

# Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2014

# Background information, the Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals

If you have any comments please write to:

Electoral Services
Dartford Borough Council
Room C10
Civic Centre
Home Gardens
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1DR

Email: <u>electoral.registration@dartford.gov.uk</u>

or complete the online questionnaire on the elections page of the Council's web site www.dartford.gov.uk/elections

Closing date for comments: 8 August 2014

#### **Relevant Legislation**

Representation of the People Act 1983
The Review of Polling Districts & Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections)
Regulations 2006
The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

#### Review of polling districts and polling places in Dartford 2014

#### The reason for a review

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide the borough into polling districts for the purposes of parliamentary elections and to designate a polling place for each district. It also has to keep these arrangements under review.

The last statutory review in Dartford was carried out during 2011 although electoral arrangements have been monitored annually since that time and there have been some changes to polling districts and polling places where this has proved necessary. The next statutory review must be carried out before January 2015 which is why this review is being undertaken now.

The arrangements made for parliamentary elections are also used at other elections.

#### **Definitions**

A polling district is a geographical subdivision of an electoral area, that is, a UK parliamentary constituency, European parliamentary electoral region, county division or district ward. A polling place, which must be designated for every polling district in the parliamentary constituency, must be a location within the area of the district, unless special circumstances apply.

In addition the law requires each parish (or ward thereof) be a separate polling district. Thus the review is confined to considering the subdivisions within the parliamentary electoral area, which will determine which voters are allocated to particular polling places and thereafter to each polling station (the room/building where electors vote).

By definition the polling district has to be co-terminus with the Parish boundary. Therefore the review of Parish arrangements is limited to the provision and adequacy of polling stations. The review cannot concern itself with electoral area boundaries or warding arrangements, which are determined independently of the Council by the Boundary Commission for England.

#### How the review is conducted

In general terms, the Council announces that a review is to take place. Once the Council has proposed polling districts and polling places, it consults the (Acting) Returning Officer, who makes representations on existing and proposed polling stations and may comment upon the Council's proposals. The Council publishes it's and the (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals and invites comments. These are considered before final decisions are made.

The full Council will decide on polling district boundaries and the designation of polling places.

The consultation includes seeking comments from people who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability but any elector or organisation within the borough may make representations. Although not specifically required in law, the consultation will include local political parties and elected representatives.

#### Timetable for this review

Notice of start of review on the Council's web site and at the Civic Centre and Dartford Library - 1 June 2014

Publication of the Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals – 1 July 2014

Comments from consultation on proposals required by 8 August 2014 Report to full Council meeting – 6 October 2014

Arrangements come into force when the next revised Electoral Register is published - 1 December 2014

#### **Making comments**

The (Acting) Returning Officer is proposing to keep the existing polling stations and to make minimal changes only where circumstances require. The Council's proposals reflect the (Acting) Returning Officer's view that there is currently no need to change these arrangements and therefore that there should be no changes to the existing polling districts. However in order to allow the (Acting) Returning Officer some flexibility in terms of changing a polling station location should an existing polling place be unavailable for use at any election or need to be moved for any other reason it is proposed to define each polling place as a geographical zone of 250 metres from the normal polling station location. This was agreed by the Electoral Provisions Sub-committee on 11 June 2014 as the basis for public consultation. The agenda, reports and minutes of the meeting are available on the Council's web site at

http://committeedmz.dartford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=349&Mld=2374

If, however, someone wishes to suggest alternative arrangements they should write to the Electoral Services Team at the address given below or complete the online questionnaire by following the link to the Council's elections page <a href="https://www.dartford.gov.uk/elections">www.dartford.gov.uk/elections</a>. The questionnaire appears on the same page as this consultation document.

Comments do not have to be restricted to alternative proposals; comments that support the Council's and the (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals are welcome in order to receive a balance of opinions.

Comments should be made in writing to:

Electoral Services
Dartford Borough Council
Room C10, Civic Centre
Home Gardens
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1DR

email: electoral.registration@dartford.gov.uk

The closing date for receiving comments is 8 August 2014.

Throughout the review, all working papers, minutes of meetings, and correspondence will be available for public inspection at the Civic Centre.

All papers and responses to the consultation exercise are required to be published when the review has been completed. Anyone that does not wish their comments to be attributed to them should state this when submitting their response.

# The Council's and The (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals

The Council's and the (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals are contained in the tables at the end of this document and the accompanying maps. All existing polling stations have disabled access. Electoral Commission guidelines suggest that no polling station should be allocated more than 2,500 electors who may vote at that station and currently none of the Borough's polling stations exceeds this figure (when the number of people with postal votes are taken into account). The (Acting) Returning Officer does not consider there to be a need to materially change the existing arrangements but any changes are listed in the tables. By way of illustration the number of electors allocated to each polling station is shown in the table along with comparative figures for 2011, when the last full review was carried out.

#### **Guidelines**

The following considerations have been taken into account when drawing up the proposals. Comments made during the consultation should have regard to these. The first two are required by electoral law; the others are taken from the previous reviews and are guidelines, not strict rules.

- 1) The Council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- The Council must seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled.
- 3) Ideally the polling place should be in its own polling district.
- 4) Ideally no polling place should be shared by two wards.
- 5) Where possible "natural" boundaries should be used, e.g. railways, major roads, waterways.
- 6) Polling places should be "logical"; that is, electors should not have to pass another polling place to get to their own polling place.

#### The tables

Each ward is dealt with separately. For existing polling arrangements, the tables show:

- The polling district
- The number of electors as at 2011 and 2014
- The polling place (which is a geographical zone of 250 metres from the normal location of the existing permanent polling station; in the case of a temporary polling station the polling place is designated as a mobile unit within the polling district )
- The existing polling station location
- Disabled access, including where this is achieved by use of a temporary ramp
- The Council's and the (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals

A map showing the ward and polling district boundaries, the proposed polling place and normal location of the polling stations is attached to each table.

#### The role of The Electoral Commission

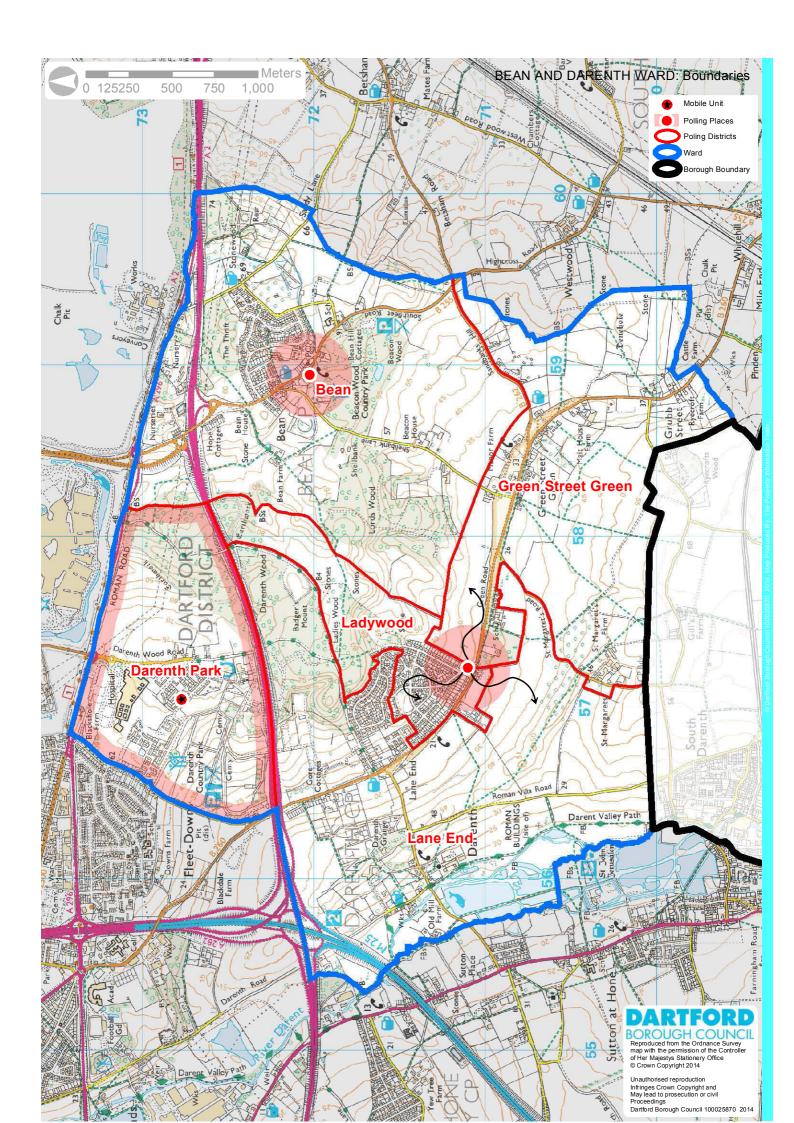
The Commission has no role in the review process itself. However, it can consider comments if people do not think the review has met the reasonable requirements of electors or taken sufficient account of the needs of disabled electors.

The following people can ask the Commission to review the Council's proposals once the Council has published its final arrangements:

- 30 or more registered electors
- any person who made comments during the review
- any non-elector who has expertise in access to premises or facilities for disabled people.

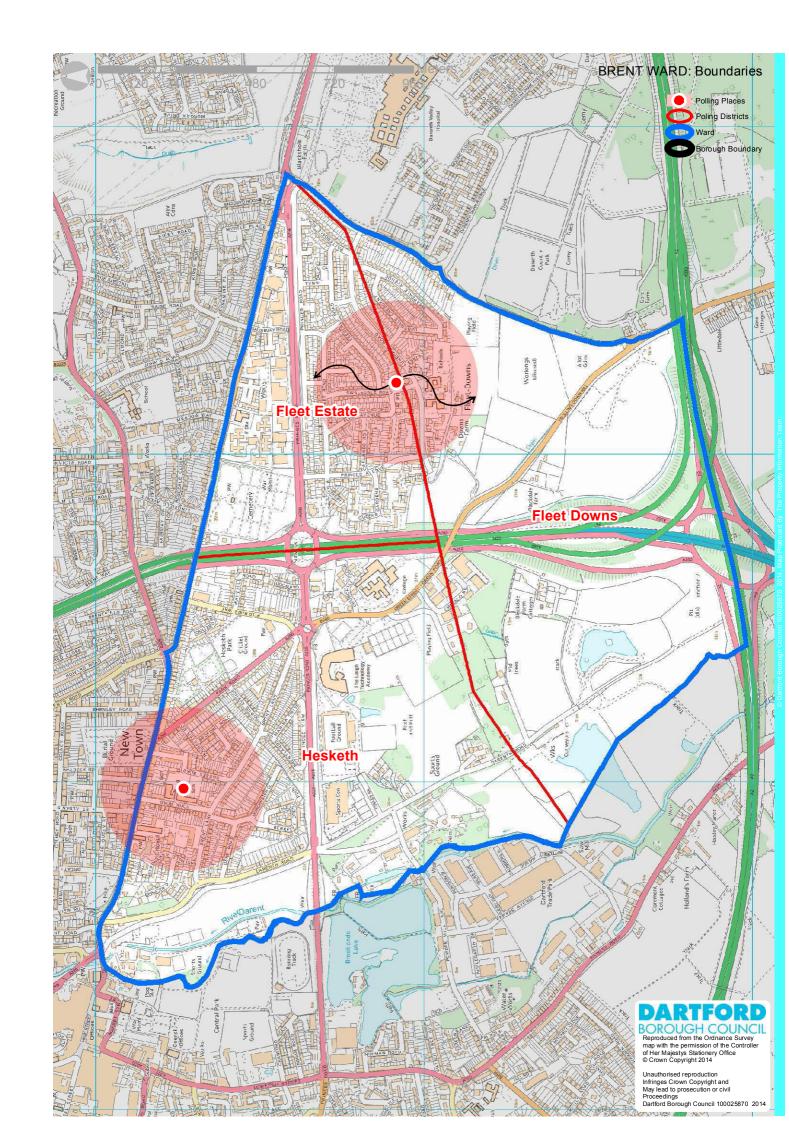
# **Bean and Darenth Ward**

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
AA	Bean Polling District	Bean Youth Centre, High Street Bean DA2 8AS	1253	1265	12	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
AB	Green Street Green Polling District	Darenth Hall, Ladywood Road, Darenth, DA2 7LL	173	168	15	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
AC	Darenth Park Polling District	Mobile Unit within the Polling District (currently stationed at Redding Close, Darenth Park, Dartford)	749	750	1	Yes	No Change.
AD	Ladywood Polling District	Darenth Hall, Ladywood Road, Darenth, DA2 7LL	901	905	4	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
AE	Lane End Polling District	Darenth Hall, Ladywood Road, Darenth, DA2 7LL	1119	1117	-2	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
		Total	4195	4196	30		



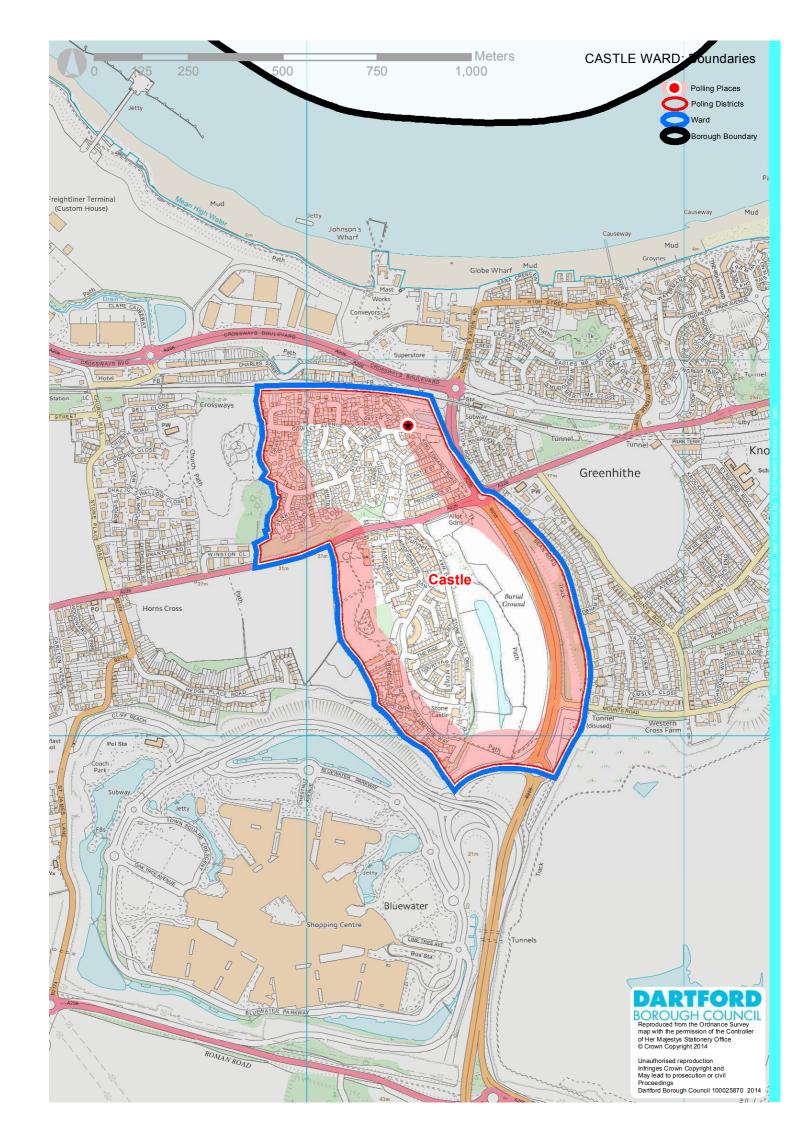
# **Brent Ward**

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
BA	Hesketh Polling District	York Road CP School, York Road, DA1 1SQ	2107	2340	233	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
BB	Fleet Estate Polling District	Fleetdown Library, Swaledale Road, Dartford, DA2 6JZ	2107	2094	-13	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
BC	Fleet Downs Polling District	Fleetdown Library, Swaledale Road, Dartford, DA2 6JZ	613	618	5	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
	T	otal	4827	5052	225		



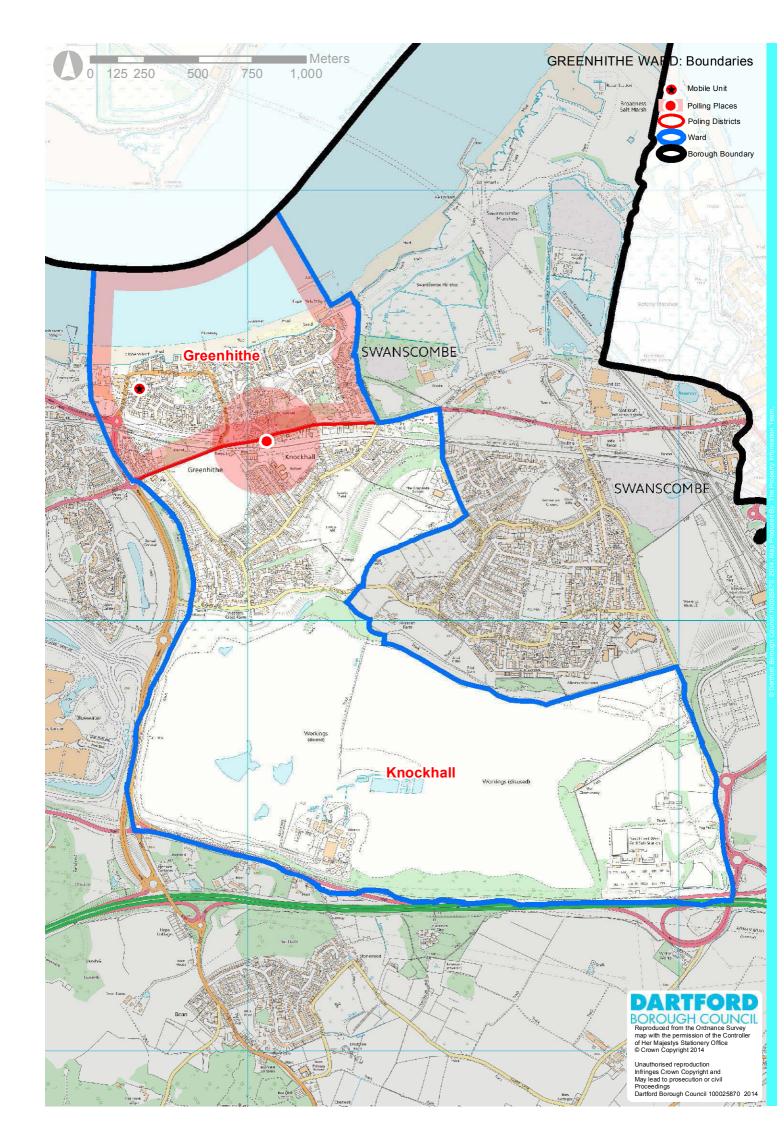
# **Castle Ward**

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposal
CA	Castle Polling District	Mobile Unit within the district (currently stationed at Steele Avenue, Greenhithe)	1889	1885	-4	Yes, ramped	No Change
	Total			1885	-4		



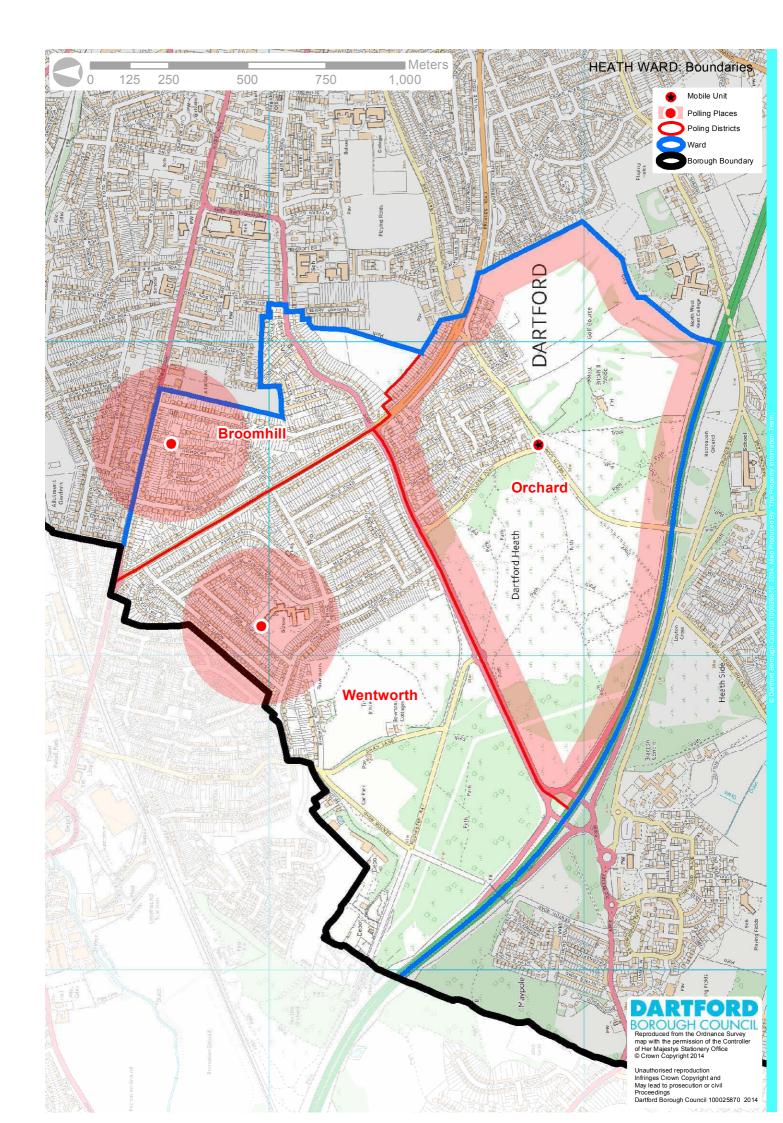
# **Greenhithe Ward**

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
DA	Greenhithe Polling District	Mobile Unit within the Polling District (currently stationed at Eagles Road car park, Greenhithe)	2361	2742	381	Yes ramped	No Change
DB	Knockhall Polling District	British Legion Club, London Road, Greenhithe, DA9 9EJ	2311	2258	-53	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
		otal	4672	5000	328		



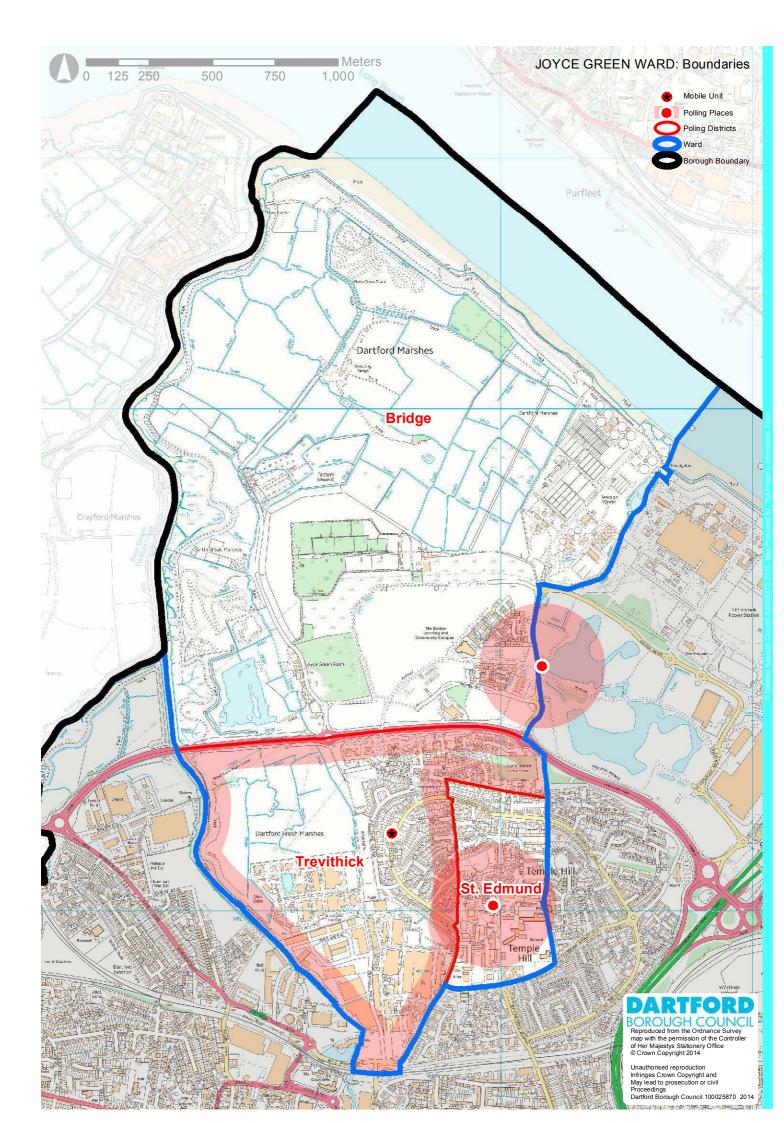
# **Heath Ward**

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
EA	Broomhill Polling District	Scout House, Broomhill Road, DA1 3HT	1458	1500	42	Yes, ramped	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
EB	Orchard Polling District	Mobile Unit within the district (currently stationed at the junction of Heathclose Road and Heath Lane)	1112	1118	6	Yes, ramped	No Change
EC	Wentworth Polling District	Wentworth CP Junior School, James Road, DA1 3NF	2421	2464	43	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
		Гotal	4991	5082	91		



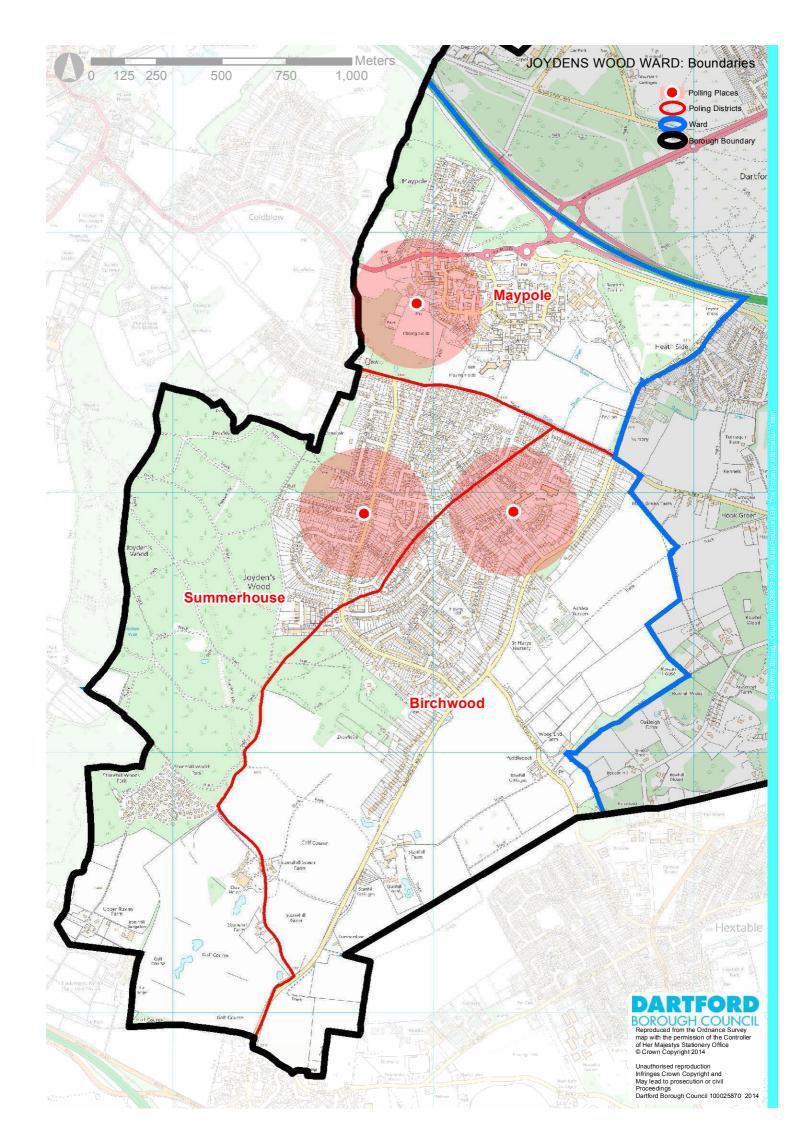
# Joyce Green

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disable d Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
FA	Trevithick Polling District	Mobile Unit within the district (currently stationed in the Car Park, Trevithick Drive, Dartford)	1558	1555	-3	Yes, ramped	No Change
FB	St. Edmund Polling District	St. Edmund's Living Well, St. Edmund's Road, DA1 5ND.	1237	1207	-30	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
FC	Bridge Polling District	The Management Centre, The Bridge, Marsh Street North, DA1 5PF.	344	667	323	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
		Total	3139	3429	290		



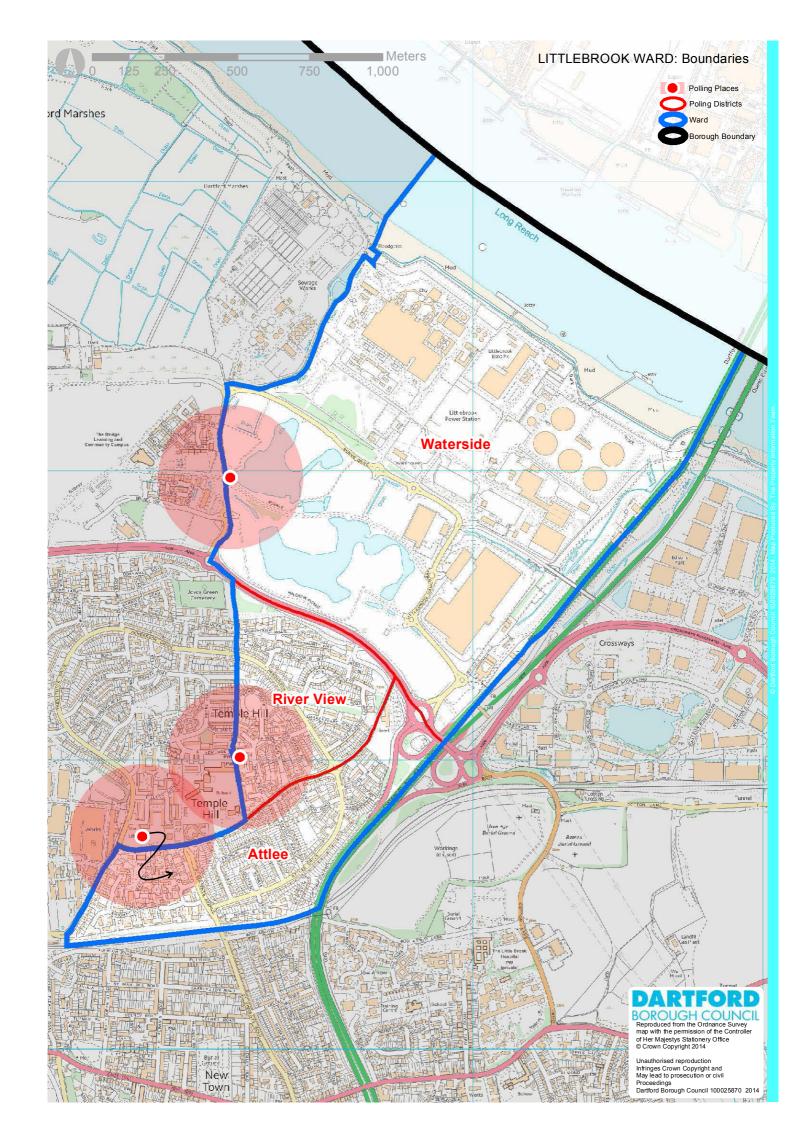
# **Joydens Wood**

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
GA	Birchwood Polling District	Joydens Wood Community Centre, Birchwood Drive, Wilmington, DA2 7NE	1866	1866	0	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
GB	Summerhouse Polling District	Library, Summerhouse Drive, Bexley, DA5 2EE	2339	2354	15	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
GC	Maypole Polling District	Bexley Park Sports and Social Club, Calvert Drive, DA2 7AG	1348	1378	30	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
		Total	5553	5598	45		



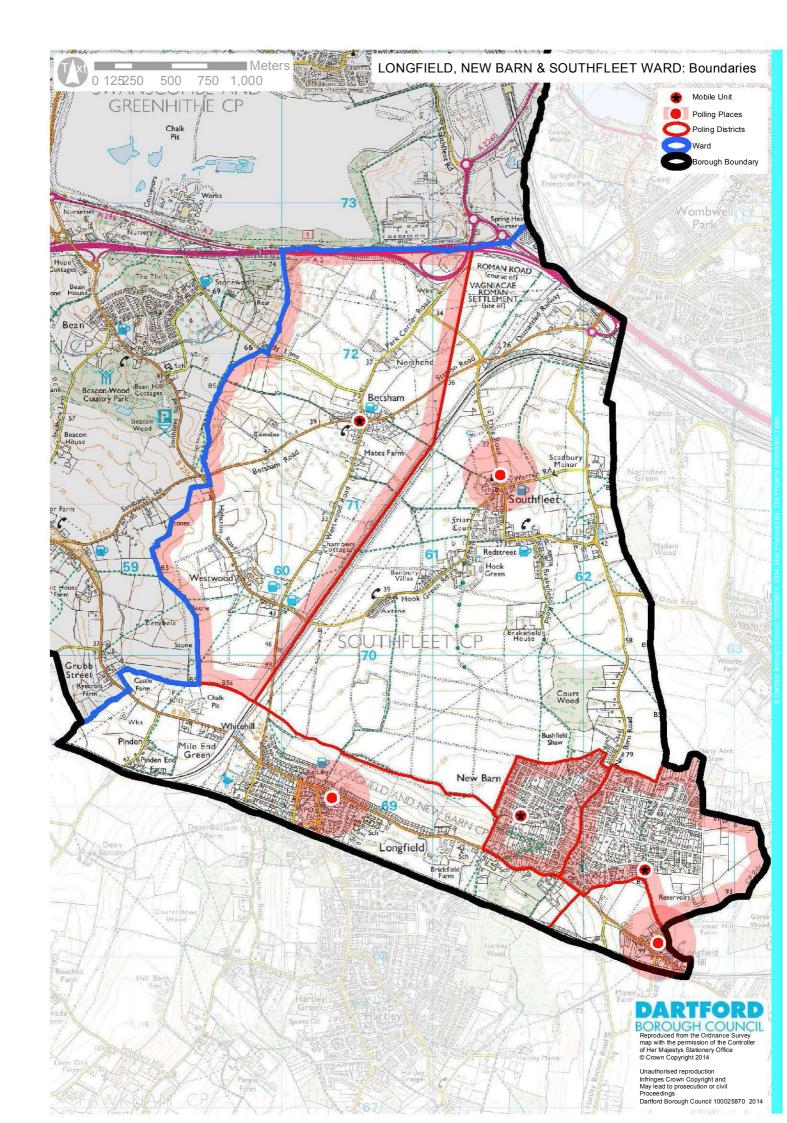
# <u>Littlebrook</u>

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
HA	Attlee Polling District	Temple Hill Community Centre, Temple Hill Square, DA1 5HY	1818	1817	-1	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
НВ	River View Polling District	Temple Hill Baptist Church Hall, St. Edmund's Road, DA1 5ND	1242	1285	43	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
HC	Waterside	The Management Centre, The Bridge, Marsh Street North, DA1 5PF	N/A	82	82	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
		Total	3060	3184	124		



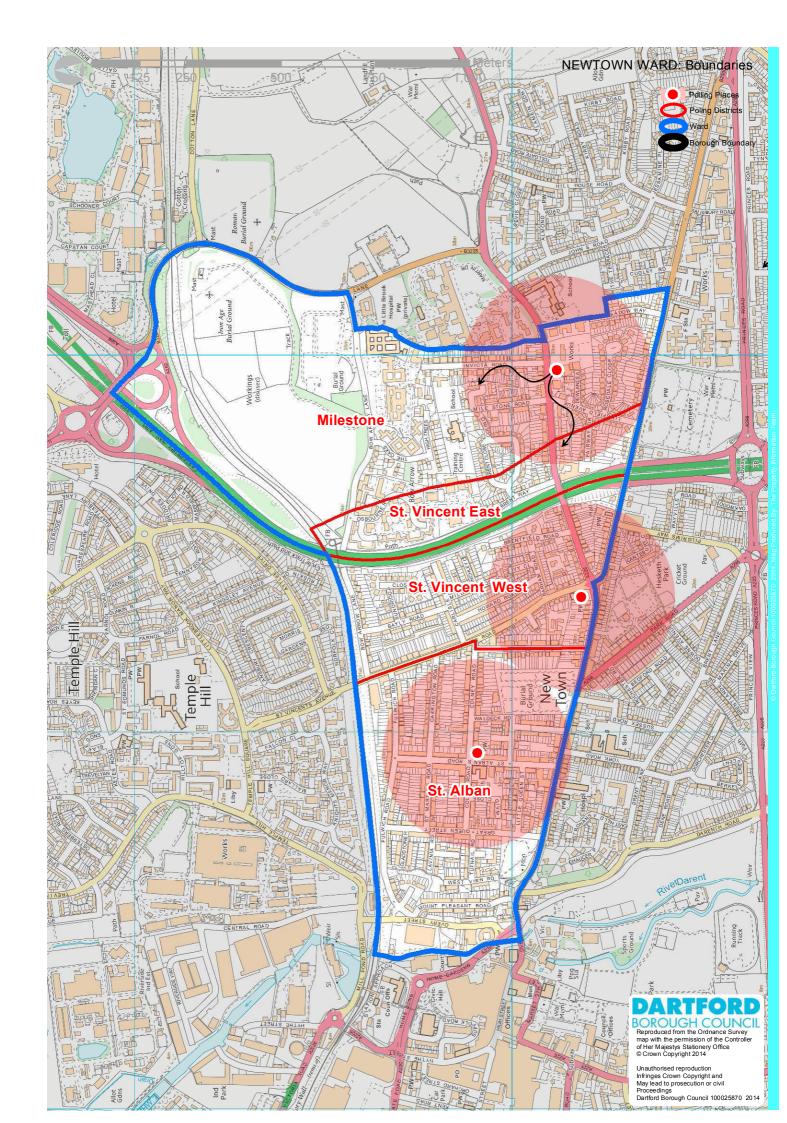
# **Longfield, New Barn and Southfleet**

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
IA	Southfleet East Polling District	Southfleet Village Hall, Dale Road, Southfleet, DA13 9NX	765	<b>2014</b> <sup>766</sup>	1	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
IB	Southfleet West Polling District	Mobile Unit within the district (currently stationed at the Amenity area opposite Betsham House, Betsham)	327	344	17	Yes, ramped	No Change
IC	New Barn West Polling District	Mobile Unit within the district (currently stationed at the junction of Shearwater and Nuthatch, New Barn, Longfield)	1138	1159	21	Yes, ramped	No Change
ID	New Barn East Polling District	Mobile Unit within the district (currently stationed at The Oval, New Barn, Longfield)	1469	1477	8	Yes, ramped	No Change
ΙE	Longfield Village Polling District	The Jubilee Hall, St Mary Magdelene Church, Main Road, Longfield, DA3 7PQ	1312	1524	212	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
IF	Longfield Hill Polling District	The Scouts Hall, Nurstead Lane, Longfield Hill, Longfield, DA3 7AN	225	230	5	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
		Total	5236	5500	264		



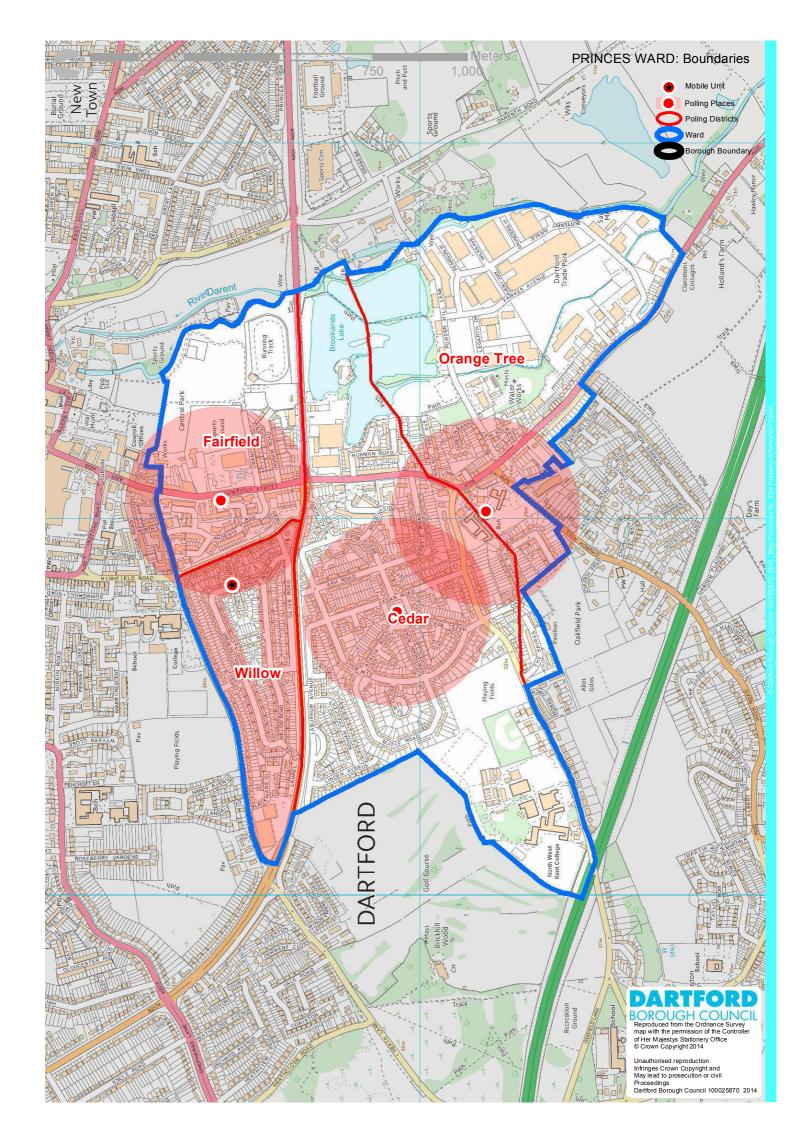
#### **Newtown**

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disable d Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
JA	Milestone Polling District	Brent School Old Boys Social Club, London Road, Stone, DA2 6AS	1079	1097	18	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
JB	St. Alban Polling District	St. Alban's Church, St. Alban's Road, DA1 1TE	2188	2248	60	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
JC	St. Vincent (West) Polling District	Methodist Church Hall, St. Vincent's Road, DA1 1XE	1340	1375	35	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
JD	St. Vincent (East) Polling District	Brent Old Boys Social Club, London Road, Stone, DA2 6AS	542	536	-6	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
		Total	5149	5256	107		



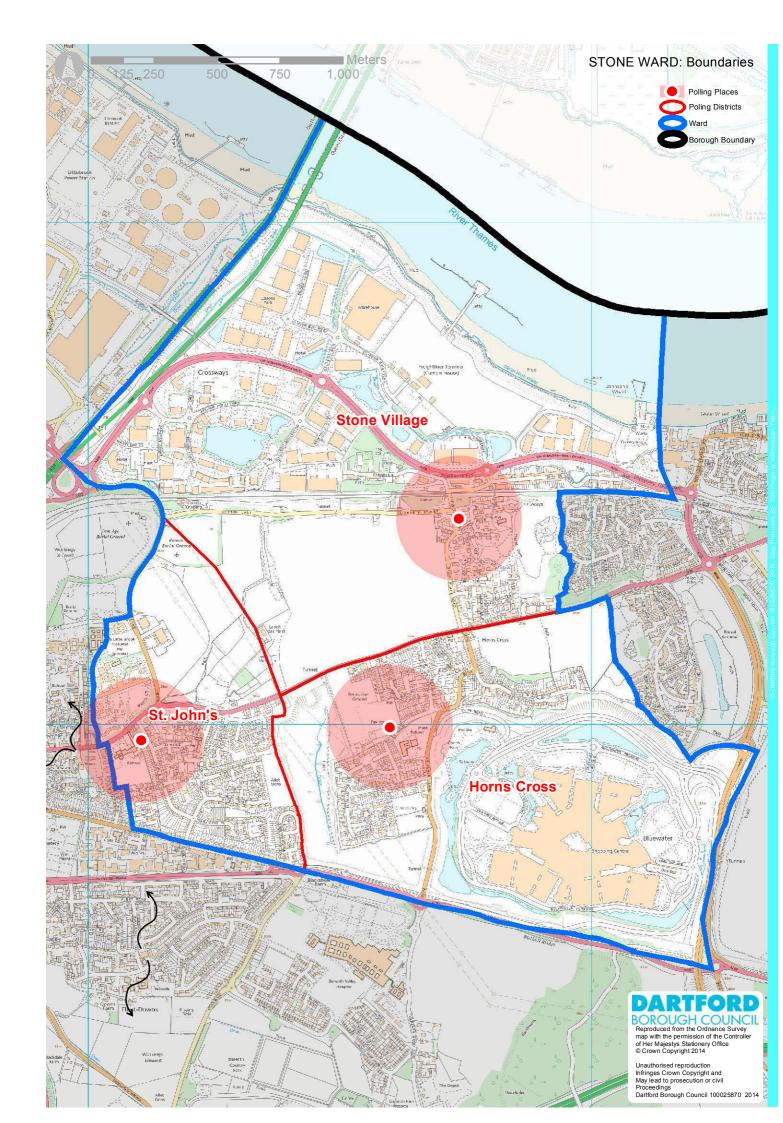
# **Princes**

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disable d Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
KA	Orange Tree Polling District	Oakfield CP School, Oakfield Lane, Wilmington, DA1 2SW	690	697	7	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
КВ	Cedar Polling District	Tree Community Centre, Cedar Road, DA1 2RS	2190	2187	-3	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
KC	Fairfield (East)Polling District	Lenderyou Court, Phoenix Place, DA1 2XD	665	683	18	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
KD	Willow Polling District	Mobile Unit within the district (currently stationed at the junction of Chestnut Road and Larch Road, Dartford)	964	999	35	Yes, ramped	No Change
		Total	4509	4566	57		



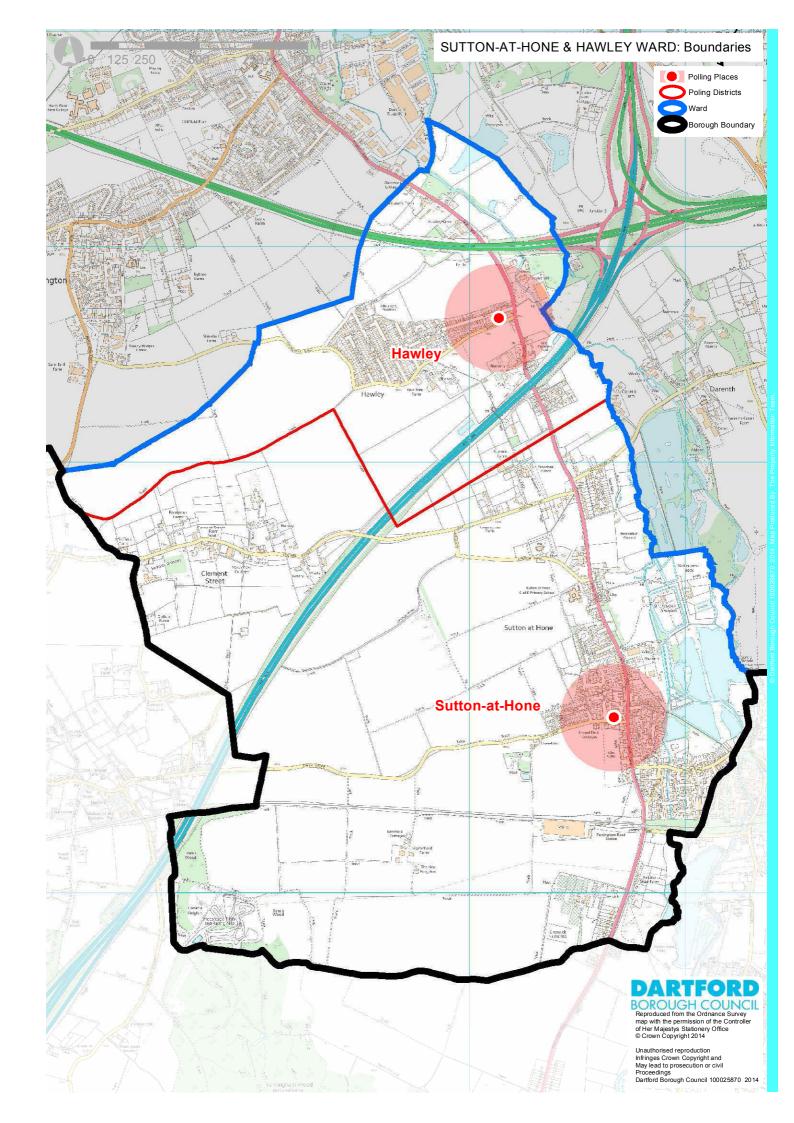
# **Stone**

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
LA	Stone Village Polling District	Parish Hall, Church Hill, Stone Place Road, Stone, Greenhithe, DA9 9AU	1209	1261	52	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
LB	Horns Cross Polling District	Stone Pavillion and Community Hall, Hayes Road, Stone, DA9 9DS	1462	1452	-10	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
LC	St. John's Polling District	Brent CP School, St Johns Road, Stone, DA2 6BA	1915	2236	321	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
	T	otal	4586	4949	363		



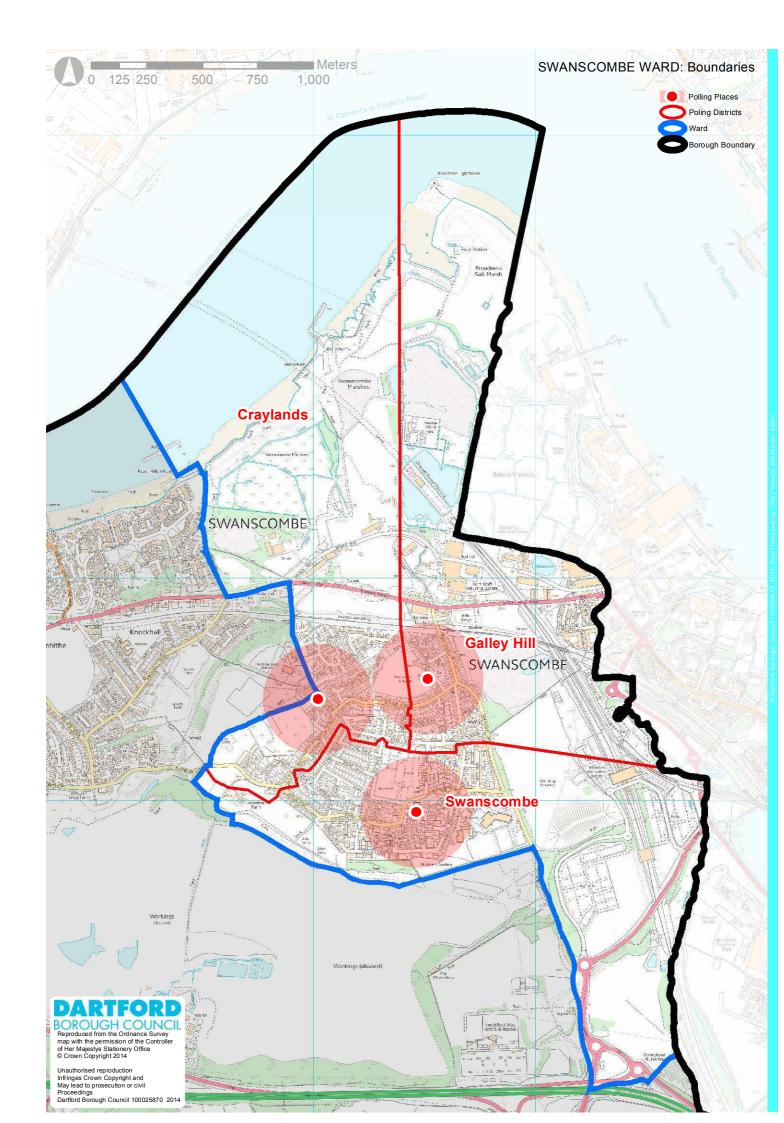
# **Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley**

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
MA	Hawley Polling District	Mission Hall, Shirehall Road, Hawley, DA2 7RP	1104	1160	56	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
MB	Sutton-at-Hone Polling District	Methodist Church Hall, Ship Lane, Sutton-at-Hone, DA4 9EF	2197	2195	-2	Yes, via main door.	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
	Total		3301	3355	54		



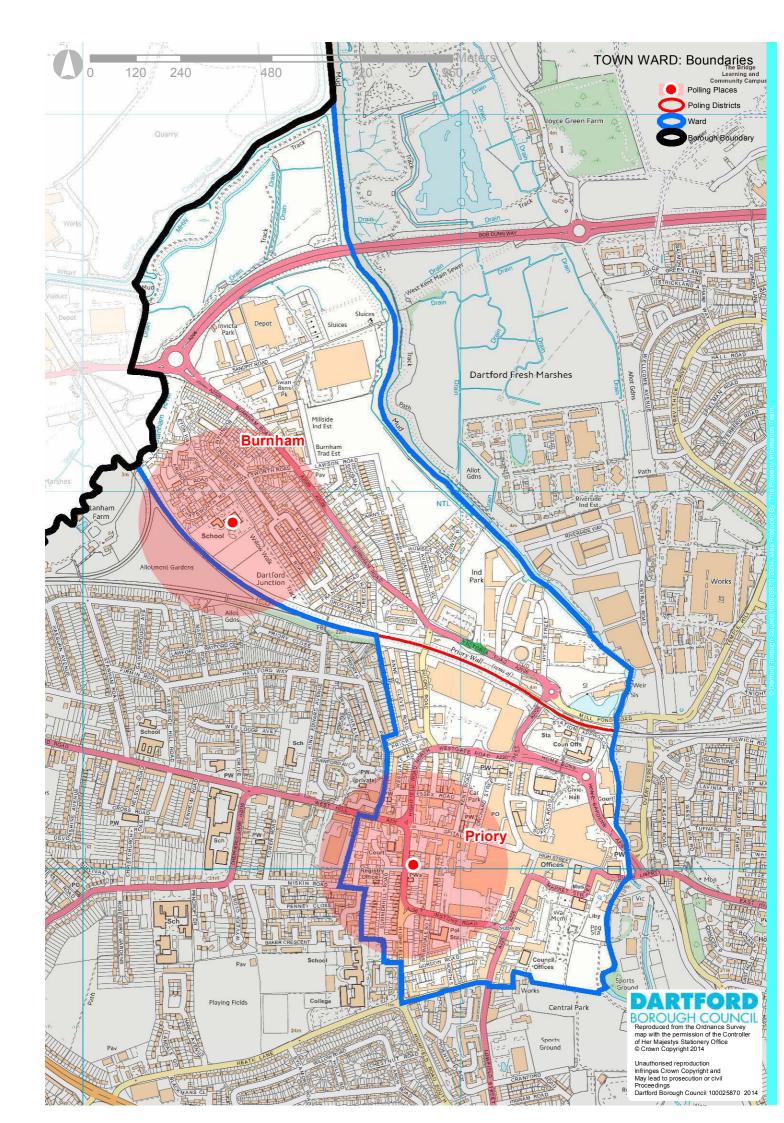
# **Swanscombe**

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
NA	Swanscombe Polling District	The Church Centre, Swanscombe Street, Swanscombe, DA10 0LP	2052	2135	83	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
NB	Craylands Polling District	The Heritage Community Hall, Craylands Lane, Swanscombe, DA10 0LP	1512	1559	47	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
NC	Galley Hill Polling District	Swanscombe and Greenhithe Council Offices, The Grove, Swanscombe, DA10 0GA	1439	1444	5	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
	Total			5138	135		



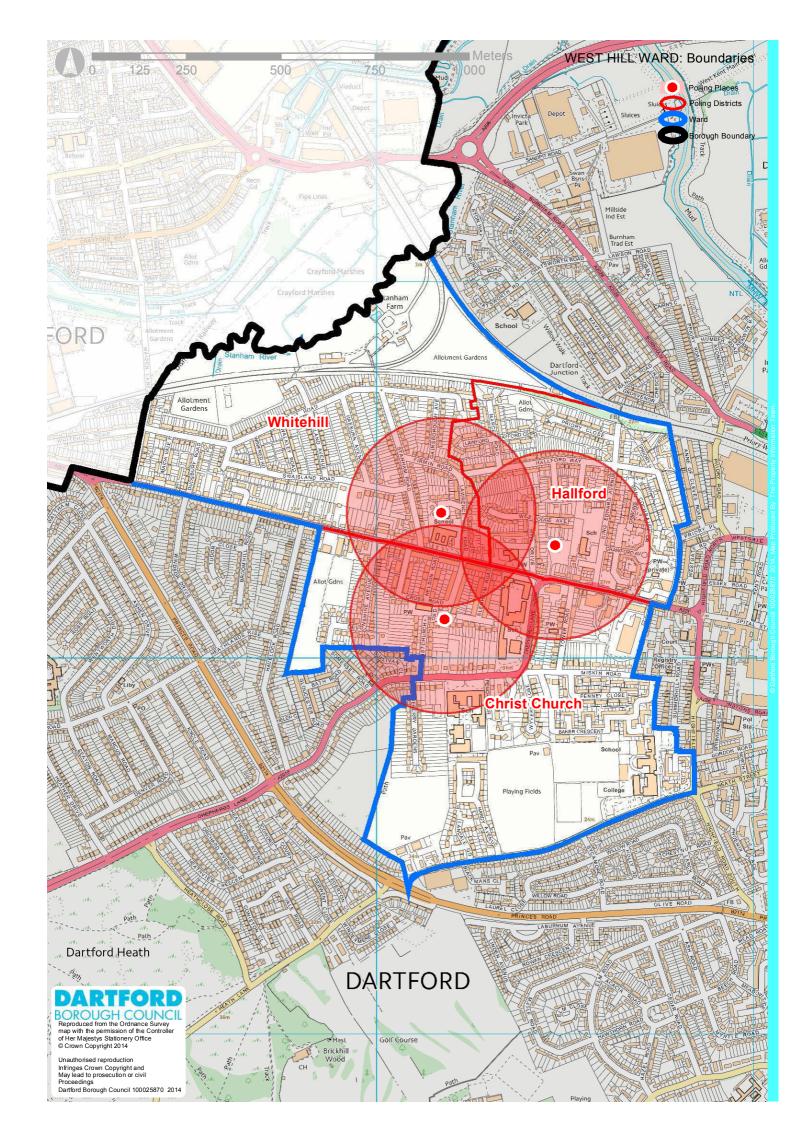
# <u>Town</u>

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
OA	Priory Polling District	Highfield Road Baptist Church, Highfield Road, DA1 2JJ	1248	1245	-3	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
OB	Burnham Polling District	Holy Trinity CEP School, Chatsworth Road, DA1 5AF	1761	1834	73	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
	Total			3079	70		



# West Hill

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
PA	Christ Church Polling District	Christ Church Parish Room, Christ Church Road, DA1 3ET	1718	1830	112	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
PB	Whitehill Polling District	Canteen, West Hill Primary School, Lawrence Hill Gardens, DA1 3AP	1678	1673	-5	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
PC	Hallford Polling District	Masonic Hall, 71 West Hill, Dartford, DA1 2HJ	1632	1667	35	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
		Total	5028	5170	142		



# **Wilmington**

	Polling District	Current Polling Place/Polling Station	Electorate 2011	Electorate 2014	Difference in Electorate	Disabled Access	The Council's and (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals
QA	Church Hill Polling District	St Michael's Church Hall, Church Hill, Wilmington, DA2 7DW	734	736	2	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
QB	Wilmington Common Polling District	Memorial Hall, 96 High Road, Wilmington, DA2 7DW	1861	1853	-8	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
QC	Leyton Cross Polling District	Leyton Cross Social Club, Tredegar Road, Wilmington, DA2 7AZ	603	614	11	Yes	No Change to polling station or polling district. Polling place to be a 250m zone from the polling station.
	Total			3203	5		

