

## **Basildon Borough Council**

### **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places – Terms of Reference**

#### **Designation of polling districts, as prescribed by S18A Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983)**

- The Basildon Borough council area must be divided in polling districts for the purpose of parliamentary elections.
- Keep the polling districts under review.
- The Council must seek to ensure that all electors in its area shall have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- Each parish, unless warded, must be in a separate polling district.

The boundaries and names of electoral areas (wards and divisions) are NOT covered by the review.

#### **Designation of polling places, as prescribed by S18B RPA 1983**

- The Council must designate a 'polling place' within each of the polling districts and keep them under review.
- The Council must seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, each polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled and also have regard to the accessibility to disabled persons of potential polling stations it is considering designating as a polling place.
- A polling place must be within the area of its respective polling district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate it wholly or partly outside the district.
- The polling place must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the polling district how they will be able to reach the polling station.
- If no polling place is designated for a polling district, the polling district itself is to be taken to be the polling place.

### **Glossary of Terms**

#### **District/Borough Ward**

A 'ward' is the electoral unit of the 'second tier' of local government. District/Borough wards combine to make up the Basildon Borough council area.

#### **Parish Ward**

Parish councils are the 'third tier' of local government and some are divided into parish wards. Parishes and parish wards are NOT subject to the review.

#### **Polling District**

A polling district is a geographical sub-division of a ward or parish area, which is designated by the local authority.

#### **Polling Place**

A polling place is not defined in legislation but may be a location or building in which a polling station can be situated.

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