

TITLE	Polling District Changes - Shinfield South
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Council on 23 July 2020
WARD	Shinfield South;
LEAD OFFICER	Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

To create a new Polling District for the voters recently moved from Polling District SDW to the SBW area, allowing them to continue voting closer to home.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council agree to create a new polling district for the electors living in the roads as set out in the table and as shown in the hatched area on the map within the report.

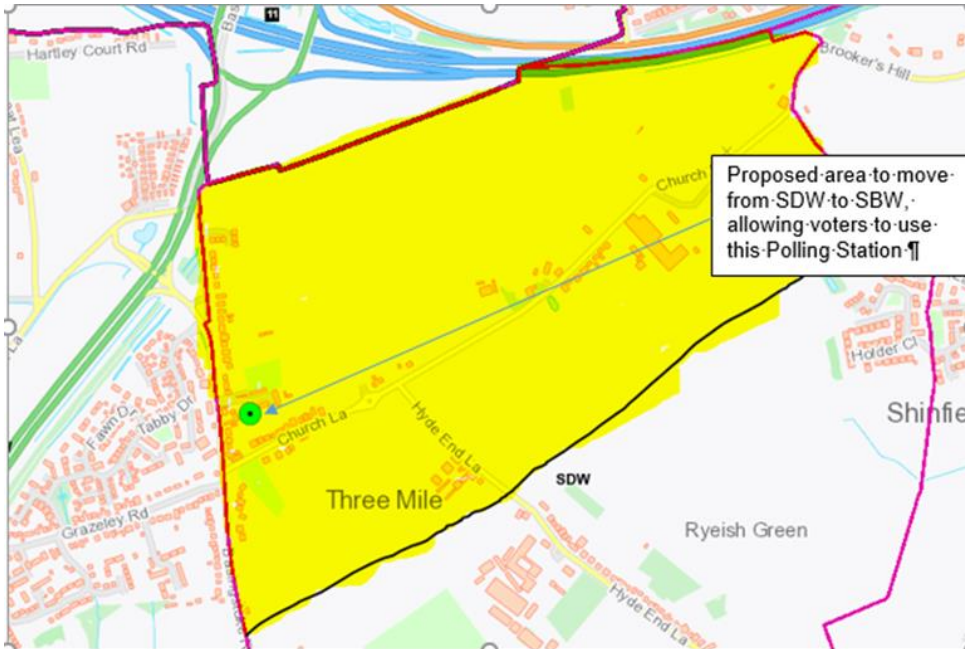
SUMMARY OF REPORT

Since the Shinfield boundary change was made it has come to light that SBW and SDW are in different wards of the Parish and therefore vote for different Parish candidates at election time. It appears that the mapping system used for the Polling District Review showed the boundary details for the Polling Districts, Borough Wards and Parishes it did not however, show the Parish Wards. As a result, some electors are registered in the wrong Parish ward, which needs to be corrected.

The majority of electors in SBW are eligible to vote for the Grazeley Ward of the Parish, but there are a small number who need to vote for the Spencer's Wood and Three Mile Cross Ward of the Parish. Whilst it is permissible to have them voting in the same building, we are not allowed to allocate them all to the same station within the polling place. We propose to create a new Polling District for the voters recently moved, allowing them to continue voting closer to home, but at a different station (table) to their original SBW area.

Background

On 21 March 2019, Full Council approved the recommendations on the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review. One of the changes moved a small number of properties from polling district SDW to SBW, allowing them to vote at a polling place closer to home. See below image.



The hatched area above contains the following roads, with 344 electors affected:

Road Name	Number of Electors
Basingstoke Road	101
Church Lane	97
Hyde End Lane	2
Mitford Close	25
Hayes Drive	91
Shorthorn Close	16
Silchester Place	12
Total Electors	344

The reason for making this change was to allow these voters to vote at Three Mile Cross rather than having to pass this venue to get to the Polling Place at Spencer's Wood Pavilion.

The current arrangements do not affect the running of National and Borough elections and referendums, it does however impact on any Parish elections, as Polling Districts SBW and SDW are in different wards of the Parish and they will therefore vote for different Parish candidates at election time.

This means that at Parish elections, the polling station at Three Mile Cross Church Centre currently has voters allocated for both the Grazeley Ward of the Parish, and Spencers Wood and Three Mile Cross Ward.

As this is not permissible, we therefore propose to create a new Polling District for the voters recently moved, allowing them to continue voting at Three Mile Cross. We will then be able to create a second Polling Station at Three Mile Cross Church Centre allowing voters from both Parish wards to vote in the same building, but at a different station (table).

Analysis of Issues

We need to amend this area to allow the voters to continue to vote closer to home whilst addressing the requirement to allocate them to different polling stations.

If we create a new polling district, we could then provide a new polling station at the hall, which could be supervised by the PO responsible for the existing station, but manned by one Poll Clerk.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	Revenue

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

Whilst there will not be any additional cost to the Borough Council there will be an additional £200 to the Parish over the 4 year period to pay an enhanced rate for the Presiding Officer and an additional Poll Clerk.

Cross-Council Implications

No impact

Public Sector Equality Duty

I confirm that due regard to the Public Sector Equality duty has been taken and that an assessment has not been undertaken as the recommendation will not have a negative or disadvantageous impact on any individual.

List of Background Papers

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Report to Full Council on 21 March 2019

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