

**STEPPING HILL 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 6th 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.

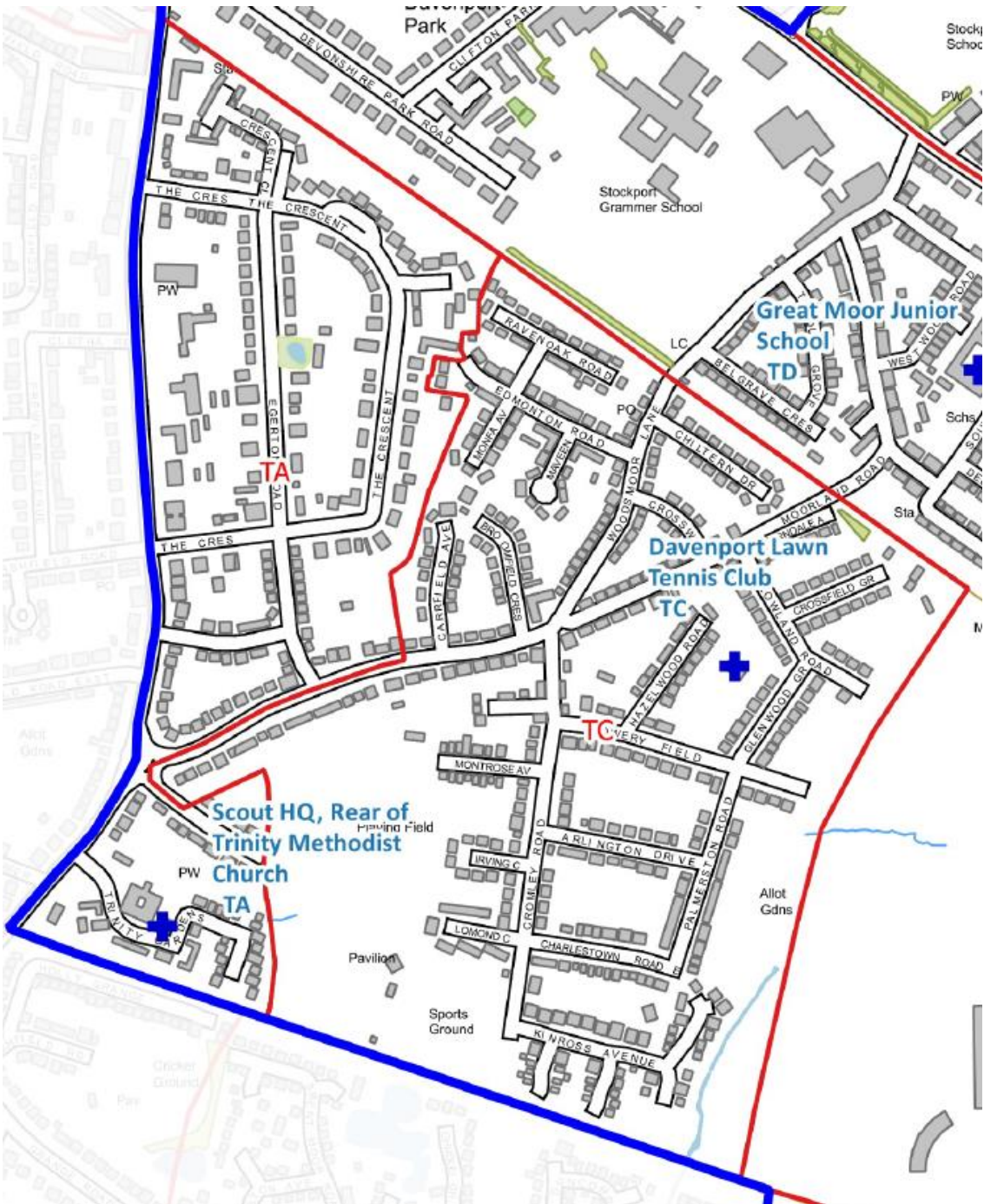
Polling District	Current polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Reason for change
Stepping Hill			
TA	Scout HQ behind Trinity Methodist Church, Bramhall Lane (Also known as Tabor Lodge)	Davenport Lawn Tennis Club, Flowery Field	<p>The Church on whose grounds the Scout HQ resides is being sold. Therefore, access to the Scout Hut can no longer be guaranteed for elections. Officers from the Electoral Services Team discussed this with contacts at the Scout Hut after the 2021 elections and were advised to look elsewhere for the foreseeable future as the fate of the Scout Hut is still unknown.</p> <p>For the May 2021 elections, Davenport Lawn Tennis Club was used as a polling station for Polling District TA without issue due to the Scout Hut being unavailable.</p> <p>The Tennis Club is an existing polling station for the neighboring Polling District TC and is large enough to safely accommodate both electorates.</p> <p>There are no suitable alternative buildings available in Polling District TA itself.</p>

		<p>Following discussions with ward members, if the future of the Scout HQ is guaranteed and it is still available to use, the Returning Officer will propose a return to that location.</p>
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There are no changes proposed for Hazel Grove ward

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

Current polling station



Proposed polling station

