

Crawley Borough Council

Report to Governance Committee

Tuesday 24 January 2023

Polling Arrangements: May 2023

Report of the Head of Governance, People & Performance – LDS/195

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To consider temporary changes to the Scheme of Polling Places relating to the May 2023 Borough Council elections in advance of the introduction of Voter ID.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee recommend to the Full Council for the 2023 elections that the polling scheme be amended to allocate polling places as follows:

LBB – Broadfield Community Centre
LMC – The Hawth Theatre
LMD – The New Town Hall

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1. To ensure that the Polling Scheme for Crawley is up to date.

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 whilst taking account of the accessibility of disabled persons. The Polling Scheme should be reviewed as appropriate and there is a regular statutory review every five years. The next statutory review must take place by 2024.
- 4.2. The current Scheme was adopted by the Council in January 2019 following 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 Borough wards and West Sussex County Council Division boundaries. The Polling Scheme worked well at the three sets of elections held in 2019.
- 4.3. A number of temporary changes were made to the Polling Scheme for the elections held in [2021](#) and [2022](#). The Committee considered the use of schools as polling stations for May 2023 at its meeting held on [10th October 2022](#). Further temporary changes to the polling scheme are recommended due to the unavailability of venues and the requirements for the checking of voter ID.

5. Information & Analysis Supporting Recommendation

Polling district LBB - Broadfield Ward

- 5.1. The designated polling place for LBB is Creasys Drive Adventure Playground as shown on the map at Appendix B. The building will be unavailable for use as a polling station in May and for future elections due to change of use. It is recommended that polling takes place at the Broadfield Community Centre for the May 2023 elections and that future polling provision for this part of Broadfield is considered at the statutory polling district review.

Polling District LMC – Three Bridges Ward

- 5.2. The designated polling place in the current polling scheme is the Holiday Inn Xpress as shown on the Map at Appendix C. Polling is held in a meeting room in the hotel that had become unavailable to hire and was replaced by a polling station at the Hawth Theatre for the May 2022 elections. The new requirement to have facilities for Voter ID to be checked in private, where requested by the voter, would be difficult to operate in this room, and the Hawth Theatre offers more suitable facilities.

Polling district LMD – Three Bridges Ward

- 5.3. The designated polling place for LMD is the Town Hall as shown on the map at Appendix D. The current Town Hall will be decommissioned by the time of the May 2023 elections. The reception area of the New Town Hall will offer excellent facilities for polling, and it is recommended that it is designated at the polling place for polling district LMD.

Turnout since 2019

- 5.4. The table below shows a comparison between the turnout for the three polling districts at the Borough Elections in May 2019, the 2021 combined Police and Crime Commissioner, West Sussex County Council and Borough elections and the Borough elections in May 2022. The closest point of comparison is between the 2019 and the 2022 elections as the turnout across the Borough was similar. The overall turnout in May 2019 was 31.6%, in May 2021 36.3%, and in May 2022 it was 31.7%. The turnout for polling districts across the borough is shown on the table set out in Appendix A.

Polling District	2019 Polling Place	2021 Polling Place	2022 Polling Place	May 2022	May 2021	May 2019
LBB	Creasys Drive	Broadfield CC	Creasys Drive	25.74%	30.8%	25.1%
LMC	Holiday Inn Express	Holiday Inn Express	The Hawth Theatre	26.08%	28.4%	20.5
LMD	Town Hall	Town Hall	Town Hall	26.35%	21.0%	17.6%
Borough Turnout				31.7%	36.3%	31.6%

- 5.5. Experience at these elections has shown that the proposed alternative polling places for LBB and LMC have not negatively impacted turnout compared to the annual borough trend, and both will offer good facilities for voters.

- 5.6. A full statutory review of polling places is due to commence in Autumn 2023 which will enable the Committee to consider polling station provision across the Borough and develop a new Polling Scheme for future elections.

6. 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.

7. Background Papers

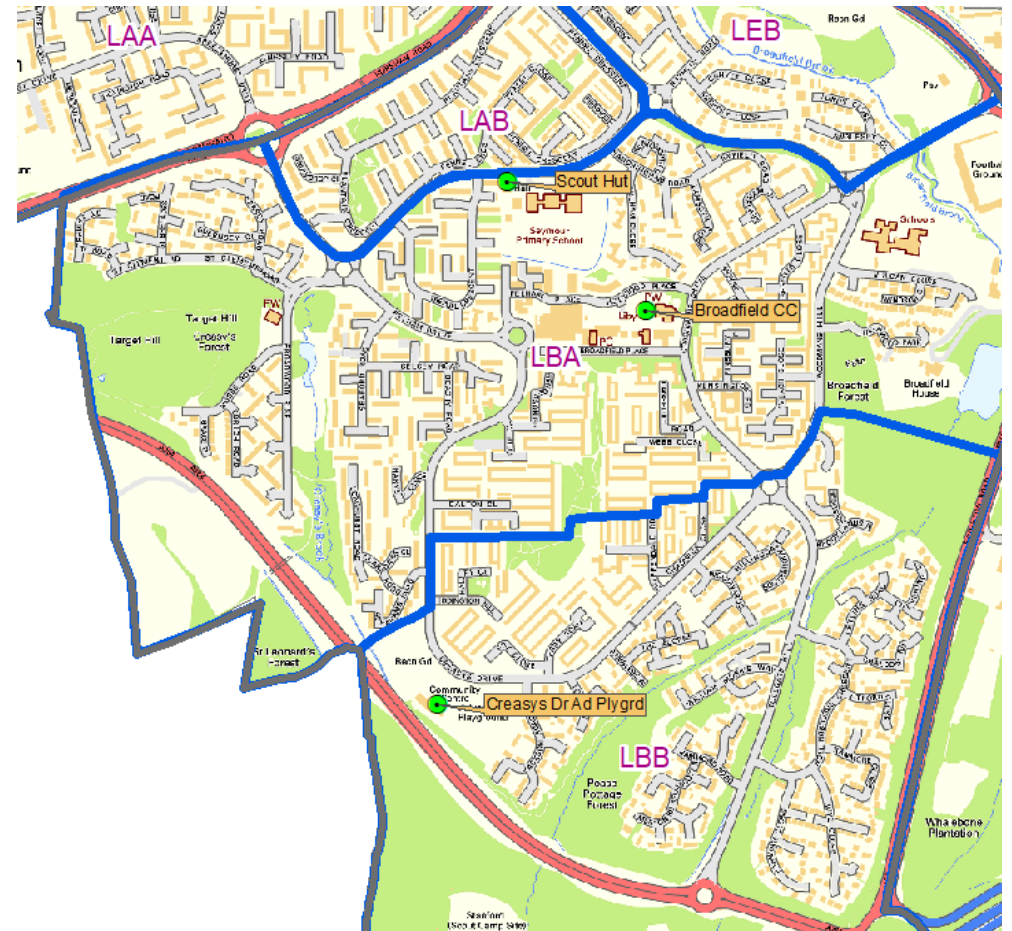
[Local Government Boundary Commission for England Final Recommendations for Crawley Borough Council](#)

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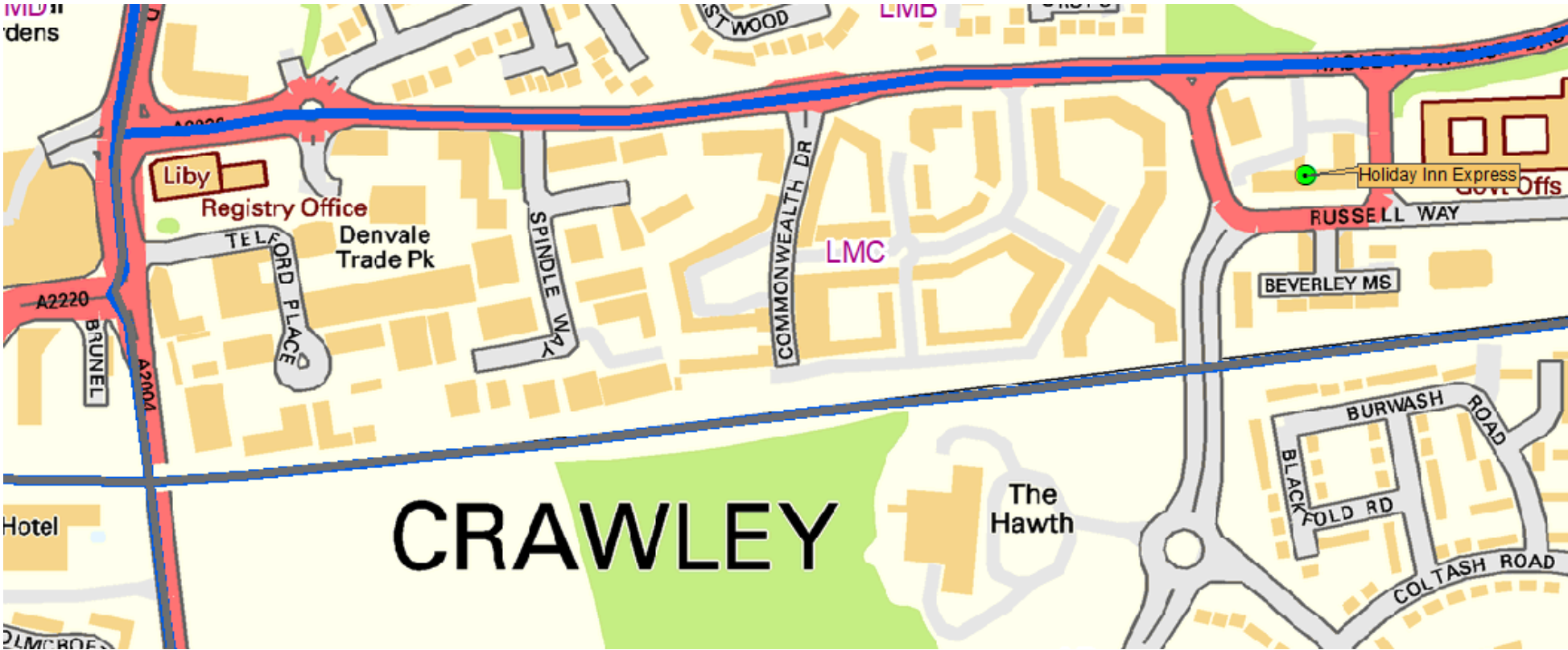
Appendix A

Ward	Polling District	2022 Polling Place	2021 Polling Place	2019 polling scheme	2022 - 2019 change	% Turnout		
						2022	2021	2019
Bewbush & North Broadfield	LAA	Bewbush Centre	Bewbush Centre	Bewbush Centre	1.78	25.69	29.9	23.9
	LAB	Broadfield Scout Hut	Broadfield Community Centre	Broadfield Scout Hut	-3.93	24.27	33.0	28.2
	LAC	Bewbush Centre	Bewbush Centre		created 2021	10.64	23.8	
Broadfield	LBA	Broadfield Community Centre	Broadfield Community Centre	Broadfield Community Centre	1.28	26.40	30.9	25.1
	LBB	Creasys Drive	Broadfield Community Centre	Creasys Drive Adventure Playground	2.00	25.74	30.8	23.7
Furnace Green	LD	Furnace Green Community Centre	Furnace Green Community Centre	Furnace Green Community Centre	-6.21	39.89	42.7	46.1
Gossops Green & North East	LEA	Gossops Green Community Centre	Gossops Green Community Centre	Gossops Green Community Centre	No election		41.0	33.2
	LEB	Gossops Green Community Centre	Broadfield Community Centre	Broadfield Scout Hut	No election		49.6	33.4
Ifield	LFA	Ifield Community Centre	Ifield Community Centre	Ifield Community Centre	1.01	34.16	37.0	33.1
	LFB	Ifield Community Centre	Ifield Community Centre	The Mill Primary School	4.08	39.11	44.3	35.0
	LFC	Ifield West Community Centre	Ifield West Community Centre	Ifield West Community Centre	2.65	32.08	34.7	29.4
	LFD	Ifield West Community Centre	Ifield West Community Centre	The Mill Primary School	0.46	37.75	40.7	37.3
Langley Green & Tushmore	LGA	Langley Green Centre	Langley Green Centre	Langley Green Centre	-2.77	26.44	35.9	29.2
	LGB	Northgate Community Centre	Northgate Community Centre	Northgate Community Centre	4.13	26.72	30.3	22.6
Maidenbower	LHA	Maidenbower Community Centre	Maidenbower Community Centre	Maidenbower Community Centre	6.19	36.95	38.5	30.8
	LHB	Maidenbower Community Centre	Maidenbower Community Centre	The Brook School	4.26	31.35	34.7	27.1
Northgate & West Green	LIA	Northgate Community Centre	Northgate Community Centre	Northgate Community Centre	-3.96	30.58	36.0	34.5
	LIB	The Charis Centre	The Charis Centre	The Charis Centre	-5.08	26.22	33.1	31.3
Pound Hill North & Forge Wood	LJA	The Grattons Indoors Bowls Club	Milton Mount Community Centre	The Grattons Indoors Bowls Club	0.25	36.89	42.5	36.6
	LJB	Wakehams Green Community Centre	Wakehams Green Community Centre	Wakehams Green Community Centre	0.93	30.26	34.9	29.3
	LJC	Wakehams Green Community Centre	Wakehams Green Community Centre	Forge Wood Primary School	0.09	19.72	26.7	19.6
Pound Hill South & Worth	LKA	Pound Hill Community Centre	Pound Hill Community Centre	Pound Hill Community Centre	-1.14	30.97	38.5	32.1
	LKB	St Edward the Confessor	St Edward the Confessor	St Edward the Confessor	3.26	35.20	38.0	31.9
	LKC	St Edward the Confessor	St Edward the Confessor	St Edward the Confessor	5.25	43.32	45.1	38.1
Southgate	LLA	St Mary's Church Hall	St Mary's Church Hall	St Mary's Church Hall	3.82	37.34	38.1	33.5
	LLB	Southgate West Community Centre	Southgate West Community Centre	Southgate West Community Centre	1.23	37.94	40.7	36.7
	LLC	Southgate West Community Centre	Southgate West Community Centre	Southgate West Community Centre	-1.67	29.58	34.9	31.3
Three Bridges	LMA	Montefiore Institute	Montefiore Institute	Montefiore Institute	1.90	38.44	42.7	36.5
	LMB	Three Bridges Community Centre	Three Bridges Community Centre	Three Bridges Community Centre	3.75	42.35	48.9	38.6
	LMC	The Hawth	Holiday Inn Express	Holiday Inn Express	5.61	26.08	28.4	20.5
	LMD	Town Hall	Town Hall	Civic Hall	8.80	26.35	21.0	17.6
Tilgate	LNA	Tilgate Community Centre	Tilgate Community Centre	Tilgate Community Centre	-1.41	36.07	36.6	37.5
	LNB	Holy Trinity Church Hall	Holy Trinity Church Hall	Holy Trinity Church Hall	-2.43	35.21	37.3	37.6

Polling District LBB



Polling District LMC



Polling District LMD

