



Reading
Borough Council

Working better with you

Summons and Agenda 19 March 2024

**Chief Executive
Reading Borough Council
Civic Offices, Bridge Street,
Reading, RG1 2LU**

Jackie Yates
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Civic Offices, Bridge Street,
Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

To: All Members of the Council

Direct: ☎ 0118 937 2153
e-mail:
michael.popham@reading.gov.uk

11 March 2024

Your contact is: Michael Popham - Democratic Services Manager

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Reading Borough Council to be held at **Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Reading**, on **Tuesday, 19 March 2024 at 6.30 pm**, when it is proposed to transact the business specified in the Agenda enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

1. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive Mayor's Announcements.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

9 - 16

The Mayor to sign the Minutes of the proceedings of the previous Council Meeting.

4. PETITIONS

To receive petitions in accordance with Standing Order 8.

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Questions in accordance with Standing Order 9.

6. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Questions in accordance with Standing Order 10.

Reports and Recommendations from Committees

7. ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE - BERKSHIRE PROSPERITY BOARD 17 - 38

Report by Chief Executive

8. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2023-25 39 - 86

Report by Returning Officer

Motions

9. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 7 - MOTIONS WHICH NEED TO BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING BEFORE THE MEETING

Councillor Brock to move:

That pursuant to Standing Order 26, Standing Order 7 be suspended to remove the requirement for a councillor to submit a motion to the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services at least six clear working days before the Council meeting in order to allow an emergency motion to be moved entitled 'Solidarity with Black Women Councillors'.

10. SOLIDARITY WITH BLACK WOMEN COUNCILLORS

Councillor Terry to move:

This Council supports the widespread condemnation of the racist and misogynistic statements made about Diane Abbott and all Black women.

The reference to shooting an MP has left all women in public life vulnerable to both verbal and physical attack. Given the murders of two MPs in recent years this is an abhorrent attack on all people in public life but particularly Black Women.

Racism, discrimination, and misogyny should not be tolerated in our society. We need more Black women and people from Black, Asian, and other minority communities in public life.

This council stand in solidarity with all Black women in public service, particularly the 3 Black women Reading Borough Councillors and will continue to speak out against racism and discrimination as it impacts our communities, people, and society.

WEBCASTING NOTICE

Please note that this meeting may be filmed for live and/or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Mayor will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during a webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

Members of the public seated in the public gallery will not ordinarily be filmed by the automated camera system. However, please be aware that by moving forward of the pillar, or in the unlikely event of a technical malfunction or other unforeseen circumstances, your image may be captured. **Therefore, by entering the meeting room, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.**

Please speak to a member of staff if you have any queries or concerns.

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 27 FEBRUARY 2024

Present: Councillor Page (Mayor);

Councillors Asare, Ayub, Ballsdon, Barnett-Ward, Brock, Challenger, Cresswell, Cross, Davies, G Dennis, Eden, Edwards, Emberson, Ennis, Gavin, Gittings, Goss, Griffith, Hacker, Hornsby-Smith, Hoskin, Juthani, Keane, Keeping, Kitchingham, Lanzoni, Leng, Lovelock, Magon, McCann, McElroy, McEwan, McGoldrick, Mitchell, Moore, Mpofu-Coles, O’Connell, Robinson, Rowland, Singh, Terry, Thompson, White, Williams, Woodward and Yeo.

Apologies: Councillor Tarar.

40. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

41. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO 10

| | Questioner | Subject | Answer |
|----|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Cllr White | More Free Bulky Waste Collection Slots Needed | Cllr Rowland |
| 2. | Cllr McElroy | Single Use Plastic at Council Venues | Cllr Ennis |

(The full text of the questions and replies was made available on the Reading Borough Council website).

42. CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER’S REPORT ON THE ROBUSTNESS OF THE COUNCIL’S 2024/25 BUDGET

The Director of Finance submitted a report fulfilling the requirement on him under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 as the Council’s Chief Finance Officer to report on the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations of the budget and the adequacy of the proposed level of financial reserves. The Council had a duty to have regard to the advice set out in the report when considering setting its 2024/25 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy for the subsequent two financial years. The Statement of Reserves and Balances, which provided a summary of estimated reserve movements from 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2027, were attached to the report for information.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Brock and seconded by Councillor Gittings and CARRIED:

Resolved –

That the Chief Finance Officer’s report on the robustness of the Council’s 2024/25 budget and indicative budgets for the subsequent two financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27 be noted and the opinion contained therein be taken into account in making the decisions set out in Minutes 43-46 below.

43. BUDGET; 2024/25 BUDGET & MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024/25 – 2026/27

Further to Minutes 42 and 53 of the Policy Committee meetings held on 13 December 2023 and

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 27 FEBRUARY 2024

19 February 2024 respectively, the Director of Finance submitted a report on the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the three years 2024/25 – 2026/27. The report provided an update on the results of the budget consultation exercise as well as changes arising from the publication of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and other changes that had arisen since the report to Policy Committee in December 2023. The following documents were attached to the report:

- The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 - 2026/27
- Summary of the Proposed General Fund Budget 2024/25 – 2026/27
- General Fund Revenue Budget by Service 2024/25 – 2026/27
- Detailed General Fund Budget Changes 2024/25 – 2026/27
- The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Proposed Budget 2024/25 – 2026/27
- The Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Proposals 2024/25
- The General Fund and HRA Capital Programmes 2024/25 – 2026/27
- The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2024/25
- Fees and Charges Proposals from April 2024
- Equality Impact Assessment of the Budget Proposals
- Summary of the Response to the Budget Engagement
- Summary of the Results of the Residents' Survey 2023

The report explained that the underpinning rationale of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy was to deliver a balanced and affordable 2024/25 budget, to ensure that the Council's finances were robust and sustainable over the medium term and that, in the longer term, the Council's finances were not reliant on the unsustainable use of one-off reserves or funding. The Strategy was informed by the Council's Vision: "to help Reading realise its potential and to ensure that everyone who lives and works here can share the benefits of its success", as well as its Corporate Plan themes of Healthy Environment, Thriving Communities and Inclusive Economy.

The 2024/25 Budget and MTFS 2024/25 - 2026/27 reflected the changing landscape in which Councils were operating and was based on another one-year Local Government funding settlement. The most significant impacts on the Budget and the MTFS included inflationary pressures across all service areas and the impact of the cost of living crisis, in particular high cost placements in children's services arising from increased complexity and market challenges, the cost of temporary accommodation arising from increased homelessness presentations due to landlords moving out of the private rented sector and mortgage costs increasing and higher waste disposal costs. The budget and MTFS assumptions included:

- a) Council Tax increases of 2.99% plus an Adult Social Care precept of 2.0% for each year 2024/25-2026/27;
- b) Delivery of £8.465m of efficiencies and increased income across the period;
- c) A net draw from earmarked reserves totalling £3.084m in 2024/25;
- d) A housing rent increase for 2024/25 of 7.7% in line with approved Government policy of CPI + 1%;
- e) General Fund capital investment of £190.519m and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital investment of £142.612m over the 5 year period 2024/25 to 2028/29;
- f) £1.587m of transformation funding for 2024/25 to support delivery of efficiency savings assumed within the MTFS, taking the total transformation funding to £21.729m across the whole life of the Delivery Fund.

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) High Needs Block was anticipated to be £12.000m in deficit by 31st March 2024. The Council was one of 55 local authorities taking part in the Department for Education's Delivering Better Value programme. The aim was to support local authorities and their local area partners to improve the delivery of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) services for children and young people whilst working towards financial sustainability. The Council

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 27 FEBRUARY 2024

had been awarded a grant of £1.000m to support the implementation of new programmes of work. Further details were set out in paragraphs 2.8 to 2.12 of the report and in Appendix 6.

The report had been prepared with reference to the following documents: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25-2026/27 Update Report agreed by Policy Committee (13th December 2023); Autumn Statement 2023 – HM Treasury (22nd November 2023); the Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2024/25 – DLUHC (5th February 2024); and 2024/25 Budget & Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25-2026/27 Report approved by Policy Committee (19th February 2024).

The following motion was moved by Councillor Brock and seconded by Councillor Gittings and CARRIED:

Resolved –

That, in relation to the report on the 2024/25 budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2027, due regard be taken of the results of the budget consultation exercise (as outlined in Appendices 11 and 12 of the report) and the 2024/25 General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budgets, Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Strategy as set out in Appendices 1-10 be approved, whilst noting the following:

- (a) the Council's General Fund Budget Requirement of £167.886m for 2024/25 and consequent increase in the band D Council Tax for the Council of 2.99% plus an additional 2.00% Adult Social Care Precept, representing a band D Council Tax of £2,016.88 per annum, an increase of £95.86 per annum excluding precepts from Police and Fire, as set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report;**
- (b) the proposed efficiency and invest to save savings of £3.862m and additional income of £0.781m in 2024/25 required to achieve a balanced budget for that year as set out in Appendices 2 and 3 to the report;**
- (c) the overall savings proposed within the MTFS of £8.465m (of which increases to income, fees and charges is £1.202m) and three-year growth changes to service budgets of £32.053m as set out in Appendices 3 and 4 to the report;**
- (d) the budgeted net draw down from earmarked reserves totalling £3.084m, as set out in paragraph 5.20 of Appendix 1 to the report;**
- (e) the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2024/25 of £54.106m as set out in Appendix 5 and the average increase of 7.7% in social dwelling rents from April 2024;**
- (f) the allocation of £99.317m Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) as set out in Appendix 6 to the report;**
- (g) the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes totalling £190.519m and £142.612m respectively over the next five years, as set out in Appendices 7a and 7b to the report;**
- (h) the Strategy for the use of flexible capital receipts to deliver future transformation and ongoing savings as set out in Appendix 8 to the report;**
- (i) the Fees and Charges set out in Appendix 9 of the report;**

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 27 FEBRUARY 2024

(j) the Equalities Impact Assessment as set out in Appendix 10 to the report.

A recorded vote having been required, the voting was as follows:

For the motion: 42

Councillors Asare, Ayub, Barnett-Ward, Brock, Challenger, Cresswell, Cross, Davies, G Dennis, Eden, Edwards, Emberson, Ennis, Gavin, Gittings, Griffith, Hacker, Hornsby-Smith, Hoskin, Juthani, Keane, Keeping, Kitchingham, Lanzoni, Leng, Lovelock, Magon, McCann, McElroy, McEwan, McGoldrick, Moore, Mpofu-Coles, O’Connell, Page, Rowland, Terry, Thompson, White, Williams, Woodward and Yeo.

Against the motion: 5

Councillors Ballsdon, Goss, Mitchell, Robinson and Singh.

44. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2024/25

Further to Minute 54 of the Policy Committee held on 19 February 2024, the Director of Finance submitted a report setting out the draft Capital Strategy 2024/25, which was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report noted that the CIPFA 2021 Prudential and Treasury Management Code required the Council to prepare a Capital Strategy report which set out the Council’s capital requirements arising from policy objectives, as well as the associated governance procedures and risk appetite of the Council. The Strategy provided an overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contributed to the provision of services; along with an overview of how associated risk was managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.

In December 2023, the Government launched a new consultation relating to additional flexibilities to use capitalisation without the requirement to approach Government. The outcome of this consultation had not yet been announced, which meant the Council’s use of capitalisation and capital receipts had all been based on the existing guidance and legislation. Consequently, there may be a requirement for amended policies to be brought back to Council for approval in advance of February 2025.

The Capital Strategy set out the Council’s approach to asset management planning, development, and monitoring of the Capital Programme’s delivery. The figures in the various tables within the Capital Strategy had been updated to reflect the latest position consistent with the MTFS report (see Minute 43 above). The Action Plan at Appendix 1 Annex C to the report had been refreshed and the Director of Finance would keep this under review during the year and would bring forward any changes that may be required. The Capital Programme Board chaired by the Director of Finance had been introduced in December 2022 to increase oversight of the Capital Programme and its delivery. Terms of Reference for the Board were included at Appendix 1 Annex B.

The proposed Action Plan of the Strategy identified four areas of ongoing work required for the Council to remain compliant with the CIPFA code requirements. These were:

- Developing knowledge of the Council’s existing asset base;
- Identifying what assets would be needed in the future;
- Developing and implementing new systems and processes, which enable full compliance with the Code requirements;
- Reviewing current capacity and skillsets within the organisation.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Brock and seconded by Councillor Gittings and CARRIED:

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 27 FEBRUARY 2024

Resolved –

- (1) **That the Capital Strategy 2024/25, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;**
- (2) **That the updated Action Plan that formed Annex C of the Capital Strategy (Appendix 1) be noted, together with the associated financial implications.**

45. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT (2024/25)

Further to Minute 55 of the Policy Committee held on 19 February 2024, the Director of Finance submitted a report setting out a Treasury Management Strategy for endorsement. The Strategy required approval before the start of the new financial year in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 and the CIPFA Prudential Code for capital finance in local authorities (2021). The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS), which was attached to the report at Appendix 1, set out the parameters for the Council's planned treasury activity during 2024/25, under which the Council's Treasury Team would manage day to day activity. The report stated that the successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk were central to the Strategy. Included in the TMSS alongside the Treasury Management Strategy were Capital Prudential Indicators, a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement, a Borrowing Strategy and an Annual Investment Strategy.

The CIPFA 2021 Prudential and Treasury Management Code also required the Council to prepare a Capital Strategy report which set out the Council's capital requirements arising from policy objectives, as well as the associated governance procedures and risk appetite. The Capital Strategy included non-treasury investments and was reported separately from the TMSS (see Minute 44 above). The CIPFA Treasury Management Code 2021 further broke down non-treasury investment into: Investments for service purposes – taken or held primarily for the provision and purpose of delivering public services (including housing, regeneration, and local infrastructure), or in support of joint working with others to deliver such services; and Investment for commercial purposes - taken or held primarily for financial return and were not linked to treasury management activity or directly part of delivering services.

The report explained that in December 2023, the Government launched a further consultation on proposed changes to the capital framework for Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and a new consultation relating to additional flexibilities to use capitalisation without the requirement to approach Government further details of which were set out in Sections 7 and 8 of the report respectively. As the outcome of these consultations had not yet been announced, the MRP Policy, set out within Appendix 1 to the report, and the Council's use of capitalisation and capital receipts had all been based on the existing guidance and legislation. Consequently, there may be a requirement for amended policies to be brought back to Council for approval in advance of February 2025.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Brock and seconded by Councillor Gittings and CARRIED:

Resolved –

- (1) **That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2024/25 be approved as set out in Appendix 1, Section 2 to the report;**
- (2) **That the Capital Prudential Indicators be approved as set out in Appendix 1, Section 3 to the report;**
- (3) **That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for 2024/25 be approved as set out in Appendix 1, Section 4 to the report, whilst noting the potential**

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 27 FEBRUARY 2024

requirement for a revised MRP Policy to be brought forward once the outcome of the current MRP Consultation had been announced;

- (4) That the Borrowing Strategy for 2024/25 be approved as set out in Appendix 1, Section 5 to the report;
- (5) That the Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25 be approved as set out in Appendix 1, Section 6 to the report; and
- (6) That the Prudential and Treasury Management indicators be approved as set out in Appendix 1, Annex 1 to the report.

46. COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2024/25

The Director of Finance submitted a report seeking approval of the calculations for determining the Council Tax requirement for the year 2024/25, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The report also sought approval to set the Council Tax amounts for each property valuation band in the Borough including precepts from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley and Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Brock and seconded by Councillor Gittings and CARRIED:

Resolved –

- (1) That the following amounts that have been calculated for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 be agreed:
 - (i) £486,773,400 - Gross Revenue Expenditure, including transfers to reserves and any collection fund deficit, being the estimated aggregate expenditure of the Council in accordance with section 31A (2) of the Act;
 - (ii) £367,889,000 - Gross Revenue Income, including transfers from reserves, general government grants and any collection fund surplus, being the estimated aggregate income of the Council for the items set out in section 31A (3) of the Act;
 - (iii) £118,884,400 - Net Revenue Expenditure, being the amount by which the aggregate at (i) above exceeds the aggregate at (ii) above, calculated in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as the Council's Council Tax Requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31A (4) of the Act);
 - (iv) £2,016.88 - Reading Borough Council Band D Council Tax, being the amount at (iii) above (Item R) divided by the Council's tax base 58,944.73 (Item T) calculated in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year, representing an increase of 4.99% in the Council's own tax;
- (2) That the net tax base of 58,944.73 band D equivalent properties (being the gross tax base adjusted for an assumed collection rate) for 2024/25 was agreed by Council on 30 January 2024 be noted; and
 - (i) that the band D charge for Reading Borough Council be £2,016.88 as shown in Table 2 of the report; and
 - (ii) that, including the Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service and Thames Valley Police precepts, Council Tax by property valuation band be as set out in Table 4 of the report.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 27 FEBRUARY 2024

47. CORPORATE PLAN 2022-25 (2024/25 UPDATE)

The Executive Director of Resources submitted a report on this year’s proposed update to the Corporate Plan and outlining the changes that had been made for 2024/25. The Corporate Plan reflected the Council’s priorities over a three-year period and provided direction in planning and delivering services. The current Corporate Plan (“Investing in Reading’s Future”) was a 3-year plan covering the period April 2022 to March 2025. The plan set out the Council’s Vision “to help Reading realise its potential and ensure that everyone who lives and works here can share in the benefits of its success”. The refreshed Corporate Plan described the major achievements and progress made over the last 12 months and the priorities for 2024/25 against the themes of Healthy Environment, Thriving Communities, and Inclusive Economy. This year’s update to the Corporate Plan would be the third and final version of the Plan. In 2024/25, there would be a full revision of the Plan, which would cover the period April 2025 to March 2028. The amended Corporate Plan 2022-25 was appended to the report along with the Key Measures and Projects and the changes to Corporate Plan Key Measures attached.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Brock and seconded by Councillor Terry and CARRIED:

Resolved –

That the update to the Council’s Corporate Plan for 2024/25 and the accompanying appendix of key measures and projects be approved, as set out in appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

(The meeting closed at 8.26 pm).

MAYOR:.....

DATE: 19/03/24

This page is intentionally left blank

Council

19 March 2024



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Title | Establishment of a Joint Committee - Berkshire Prosperity Board |
| Purpose of the report | To make a decision |
| Report status | Public report |
| Report author | Chief Executive, Jackie Yates |
| Lead Councillor | Councillor Jason Brock. Leader of the Council |
| Corporate priority | Inclusive Economy |
| Recommendation | <p>That Council agrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the establishment of a fully constituted Joint Committee (to be known as the Berkshire Prosperity Board) from May 2024 to deliver a Berkshire-wide vision for inclusive green and sustainable economic prosperity; b) the proposed constitution for the Joint Committee as set out in Appendix A; and c) the responsibilities of the accountable body set out in Appendix B; <p>That Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the draft Governance structure set out in Appendix C; b) that the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Director of Finance, the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, was given delegated authority by Policy Committee on 19 February 2024 (Minute 51 refers) to reach a legally binding Agreement between the member Authorities setting out the supporting arrangements and responsibilities between the Authorities, particularly that between the Lead Authority, known as the Accountable Body and the other member Authorities. |
| | |

1. Executive Summary

1.1. This report seeks to establish a Joint Committee (to be known as the Berkshire Prosperity Board) to enable Berkshire Authorities, through collaboration, to benefit from:

- Working to a shared vision of inclusive, green and sustainable economic prosperity to address challenges and meet opportunities whilst retaining the sovereignty of each local authority.
- Presenting a strengthened case to Government and private investors for greater investment into strategic projects, service delivery and initiatives across Berkshire.

- Acting as a vehicle to commission the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and others to deliver core functions in response to the Government's review of Local Economic Partnerships.
- Having a stronger, collective voice in lobbying Government and other agencies. Taking a collaborative mindset in targeting external bodies effectively for the benefit of Berkshire
- Advantageously position Berkshire in readiness for potential devolution proposals to benefit from additional responsibilities and funding opportunities. Setting up a Berkshire that is better able to efficiently, seize future opportunities and adapt to challenges.
- Transforming Berkshire's productivity through, responsive, agile collaboration

2. Policy Context

- 2.1 The Government announced in its 2023 Spring budget that it was minded to transfer the functions of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) to local authorities. They confirmed their intention in August 2023 and from April 2024 local or combined authorities where they exist, will take on those functions. In areas without a devolution deal, functions must be exercised by upper tier authorities working across a functional economic area. For Berkshire this means a county wide footprint rather than individual local authority area.
- 2.2 Government is increasingly signalling that funding will be allocated on a functional economic area basis. Without the mechanism to facilitate receipt and management of such funding, or speak with a collective voice, residents in Reading will potentially be disadvantaged.
- 2.3 The establishment of a Joint Committee under ss101 & 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, enables the Berkshire authorities to address this issue whilst retaining their own individual sovereignty.

3. The Proposal

- 3.1. Collectively Berkshire Leaders and Chief Executives have been meeting to consider the challenges and opportunities faced by the Berkshire economy and the implication for residents. Leaders recognised that although the Berkshire Economy is comparatively strong, it faces a number of threats and has been experiencing declining productivity for several years. In order to respond to these challenges work has been undertaken by Place Directors to explore options to create a vehicle to drive and deliver economic prosperity within Berkshire for the benefit of residents.
- 3.2. Initial discussions explored the option of a devolution deal with Government and how Berkshire might benefit from the financial and decision-making powers a deal might bring. Early on in the process it was recognised that Berkshire's chance of securing a significant devolution deal was limited. Berkshire is disadvantaged by both the Government's Levelling Up agenda and because of priority being given to Local Authority areas with a Combined Authority and/or a directly elected mayor. The Berkshire Leaders have agreed not to pursue a directly elected mayor.
- 3.3. At the same time that this conversation began, the Government announced that it would be ending Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) funding from the end of March 2024, and transferring local economic leadership and budgets back to local authorities. Hence, discussions have been ongoing as to the future of Thames Valley Berkshire LEP.
- 3.4. As discussions progressed, Leaders recognised that the structure of six unitary authorities, which has provided so much benefit to the Berkshire area, could be better harnessed to promote Berkshire collectively and overcome the disadvantage Berkshire has in comparison with other larger counties and metropolitan areas, that speak with a single voice. It is acknowledged that by working in partnership, Berkshire Authorities can benefit from greater scale, and with that, have increased influence and a greater ability to develop solutions through collaboration.

- 3.5. The six Berkshire Leaders have stated their intention to develop a Joint Committee to help deliver this economic ambition.
- 3.6. Collectively the Leaders have identified a programme that will focus on six thematic workstreams deemed key to the future prosperity of our local economy and residents. Including, health and inequalities, education and skills, affordable housing, sector development, strategic infrastructure and net zero.

Berkshire's Economy

- 3.7. To date Berkshire is an economic success story – no other region in the UK has played a bigger role in driving the UK economy in recent decades. And as the UK's Silicon Valley, nowhere has the potential to add more value to UK plc. We have three diverse sub-regional economies and strengths in growth sectors of the future, innovative and international businesses, a highly skilled workforce, and are well connected to London and other highly productive markets.
- 3.8. The Covid-19 pandemic, Brexit, the impacts of the war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war have hit our economy hard and we are facing economic headwinds linked to changing trading relationships with Europe, labour market shortages and high inflation. Furthermore, as a region, we are disadvantaged when competing for the Government's Levelling - Up Investment programme. We therefore cannot be complacent – our economy is mature, but growth is lower than in the past, and we are moving into a period of further economic uncertainty.
- 3.9. It is also important to recognise that some of our communities have not been able to contribute to and benefit from Berkshire's economic success. Wage growth has not kept up with economic growth and many of our residents are facing increasing living costs, high levels of deprivation and poor health outcomes. Economic inactivity remains above our positive pre-Covid trajectory, exacerbating labour market pressures. Housing is a particular issue, with median house prices costing almost 11 times more than median earnings, acting as a constraint to recruiting and retaining graduate talent and people with the skills our economy need, both now and in the future.
- 3.10. The Berkshire economy is mature, but the strains of growth are showing. Many of the companies headquartered in Berkshire face re-investment decisions post Covid-19 and Brexit. We know that some of them are not as committed to a future in the UK as we would want.
- 3.11. There are many opportunities with growing industries such as the film industry in and around Reading University and Bray, but the need to act to secure Berkshire's long-term future is clearly evident. The development of the Joint Committee will allow Berkshire Authorities to share and effect an economic vision to collectively address challenges and seize opportunities working collaboratively with other key parties. Thereby providing a greater voice, than each Council would have individually, helping to lobby Government and secure more finance from both public and private investors, and to be an attractive location for inward investment.

Responding to Changes to the Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership

- 3.12. Government will cease funding Local Economic Partnerships (LEPS) from April 2024. The Government requires that the core functions currently carried out by LEPS be transferred to local authorities in a bid to empower local leaders and communities. Local authorities will receive the funding for and core responsibilities for delivering these functions from April 2024. The core functions are as follows:
 - Economic Strategy and Planning - This function is needed in the future to continue to provide evidence bases, data, and a Berkshire-wide economic strategy so that collective action can be prioritised and needs-led.
 - Business Voice - This is a core function required by Government going forward in each functional economic area. This function is needed to embed a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into local decision-making on

economic development issues. New guidance on setting up a Business Board (which will form part of a joint committee's governance arrangements) has recently been published.

- Government Programme Delivery - This function is needed in the future to continue to monitor the final stages of government programmes at the Berkshire level and ensure compliance with programme guidelines.
- 3.13. Local authorities will also be expected to take responsibility for commissioning the Growth Hubs and Skills Hubs.
- 3.14. Berkshire Leaders and the LEP have agreed that they want to continue working in partnership to support the Berkshire economy. The LEP will remain an independent company. Berkshire Leaders have agreed that funding received from Government for the core functions will be used to commission specialist organisations (such as the LEP and Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce) to deliver outcomes.
- 3.15. The development of a Berkshire Joint Committee with a nominated accountable body will allow Berkshire to accept funds from Government and commission the core functions to address collective priorities.

Devolution

- 3.16. The Government's 2022 Levelling Up White Paper set out plans for encouraging local areas to apply for a devolution deal – called 'County Deals'. These agreements devolve funding, additional responsibilities and decision making with a view to stimulating local economic growth.
- 3.17. Prior to local Elections in May 2023 Berkshire Leaders submitted to Government an expression of interest in becoming a devolved Deal area, setting out the opportunities that Berkshire offers the national economy given the right support and investment.
- 3.18. Having a fully constituted Joint Committee will strengthen Berkshire's chances of being offered a Deal if Government decides to accelerate the devolution process in advance of the General Election. With the prospect of a general election in 2024, Government is likely to change its approach, therefore at this stage devolution is not the driver to move forward with a Joint Prosperity Board.

Benefits of Developing a Joint Committee – the Berkshire Prosperity Board

- 3.19. Establishing a Joint Committee and sharing common goals across a functional economic area will provide Berkshire Authorities with exciting new opportunities for collaboration on economic development. Provide more flexibility and influence than a single council would have on its own and enable local authorities to speak with one voice to Government and other agencies/organisations to secure funding to help get key projects and initiatives off the ground.
- 3.20. In particular, Berkshire Authorities, through collaboration, will benefit from:
- Working together to create a shared vision of inclusive and sustainable economic prosperity through working together to address challenges and meet opportunities whilst retaining the sovereignty of each local authority.
 - Having a strengthened case to Government and private investors for funding and greater investment for strategic projects across Berkshire.
 - Acting as a vehicle to commission the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and others in response to the Government's review of Local Economic Partnerships.
 - Having a stronger, collective voice in lobbying Government and other agencies. Taking a collaborative mindset in targeting external bodies effectively for the benefit of Berkshire
 - Advantageously positioning Berkshire in readiness for potential devolution proposals to benefit from additional responsibilities and funding opportunities.

Setting up a Berkshire that is better able to efficiently, seize future opportunities and adapt to challenges.

- Working on six shared themes: health and inequalities, education and skills, affordable housing, sector development, strategic infrastructure and net zero.
- Transform Berkshire`s productivity through, responsive, agile collaboration.

Constitution, Secretariat and Accountable Body

- 3.20 The Joint Committee's role and purpose on behalf of the partner local authorities relates to ensuring that appropriate, effective and formal governance is in place for the purposes of delivering a Berkshire wide vision for economic growth and advancing partner local authorities aspirations for greater economic prosperity.
- 3.21 Core members of the Committee will include Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, Slough Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, West Berkshire Council and Wokingham Borough Council.
- 3.22 It is proposed that each local authority will decide whether a decision made at the Prosperity Board is a key decision and treat it according to the criteria within its own Constitution. Voting on all decisions will be by majority vote, albeit the Board will seek as far as possible to make unanimous decisions.
- 3.23 The structure and constitution of the Joint Committee will need decisions to be approved through each of the participating local authority's democratic decision-making groups. Details of the draft Constitution and structure of the Joint Committee is contained in: Functions and Procedure Rules for a Joint Committee (Appendix A), Responsibilities of the accountable body (Appendix B) along with the draft governance structure (Appendix C).

Other options that have been considered:

- 3.24 The main alternative approach is to continue to work on economic development in each unitary area as exists at the moment. This no change approach does not resolve matters relating to the functions passing to Local Authorities with the end of Government LEP funding which takes place in April 2024. It also does not build a stronger voice for Berkshire and does not enable streamlined collective decision making.
- 3.25 The other main alternative option considered was to develop a Combined Authority/Mayoral Combined Authority and seek a formal Devolution Deal. The Berkshire Leaders have agreed not to pursue a directly elected mayor.

4. Contribution to Strategic Aims

- 4.1. The Council's vision as set out within the Corporate Plan is:
- "To help Reading realise its potential and to ensure that everyone who lives and works here can share in the benefits of its success".
- 4.2. Work to deliver the vision is grouped under the following three themes:
- Healthy Environment
 - Thriving Communities
 - Inclusive Economy
- 4.3. The themes are underpinned by "Our Foundations" explaining the way we work at the Council:
- People first
 - Digital transformation
 - Building self-reliance
 - Getting the best value

- Collaborating with others

Full details of the Council's Corporate Plan and the projects which will deliver these priorities are published on the [Council's website](#).

- 4.4. The setting up of a Berkshire Prosperity Board, by way of a Joint Committee supports delivery of the Council's vision and Corporate Plan work programme. It is also consistent with our underpinning themes of working in collaboration with others to drive best value.

5. Environmental and Climate Implications

- 5.1. The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).
- 5.2. One of the six key work strands of the Berkshire Prosperity Board will be collaboration on delivering Net Zero.

6. Community Engagement

- 6.1 The Berkshire Prosperity Board will be a formally constituted Joint Committee. It will have a published forward plan and meetings will be held in public on a quarterly basis as a minimum. Decisions will be subject to call in arrangements (in those council's operating executive arrangements) as well as Scrutiny by each of the six member authorities.
- 6.2 The Committee will establish a Business Group in accordance with government guidance to act as a sounding board and inform the work programme.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1. There are no equality impacts arising from this report.

8. Other Relevant Considerations

- 8.1. There are no other relevant considerations in relation to this report

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1. Local Authorities are empowered by Part 6 of the Local Government Act 1972 to discharge their functions with other local authorities and to set up Joint Committees in order to do so.
- 9.2. Key legal elements that underpin the arrangement of the Joint Committee, such as indemnities, dispute resolution and financial responsibilities between the councils will be agreed in a joint legal agreement. This will also detail the specific responsibilities of the Accountable Body.
- 9.3. A report recommending the implementation of the proposed arrangements will be presented to the appropriate decision making forums within each authority. The adoption of a joint committee, its terms of reference, procedure rules and membership are decisions reserved to meetings of Council in each Authority. The broader decisions relating to the collaborative arrangements will be reserved to each individual Authority under which ever delegation they deem appropriate.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1. Collectively the six local authorities will receive £240k to provide the key LEP functions which are transferring to local government: Economic Strategy and Planning, Business Voice and Government Programme Delivery. The Ministry for Housing Communities & Local Government have directly and expressly advised that the £240k can only be spent on these areas.
- 10.2. It is envisaged that the total cost of running the Joint Prosperity Board in the first year will be in the region of £60K. In the first year the costs of managing the Berkshire

Prosperity Board will be contained within existing budgets and using an element of grant funding such as the shared prosperity fund. The following principles will be applied to the financial management of the Berkshire Prosperity Board:

- Open book- transparently accounting for all costs including in-kind.
- All costs will be shared equally by all participating authorities and billed quarterly on estimate with final settlement on actuals after year end.
- That all participating authorities have a suitable liability or indemnity arrangement to ensure risks is shared.

10.3. Wokingham Borough Council will act as the Accountable Body for the Prosperity Board, the responsibilities of which are set out in Appendix B attached.

11. Timetable for Implementation

11.1. The table below sets out the meeting dates for each of the Berkshire authorities regarding approval for the setup of the Joint Committee to be known as the Berkshire Prosperity Board. It is anticipated that the first meeting of Board will be in May 2024.

| Authority | Cabinet Policy Cttee | Council |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Bracknell Forest | 6 th February | 7 th March |
| Reading | 19 th February | 19 th March |
| Wokingham | 22 nd February | 21 st March |
| Slough | 26 th February | 11 th March |
| RBWM | 28 th February | 11 th March |
| West Berkshire | 14 th March | 26 th March |

12. Background Papers

12.1. There are none.

Appendices

1. Appendix A- DRAFT Functions and Procedure Rules for a Joint Committee
2. Appendix B- DRAFT Responsibilities of the accountable body
3. Appendix C- DRAFT Governance structure

DRAFT Functions and Procedure Rules for a Joint Committee

1. Functions

The Joint Committee will discharge on behalf of the Participating Local Authorities the functions listed below related to promoting economic prosperity in Berkshire:

- 1.1** Develop a shared, Berkshire-wide vision for inclusive and sustainable economic prosperity, together with a set of practical thematic priorities, that addresses the strategic challenges and opportunities that the area faces.
- 1.2** Agree to and making funding applications and/or investment bids to external bodies, in relation to economic prosperity for the benefit of the Berkshire.
- 1.3** Provide direction to the nominated Local Authority acting as the Accountable Body on the allocation of any funding awards/government grants received to appropriate projects for the benefit of the geographical area of the participating local authorities, including, where applicable, approving the approach to the procurement to be undertaken by Accountable Body Local Authority
- 1.4** Represent the participating local authorities in discussions and negotiations with regional bodies, national bodies, central government inward investors and others on matters relating to investment and funding for the benefit of Berkshire.
- 1.5** Co-ordinate work across the six participating authorities and other Berkshire Committees, networks, and other statutory providers where this can help to promote inclusive and sustainable prosperity and the delivery of priorities across the six programme themes.
- 1.6** Representing the participating local authorities in discussions and negotiations with regional bodies, national bodies and central government on matters relating to economic prosperity for the benefit of the local government areas of the participating authorities.
- 1.7** Provide the appropriate governance, accountability, and delivery mechanisms for any future Government funding and programme support, that could arise from the integration of the LEP, from future growth funding, from UKSPF Berkshire Wide programmes and from any subsequent devolution funding.
- 1.8** Seek to influence and align government investment in Berkshire in order to boost economic growth within the local government areas of the participating authorities.
- 1.9** Agree and approve any additional governance structures as related to the Joint Committee, or any sub-Committees formed by the Joint Committee.
- 1.10** Invite representatives of key stakeholders such as business associations, government agencies, the further education sector, higher education sector, schools, voluntary sector, and health sector to engage with the business of the Joint Committee including by attending meetings and commenting on proposals and documents.

2. Membership and Quorum

- 2.1 The membership will comprise of six members with each participating Local authority appointing one person to sit on the Joint Committee as a voting member.
- 2.2 Each participating local authority will make a suitable appointment in accordance with its own constitutional requirements. It is anticipated that, where practicable, the leader of each participating local authority will be appointed to the Joint Committee.
- 2.3 Where a participating Local authority does not operate executive arrangements, the appointment of a voting member will be in accordance with the local authority's own procedures. It is envisaged that this will usually be one of its senior councillors.
- 2.4 In all cases, the appointed person must be an elected member (or their Deputy), of the council of the appointing participating local authority. Appointments will be made for a maximum period not extending beyond each member's remaining term of office as a councillor, and their membership of the Joint Committee will automatically cease if they cease to be an elected member of the appointing participating local authority.
- 2.5 Members of the Joint Committee are governed by the provisions of their own Council's Codes and Protocols including the Code of Conduct for Members and the rules on Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
- 2.6 Each participating local authority will utilise existing mechanisms for substitution as laid down in their own Standing Orders. Continuity of attendance is encouraged.
- 2.7 Where a participating local authority wishes to withdraw from membership of the Joint Committee this must be indicated in writing to each of the Committee members. A six month notice period must be provided.
- 2.8 The quorum for the Joint Committee is **six** members. If the Joint Committee is not quorate it cannot transact any business. If there is no quorum at the time the meeting is due to begin, the start of the meeting will be delayed until a quorum is achieved. If no quorum is achieved after 30 minutes has elapsed, the Committee secretary will advise those present that no business can be transacted, and the meeting will be cancelled.
- 2.9 CEOs or their deputy will attend meetings in an advisory and supporting capacity.

3. Chair and Vice-Chair

- 3.1 The Chair of the Joint Committee will be appointed for 12 months and will rotate in turn between the six participating local authorities.
- 3.2 Unless otherwise unanimously agreed by the Joint Committee, each participating local authority's appointed person will serve as chair for 12 months at a time. Where the incumbent Chair ceases to be a member of the Joint Committee, the individual appointed by the relevant local authority as a replacement will serve as Chair for the remainder of the 12 months as chair.

3.3 The Joint Committee will also appoint a Vice-Chair from within its membership on an annual basis to preside in the absence of the Chair. This appointment will also rotate in a similar manner to the Chair.

3.4 At its first meeting, the Joint Committee will draw up the rotas for Chair and Vice-Chair respectively as well as the meeting schedule for the year.

3.5 Where neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair are in attendance, the Joint Committee will appoint a Chair to preside over the meeting where they are quorate.

3.6 In the event of any disagreement as the meaning or application of these Rules, the decision of the Chair shall be final.

4. Sub-Committees

4.1 The Joint Committee may establish sub-committees to undertake elements of its work if required.

4.2 Any such sub-committee may not make a decision unless:

1. That decision has been delegated to it by the Joint Committee, and
2. Such decisions are made unanimously as provided elsewhere in these Rules.

5. Delegation to officers

5.1 The Joint Committee may delegate specific functions to officers of any of the participating local authorities.

5.2 Any such delegation may be subject to the requirement for the officer to consult with or obtain the prior agreement of an officer (or officers) of the other participating local authorities.

5.3 It may also be subject to the requirement for the officer with delegated authority to consult with the Chair of the Joint Committee and the Leaders of the one or more participating local authorities before exercising their delegated authority.

6. Administration

6.1 Clerking support for the Joint Committee, and accommodation for meetings, will be managed in the first year by Bracknell Forest Council working with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

6.2 At its first meeting, the Joint Committee will agree the rotas for Chair and Vice-Chair respectively as well as the meeting schedule for the year.

6.3 In the first year, Authorities will where possible support the Joint Committee in kind by taking on responsibilities such as communications and clerking.

7. Financial matters

- 7.1 In the first year the costs of managing the Joint Committee will be contained within existing budgets and using an element of the shared prosperity fund. Beyond the first year, Council's will work within available budgets and funding sources.
- 7.2 When making a decision which has financial consequences, the Joint Committee will follow the relevant provisions of the Financial Procedure Rules of the Accountable Body Local Authority.
- 7.3 Where authorities are delegated funds to undertake work by the Prosperity Board, they follow their own contract procedure rules. Authorities will need to provide the accountable body with information to enable them to monitor that, spend is within budget and consistent with the outcomes required by the Prosperity Board.

8. Agenda management

- 8.1 Subject to 8.2, all prospective items of business for the Joint Committee shall be agreed by a meeting of the Chief Executives of the participating local authorities or their authorised representatives.
- 8.2 It will be the responsibility of each report author to ensure that the impacts on all participating local authorities are fairly and accurately represented in the report. They may do this either by consulting with the monitoring officer and chief finance officer of each participating local authority or by some other appropriate method.
- 8.3 In pursuance of their statutory duties, the monitoring officer and/or the chief financial officer of any of the participating local authorities may include an item for consideration on the agenda of a meeting of the Joint Committee, and, may require that an extraordinary meeting be called to consider such items.
- 8.4 Each participating local authority operating executive arrangements will be responsible for considering whether it is necessary to treat prospective decisions as 'key- decisions' and follow any steps required by law such as inclusion in any Forward Plan. Each participating local authority operating a Committee system will apply its local non statutory procedures.

9. Meetings

- 9.1 The Joint Committee will meet in-person, face to face quarterly and as required to fulfil its functions.
- 9.2 A programme of meetings at the start of each Municipal Year will be scheduled and included in the Calendar of Meetings for all participating local authorities.
- 9.3 Access to meetings and papers of the Joint Committee by the press and public is subject to Part 5A of the Local Government Act 1972 and to the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

10. Notice of meetings

- 10.1 On behalf of the Joint Committee, the Committee secretary will give notice to the public of the time and place of any meeting in accordance with Part 5A of the 1972 Act.
- 10.2 At least five clear working days in advance of a meeting the secretariate to the Joint Committee will publish the agenda via the website of secretariate's authority and provide the documentation and website link to the participating local authorities to enable the information to be published on each Participating Local authority's website. "Five Clear Days" does not include weekends or national holidays and excludes both the day of the meeting and the day on which the meeting is called.
- 10.3 The secretary to the Joint Committee will arrange for the copying and distribution of papers to all Members of the Committee.

11. Public participation

- 11.1 Unless considering information classified as 'exempt' or 'confidential' under the 1972 Act, all meetings of the Joint Committee shall be held in public.
- 11.2 Public representations and questions are permitted at meetings of the Joint Committee. Notification must be given in advance of the meeting indicating by 12 noon on the last working day before the meeting the matter to be raised and the agenda item to which it relates. Representatives will be provided with a maximum of 3 minutes to address the Joint Committee.
- 11.3 The Chair shall have discretion to determine the number of speakers per agenda item and to extend the time allowed for addressing the Joint Committee.
- 11.4 Where the number of public representations exceed the time / number allowed, a written response will be provided or the representation deferred to the next meeting of the Joint Committee if appropriate.
- 11.5 The Joint Committee may also invite special representatives of stakeholders such as business associations, government agencies such as DWP or Jobcentre Plus, the further education sector, voluntary sector, and health sector to take an interest in the business of the Committee including by attending meetings and commenting on proposals and documents.
- 11.6 The Chair shall have discretion to regulate the behaviour of all individuals present at the meeting in the interests of the efficient conduct of the meeting.

12. Councillor participation

- 12.1 Any elected member of any of the participating local authorities who is not a member of the Joint Committee may ask a question or address the Committee with the consent of the Chair.

13. Business to be transacted

- 13.1 Standing items for each meeting of the Joint Committee will include the following:
- Minutes of the Last Meeting
 - Apologies for absence
 - Declarations of Interest
 - Provision for public participation
 - Substantive items for consideration
- 13.2 The Chair may vary the order of business and take urgent items their discretion. The Chair should inform the Members of the Joint Committee prior to allowing the consideration of urgent items.
- 13.3 An item of business may not be considered at a meeting unless:
- (i) A copy of the agenda included the item (or a copy of the item) is open to inspection by the public for at least five clear days before the meeting; or
- (ii) By reason of special circumstances which shall be specified in the minutes the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.
- 13.4 “Special circumstances” justifying an item being considered as a matter or urgency will relate to both why the decision could not be made at a meeting allowing the proper time for inspection by the public as well as why the item or report could not have been available for inspection for five clear days before the meeting.

14. Extraordinary meetings

- 14.1 Arrangements may be made following consultation with Chair of the Joint Committee to call an extraordinary meeting of the Joint Committee. The Chair should inform the appointed Members prior to taking a decision to convene an extraordinary meeting.
- 14.2 The business of an extraordinary meeting shall be only that specified on the agenda.

15. Cancellation of meetings

- 15.1 Meetings of the Joint Committee may, after consultation with the Chairman, be cancelled if there is insufficient business to transact or some other appropriate reason warranting cancellation. The date of meetings may be varied after consultation with the Chairman and appointed members of the Joint Committee, in the event that it is necessary for the efficient transaction of business.

16. Rules of debate

- 16.1 The rules of debate in operation in the Chair’s authority shall apply.

17. Request for determination of business

- 17.1 Any member of the Joint Committee may request at any time that:
- The Joint Committee move to vote upon the current item of consideration.
 - The item be deferred to the next meeting.
 - The item be referred back to a meeting of the Chief Executives of the participating local authorities for further consideration
 - The meeting be adjourned.

17.2 The Joint Committee will then vote on the request.

18. Urgency procedure

18.1 Where the Chair (following consultation with the appointed Members of the Joint Committee) is of the view that an urgent decision is required in respect of any matter within the Joint Committee's functions and that decision would not reasonably require the calling of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Joint Committee to consider it and it cannot wait until the next Ordinary Meeting of the Joint Committee, then they may request in writing the Chief Executive of each participating local authority (in line with pre-existing delegations in each local authority's Constitution) to take urgent action as is required within each of the constituent local authorities.

19. Voting

19.1 It is proposed that each local authority will decide whether a decision made at the Prosperity Board is a key decision and treat it according to the criteria within its own constitution. .

19.2 Where a vote is required it will be on the basis of one vote per local authority member . The Chair will take the vote by show of hands.

19.3 Decisions shall be decided by a unanimous vote where all six Members or member deputies are present and agree.

19.4 Where, immediately after a vote is taken at a meeting, if any Member so requests, there shall be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting whether the person cast his / her vote for or against the matter or whether he/ she abstained from voting.

20. Minutes

20.1 At the next suitable meeting of the Joint Committee, the Chairman will move a motion that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record. The meeting may only consider the accuracy of the minutes and cannot change or vary decisions taken at a previous meeting as a matter arising out of the minutes.

20.2 Once agreed, the Chairman will sign them.

20.3 There will be no item for the approval of minutes of an ordinary Joint Committee meeting on the agenda of an extraordinary meeting.

21. Exclusion of the public and press

- 21.1 Members of the public and press may only be excluded from a meeting of the Joint Committee either in accordance with the 1972 Act or in the event of disturbance.
- 22.2 A motion may be moved at any time for the exclusion of the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings. The motion shall specify by reference to Section 100(A) Local Government Act 1972 the reason for the exclusion in relation to each item of business for which it is proposed that the public be excluded. The public must be excluded from meetings whenever it is likely, in view of the nature of business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings that confidential information would be disclosed.
- 22.3 If there is a general disturbance making orderly business impossible, the Chairman may adjourn the meeting for as long as he/she thinks is necessary.
- 22.4 Background papers will be published as part of the Joint Committee agenda and be made available to the public via the website of each authority.

23. Overview and Scrutiny

- 23.1 Decisions of the Joint Committee which relate to the executive functions of a participating local authority will need to be in accordance with each of the six local authority's own democratic scrutiny procedures for agreement before implementation.
- 23.2 Decisions of the Joint Committee which relate to the executive functions of a participating local authority will be subject to scrutiny and 'call -in' arrangements (or such other arrangements equivalent to call-in that any participating local authority operating a Committee system may have) as would apply locally to a decision made by that participating local authority acting alone
- 23.3 No decision should be implemented until such time as the call-in period has expired across all of the participating local authorities.
- 23.4 Where a decision is called in, arrangements will be made at the earliest opportunity within the participating local authority where the Call-In had taken place for it to be heard.
- 23.5 Any decision called in for scrutiny before it has been implemented shall not be implemented until such time as the call-in procedures of the participating local authority concerned have been concluded.

24. Access to minutes and papers after the meeting

- 24.1 On behalf of the Joint Committee, the secretariate will make available copies of the following for six years after the meeting:
 - (i) the minutes of the meeting and records of decisions taken, together with reasons, for all meetings of the Joint Committee, excluding any part of the minutes of proceedings when the meeting was not open to the public or which disclose exempt or confidential information.
 - (ii) the agenda for the meeting; and

(iii) reports relating to items when the meeting was open to the public.

25. Dispute Resolution

- 25.1 Where any dispute arises within the Joint Committee in connection with this arrangements, the Partners must use their best endeavours to resolve that dispute within the Joint Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference.
- 25.2 Where any dispute is not resolved under Clause 25.1 on an informal basis, any participating member of the Joint Committee may convene an extraordinary meeting of the Joint Committee to attempt to resolve the dispute.
- 25.3 Where any dispute is not resolved under Clause 25.1 or 25.2, the Joint Committee can appoint an independent mediator to attempt to resolve the dispute. The cost of mediation will be borne in equal shares between parties involved in the dispute.
- 25.4 Where any dispute remains unresolved The Joint Committee will commission an independent review. The Joint Committee will abide by the independent review findings.
- 25.5 The cost will be borne in equal shares between parties involved in the dispute.

26. Amendment of these Rules

- 26.1 These Rules shall be agreed by the Joint Committee at its first meeting. Any amendments shall be made by the Joint Committee, following consultation with the monitoring officers of the participating local authorities. Note that Rule 1 (Functions) may only be amended following a formal delegation from each of the participating local authorities.
- 26.2 These rules and arrangements shall be reviewed every 12 months at the start of the new Chair and Vice-Chair term.

27. Special Representatives

The Functions and Procedure Rules for the Joint Committee set out that there will be a select number of 'special representatives' invited to attend meetings to 'influence' the work of the Committee as and when appropriate. These will be drawn from the following sectors and institutions: for example, Chamber of Commerce, LEP, emergency services, voluntary sector and businesses.

This page is intentionally left blank

DRAFT Responsibilities of the accountable body

1. The accountable body

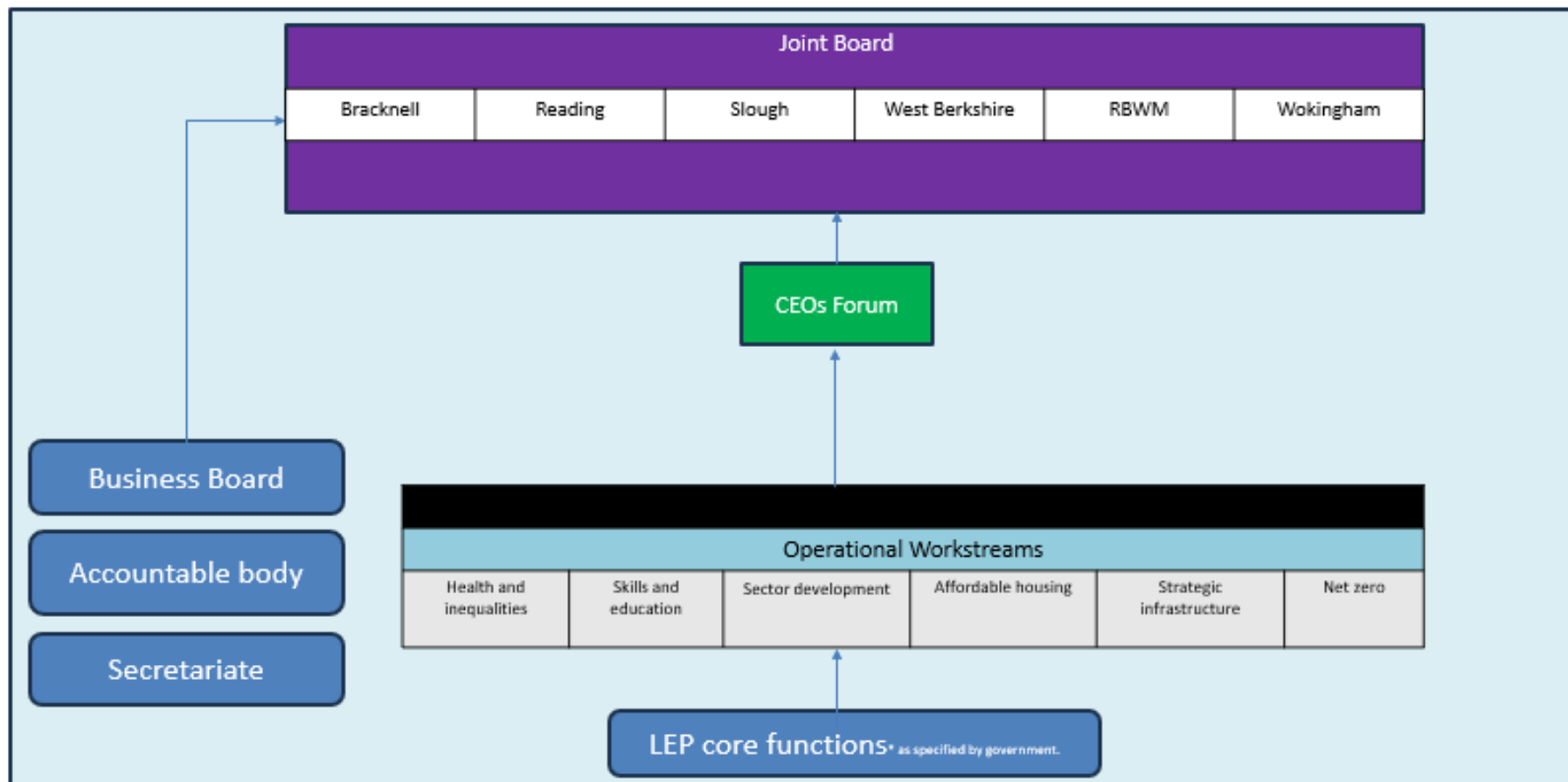
- 1.1 The accountable body is responsible for carrying out the finance functions and has oversight of governance, including providing legal and procurement services on behalf of the Joint Committee.
- 1.2 The accountable body ensures that decisions and activities of the Joint Committee conform with all relevant law, and that records and other evidence are maintained and managed in an appropriate manner including any documents (electronic or physical) relating to all funding received from Government or other public sources.
- 1.3 The accountable body should discharge its duty in line with the Local Government Finance Act 1988, section 114 requiring its Section 151 officer to report to all the participating authority's Leaders if there is or is likely to be unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget.
- 1.4 The accountable body must ensure that the Joint Committee must meet within 21 days to consider the report referred to in 1.6, and during that period the Prosperity Programme is prohibited from entering new arrangements that will cause money to be spent.
- 1.5 The accountable body should discharge its duty in line with The Local Government Act 1992 which requires financial reporting annually, to start in April and end in March, and meet the associated accounting obligations.
- 1.6 Where any grant is transferred to participating local authorities, the accountable body ensures this is done under a written agreement which reflects the grant requirements of the awarding body, clearly sets out ownership of responsibilities and makes adequate provisions for the protection of public funds (e.g. arrangements to suspend or claw back funding in the event of non-delivery or mismanagement)
- 1.7 The accountable body will co-ordinate participating local authorities in order to respond to any FOI/EIR requests made regarding the Joint Committee including the responsibilities of the accountable body.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- 1.8 Open book- transparently accounting for all costs including in-kind.
- 1.9 All costs will be shared equally by all participating unitary authorities and billed quarterly on estimate with final settlement on actuals after year end.
- 1.10 That all participating authorities have a suitable liability or indemnity arrangement to ensure risks is shared.

This page is intentionally left blank

Proposed initial structure – Berkshire Prosperity Board



This page is intentionally left blank

Council

19 March 2024



Reading
 Borough Council
 Working better with you

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Title | Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023-25 |
| Purpose of the report | To make a decision |
| Report status | Public report |
| Report author | Mike Graham, Returning Officer |
| Lead Councillor | Cllr Jason Brock, Leader of the Council and Cllr Liz Terry, Deputy Leader and Councillor for Corporate Services and Resources |
| Corporate priority | Not applicable, but still requires a decision |
| Recommendations | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the results of the consultation on the 2023-24 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Appendix A), and the Returning Officer’s written submission (Appendix B), be received and noted. 2. That the changes to Polling Places made since the 2019 review, to accommodate the Local Government Boundary Commission for England’s (LGBCE’s) 2019-20 review of ward boundaries in Reading, implemented in 2022 and set out in para. 3.22, be noted. 3. That the impact of the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) review of Parliamentary Constituency boundaries, and the changes to Parliamentary Constituencies covering Reading made in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020, be noted, in particular those arising from the Act basing the new Parliamentary Constituencies on the pre-2019-20 review ward boundaries; and that the necessarily consequent creation of the additional Polling Districts listed below to deal with the anomalies arising be approved: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. Polling District BC in Battle ward to serve the even numbered properties on the west side of Wantage Road which will vote in Battle Library Polling Station 3.2. Polling District JC in Norcot ward to serve houses (even numbers) to the south of Cockney Hill and Cheddington Close which will vote in St Michael’s Primary School 3.3. Polling District BB in Battle ward to serve Stone Street, Tidmarsh Street, Pangbourne Street, Ivydene Road, Ledbury Close which will vote in the Emmanuel Methodist Church 4. That the following changes be made to the number of Polling Stations at the Polling Places listed below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1. Battle Polling District B – Battle Library – establish a second Polling Station 4.2. Battle Polling District BA - Emmanuel Methodist Church - establish a fourth Polling Station 4.3. Norcot Polling District JA – St Michael’s Primary School – establish a second Polling Station |

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>5. That with regard to the responses to the public consultation on the 2023-24 Polling Districts and Polling Places Review, set out in Appendices A and B:</p> <p>5.1. On Caversham ward District CA, the Returning Officer consulted with the Caversham ward Councillors about the proposal to utilise Our Lady and St Annes Caversham Church as a Polling Place to replace New Bridge Nursery School which presently hosts two Polling Stations. The Caversham ward Councillors wish the Polling Place to remain at New Bridge Nursery School.</p> <p>5.2. the position and response concerning Abbey Polling District AB in light of the proposed closure of Reading Central Library be noted; and in this regard, having received the views and preference of the Abbey ward Councillors, and their preferred location as an alternative Polling Place being Abbey Baptist Church be implemented by the Returning Officer after 2024 elections.</p> <p>5.3. it be noted that the anomaly to locate all the properties in the range 37-91 Lowfield Road in Emmer Green ward Polling District GB was corrected in 2022</p> <p>5.4. no change be made to the location of the Polling Place for Whitley Polling District PC, where the Whitley ward Councillors have been consulted and wish to retain the Polling Station at 100 Longwater Avenue</p> <p>5.5. the Returning Officer having consulted with the Church ward Councillors, regarding the use of Tyndale Baptist Church as an alternative Polling Place for Church Polling District E in anticipation of the temporary closure for refurbishment works at the Guide and Scout HQ making the building unavailable for elections in 2024 implement their decision to utilise the Tyndale Baptist Church as the Temporary Polling Place.</p> <p>6. That the following changes to Polling Districts are agreed:</p> <p>6.1. Wantage Hall and St Georges Hall be moved from Redlands ward district LD into Redlands ward district LA</p> <p>6.2. Numbers 1,3,5,7,9 Whitley Park Lane be moved from Redlands ward LC into Redlands ward district LD</p> <p>6.3. Katesgrove HC Polling District be abolished and all properties in it be moved into Katesgrove ward H Polling District (Katesgrove School)</p> <p>7. That the Returning Officer, be authorised to implement all appropriate actions arising from the review and discussed in this report, in consultation where appropriate with affected ward Councillors.</p> |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report sets out the results of the current (2023-24) review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in Reading, with recommendations to change some Polling Places for future local and Parliamentary elections. The last review took place in 2018/19 (the 2019 review) and was reported to Council on 26 March 2019 (minute 26 refers).

2. Policy Context

- 2.1. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (the 2013 Act), and the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (the 2006 Act), do not provide for councils to review constituency or ward boundaries (these responsibilities sit with the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) and the Local Government Boundary Commission for

England (LGBCE)), and the regular review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations by councils must therefore take place within the existing constituency and ward boundaries.

- 2.2. The Council's ward boundaries were last reviewed in 2019-20. This established the current boundaries of wards. There have been no further changes to ward boundaries to date. However, the LGBCE review the position annually, based on the electoral register for the authority published on 1 December each year.
- 2.3. The LGBCE undertook an electoral review of the Council in its 2019-20 programme. This is because the 2017 canvass showed over 30% of the authority's current wards (5 out of 16) had a variance greater than 10% from the authority's average ratio of electors, which was 2,443 per Councillor or 7,329 per 3-member ward.
- 2.4. The LGBCE published its Final Recommendations on 29 September 2020 and the Order was laid before Parliament in January 2021. The Order provided for a Council of 48 Members, representing 16 three-member seats, all elected by thirds. Each ward is divided into a smaller number of Polling Districts, with their own Polling Places. A Polling Place is the building within which one or more Polling Stations are located. The new warding arrangements came into effect in May 2022, when all-out elections for all 16 wards were held.
- 2.5. As a summary, the are the changes brought about by the LGBCE review in 2020:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Abbey | Central core of Abbey ward, with north and eastern areas transferred to new Thames ward, and small transfers to Coley and Redlands ward; and the small part of Battle ward east of railway transferred to Abbey ward. |
| Battle | Core of current ward, with small transfers to Abbey, Coley, and from and Norcot and Kentwood wards. |
| Caversham | Northern part of Caversham ward and southern part of Thames wards |
| Caversham Heights | Mapledurham ward and northern part of Thames ward, plus small transfer from Peppard ward |
| Church | Core of current ward, plus north-eastern parts of Whitley ward; and transfers to Redlands around university (excluding Northcourt Avenue); and to Whitley south of Hartland Road |
| Coley | Core of Minster ward, with small transfers to Katesgrove and Southcote, and from Battle wards. |
| Emmer Green | Core of Peppard ward with small transfers from Thames and Caversham wards |
| Katesgrove | Core of current ward, with small transfers from Minster ward to align western boundary to Rose Kiln Lane (not River Kennet) |
| Kentwood | Core of current ward, less small transfer to Battle ward |
| Norcot | Core of current ward, with minor boundary adjustments with Battle, Southcote and Tilehurst wards |
| Park | No change |
| Redlands | Current ward, plus transfers from Abbey and Church |
| Southcote | Core of current ward, plus transfer of Minster ward west of railway, and boundary adjustments with Norcot ward. |

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thames (new) | Southern part of Caversham ward and northern and eastern parts of Abbey ward. |
| Tilehurst | Core of current ward, with minor boundary adjustment with Norcot and Southcote wards |
| Whitley | Core of current ward, plus south-western part of Church ward; and less north-eastern parts to Church |

- 2.6. Reading has 54 Polling Places, covering 57 Polling Districts, and encapsulating 75 Polling Stations. The current pattern of Polling District boundaries was established following the 2019/20 ward boundary review (see the Plan of the Polling Districts 2023 Appendix C) and was approved by Council on 22 February 2022 (minute 43 refers).

3. The Proposal

- 3.1. The 2013 Act introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places. The current compulsory review had to be started and completed between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025 (inclusive). Subsequent compulsory reviews must be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2023. That is, the next review must be started and completed between 1 October 2028 and 31 January 2030.
- 3.2. Notice of the current (2023-24) review was published on 1 November 2023, on the Council's website, at the Civic Offices, and in the Council's libraries. The deadline for responses was 1 December 2023. Letters and emails were sent to the following interested parties, specifically to invite them to participate in the review:
- All Councillors
 - The Borough MPs
 - Party Agents
 - Polling Station Inspectors at 2023 Elections
 - Organisations receiving papers for the Access Forum
 - Polling Station venue managers
 - Community & Residents' Groups and Associations

A complete list is given in section 6 below.

- 3.3. The current review attracted seven responses a significant decrease from the 37 responses generated by the 2019 review. These are set out in the schedule at Appendix A.
- 3.4. As Returning Officer, I must make a written submission to the review process which comments on the existing Polling Stations and any new Polling Stations and new Polling Districts that may be used based on proposals made in the review. My written submission is at Appendix B.
- 3.5. Both the results of the consultation (Appendix A) and my written submission (Appendix B) have been published on the review page of the Council's website from 21 December 2023.
- 3.6. A plan of the Borough's new (2023) Polling Districts is at Appendix C.
- 3.7. Since the 2019 review of Polling Stations in Reading, there have been three developments which have complicated the situation in the Borough:
- a) The LGBCE undertook an electoral review of the Borough's ward boundaries in 2019-20, which increased the number of Councillors to 48 representing 16 three-member wards covering the whole Borough and was implemented at the local elections in May 2022.

- b) The review of Parliamentary Constituencies undertaken by the BCE in 2019-20, and the consequent Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 which has established three new Parliamentary constituencies covering the Borough with effect from the next General Election.
- c) The 2020-21 COVID outbreak, which delayed the outcome of the LGBCE review of Reading's ward boundaries until February 2021, which was after the deadline used by the BCE to determine the new Parliamentary Constituencies; as a consequence, the three Parliamentary constituencies which will cover Reading – Central Reading, Reading West and Mid-Berkshire, and Earley & Woodley – are based on the old ward boundaries which applied before 2022, and will continue to be so until the next BCE review is undertaken and implemented.
- 3.8. These developments have resulted in unhelpful inconsistencies between ward and Parliamentary boundaries, as set out below. As a consequence, it is necessary to set up some very small Polling Districts to deal with situations where a small part of a ward will be in a different Parliamentary constituency from the rest of the ward. This affects the following ward boundary areas:

Central Reading /Reading West & Mid-Berkshire

- Battle / Norcot ward boundary
- Southcote / Norcot ward boundary

Central Reading / Earley & Woodley

- Redlands / Church ward boundary

- 3.9. When the new Parliamentary Constituencies come into effect at the next General Election, the current requirement to retain Polling District HC in Katesgrove ward will end. This is that part of the ward to the west of the River Kennet up to Richfield Avenue which was moved from the former Minster ward in the 2019-20 ward review, but which will remain in the present Reading West constituency until the General Election; Minster ward is currently in Reading West, Katesgrove in Reading East.

Review Process

- 3.10. A Polling District is a sub-division of a constituency or ward. A Polling Place is a geographical area within a Polling District in which a Polling Station can be located: there is no legal definition of the term "Polling District", which therefore can be defined tightly or widely. It is possible to have a Polling Station outside the Polling District in special circumstances, in which cases the Polling Place must be clearly specified.
- 3.11. The review is required under Section 16 of the 2006 Act, which amends Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983. Under Section 18C of the amended 1983 Act, a review of each Polling District and Polling Place must be completed before the end of a period of four years starting with the completion of the previous review. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 changed the timing of compulsory reviews of Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places, aligned to the timetable for five-yearly General Elections. Under this, the current review must be completed by 31 January 2025.
- 3.12. The end results must be published in the next new electoral register. Therefore, the results of the 2023 review will be incorporated into a new electoral register to be published on 1 March 2024.
- 3.13. The responsibility for signing off the review rests with Council. The legal position is that Sections 18 and 31 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 allow constituencies and wards to be divided into Polling Districts. Council could delegate these functions to a Committee (or to an officer) but to date it has not done so.
- 3.14. The process is based on parliamentary constituencies. Under Schedule A1 of the Parliamentary Election Rules, it involves a number of specified stages:

The Council must:

- Publish notice of review (this was done 1 November 2023)
- Consult with Returning Officer(s) for parliamentary constituencies in Council areas – and publish these when received (within 30 days of receipt). I am the only Returning Officer for Reading. My response is at Appendix B.
- Seek representations from persons with an expertise in relation to access and disability – who must also have an opportunity to comment on the Returning Officer’s representations (this has been done).
- Any elector may also make representations – which may include proposals for specified alternative Polling Places. These are shown in Appendix A.
- On completion of the review, compile and adopt a revised scheme – which must be published, with reasons given for decisions.

The Returning Officer must:

- Make representations about the location of Polling Places within Polling Districts
- Allocate electors to Polling Stations (after review)

Projected Growth

- 3.15. Appendix B includes indicative information on projected new residential developments in individual wards and Polling Districts, based on the Housing Trajectory in the 2022-23 Annual Monitoring Report which is to be published imminently. The Housing Trajectory forecasts developments that will actually come forward. These figures are for all consents together with Local Plan allocations and give a total of 11,008 new dwellings with hard or soft commitments. The electoral register currently has 76,982 dwellings, so if all of these dwellings were to be built, it would represent an increase of over 14% in dwelling numbers across the Borough.
- 3.16. The majority of the new residential development is projected to take place in three wards: Abbey (3,968 dwellings), Thames (2,626 dwellings) and Whitley (1,757 dwellings).
- 3.17. The growth of residential development in Whitley ward is predominantly to the west of Basingstoke Road, especially to the west of the A33 relief road (Green Park, Madejski stadium).
- 3.18. The growth of residential development in Thames ward is as follows:
- 3.19. The former Homebase/Toys R Us (473 dwellings outstanding, expected completions in 2023-25), Gas Holder on Alexander Turner Close (130, 2025-27), 55 Vastern Road (209, 2025-28), 80 Caversham Road (620, 2028-2032), Station Retail Park (401, 2030-36), Napier Court on Napier Road (261, 2028-33), Forbury Retail Park (388, 2031-36) and Forbury Business Park, Kenavon Drive (238, 2030-34). The last four of these are Local Plan allocations that do not yet have a permission so the number of homes is an estimate based on the allocation.
- 3.20. The growth of residential development in Abbey ward are as follows:
- 3.21. The Station Hill Phase 1 (599, 2024-26), Weldale Street (169 outstanding, 2025-27), Station Hill Phase 3 (375, 2028-31), Broad Street Mall (422, 2026-29), Soane Point at 6-8 Market Place (182, 2025-26), Brunel Arcade & Apex Plaza (401, 2030-36), Cattle Market on Great Knollys Street (450, 2033-36), Chatham Street/Eaton Place area (140, 2032-36) and Hosier Street (683, 2029-34). The last four of these are Local Plan allocations that do not yet have a permission, so the number of homes is an estimate based on the allocation.

Polling Stations

Comments on Polling Places

3.22. Changes have been made to the location of some of the Polling Places in the Polling Districts, to reflect changes brought about by the LGBC review of 2019/20 and changes made as a result of the Covid Pandemic. Since the review of Polling Places in 2019, the following changes have been made to Polling Places:

- Caversham Primary School which was the Polling Place for old Caversham Polling District MC and Thames Polling District WB is no longer used as a Polling Station.
- Ridgeway Primary School which was located in old Church Polling District NA was changed to the St Barnabas Church Hall in new Church Polling District EA.
- Norcot Community Centre (now demolished) which was located in the old Kentwood Polling District CC was changed to new Lyndhurst Road Community Centre in new Kentwood Polling District IC.
- Ranikhet Academy which was located in old Norcot Polling District EB was changed to Dee Space Community Centre in new Norcot Polling District JB.
- Redlands Primary School which was located in old Redlands Polling District BA is no longer used as a Polling Station.
- Prospect School which was located in old Southcote Polling District FC is no longer used as a Polling Station.
- Park Lane Primary School which was located in old Tilehurst Polling District GA was changed to Tilehurst British Legion which is located in new Tilehurst Polling District OA.
- Geoffrey Field Infants School which was located in old Whitley Polling District SA is no longer used as a Polling Station.
- Mapledurham Pavilion now located in Caversham Heights Polling District DA has resumed its role as a Polling Place.
- A new Polling Place has been created at Park Lounge Windsor Hall UoR which is located in Redlands Polling District LD.
- A new Polling Place has been created at Kennet Island Community Centre which is located in new Whitley Polling District P.
- A new Polling Place has been created at Green Park 100 Longwater Avenue which is located in new Whitley Polling District PC.
- A new Polling Place has been created at South Reading Leisure Centre which is located in new Whitley Polling District PD.

3.23. Appendix B also includes my initial comments on Polling Places. Most are acceptable. However, the following should be noted:

| Polling District | Polling Place | Comments |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Abbey AB | Reading Central Library | To close at the end of 2024. Will be available for this year's elections. A permanent alternative Polling Station will need to be found. Consultation with ward Councillors is underway. |
| Church E | Scout and Guide Joint HQ | Planned building works are to commence in spring 2024. Not available May 2023 until January 2025. A temporary Polling Place will need to be found. |

Comments on Polling Districts

- 3.24. BCE has carried out a review of Parliamentary Constituencies. The provisions of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 (the 2020 Act) determine the local (ward) boundaries that the BCE must have regard to which were the ward boundaries extant in December 2020. The BCE utilised the ward boundaries that were extant in Reading in December 2020 and not the new ward boundaries as determined by the LGBCE in its 2019-20 Review which means there are numerous anomalies between the new constituencies' boundaries of the new Reading Central Borough Constituency, the Reading West and Mid-Berkshire Constituency and the Early and Woodley Constituency.
- 3.25. As referred to in Appendix B there are a number of situations where the ward boundaries are impacted, and the new LGBCE ward boundaries create an inconsistency with the new BCE Constituency Boundaries as follows:

Central Reading Constituency / Reading West and Mid-Berkshire County Constituency

Kentwood / Battle ward boundary

- 3.26. The housing listed below in the south-east corner of Kentwood ward between Portman Road and Oxford Road which contained the Stone Street area was moved into Battle ward and is contained in new Battle Ward district BA. The houses affected which are located in Battle ward district BA are as follows:
- a) Stone Street
 - b) Tidmarsh Street
 - c) Pangbourne Street
 - d) Ivydene Road
 - e) Ledbury Close
- 3.27. It is proposed to create an additional new Polling District BB and a new Polling Station containing the above streets which will vote in the Battle Library Polling Place as these voters will vote in the Reading West and Mid Berkshire County Constituency at a General Election.
- 3.28. Please note the attached Plan which shows the extent of the proposed new district BB shown edged red.

Norcot / Battle ward boundary

- 3.29. The old ward Boundary (running Northeast to Southwest) between Norcot and Battle wards ran down the middle of Wantage Road. In the LGBCE review the Boundary was moved westwards so that it runs between Wantage and Wilson Roads, moving both sides of Wantage Road into Battle ward district B.
- 3.30. It is proposed to create an additional new Polling District BC and a new Polling Station containing the even properties on the west side of Wantage Road within Battle ward as the voters in this new Polling District will vote in the Reading West and Mid Berkshire County Constituency at a General Election. The new Polling Station will be located at the Emmanuel Methodist Church Polling Place.
- 3.31. Please note the attached plan which shows the extent of the new Battle district BC edged red.

Norcot / Southcote ward boundary

- 3.32. The Boundary between Norcot and Southcote wards was changed in the LGBCE review so that both sides of Cockney Hill and taking in housing south of Cockney Hill was moved into new Norcot ward district JA.
- 3.33. The housing affected which is located in Norcot ward district JA is as follows:
- a) Houses (even numbers) to the south of Cockney Hill
 - b) Cheddington Close
- 3.34. It is proposed to create an additional new Polling District JC and Polling Station in Norcot ward for the above properties which will vote in the new Reading Central Constituency at a General Election. The voters will vote at St Michaels Primary school as they do at a local election.
- 3.35. Please note the attached plan which shows the extent of the new Norcot district JC edged red.

Central Reading Constituency / Earley and Woodley Constituency

Redlands / Church ward boundary

- 3.36. The southern boundary of Redlands ward and Northern boundary of Church ward were changed in the LGBCE review.
- 3.37. The changes in the LGBCE 2019/20 review to the Church/Redlands ward boundaries ensured that all university buildings and accommodation in the borough were kept within Redlands ward district LD.
- 3.38. The Housing affected that is located in Redlands ward district LD is as follows:
- a) Elmhurst Road (odd numbers 5 to 11)
 - b) Northcourt Avenue (even numbers 14 to 18, Creighton Court & St Patrick's Hall)
 - c) Sherfield Drive (Benyon Hall, Fickling Court, Sherfield Hall, The Cottages, The Farmhouse, The Granary, 1 to 4)
 - d) Shinfield Road - Mackinder Halls (Ashbury, Blewbury, Cholsey, Dunsden, Enborne, Fawley, Hurley, Ipsden) Newington Terrace, Oakley Terrace, Padworth House
 - e) Upper Redlands Road - Greenow House, McCombie House, Windsor Hall, Wardens House
- 3.39. It is proposed to retain the above properties in Polling District LD within Redlands ward which will vote in the new Earley and Woodley constituency at a General Election. It is also proposed to move odd numbers 1,3,5,7,9 Whitley Park Lane into district LD. Voters in Polling District LD will continue to vote at Park House, Windsor Lounge University of Reading.
- 3.40. As they are located in the Reading Central Constituency, Wantage Hall and St Georges Hall will be moved from Polling District LD into Polling District LA and will vote at the Museum of English Rural Life Polling Place.
- 3.41. Please note attached Plan which shows the extent of the revised district LD edged red.

Polling Station Electorates

- 3.42. Appendix B further includes details of the current electorate for each Polling District, broken down by absent (postal) voters and voters in person. This is relevant to the review because the Electoral Commission guidance is that Polling Stations should not have more than 2,250 electors who vote in person at the Polling Station.

- 3.43. Polling Places can host more than one Polling Station, and at the present time 19 (out of 54) do. One hosts 3 Polling Stations.

Consultation

- 3.44. The results of the consultation exercise are set out in **Appendix A**. This presents the results of the consultation by ward in alphabetical order, with the respondents being categorised by the Polling District in which they live, and whether a member of the public, Polling Place, or election staff, or a Councillor or officer.
- 3.45. As mentioned above, seven responses were received through the consultation. Save for a positive response from Thameside Primary School no responses were received from the schools that I propose are retained as a Polling Place.

Emmer Green

- 3.46. Two responses were received suggesting that addresses in the range 37-91 (odd numbers) Lowfield Road that are not in Polling District GB be transferred to that Polling District. This was to correct an anomaly which existed in 2022 whereby a small number of people are in a different Polling District from their immediate neighbours and have an unacceptably long journey to the Polling Station.
- 3.47. The register shows the anomaly was corrected in 2022 and that the properties in the range 37-91 Lowfield Road are all in Polling District GB.

Caversham

- 3.48. A response was received on behalf of the Parish of Our Lady & St Anne's Church (the Church) in Caversham, which is located in Caversham Polling District CA. The response proposed the use of the Church as a Polling Place. The present Polling Place for Caversham Polling District CA is New Bridge Nursery School which is a double Polling Station.

Abbey

- 3.49. A response was received on behalf of the Abbey ward councillors which concurred with the Returning Officers comments in Appendix B in respect of Polling Districts A, AC and AD.
- 3.50. With regard to the Polling Place for Polling District AB currently located at the Reading Central Library, which is to close at the end of 2024, this will require a replacement Polling Place from 2025.
- 3.51. Three alternative locations for a Polling Place were put forward as follows:
- a) Abbey Baptist Church Hall on Abbey Square, or
 - b) St Laurence Church, next to the Old Town Hall, or
 - c) The Soane Space in the Old Town Hall itself.
- 3.52. The three alternative locations have been inspected by the Deputy Returning Officer and a report has been produced to the Abbey ward Councillors for their consideration.
- 3.53. No comments were received about the Polling Places in the remaining wards

Use of Schools as Polling Stations

- 3.54. Local authorities across the country use schools as Polling Places and have done so for generations. Schools which are maintained from public funds have a duty to make themselves available for use as Polling Places if required by the Returning Officer.
- 3.55. In Reading, 16 of our 54 Polling Places are schools (29%). Being a local Polling Station reinforces the school's position within its local community and brings local residents into the school to vote.

- 3.56. Of the 16 schools, 15 are Primary or Nursery schools. In many cases, nowadays the school will close and treat Polling Day as an inset day.
- 3.57. At election time, the Department for Education issues standard advice to schools that are used as Polling Places. Local authorities have the power to require a school to act as a Polling Station. The decision to close the school rests with the head teacher and will usually depend on whether arrangements can be made for voting to take place separately from the rest of the school premises, with a separate entrance and exit. If the school decides to close on polling day, it should try to make up the lost education by re-arranging the school calendar so that the school meets the requisite 190 days or holding a non-contact (“inset”) day on polling day so that teachers are present but not the pupils.
- 3.58. As can be seen above from para 3.25 seven schools are no longer used as Polling Stations as alternative arrangements were found. Common themes that have been expressed in the past over the use of schools as Polling Places were the inconvenience of childcare and the disruption to education. The latter will not arise if the school treats polling day as an inset day, as suggested by the Department of Education.
- 3.59. During the year preceding the consultation exercise, I received a complaint about the use of Southcote Primary School and Manor Primary School as Polling Places. I was not able to find a suitable alternative Polling Place. Interestingly, the consultation did not generate any negative comments about the use of Southcote Primary or Manor Primary School as Polling Places. In the local election in May 2023 and a bye election in August 2023 the staff common room at St Michael’s Primary School was used as a Polling Station. The staff common room is not considered suitable for a General Election which will require the use of the Main Hall as the Polling Station.
- 3.60. I have been in contact with the Director of Education before this formal Review to encourage all schools to contact me, before or during the formal review period, to discuss any concerns that they have about their participation as a Polling Place. None have done so.
- 3.61. After the conclusion of the consultation the Returning Officer was made aware of the proposed closure for refurbishment of the Reading Scout and Guide HQ during 2024 which means the premises will not be available from spring 2024 until January 2025. The temporary closure will require an alternative temporary Polling Station to be found.

4. Contribution to Strategic Aims

- 4.1. The Council’s new Corporate Plan has established three themes for the years 2022/25. These themes are:
- Healthy Environment
 - Thriving Communities
 - Inclusive Economy
- 4.2. These themes are underpinned by “Our Foundations” explaining the ways we work at the Council:
- People first
 - Digital transformation
 - Building self-reliance
 - Getting the best value
 - Collaborating with others
- 4.3. Full details of the Council’s Corporate Plan and the projects which will deliver these priorities are published on the [Council’s website](#). These priorities and the Corporate Plan demonstrate how the Council meets its legal obligation to be efficient, effective and economical.
- 4.4. The electoral registration process and elections support the promotion of the participation of Reading people in local democracy.

5. Environmental and Climate Implications

- 5.1. The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).
- 5.2. There are no climate related impacts arising from this report.

6. Community Engagement

- 6.1. The arrangements for public consultation on the Review are set out in the main body of this report.
- 6.2. Consultation documents were sent to the following:

Community Centres, Leisure Centres, Libraries (including the coffee mornings at Reading Library), Pakistani Community Centre and Polish Club, Reading University, Hexagon, South Street Arts Centre, ACRE - Alliance for Cohesion and Racial Equality, Town Hall, Cllr Surgeries, Older People's Working Group, Carers Steering Group, Physical Disability and Sensory Needs Network, Adult Care User Panel and hard to reach groups - People over 85, Trans and non-binary people, disabled people, Ethnicities with low ID ownership, including people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1. Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
 - eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- 7.2. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not relevant to the decision, but the following issues have been addressed as part of the Review.

Access

- 7.3. A significant element of the review is to consider the suitability of the existing Polling Stations in terms of access. Section 16 of the 2006 Act has amended Section 18D of the 1983 Act to require the authority to take sufficient account of the accessibility of disabled persons to Polling Stations (S18(2)(b)).
- 7.4. In 2019 as part of the 2019 review the Council's Property service commissioned an access audit of our Polling Places, from Faithful and Gould, the Council's surveying consultants.
- 7.5. Disability audits of the Council's 54 Polling Places (75 Polling Stations) were undertaken in 2023 following the introduction of the provisions of the Elections Act 2022 and as part of this review by my Deputy Returning Officers. At each election, I ask Presiding Officers to report back on access issues in their Polling Stations; and my Deputy Returning Officers also look at access as part of their Polling Station inspections.
- 7.6. The Deputy Returning Officer attended the Council's Access Forum on 23 November 2023. He presented the Polling Districts and Polling Places review to the Forum and invited participating organisations to respond.
- 7.7. In my view, all of the Polling Places we use are wheelchair accessible, either directly or through discrete arrangements made at the venue. However, in some cases, there can be a long distance from the road to the room used as the Polling Station.

Parking

- 7.8. Many Polling Places, in particular in central Reading, have limited free parking for any voter. This extends to dedicated disabled parking spaces. However, drivers with a Blue Badge can park on double yellow lines if they display their badge and time. The most difficult Polling Places to access by car are Sir Herman Gollancz (Abbey Polling District A), and Newtown Primary School (Park Polling District K).
- 7.9. One response from the Access Forum commented on difficulties of getting to the Polling Places due to the state of the public highway. This is beyond the scope of this review.
- 7.10. As mentioned above, 16 of the Council's 54 Polling Places are schools (29%). Over the past decade, schools have reviewed and upgraded their security and safeguarding arrangements, including installing perimeter fencing and gates. This has had the intended effect of restricting public access, including in some cases vehicular access.

Public Transport

- 7.11. Given the tight urban density of Reading Borough (4,040 hectares), no Polling Place is more than half a mile from a bus route, and most are located on routes.

8. Other Relevant Considerations

- 8.1. Nothing further to note.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1. In exercising its powers, the Council is required to give all electors "such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances". In addition, in choosing Polling Places, only places which are accessible to electors who are disabled must be chosen so far as is reasonable and practicable.
- 9.2. The Returning Officer is required to provide a sufficient number of polling stations in each polling place and to allocate electors to the polling stations in such manner as he or she thinks most convenient. There are now a total of nearly 21,964 postal voters in local elections in Reading. The review should therefore focus on the remaining 95,377 electors who are not postal voters and will need to vote in person at their local polling station.
- 9.3. The Electoral Commission recommend that no polling station should have more than 2,250 electors in person per polling station (who are not postal voters); and 3 Poll Clerks if the number of electors in person was over 1,250. This is lower than the level set out in previous guidance but has been set to reflect the additional requirements of the Polling Station voting process, for both Polling Station staff and electors, as a result of the changes made by the Elections Act 2022 (Voter ID). The Electoral Commission also requests that Returning Officers bear in mind the predicted turnout per election type and staff their Polling Stations accordingly, bearing the above ratio in mind as guidance.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1. The 2023/24 budget for electoral registration is £394k, and the budget for local elections is £90k: the cost of the review has been met from within these resources.
- 10.2. The Council's spend on hiring its 54 polling places for each election is just over £26,500. The rates of hire vary between venues, in a range from £116 to £1,925. The average is £481.

11. Timetable for Implementation

- 11.1. The changes recommended by this Review will take place from the next general Election. A new Register of Electors will be published on 1 March 2024 in readiness with these changes taken into account.

12. Background Papers

12.1. There are none.

Appendices

- 1. Consultation Responses**
- 2. Returning Officer Written Submissions**
- 3. Plan of Polling Districts**

This page is intentionally left blank

| Comment No. | Polling District | Category | Polling Station | g Station Polling D | Comments | Response |
|-------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | NB | Polling Place - School | Thameside Primary School | Thames Ward - NB | We are happy to continue being a polling site | Thank you for confirming this. |
| 2 | HB | Councillor | The Palmer Academy | Katesgrove Ward - HB | Thanks for your email. An immediate comment I have is based on voter experiences at the 2022 election (reported at the time, so this comment may be redundant). In the 2022 election, the access to the Palmer Academy from the west was restricted for the first few hours as the gates to Lincoln Rd/Surrey Rd were locked. I presume this was accidental, and I hope that processes are in place to avoid it happening again. No such problems were reported in 2023, so it may be that the problem is solved. Nevertheless it is worth considering, as the majority of the polling district approach from the west, and the alternative route is a sizable detour. | Thank you for your response with regards to the Polling Station Review. I can confirm in 2022 there was a different Presiding Officer at The Palmer Academy as the usual Presiding Officer was unavailable. I recall this in 2022 and we ensured that the same didn't happen at the May Elections in 2023. We have added a note to the booking form and for the Presiding Officer to ensure that these entrances are open going forward for future Elections. Thank you for bringing this to our attention and we will include your comments on the review responses. |
| 3 | PC | Polling Place | 100 Longwater Avenue | Whitley Ward - PC | No comments to submit from me | That's great, thank you for confirming you were able to open the documents. I have noted that you have no comments to submit. |
| 4 | AB | Councillor | Reading Central Library | Abbey Ward - A - AD | With regard to the two Polling Districts A, and AC and AD, we concur with the comments made in Appendix A namely: "no amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed". With regard to Polling District AB, currently at the Reading Central Library, we would agree that with the closure of the Library and its move to the Civic Offices a new Polling Place will be required, either at the end of 2024 or certainly in 2025. Whilst the new library facilities at Bridge Street may offer the space for a new Polling Station, our preference would be that serious consideration is given to the following alternative locations for this polling station namely: 1. Abbey Baptist Church Hall on Abbey Square, or 2. St Laurence Church Hall, next to the Old Town Hall, or 3. The Soane Space in the Old Town Hall itself. All these venues, we understand, are fully accessible to wheelchairs and at ground floor level. Our understanding is that the current Central Library will not be closing until towards the end of 2024 and, as such, next year's Local Elections in May and a probable General Election in October or November should not be affected. However, if the autumn requires a new Polling Station we would request that | Thank you for your response to the review and suggested alternative Polling Places. Your response will be included in the review and I have passed your comments onto the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer for them to consider. Many thanks for responding to the review. |

| | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 | G, GA and GB | Agent | | Emmer Green Ward | <p>The following proposal has been raised in relation to Emmer Green ward: That any addresses in the range 37-91 (odds) Lowfield Road that are not in polling district GB are transferred to that polling district To correct an anomaly whereby a few people are in a different polling district from their immediate neighbours and have an unacceptably long journey to the polling station.</p> | <p>Thank you for sending this onto us. I will ensure this is passed onto the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer and comments included in the consultation results. We look forward to hearing from you should you receive any further proposals.</p> |
| 6 | | Polling Station | Our Lady & St Anne's, Caversham | CA Caversham | <p>I write in connection with the current Polling district, places, and stations review that is currently underway and in particular on behalf of the Parish of Our Lady & St Anne's in Caversham, it's Parish Priest, Father Joseph McGloughlin, and the Parish Finance Committee (the latter of which I am a member of). I was informed of the review underway by Isobel Balsdon following a Parish Finance committee meeting where the committee discussed the idea of the Parish making the parish hall (narthex) available to the council as a polling station should it be required. The room in question is attached to the Church though can be accessed independently. It is licensed to hold 60 people, has kitchen and toilet facilities and there is a private car park belonging to the parish which can accommodate up to 50 vehicles. The address of the church and hall (narthex) is 2 Southview Avenue, Caversham, Reading RG4 5AB and it is conveniently situated a 5 minute walk from central and lower Caversham. We believe that the facilities the hall provides, its parking facilities and its location would make it an ideal polling station for central and lower Caversham and we hope that the Council will give</p> | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 7 | | Polling Station | Reading Football Club | PC - Whitley | <p>I'm contacting you as I am the National Sales Researcher for Levy UK + Ireland – we manage the events and catering within many football and rugby stadiums around the UK. I wanted to get in touch regarding putting Reading FC forward as a polling station for the upcoming May 2024 general election – this is something we are hosting at many of our stadiums, as they are a recognisable community hub and an 'interesting venue' that encourages voter turnout.</p> <p>Please let me know interested in setting up a call to discuss this? If there are any other ways we can assist you with your events and venue requirements, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing from you.</p> | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Key

 Outside of Consultation

This page is intentionally left blank

REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES - 2023

| <i>Polling District</i> | <i>Current Polling Place</i> | <i>Local Electorate October 2023</i> | <i>Absent voters October 2023</i> | <i>Voters in person October 2023</i> | <i>Turnout at Polling Place May 2023</i> | <i>Projected growth in dwellings (hard and soft planning commitments – for 20+ dwellings) – 2023-2036</i> | <i>Consultation Feedback</i> | <i>Returning Officer's Comments</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ABBEY | | | | | | | | |
| A 2 polling stations | Sir Herman Gollancz Hall Clifton Street, Reading, RG1 7YE | 2,211 | 320 | 1,891 | 19.59% | 256 | | Venue OK. No parking. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| AB 2 Polling Stations | Reading Central Library Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BG | 2,508 | 395 | 2,113 | 17.51% | 2786 | With regard to the two Polling Districts A, and AC and AD, we concur with the comments made in Appendix A namely: "no amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed". With regard to Polling District AB, currently at the Reading Central Library, we would agree that with the closure of the Library and its move to the Civic Offices a new Polling Place will be required, either at the end of 2024 or certainly in 2025. Whilst the new library facilities at Bridge Street may offer the space for a new Polling Station, our preference would be that serious consideration is given to the following alternative locations for this polling station namely: 1. Abbey Baptist Church Hall on Abbey Square, or 2. St Laurence Church Hall, next to the Old Town Hall, or 3. The Soane Space in the Old Town Hall itself. All these venues, we understand, are fully accessible to wheelchairs and at ground floor level. Our understanding is that the current Central Library will not be closing until towards the end of 2024 and, as such, next year's Local Elections in May and a probable General Election in October or November should not be affected. However, if the autumn requires a new Polling Station, we would request that urgent attention is given to our alternative sites. | Venue OK. No parking. The Central Library is proposed to close and move to the Civic Offices. A new polling place will be required for the two Polling stations. |
| AC & AD | Oxford Road Community School 146 Oxford Road, Reading, RG1 7PJ | 1,774 | 267 | 1,507 | 18.54% | AC – 828 AD - 95 | | Venue OK. Minimal off-street parking. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| BATTLE | | | | | | | | |
| B 2 polling Stations | Emmanuel Methodist Church Oxford Road, Reading, RG30 1EE | 3,690 | 564 | 3,126 | 19.15% | 152 | | Venue OK. Some parking. The implications of the BCE review of Parliamentary Constituencies based on the old ward boundaries will require in a new district and an additional Polling Station being created in Battle ward. The additional polling station will be allocated to Emmanuel Methodist Church. Further details of the properties involved, and the plan of the new proposed District are contained in Appendix C. |
| BA X2 Polling Stations at 2 Locations for this District | Battle Library 420 Oxford Road, Reading, RG30 2ES and Emmanuel Methodist Church | 3,871 | 590 | 3,281 | 24.18% | 202 | | Venue OK. Some parking. The implications of the BCE review of Parliamentary Constituencies based on the old ward boundaries will require in a new district and an additional polling station being created in Battle Ward. The additional polling station will be located at Emmanuel Methodist Church. Further details of the properties |

REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES - 2023

| <i>Polling District</i> | <i>Current Polling Place</i> | <i>Local Electorate October 2023</i> | <i>Absent voters October 2023</i> | <i>Voters in person October 2023</i> | <i>Turnout at Polling Place May 2023</i> | <i>Projected growth in dwellings (hard and soft planning commitments – for 20+ dwellings) – 2023-2036</i> | <i>Consultation Feedback</i> | <i>Returning Officer's Comments</i> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | involved, and the plan of the proposed District are contained in Appendix C. |
| CAVERSHAM | | | | | | | | |
| C 2 polling stations | Caversham Library Church Street, Reading, RG4 8AU | 3,652 | 985 | 2,667 | 35.13% | 58 | | Venue OK. No Parking. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| CA 2 polling stations | New Bridge Nursery School Montague Street, Caversham, RG4 5AU | 2,145 | 420 | 2,125 | 30.70% | 32 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| CB | The Weller Centre Amersham Road, Caversham, RG4 5BP | 1,664 | 281 | 1,383 | 22.10% | 22 | | Venue OK. Security Issues require a security guard in attendance pm. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS | | | | | | | | |
| D | Caversham Heights Methodist Church 74 Highmoor Road, Reading, RG4 7BG | 1,540 | 401 | 1,139 | 41.55% | 17 | | Venue OK. On Street Parking No amendments to the current polling arrangements is proposed. |
| DA | Mapledurham Pavilion Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham Heights, RG4 7LB | 1,811 | 414 | 1,397 | 46.03% | 7 | | Venue OK. New car park. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| DB 2 polling stations | St Andrew's Hall Albert Road, Caversham, RG4 7PW | 2,576 | 609 | 1,967 | 43.18% | 7 | | Venue OK No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| DC | Highdown School Surley Row, Emmer Green, RG4 8LR | 1,542 | 333 | 1,209 | 28.65% | 7 | | Venue OK. During Covid Pandemic in 2022 the polling station was located in the barn opposite the sixth form centre. In May 2023 the polling station reverted to the sixth form centre. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| CHURCH | | | | | | | | |
| E 1 polling stations | Reading Scout & Guide Joint HQ 163 Northcourt Avenue, Reading, RG2 7HG | 2,103 | 426 | 1,677 | 24.28% | 13 | | Venue OK. Was a double station previously and could be cramped but now a single polling station. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| EA | St Barnabas Church Hall Elm Road, Reading, RG6 5TS | 1,520 | 346 | 1,174 | 19.32% | 13 | | Venue OK. Adequate parking. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| EB | South Reading Community Hub | 1,640 | 228 | 1,412 | 15.65% | 13 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |

REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES - 2023

| Polling District | Current Polling Place | Local Electorate October 2023 | Absent voters October 2023 | Voters in person October 2023 | Turnout at Polling Place May 2023 | Projected growth in dwellings (hard and soft planning commitments – for 20+ dwellings) – 2023-2036 | Consultation Feedback | Returning Officer's Comments |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 252 Northumberland Avenue, Reading, RG2 7QA | | | | | | | |
| EC 2 polling stations | Whitley Park Primary & Nursery School Basingstoke Road, Reading, RG2 7RB | 2,983 | 561 | 2,422 | 13.56% | 13 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| Coley | | | | | | | | |
| F | Coley Primary School Wolsey Road, Reading, RG1 6NJ | 1,497 | 248 | 1,249 | 25.05% | 60 | | Venue OK. Parking at School. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| FA 2 polling stations | All Saints Hall Downshire square, Reading, RG1 6NJ | 2,382 | 363 | 2,019 | 29.24% | 60 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| FB 2 polling stations | Coley Park Community Centre 140 Wensley Road, Coley Park, Reading, RG1 6DW | 3,118 | 636 | 2,482 | 23.15% | 96 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| EMMER GREEN | | | | | | | | |
| G 2 polling stations | Emmer Green Youth & Community Centre Grove Road, Emmer Green, RG4 8LN | 3,145 | 874 | 2,271 | 34.36% | 266 | Comments in respect of G, GA and GB The following proposal has been raised in relation to Emmer Green ward: That any addresses in the range 37-91 (odds) Lowfield Road that are not in polling district GB are transferred to that polling district To correct an anomaly whereby a few people are in a different polling district from their immediate neighbours and have an unacceptably long journey to the polling station. | Venue OK. Some parking. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| GA 2 polling stations | The Milestone Centre Northbrook Road, Caversham Park Village, RG40 0PF | 2,753 | 495 | 2,258 | 29.87% | 10 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| GB | Micklands Primary School Micklands Road, Caversham, RG4 6LU | 1,714 | 405 | 1,309 | 32.79% | 35 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| KATESGROVE | | | | | | | | |
| H 2 polling stations | Katesgrove Primary School Dorothy Street, Reading, RG1 2NL | 3,691 | 596 | 3,095 | 23.75% | 114 | | Venue OK. Polling station in new building off Katesgrove Lane and from Orchard Street but long route involving a slope. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| HA 1 polling station | Christchurch Centre Milman Road, Reading, RG2 0AY | 1,880 | 292 | 1,588 | 30.03% | 21 | | Venue OK. Very restricted parking. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| HB | The Palmer Academy Northumberland Avenue, Reading, RG2 7PP | 1,791 | 296 | 1,495 | 20.83% | 275 | An immediate comment I have is based on voter experiences at the 2022 election (reported at the time, so this comment may be redundant). In the 2022 election, the access to the Palmer Academy from the west was restricted for the first few hours as the gates to Lincoln Rd/Surrey Rd were locked. I presume this was | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |

REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES - 2023

| <i>Polling District</i> | <i>Current Polling Place</i> | <i>Local Electorate October 2023</i> | <i>Absent voters October 2023</i> | <i>Voters in person October 2023</i> | <i>Turnout at Polling Place May 2023</i> | <i>Projected growth in dwellings (hard and soft planning commitments – for 20+ dwellings) – 2023-2036</i> | <i>Consultation Feedback</i> | <i>Returning Officer's Comments</i> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | accidental, and I hope that processes are in place to avoid it happening again. No such problems were reported in 2023, so it may be that the problem is solved. Nevertheless, it is worth considering, as the majority of the polling district approach from the west, and the alternative route is a sizable detour. | |
| HC | Coley Primary School Wolseley Road, Reading, RG1 6NJ | 235 | 30 | 205 | 19.62% | 89 | | Venue OK. Parking at School. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| KENTWOOD | | | | | | | | |
| I 2 polling stations | St Mary Magdelene Hall Rodway Road, Tilehurst, RG30 6EQ | 2,097 | 416 | 1,681 | 32.31% | 28 | | Venue OK. On street parking. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| IA | United Reformed Church Hall Polsted Road, Tilehurst, RG31 6HP | 1,556 | 298 | 1,258 | 36.14% | 64 | | Venue OK. Parking to the side of Polling station on unmade up road. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| IB | Meadow Park Academy Norcot Road, Tilehurst, RG30 6BS | 1,552 | 345 | 1,209 | 29.75% | 5 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| IC | Norcot Community Centre Lyndhurst Road, Tilehurst, RG30 6UB | 1,468 | 316 | 1,152 | 24.06% | 5 | | Venue OK. Some parking available. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| NORCOT | | | | | | | | |
| J 2 polling stations | St George's Church Hall St George's Road, Reading, RG30 2RG | 3,328 | 572 | 2,756 | 24.38% | 44 | | Venue OK. Need additional lighting in the Polling Booths. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| JA 1 polling station | St Michael's Primary School Dee Road, Tilehurst, RG30 4AS | 2,072 | 439 | 1,633 | 18.01% | 230 | | Venue Ok. Some parking. The implications of the BCE review of Parliamentary Constituencies based on the old ward boundaries will require in a new district and an additional polling station being created in Norcot ward. Further details of the properties involved, and the plan of the new proposed District are contained in Appendix C. |
| JB | Dee Space Community Centre Thurso Close, Tilehurst, RG3 4YH | 2,167 | 385 | 1,782 | 17.58% | 153 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| PARK | | | | | | | | |
| K 2 polling stations | New Town Primary School School Terrace, Reading, RG1 3LS | 2,784 | 490 | 2,294 | 35.92% | 97 | | Venue OK. Limited on-street parking. Polling Place in cafeteria accessed from Cholmeley Road. |

REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES - 2023

| <i>Polling District</i> | <i>Current Polling Place</i> | <i>Local Electorate October 2023</i> | <i>Absent voters October 2023</i> | <i>Voters in person October 2023</i> | <i>Turnout at Polling Place May 2023</i> | <i>Projected growth in dwellings (hard and soft planning commitments – for 20+ dwellings) – 2023-2036</i> | <i>Consultation Feedback</i> | <i>Returning Officer's Comments</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| KA 2 polling stations | Alfred Sutton Primary School 148 Wokingham Road, Reading, RG6 1JR | 4,186 | 711 | 3,475 | 36.20% | 45 | | Venue OK. Good parking at School. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| REDLANDS | | | | | | | | |
| L | Wesley Church Hall Queen's Road/ Watlington Street, Reading, RG1 4BW | 1,585 | 203 | 1,382 | 26.30% | 19 | | Venue OK. No free on street parking. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| LA | Museum of English Rural Life The University of Reading, Redlands Road, Reading, RG1 5EX | 1,580 | 335 | 1,245 | 33.70% | 58 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| LB 2 polling stations | St Luke's Church Hall Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LU | 2,622 | 281 | 2,341 | 30.10% | 127 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| LC | Hexham Community Centre 1A Bamburgh Close, Whitley, RG2 7UD | 1,227 | 269 | 958 | 26.53% | 37 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| LD | Park Lounge Windsor Hall University of Reading, Upper Redlands Road, Reading, RG1 5JL | 1046 | 42 | 1,004 | 10.47% | 19 | | Venue OK. Some parking. The implications of the BCE review of Parliamentary Constituencies based on the old ward boundaries will require St Georges Hall and Wantage Hall being moved from District LD into district LA. The odd Numbers 1,3,5,7,9 of Whitley Park Lane will need to be moved from District LC into District LD. Further details of the properties involved, and the plan of the new proposed District are contained in Appendix C. |
| SOUTHCOTE | | | | | | | | |
| M | Southcote Primary School Silchester Road, Southcote, RG3 3EJ | 2,081 | 446 | 1,635 | 28.32% | 6 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| MA | Manor Primary School 110 Ashampstead Road, Southcote, G30 3LJ | 2,155 | 453 | 1,702 | 18.94% | 25 | | Venue OK. Uneven ground between Ashampstead Road and the polling station requires more external lighting and a clear route to the polling station being marked. |
| MB | Southcote Community Hub Coronation Square, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3QP | 1,612 | 294 | 1,318 | 18.59% | 6 | | Venue OK. Limited parking. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| MC | YMCA | 1,879 | 407 | 1,472 | 23.70% | 52 | | Venue OK. |

REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES - 2023

| <i>Polling District</i> | <i>Current Polling Place</i> | <i>Local Electorate October 2023</i> | <i>Absent voters October 2023</i> | <i>Voters in person October 2023</i> | <i>Turnout at Polling Place May 2023</i> | <i>Projected growth in dwellings (hard and soft planning commitments – for 20+ dwellings) – 2023-2036</i> | <i>Consultation Feedback</i> | <i>Returning Officer's Comments</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Parkside Road, 34 Parkside Road, RG30 2DD | | | | | | | No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| THAMES | | | | | | | | |
| N | New Hope Community Church Centre York Road, Reading, RG1 8DU | 2,086 | 341 | 1,745 | 26.93% | 1467 | | Venue OK. No parking. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| NA | St John & St Stephen Parish Centre Orts Road, Reading, RG1 3JN | 1,810 | 316 | 1,494 | 21.93% | 1139 | | Venue OK Limited on Street Parking No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| NB | Thameside Primary School Wolsey Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 8BY | 1,938 | 366 | 1,572 | 30.56% | 20 | We are happy to continue being a polling site | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| TILEHURST | | | | | | | | |
| O 2 polling stations | Moorlands Primary School Church End Lane, Tilehurst, Reading, RG30 4UN | 2,872 | 572 | 2,300 | 20.15% | 7 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| OA 2 polling stations | Tilehurst British Legion Downing Road, Tilehurst, RG31 5BB | 3,289 | 685 | 2,604 | 22.84% | 7 | | Venue OK. Good parking. Need to improve lighting in one of the polling stations. No amendments to the current polling arrangements is proposed. |
| OB | Tilehurst Village Hall Victoria Road, Tilehurst RG31 5AB | 1,019 | 186 | 833 | 32.86% | 7 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| WHITLEY | | | | | | | | |
| P | Kennet Island Community Centre The Meeting Point (Kennet Island), The Piazza, Whale Avenue, Reading, RG2 0GY | 1,734 | 303 | 1,431 | 17.83% | 691 | | Venue OK Parking restrictions in place. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| PA 2 Polling Stations | Christ the King Church Hall 408 Northumberland Avenue, Reading, RG2 8RN | 2,759 | 561 | 2,198 | 12.96% | 7 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| PB | Whitley Wood Community Centre Swallowfield Drive, Reading, RG2 8JD | 1,814 | 307 | 1,507 | 17.10% | 7 | | Venue OK. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |

REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES - 2023

| <i>Polling District</i> | <i>Current Polling Place</i> | <i>Local Electorate October 2023</i> | <i>Absent voters October 2023</i> | <i>Voters in person October 2023</i> | <i>Turnout at Polling Place May 2023</i> | <i>Projected growth in dwellings (hard and soft planning commitments – for 20+ dwellings) – 2023-2036</i> | <i>Consultation Feedback</i> | <i>Returning Officer's Comments</i> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PC | 100 Longwater Avenue Green Park, Reading, RG2 6GP | 592 | 157 | 435 | 23.96% | 1045 | No comments to submit from me | Venue OK. Good parking. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |
| PD | South Reading Leisure Centre Northumberland Avenue, Reading, RG2 8DH | 857 | 166 | 691 | 18.15% | 7 | | Venue OK. Good parking. No amendments to the current polling arrangements are proposed. |

Total electorate (local) – 117,203 (October 2023)

Ward average: 7,325

Electoral Commission ceiling per polling station – 2,500 electors who vote at polling station

Comments in italics: made separately and outside the consultation period

This page is intentionally left blank

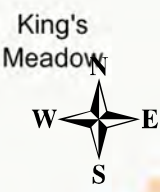
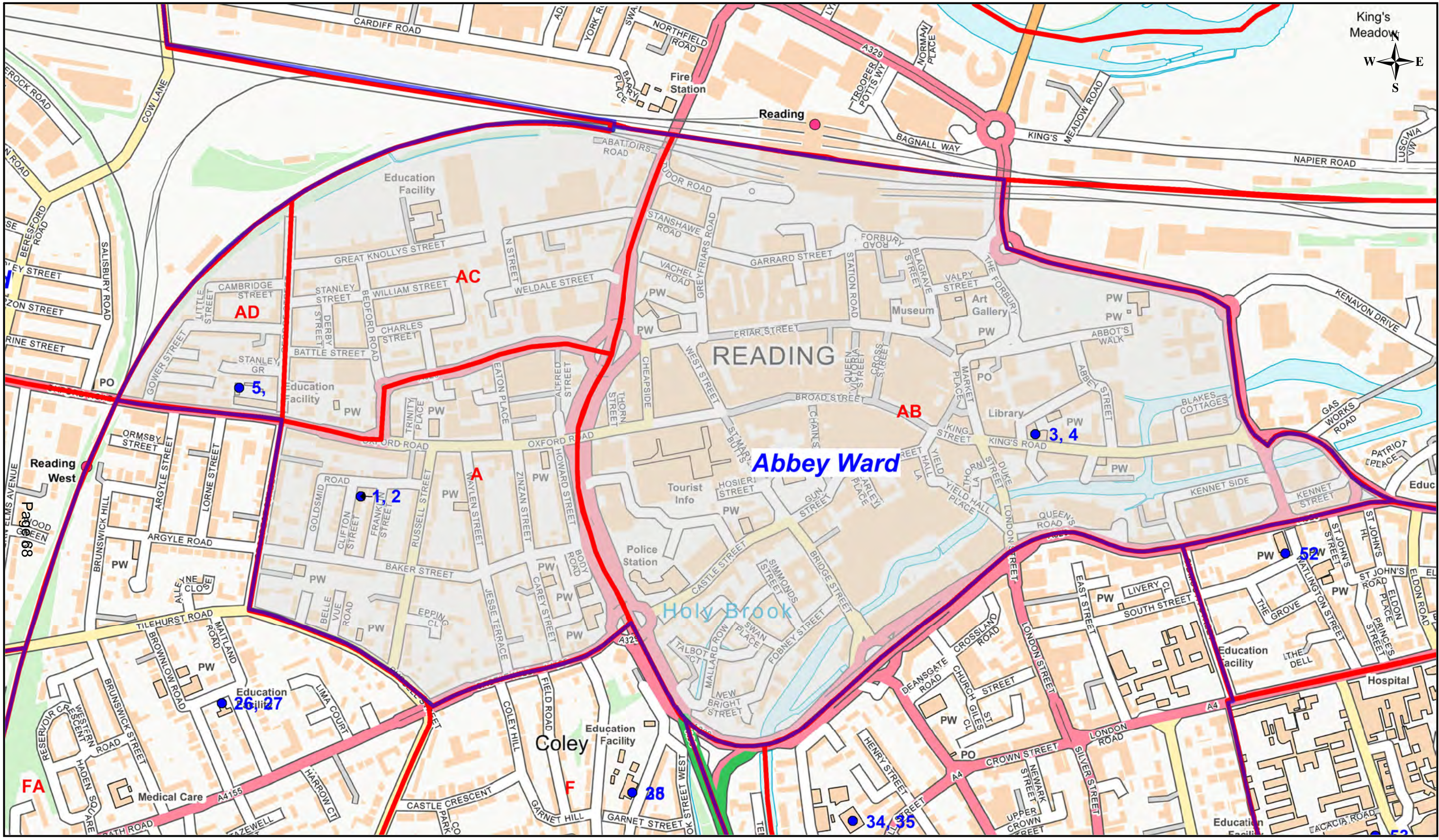


- Legend**
- New Ward Boundaries
 - Polling District Boundaries
 - Polling Stations - May 2023



| Polling_Station_No | Polling_Station | Ward |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1, 2 | Sir Herman Gollancz Hall | Abbey |
| 3, 4 | Reading Central Library | Abbey |
| 5, | Oxford Road Community School | Abbey |
| 6, 7, 9 | Emmanuel Methodist Church | Battle |
| 8 | Battle Library | Battle |
| 10, 11 | Caversham Library | Caversham |
| 12, 13 | New Bridge Nursery School | Caversham |
| 14 | The Weller Centre | Caversham |
| 15 | Caversham Heights Methodist Church | Caversham Heights |
| 16 | Mapledurham Pavillion | Caversham Heights |
| 17, 18 | St Andrews Hall | Caversham Heights |
| 19 | Highdown School | Caversham Heights |
| 20 | Scout & Guide Joint HQ | Church |
| 21 | St Barnabas Church Hall | Church |
| 22 | South Reading Community Hub | Church |
| 23, 24 | Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School | Church |
| 25 | Coley Primary School | Coley |
| 26, 27 | All Saints Hall | Coley |
| 28, 29 | Coley Park Community Centre | Coley |
| 30, 31 | Emmer Green Youth & Community Centre | Emmer Green |
| 32 | The Milestone Centre | Emmer Green |
| 33 | Micklands Primary School | Emmer Green |
| 34, 35 | Katesgrove Primary School | Katesgrove |
| 36 | Christchurch Centre | Katesgrove |
| 37 | The Palmer Academy | Katesgrove |
| 38 | Coley Primary School | Katesgrove |
| 39, 40 | St Mary Magdalene Hall | Kentwood |
| 41 | United Reformed Church Hall | Kentwood |
| 42 | Meadow Park Academy | Kentwood |
| 43 | Lyndhurst Road Community Centre | Kentwood |
| 44, 45 | St Georges Church | Norcot |
| 46 | St Michaels Primary | Norcot |
| 47 | Ranikhet Academy | Norcot |

| Polling_Station_No | Polling_Station | Ward |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 48, 49 | New Town Primary School | Park |
| 50, 51 | Alfred Sutton Primary School | Park |
| 52 | Wesley Church Hall | Redlands |
| 53 | Museum of English Rural Life | Redlands |
| 54, 55 | St Lukes Church Hall | Redlands |
| 56 | Hexham Community Centre | Redlands |
| 57 | Park Lounge, Windsor Hall, UoR | Redlands |
| 58 | Southcote Primary School | Southcote |
| 59 | Manor Primary School | Southcote |
| 60 | Southcote Community Hub | Southcote |
| 61 | YMCA Parkside Road | Southcote |
| 62 | New Hope Community Church Centre | Thames |
| 63 | St John & St Stephen Parish Centre | Thames |
| 64 | Thameside Primary School | Thames |
| 65, 66 | Moorlands Primary School | Tilehurst |
| 67, 68 | Tilehurst British Legion | Tilehurst |
| 69 | Tilehurst Village Hall | Tilehurst |
| 70 | Kennet Island Community Centre | Whitley |
| 71, 72 | Christ The King Church Hall | Whitley |
| 73 | Whitley Wood Community Centre | Whitley |
| 74 | 100 Longwater Avenue, Green Park | Whitley |
| 75 | South Reading Leisure Centre | Whitley |



Page 08

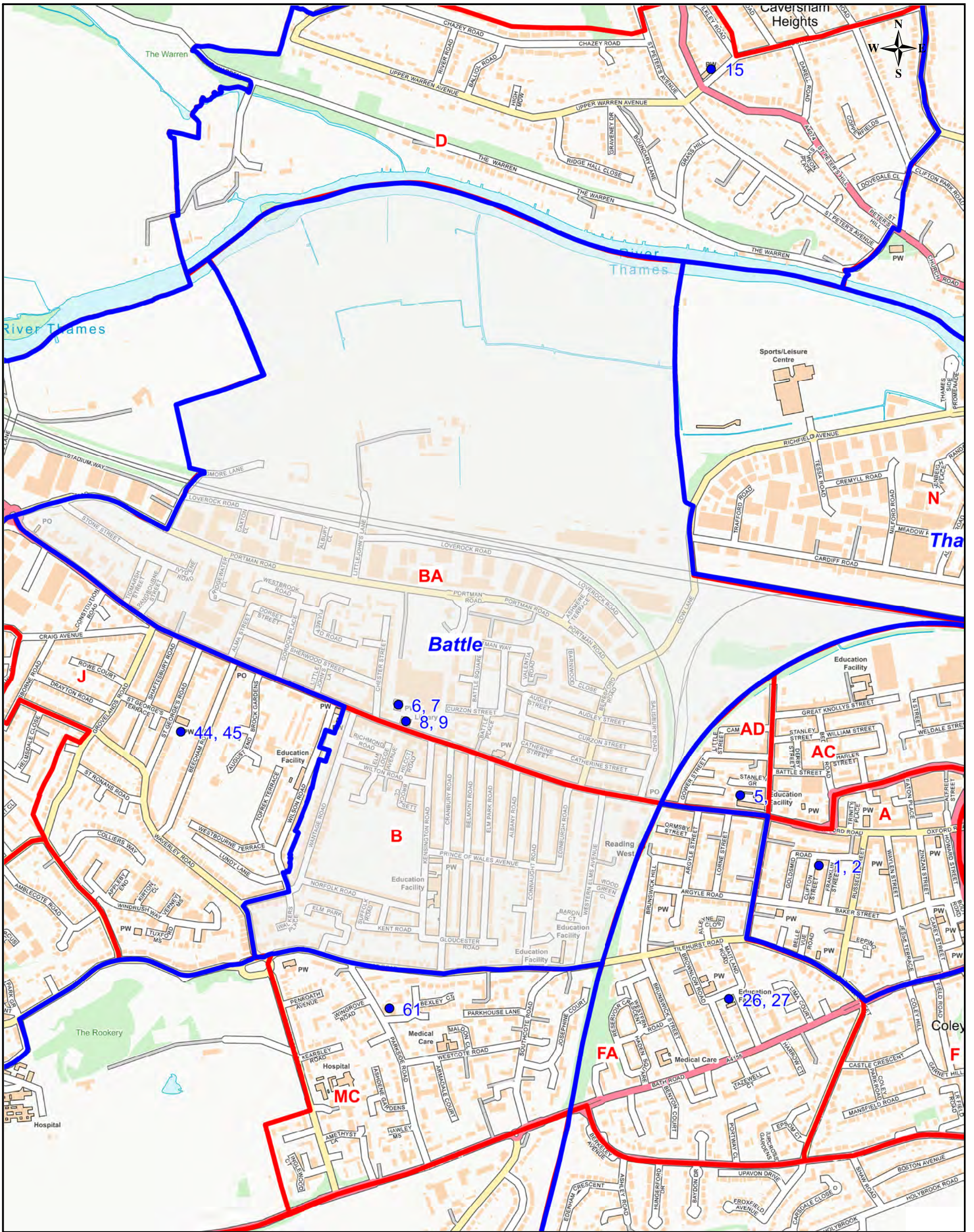
Legend

- Ward Boundary
- District Boundary

Title: Abbey Ward 2022 with New Polling Districts
Reading Borough



Drg.No.: GIS00596 Scale at A3: 1:5983 Date: 06/10/2023
Produced by GIS & Mapping Services Ref:G:\MIData\CD\Chief Exec\Leg Ser\Ele Reg\Ward review 2019\Wards 2022 individual workspaces



Title: **Battle Ward - 2022 with Old Polling Districts**
 Reading Borough

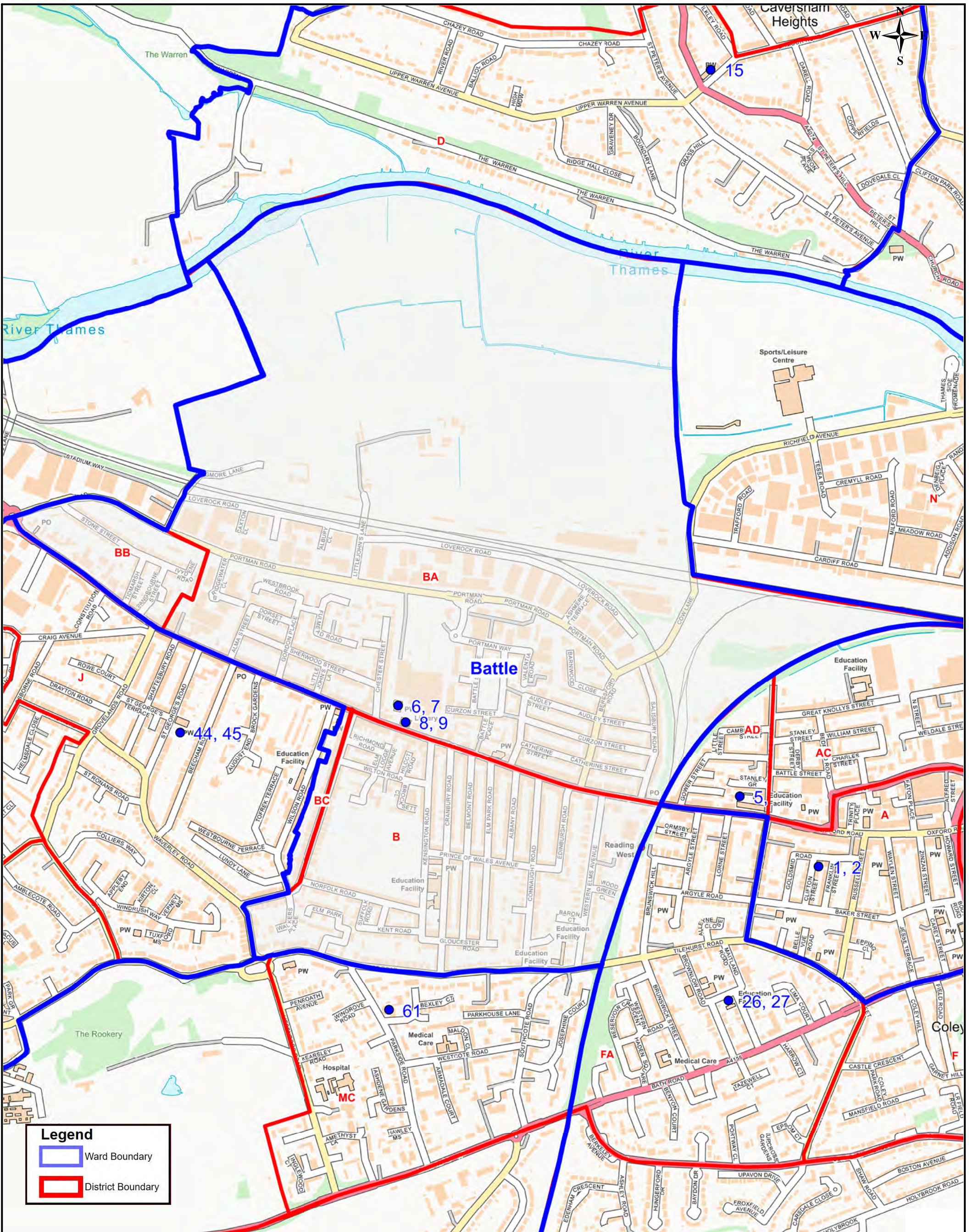
Produced by GIS & Mapping Services

Drg Number: GIS00406

Date 09/03/2022 Scale at A3: 1:8,964

Ref: G:\Mapinfo\Data\Client datasets\Chief Executives\Legal Services\Electoral Reg\Ward review 2019\Wards 2022 individual





Title: **Battle Ward - with New Polling Districts 2024**
 Reading Borough

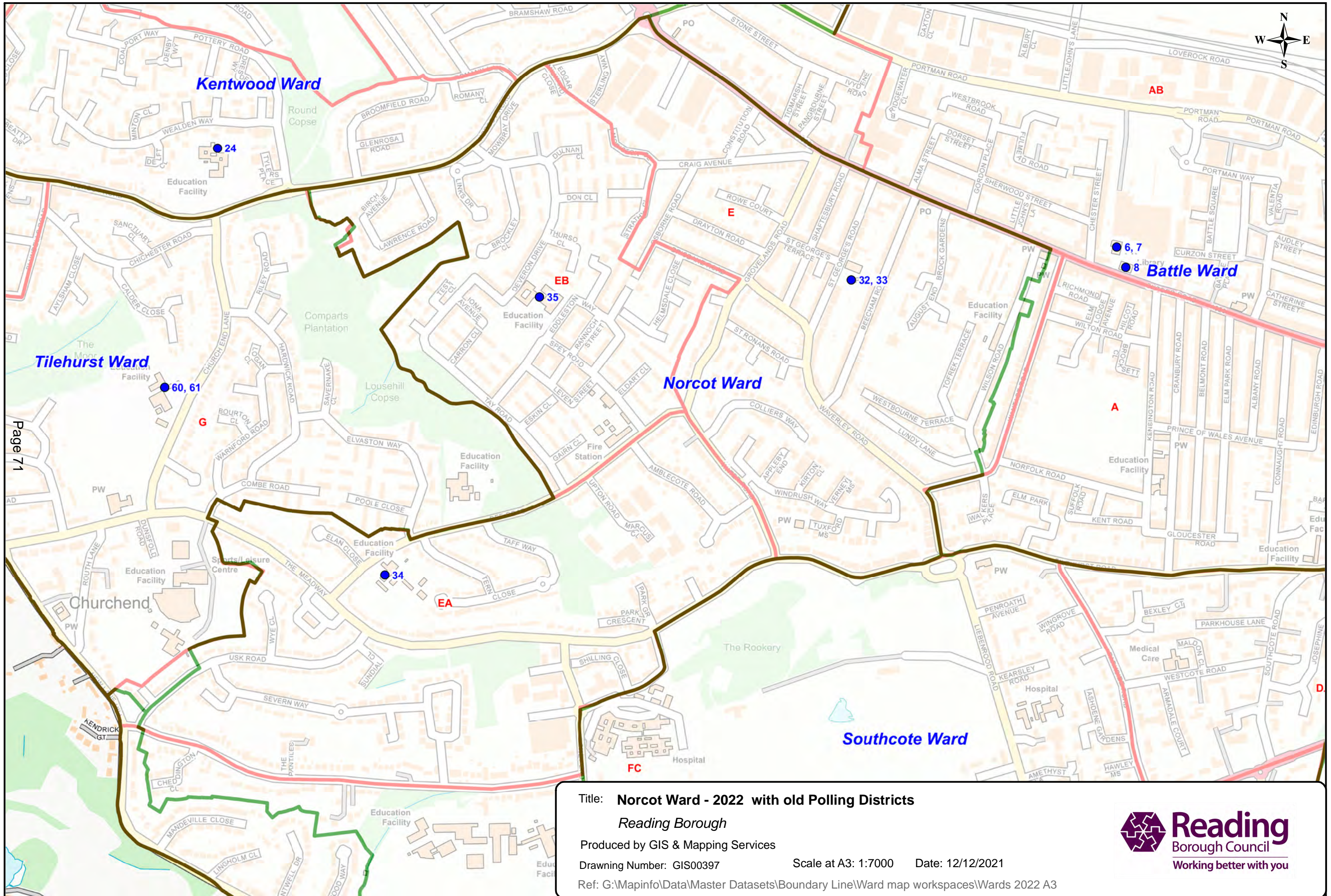
Produced by GIS & Mapping Services

Drg Number: GIS00612

Date 23/10/2023 Scale at A3: 1:8,964

Ref: MI\Data\CD\Chief Exe\Legal Ser\Electoral Reg\Ward review 2019\Wards 2022 individual workspaces A3\Wards with New Polling District 2024\Wards with new Polling





Title: **Norcot Ward - 2022 with old Polling Districts**

Reading Borough

Produced by GIS & Mapping Services

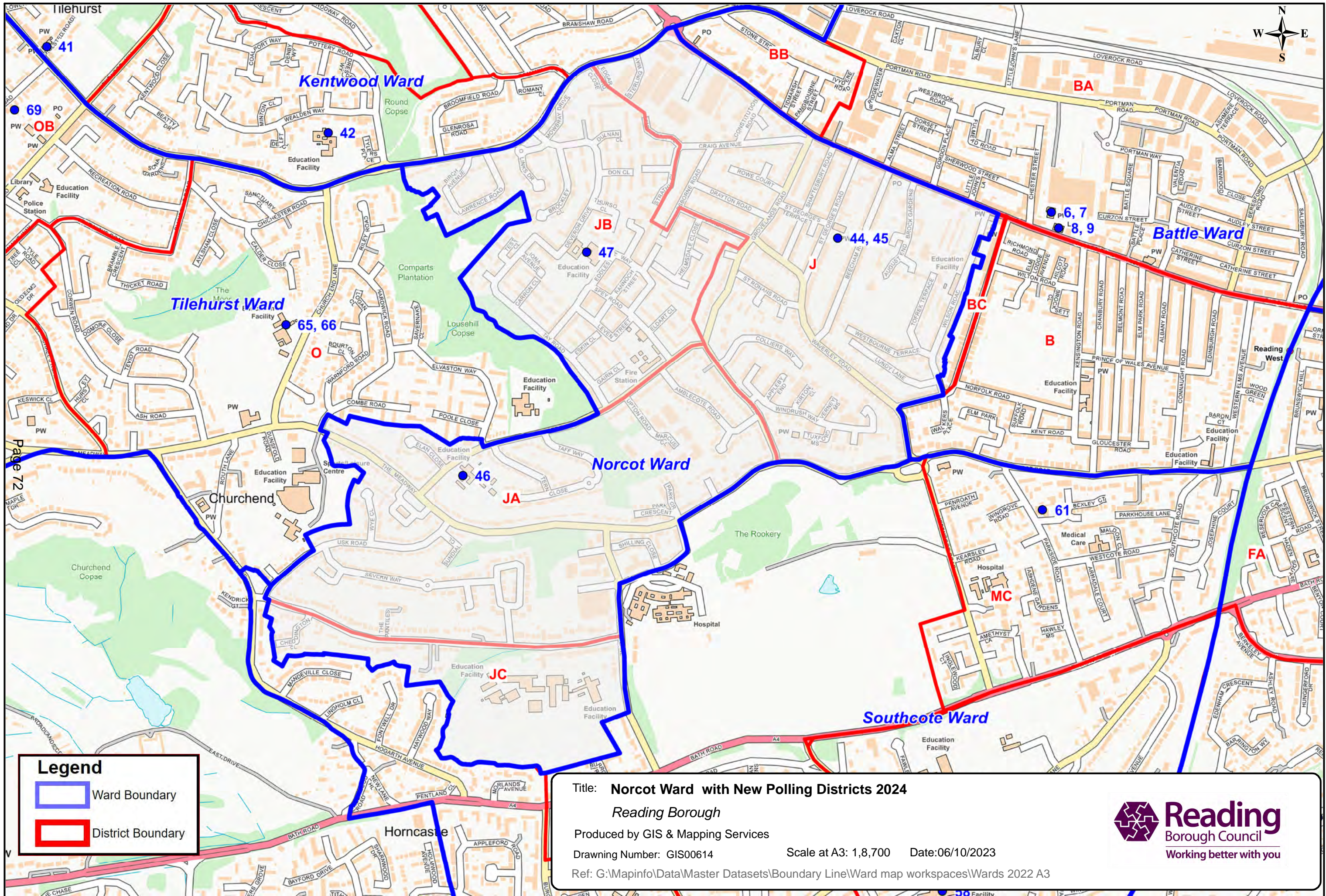
Drawing Number: GIS00397

Scale at A3: 1:7000

Date: 12/12/2021

Ref: G:\Mapinfo\Data\Master Datasets\Boundary Line\Ward map workspaces\Wards 2022 A3






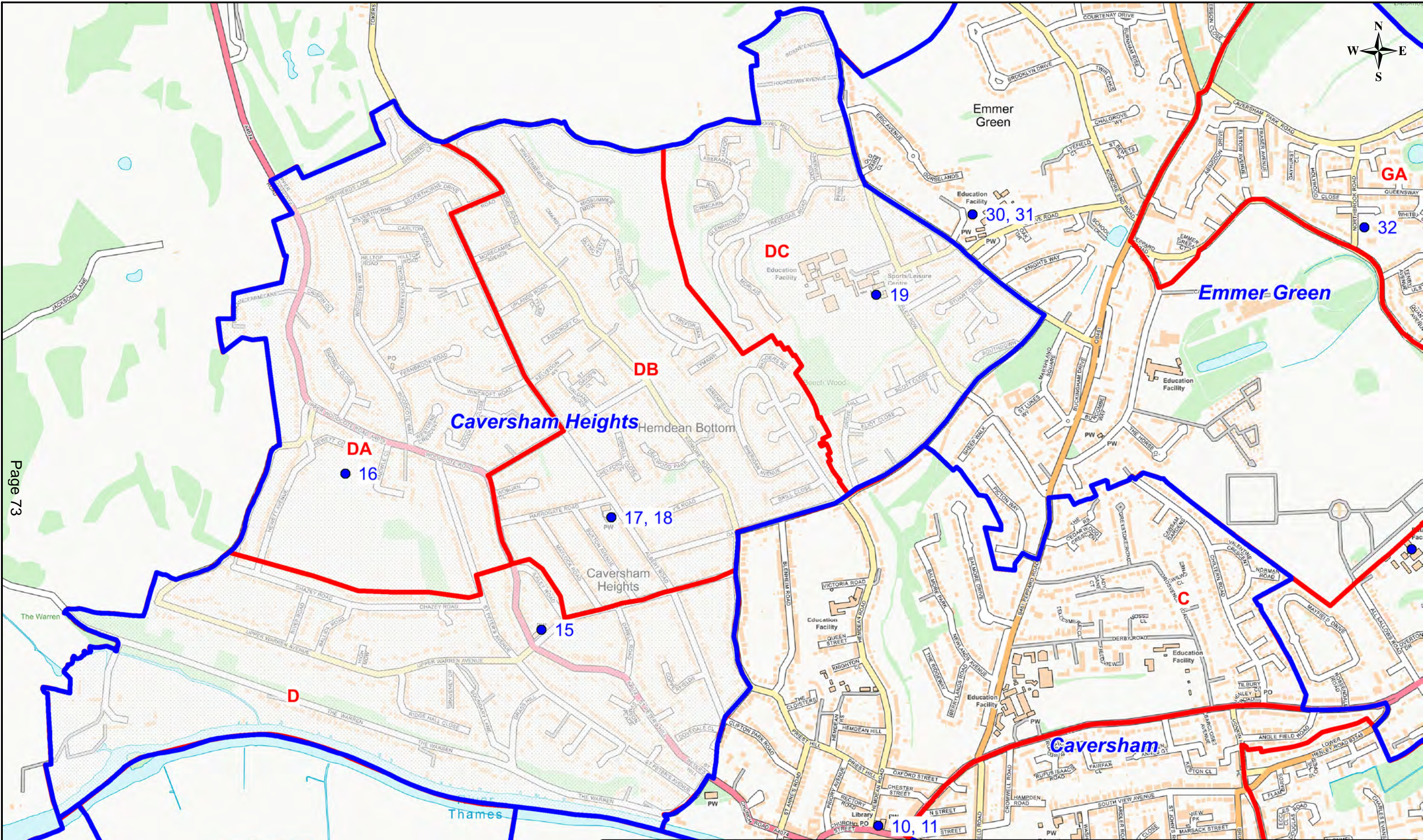
Legend

- Ward Boundary
- District Boundary

Title: Norcot Ward with New Polling Districts 2024
 Reading Borough
 Produced by GIS & Mapping Services
 Drawing Number: GIS00614 Scale at A3: 1,8,700 Date:06/10/2023
 Ref: G:\Mapinfo\Data\Master Datasets\Boundary Line\Ward map workspaces\Wards 2022 A3



Reading
 Borough Council
 Working better with you




Legend

-  Ward Boundary
-  District Boundary

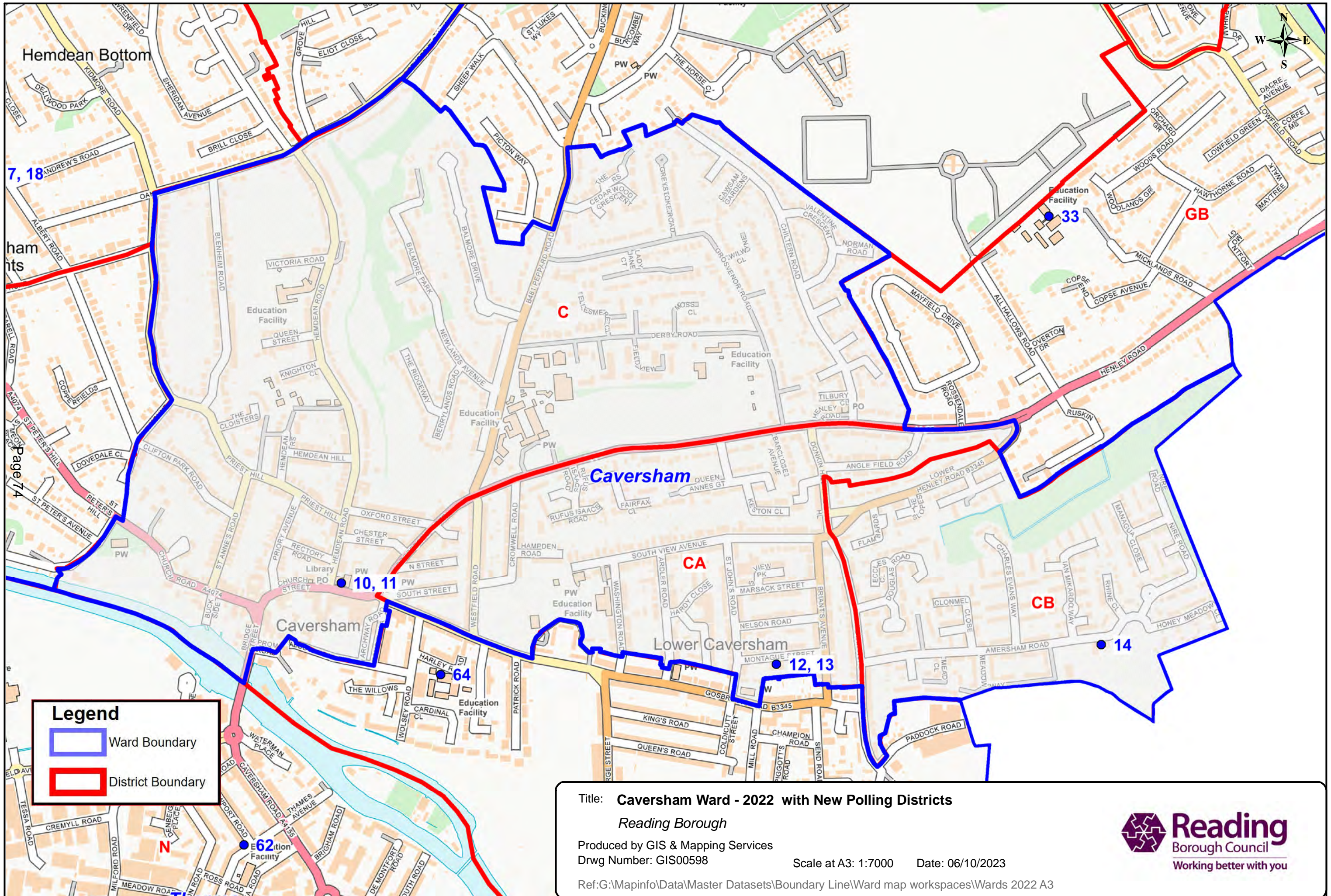
Title: **Caversham Heights Ward 2022 with New Polling Districts**
Reading Borough

Produced by GIS & Mapping Services
 Drwg Number: GIS00594 Scale at A3: 1:10000 Date: 06/10/2023

Ref:G:\Mapinfo\Data\Client datasets\Chief Executives\Legal Services\Electoral Reg\Ward review 2019\Wards 2022 individual



Reading
 Borough Council
 Working better with you



Title: **Caversham Ward - 2022 with New Polling Districts**

Reading Borough

Produced by GIS & Mapping Services

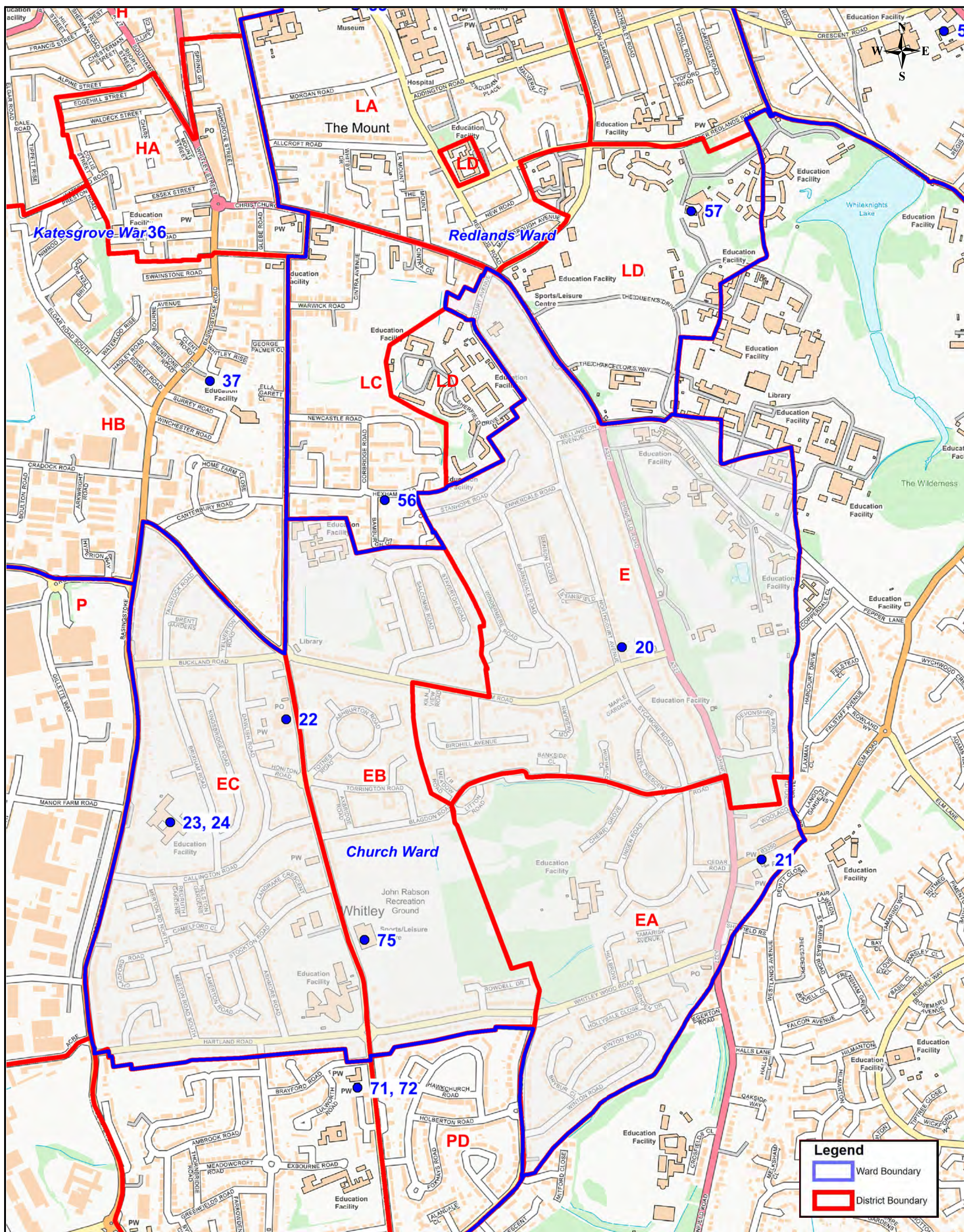
Drwg Number: GIS00598

Scale at A3: 1:7000

Date: 06/10/2023

Ref: G:\Mapinfo\Data\Master Datasets\Boundary Line\Ward map workspaces\Wards 2022 A3





Title: **Church Ward - 2022 with New Polling Districts**
 Reading Borough

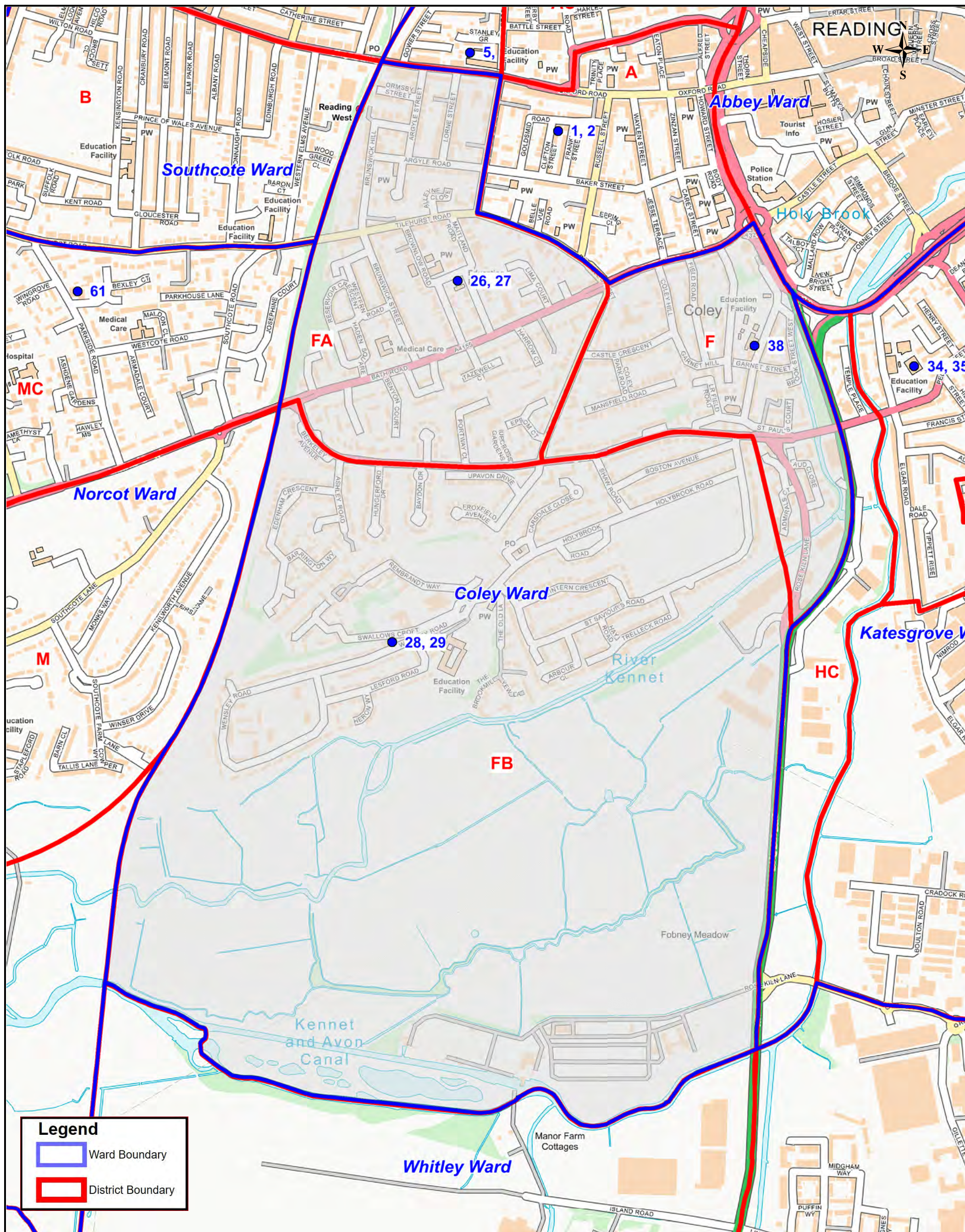
Produced by GIS & Mapping Services

Drwg Number: GIS00600

Date: 06/10/2023 Scale at A3: 1:9000



Ref: G:\Mapinfo\Data\Client datasets\Chief Executives\Legal Services\Electoral Reg\Ward review 2019\Wards 2022 individual workspaces A3\Wards with new Polling District



Title: **Coley Ward 2022 with New Polling District**
Reading Borough

Produced by GIS & Mapping Services

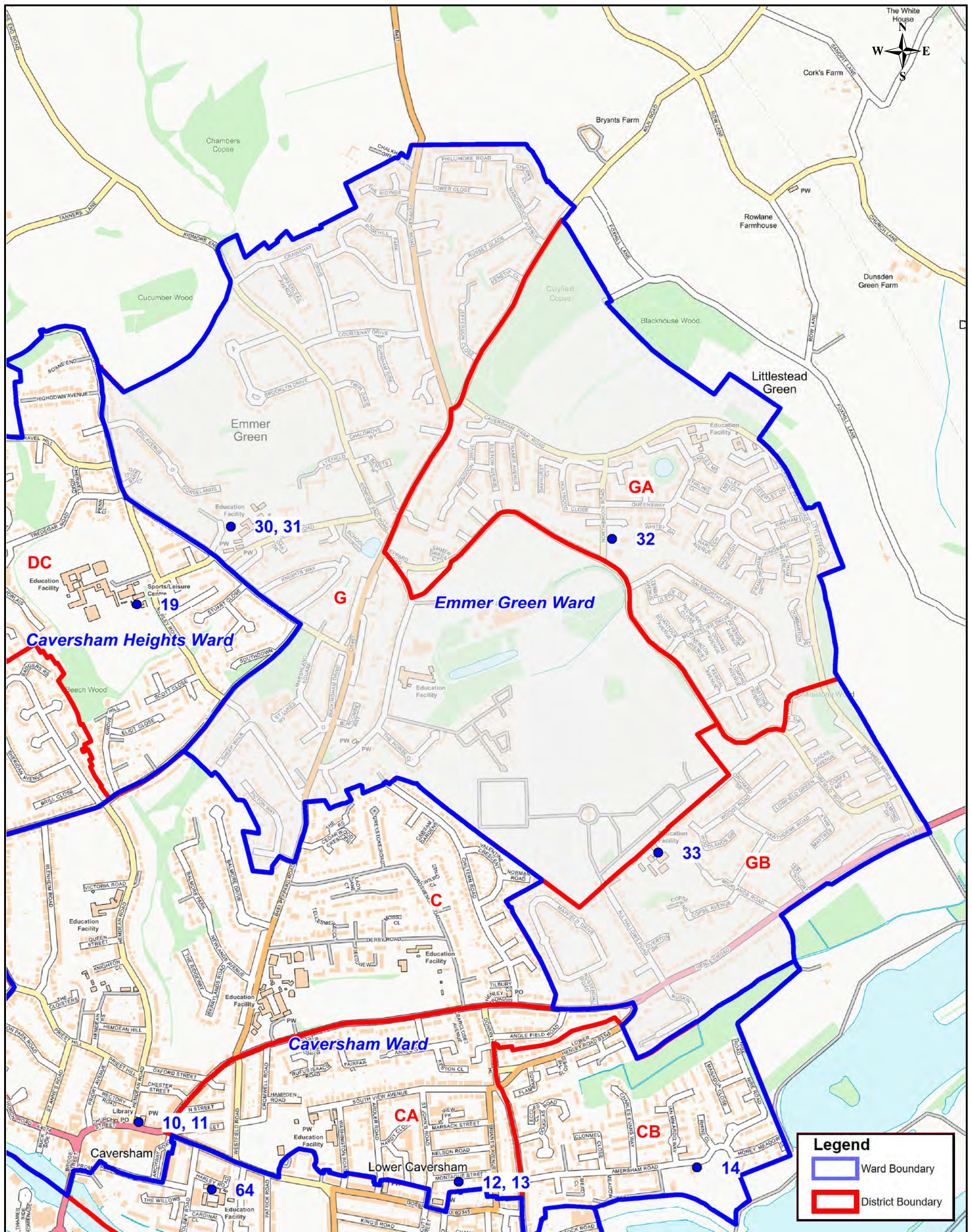
Drawing Number: GIS00603

Date 106/10/2023

Scale at A3: 1:8000

Ref: G:\MI\Data\Client datasets\Chief Ex\Legal\Electoral Reg\Ward review 2019\Wards 2022 individual workspaces A3\Wards with new Polling District





Title: **Emmer Green Ward - 2022 with New Polling Districts**
 Reading Borough

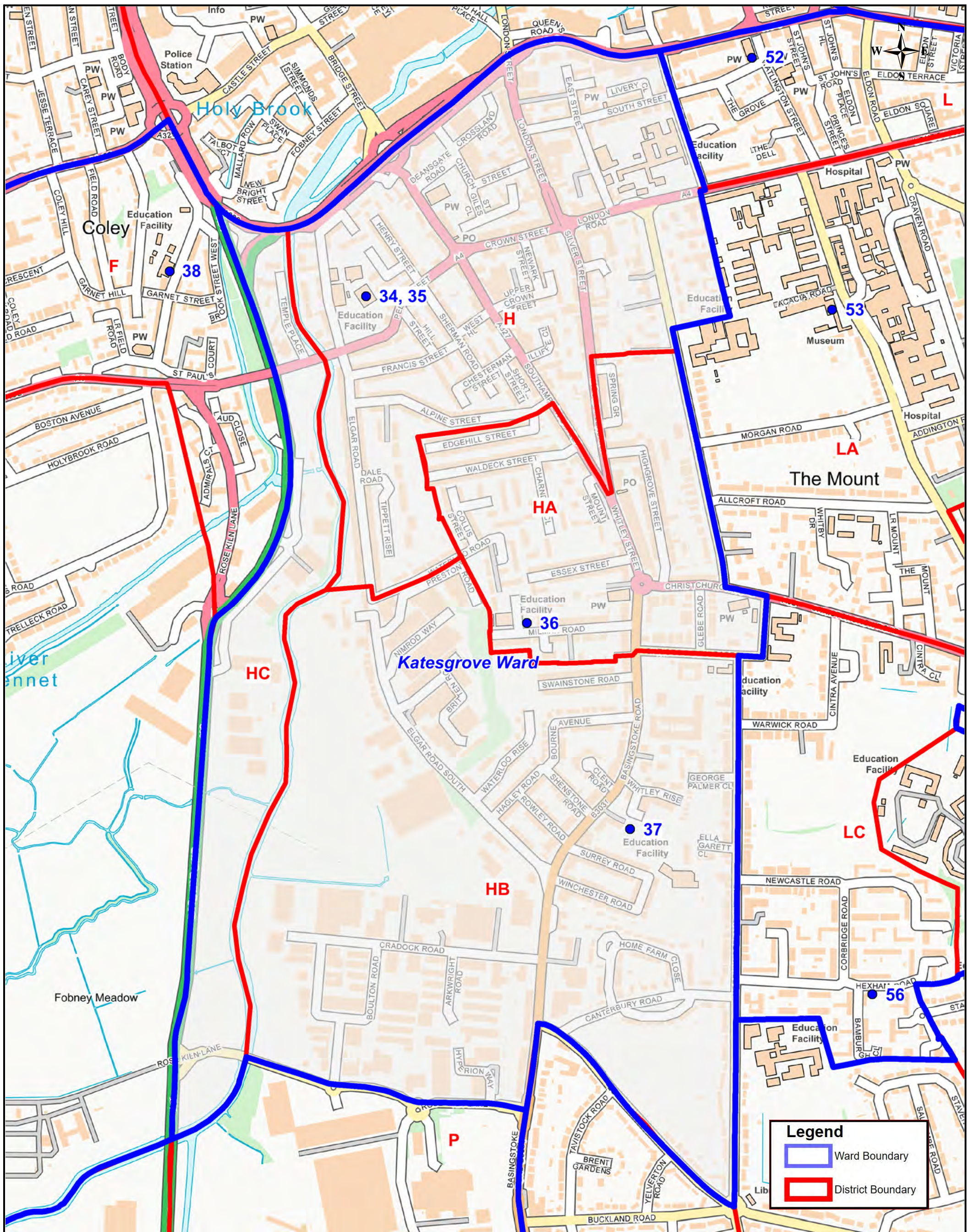
Produced by GIS & Mapping Services

Drawing Number: GIS00595

Date: 06/10/2023 Scale at A3: 1:10000

Ref: G:\Data\Client\Chief Exe\Legal Services\Electoral Reg\Ward review 2019\Wards 2022 individual workspaces A3\Wards with new Polling District





Title: **Katesgrove Ward - 2022 with New Polling Districts**
 Reading Borough

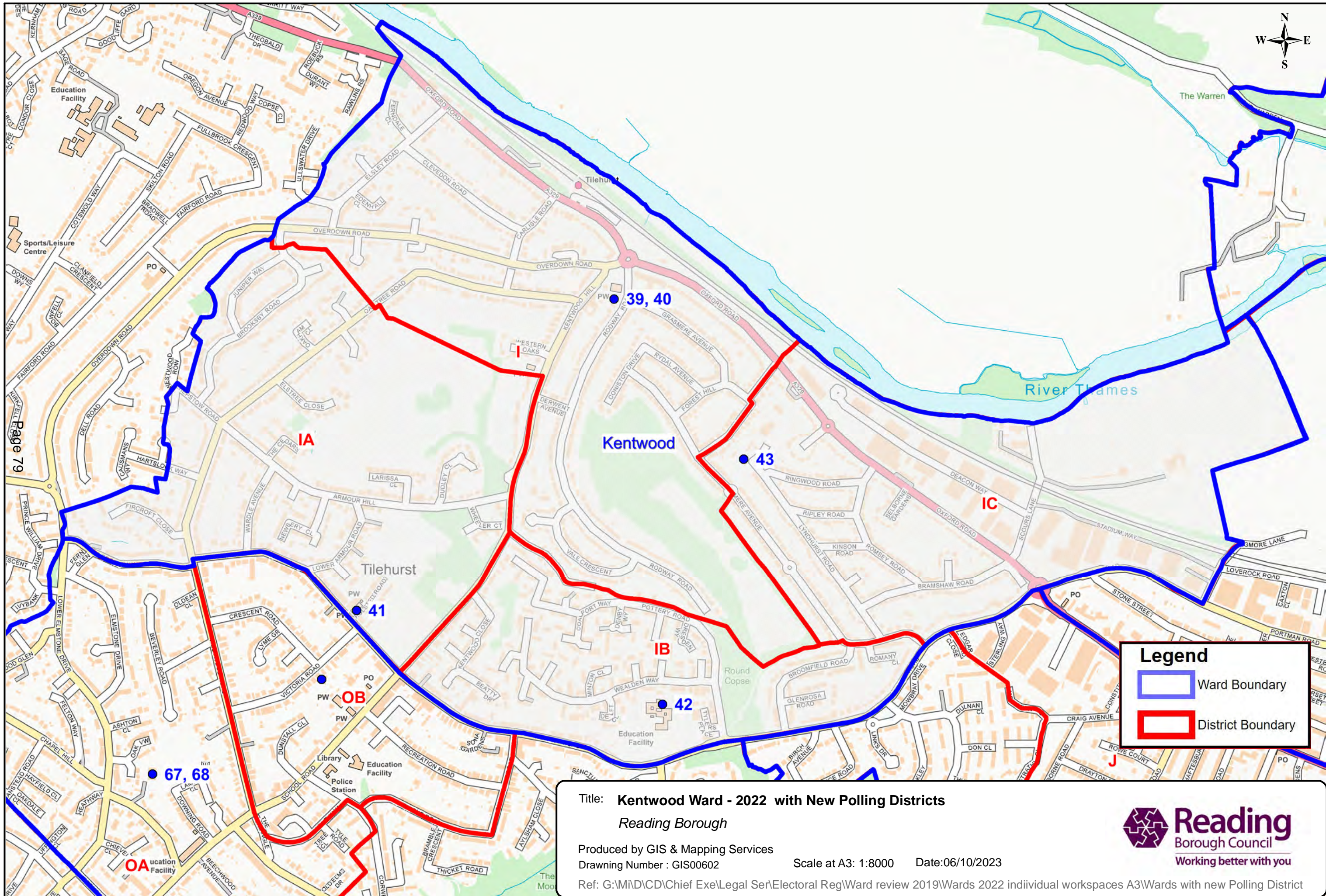
Produced by GIS & Mapping Services

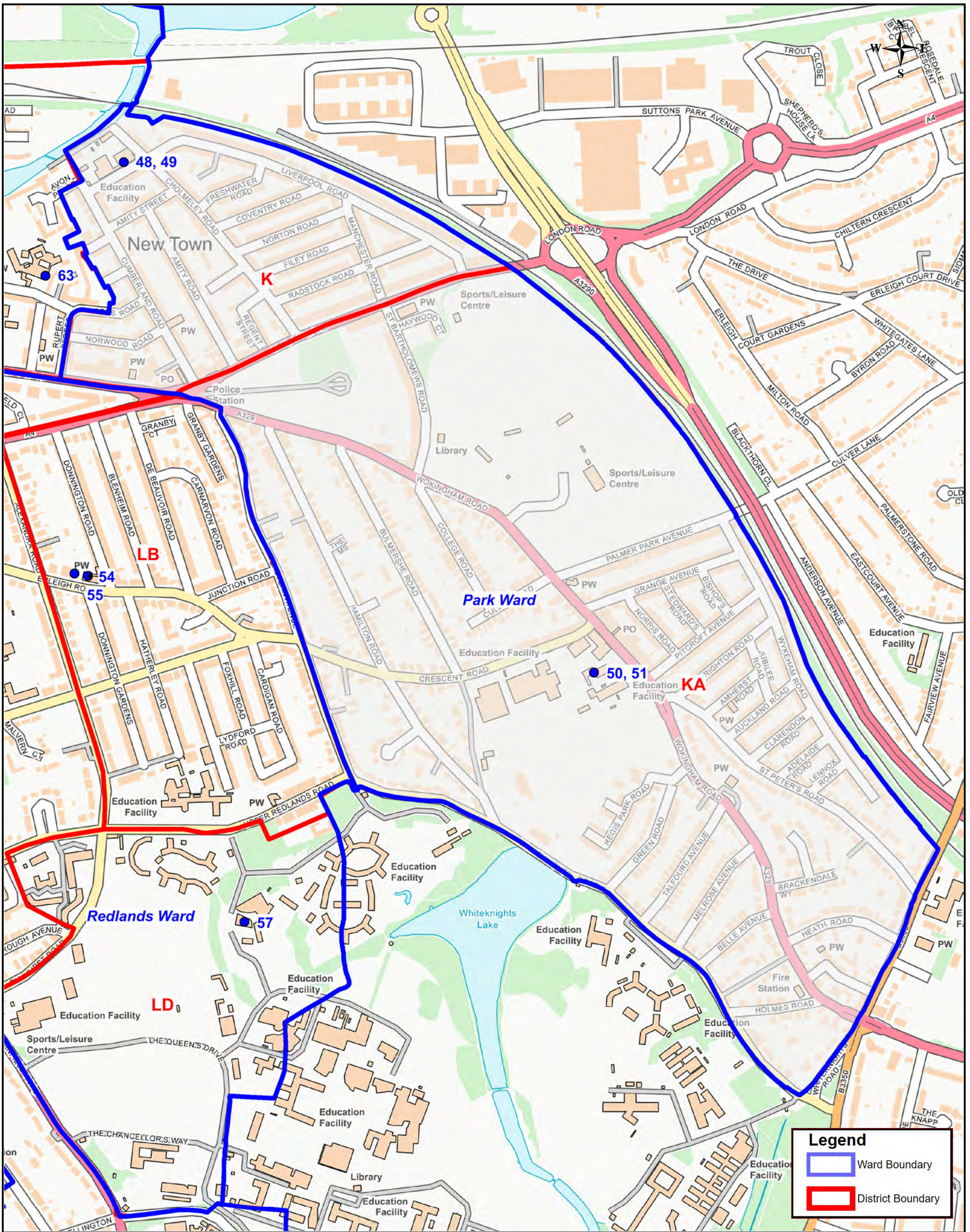
Drawing Number:GIS00601

Date: 06/10/2023 Scale at A3: 1:6500

Ref: G:\MI\Data\Client datasets\Chief Executives\Legal Services\Electoral Reg\Ward review







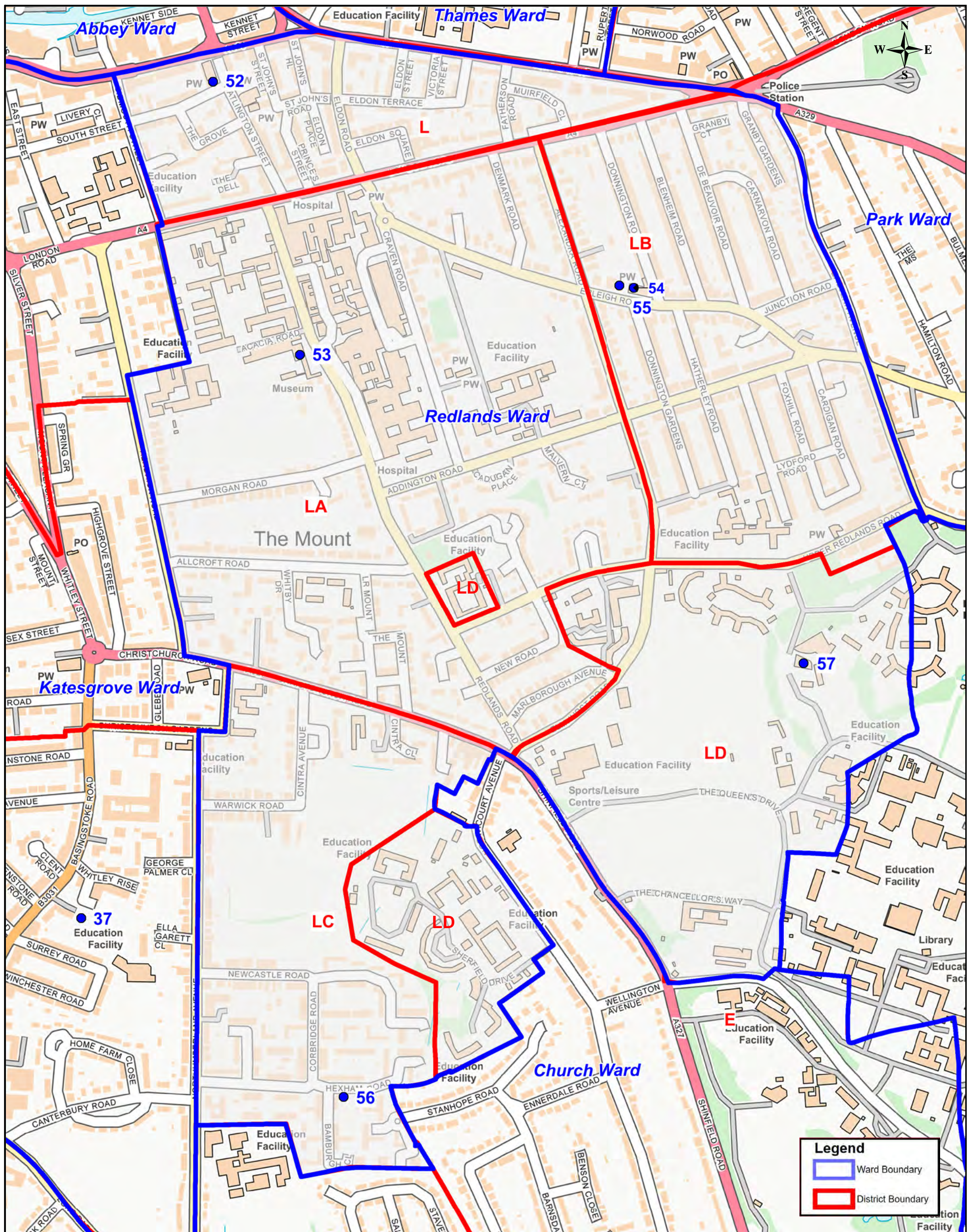
Title: **Park Ward - 2022 with New Polling Districts**
 Reading Borough

Produced by GIS & Mapping Services
 Drawing Number: GIS00605

Date: 06/10/2023 Scale at A3: 1:6500

Ref: M:\Data\CD\Chief Executives\Legal Services\Electoral Reg\Ward review 2019\Wards 2022 individual workspaces A3\Wards with new Polling District





Title: **Redlands Ward - 2022 with New Polling Districts**
 Reading Borough

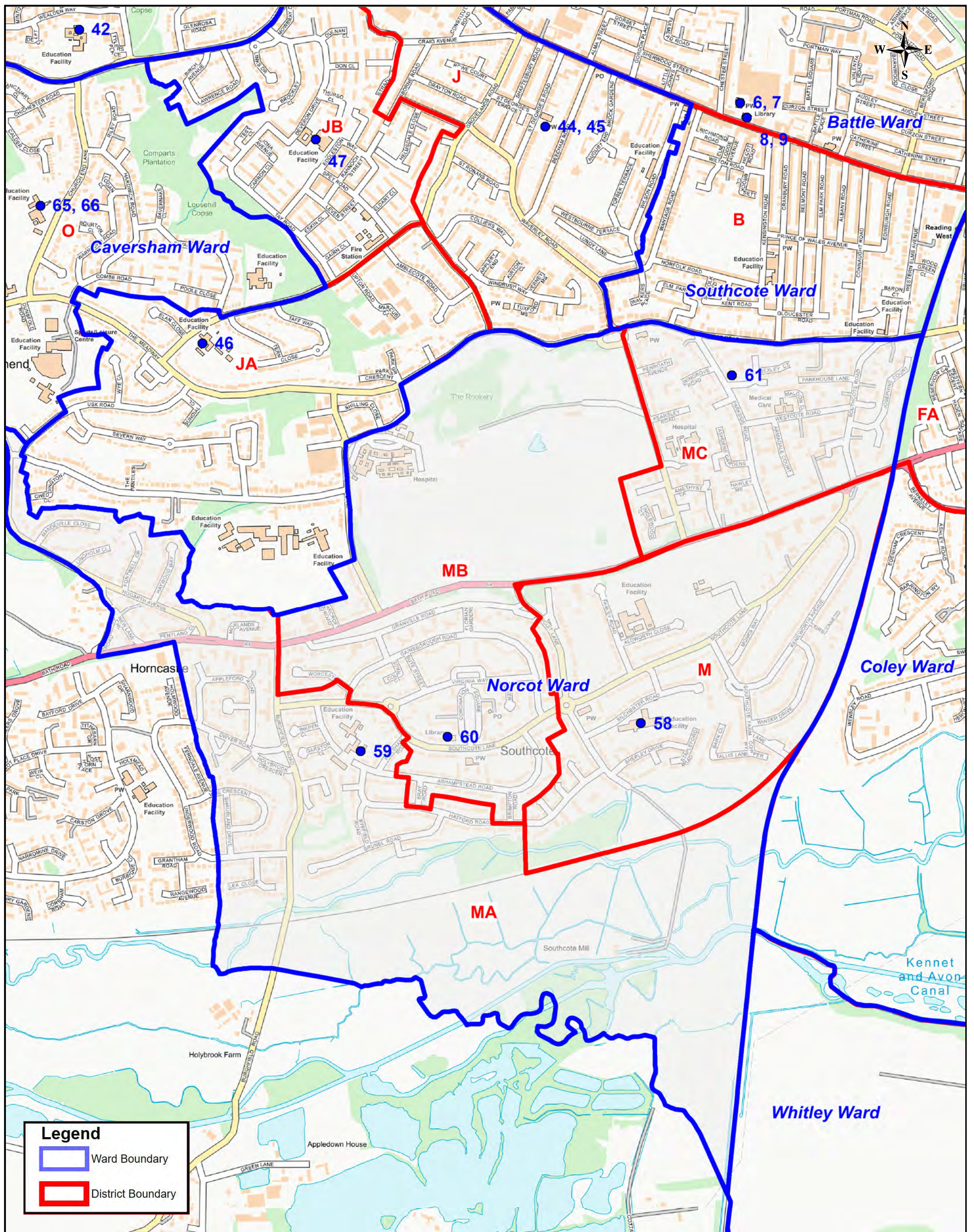
Produced by GIS & Mapping Services

Drawing Number: GIS00607

Date: 06/10/2023 Scale at A3: 1:6000

Ref: M:\Data\Client datasets\Chief Exe\Legal\Electoral Reg\Ward review 2019\Wards 2022 individual workspaces A3\Wards with new Polling District





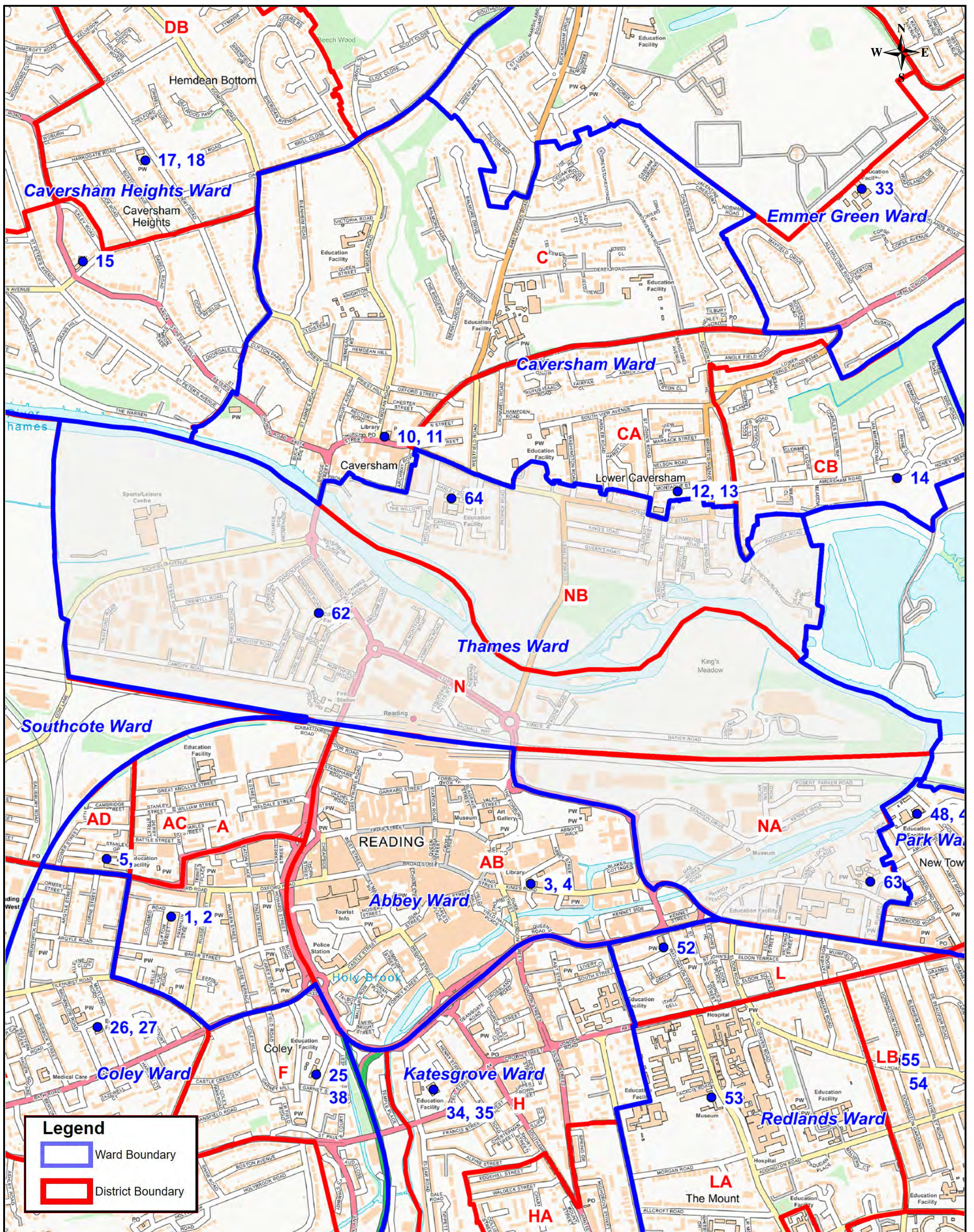
Title: **Southcote Ward - 2022 - with New Polling Districts**
 Reading Borough

Produced by GIS & Mapping Services
 Drawing Number:GIS00608

Date: 06/10/2023 Scale at A3: 1:10000

Ref: \Chief Executives\Legal Services\Electoral Reg\Ward review 2019\Wards 2022 individual workspaces A3\Wards with new Polling District





Title: **Thames Ward - 2022 with New Polling Districts**
 Reading Borough

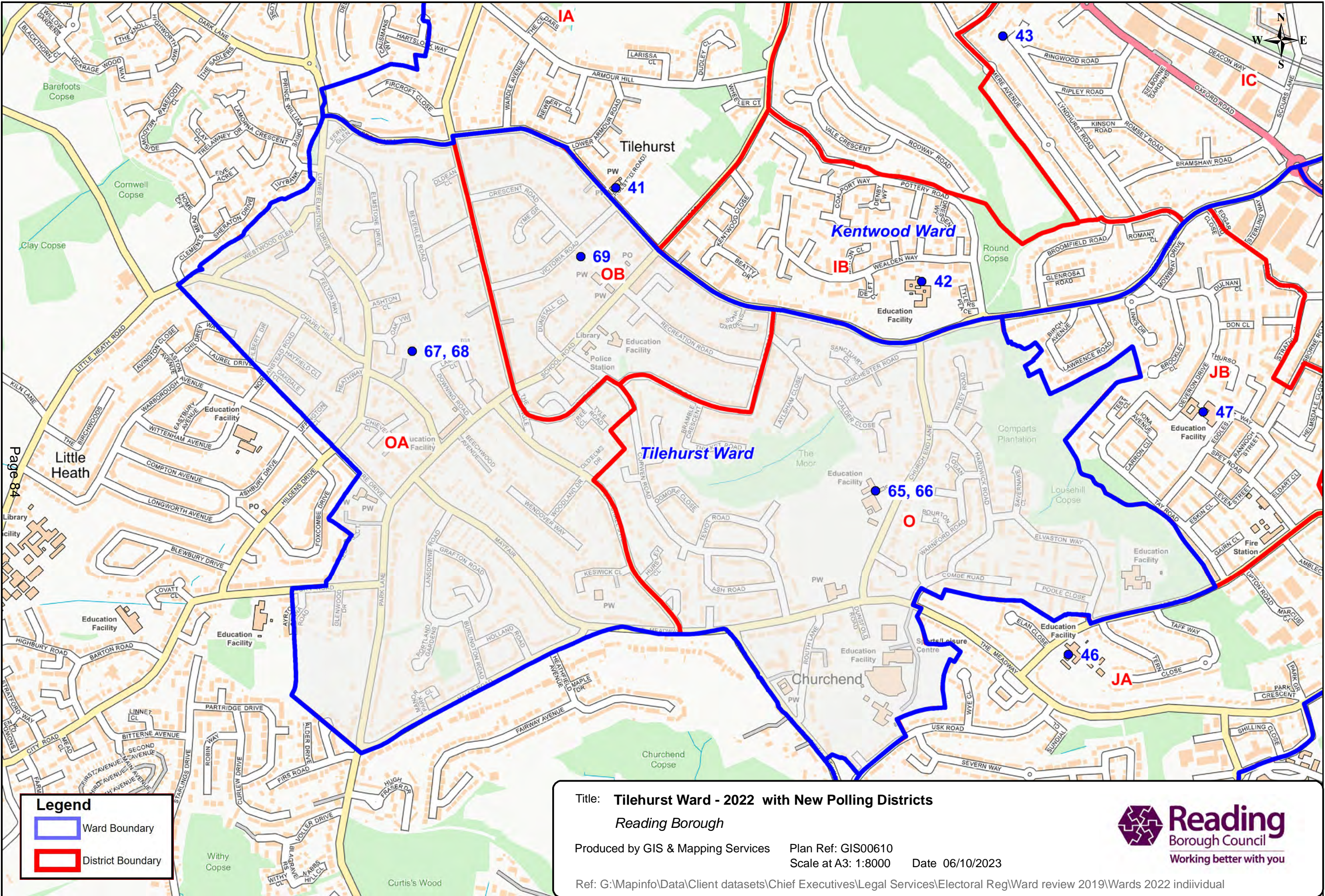
Produced by GIS & Mapping Services

Drawing Number: GIS00609

Date: 06/10/2023 Scale at A3: 1:10000



Ref: G:\Mapinfo\Data\Client datasets\Chief Executives\Legal Services\Electoral Reg\Ward review 2019\Wards 2022 individual workspaces A3\Wards with new Polling



Legend

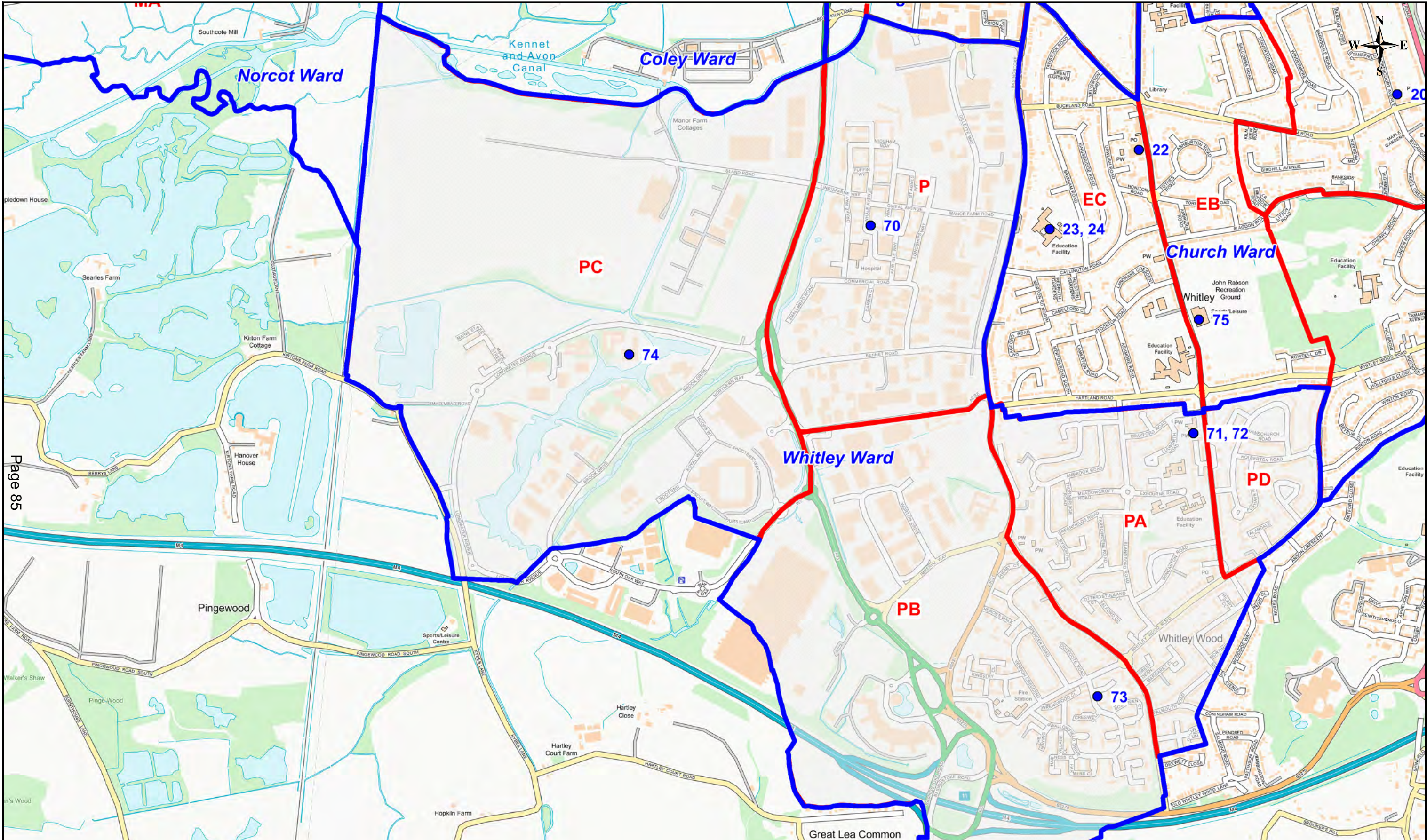
- Ward Boundary
- District Boundary

Title: **Tilehurst Ward - 2022 with New Polling Districts**
 Reading Borough

Produced by GIS & Mapping Services Plan Ref: GIS00610
 Scale at A3: 1:8000 Date 06/10/2023



Ref: G:\Mapinfo\Data\Client datasets\Chief Executives\Legal Services\Electoral Reg\Ward review 2019\Wards 2022 individual



Title: **Whitley Ward 2022 - with New Polling Districts**
 Reading Borough

Drawing Number: GIS00611
 Produced by GIS & Mapping Services Scale at A3: 1:12000 Date: 06/10/2023

Ref: M:\Client data\Chief Exec\Legal \ER\Ward review 2019\Wards 2022 indiividual workspaces A3\Wards with new Polling District



Legend

- Ward Boundary
- District Boundary

This page is intentionally left blank