

**CHEADLE AREA COMMITTEE  
POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

**CHANGE OF POLLING STATIONS**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To request that the Area Committee approve a change to a polling station arrangement within the area.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Following the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Local and Combined Authority Mayoral Elections, the Elections Office has undertaken a review the polling station arrangements in all wards, considering feedback provided following the poll.
- 2.2 The Council must designate a polling place for every polling district. This is usually within the boundary of the polling district unless there are exceptional circumstances, e.g. lack of suitable buildings.
- 2.3 In designating polling places, the Council must:
- 2.3.1 Seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
- 2.3.2 Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.
- 2.4 The polling station is the actual area where the voting takes place, i.e. the room or area where electors cast their vote. The Returning Officer is responsible for designating the polling station, which must be within the polling place agreed by the Council.
- 2.5 The next full review of polling districts and polling places will be undertaken in 2023 in accordance with the statutory timetable.
- 2.6 Officers from the Electoral Services Team have contacted the relevant ward members to discuss the proposed change and to explain the reasons for seeking a change in location (set out further below). The ward members were in agreement to the change proposed below.

### 3.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

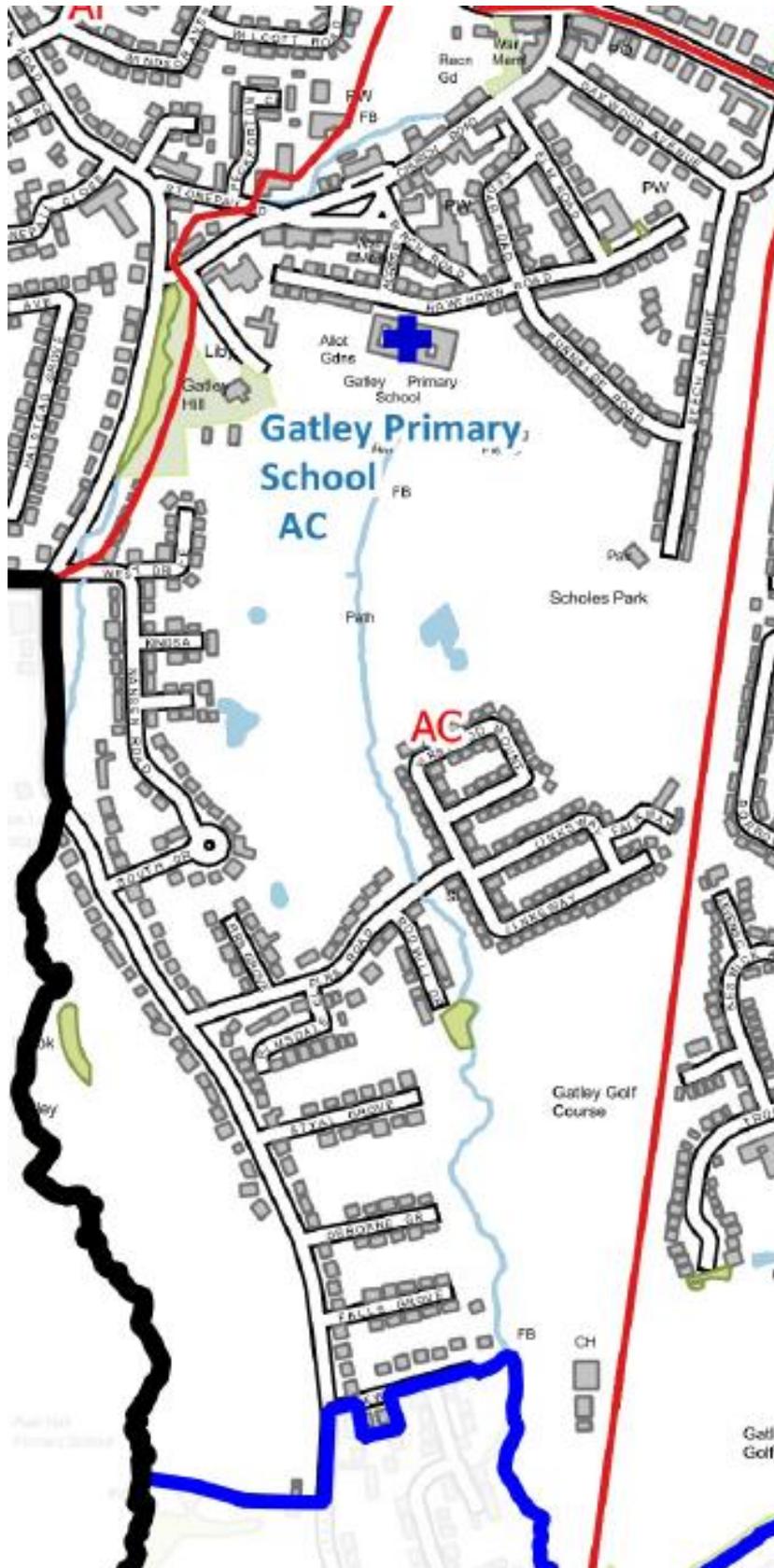
- 3.1 That the Area Committee be requested to comment on and note the proposed change to the polling station arrangement detailed below, and recommend that the Chief Executive gives approval to the change.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Current polling Place</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place</b>	<b>Reason for change</b>
<u>Cheadle &amp; Gatley</u>			
AC	Gatley Primary School, Hawthorn Road	Bethany Church, 100 Church Road	<p>To reduce the number of schools used as polling stations in the borough in order to limit the impact on the education of local children and lessen the burden on local schools.</p> <p>Bethany Church is located close to Gatley Primary School. It was used as an alternative polling station on 6 May 2021 instead of Gatley Primary School and did not present any additional difficulties to voters in terms of access.</p>

There are no changes proposed for Cheadle Hulme North and Heald Green.

Background papers: - Anyone wishing to discuss the report should contact Caroline Bell on 0161 474 3173 or [caroline.bell@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.bell@stockport.gov.uk)

Current polling station:



**Proposed polling station**

