p> <p>As such, Wildridings Primary School was decommissioned as a polling location in 2021 with voting relocated to The Open Learning Centre.</p> <p>There are no current plans to re-establish a polling place at the school.</p> <p>With respect to the suggestions made the council has investigated each and either due to lack of availability or capacity, it is felt that the arrangements in place at The Open Learning Centre provide the best ongoing experience for voters.</p>
11	Wildridings Primary School	Easthampstead and Wildridings		Wildridings school is more central to the area than alternatives	Thank you for your comments. The council aims to avoid the use of

Annex B

					<p>schools as polling places wherever possible.</p> <p>The Open Learning Centre, while not as central to the polling district as Wildridings Primary School, is still easily accessible and avoids any potential disruption to children, parents and teachers.</p>
12	Wildridings Primary School	Easthampstead and Wildridings	I like voting here it is very quick and convenient I was able to walk there.	This was swapped for the last two local elections to the Learning centre in Rectory Lane however this was not as convenient for me. It is a much longer walk which led me to take the car.	<p>Thank you for your comments. The council aims to minimise the use of schools as polling places as this can cause significant disruption to the school community.</p> <p>This was the case with Wildridings Primary School which needed to close every time it was used for an election.</p> <p>This is not the case with The Open Learning Centre which is still reasonably accessible to electors while ensuring the</p>

Annex B

					continued operation of the school.
13	Bracknell Open Learning Centre	Easthampstead and Wildridings	<p>I attended this polling station as Wildridings school was not used at the local election. I agree with not using schools as a polling station to minimise disruption to pupils and parents.</p> <p>However I observed voters confusion as the Open Learning Centre is close to the polling station at Easthampstead and Wildridings Community Centre.</p> <p>I would prefer a polling station within Wildridings to cater for the voters in that estate.</p>	<p>Gospel Hall Netherton</p> <p>St Michael's Church Hall</p> <p>The Green Man Pub</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>At an election all registered electors will receive a poll card that details their polling station and if they are unsure or have lost their poll card they can check the address online by entering their postcode.</p> <p>While we recognise the two polling places listed are in close proximity which could cause some confusion, each location is a short walk from the other and polling station staff would be able to assist if necessary.</p> <p>With respect to the suggestions made the council has investigated each and either due to lack of availability or capacity, it is felt that the arrangements in</p>

Annex B

					place at The Open Learning Centre provide the best ongoing experience for voters.
14	Wildridings School Bracknell Open Learning Centre (Two places)	Easthampstead and Wildridings	<p>I thought that I would email you after completing the survey for Wildridings School and the Open Learning Centre.</p> <p>Let me introduce myself, I am currently a Town Councillor for Wildridings and Bracknell Town Mayor. I have had the opportunity to see the polling stations at work as a candidate and a polling clerk.</p> <p>I observed voter confusion at The Open Learning Centre caused by the closeness of the polling station at Wildridings and Easthampstead Community Centre.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.</p>	My feedback for Wildridings School is that we should avoid the disruption caused by closing a school but find an alternative within Wildridings. My favourite alternative would be the Gospel Hall as it is very close to the school.	<p>Thank you for following up on your earlier comments. The response can be found above under item 13.</p> <p>With respect to the suggestion made the council has investigated and the venue has confirmed that they are unable to host a polling place.</p>
15	Sandhurst School Sports Centre,	Owlsmoor and College Town	Poor sign posting. We had not been there before and couldn't find where to go.	Put out some signs	Thank you for your comments. We will ensure that additional

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	Owlsmoor Road, Owlsmoor, GU47 OSP				signage is provided to the polling station team and located appropriately so that access to the site is clear for all attending.
16	Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church	Sandhurst	Parking instructions aren't clear	Clearer parking instructions	Thank you for your comments. We will provide additional signage and instructions to polling station staff at elections so that access to the car park is clearer.
17	Bracknell Library	Town Centre and The Parks	Too far to walk	Please can you change the central Bracknell polling station back to the Kerith centre, haven't voted since it went to library as too far to walk	<p>Thank you for your comments. Unfortunately, the Kerith Centre is unable to take bookings for election work so it is not possible to re-establish a polling place there.</p> <p>Please contact the elections team at Bracknell Forest Council to discuss some potential options that may help you cast a vote at future elections such as postal or proxy arrangements.</p>

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18	North Ascot Community Centre	Winkfield and Warfield East	Parking available, people ready to assist less able voter, always a smiley face to greet us		Thank you for your comments.
19	The Carnation Hall, Chavey Down Road	Winkfield and Warfield East	Easy to access for local residents	Too far, out of the area. Not walkable for Chavey Down residents	<p>Thank you for your comments. We recognise that polling places may not always be easily walkable for residents especially where they cover a rural, large geographic area, as is the case for this particular polling district.</p> <p>Wherever possible we will aim to ensure that polling places can be easily accessed by electors on foot but, due to the reasons stated above this is not always possible and a balance must be struck.</p> <p>If an elector has any specific accessibility requirements they can contact the elections team at any time to discuss different methods of casting their vote at election time</p>

Annex B

					that may be more convenient for them.
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To: Council
10 January 2024

Bracknell Forest Council's Participation in the Department for Education's Safety Valve Intervention Programme

Chief Executive / Leader of the Council

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To recommend a final proposal to be submitted on 12 January to the Department for Education for the Council's inclusion in its Safety Valve Intervention Programme and to seek approval for related investment in local school provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

2 Recommendations

That Council:

- 2.1 Approves the Council's Safety Valve proposal detailed in confidential Annex A for submission to the Department for Education by 12 January, including both the management plan and mitigations endorsed by the Executive at its meeting on 12 December 2023 and a plan to fund the cumulative Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit when a balanced in-year financial position is reached in 2028/29, using a combination of grant from the Department for Education and set-aside Council reserves.
- 2.2 Approves the addition to the current year's capital programme of schemes to secure new local SEND provision at Sandhurst and Edgbarrow secondary schools and the former Warfield All Saints primary school site as detailed in paragraph 5.12 a) to c), which are key to achieving a sustainable local SEND system to support Bracknell Forest's children and young people.
- 2.3 Authorises the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make changes to the Council's proposal if necessary in response to any further feedback from the Department for Education and prior to the proposal being formally presented for Ministerial approval, so long as any such changes continue to reflect the nature of the proposal in confidential Annex A.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Council was invited by the Department for Education (DfE) to participate in its Safety Valve Intervention Programme 2023/24 in July 2023. The Safety Valve programme aims to agree a package of reforms to local education systems for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) through which the systems will become financially sustainable within the level of grant provided by the Department for Education, while improving the experiences of children and young people. Bracknell Forest is one of five authorities invited to participate in the programme this year, due to its large and rising deficit.

- 3.2 Participation in the programme can secure access to additional capital funding for new local provision and a financial contribution from the DfE towards the accumulated Dedicated School Grant (DSG) deficit, should the proposals for reform submitted by the Council be accepted. A significant financial commitment is also required from the Council, including capital and revenue funding both to secure delivery of the proposed programme of activity and to write off the remainder of the accumulated deficit not funded by the DfE.

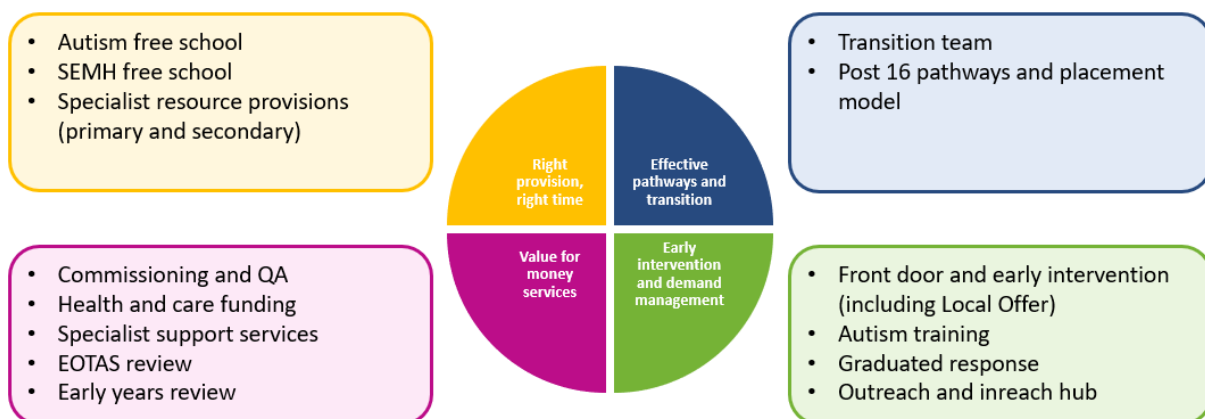
4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The Council could choose not to participate in the Safety Valve programme. This is not recommended since it would mean that responsibility for funding the DSG deficit would rest entirely with Bracknell Forest Council, with no financial contribution available from the DfE. In addition, the Council would be unlikely to receive additional capital funding to support local provision, since priority is given to applications from Safety Valve authorities. While some local authorities with Education responsibilities have not yet participated in the Safety Valve programme, all will face a significant financial challenge if they are in a deficit position when the temporary override enabling deficits to be carried forward is removed, which will inevitably happen at some point. Should an authority face a situation where its total reserves are insufficient to cover the accumulated deficit at that point, the authority would be forced into declaring a section 114 notice, since it would at that point be unable to fund its known liabilities. Bracknell Forest is not currently in this position, but has a rapidly rising DSG deficit that is predicted to reach around £41m even after implementation of the mitigations identified and proposed in the Safety Valve submission.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The DfE recognised in 2019 that significant cost increases in SEND services were being experienced in many local areas, taking spending above funding provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). At the end of 2018/19, around half of all education authorities were experiencing DSG overspends, totalling at that time around £250m. Through a consultation issued in October 2019, the Government proposed changes to accounting arrangements to ensure that “DSG deficits should not be covered from general funds but that over time they should be recovered from DSG income”. At the time, the Government’s belief was that additional funding it had announced would help local authorities bring their DSG accounts into balance in a fairly short period.
- 5.2 Following the consultation, revisions were made to the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003, introducing a requirement for the 2020/21 to 2022/23 financial years that any school budget deficits that arose during that period should be charged “to an account established ... solely for the purpose of recognising deficits in respect of school budgets”. Essentially, the regulations overrode general accounting practice by directing that a “negative reserve”, the Dedicated Schools Grant Adjustment Account, be created in councils’ accounts. Further regulations have recently extended this arrangement to the end of the 2025/26 financial year.

- 5.3 With this highly unusual approach not offering a long-term resolution to DSG deficits, the DfE introduced its Safety Valve Intervention Programme in 2020. A total of 34 local authorities experiencing the highest deficits in their Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budgets have participated in the programme to date and signed Safety Valve agreements with the DfE. In order to qualify for an agreement, it is necessary to:
- Demonstrate how the current deficit will be controlled and an in-year balance achieved as quickly as possible (the expectation is normally within 5 years);
 - Explain what financial support is required from the DfE to eliminate the historic deficit and implement the proposals (the DfE will not fund all of the costs and will expect the local authority to be clear how it will fund its share)
- 5.4 The forecast cumulative DSG deficit for Bracknell Forest to 31 March 2024 is currently £24.1m, including an estimated in-year deficit of around £8.9m, and is predicted to rise to around £41m over the coming years. This figure would be significantly higher without implementing the mitigations that have been identified through the Council's involvement in the Safety Valve programme. This situation is primarily caused by a large growth in pupils with Education Health Care plans (EHCPs), that has been faced across the country, with the local implication of placing significant reliance on expensive provision outside the Borough, since the Council's highly regarded Kennel Lane Special School has been at full capacity for many years. While a number of specialist resource provisions (SRPs) have been created in local schools, they are insufficient to cope with the scale and complexity of need being experienced.
- 5.5 It has therefore been recognised that a key element of the Council's strategy to address the needs of local pupils and young people will be to create more local capacity. Its bid for a new school for pupils with autism was approved by the DfE earlier in 2023. The school is to be built by the DfE and, although a site has been identified and approved, the Council has not yet had confirmation of the expected construction dates. In order to remove this uncertainty, the Council is submitting to the DfE a business case for self-delivery of the facility in January 2024.
- 5.6 Council officers have engaged with local school leaders, both Headteachers and Chairs of Governors and the Bracknell Forest Parent Carer Forum, to agree further areas of focus to ensure that the overall SEND system best meets the needs of pupils and schools and identify areas where current expenditure is not felt to demonstrate value for money. This has led to a programme of activity as summarised in the pictorial below.



- 5.7 These workstreams are expected to lead to securing better local facilities to improve outcomes for pupils while at the same time collectively reducing costs over time. While some areas participating in Safety Valve have stated that their plans involve reducing the number of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), Bracknell Forest's projections show that these will continue to increase over the next 5 years, albeit less quickly than they have done in recent years. Key to the Council's plans are the opening of new, local facilities for local children that will take time to construct and will require a carefully planned approach to their opening. In the meantime, there will continue to be a reliance on other, generally more expensive school places in other local authority areas, including independent schools. The impact of the proposals and their expected financial benefits will therefore take time to be felt.
- 5.8 For that reason, the Council proposed an option to secure additional funding for SEND provision by transferring resources from other parts of the Dedicated Schools Grant, including funding for Central (Council) Services and the main Schools funding block, known as a block transfer (or top slice). A consultation with schools on this proposal commenced in late November 2023 and the results were reported to the Schools Forum on 13 December for formal consideration. Although this proposal included a capped maximum 0.5% top slice of potential 2024/25 individual school budget allocations, responses from 21 of the 23 schools that responded to the consultation accepted (with some reluctance) that this proposal would be the least detrimental option for schools and pupils and indicated their support for it. On this basis, it was approved by the Schools Forum.
- 5.9 Elements of the block transfer proposal go beyond available local discretions and therefore require specific Secretary of State approval. In such considerations it is understood that significant weight will be given to the Schools Forum decision. The significance of the block transfer proposal is that it secures additional funding for SEND budgets from 2024/25, while the other initiatives are implemented to reduce costs over time.
- 5.10 The proposals set out in Annex A, which is marked as confidential since they are still subject to formal consideration by the DfE, demonstrate a route to reaching a balanced in-year DSG position by 2029/30. This is slightly beyond the DfE's expectation of a five-year plan and therefore a one-off contribution from the Council's reserves is proposed in 2028/29 to offset costs ordinarily met from the DSG and reach balance within five years. This approach meets the DfE's expectations and therefore offers the Council the best opportunity to maximise the contribution it will receive from the DfE towards the cumulative DSG deficit at the end of that period. The proposed approach to funding the deficit is also included in Annex A, which includes a request for a large contribution from DfE and setting aside a material amount of Council reserves.
- 5.11 In its draft submission, the Council had requested flexibility to use the proceeds from asset disposals to fund part of the accumulated deficit during the Safety Valve programme period. It has been confirmed that such an approach would not be supported in the current financial year. However, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities issued a consultation document on 21 December seeking views from the local government sector on additional capital flexibilities. Should any of the proposals in the consultation be implemented, that would provide the Council with different options to fund its share of the deficit in the coming years.
- 5.12 The Council's plans are based on new, local specialist provision being introduced in the Borough. In order that detailed design works on these can be commenced as

quickly as possible, Council is asked to approve the following additions to the current year's capital programme.

- a) New Social, Emotional and Mental Health School (on the currently vacant Warfield All Saints Site)

Funded from:

Available capital grants for school provision	£7.089m
Available s106 contributions for schools	£3.957m
Capital receipt	£0.500m
External borrowing	<u>£1.454m</u>
Total	£13.000m

- b) New Secondary Special Resource Provision (at Sandhurst school)

Funded from:

Safety Valve capital grant application	£0.900m
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- c) New Secondary Special Resource Provision / Unit (at Edgbarrow school)

Funded from:

Safety Valve capital grant application	£3.100m
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- 5.13 The Council's proposal also sets out a number of areas of investment in both the SEND service and programme support to ensure that the plan submitted is delivered to the tight timescales needed. These are to be funded from a variety of sources, including Government grant secured through the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme, the flexible use of capital receipts strategy approved by Council in November, earmarked reserves and the revenue budget. Formal approval will be sought for this as part of the final 2024/25 budget proposals to be presented to the Executive and Council in February.

6 Consultation and Other Considerations

Legal Advice

- 6.1 Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty upon the Council to secure sufficient schools to provide primary and secondary education in its area and it should have particular regard to securing special education provision. Following the enactment of The Children and Families Act 2014, the Council retains responsibility for commissioning services for children and young people with SEN or a disability. It is required to keep the provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities under review, including its sufficiency (Section 315 of the Education Act 1996), and to promote wellbeing and improve quality, working in conjunction with parents, young people and providers. This Act and its associated guidance is clear that, when considering any re-organisation of provision, it must be clear how it is satisfied that the proposed alternative arrangements will lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with SEN or a

disability. A final agreement for funding will be entered into in due course with the DfE. The Council's legal team will advise on the terms prior to its execution.

Financial Advice

- 6.2 The Executive Director: Resources in his capacity as the Council's s151 officer has been closely involved in the preparation of the proposals outlined in this report and Annex A. The Council's involvement in the Safety Valve programme will inevitably have material financial implications for Bracknell Forest Council. These will include funding activities to reduce current SEND expenditure that will require investment to ensure they are successfully delivered, identifying savings in general fund services to absorb the release of grant funding for SEND services and setting aside resources to cover the Council's identified share of the accumulated DSG deficit.
- 6.3 The scale of the different financial implications is set out in Annex A to this report. Of greatest significance is the need to set aside a large sum from the Council's available reserves to fund a proportion of the DSG deficit that will have accumulated by 2028/29. After doing so, the Council will have useable revenue reserves 41% higher than at their lowest level, in 2017.

Other Consultation Responses

- 6.4 School Leaders have been involved in reviewing options for inclusion in the Council's Safety Valve proposals including participating in a consultation regarding a proposed block transfer (top slide) of DSG funding to increase the sum available for SEND services from 2024/25.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.5 An initial equalities screening has been completed for the proposed Safety Valve programme of activities and is attached as a background paper.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.6 The level of the deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant due to rising costs in recent years of SEND services represents the most serious financial threat the Council faces. Participation in the Safety Valve programme provides the impetus to address this through the identification of mitigations that both bring spend in line with budget and maintain a focus on educational outcomes, while offering the opportunity to secure both revenue and capital grant funding from the DfE that is not available to authorities outside Safety Valve.

Climate Change and Ecological Impacts

- 6.7 There are no immediate implications, however the creation of additional provision within the Bracknell Forest boundary will reduce CO₂ emissions through reducing the need for home to school transport to educational facilities in neighbouring boroughs and beyond.

Health & Wellbeing Considerations

- 6.8 The Council's recently approved SEND strategy includes a focus on providing additional school places within Bracknell Forest, that would significantly reduce travelling time for children who require specialist places whose needs cannot currently be met within the

Borough. In most instances this will have a positive impact on the health and well-being of those pupils.

Background Papers

Bracknell Forest Council's final proposal to the DfE's Safety Valve Intervention Programme – Confidential Annex A

Initial Equalities Screening for the proposed Safety Valve Programme of activities

Contact for further information

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Kellie.williams@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Chief Constable Jason Hogg

Superintendent Andrew Cranidge



Thames Valley Police in Numbers

Largest non-metropolitan Force in England & Wales

2,200 Square Miles

3 Counties (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire)



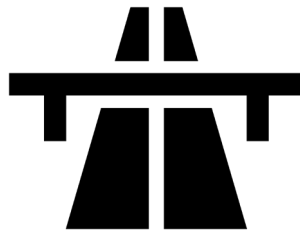
136



2.5 million
population



108
Neighbourhoods



196 miles of
motorway
(more than any
other Force)



6 million annual
visitors



The Chief Constable's Management Team



Christine Kirby
Director of People



Ben Snuggs
Deputy Chief Constable



Jason Hogg
Chief Constable



Mike Lattanzio
Director of Information



Linda Waters
Director of Finance



Katy Barrow-Grint
ACC Crime and Criminal Justice



Dennis Murray
ACC Legitimacy & Public Value



Christian Bunt
ACC Local Policing



Rob France
ACC Joint Operations Unit



Tim Metcalfe
ACC CT & Organised Crime
South East Region

Our People



4970
Police
Officers*



3571
Police
Staff*

* Including our Regional Units of Counter Terrorism Policing South East and South East Regional and Organised Crime Units and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

261 Police Community Support Officers

191 Special Constables

Plus, volunteers, cadets and mini police



Force Review

Review of our internal structures to make sure we are set-up to meet current and future challenges.

The last time we had an in-depth look at our force structure was 2010. We are now working in a different environment – more complex, with growing demand and with greater focus on vulnerability and online crime and prevention. Our force structure needs to reflect these changes.



Force Review

Benefits of the new Local Command Unit Structure

Double the numbers
of NH Officers

↑ DAIU DC's

25 Additional ICR
Sergeants

↑ CAIU DC's

Dedicated MH Officers

Harm Reduction Units

Increased Schools
Officers

Resilient Commands

Financial Savings



Right Care Right Person

National partnership agreement between National Police Chiefs Council, Home Office, Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England

Aim of RCRP is to ensure an appropriate response from the appropriate agency is given to incidents where there are concerns for welfare linked to mental health, medical or social care issues

Police are often the default first responder despite the fact we are often not the appropriately trained or skilled service provider

People in need often feel stigmatised or criminalised by police involvement





Right Care Right Person

To ensure health calls for service are responded to by those with the right skills and expertise to provide the best possible service.

Police will continue to respond where there is a:

Clear policing purpose

Immediate threat to life

Immediate threat of serious injury



Right Care Right Person

Three areas of RCRP adopted:

- **Concern for safety (welfare checks)**
- **AWOL from psychiatric hospitals**
- **Walk outs from healthcare settings**

Three areas currently **not** adopted

- Section 136
- Voluntary mental health patients
- Transportation / conveyance

Not applicable to children in TVP currently



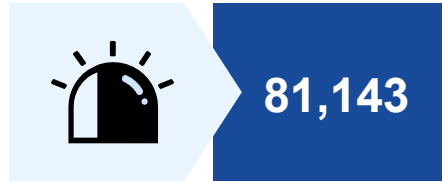


Force Activity 1st April – 30th September

CONTACTS FROM PUBLIC



INCIDENTS ATTENDED



MISSING PEOPLE FOUND

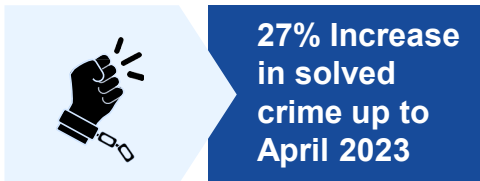


ARRESTS



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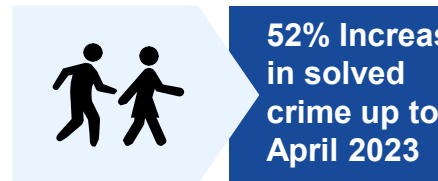
DOMESTIC ABUSE



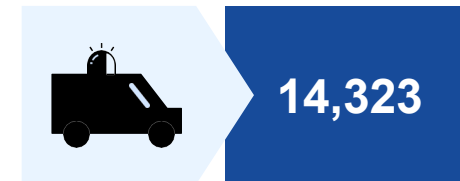
RAPE OUTCOMES



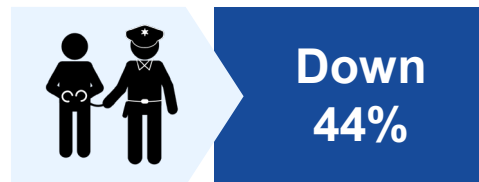
SEXUAL OFFENCES



FORMAL ACTION TAKEN










HOMICIDE



SOLVED CRIME



Bracknell & Wokingham LPA

		Total	Percentage change of	Resulted in FAT
	Crime	7750	9%	15%
	Domestic Abuse	1381	17%	13%
	Residential Burglary	161	9%	6%
	Violence with Injury	737	- 4%	24%
	Knife Crime	37	- 3%	30%
	Sexual Offences	219	7%	
	Rape	99	4%	

Bracknell



Dwelling Burglary Volumes

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	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2022/22	2022/23	2023/24 Apr - Dec
Bracknell Forest	171	205	211	87	101	85	54



Drug Dealing

Drug dealing - Great Hollands and Birch Hill

Actions

- Routine patrols conducted in designated hotspots based on reported incidents.
- Sustained interaction with the drug community is upheld, even when encountering reluctance from drug users.
- Collaboration established with authorities for information gathering and assessing warrant potential.
- Emphasis on the identification of offenders and investigation of County Drug Line activity.

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Outcomes

- Addresses identified with Housing Associations being used for drug dealing.
- Information received of an address which was being used as a drug den - 3 Arrests made for a wide variety of offences including PWITS, blackmail and robbery.
- Protecting vulnerable adults whose addresses are being cocooned.
- 2 arrests for PWITS in Great Hollands in September after their vehicle was spotted in suspicious circumstances.



Retail Theft

BP Marks and Spencer, Wokingham Road and Bagshot Road, Bracknell.

Actions

- Through collaborative work with the stores and interdepartmental cooperation the most prolific offenders were identified.
- Data analysis was conducted to identify patterns and trends related to shoplifting incidents, enabling proactive measures and targeted responses to be deployed.
- Proactive patrol plans were devised covering both stores, which include deterrence tactics through high visibility patrol and providing reassurance to staff.
- Upon the reporting of an offence, minimum investigation standards were established to guarantee comprehensive and effective investigative procedures, aiming to bolster potential prosecutions.

Outcomes

- 6 prolific offenders arrested in the last 6 months.
- 4 have been sentenced to prison
- One was charged 24 and 18 TICs. Remanded for sentencing.
- One arrested and charged with 48 shopliftings
- Application's for Criminal Behaviour Orders



Retail Theft

ASB and shopliftings in The Lexicon

Actions

- Increased foot patrols for heightened visibility and deterrence in the town centre.
- Active engagement with stores and security to strengthen collaborative efforts against criminal activities.
- Rigorous identification and targeting of prolific offenders in the town centre.
- Community outreach and awareness engagement to foster shared responsibility for crime prevention.
- Data analytics used to refine patrol strategies for precision and effectiveness.

Outcomes

- Arrests made including an individual charged with 9 offences and remanded to prison for shoplifting.
- 2 Criminal Behaviour Orders issued due to ASB.
- Positive public feedback on increased police visibility in town reflects the success of enhanced foot patrols. This heightened presence instils a sense of security, boosting confidence among both the public and staff. The increased visibility has not only garnered positive comments but also contributes to a greater overall sense of safety, trust, and cooperation within the community.



Anti-Social Behaviour

ASB - Car meets at The Meadows car park in Sandhurst

Actions

- Thorough patrols ensure security in the car park and surrounding areas, deterring potential criminal activity.
- Collaborative discussions with Tesco and the Car Park Management Company facilitate coordinated strategies for enhanced safety.
- Data analysed to identify patterns and inform targeted interventions.
- Multidisciplinary operations with Roads Policing as well as liaison with Hampshire and Surrey Police ensures regional cooperation, fostering a coordinated response to security challenges.

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Outcomes

- Positive engagement with attendees and making them aware of the impact they are having on local residents.
- In excess of 20 Section 59 warnings have been issued since the beginning of 2023.
- 2 Arrests for drink drive.
- New barriers have been installed as a deterrent.
- Negotiating the replacement of ANPR cameras with monitored cameras for more effective surveillance.
- Training security officers to record incidents improving the quality of reports received.
- Reduced reports from local residents indicate the success of implemented measures.



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Questions

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