

Crawley Borough Council

Report to Governance Committee

Tuesday 17 November 2020

Polling Arrangements May 2021

Report of the Chief Executive – *CEX/52*

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To create a new polling district LAC in Bewbush and North Broadfield Ward, to cater for the boundary of the Bewbush and Ifield West Division with the Gossops Green and Southgate Division of West Sussex County Council.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Governance Committee recommends that Full Council amends the Polling Scheme to create polling district LAC as shown on the table at Appendix A to this report.

3. Reason for the Recommendation

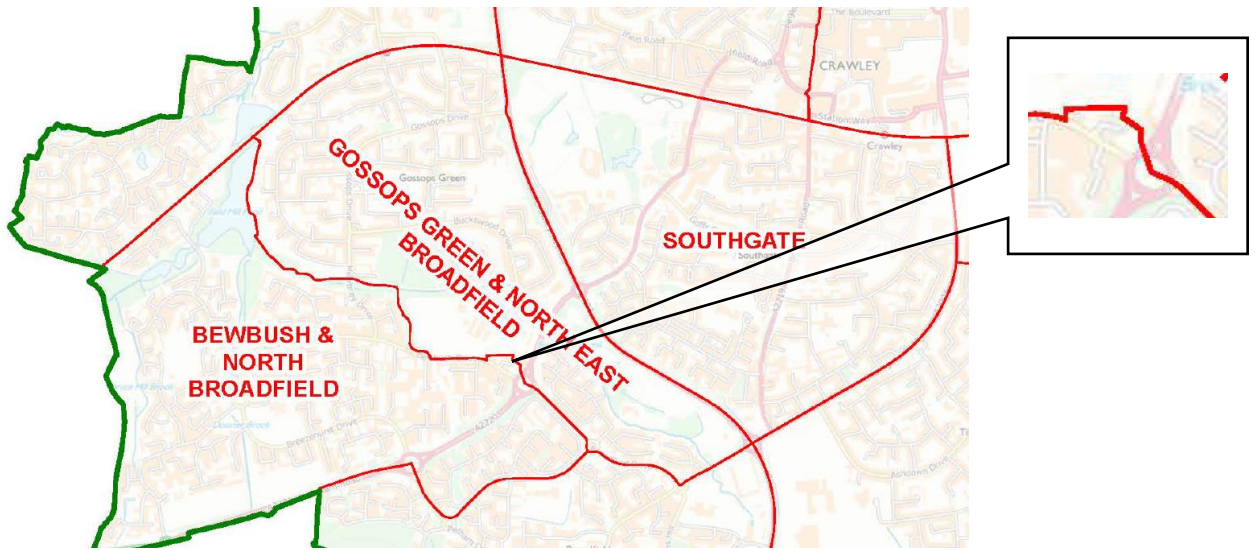
- 3.1 To ensure that the 2021 electoral register enables convenient voting at the West Sussex County Council elections.

4. Background

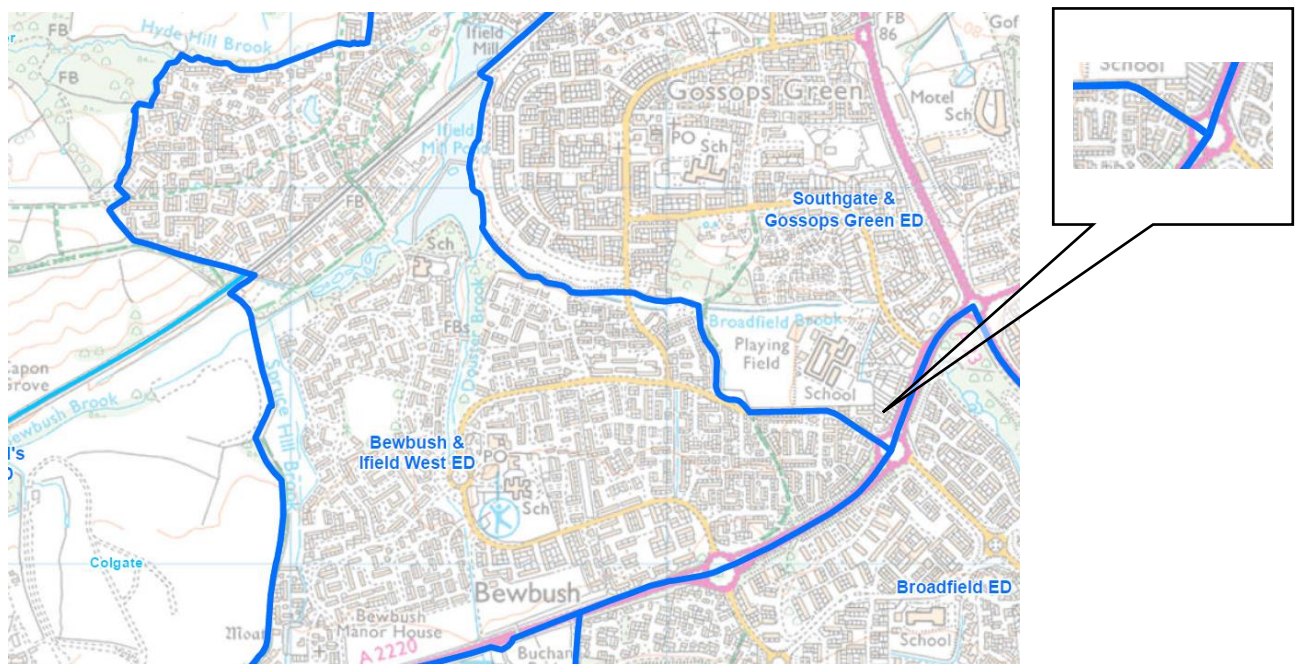
- 4.1 The Council has a duty to divide the Borough into polling districts and to designate suitable polling places to meet the reasonable requirements of electors and take sufficient account of the accessibility of disabled persons.
- 4.2 New polling arrangements were adopted by the Council in January 2019 following the ward boundary changes arising from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England electoral review of Crawley Borough Council. Polling districts were created which reflected the new boundaries and took into account West Sussex County Council Division boundaries. The new Polling Scheme worked well at the May 2019 Borough Council elections, the European Parliamentary elections and the General Election.
- 4.3 Preparation for the West Sussex County Council elections to be held in May 2021 has revealed a minor discrepancy between the Borough Ward boundary and County Division boundary at Burbeach Close, Bewbush.
- 4.4 Burbeach Close is included in Bewbush and North Broadfield Ward and is part of polling district LAA with voting at the Bewbush Centre. The County Division boundary runs along Bewbush Drive and so Burbeach Close is in Southgate and Gossops Green Division. The difference in the two boundaries is shown in Map 1

and Map 2 below. At elections to West Sussex County Council the electors in this road will need to be issued with a ballot paper for Southgate and Gossops Green Division. To enable this a separate polling district needs to be created.

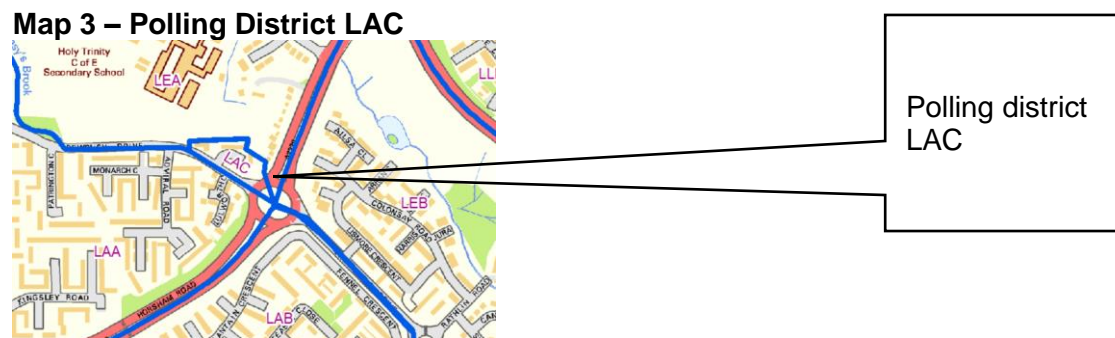
Map 1 – Crawley Borough Council Ward boundary



Map 2 - West Sussex County Council Division



- 4.5 In order to manage the issuing of the correct ballot papers at the polling station, it is recommended that polling district LAC is created as shown in the map below:



- 4.6 It is recommended that the polling place for this polling district is the Bewbush Centre to maintain the existing polling arrangements.
- 4.7 When the Local Government Boundary Commission for England next conducts an electoral review for West Sussex County Council it will be possible to make representations to align the boundaries.

5. Implications

- 5.1 The creation or removal of polling districts and provision of additional polling places has financial implications in terms of the cost of staffing polling places, the delivery and collection of equipment and the hire of premises.
- 5.2 The Council has a statutory duty under the Representation of the People Act 1983 to divide the borough into polling districts, to designate a polling place for each district and to keep both polling districts and polling places under review, providing reasonable access to polling stations for all including those with disabilities.

6. Background Papers

[Local Government Boundary Commission for England Final Recommendations for West Sussex County Council](#)

[Local Government Boundary Commission for England Final Recommendations for Crawley Borough Council](#)

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