

Public Document Pack

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of East Hertfordshire District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Wallfields, Hertford on Wednesday 11th December, 2024 at 7.00 pm, for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the Agenda below, and you are hereby summoned to attend.

Date this 4 day of December 2024

James Ellis
Head of Legal and
Democratic Services

Note: Prayers will be said before the meeting commences. Those Members who do not wish to participate will be invited to enter the Chamber at their conclusion

This meeting will be live streamed on the Council's Youtube page:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/EastHertsDistrict>

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Chairman.

2. Leader's Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Leader of the Council.

3. Apologies for Absence

To receive any Members' apologies for absence.

4. Minutes - 16 October 2024 (Pages 5 - 26)

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chair to sign the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 October 2024.

5. Declarations of Interest

To receive any Members' declarations of interest.

6. Petitions

To receive any petitions.

7. Public Questions (Page 27)

To receive any public questions.

8. Members' Questions

To receive any Members' questions.

9. Executive Report - 19 November 2024 (Pages 28 - 29)

To receive a report from the Leader of the Council and to consider recommendations on the matters below:

(A) Annual Treasury Management Review 2023/24_(Pages 30 - 41)

10. Appointment of S151 Officer (Pages 42 - 45)

11. Council Tax Base 2025/26 (Pages 46 - 51)

12. Polling District and Places Review 2024 (Pages 52 - 103)

13. Motions on Notice

To receive Motions on Notice.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

A Member, present at a meeting of the Authority, or any committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Authority, with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in any matter to be considered or being considered at a meeting:

- must not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting;
- must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting;
- must disclose the interest to the meeting, whether registered or not, subject to the provisions of section 32 of the Localism Act 2011;
- if the interest is not registered and is not the subject of a pending notification, must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days;
- must leave the room while any discussion or voting takes place.

Public Attendance

East Herts Council welcomes public attendance at its meetings and meetings will continue to be live streamed and webcasted. For further information, please email democratic.services@eastherts.gov.uk or call the Council on 01279 655261 and ask to speak to Democratic Services.

The Council operates a paperless policy in respect of agendas at committee meetings and the Council will no longer be providing spare copies of Agendas for the Public at Committee Meetings. The mod.gov app is available to download for free from app stores for electronic devices. You can use the mod.gov app to access, annotate and keep all committee paperwork on your mobile device.

Visit <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/35542/Political-Structure> for details.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON
WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2024, AT 7.00
PM

PRESENT: Councillor M Connolly (Chairman).
Councillors M Adams, D Andrews,
R Buckmaster, P Boylan, C Brittain,
M Butcher, I Devonshire, E Buckmaster,
S Bull, V Burt, R Carter, N Clements,
S Copley, B Crystall, A Daar, B Deering,
T Deffley, J Dumont, J Dunlop, Y Estop,
V Glover-Ward, M Goldspink, C Hart, G Hill,
A Holt, S Hopewell, C Horner, T Hoskin,
D Jacobs, S Marlow, G McAndrew,
S Nicholls, A Parsad-Wyatt, C Redfern,
T Stowe, M Swainston, J Thomas,
R Townsend, S Watson, D Willcocks,
G Williams, G Williamson and C Wilson.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Katie Mogan	- Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
James Ellis	- Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Steven Linnett	- Head of Strategic Finance and Property
Helen Standen	- Interim Chief Executive

170 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman said she had a busy summer of attending events across the District, including garden parties and a number of flag raising events for the emergency services and

Pride.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Bull back to the Chamber after his recent illness.

171 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader said that he had attended the second visioning workshop for the refresh of the District Plan which was key to ensure that the right kind of development was in place.

He congratulated the Environmental Health team who had received the Gold Level from the RSPCA for their work in animal activity licences. He also congratulated Ellen Tooley, who works for APCOA in Bishops Stortford as part of the parking services team, who was recently awarded the Front Line Award at the British Parking Awards.

The Leader said that DEFRA had recognised the council's Air Quality Action Plan as an example of best practice which had been published on the DEFRA website as an example to other council's to develop their own plans.

The Leader said that he had also attended the opening of Castle Park in Bishop's Stortford and the opening of BEAM in August. He thanked the officers involved in these projects and the previous administration who had led on these projects.

172 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cox, Hollebon, Smith, Woollcombe and Woolf.

173 MINUTES - 24 JULY 2024

Councillor E Buckmaster said that there was an error under minute number 109 – Local Government Funding. He said that the £6.2 billion funding gap was a national figure and not related to Hertfordshire County Council.

Councillor Horner proposed, and Councillor Hill seconded a

motion that the Minutes of the meetings held on 24 July 2024 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman. On being put to the meeting and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meetings held on 24 July 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

174 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed that he had given a dispensation to all Members to take part in the motion on the Winter Fuel Allowance so they could debate freely.

175 FOLLY ISLAND PROPOSED REFUSE PLANS

Keeley Haylett presented the petition on the Folly Island proposed refuse plans.

The Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability responded to the petition.

As the local ward councillor, Councillor Daar spoke in response to the petition. She said that Folly Island was a special part of the ward and said she recognised the concerns about the beauty of the area. She reiterated that the Executive were committed to finding a mutually agreeable solution whilst meeting the obligation from central government.

176 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The full responses to the submitted Public Questions can be found in the supplementary document [here](#).

177 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

The full responses to the submitted Members Questions can be found in the supplementary document [here](#).

178 EXECUTIVE REPORT - 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Leader of the Council presented a report setting out recommendations to the Council made by the Executive at its meeting on 3 September 2024. He said that the Executive also met on 1 October 2024, but there were no recommendations to Council.

179 EAST HERTS COMPLAINTS PROCESS AND CHANGES TO THE LGSCO CODE OF PRACTICE

The Executive Member for Corporate Services presented the recommendation to Council. He said that there had been recent changes to the Complaint Handling Code by the Ombudsman to ensure that there was consistency and fairness in the complaint handling process across councils. He said that this new code had meant there needed to be amendments to the persistent and unreasonable behaviour policy.

Councillor Dumont proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Goldspink seconded the proposal.

Councillor Goldspink said she supported the recommendation and said she was glad that East Herts were open and transparent about their complaints process.

Councillor Deering said that the Conservative group supported the recommendation.

The motion to support the recommendations having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED - That the updated Persistent and Unreasonable Behaviour Policy be adopted.

180 EAST HERTS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Executive Member for Planning and Growth presented the recommendations to Council. She said that the council, as the local planning authority, had to prepare a Local Development Scheme to set out a timeline to produce development plan documents. There was a new government consultation on proposed reforms of the National Planning Policy Framework and changes to the planning system which meant the new plan making process would be implemented from Summer 2025.

The Executive Member for Planning and Growth said that the timetable set out in the report may be subject to change as the scheme assumed that the relevant secondary legislation would be published in September 2025. She said that the council would continue to focus on updating the evidence base to support the District Plan review.

Councillor Glover-Ward proposed that the recommendations in the report be supported. Councillor Copley seconded the proposal.

Councillor Deering said that the Conservative group would be supporting the recommendations.

The motion to support the recommendations having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That (a) the East Herts Local Development Scheme be agreed to take effect from October 2024; and
(b) the Local Development Scheme is published on the council's website.

181 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND RETURNING OFFICER

The Leader of the Council presented the report to Council. He

said that Richard Cassidy had made the decision to leave the council after five years and he thanked him for his service and leadership. He said that the process of appointing a successor was defined by the Constitution and the Chief Officer Recruitment Committee met on 19 September 2024 and unanimously agreed to appoint Helen Standen as Interim Chief Executive and Returning Officer. He said that the appointment needed to be ratified by Council.

Councillor Crystall proposed that the recommendations in the report be supported. Councillor Goldspink seconded the proposal.

Councillor Goldspink supported the comments from the Leader and said she was pleased to support the appointment.

Councillor Jacobs asked for clarification around the recommendation for making the appointment for 18 months.

Councillor Crystall said that there were currently challenges in recruitment for local authorities. He said that it was important to make the right appointment and have the flexibility for long notice periods for Chief Executives.

Councillor E Buckmaster said that the original recommendation to the Chief Officer Recruitment Committee suggested making the appointment for 18 months. He said that the committee agreed to amend to up to 18 months to ensure that the recruitment process was done as soon as possible.

Councillor Boylan said he supported the recommendations but asked about the backfilling of the Deputy Chief Executive role.

Councillor Crystall said he was looking at backfilling and there was some ideas already about how to do that.

Councillor Deering thanked Richard Cassidy for his service on behalf of the Conservative group. He congratulated Helen Standen on stepping up to take on this role. He said that he thought some consideration should be given to a shared Chief

Executive with another local authority and hoped that the process would happen as soon as possible as and he looked forward to the next steps.

Councillor Crystall said everyone wanted certainty and said the recruitment process would have cross party involvement.

Councillor Daar said she was grateful that the Deputy Chief Executive was willing to step as and it would be settling for staff to have a familiar face through a time of change.

Councillor Dumont said making the right decision was important and not the speed at which the decision was made.

Councillor Deering said that the Section 151 Officer was retiring at the end of the year and said he would like to thank him for his service.

The motion to support the recommendations having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That (A) the appointment of Helen Standen to the role of Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service for a period of up to 18 months be ratified.

(b) Helen Standen be appointed as the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer for up to 18 months.

182 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - TERMS OF REFERENCE AND TIMETABLE

The Leader of the Council said that guidance states that councils should carry out a Community Governance Review every 10-15 years. He said that Council agreed at its last meeting to carry out a review and set up a working group to consider areas for review. He said that the review gave town and parish councils an opportunity to change and the report set out the terms of reference and timetable for the review.

Councillor Crystall proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Thomas seconded the proposal.

Councillor Parsad-Wyatt referred to paragraph 2.6 of the report about Sawbridgeworth Town Council. He asked the nature of the consultation as there were specific references to the warding of Sawbridgeworth.

Councillor Carter asked how the consultation would work and where the weighting would lie for changing boundaries.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services said that it was difficult to pre-empt the consultation response and it would be for the working group to consider all responses and create draft recommendations.

Councillor E Buckmaster said that the Sawbridgeworth warding arrangements was an officer suggestion and said that Sawbridgeworth was a tight, urban area with a cohesive community. He said that the only benefit would be a shorter count. He said the community feeling was the most important consideration.

Councillor Boylan said that Sawbridgeworth did not appear in the terms of reference list and said the heading was misleading.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services said that the list in the terms of reference was those parish councils that had said they would like to be included in the review but the terms of reference did reference that the review would take place across the district.

The motion to support the recommendation having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED - That the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review at Appendix A be

agreed, signifying the formal start of the Review and commencement of the first stage consultation.

183 OFFICER DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS RELATING TO THE DELIVERY OF THE OLD RIVER LANE PROJECT

The Leader of the Council presented the recommendation to Council. He said that the Council had previously delegated authority of the delivery of the Old River Lane project to the Head of Strategic Finance and Property at its meeting on 18 March 2021. He said that the current post holder was retiring at the end of November so the delegation needed to be updated. The report recommended that the Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy be given delegated authority for this function.

Councillor Crystall proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Swainston seconded the proposal.

Councillor Estop said that she felt decisions relating to the Old River Lane project should be the responsibility of the Executive or the Delivery Board. She said that the delegated authority was not clear on the scope of powers and prompted concerns that the decision-making lacked transparency and accountability.

Councillor Goldspink said she was a member of the Old River Lane Delivery Board and said the Board had made efforts over the last 18 months to improve transparency by publishing its decisions and minutes on the council's website.

Councillor Jacobs felt the recommendation was unclear and wanted clarity as to how far the delegated authority went.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services said that no decision would be taken by the officer without consultation with the Old River Lane Delivery Board as per the recommendation.

Councillor E Buckmaster said it was common practice to delegate authority to officers.

Councillor Estop said the report did not set out the level of responsibility and said there had been a history of questionable decisions.

Councillor Dumont said that the terms of reference were linked in the report.

The motion to support the recommendations having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED - To delegate to the Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy, in consultation with the Old River Delivery Board operating in line with its Terms of Reference and the S151 Officer (or Deputy S151 in their absence), the authority to make decisions relating to the delivery of the Old River Lane project.

184 CHANGES TO THE WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE

Councillor Holt presented his motion on notice. Councillor Parsad-Wyatt seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Councillor Daar proposed the following amendments to the motion.

- To add as a fourth paragraph: “Whilst we recognise the new Labour led government’s need to deal with the debts inherited from the previous Conservative led administration, we feel the burden of paying for cuts should fall on the broadest shoulders not those of the most vulnerable. We urge the government to make up the shortfall in funding through a windfall tax on energy companies in the immediate term whilst other longer-term options are explored. Locally we have already seen the effects of austerity on the vulnerable and

cannot support any extension of this approach. In addition, we oppose further rises in the energy price cap which affect the most vulnerable adversely.”

- To add under point 2 under ‘This Council Observes’:
“We also recognise that pensioners struggling with their heating bills will also be unable to afford upgrades to home insulation.”
- Add a new point 2 under ‘This Council Resolves to’:
“Call for the minister responsible for the environment: to support pensioners, by increasing funding for free home insulation schemes in order to make the winter fuel payments go further.”
- Add the words “not receiving Pension Credit’ after pensioners in point 3.
- To add under point 3 under ‘This Council Resolves to’:
We need to see a review of all possible ways of organising a better and fairer way of assessing the needs of pensioners for receipt of the Winter Fuel Payments. This would ensure that it is targeted so that all pensioners who need the payment would receive it, not just those on the lowest incomes.
- To add the words ‘environmental sustainability’ in the final paragraph.

Councillor Daar spoke to the amendment and said that she supported the motion fully but felt the fourth paragraph was an important addition for honesty and transparency. She felt that residents needed to have the context that has led to the decision and poor choices from the previous and current government has impacted residents locally.

Councillor Horner seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Councillor E Buckmaster said he supported the original motion. He said as a former Executive member, the council had provided £30 million to get funding out to community

groups and small business. He said he was shocked by the move by the Labour government to remove the winter fuel allowance and said they had blamed it on difficult decisions. He said that there were no difficult decisions but there were options and felt the government had made the easy choice to take away from the most vulnerable who did not have the option to fight back. He said that he liked some of the amendments proposed but not all so he would be supporting the original motion.

Councillor Butcher said he supported the amendments proposed as it made important points.

Councillor Jacobs said that the Green/Liberal Democrat administration should recognise the challenges of inheriting a challenging position like the government had. He said that he knew the administration had not taken pleasure in cutting budgets and calling an extraordinary meeting to provide the theatre project with more money and reminded them that the Labour group voted with the administration on that issue. He said everyone recognised that the winter fuel allowance had played an important role in helping pensioners, but changes were being made to ensure that assistance was targeted to those that needed it the most.

Councillor Swainston sympathised with Councillor Jacobs' comments, but the amendment recognised that there needed to be a review of the winter fuel payments. She said she supported the amended motion.

Councillor Hart thanked Councillor Holt for bringing the original amendment. She pointed out the general narrow view of a pensioner's income who have the burden of aging, ill health, and potential care costs. She felt the government had targeted a vulnerable population for an easy win.

Councillor Williams also thanked Councillor Holt for the original motion. He said he supported the amendment and said this was not a group that should be targeted.

Councillor Goldspink said she supported the amended motion.

She said she understood that the government wanted to give the payment to those that really needed it but felt the financial limit for receipt of payment was set too low resulting in hardship for many vulnerable pensioners. She felt a fairer way to assess need must be found.

Councillor Devonshire said the application for pension credit was online and there was about 200 questions to answers which was too cumbersome for pensioners.

Councillor Parsad-Wyatt welcomed support for the motion across the Chamber. He said he would have been happy to accept the majority of the amendments proposed but was not happy with the fourth paragraph. He said the original motion had been drafted to avoid reference to political parties and had tried to be constructive around what the council could do to support residents.

Councillor Glover-Ward said she thanked the Labour group for their support on previous issues faced by the administration. She said the amendment to point 2 was important to call on the Minister responsible to increase the funding for environmental heating schemes.

Councillor Wilson said that the Conservative group were talking about protecting vulnerable people without acknowledging the previous government's failure to protect other vulnerable groups. He said he agreed with the amended motion.

Councillor Horner responded to the points raised and said that the withdrawal of payment from the poorest pensioners was a misstep from the government. He said it was a misguided decision that restricted those on the lowest incomes. He felt this would not realise the savings the government needed and urged all councillors to vote for the amended motion.

Having been proposed and seconded, the substantive motion was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED - This Council expresses deep concern regarding the Government's decision to amend the eligibility criteria for the Winter Fuel Payment (WFP) as outlined in the Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Regulations 2024, which were presented to Parliament on 22nd August 2024 and came into effect on 16th September 2024.

Under the new regulations, beginning in the winter of 2024/2025, households in England and Wales will only qualify for the Winter Fuel Payment if they are recipients of Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits specified by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. This change raises significant concerns, as the Government has not conducted a full impact assessment or initiated public consultation.

Age UK has estimated that 2 million pensioners who rely on this crucial support to stay warm during the winter months may be ineligible under the new criteria. Locally, in East Hertfordshire, 27,486 pensioners could lose access to this vital financial assistance, creating severe financial strain for many elderly residents and exacerbating existing health and wellbeing challenges, particularly for those just above the Pension Credit threshold.

Whilst we recognise the new Labour led government's need to deal with the debts inherited from the previous Conservative led administration, we feel the burden of paying for cuts should fall on the broadest shoulders not those of the most vulnerable. We urge the government to make up the shortfall in funding through a windfall tax on energy companies in the immediate term whilst other longer-term options are explored. Locally we have already seen the effects of austerity on the vulnerable and cannot support any extension of this approach.

In addition, we oppose further rises in the energy price cap which affect the most vulnerable adversely.

This Council Observes:

1. Impact on Vulnerable Pensioners: The removal of the Winter Fuel Payment for pensioners not receiving Pension

Credit or other designated benefits is likely to disproportionately impact vulnerable elderly residents, particularly those living in rural areas where access to services and support is already limited.

2. Rural Housing Challenges: Pensioners in rural areas often reside in older, less energy-efficient homes, with over 70% of rural properties in the UK built before 1980. These homes typically suffer from inadequate insulation and outdated heating systems, making them more costly and difficult to heat. We also recognise that pensioners struggling with their heating bills will also be unable to afford upgrades to home insulation.

3. Health Impacts of Cold Weather: Excess winter deaths (EWDs) remain a significant public health issue, with over 30,000 EWDs occurring in the UK each year, a majority of which affect older populations. Public Health England has reported a 1.5% increase in EWDs for each degree Celsius drop below 18°C, highlighting the vital need for sufficient home heating.

4. The Right to Warmth: Every pensioner should have the right to live in a warm and secure home. The decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment risks increasing cold-related illnesses and excess winter deaths among elderly residents who may not qualify for additional support despite being just above the Pension Credit threshold.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Oppose the Removal of Winter Fuel Payments: Strongly oppose the Government's decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to pensioners receiving Pension Credit or certain means-tested benefits and recognise the disproportionate negative impact this policy will have on some of our most vulnerable elderly residents, particularly in rural areas.

2. Call for the minister responsible for the environment: to support pensioners, by increasing funding for free home insulation schemes in order to make the winter fuel payments

go further.

3. Call for a Government Review: Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a full review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment. The Council will advocate for ensuring that all pensioners, not receiving Pension Credit but still vulnerable to fuel poverty, continue to receive essential winter fuel support. We need to see a review of all possible ways of organising a better and fairer way of assessing the needs of pensioners for receipt of the Winter Fuel Payments. This would ensure that it is targeted so that all pensioners who need the payment would receive it, not just those on the lowest incomes.

4. Engage Local MPs: Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the four Members of Parliament representing East Hertfordshire, urging them to lobby the Government for a reversal of this decision and to ensure protections are in place for vulnerable pensioners who are at risk of fuel poverty. This action is crucial given that 27,486 local pensioners may be affected by this change.

5. Promote Benefit Awareness: Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to seek additional funding for a local outreach and awareness campaign. This campaign will aim to inform pensioners about their eligibility for Pension Credit and other related benefits, particularly targeting those who are eligible but not currently claiming. This effort is intended to ensure that no pensioner misses out on support due to lack of awareness.

In summary, this Council believes the proposed changes to the Winter Fuel Payment system will cause undue hardship to many elderly residents in East Hertfordshire and calls on the Government to reconsider this decision in the interest of public health, financial stability, environmental sustainability and the wellbeing of our pensioners.

The Council then debated the substantive motion.

Councillor Redfern asked about the figure of 27,486 pensioners and she said she was not clear on whether that was the number of pensioners in East Herts or if it was the number of pensioners at the bottom of the income scale for pension credit.

Councillor Holt confirmed that it was the number of pensioners in East Herts previously eligible for the winter fuel allowance.

Councillor Hopewell said that Josh Dean MP had been doing a lot of work locally to help support pensioners and had worked with the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Hart reiterated that most pensioners fall in the lower income bracket and were not wealthy.

Councillor Butcher said that 3,850 pensioners could die in the winter directly because of this cut.

Councillor Deering said that he was pleased the Green/Liberal Democrat group agreed broadly with the motion. He made reference to the comment about the local MP and said that it was pertinent to remember that MPs were paid £91,000 a year and nearly all Labour MPs voted in favour of taking the allowance away. He said the Conservative group only disagreed with the additional paragraph because it insinuated that they were not supportive of pensioners. He said the group would be voting in favour of the substantive motion.

Councillor McAndrew said that the government were failing to process 1 in 5 claims within 50 working days. He said that some pensioners would face uncertainty for ten weeks to see if they would qualify for the vital payment.

Councillor Estop said that the motion had become political and failed to add any context. She said there was a bigger picture of the most vulnerable in society such as child poverty and housing poverty.

Councillor Parsad-Wyatt said that despite his reservations on

some of the amendment, he supported the majority if it. He said that the Labour group had chosen to talk about the previous government's choices, not their own government's choices now. He said if the motion was supported, it would send a clear signal that the Council supported its pensioners.

Having been proposed and seconded, the substantive motion was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED - This Council expresses deep concern regarding the Government's decision to amend the eligibility criteria for the Winter Fuel Payment (WFP) as outlined in the Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Regulations 2024, which were presented to Parliament on 22nd August 2024 and came into effect on 16th September 2024.

Under the new regulations, beginning in the winter of 2024/2025, households in England and Wales will only qualify for the Winter Fuel Payment if they are recipients of Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits specified by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. This change raises significant concerns, as the Government has not conducted a full impact assessment or initiated public consultation.

Age UK has estimated that 2 million pensioners who rely on this crucial support to stay warm during the winter months may be ineligible under the new criteria. Locally, in East Hertfordshire, 27,486 pensioners could lose access to this vital financial assistance, creating severe financial strain for many elderly residents and exacerbating existing health and wellbeing challenges, particularly for those just above the Pension Credit threshold.

Whilst we recognise the new Labour led government's need to deal with the debts inherited from the previous Conservative led administration we feel the burden of paying for cuts should fall on the broadest shoulders not those of the most vulnerable. We urge the government to make up the shortfall in funding through a windfall tax on energy companies in the

immediate term whilst other longer-term options are explored. Locally we have already seen the effects of austerity on the vulnerable and cannot support any extension of this approach.

In addition, we oppose further rises in the energy price cap which affect the most vulnerable adversely.

This Council Observes:

1. Impact on Vulnerable Pensioners: The removal of the Winter Fuel Payment for pensioners not receiving Pension Credit or other designated benefits is likely to disproportionately impact vulnerable elderly residents, particularly those living in rural areas where access to services and support is already limited.

2. Rural Housing Challenges: Pensioners in rural areas often reside in older, less energy-efficient homes, with over 70% of rural properties in the UK built before 1980. These homes typically suffer from inadequate insulation and outdated heating systems, making them more costly and difficult to heat. We also recognise that pensioners struggling with their heating bills will also be unable to afford upgrades to home insulation.

3. Health Impacts of Cold Weather: Excess winter deaths (EWDs) remain a significant public health issue, with over 30,000 EWDs occurring in the UK each year, a majority of which affect older populations. Public Health England has reported a 1.5% increase in EWDs for each degree Celsius drop below 18°C, highlighting the vital need for sufficient home heating.

4. The Right to Warmth: Every pensioner should have the right to live in a warm and secure home. The decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment risks increasing cold-related illnesses and excess winter deaths among elderly residents who may not qualify for additional support despite being just above the Pension Credit threshold.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Oppose the Removal of Winter Fuel Payments: Strongly

oppose the Government's decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to pensioners receiving Pension Credit or certain means-tested benefits, and recognise the disproportionate negative impact this policy will have on some of our most vulnerable elderly residents, particularly in rural areas.

2. Call for the minister responsible for the environment: to support pensioners, by increasing funding for free home insulation schemes in order to make the winter fuel payments go further.

3. Call for a Government Review: Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a full review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment. The Council will advocate for ensuring that all pensioners, not receiving Pension Credit but still vulnerable to fuel poverty, continue to receive essential winter fuel support. We need to see a review of all possible ways of organising a better and fairer way of assessing the needs of pensioners for receipt of the Winter Fuel Payments. This would ensure that it is targeted so that all pensioners who need the payment would receive it, not just those on the lowest incomes.

4. Engage Local MPs: Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the four Members of Parliament representing East Hertfordshire, urging them to lobby the Government for a reversal of this decision and to ensure protections are in place for vulnerable pensioners who are at risk of fuel poverty. This action is crucial given that 27,486 local pensioners may be affected by this change.

5. Promote Benefit Awareness: Instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to seek additional funding for a local outreach and awareness campaign. This campaign will aim to inform pensioners about their eligibility for Pension Credit and other related benefits, particularly targeting those who are eligible but not currently claiming. This effort is intended to ensure that no pensioner misses out

on support due to lack of awareness.

In summary, this Council believes the proposed changes to the Winter Fuel Payment system will cause undue hardship to many elderly residents in East Hertfordshire and calls on the Government to reconsider this decision in the interest of public health, financial stability, environmental sustainability and the wellbeing of our pensioners.

185 URGENT ITEM - MEMBER NON-ATTENDANCE WAIVER AND EXTENSION TO SIX-MONTH TIME LIMIT

The Leader of the Council represented the urgent report to Council. He said that if a member of a local authority failed throughout a period of six consecutive months to attend a qualifying meeting, they would cease to be a member unless their failure to attend was approved by the authority before the expiry of that period. He said that this report asked Council to extend the time period for Councillor Woolf due to her ongoing work commitments overseas.

Councillor Crystall proposed that the recommendations in the report be supported. Councillor Goldspink seconded the proposal.

Councillor Deering said he was grateful for the Council's supporting and understanding in bringing this report.

The motion to support the recommendations having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED - That Councillor Frankie Woolf be granted a waiver of the six-month attendance rule, in accordance with Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, and an extension of the time limit to the meeting of Council scheduled for 26 February 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Chairman
Date

COUNCIL – 11 DECEMBER 2024

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1	Carl Warnell to ask Cllr Carl Brittain, the Executive Member for Financial Sustainability
<p>I was shocked to see that at the 30th October meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee that a new system (Adelante Smart Pay) will ensure PCI compliance for residents' payments. Can the Executive Member confirm that the previous systems and processes were not PCI-DSS compliant and if so was the council fined by the PCI or its associated members, and has the council experienced any data breaches compromising residents' financial information?</p>	

Agenda Item 9

Council

Date of Meeting: 11 December 2024

Report by: Councillor Ben Crystall, Leader of the Council

Report title: Executive Report – 19 November 2024

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary

- This report details the recommendations to Council made by the Executive at its meeting on 19 November 2024.

1.0 Item considered and recommended to Council

1.1 Since the last Council meeting, the Executive met on 19 November 2024. At these meetings the Executive considered and supported a number of recommendations for Council on the following items:

1.1.1 Annual Treasury Management Review 2023/24

1.2 This report sets out the recommendation for the above items. The full report, including the Appendix, may be viewed on the council's website.

1.3 This report excludes items also considered by the Executive where those reports are separate agenda items on the Council agenda.

2.0 [Annual Treasury Management Review 2023/24](#)

2.1 The Executive was asked to recommend the revised Persistent and Unreasonable behaviour Policy to the Council.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

(a) That the Annual Treasury Management Review 2023/24 be approved.

3.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

3.1 [Executive minutes – 19 November 2024](#)

3.2 Annual Treasury Management Review 2023/24

Contact Member

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Treasury Management 2023-24 Annual Report

Treasury Management Outturn Report 2023/24

Introduction

The Authority has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve, as a minimum, treasury management semi-annual and annual outturn reports.

This report includes the requirement in the 2021 Code, mandatory from 1st April 2023, of reporting of the treasury management prudential indicators. The non-treasury prudential indicators are incorporated in the Authority's normal revenue and capital monitoring report.

The Authority's treasury management strategy for 2023/24 was approved at a meeting on March 2023. The Authority has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remains central to the Authority's treasury management strategy.

External Context

Economic background: UK inflation continued to decline from the 8.7% rate seen at the start of 2023/24. By the last quarter of the financial year headline consumer price inflation (CPI) had fallen to 3.4% in February, but was still above the Bank of England's 2% target at the end of the period. The core measure of CPI, i.e. excluding food and energy, also slowed in February to 4.5% from 5.1% in January, a rate that had stubbornly persisted for three consecutive months.

The UK economy entered a technical recession in the second half of 2023, as growth rates of -0.1% and -0.3% respectively were recorded for Q3 and Q4. Over the 2023 calendar year GDP growth only expanded by 0.1% compared to 2022. Of the recent monthly data, the Office for National Statistics reported a rebound in activity with economy expanding 0.2% in January 2024. While the economy may somewhat recover in Q1 2024, the data suggests that prior increases in interest rates and higher price levels are depressing growth, which will continue to bear down on inflation throughout 2024.

Labour market data provided a mixed message for policymakers. Employment and vacancies declined, and unemployment rose to 4.3% (3mth/year) in July 2023. The same month saw the highest annual growth rate of 8.5% for total pay (i.e. including bonuses) and 7.8% for regular pay growth (i.e. excluding bonuses). Thereafter, unemployment began to decline, falling to 3.9% (3mth/year) in January and pay growth also edged lower to 5.6% for total pay and 6.1% for regular pay, but remained above the Bank of England's forecast.

Having begun the financial year at 4.25%, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased Bank Rate to 5.25% in August 2023 with a 3-way split in the Committee's voting as the UK economy appeared resilient in the face of the dual headwinds of higher inflation and interest rates. Bank Rate was maintained at 5.25% through to March 2024. The vote at the March was 8-1 in favour of maintaining rates at this level, with the single dissenter preferring to cut rates immediately by 0.25%. Although financial markets shifted their interest rate expectations downwards with expectations of a cut in June, the MPC's focus remained on assessing how long interest rates would need to be restrictive in order to control inflation over the medium term.

In the Bank's quarterly Monetary Policy Report (MPR) released in August 2023 the near-term projection for services price inflation was revised upwards, goods price inflation widespread across products, indicating stronger domestic inflationary pressure with second-round effects in domestic prices and wages likely taking longer to unwind than they did to emerge. In the February 2024 MPR

the Bank's expectations for the UK economy were positive for the first half of 2024, with a recovery from the mild recession in calendar H2 2023 being gradual. Headline CPI was forecast to dip below the 2% target quicker than previously thought due to declining energy prices, these effects would hold inflation slightly above target for much of the forecast horizon.

Following this MPC meeting, Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that 5.25% remains the peak in Bank Rate and that interest rates will most likely start to be cut later in H2 2024. The risks in the short-term are deemed to be to the downside as a rate cut may come sooner than expected, but then more broadly balanced over the medium term.

The US Federal Reserve also pushed up rates over the period, reaching a peak range of between 5.25-5.50% in August 2023, where it has stayed since. US policymakers have maintained the relatively dovish stance from the December FOMC meeting and at the meeting in March, economic projections pointed to interest rates being cut by a total of 0.75% in 2024.

Following a similarly sharp upward trajectory, the European Central Bank hiked rates to historically high levels over period, pushing its main refinancing rate to 4.5% in September 2023, where it has remained. Economic growth in the region remains weak, with a potential recession on the cards, but inflation remains sticky and above the ECB's target, putting pressure on policymakers on how to balance these factors.

Financial markets: Sentiment in financial markets remained uncertain and bond yields continued to be volatile over the year. During the first half of the year, yields rose as interest rates continued to be pushed up in response to rising inflation. From October they started declining again before falling sharply in December as falling inflation and dovish central bank attitudes caused financial markets to expect cuts in interest rates in 2024. When it emerged in January that inflation was stickier than expected and the BoE and the Federal Reserve were data dependent and not inclined to cut rates soon, yields rose once again, ending the period some 50+ bps higher than when it started.

Over the financial year, the 10-year UK benchmark gilt yield rose from 3.44% to peak at 4.75% in August, before then dropping to 3.44% in late December 2023 and rising again to 3.92% (28th March 2024). The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 4.96% over the period to 31st March.

Credit review: In response to an improving outlook for credit markets, in January 2024 Arlingclose moved away from its previous temporary stance of a 35-day maximum duration and increased its advised recommended maximum unsecured duration limit on all banks on its counterparty list to 100 days.

Earlier in the period, S&P revised the UK sovereign outlook to stable and upgraded Barclays Bank to A+. Moody's also revised the UK outlook to stable, Handelsbanken's outlook to negative, downgraded five local authorities, and affirmed HSBC's outlook at stable while upgrading its Baseline Credit Assessment. Fitch revised UOB's and BMO's outlooks to stable.

In the final quarter of the financial year, Fitch revised the outlook on the UK sovereign rating to stable from negative based on their assessment that the risks to the UK's public finances had decreased since its previous review in October 2022, the time of the mini- budget.

Moody's, meanwhile, upgraded the long-term ratings of German lenders Helaba, Bayern LB and LBBW on better solvency and capital positions, despite challenges from a slowing German economy and exposure to the commercial real estate sector. Moody's also upgraded or placed on review for an upgrade, Australian banks including ANZ, CBA NAB and Westpac on the back of the introduction of a new bank resolution regime.

Credit default swap prices began the financial year at elevated levels following the fallout from Silicon Valley Bank and collapse/takeover of other lenders. From then the general trend was one

of falling prices and UK lenders' CDS ended the period at similar levels to those seen in early 2023. Earlier in the year some Canadian lenders saw their CDS prices rise due to concerns over a slowing domestic economy and housing market, while some German lenders were impacted by similar economic concerns and exposure to commercial real estate towards the end of the period, with LBBW remaining the most elevated.

Heightened market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and, credit default swap levels will be monitored for signs of ongoing credit stress. As ever, the institutions and durations on the Authority's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remain under constant review.

Local Context

On 31st March 2024, the Authority had net investments of £10.7 arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while balance sheet resources are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary

	31.3.23 Actual £m	31.3.24 Actual £m
General Fund CFR	40.1	60.5
Less: *Other debt liabilities	-	-
External borrowing	31.5	50.0
Internal borrowing	8.6	10.5
Less: Balance sheet resources	(23.6)	(21.2)
Net Investments	15.0	10.7

* finance leases, PFI liabilities and transferred debt that form part of the Authority's total debt

The treasury management position at 31st March and the change during the year is shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

	31.3.23 Balance £m	Movement £m	31.3.24 Balance £m	31.3.24 Rate %
Long-term borrowing				
- PWLB	(1.5)	-	(1.5)	8.875
- LOBOs	-	-	-	-
- Other	-	-	-	-
Short-term borrowing	(30.0)	(18.5)	(48.5)	4.35 - 6.9*
Total borrowing	(31.5)	(18.5)	(50.0)	
Long-term investments	19.5	(1.7)	17.8	3.20 - 3.61
Short-term investments	6.5	(6.5)	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents	8.9	3.7	12.6	5.14 - 5.20
Total investments	34.9	(4.5)	30.4	
Net investments / (borrowing)	3.4	(13.0)	(19.6)	

*Various short term loan rates, depending on loan start date.

Borrowing has increased due to major project spend. Short term investments have moved to call accounts, as interest returns are favourable and helps funds remain liquid.

Borrowing

CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code is clear that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the capital financing requirement and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Authority. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield unless these loans are for refinancing purposes.

The Authority has not invested in assets primarily for financial return or that are not primarily related to the functions of the Authority. It has no plans to do so in future.

Borrowing Strategy and Activity

As outlined in the treasury strategy, the Authority's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing lower interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change being a secondary objective. The Authority's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.

Interest rates have seen substantial rises over the last two years, although these rises have now begun to plateau. Gilt yields fell in late 2023, reaching April 2023 lows in December 2023 before rebounding to an extent in the first three months of 2024. Gilt yields have remained volatile, seeing upward pressure from perceived sticker inflation at times and downward pressure from falling inflation and a struggling economy at other times.

On 31st December, the PWLB certainty rates for maturity loans were 4.74% for 10-year loans, 5.18% for 20-year loans and 5.01% for 50-year loans. Their equivalents on 31st March 2023 were 4.33%, 4.70% and 4.41% respectively.

The cost of short term borrowing from other local authorities has generally risen with Base Rate over the year. Interest rates peaked at around 7% towards the later part of March 2024 as many authorities required cash at the same time. These rates are expected to fall back to more normal market levels in April 2024.

At 31st March 2024 the Authority held £40m of loans, an increase of £8.5m compared to 31st March 2023, as part of its strategy for funding previous and current years' capital programmes. Outstanding loans on 31st March are summarised in Table 3A below.

Table 3: Borrowing Position

	31.3.23 Balance £m	Net Movement £m	31.3.24 Balance £m	31.3.24 Weighted Average Rate %	31.4.24 Weighted Average Maturity (years)
Public Works Loan Board (long-term)	1.5	-	1.5	8.875	32
Public Works Loan Board (short-term)	-	15.0	15.0	5.37	-
Local authorities (short-term)	30.0	(5.0)	33.5	4.92	-
Total borrowing	31.5	10.0	50.0		

The Authority's short-term borrowing cost has continued to increase with the rise in Bank Rate and short-dated market rates. The average rate on the Authority's short-term loans at 31st March 2024 of £40m was 5.59%, this compares with 2.26% on £30m loans 12 months ago.

The Authority's borrowing decisions are not predicated on any one outcome for interest rates and a balanced portfolio of short-term borrowing was maintained.

Treasury Investment Activity

The CIPFA Treasury Management Code now defines treasury management investments as those investments which arise from the Authority's cash flows or treasury risk management activity that ultimately represents balances that need to be invested until the cash is required for use in the course of business.

The Authority holds invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During the year, the Authority's short term investment balances ranged between £11m and £20m due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The investment position is shown in table 4 below.

Table 4: Treasury Investment Position

	31.3.23 Balance £m	Net Movement £m	31.3.24 Balance £m	31.3.24 Income Return %	31.3.24 Weighted Average Maturity days
Banks & building societies	8	(1)	7	4.75	Call
Money Market Funds	3	3	6	5.24	Call
Other Pooled Funds:					
• Property funds	19.6	(1.9)	17.7		N/A
Total investments	30.6	0.1	30.7		

Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

As demonstrated by the liability benchmark in this report, the Authority expects to be a long-term borrower and new treasury investments are therefore primarily made to manage day-to-day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments. The existing portfolio of strategic pooled funds will be maintained to diversify risk into different asset classes and boost investment income.

Bank Rate increased by 1% over the period, from 4.25% at the beginning of April 2023 to 5.25% by the end March 2024. Short term rates peaked at 5.7% for 3-month rates and 6.7% for 12-month rates during the period, although these rates subsequently began to decline towards the end of the period.

Externally Managed Pooled Funds: Property Funds

£20m of the Authority's investments is invested in property funds and has been for a number of years, producing a much higher than market rate return. Short-term security and liquidity are

lesser considerations, and the objectives instead are regular revenue income and long-term price stability. These returns have reduced since COVID and redemptions have been frozen. These funds generated an average total loss of (£0.951m), comprising a £0.949m **actual** income return which is used to support services in year, and (£1.9m) of **unrealised** capital loss.

Capital gains or losses are not realised until the funds are redeemed. Due to the number of redemption requests one of the property funds (Lothbury) voted to terminate on 31st March 2024. The assets from the fund are being sold off and unit holders will receive the return of their funds throughout 2024-25, as and when sale receipts are received. There is a risk the funds returned maybe lower than the original principal investment, but any shortfall will be covered by our interest equalisation reserve.

The interest equalisation reserve was set up specifically, for this purpose, to mitigate any risk from property fund losses. Interest received in excess of budget since investing in these funds has been added to a reserve to offset any potential losses in principal in the future.

The second fund Hermes is still performing in way of investment returns and the unit price has started to increase in value again.

2023/24 was characterised by significant volatility in bond markets. Adjusting to central banks' intention of keeping policy rates unchanged amid persistently higher core inflation, tight labour markets and resilient growth, global bond yields rose (i.e. bond prices fell), the August-October 2023 period being a particularly weak one for bond markets with falling prices negatively impacting credit market sentiment and bond fund performance as well as weighing on multi-asset fund returns. November and December saw a turnaround with a significant fall in US and global bond yields (i.e. bond prices rising), the catalyst being a signal from the US Federal Reserve that it was prepared to cut rates in 2024. The 10-year UK gilt yield, which had increased nearly 1.25% since the beginning of the financial year fell back to 3.44% by the end of December, close to its 1st April level. Thereafter, the first quarter of 2024 proved more difficult for government bonds as stubborn inflation led fixed income markets to question if the expectation of the number of rate cuts over 2024 and the accompanying fall in yields had been overdone.

Strong demand for credit resulted in the tightening of credit spreads which was supportive of high yield corporate bonds and emerging market debt.

By contrast, shrugging off geopolitical concerns, global equities were buoyed by healthy corporate earnings, resilient economic data and moderating inflation and the view central banks had reached the peak of their rate tightening cycles. A number of indices, including the S&P 500 and Nasdaq, posted record highs driven by AI exuberance. The performance of the S&P 500 was primarily driven by its top seven tech-related mega-cap growth stocks (these securities do not heavily feature in equity income funds). After an initial period of caution due to the likelihood of recession, the UK economy fared better than anticipated with a shallow recession, falling inflation and improved consumer confidence providing support for UK equities, with stocks trading at attractive valuations relative to their global peers. The FTSE All-Share was one of the top performing stock markets in September and December 2023. The total return on the FTSE All Share index for the 12 months ending March 2024 was 8.2%, FTSE 100 was 8.1% and MSCI All World was 25.7%.

The market background for commercial property improved marginally in 2023 and was more stable, in contrast to the very challenging backdrop of 2022. Low transactional volumes were a constraint on valuations and made prospective sellers and buyers more cautious. Although many sectors lacked momentum, there was growing confidence in the longer-term outlook as occupier demand and rental markets held up. Industrial and retail warehousing sectors remained strong, but the retail and offices sectors remained weak, the latter continuing to be hindered by low occupancy from hybrid working practices.

Income returns from the property funds still exceeded the budget, averaging 3.20% and 3.61%. A reduction in income had been forecast due to the current economic climate, however returns were higher than expected. The Authority had budgeted £700k income from these investments in 2023/24. Income received up to 31st March was £720k, whilst a further £229k has been declared and was received in April and May 2024 .

Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after an agreed redemption period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Authority's medium- to long-term investment objectives are regularly reviewed. Strategic fund investments are made in the knowledge that capital values will move both up and down on months, quarters and even years and with the expectation that over a three- to five-year period total returns should exceed cash interest rates.

Statutory override: In April 2023 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) published the full outcome of the consultation on the extension of the statutory override on accounting for gains and losses on pooled investment funds. The override has been extended until 31st March 2025, but no other changes have been made; whether the override will be extended beyond this date is unknown but commentary to the consultation outcome suggests it will not. The Authority will discuss with Arlingclose the implications for the investment strategy and what action may need to be taken.

Non-Treasury Investments

The definition of investments in the Treasury Management Code now covers all the financial assets of the Authority as well as other non-financial assets which the Authority holds primarily for financial return. Investments that do not meet the definition of treasury management investments (i.e. management of surplus cash) are categorised as either for service purposes (made explicitly to further service objectives) and or for commercial purposes (made primarily for financial return).

Investment Guidance issued by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and Welsh Government also includes within the definition of investments all such assets held partially or wholly for financial return.

The Authority also held £4.9m of such investments in Millstream Property Investments Limited broken down as follows:

- shareholding in subsidiaries £1.6m
- loans to subsidiaries £3.3m

These investments generated £0.141m of investment income for the Authority, from the commercial loan, representing a rate of return of 4.73%.

Consultations

In December DLUHC published two consultations: a “final” consultation on proposed changes to regulations and statutory guidance on MRP closing on 16th February and a “call for views” on capital measures to improve sector stability and efficiency closing on 31st January.

Draft regulations and draft statutory guidance are included in the MRP consultation. The proposals remain broadly the same as those in June 2022 - to limit the scope for authorities to (a) make no MRP on parts of the capital financing requirement (CFR) and (b) to use capital receipts in lieu of a revenue charge for MRP.

In its call for views on capital measures, government wishes to engage with councils to identify and develop options for the use of capital resources and borrowing to support and encourage ‘invest-to-save’ activity and to manage budget pressures without seeking exceptional financial support.

Whilst Government has identified some options including allowing authorities to capitalise general cost pressures and meet these with capital receipts, there is no commitment to take any of the options forward.

Compliance

The Chief Finance Officer reports that all treasury management activities undertaken during the year complied fully with the principles in the Treasury Management Code and the Authority's approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in table 5 below.

Table 5: Investment Limits

	2023/24 Maximum £ limit	2023/24 Max Maturity	31.3.24 Actual £m	2023/24 Max % of Total Investments	Complied?
DMADF - UK Government	Unlimited	6 months (max. is set by the DMO*)	-	100%	Yes
UK Gilts	Unlimited	5 years	-	100%	Yes
UK Treasury Bills	Unlimited	364 days	-	100%	Yes
Bonds issued by multilateral development banks	£10m with any one banking group/institution	5 years	-	40%	Yes
Money Market Funds CNAV	£10m with any one fund	Liquid	-	100%	Yes
Money Market Funds LNAV	£10m with any one fund	Liquid	5.6	95%	Yes
Money Market Funds VNAV	£10m with any one fund	Liquid	-	95%	Yes
Ultra-Short Dated Bond Funds with a credit score of 1.25	£10m with any one banking group/institution	Liquid	-	100%	Yes
Ultra-Short Dated Bond Funds with a credit score of 1.5	£10m with any one banking group/institution	Liquid	-	100%	Yes
Local Authorities	Unlimited	5 Years	-	100%	Yes
Term Deposits with Banks and Building Societies	£10m with any one banking group/institution	100 days - 12 months depending on credit rating	7.0	100%	Yes
CDs or Corporate Bonds with Banks and Building Societies	£10m with any one banking group/institution	100 days - 12 months depending on credit rating	-	100%	Yes
Gilt Funds	£10m with any one banking group/institution	As per Credit Criteria	-	100%	Yes

Structured deposits	£10m with any one banking group/institution	As per Credit Criteria	-	100%	Yes
Certificates of deposit issued by banks and building societies	£10m with any one banking group/institution	As per Credit Criteria	-	100%	Yes
Corporate bonds	£10m with any one banking group/institution	5 Years	-	50%	Yes
Floating rate notes	£10m with any one banking group/institution	5 Years	-	50%	Yes
Property Funds	£10m at fund entry per fund	Term is not fixed	17.7	Maximum of 2 funds at any one time	Yes

*DMO - is the Debt Management Office of HM Treasury

Compliance with the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt is demonstrated in table 8 below.

Table 8: Debt and the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary

	2023/24 Maximum £m	31.3.24 Actual £m	2023/24 Operational Boundary £m	2023/24 Authorised Limit £m	Complied?
Borrowing	58.5	50.0	80.0	180.0	Yes
PFI and Finance Leases	-	-	10.0	10.0	Yes
Total debt	58.5	50.0	90.0	190.0	Yes

Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the operational boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure. Total debt did not breach the operational boundary for the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

As required by the 2021 CIPFA Treasury Management Code, the Authority monitors and measures the following treasury management prudential indicators.

1. Liability Benchmark:

This new indicator compares the Authority's actual existing borrowing against a liability benchmark that has been calculated to show the lowest risk level of borrowing. The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. It represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level of £10m required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

	31.3.23 Actual	31.3.24 Actual
Loans CFR	40.1	60.5
Less: Balance sheet resources	(23.6)	(21.2)
Net loans requirement	16.5	39.3
Plus: Liquidity allowance	10.0	10.0
Liability benchmark	16.5	49.3
Existing borrowing	31.5	50.0

Whilst borrowing may be above the liability benchmark, strategies involving borrowing which is significantly above the liability benchmark carry higher risk.

The Authorities actual borrowing is above the liability benchmark due to our long-term investment in property funds not being liquid, so not immediately available to offset borrowing. The cost of this additional borrowing is partially offset by the investment return from these funds. One of these funds terminated in 2024/25, assets are currently being sold and funds being distributed back to unitholders, these distributions are being used to reduce short-term borrowing.

2. Maturity Structure of Borrowing: This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of all borrowing were:

	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	31.3.24 Actual	Complied?
Under 12 months	100%	0%	97.0%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	100%	0%	0%	Yes
24 months and within 5 years	30%	0%	0%	Yes
5 years and within 10 years	30%	0%	0%	Yes
10 years and above	35%	0%	3.0%	Yes

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment. The authority opted to remain with short term borrowing (below 12 months), for its new borrowing and refinancing. Although this does expose the authority to further interest rate increases, any increases are unlikely to be long term and it allows for the authority to lock in lower rates, on the longer term, when interest rates fall.

3. Long-term Treasury Management Investments: The purpose of this indicator is to control the Authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The prudential limits on the long-term treasury management limits are:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£30m	£30m	£30m
Actual principal invested beyond year end	£20m	-	-
Complied?	Yes	-	-

Long-term investments with no fixed maturity date include strategic pooled funds, real estate investment trusts and directly held equity but exclude money market funds and bank accounts with no fixed maturity date as these are considered short-term.

Additional indicators:

The changes in interest rates during the year were:

	<u>31/3/23</u>	<u>31/3/24</u>
Bank Rate	4.25%	5.25%
1-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.78%	5.36%
5-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.31%	4.68%
10-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.33%	4.74%
20-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.70%	5.18%
50-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.41%	5.01%

Agenda Item 10

East Herts Council Report

Leadership Team Meeting

Date of meeting: Tuesday 3 December 2024

Report by: Helen Standen – Interim Chief Executive

Report title: Appointment of S151 Officer

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Summary – In accordance with section 151 of the Local Government act 1972, Mathew Crosby to be confirmed as the Council's Interim Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

- a) **That the appointment of Mathew Crosby as the Council's Interim Chief Financial Officer and Section 151 Officer be approved**

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 That the appointment of Mathew Crosby commencing 2nd December 2024 as Interim Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer be confirmed.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has a duty to appoint a Chief Financial Officer ("S.151 Officer").
- 2.2 As a result of the departure of Steven Linnett, following his retirement as S.151 Officer, with effect from 1st December 2024,

an interim appointment has been made, whilst recruitment to the permanent role takes place. Mathew Crosby has been appointed to the role of Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer on an interim basis with effect from 2nd December 2024. Mathew is fully conversant with the responsibilities and the powers given to the s.151 role.

2.3 Part 2, Chapter 10 of the Council's Constitution provides, at Item 2j, that the Council will engage designated chief officers. The posts listed include the Chief Financial (s.151 Officer). The appointment of the Chief Financial Officer is to be carried out by the Chief Executive, and ratified by Council.

3.0 Reason(s)

3.1 To comply with the requirements of section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

4.0 Options

4.1 NONE

5.0 Risks

5.1 The Council would act unlawfully by not appointing an Officer to the post of s.151 Officer

6.0 Implications/Consultations

6.1 The Leader and Executive Member for Financial Sustainability have been advised and kept informed

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No – the role was offered to any qualified applicant through an agency tender

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

Yes – The appointment of an Interim will always attract a higher premium, however, this will be partly offset by the salary of the retiring S151.

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

Yes – Senior HR Advisor has been involved in the appointment and supports

Human Rights

No

Legal

Yes- it is a legal requirement for the Council to have a named S151 officer

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 NONE

Contact Member

Leader of the Council

ben.crystall@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer

Interim Chief Executive,

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Report Author

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Agenda Item 11

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date of meeting: Tuesday 3 December 2024

Report by: Councillor Carl Brittain – Executive Member for Financial Sustainability

Report title: Council Tax Base 2025/26

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Summary – To recommend to the Council the calculation of the council tax base for the whole district, and for each parish and town council, for 2025/26

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL

- a) the calculation of the Council's tax base for the whole district, and for the parish areas, for 2025/26 be approved.
- b) pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by East Hertfordshire District Council as its council tax base for the whole area for 2025/26 shall be 65,314.04 and for the parish areas listed below for 2025/26 shall be as follows:-

ALBURY	291.28
ANSTEY	174.55
ARDELEY	223.48
ASPENDEN	123.14
ASTON	479.43
BAYFORD	232.85
BENGEO	286.35
BENNINGTON	409.26
BISHOP'S STORTFORD	17946.44
BRAMFIELD	107.81
BRAUGHING	676.09
BRENT PELHAM / MEESDEN	148.09
BRICKENDON	367.49
BUCKLAND	111.88
BUNTINGFORD	3246.18
COTTERED	318.36
DATCHWORTH	737.37
EASTWICK / GILSTON	438.41
FURNEUX PELHAM	273.14
GREAT AMWELL	972.92
GREAT MUNDEN	143.43
HERTFORD	12772.92
HERTFORD HEATH	976.38
HERTINGFORDBURY	334.80

HIGH WYCH	354.53
HORMEAD	368.71
HUNSDON	520.08
LITTLE BERKHAMPSTEAD	283.77
LITTLE HADHAM	551.22
LITTLE MUNDEN	426.12
MUCH HADHAM	980.55
SACOMBE	88.99
STANSTEAD ST. MARGARETS	703.38
SAWBRIDGEWORTH	4140.86
STANDON	2038.65
STANSTEAD ABBOTTS	736.38
STAPLEFORD	267.11
STOCKING PELHAM	84.74
TEWIN	858.03
THORLEY	151.64
THUNDRIDGE	729.31
WALKERN	723.36
WARESIDE	312.99
WARE TOWN	7596.80
WATTON - AT - STONE	1073.26
WESTMILL	159.75
WIDFORD	293.65
WYDDIAL	78.11

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Calculation of the council tax base is governed by statutory regulation and the Council has limited discretion.
- 1.2 As a billing authority the council must notify the County Council and the Police Authority of the tax base and must do this between 1 December and 31 January preceding the tax year. The Council must also tell a parish what their tax base is within 10 working days of any written request.
- 1.3 The tax base will be used by the Council when setting the rates of council tax at the March Council meeting. The tax base calculations must be made by the Authority as a whole.
- 1.4 The regulations set out the following formula to be used to calculate the tax base:-

Tax base = A x B

(A is the total of the “relevant amounts”)

(B is the estimated collection rate)

Item A, the total of “relevant amounts” is found by a second formula:-

$$\text{Item A} = (H - Q + E + J) - Z \times (F / G)$$

where:

H is the estimated number of dwellings, which are shown in the valuation list at 15 September 2024, adjusted for exemptions.

Q is a factor to take account of the discounts to which the amount of Council Tax payable was subject on the relevant day.

E is a factor to take account of the premiums, if any, to which the amount of Council Tax payable was subject on the relevant day.

J is the amount of any adjustment in respect of changes in the number of chargeable dwellings, discounts or premiums calculated by the authority.

Z Is the total amount that the authority estimates will be applied pursuant to the authority’s council tax reduction scheme in relation to the band, expressed as an equivalent number of chargeable dwellings in that band.

E converts the number of dwellings in each valuation band to a

G “Band D” equivalent.

Item A can be summarised as the effective number of equivalent Band D properties after taking the actual number in each valuation band and allowing for valuation changes, for errors and appeals, new properties, periods of exemption, reductions for disabled persons and discounts for single occupiers and unoccupied properties, and the Council Tax reduction scheme.

2.0 Reason(s)

2.1 The Following assumptions have been made:

Number of Taxable properties

2.2 For 2025/26 it is assumed that there will be limited new completions with a net addition of 715 new properties by 31 March 2026. These have been allocated to parish areas on the basis of development in hand and planning approvals. It is assumed that all new dwellings will be exempt for the first three months and that a proportion of discounts will apply thereafter. No valuation increases have been assumed for improvements and extensions as these do not take effect until properties are sold on.

2.3 It has been assumed that 227 properties will qualify for disabled persons reductions, based on experience in the current year.

2.4 A figure of 986 exemptions/voids is included in line with the current position. Further increases will have a negative impact on the tax base.

Collection Rate

2.5 Item B in the tax base formula is the estimate of the collection rate for 2025/26. For 2025/26 this will be 98.5%, which is 0.4% lower than 2024/25.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

Equality impact analysis was undertaken with the Equality and Diversity officer. As this work affects the entire district, and as discounts and disregards awarded on the basis of age, disability or marital status are determined by central government, there are no equality or diversity implications for this work.

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

Only as referenced in the report

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

The tax base must be calculated in accordance with legislation

Specific Wards

No

Contact Member**Councillor Carl Brittain**

Executive Member for Financial Sustainability

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(delete is not applicable)

Contact Officer**Graeme Reid**

Council Tax Manager,

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Report Author

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Agenda Item 12

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date of meeting: Wednesday 11 December 2024

Report by: Councillor Joe Dumont – Executive Member for Corporate Services

Report title: Polling District and Places Review 2024

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Summary – To approve the list of polling stations following the Polling Districts and Polling Places review.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

a) That the proposals for Polling Districts and Polling Places in the District, at Appendix A, be adopted and applied to all future elections until the next review in 2029.

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 Following the Polling Districts and Polling Place review, 17 polling stations within five polling districts were identified as stations that may need to change following feedback from electors and availability of the stations.

1.2 No changes to polling districts have been proposed as part of this review.

1.2 Appendix A shows a list of the proposed polling stations. The elections team have visited the suggested sites and have been

in contact with the owners of the buildings and are awaiting agreement to use them as stations. The polling station will revert to the current place if agreement is not reached.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, the council are required to conduct a review of all Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places in the District every five years.
- 2.2 The council must have undertaken and completed a review of all Parliamentary Polling Districts and Places in its area within 16 months, commencing 1 October 2023 (i.e by 31 January 2025).
- 2.3 The review relates to Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places but it is recommended that the proposals be adopted for use in all elections in the district.
- 2.4 The last full review was carried out in 2019 and an interim review was carried out in 2023 following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Review of the District.
- 2.5 There are no proposals to change any polling districts in the review but there are some changes to polling stations proposed.
- 2.6 The review has also taken into account feedback received from electors at previous elections and from surveys carried out by the polling station inspectors into the suitability of stations from the Police and Crime Commissioner election in May 2024

and the Parliamentary election in July 2024.

- 2.7 The review has tried to find alternative locations in polling districts that currently use a school as its polling station. Schools often have to close on polling days due to safeguarding concerns which impacts on student learning. Schools may have to continue to be used where no other suitable location in the polling district can be found.
- 2.8 Outside of a compulsory review, a Polling Place could become unavailable at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances. Should this occur, the potential need to identify an alternative location is delegated to the Chief Executive under paragraph 10.9.2(t) of the council's Constitution.
- 2.9 As part of the review, local authorities must consider the accessibility of potential polling stations when considering designating a polling place so that each polling place, so as far as it reasonable and practicable, is accessible to electors who are disabled.
- 2.10 The Council is required to consult the Acting Returning Officer for every parliamentary constituency that is wholly or partly within its area. East Hertfordshire has four parliamentary constituencies within its boundary, and it is responsible for the Hertford and Stortford constituency. The other constituencies are: Broxbourne (Broxbourne Borough Council), North East Hertfordshire (North Hertfordshire District Council) and Stevenage (Stevenage Borough Council). Any representations received from the Acting Returning Officers must be published within thirty days of their receipt. These representations have

been published on the website [here](#).

2.11 The proposals were available on the council's website and available to be inspected at its offices and the consultation was open from 30 October to 28 November 2024. The following groups were sent a link to the consultation:

- Members of East Hertfordshire District Council
- All town/parish councils
- The Acting Returning Officers for the Broxbourne, North East Hertfordshire and Stevenage constituencies

2.12 The responses received to the consultation are set out at Appendix B within the consultation document.

2.13 Proposals for change

Buntingford

2.14 BUN1 – The polling station is currently at The Countryman Inn (SG9 0PG) but the site that the Inn resides on is due for development. The Inn was used for the Police a Crime Commissioner and the Parliamentary Elections in 2024 but there is uncertainty as to the future use of the venue. During the review, it was highlighted that it could still be used as a polling station and are currently awaiting confirmation on this. Currently no proposed change to this polling station.

2.15 BUN2 – The Seth Ward Community Centre. This Polling Place has three stations within it as the register is split into three due to large elector numbers. The review considered whether the triple station was confusing to electors and whether it would be possible to move one register back to the Manor House which used to be the polling station for this district until electorate numbers were too large. Feedback received during the review

was that moving one station back to the Manor House would be more confusing than three stations in one building. The team visited the Seth Ward Community Centre and met councillors from the Town Council to discuss making the triple station more user friendly with additional signage and more staff on polling day to direct electors. Therefore no change is proposed for this polling district.

- 2.16 BUN4 – The Restaurant at the Fox Public House - the pub has recently changed ownership and the new owner no longer wishes for it to be used as a polling station. Two alternative venues have been proposed: St Mary’s Church within the village or the Seth Ward Community Centre which sits just outside the polling district. It would be preferable to use St Mary’s Church as it sits in the polling district and the Seth Ward Community Centre is already a triple station. Concerns have been raised that the Church is up a hill but if it is agreed as a polling station, letters will be sent to electors informing them of the change and encourage them to apply for a postal vote if they would be unable to access the station due to its location.

Bishop’s Stortford South

- 2.17 BSS1 – The Bishop’s Stortford High School. This site is no longer available and there have been previous suggestions to use Richard Whittington Primary School or Thorley Hill Primary School as suitable alternatives, however both schools have asked not to be used if possible. Following the review, a suggestion proposed is using the Bishop’s Stortford Baptist Church Centre, Twyford Road.
- 2.18 BSS2, BSS3, BSS4 – St Barnabus Centre. There have been issues raised in the past from residents about the parking and location of this polling station. The review was unable to

identify a suitable alternative location so propose no change to this station. However, comments were received in the consultation that a community centre was planned for St James' Park which, when constructed, could be considered as a future alternative location.

Hertford Castle

- 2.19 HCA3 – Morgans Primary School. Morgans Primary School has asked to not be used as a polling station. County Hall was used for the recent Hertford Town Council By-Election and the venue and site received positive feedback from the electorate so the proposal is to use Hertfordshire County Hall as a replacement venue for HCA3.

Hertford Sele

- 2.20 HSE1, HSE5 – Sele School (The Hub). School venue ideally would prefer not to be used and feedback from electors is that there is poor parking, lighting and access. Following the review, there has been a suggestion to use Sele Community Hub, Fleming Crescent SG14 which is owned by Network Homes. The venue has been approached to seek agreement to use venue as a polling station. If no agreement, then the polling station will remain at Sele School.

- 2.21 HSE2 - St Joseph's RC School. The school would prefer not to be used as a polling station. However, the review found no alternative location in the polling district and it is understood that the school does not close on polling day as they relocate some students for the day.

Ware Trinity

2.22 WTR2, WTR3, WTR4 – Larkspur Academy. The school would prefer not to be used as a polling station. Following the consultation, an alternative location has been suggested at Ware Football Club. The venue has been approached to seek agreement to use venue as a polling station. If no agreement, then the polling station will remain at Larkspur Academy School.

3.0 Reason(s)

3.1 Under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, the council are required to conduct a review of all Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places in the District every five years.

4.0 Options

4.1 APPROVE – recommended to ensure that the polling places across the district are suitable and accessible for every elector.

4.2 NOT APPROVE – not recommended as the council are required in legislation to review its polling districts and polling places every five years.

5.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

This report seeks to ensure that the council and Returning Officer comply with both the Elections Act provisions to assist voters with a disability in addition to the duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

The review has been carried out within existing resources and there are no financial implications arising from this report.

Health and Safety

Yes – polling stations should be accessible to all electors and this has been assessed in the list of polling stations.

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires that a Polling District and Polling Places review is undertaken within 16 months commencing on 1 October 2023. Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 sets out the legal framework of the review.

Specific Wards

All wards

6.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

6.1 [The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013](#)

6.2 [Published notice of the review and associated documents](#)

6.3 [Polling District and Places Review 2019](#)

Contact Member

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Contact Officer

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Reference	District(s)	Polling Place
1/ADW1	ADW1	Aston Village Hall, 9 New Park Lane, Aston, SG2 7ED
2/ADW2	ADW2	Datchworth Village Hall, 52 Datchworth Green, Datchworth, SG3 6TL
3/ADW3	ADW3	Benington Village Hall, Annex - Poppy Room, 3 Walkern Road, SG2 7LN
4/ADW4	ADW4	Walkern Sports and Community Centre, Jubilee Pavilion, High Street, SG2 7NP
5/BRS1	BRS1	Old Boys School Braughing, Church End, SG11 2QA
6/BRS2	BRS2	Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre, Station Road, SG11 1TF
7/BRS3	BRS3	Standon Village Hall, Hadham Road, Standon, SG11 1LE
8/BRS4	BRS4	Standon Village Hall, Hadham Road, Standon, SG11 1LE
9/BSA1	BSA1	All Saints Vestry, Stansted Road, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2DY
10/BSA2	BSA2	Herts & Essex Sports Centre, Beldams Lane, CM23 5LH
11/BSA3	BSA3	South Mill Arts, 1-3 South Road, CM23 3JG
12/BSC1	BSC1	Wesley Hall Methodist Church, 34B South Street, CM23 3AZ
13/BSC2	BSC2	Havers Community Centre, 1 Knights Row, Waytemore Road, CM23 3GR
14/BSC3	BSC3	Windhill Churches Centre, The Charnley Hall, Old Monastery Gardens, CM23 2PE
15/BSC4	BSC4	South Mill Arts, 1-3 South Road, CM23 3JG
16/BSN1	BSN1	Bishops Park Community Centre, The Club Room, Lancaster Way, CM23 4DA
17/BSN2	BSN2	Bishops Park Community Centre, The Club Room, Lancaster Way, CM23 4DA
18/BSN3	BSN3	Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre, Rye Street, CM23 2HH
19/BSN3	BSN3	Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre, Rye Street, CM23 2HH
20/BSP1	BSP1	Parsonage Community Hall, Parsonage Lane, CM23 5PY
21/BSP2	BSP2	Parsonage Community Hall, Parsonage Lane, CM23 5PY
22/BSP2	BSP2	Parsonage Community Hall, Parsonage Lane, CM23 5PY
23/BSS1	BSS1	Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church Centre, Twyford Road
24/BSS2	BSS2	The St. Barnabas Centre, Church Lane, CM23 4BE
25/BSS3	BSS3	The St. Barnabas Centre, Church Lane, CM23 4BE
26/BSS4	BSS4	The St. Barnabas Centre, Church Lane, CM23 4BE
27/BST1	BST1	St. Michael's Mead Community Centre, Turners Crescent, St Michaels Mead, CM23 4FZ
28/BST2	BST2	Thorley Community Centre, Friedberg Avenue, CM23 4RF
29/BST3	BST3	Windhill Churches Centre, The Charnley Hall, Old Monastery Gardens, CM23 2PE
30/BST4	BST4	Thorley Community Centre, Friedberg Avenue, CM23 4RF
31/BUN1	BUN1	The Countryman Inn, Ermine Street, Chipping, SG9 0PG
32/BUN2	BUN2	Seth Ward Community Centre, Campbell Hall, Luynes Rise, SG9 9SG
33/BUN2	BUN2	Seth Ward Community Centre, Campbell Hall, Luynes Rise, SG9 9SG
34/BUN2	BUN2	Seth Ward Community Centre, Campbell Hall, Luynes Rise, SG9 9SG
35/BUN3	BUN3	Rosemead, Moles Lane, SG9 0EX
36/BUN4	BUN4	St Mary's Church, Aspenden, SG9 9FG
37/BUN5	BUN5	Cottered Village Hall, Cottered, SG9 9RA
38/BUN6	BUN6	Great Hornead Village Hall, Hall Lane, SG9 0NZ
39/GAS1	GAS1	Great Amwell Parish Hall, Hillside Lane, SG12 9SH
40/GAS2	GAS2	St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club, Recreation Ground, Station Road, SG12 8EH
41/GAS3	GAS3	St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club, Recreation Ground, Station Road, SG12 8EH
42/GAS4	GAS4	Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall, Roydon Road, SG12 8EZ
43/HBE1	HBE1	Bengeo Recreational Ground, New Road, Bengeo, SG14 3JL
44/HBE2	HBE2	The Bengeo Club, Bengeo Street, SG14 3E5
45/HBE3	HBE3	3rd Hertford Scout Headquarters, Port Vale, SG14 3AF
46/HBE4	HBE4	St. Andrew's Church Centre, St. Andrew Street, SG14 1HZ
47/HCA1	HCA1	Hertford Library, Dolphin Yard, 10 Maidenhead Street, SG14 1DR
48/HCA2	HCA2	The Brace Room, St Mary's Church, St Mary's Lane, SG14 2LD
49/HCA3	HCA3	Main Reception, County Hall, Pegs Lane
50/HCA4	HCA4	Hornsmill Community Centre, 115E Cecil Road, SG13 8HS
51/HHB1	HHB1	Hertford Heath Village Hall, 121 London Road, SG13 7RH
52/HHB2	HHB2	Fanshaws Room, Brickendon Liberty Village Hall, Brickendon Green, SG13 8PB
53/HK11	HK11	Pinehurst Community Centre, Birdie Way, SG13 7SX
54/HK12	HK12	Communal Lounge, Sheltered Housing, Braziers Field, SG13 7JS
55/HK13	HK13	Hertford Methodist Church Hall, Ware Road, SG13 7DZ
56/HRR1	HRR1	Bayford Memorial Hall, 27 Ashdene Road, Bayford, SG13 8PX
57/HRR2	HRR2	Hertingfordbury Cowper School, Birch Green, SG14 2LR
58/HRR3	HRR3	Little Berkhamsted Village Hall, Church Road, Little Berkhamsted, SG13 8LY
59/HRR4	HRR4	Tewin Memorial Hall, 11 Lower Green, Tewin, AL6 0JX
60/HRR5	HRR5	Tewin Memorial Hall, 11 Lower Green, Tewin, AL6 0JX
61/HSE1	HSE1	The Sele School (Training Hub), Welwyn Road, SG14 2DG
62/HSE2	HSE2	St. Joseph's RC School, North Road, SG14 2BY
63/HSE3	HSE3	Sele Farm Community Centre, 25 Perrett Gardens, SG14 2LW
64/HSE4	HSE4	Sele Farm Community Centre, 25 Perrett Gardens, SG14 2LW
65/HSE5	HSE5	The Sele School (Training Hub), Welwyn Road, SG14 2DG
66/HUN1	HUN1	Gilston and Eastwick Village Hall, Pye Corner, CM20 2RB
67/HUN2	HUN2	Hunston Village Hall, 45 High Street, SG12 8NJ
68/HUN3	HUN3	Gilston and Eastwick Village Hall, Pye Corner, CM20 2RB
69/LHP1	LHP1	Albury Village Hall, The Bourne, Clappgate, SG11 2JD
70/LHP2	LHP2	Furneux Pelham Village Hall, Barleycroft End, SG9 0LL
71/LHP3	LHP3	Little Hadham Village Hall, The Ford, Little Hadham, SG11 2BP
72/LHP4	LHP4	Stocking Pelham Village Hall, Stocking Pelham, Ginn's Road, SG9 0HZ
73/LHP5	LHP5	Anstey Village Hall, Anstey, SG9 0BY
74/LHP6	LHP6	Brent Pelham Village Hall, Nr. Buntingford, SG9 0HE
75/LHP7	LHP7	Meesden Village Hall, Buntingford, SG9 0BD
76/MHA1	MHA1	Allens Green Village Hall, High Wych, Allens Green, CM21 0LR
77/MHA2	MHA2	High Wych Memorial Hall, High Wych Road, CM21 0HX
78/MHA3	MHA3	Much Hadham Village Hall, Oudle Lane, Much Hadham, SG10 6DQ
79/MHA4	MHA4	The Mission Hall, Green Tye, Much Hadham, SG10 6JP
80/MUN1	MUN1	Ardeley Village Hall, Ardeley, SG2 7AG
81/MUN2	MUN2	Westmill Village Hall, Westmill Village Green, Westmill, SG9 9LG
82/MUN3	MUN3	Great Munden Church, Nr. Munden Bury, Great Munden, SG11 1HG
83/MUN4	MUN4	Little Munden Memorial Hall, Dane End, SG12 0NB
84/MUN5	MUN5	Little Munden Memorial Hall, Dane End, SG12 0NB
85/MUN6	MUN6	Tonwell Village Hall, 10 Ware Road, Tonwell, SG12 0HN
86/SAW1	SAW1	The Hailey Day Centre, Sayesbury Manor, 18 Bell Street, CM21 9AN
87/SAW1	SAW1	The Hailey Day Centre, Sayesbury Manor, 18 Bell Street, CM21 9AN
88/SAW2	SAW2	Leventhorpe School, Cambridge Road, CM21 9BY
89/SAW3	SAW3	The Bullfields Centre, Cutforth Road, CM21 9EA
90/SAW4	SAW4	Leventhorpe School, Cambridge Road, CM21 9BY
91/WAS1	WAS1	The Nigel Poulton Community Hall, Sports Field, School Lane, SG14 3SF
92/WAS2	WAS2	Bramfield Village Hall, Bury Lane, SG14 2QL
93/WAS3	WAS3	Stapleford Village Hall, Stapleford, SG14 3PA
94/WPR1	WPR1	Ware Drill Hall, 17 Amwell End, SG12 9HP
95/WPR1	WPR1	Ware Drill Hall, 17 Amwell End, SG12 9HP
96/WPR2	WPR2	Priory Hall, The Priory, High Street, SG12 9AL
97/WPR3	WPR3	Christ Church Hall, New Road, SG12 7BS
98/WRR1	WRR1	Thundridge Village Hall, Ermine Street, SG12 0SY
99/WRR2	WRR2	High Cross Village Hall, North Drive, SG11 1AR
100/WRR3	WRR3	Wareside Village Hall, Wareside, SG12 7QA
101/WRR4	WRR4	Widford Village Hall, Bell Lane, SG12 8SH
102/WSM1	WSM1	Scout Headquarters, Poles Lane, SG12 0SF
103/WSM2	WSM2	Royal British Legion Hall, 12 Gladstone Road, SG12 0AG
104/WSM3	WSM3	Age Concern Hall, Garland Room, Priory Street, SG12 0DE
105/WSM4	WSM4	St. Mary's Junior School, Heath Drive, SG12 0RL
106/WTR1	WTR1	Christ Church Hall, New Road, SG12 7BS
107/WTR2	WTR2	Ware Youth Football Club, Trinity Playing Fields, Fanhams Hall Rd, Ware SG12 7NN
108/WTR3	WTR3	Ware Youth Football Club, Trinity Playing Fields, Fanhams Hall Rd, Ware SG12 7NN
109/WTR4	WTR4	Ware Youth Football Club, Trinity Playing Fields, Fanhams Hall Rd, Ware SG12 7NN

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

Overview of East Herts District Council polling district and polling station review – there are 26 districts that consist of 91 polling stations split over 109 electorate registers. The district is deemed as mainly rural with 4 larger towns.

Following the interim review of Polling District and Polling Places for 2024 and analysis of representatives received please see below the final recommendations of the review.

The consultation document consists of three key appendixes.

Key for Document Quick Reference.

No Shading	NO Proposed Changes
Amber	Venues NO longer available for use as Polling Station
Green	Proposed Changes for Polling Stations
Blue	Double or Triple Polling Stations
Purple	Schools – There has been a directive, if possible, AVOID using educational facilities as Polling Station Venues
Grey	Responses to comments on current polling stations resolutions sought

APPENDIX ONE: 13 Districts or 49 Polling Stations - NO proposed changes.

APPENDIX TWO: 8 Districts with 25 Polling Stations - NO proposed changes, however we will endeavour to improve the electorate experience in these areas. The main challenges/issues raised in these polling districts and stations are poor lighting and lack of parking.

Lighting we can address, wherever possible /provide additional lighting on polling days.

Car Parking facilities are a little more difficult to resolve, however where there are known polling stations that have a lack of car parking facilities we can write out to the electorate in these areas and offer postal votes, pointing out poor parking.

APPENDIX THREE: 5 Districts with 17 Polling Stations – These are polling stations that have been identified as not fit for purpose or are educational facilities that would prefer not to be used as polling stations.

Recommendations for consideration for these polling stations are included in appendix three.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

APPENDIX ONE - No changes are proposed in the following district areas/polling stations during this 2024 consultation process.

- Aston, Datchworth and Walkern
- Bishop’s Stortford North
- Braughing and Standon
- Great Amwell and Stansteads
- Hertford Bengoe
- Hertford Heath and Brickendon
- Gilston and Hunsdon
- Little Hadham and The Pelhams
- Much Hadham
- The Mundens
- Watton-at-Stone
- Ware Priory
- Ware Rural

ASTON, DATCHWORTH AND WALKERN - NO PROPOSED CHANGE

The map of the Aston, Datchworth and Walkern ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
ADW1	Stevenage	Hertford Rural	Aston Parish Council	405	703	534	169
ADW2	Stevenage	Hertford Rural	Datchworth Parish Council	651	1257	969	288
ADW3	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Benington Parish Council	386	699	579	120
ADW4	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Walkern Parish Council	716	1229	1011	218

All figures July Register

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024**POLLING PLACE**

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
ADW1	Aston Village Hall – SG2 7ED.	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
ADW2	Datchworth Village Hall – SG3 6TL.	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
ADW3	Benington Village Hall – SG2 7LN.	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
ADW4	Walkern Sports and Community Centre – SG2 7NP.	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

BISHOP'S STORTFORD NORTH - NO PROPOSED CHANGE

The map of the Bishop Stortford Central ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
BSN1	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford West	Silverley's	971	1374	1163	211
BSN2	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford West	Silverley's	1138	1927	1493	434
BSN3	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford East	Chantry	1849	2823	2317	506

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
BSN1	Bishops Park Community Centre	No reported issues. No proposed changes.
BSN2	Bishops Park Community Centre	No reported issues. No proposed changes.
BSN3	Grange Paddocks	No reported issues. No proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024**BISHOP'S STORTFORD PARSONAGE - NO PROPOSED CHANGE**

The map of the Bishop Stortford Parsonage ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 2 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
BSP1	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford East	Parsonage	1217	2001	1538	463
BSP2	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford East	Parsonage	1506	2845	2247	598

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
BSP1	Parsonage Community Hall - CM23 5PY	Currently used as a triple station. NO proposed changes
BSP2	Parsonage Community Hall - CM23 5PY	Currently used as a triple station. NO proposed changes

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

BRAUGHING AND STANDON - NO PROPOSED CHANGE

The map of the Braughing and Standon ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
BRS1	North East Hertfordshire	Buntingford	Braughing Parish	591	1086	913	173
BRS2	North East Hertfordshire	Buntingford	Standon Parish, Puckeridge Ward	1353	2333	2020	313
BRS3	North East Hertfordshire	Ware North	Standon Parish, Standon Ward	614	1132	949	183
BRS4	North East Hertfordshire	Ware North	Standon Parish, Colliers End Ward	91	164	140	24

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
BRS1	Old Boys School	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
BRS2	Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
BRS3	Standon Village Hall	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes
BRS4	Standon Village Hall	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

GREAT AMWELL AND STANSTEADS - NO PROPOSED CHANGE

The map of the Great Amwell and Stansteads wards and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
GAS1	Hertford & Stortford	Ware South	Great Amwell Parish Council	987	1770	1451	319
GAS2	Hertford & Stortford	Ware South	Stanstead St Margarets, West Ward	185	426	351	75
GAS3	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	Stanstead St Margarets, East Ward	493	830	676	154
GAS4	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	Stanstead Abbotts Parish	867	1434	1257	177

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
GAS1	Parish Hall Great Amwell – SG12 9SG	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
GAS2	St Margaretsbury Recreation Ground Clubhouse – SG12 8EH	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
GAS3	St Margaretsbury Recreation Ground Clubhouse – SG12 8EH	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
GAS4	Stanstead Abbotts Parish Hall – SG12 8EZ	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

HERTFORD BENGEO - NO PROPOSED CHANGE

The map of the Hertford BengEO ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Council	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
HBE1	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford All Saints	Bengeo North	1264	2347	1828	519
HBE2	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford All Saints	Bengeo North	1023	1827	1474	353
HBE3	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford All Saints	Bengeo North	1306	2034	1676	358
HBE4	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford St Andrews	Bengeo South	303	519	416	103

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
HBE1	Bengeo Sports Pavilion – SG14 3JE	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
HBE2	The Bengeo Club – SG14 3JG	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
HBE3	3rd Hertford Scout Headquarters – SG14 3AF	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
HBE4	St Andrews Church Centre – SG14 – 1HZ	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024**HERTFORD HEATH AND BRICKENDON - NO PROPOSED CHANGE**

The map of the Hertford Heath & Brickendon ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 2 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
HHB1	Hertford & Stortford	Ware South	Hertford Heath	1009	1816	1585	231
HHB2	Hertford & Stortford	Ware South	Brickendon Liberty Parish	297	563	469	94

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
HHB1	Hertford Heath Village Hall – SG13 7RH	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
HHB2	Fanshaws Room, Brickendon Liberty Hall – SG13 8PB	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

GILSTON AND HUNSDON - NO PROPOSED CHANGE

The map of the Gilston & Hunsdon ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 3 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
HUN1	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	Eastwick Parish	90	136	123	13
HUN2	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	Hunsdon Parish	503	926	802	124
HUN3	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	Gilston Parish	289	546	466	80

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
HUN1	Gilston Village Hall – CM20 2RB	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
HUN2	Hunsdon Village Hall – SG12 8NJ	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
HUN3	Gilston Village Hall – CM20 2RB	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024**LITTLE HADHAM AND THE PELHAMS - NO PROPOSED CHANGE**

The map of the Little Hadham and The Pelhams ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 7 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
LHP1	North East Hertfordshire	Bishop's Stortford Rural	Albury Parish	235	486	403	83
LHP2	North East Hertfordshire	Bishop's Stortford Rural	Furneux Pelham Parish	222	441	364	77
LHP3	North East Hertfordshire	Bishop's Stortford Rural	Little Hadham Parish	483	927	762	165
LHP4	North East Hertfordshire	Bishop's Stortford Rural	Stocking Pelham Parish	69	153	135	18
LHP5	North East Hertfordshire	Buntingford	Anstey Parish	145	275	235	40
LHP6	North East Hertfordshire	Buntingford	Brent Pelham Parish	77	151	128	23
LHP7	North East Hertfordshire	Buntingford	Meesden Parish	46	95	83	12

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
LHP1	Albury Village Hall – SG11 2QR	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
LHP2	Furneux Pelham Village Hall – SG9 0LL	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
LHP3	Little Hadham Village Hall – SG11 2BP	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
LHP4	Stocking Pelham Village Hall – SG9 0HE	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.

All figures July Register

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

LHP5	Anstey Village Hall - SG9 0BY	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
LHP6	Brent Pelham Village Hall - SG9 0HE	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
LHP7	Meesden Village Hall - SG9 0BD	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024**MUCH HADHAM - NO PROPOSED CHANGE**

The map of Much Hadam ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
MHA1	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	High Wych Parish	80	161	142	19
MHA2	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	High Wych Parish	262	468	398	70
MHA3	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford Rural	Much Hadham Parish	689	1237	1020	217
MHA4	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford Rural	Much Hadham Parish	200	367	309	58

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
MHA1	Allens Green Village Hall - CM21 0LR	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
MHA2	High Wych Village Hall - CM21 0HX	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
MHA3	Much Hadham Village Hall - SG10 6BS	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
MHA4	Mission Hall Green Tye - SG10 6JP	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

THE MUNDENS - NO PROPOSED CHANGE

The map of The Mundens ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 6 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
MUN1	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Ardeley Parish	179	342	302	40
MUN2	North East Hertfordshire	Buntingford	Westmill Parish	135	222	195	27
MUN3	North East Hertfordshire	Buntingford	Great Munden Parish	132	301	253	48
MUN4	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Little Munden Parish	400	777	671	106
MUN5	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Sacombe Parish	81	127	103	24
MUN6	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Bengeo Rural Parish	295	505	430	75

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
MUN1	Ardeley Village Hall - SG2 7AH	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
MUN2	Westmill Village Hall - SG9 9LG	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
MUN3	Great Munden Church Hall - SG11 1HG	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
MUN4	Little Munden Memorial Hall - SG12 0NR	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
MUN5	Little Munden Memorial Hall - SG12 0NR	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

MUN6	Tonwell Village Hall – SG12 0HN	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
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POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

WATTON AT STONE - NO PROPOSED CHANGE

The map of Watton at Stone ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
WAS1	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Watton at Stone Parish	1112	2009	1679	330
WAS2	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Bramfield Parish	118	203	166	37
WAS3	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Stapleford Parish	244	465	372	93

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
WAS1	The Nigel Poulton Memorial Hall – SG14 3SF	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
WAS2	Bramfield Village Hall – SG14 2QL	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
WAS3	Stapleford Village Hall – SG14 3PA	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

WARE PRIORY - NO PROPOSED CHANGE

The map of Ware Priory ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 3 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
WPR1	Hertford & Stortford	Ware South	Ware Chadwell	1722	2585	2209	376
WPR2	Hertford & Stortford	Ware South	Ware Christchurch	1004	1268	1061	207
WPR3	Hertford & Stortford	Ware South	Ware Christchurch	1054	1713	1472	241

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
WPR1	Ware Drill Hall – SG12 9HP	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
WPR2	Priory Hall – SG12 9AL	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
WPR3	Christ Church Hall – SG12 7BS	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024**WARE RURAL - NO PROPOSED CHANGE**

The map of Ware Rural ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
WRR1	North East Hertfordshire	Ware North	Thunderidge Parish, Thunderidge Ward	427	766	651	115
WRR2	North East Hertfordshire	Ware North	Thunderidge Parish, High Cross Ward	255	476	416	60
WRR3	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	Wareside Parish, Rural Ward	290	524	459	65
WRR4	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	Widford Parish	278	504	443	61

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
WRR1	Thunderidge Village Hall - SG12 0SZ	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
WRR2	High Cross Village Hall - SG11 1AR	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
WRR3	Wareside Village Hall - SG12 7QY	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
WRR4	Widford Village Hall - SG12 8SH	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

APPENDIX TWO: No changes are currently proposed in the following district areas/polling stations, taking consideration of comments received, and subsequent investigation of possible alternative sites. However the consultation process is duty bound to look at alternative venues where feasible.

- Bishop's Stortford All Saints
- Bishop's Stortford Central
- Bishop's Stortford Parsonage
- Bishop's Stortford Thorley Manor
- Hertford Kingsmead
- Hertford Rural
- Sawbridgeworth
- Ware St Mary's

BISHOP'S STORTFORD ALL SAINTS

The map of the Bishop Stortford All Saints ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 3 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
BSA1	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford East	All Saints	697	1131	904	227
BSA2	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford East	All Saints	1343	2321	1875	446
BSA3	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford West	Waterside	648	641	580	61

POLLING PLACE

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
BSA1	All Saints Vestry	Issues over parking and lighting NO proposed changes.
BSA2	Herts & Essex Sports Centre	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
BSA3	South Mill Arts Centre	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

BSA1 – All Saints Vestry – Issues over parking for electorate

CONSULTATION PROPOSAL:**Proposal for consideration, Cllr Calvin Horner - Bishop's Stortford All Saints**

I support the proposal for no changes in polling place locations.

BSA1 – All Saints Vestry - *I would ask that consideration be given to re-drawing the boundary between BSA1 and BSA2 so that properties in Shortcroft, Manor Links, Cecil Close, Mayes Close, Braid Close, Vardon Drive, Norris Close and Brooke Gardens (all east of Dunmow Road and further from All Saints vestry than Herts and Essex Sports Centre) be transferred to BSA2. Having spoken to residents from this area they were particularly concerned about the lack of parking at All Saints vestry having previously voted at Parsonage Hall prior to the recent Boundary Review, many are elderly and rely on private cars. Conversely, the properties in Hockerill Street, Crown Terrace, Bakers Court, Dane Street, Red Lion Court, Thomas Heskin Court, London Road and Harrington Close (all closer to All Saints vestry than Herts and Essex Sports Hall) be transferred to BSA1. This would address the issue raised of lack of parking at All Saints vestry, by increasing the likelihood that electors will walk to the polling station rather than drive.*

Email dated 28th November 2024.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD CENTRAL

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

The map of the Bishop Stortford Central ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
BSC1	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford West	Central	1415	1887	1619	268
BSC2	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford West	Central	1197	2068	1800	268
BSC3	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford West	Central	289	456	340	116
BSC4	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford West	Central	588	1075	894	181

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
BSC1	Wesley Hall, Methodist Church. CM23	Issues raised over parking. NO proposed changes.
BSC2	Havers Community Centre. CM23 3GE	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
BSC3	Windhill Churches Centre. CM23 2PE	Issues raised over parking & lighting. NO proposed changes.
BSC4	South Mill Arts. CM23 3JG	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

CONSULTATION PROPOSAL:

BSC1 – Wesley Hall Methodist Church

Wesley Hall, Methodist Church has been used since XXXX for elections. The shortage of parking is an issue in the Bishop's Stortford area that again can be pointed out on the polling cards or alternative is to offer postal vote

BSC3 - Windhill Churches Centre

Windhill Churches Centre has been used since 2019 for elections. The Elections team have previously received complaints regarding the lack of parking and poor street lighting. The issues are exasperated due to it being a dual station.

Observation Note: parking is an issue across the Bishop's Stortford Central Area.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and St Mary's Catholic School have each previously been used as polling places but both schools have requested NOT to be used and the Council's directive is to avoid using schools where alternatives are available.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venues in the BSC3 polling district.

CONSULTATION PROPSAL:

Proposal for consideration: Cllr Calvin Horner - Bishop's Stortford Central

I do not propose any changes to the polling place locations.

For BSC3 the only other venue within the vicinity, but outside the polling district is the Apton Centre. However, this does not have its own parking and would be very inconvenient for those who drive as they would have to negotiate the one-way system around the town centre. Parking at the Windhill Churches Centre would be greatly eased if it no longer served as the polling place for BST3.

Recommendation to look at continuing use of BSC1 – Wesley Hall, Methodist Church and BSC3 – Windhill Churches Centre as no suitable alternatives in the boundary area.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

BISHOP'S STORTFORD THORLEY MANOR

The map of the Bishop Stortford Thorley Manor ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
BST1	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford Rural	Thorley Manor South	968	2099	1643	456
BST2	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford West	Thorley Manor North	1001	1853	1565	288
BST3	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford West	Thorley Manor North	958	2021	1561	460
BST4	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford Rural	Thorley Manor South	635	1251	994	257

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
BST1	St Michael's Mead Community Centre - CM23 4FZ	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
BST2	Thorley Community Centre - CM23 4RF	Issues with parking and location
BST3	Windhill Churches Centre - CM23 2PE	Issues over parking, lighting, and location
BST4	Thorley Community Centre - CM23 4RF	Issues with parking and location

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW - CONSULTATION

BST2 & BST4 - Thorley Community Centre.

Issues have been raised by electorate with parking and location.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venues in the BST2 & BST4 polling district.

All figures July Register

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

BST3 – Windhill Churches Centre.

Issues have been raised by electorate with parking, lighting and location.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venues in the BST3 polling district.

CONSULTATION PROPSAL:

Proposal consideration from Cllr Calvin Horner - Bishop's Stortford Thorley Manor

BST2 & BST4 – I am aware that Thorley Christian Centre was used as a polling station for the BST4 area prior to 202, when it was unavailable. This would be a more convenient location for BST4, but less so for BST2 within which the Thorley Community Centre is located. I would therefore propose that BST2 remains at its current polling place whilst consideration is made to moving BST4.

BST3 – I am not aware of any possible locations within the polling district. The one alternative to the Windhill Church Centre would be Thorley Community Centre, which is a closer to the polling district.

BST2 & BST4 – suggested use of Thorley Christian Centre – approach has been made and they are Not available for hire they have a permanent private school hire which they will not cancel for elections.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

HERTFORD KINGSMEAD

The map of the Hertford Kingsmead ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 3 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
HKI1	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford All Saints	Hertford All Saints	1189	2171	1873	298
HKI2	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford All Saints	Hertford All Saints	1304	2300	1923	377
HKI3	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford St Andrews	Hertford St Andrews	15012	2269	1991	278

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
HKI1	Pinehurst Community Centre – SG13 7SS	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
HKI2	Communal Lounge, Braziers Field – SG13 7JS	Too small
HKI3	Methodist Church Hall – SG13 7DZ	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW – CONSULTATION

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

HK12 – Communal Lounge Braziers Field.

Venue is too small for the electorate number. The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venues in the HK12 polling district.

Vicky Glover Ward comments

I would have significant concerns if Braziers Field communal lounge stops being a polling station; I know that this was mooted a couple of years ago because of issues in queuing during Covid and there was a recommendation to combine this polling station with the one in Pinehurst Community Centre. As a local councillor I would make the following comments:

- 1. Pinehurst Community Centre is situated at the top of Gallow Hill which has steep incline. This will discourage people within Kingsmead from walking or cycling to the polling station. There is only one entrance and exit road to Pinehurst, which is often affected by the traffic chaos at Rush Green roundabout. As such the disincentive to active travel coupled with the inability to access the polling station by vehicle may prevent some members of the community from voting.*
- 2. Braziers Field worked well as a polling station in the recent general election and also the one for East Herts and Town Council elections in my opinion. With the more streamlined set up allowing ingress and exit via two different doors this mitigated the previous issue which was caused by ingress and exit being via the same single width doorway to access the lounge.*
- 3. If Braziers Field is to be discontinued as a polling station then a more appropriate alternative from an accessibility aspect would be doubling up the Methodist hall or using the Pioneer hall next door to the centre*

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

HERTFORD RURAL

The map of the Hertford Rural ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 5 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
HRR1	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Bayford	187	375	307	68
HRR2	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Hertingfordbury Parish	279	527	423	104
HRR3	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Little Berkhamstead	223	433	353	80
HRR4	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Tewin Parish South Ward	401	796	661	135
HRR5	North East Hertfordshire	Hertford Rural	Tewin Parish North Ward	263	528	397	131

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
HRR1	Bayford Memorial Hall – SG13 8PX	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
HRR2	Hertingfordbury Cowper School – SG14 2LR	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
HRR3	Little Berkhamstead Village Hall – SG13 8LY	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
HRR4	Tewin Memorial Hall – AL6 0JX	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
HRR5	Tewin Memorial Hall – AL6 0JX	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW – CONSULTATION

HRR2 – Hertingfordbury Cowper School.

School venue ideally would prefer not to be used.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venue in the HRR2 polling district.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

SAWBRIDGEWORTH

The map of Sawbridgeworth ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
SAW1	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	Sawbridgeworth Town Council	2092	3648	2938	710
SAW2	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	Sawbridgeworth Town Council	92	179	140	39
SAW3	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	Sawbridgeworth Town Council	680	1157	1021	136
SAW4	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	Sawbridgeworth Town Council	1326	2145	1733	412

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
SAW1	The Hailey Day Centre - CM21 9AN	Good venue, however, a little small to use as a dual station
SAW2	Leventhorpe School - CM21 9BY	Ideally need to move away from using a school
SAW3	Bullfields Centre - CM21 9EA	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
SAW4	Leventhorpe School - CM21 9BY	Ideally need to move away from using a school

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW – CONSULTATION

SAW1 – The Hailey Day Centre.

Consideration if the registers were split – could continue to use The Hailey Day Centre and then possibly use one of the following alternative venues:

- Town Council Chamber next door
- Cricket Club is located not far away and has a good pavilion – CM21 9HJ.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venue in the SAW1 polling district.

SAW2 & SAW4 – Leventhorpe School.

School venue ideally would prefer not to be used.

Considerations:

- SAW4 - combine SAW4 with SAW3 and use The Bullfields Centre.
- SAW2 - Mandeville Primary School has just had an extension and could be an option to replace Leventhorpe School.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venue in the SAW2 & SAW4 polling district.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

WARE ST MARY'S

The map of Ware St Mary's ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
WSM1	Hertford & Stortford	Ware North	Ware St Marys	581	962	784	178
WSM2	Hertford & Stortford	Ware North	Ware St Marys	770	1446	1141	305
WSM3	Hertford & Stortford	Ware North	Ware St Marys	981	1668	1416	252
WSM4	Hertford & Stortford	Ware North	Ware St Marys	470	896	783	113

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
WSM1	Scouts HQ Poles Lane – SG12 0SF	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
WSM2	Royal British Legion Hall – SG12 0AG	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
WSM3	Age Concern Hall – SG12 0DE	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
WSM4	St Mary's Junior School – SG12 0RL	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

WSM4 – St Mary’s Junior School

School venue ideally would prefer not to be used.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venue in the WSM4 polling district.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

APPENDIX THREE - Proposed Changes to polling stations are as follows proposal in:

- Buntingford
- Bishop's Stortford South
- Hertford Castle
- Hertford Sele
- Ware Trinity

BUNTINGFORD

The map of the Buntingford ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 6 polling districts; details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
BUN1	North East Hertfordshire	Buntingford	Buckland Parish	116	226	198	28
BUN2	North East Hertfordshire	Buntingford	Buntingford Parish Council	3449	6013	5140	873
BUN3	North East Hertfordshire	Buntingford	Wyddial Parish Council	60	122	109	13
BUN4	North East Hertfordshire	Buntingford	Aspenden Parish Council	99	175	154	21
BUN5	North East Hertfordshire	Buntingford	Cottered Parish Council	294	536	454	82
BUN6	North East Hertfordshire	Buntingford	Hormead Parish Council	319	598	509	89

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024**POLLING PLACE**

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
BUN1	The Countryman Inn – SG9 0PG	Site is due for Development.
BUN2	The Seth Ward Community Centre – SG9 9SG	Currently used as a triple station. Option to move one ward back to the Manor House. Or extend room availability in current venue.
BUN3	Rosemead – SG9 0EX.	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
BUN4	The Restaurant at The Fox – SG9 9PD	NO longer able to use as a polling station.
BUN5	Cottered Village Hall – SG9 9RA	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.
BUN6	Hormeard Village Hall – SG9 0NZ	NO reported issues. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

CONSULTATION - PROPOSALS FOR REVIEW**BUN1 – The Countryman Inn.**

The site that the inn resides on is due for development. The Inn was used for the Police Crime Commissioner & Parliamentary Elections in 2024. However, there is uncertainty as to the future use of the venue.

Therefore, the consultation document seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venues in the BUN1 polling district.

Upon investigation there is a possibility that the site could be used however we are still waiting on confirmation

BUN2 - The Seth Ward Community Centre.

Using one hall as a triple station has previously caused confusion for some electors.

Historically the Manor House previously has been used as a polling station (2021). However, due to increase in the electorate numbers in BUN2 the register had to be split into three separate registers.

Potential Suggestions:

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

- Use the entire Seth Ward Community Centre x 3 rooms having one register in each room.
- Potentially move back 1 register to the Manor House.

Therefore, the consultation requires guidance on the above proposals on BUN2.

Upon investigation Seth Ward Community Centre can be used as a triple station providing the 'Campbell Hall' is laid out in an appropriate manor/signage and additional staff.

BUN4 - The Restaurant at the Fox Public House

Has been used as a polling station for several years with no reported issues, However, the pub has recently changed ownership and the new owner no longer wishes for it to be used as a polling station.

Potential Suggestions:

- Alternative venue - St Mary's Church within the village. (Circa 5-minute walk from The Fox).
 - Limited parking/step incline to church.
- Alternative venue Seth Ward Community Centre – 'Scott Room'

Therefore, the consultation document seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venues in the BUN4 polling district.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

BISHOP'S STORTFORD SOUTH

The map of the Bishop Stortford South ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
BSS1	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford Rural	Bishop's Stortford South	910	1728	1363	365
BSS2	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford Rural	Bishop's Stortford South	1029	1753	1408	345
BSS3	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford Rural	Thorley Urban	360	351	321	39
BSS4	Hertford & Stortford	Bishop's Stortford Rural	Thorley Rural	21	56	49	7

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
BSS1	The Bishop Stortford High School - CM23 3LU	Need to move away from the school
BSS2	St Barnabus Centre - CM23 4BE	Issues over parking and location
BSS3	St Barnabus Centre - CM23 4BE	Issues over parking and location
BSS4	St Barnabus Centre - CM23 4BE	Issues over parking and location

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW - CONSULTATION

BSS1- The Bishop Stortford High School

This site is no longer available. Previous suggestions were to use Richard Whittington Primary School or Thorley Hill Primary School as suitable alternatives, however both schools have asked NOT to be used if possible.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

Previous suggested alternative to look at Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church Centre, Twyford Road.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venues in the BSS1 polling district.

BSS2, BSS3, BSS4 – St Barnabus Centre

This was a new venue following the loss of BSS1 site. There have been issues raised by electorate as to parking & location.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venues in the BSS2, BSS3 & BSS4 polling districts.

PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW – CONSULTATION

BSS1- The Bishop Stortford High School

This site is no longer available. Previous suggestions were to use Richard Whittington Primary School or Thorley Hill Primary School as suitable alternatives, however both schools have asked NOT to be used if possible.

Previous suggested alternative to look at Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church Centre, Twyford Road.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venues in the BSS1 polling district.

BSS2, BSS3, BSS4 – St Barnabus Centre

This was a new venue following the loss of BSS1 site. There have been issues raised by electorate as to parking & location.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venues in the BSS2, BSS3 & BSS4 polling districts.

Proposal consideration from Cllr Calvin Horner - Bishop's Stortford South

BSS1 - I would support the proposal to consider the Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church Centre site, either the Church Centre itself or The Bridge building, located on the same site. Both have disabled access and ample parking. I am unaware of other possible venues within the BSS1 area.

BSS2-4 - Notwithstanding the Council's policy to avoid using school sites consideration could be given to the new Bishop's Stortford High School site on St. James's Park. A community centre is planned for St. James's Park, which would be a future alternative, although not yet constructed.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024**HERTFORD CASTLE**

The map of the Hertford Castle ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
HCA1	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford St Andrews	Hertford Castle	1895	2441	1930	511
HCA2	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford St Andrews	Hertford Castle	341	567	445	122
HCA3	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford St Andrews	Hertford Castle	728	1234	945	289
HCA4	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford St Andrews	Hertford Castle	369	580	506	74

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
HCA1	Hertford Library – SG14 1DR	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
HCA2	The Brace Room, St Marys Church – SG14 2LD	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
HCA3	Morgans Primary School – SG13 8DR	Concerns over safeguarding, narrow footpaths, poor lighting and parking. Proposed to change to HCC Offices
HCA4	Hornsmill Community Centre – SG13 8HS	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW – CONSULTATION

HCA3 – Morgans Primary School.

Morgans Primary School has asked to not be used as a polling station. Electors have previously stated that the footpaths are narrow, poor lighting and parking.

County Hall was used for the recent Hertford Town Council By Election the venue and the venue and site received positive feedback from the electorate so current proposal is to use Hertfordshire Count Hall as a replacement venue for HCA3.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024**HERTFORD SELE**

The map of the Hertford Sele ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 5 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
HSE1	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford St Andrews	Hertford Sele Ward	741	1126	918	208
HSE2	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford St Andrews	Hertford Sele Ward	358	704	548	156
HSE3	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford St Andrews	Hertford Sele Ward	615	964	818	146
HSE4	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford St Andrews	Hertford Sele Ward	889	1326	1175	151
HSE5	Hertford & Stortford	Hertford St Andrews	Hertford Sele Ward	231	423	368	55

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
HSE1	The Sele School – SG14 2DG	The school no longer wish to be used as a polling station, issues with parking, safeguarding and access.
HSE2	St Josephs RC School – SG14 2BY	Schools would prefer NOT to be used.
HSE3	Sele Farm Community Centre	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
HSE4	Sele Farm Community Centre	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
HSE5	The Sele School	The school no longer wish to be used as a polling station, issues with parking, safeguarding and access.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW – CONSULTATION

HSE1 & HSE5 – Sele School (The Hub).

School venue ideally would prefer not to be used. Feedback from electors is that there is poor parking, lighting and access.

Alternative venue suggestion is Carlton Court, SG14 2EG.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venue in the HSE1 & HSE5 polling district.

Potential to use 'SeleCommunity Hub' Fleming Crescent SG14 – Venue is owned by Network Homes proposal is to approach to look at viability as an alternative site.

HSE2 – St Joseph's RC School.

School venue ideally would prefer not to be used.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venue in the HSE2 polling district.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024**WARE TRINITY**

The map of Ware Trinity ward and individual polling districts are available on the following pages. The ward has 4 polling districts. Details of the reference letters and electorate information are set out below:

POLLING DISTRICTS AND STATISTICAL DATA

Polling District	Parliamentary Area	County Division	Parish Council	Number of Properties	Total Number of Electors	In Person Voters	Postal Voters
WTR1	Hertford & Stortford	Ware South	Ware Widbury	687	1288	1009	279
WTR2	Hertford & Stortford	Ware North	Ware Trinity	910	1731	1481	250
WTR3	Hertford & Stortford	Ware North	Ware Trinity	783	1385	1145	240
WTR4	Hertford & Stortford	Sawbridgeworth	Wareside Parish, Urban Ward	17	25	23	2

POLLING PLACE

Polling District	Polling Place	Comments
WTR1	Christ Church Hall	NO reported concerns. NO proposed changes.
WTR2	Larkspur Academy	Ideally not to use a school, too small for a triple station
WTR3	Larkspur Academy	Ideally not to use a school, too small for a triple station
WTR4	Larkspur Academy	Ideally not to use a school, too small for a triple station

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are no current proposed developments within the Ward that are forecast to impact on the allocation of Polling Districts and Places.

WTR2, WTR3 & WTR4 - Larkspur Academy

School venue ideally would prefer not to be used.

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2024

Proposal consideration from Cllr Nick Cox

Alternative venue

- Ware Youth FC, Trinity Playing Fields, Fanhams Hall Road, Ware SG12 7NN.

The consultation document therefore seeks alternative suggestions for suitable venue in the WTR2, WTR3 & WTR4 polling district.