

**MARPLE 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 a 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 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 changes 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.

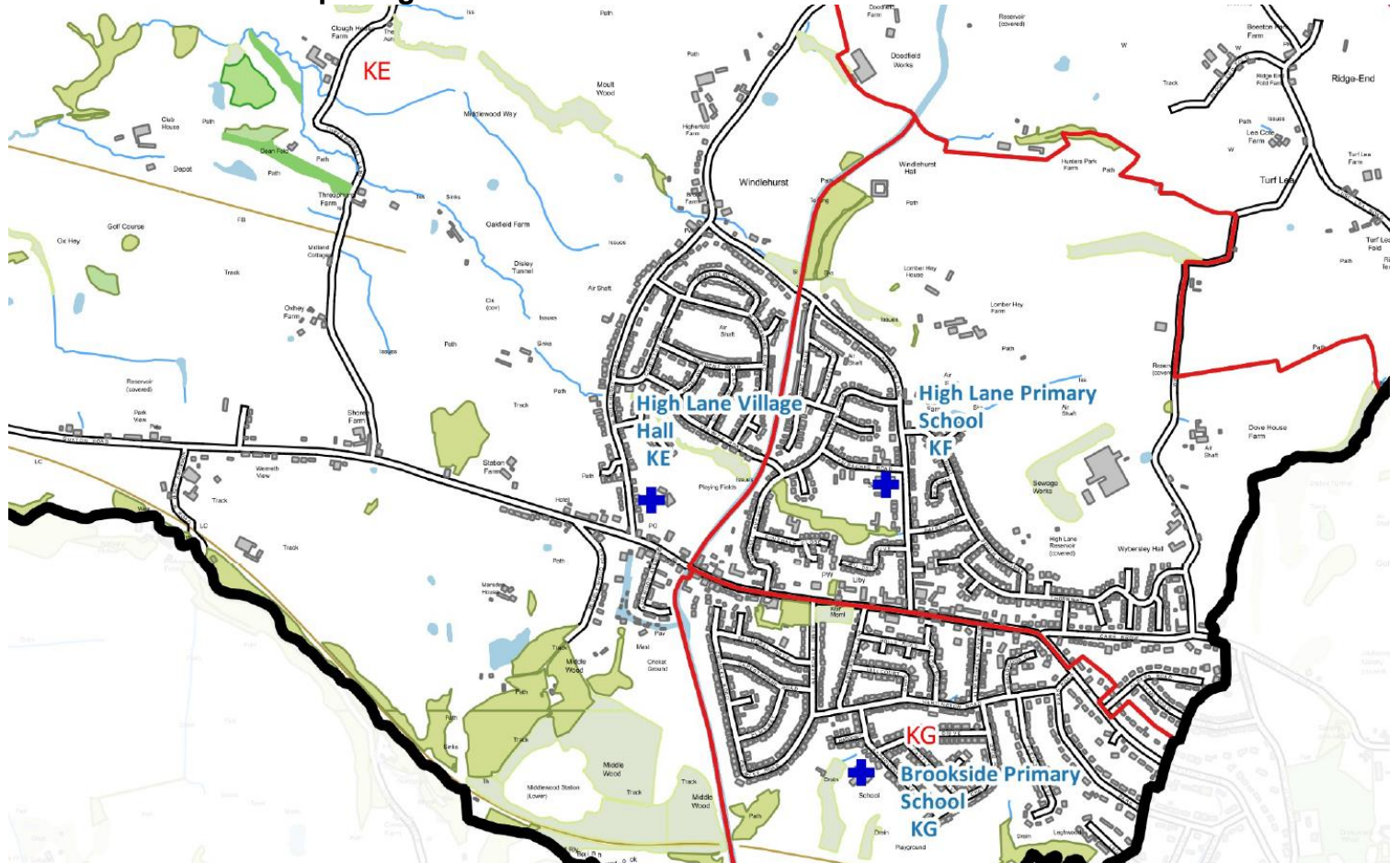
Polling District	Current polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Reason for change
Marple South & High Lane			
KB	Mobile Polling Station, Cheadle and Marple Sixth Form College, Buxton Lane	Marple United Reformed Church, Hibbert Lane	<p>To provide a permanent building as a polling station to voters in the district. Mobile buildings have limited space and can only hold one elector at a time with social distancing. The generator required for the mobile building is noisy and can disturb both local residents and voters walking up to the polling station. In future, we would only like to use mobile polling stations in areas where there are no suitable buildings nearby.</p> <p>The Marple United Reformed Church is an existing polling station for the neighboring Polling District KA and has the capacity to accommodate another polling station inside.</p>
KF	High Lane Primary School, Andrew Lane	High Lane Village Hall, Windlehurst 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>High Lane Village Hall was used as the polling station instead of High</p>

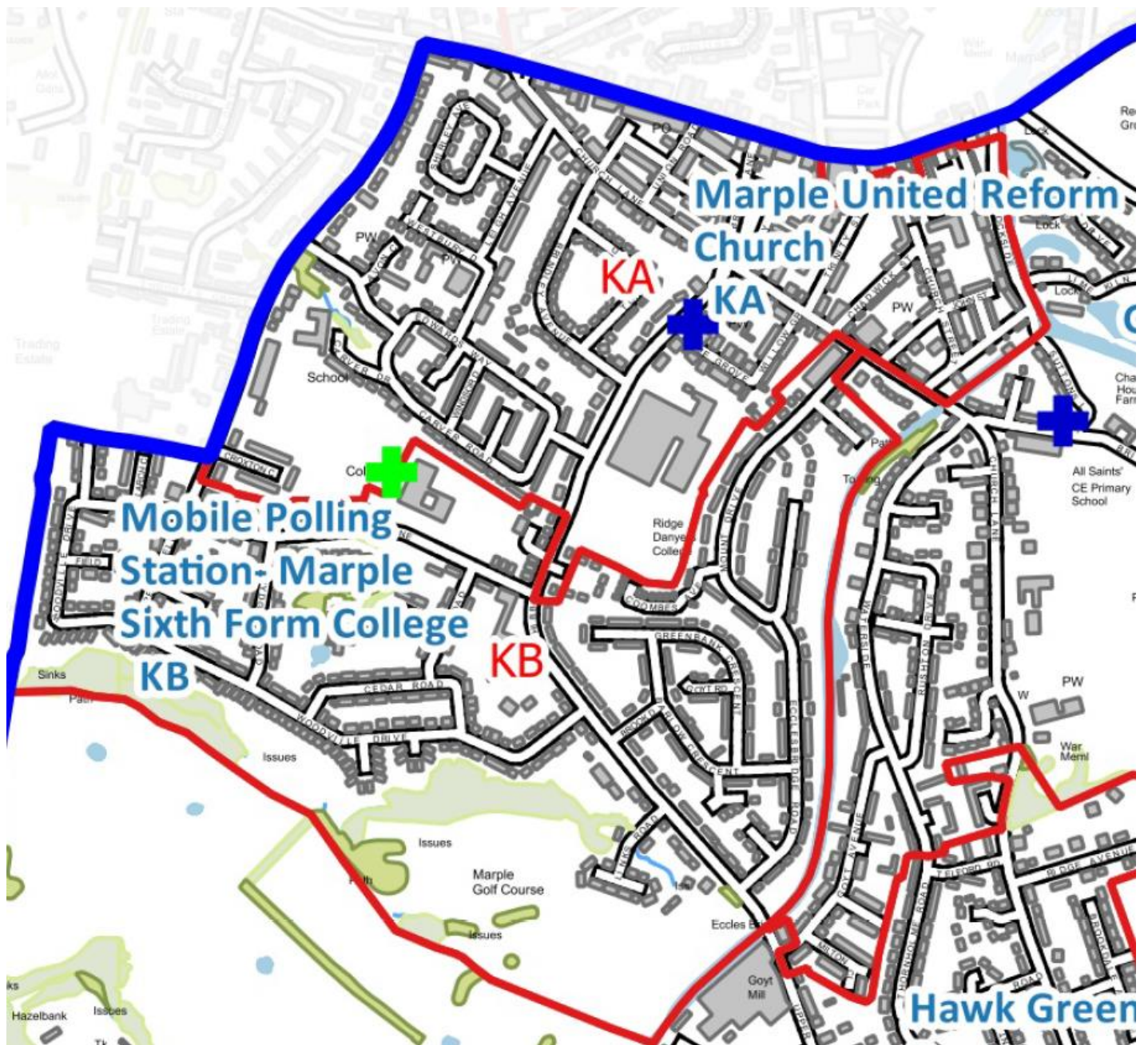
			<p>Lane Primary School for the 2021 elections to avoid having to close the school on polling day.</p> <p>High Lane Village Hall is an existing polling station for Polling District KE and has the size to accommodate another station safely.</p>
KG	Brookside Primary School, Ashbourne Drive	High Lane Library, Community Room, Buxton 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>High Lane Library was used as a polling station in 2021 to avoid having to close Brookside Primary School on polling day.</p> <p>As a Council building, access to the Library is easier to guarantee for elections than private venues, and the location will be known to local residents.</p>

There are no changes proposed for Marple North ward

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

Current polling stations





Proposed polling stations

