

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>1 DECEMBER 2022</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>INTERIM REVIEW OF A SINGLE POLLING PLACE</b>
<b>Executive Lead Member:</b>	<b>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b>
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>SUTTON CENTRAL AND NEW CROSS</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>NO</b>

### **Purpose of Report**

This report seeks Council approval to commence public consultation on the relocation of one polling place due to the possible future unavailability of an existing venue.

### **Recommendation(s)**

1. That Council approves the draft recommendations set out in this report for public consultation;
2. The findings of the consultation be reported back to Council in February 2023.

### **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

To deal with an interim review of an existing polling place on which all members of the Polling Place Review Working Party have been consulted.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

None. The risks associated with taking a decision not to relocate to a new venue has the potential to disenfranchise some electors in the Sutton Central & New Cross Ward.

### **Detailed Information**

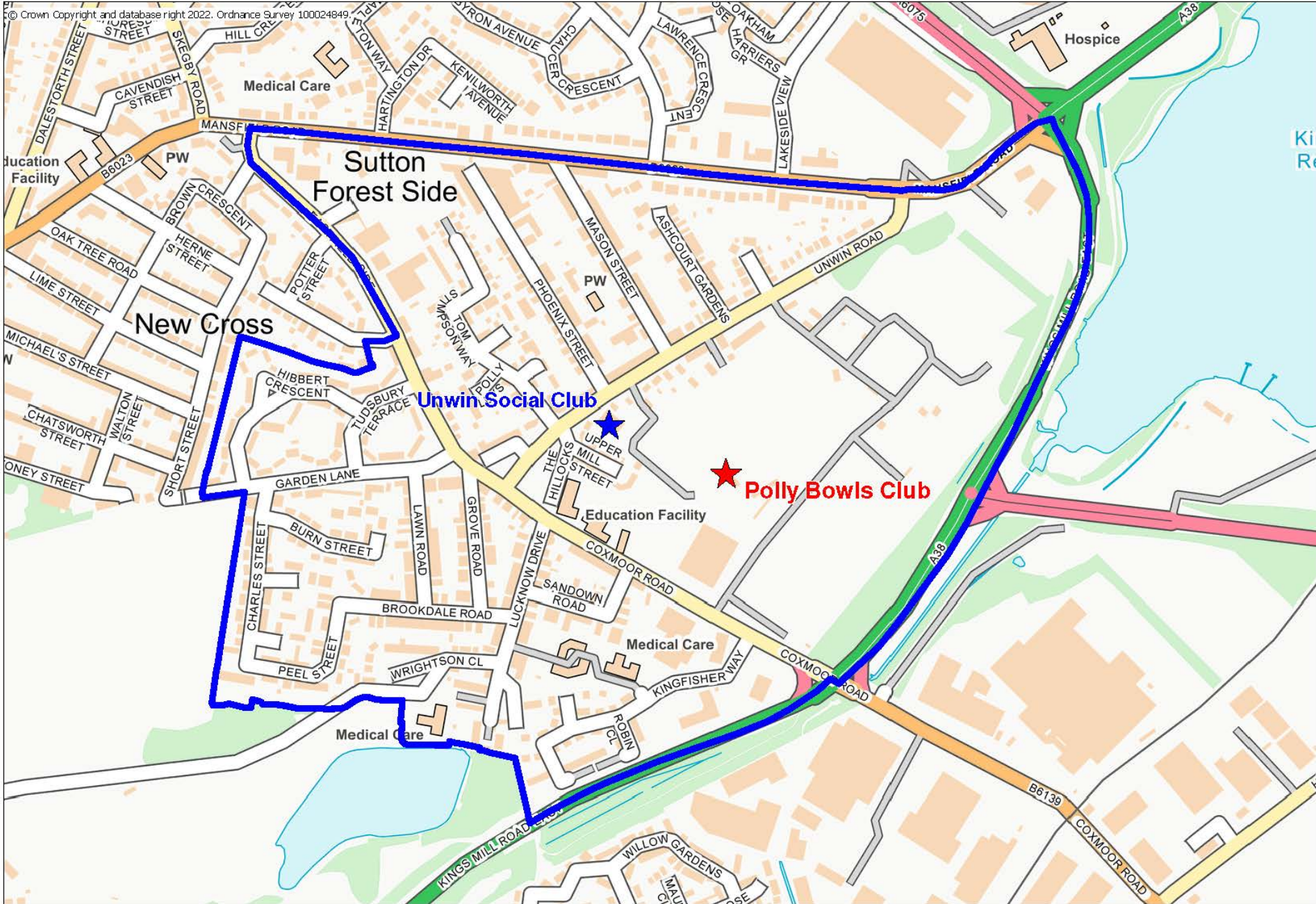
A planning application has been received in respect of the fields to the rear of The Unwin Social Club, the commencement of building works associated with this application could impact the ability of electors to cast their votes.

The Elections Team have identified and visited an alternative venue a short distance from the original polling place. An evaluation of the premises has concluded that the needs of electors would be met in accordance with guidance from the Electoral Commission.

Additionally, the Health & Safety team have undertaken a risk assessment and have determined that the venue is suitable for the purpose for which it is being considered.

The proposals and a map identifying the site are included below:

<b>SUTTON CENTRAL AND NEW CROSS:- SNX3 Proposed New Polling Place</b>					
<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Existing Polling Place</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place</b>	<b>County Division</b>	<b>Access Issues</b>
SNX3	The Unwin Club	1,775	The Polly Bowls Club	Sutton Central & East	No access issues
<b>Comments:</b>					
The proposed new venue offers better facilities for both staff and electors, including on-site parking, ramped access directly into the polling station and good lighting.					
There are good transport links and the track in the approach to the venue is in good repair for any electors choosing to walk to cast their votes.					



## Implications

### **Corporate Plan:**

Enable thriving, prosperous and self-sufficient communities where people shape their own futures. Ensure effective community leadership, through good governance, transparency, accountability and appropriate behaviours.

### **Legal:**

A full review of polling places and polling districts will take place in 2023 in line with legislative requirements. This interim review has been carried out to deal with an issue at a specific polling place in readiness for the District Elections in 2023. **(RLD 23/11/22)**

### **Finance:**

<b>Budget Area</b>	<b>Implication</b>
General Fund – Revenue Budget	Costs arising from the review can be met from existing budgets <b>(PH 23.11.22)</b>
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

### **Risk:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Potential disruption associated with the existing polling place used for this polling district.  Additional pressures from the requirements of the Elections Bill Regulations.	Change of venue to negate this risk whilst maintaining good facilities for both electors and staff.  The proposed new venue offers better facilities to meet the requirements contained in the new regulations when having regard to accessibility for all electors.

### **Human Resources:**

There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

### **Environmental/Sustainability**

There are no Environmental/Sustainability implications arising from this report.

## **Equalities:**

The purpose of the review is to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and that, as far as is reasonable and practicable, polling places are accessible to disabled electors.

## **Other Implications:**

*None*

## **Reason(s) for Urgency**

*None*

## **Reason(s) for Exemption**

*None*

## **Background Papers**

*None*

## **Report Author and Contact Officer**

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