

**WERNETH 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 changes to polling station arrangements 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 of 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 changes proposed below.

3.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

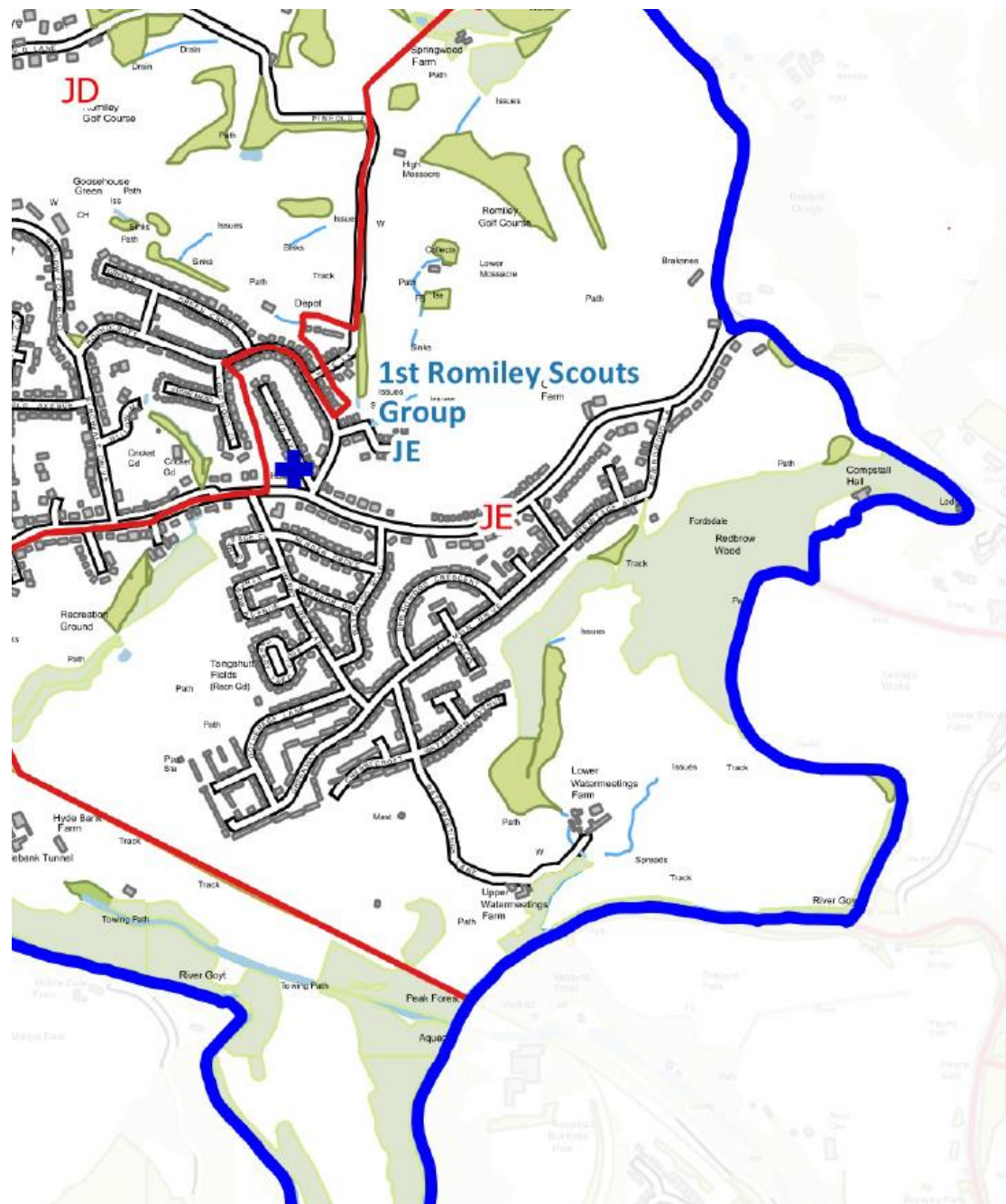
- 3.1 That the Area Committee be requested to comment on and note the proposed changes to the polling station arrangements detailed below, and recommend that the Chief Executive gives approval to them.

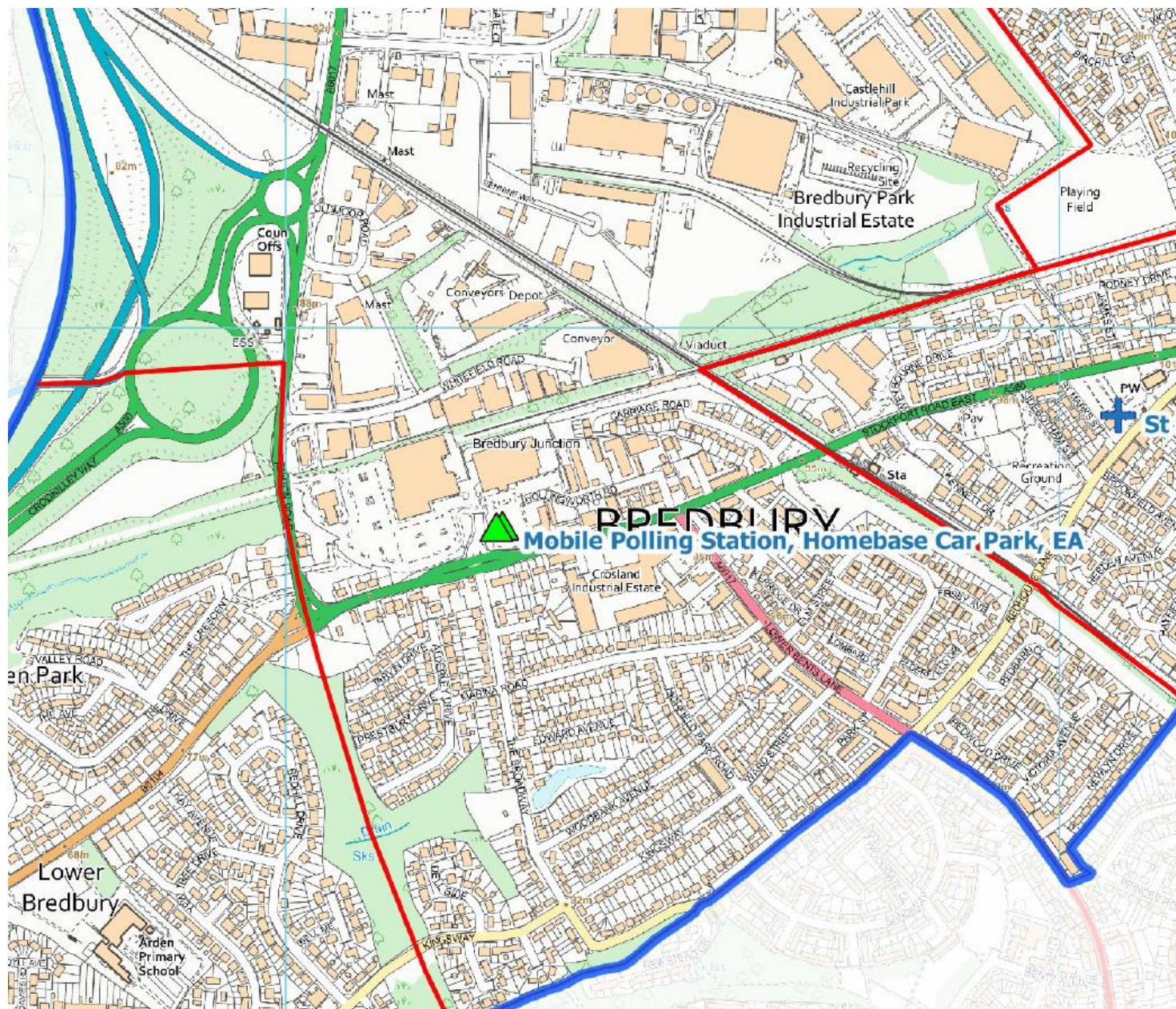
Polling District	Current polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Reason for change
<u>Bredbury & Woodley</u>			
EA	Mobile Polling Stations at Homebase Carpark	13 Lower Bents Lane known as Harpers Community Event space.	<p>The previously designated polling station was the Queens Pub on 2 Higher Bents Lane.</p> <p>For the 2021 elections, it was not possible to make contact and secure the use of the premises as a polling station.</p> <p>A temporary solution was to place two mobile polling stations in the carpark of Homebase on Stockport Road East.</p> <p>The Electoral Services Team have identified a new location that will serve as a better location for a polling station. The building was formerly known as the Bents Lane Social Club (aka 'The Rat Pit') and is now known as Harpers.</p> <p>The building is suitable for use as a polling station with sizeable space inside to accommodate a double polling station, parking space outside for voters and alternative disabled access.</p>

			The building is easily identifiable and centrally located near the residential areas of the polling district compared to the Queens Pub.
<u>Bredbury Green & Romiley</u>			
JE	1st Romiley Scout Group, Heys Avenue	Cherry Tree Project Hub, 2 Cherry Tree Lane	<p>The building was reported as not being structurally sound in April 2021 and therefore was not used on 6 May 2021 and will not be available for use as a polling station for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Therefore, it was replaced as a polling station on 6 May 2021 by the Cherry Tree Project Hub on 2 Cherry Tree Lane. This is a community space run by the Cherry Tree Project, a community group in the Romiley area.</p> <p>The building is located closer to the main residential area in this polling district.</p>

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

Current polling stations:





Proposed polling stations:

