



# London Borough of Southwark

## **Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations 2023**

Final Proposals Report

7 November 2023

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# Background Information

In accordance with the requirements of the Representation of the People Act 1983, and the Electoral Administration Act 2013, Southwark Council has a statutory duty to carry out a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations that are used at parliamentary elections, in the period from 1 October 2023 to 31 January 2025.

The purpose of the review is to assess the current arrangements and make any necessary changes to improve the convenience and accessibility of polling stations for electors.

The Electoral Commission recommends that no polling station should have more than 2,250 electors allocated to it, and no fewer than 1,000.

However, due to the additional pressures placed on polling station staff as a result of the new provisions in the Elections Act 2022, this review will apply a maximum of 1,800 polling station electors (the full electorate minus postal voters) to each polling station.

Under the current arrangements, a number of borough ward boundaries do not align with the existing parliamentary constituency boundaries. The Boundary Commission for England recently carried out a review of parliamentary constituency boundaries. The new constituency boundaries are due to come into force at the next parliamentary election which must be held by the end of January 2025. The new boundaries will be coterminous with Southwark's existing borough ward boundaries. As a result, this review seeks to merge any polling districts that are no longer required.

Figures for this report are based on the electorate totals for March 2023.

# Scope of the Review

The scope of the 2023 polling district and polling station review includes the following:

## Legislative Requirements

Local authorities must comply with the following legislative requirements regarding the designation of polling districts and polling places:

- the council must designate a polling place for each polling district, unless the size or other circumstances of a polling district are such that the situation of the polling stations does not materially affect the convenience of the electors
- the polling place must be an area in the polling district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the polling district (for example, if no accessible polling place can be identified in the polling district)
- the polling place must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the polling district how they will be able to reach the polling station
- all electors in a constituency in the local authority area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances
- so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled

## Accessibility

The Elections Act 2022 requires the Returning Officer to provide and make reasonable provisions for electors in the polling station to allow the elector to be able to vote.

All polling places are subject to a site assessment where electoral officers visit the premises and conduct a thorough assessment of the facilities, access and location, using the most up to date Electoral Commission polling station evaluation checklist (see appendix C). No polling place will be recommended that does not pass the site assessment.

- a polling station should be within reasonable walking distance for the majority of the electors within the polling district the polling station is allocated to
- all polling stations should have access facilities for disabled electors, including wheelchair users.

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- where permanent facilities for access to the polling station are not possible, the Returning Officer will make temporary provision by providing a portable ramp to the venue.
- the following have been identified as potential barriers for accessibility:
  - steps
  - trip or slip hazards
  - narrow doorways and corridors
  - lack of space within the polling station for mobility
  - lack of space and secrecy for the elector to cast their vote or allow an elector with their companion to discuss the electors choice
  - lack of chairs
  - lack of clear signage
  - lack of disabled parking
  - inadequate lighting

## **Practical Considerations**

When selecting a polling station, the following basic criteria are considered:

- the number of polling station voters
- the location within the polling district
- the health and safety arrangements
- the useable space
- the welfare facilities for use by polling station staff (toilets, food and water facilities)
- availability and cost – Polling Places need to be used for every election at a cost that is reasonable to the taxpayer
- any natural boundaries, railway lines, busy main roads etc.
- any negative impact on other users of the building

## **Equalities Impact Assessment**

An EIA has been carried out and is included in appendix A of this report.

## **Out of scope**

Parliamentary Constituency boundaries and Borough ward boundaries do not form part of this review.

# Timetable

<b>March-June 2023</b>	Preliminary work and site visits
<b>July-August 2023</b>	Pre-review consultation with ward Members and local disability groups
<b>2 October 2023</b>	Publication of Notice of Review
<b>2 October 2023</b>	Publication of draft proposals report
<b>2 October 2023</b>	Commencement of public consultation
<b>3 November 2023</b>	Deadline for comments from consultation
<b>7 November 2023</b>	Final Revised proposals based on results of consultation and representations
<b>22 November 2023</b>	Final report to Council Assembly for noting
<b>27 November 2023</b>	Publication of final report
<b>1 December 2023</b>	New arrangements come into force

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# Public Consultation

After a pre-review consultation with ward councillors, our draft proposals were produced and published for public consultation on 2 October 2023. Councillor feedback from the pre-review consultation is included in the comments/representations document published on the Southwark website.

The public consultation began on 2 October and closed on 3 November 2023. We sought the views of Southwark residents, stakeholders and interested parties, including the Acting Returning Officers for the London Boroughs of Lambeth and Lewisham.

The draft proposals were available to view in a number of Southwark Libraries and on Southwark Council's website. Emails were sent to approximately 140,000 Southwark residents to raise awareness of the review and to encourage resident feedback.

Representations were also sought from local disability groups on the accessibility and suitability of polling places.

All comments/representations received during the public consultation period can be found in appendix B. The ARO has a statutory obligation to respond to the consultation and her comments are included in the appendix.

Where representations received have led to changes to the draft proposals, the details have been included in the relevant ward report of this document.

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# Definitions

## **Parliamentary Constituency**

The area designated by the Boundary Commission which is represented by a Member of Parliament (MP) in the House of Commons. Parliamentary Constituencies cannot be changed by the review.

## **Polling District**

A polling district is a geographical area created by the sub-division of a UK Parliamentary constituency for the purposes of a UK Parliamentary election. Some polling districts have been changed in this review.

## **Polling Place**

A Polling Place is a geographical area in which a polling station is located. There is no legal definition of what a Polling Place is; it could be defined as tightly as a particular building or as widely as the entire polling district.

If no polling place is designated for a polling district the polling district is to be taken to be the polling place. This is the default position in Southwark.

## **Polling Station**

A Polling Station is the actual area where the process of voting takes place and must be located within the Polling Place designated for the particular Polling District, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district.

Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the (Acting) Returning Officer for the election.



# Summary of Changes

The scheme includes a total of 108 polling districts. There are 17 wards with changes to their polling district boundaries.

Following the public consultation there are changes to the initial proposals in five wards: Dulwich Village, Dulwich Wood, London Bridge & West Bermondsey, North Bermondsey and Rotherhithe.

Ward Name	Polling District Reference	Number of Polling Districts	Boundary Changes
Borough & Bankside	BNB	3	No
Camberwell Green	CMG	6	Yes
Champion Hill	CHH	3	Yes
Chaucer	CHR	5	Yes
Dulwich Hill	DLH	4	Yes
Dulwich Village	DLV	4	Yes
Dulwich Wood	DLW	4	Yes
Faraday	FRD	4	Yes
Goose Green	GGR	5	Yes
London Bridge & West Bermondsey	LBW	5	Yes
Newington	NTN	5	Yes
North Bermondsey	NBM	5	No
North Walworth	NWL	5	Yes
Nunhead & Queen's Road	NQR	6	Yes
Old Kent Road	OKR	6	Yes
Peckham	PKM	5	No
Peckham Rye	PHR	4	Yes
Rotherhithe	RTH	5	Yes
Rye Lane	RLN	5	No
South Bermondsey	SBM	5	No
St George's	SGG	3	Yes
St Giles	SGL	6	No
Surrey Docks	SDK	5	Yes

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Eleven new polling stations have been identified.

All new venues have been assessed and have been deemed suitable for use as polling stations.

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>New Polling Station</b>	<b>Existing Polling Station</b>	<b>Reason for replacement</b>
Dulwich Wood	Kingswood House	Kingswood Estate TRA	Old venue no longer suitable
Faraday	Una Marson library	Michael Faraday school	Newly built venue to be used for one of the two polling districts previously using Michael Faraday school
Goose Green	Goose Green Centre	Amott Road Baptist Church	Unsuitable location
London Bridge & West Bermondsey	The Greenhouse	Downside Fisher Youth Club	Old venue is a shared station in another ward. New venue is in the correct polling district and ward
Newington	Rachel Leigh Hall	Brandon 3 Senior Citizen Hall	Revision of polling districts to allocate electors evenly across the ward
Newington	Jack Hobbs Club	Brandon Library	Old venue no longer suitable
North Walworth	Pembroke House	Doubtfire Hall	Unavailable
Peckham	Harris Primary Academy (Peckham Park)	Apostolic Faith Church	Old venue no longer suitable – does not meet accessibility requirements
Rotherhithe	Rotherhithe Community Centre	Silverlock Tenants Hall	New venue located within the polling district
Rye Lane	St Mary Magdalene Primary School	Consort Tenants Hall	Unavailable
St George`s	Salvation Army Hall	Castle Leisure Centre	Venue unable to provide confidential voting environment

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# Borough & Bankside

**Electorate:** 6,283

**Postal voters:** 1,634

## Ward summary

Borough & Bankside ward is a three member ward in the north of the borough. There are three polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

All polling district electorates fall within the guideline numbers, therefore no polling district boundary changes are required for this ward.

There were minimal accessibility concerns at Bankside House. While there is ramped access, the space between the columns located directly outside of the doors used to access the room may be too narrow for large wheelchairs. However, another route to access the building is available for wheelchair users.

Alternative venues investigated include Christ Church Southwark, the Globe Theatre and Tate Modern.

Christ Church Southwark was found unsuitable due to its location on the edge of the ward, which is not within reasonable walking distance for the majority of the electors within the polling district.

The Globe Theatre and Tate Modern are also unsuitable due to the hire costs being considerably above what can be considered as reasonable to the tax payer and uncertain availability.

Voters in BNB1 will continue to vote at Bankside House.

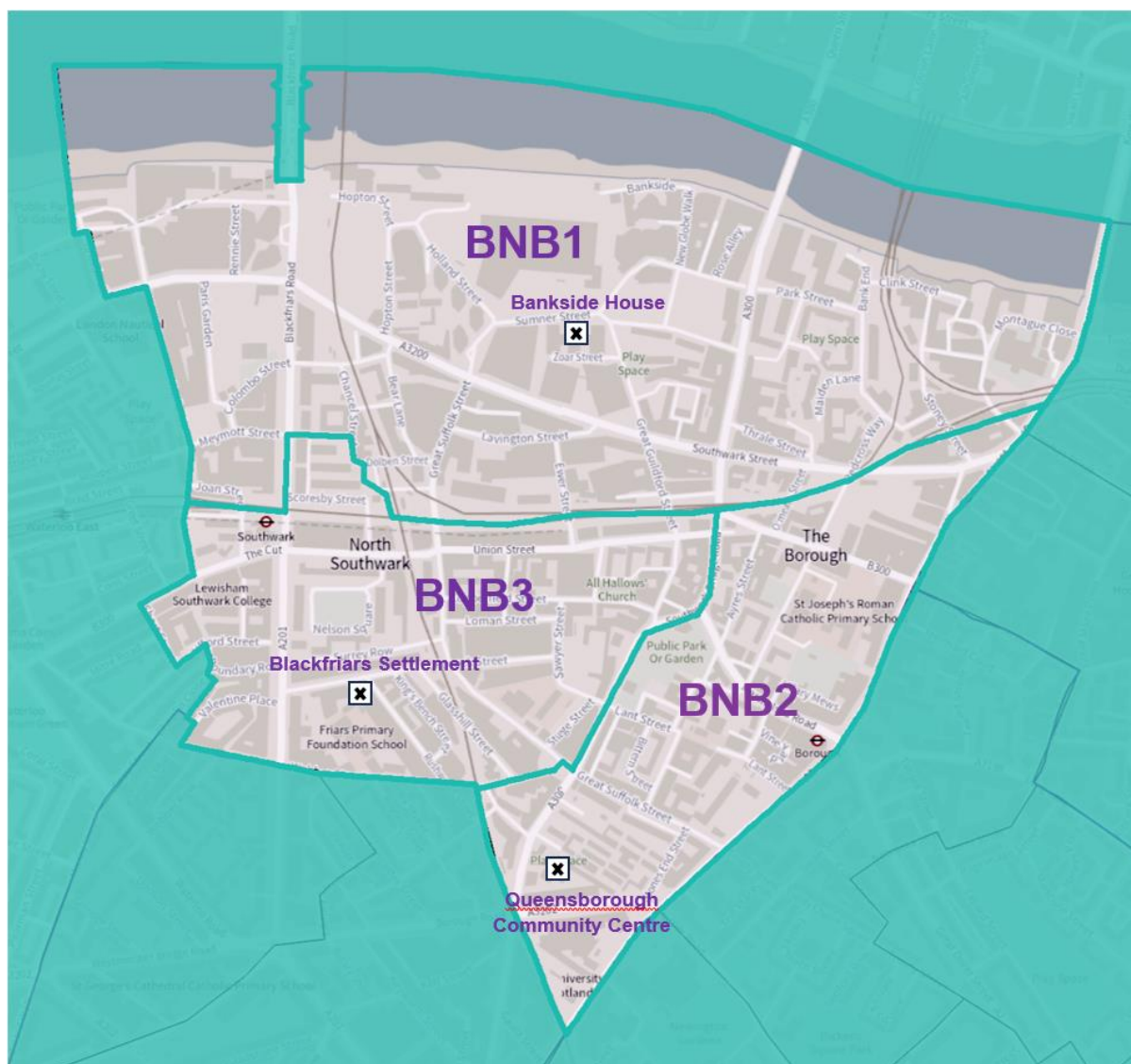
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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
<b>BNB1</b>	2,258	1,563	695	Bankside House, 24 Sumner Street, London	
<b>BNB2</b>	2,151	1,620	531	Queensborough Community Centre, Scovell Road, London	
<b>BNB3</b>	1,874	1,411	463	Blackfriars Settlement, 1 Rushworth Street, London	

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## Borough and Bankside Map



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# Camberwell Green

**Electorate:** 10,785

**Postal voters:** 2,673

## Ward summary

Camberwell Green ward is a three member ward in the north of the borough. There are five polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

Under the previous scheme the number of electors per polling district was very unbalanced. The number of polling station voters in CMG2 was 2,992, far exceeding the maximum recommended number of 1,800.

The boundary between CMG2 and CMG5 split the Elmington Estate with electors from four blocks having to cross a busy main road to vote. The new scheme will bring these blocks into the same polling district as the rest of the estate, with all electors voting at the same polling station.

The changes to this ward include:

- The number of polling districts in this ward will increase from five to six, with CMG2 split into two new polling districts.
- Keats House, Kipling House, Marvell House and Milton House moved to CMG3
- Camberwell Salvation Army to be used as a double polling station for CMG2 and CMG3

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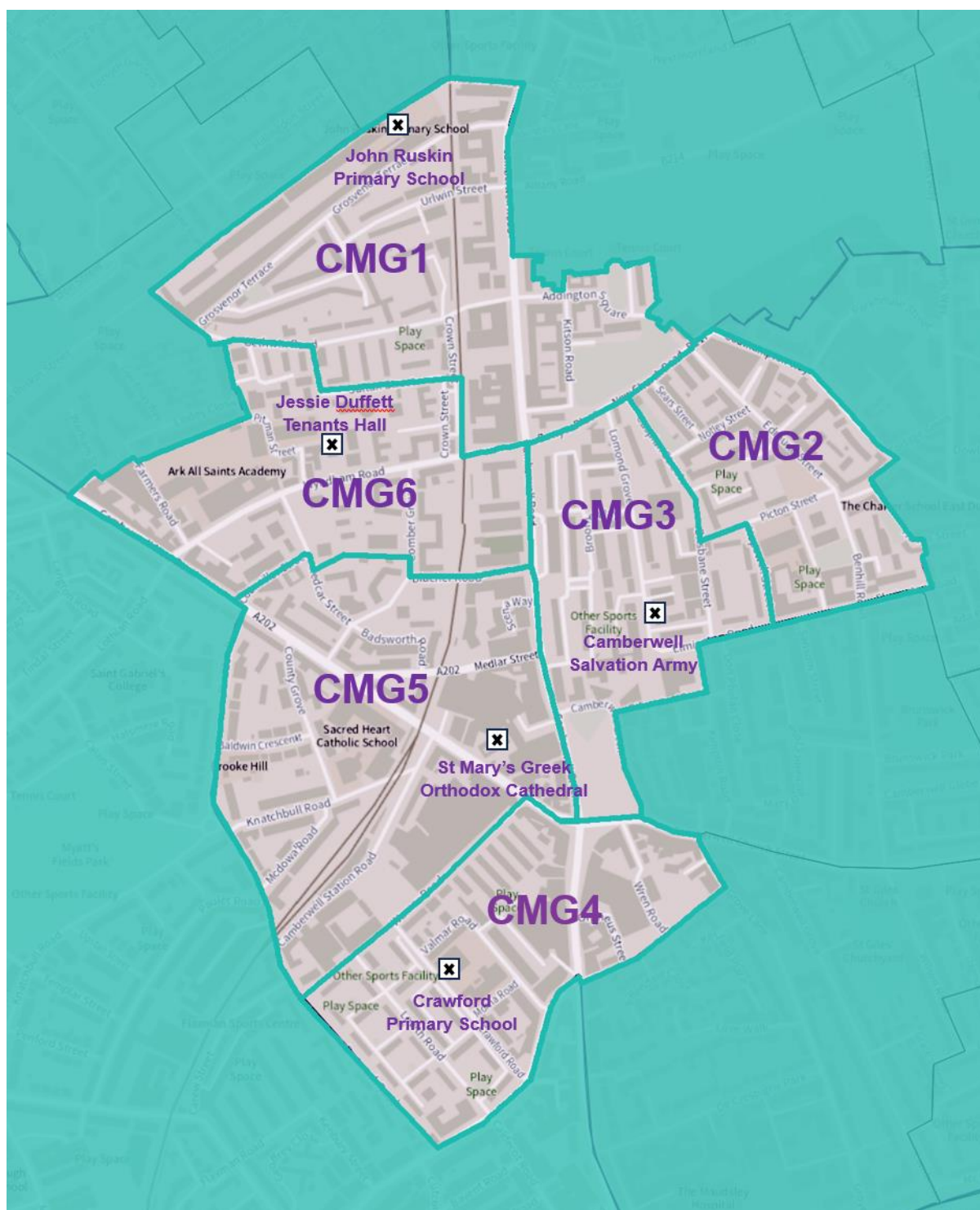
## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
CMG1	2,128	1,611	517	John Ruskin Primary School, John Ruskin Street	
CMG2	1,529	1,145	384	Camberwell Salvation Army, 105 Lomond Grove	
CMG3	1,463	1,057	406	Camberwell Salvation Army, 105 Lomond Grove	
CMG4	1,760	1,385	375	Crawford Primary School, Crawford Road	
CMG5	2,032	1,501	531	St Mary's Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 305 Camberwell New Road	
CMG6	1,873	1,413	460	Jessie Duffett Tenants Hall, (Wyndham Hall), Wyndham Road	

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## Camberwell Green Map



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# Champion Hill

**Electorate:** 6,691

**Postal voters:** 1,695

## Ward Summary

Champion Hill ward is a two member ward in the south of the borough. There are three polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

Under the previous scheme the electorate in CHH3 was over the recommended maximum number of 1,800 and an adjustment was required to balance the electorate figures across the ward.

The boundary adjustments to balance out the number of electors for each polling station include:

- Moving all properties on Grove Lane from CHH3 to CHH1.
- Moving properties on Domett Close and Dowson Close from CHH3 to CHH2.

There are no changes to polling station venues for this ward.

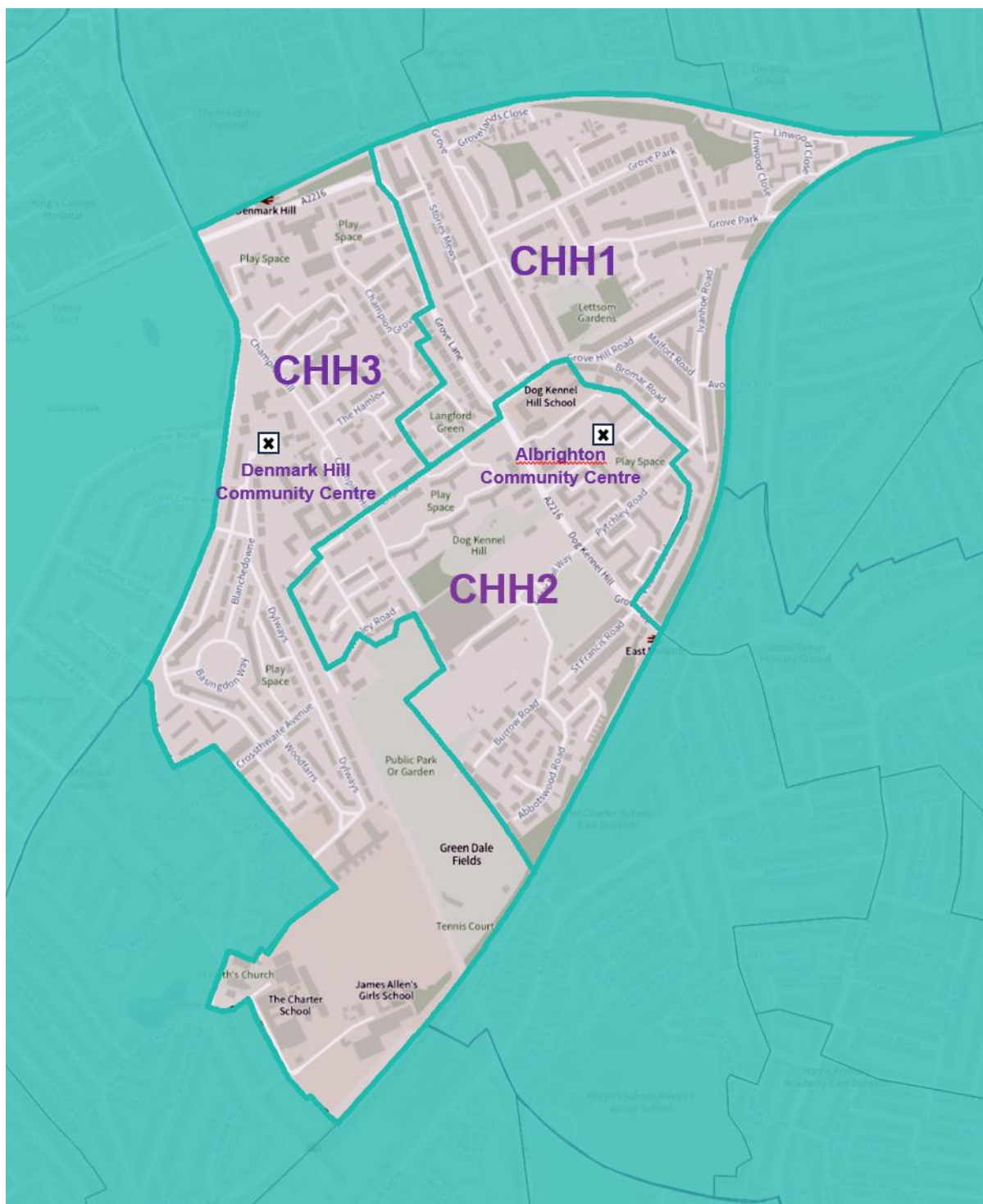
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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
CHH1	2,236	1,636	600	Albrighton Community Centre, 37 Albrighton Road, London	
CHH2	2,220	1,641	579	Albrighton Community Centre, 37 Albrighton Road, London	
CHH3	2,235	1,670	565	Denmark Hill Community Centre, Blanchedowne, Denmark Hill Estate, London	

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## Champion Hill Map



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# Chaucer

**Electorate:** 9,758

**Postal voters:** 2,187

## Ward Summary

Chaucer ward is a three member ward in the centre of the borough. There are five polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

The boundary adjustments to balance out the number of electors for each polling station include:

- Moving Great Dover Street Apartments from CHR4 to CHR2
- Moving Geoffrey House, Pardoner House, Tatsfield House, Godstone House and Dorking House on Pardoner Street from CHR3 to CHR2

There are no changes to polling station venues for this ward.

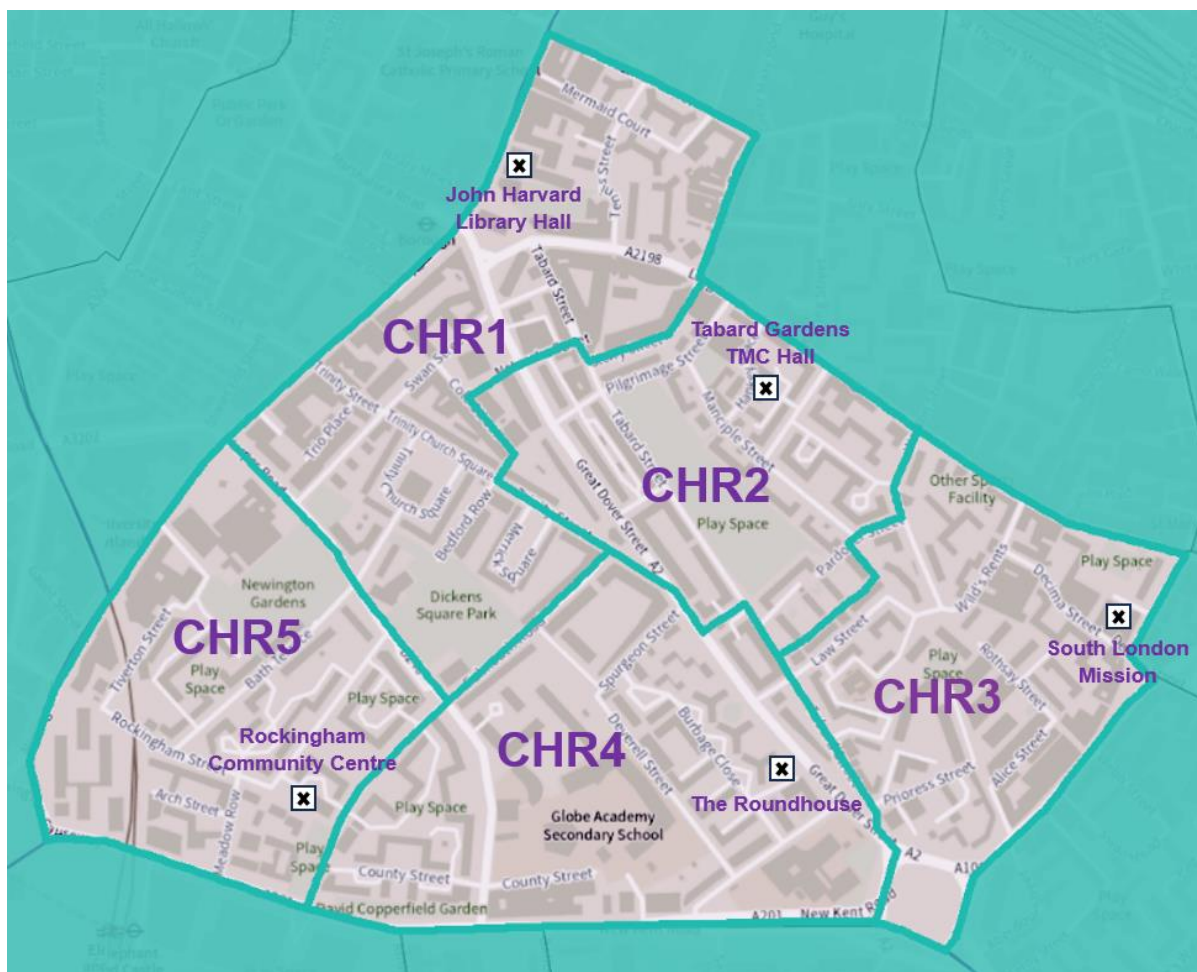
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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
CHR1	1,958	1,436	522	John Harvard Library, 211 Borough High Street	
CHR2	1,774	1,356	418	Tabard Gardens TMC Hall, 3 Hankey Place	
CHR3	1,986	1,512	474	South London Mission, Central Hall, 256 Bermondsey Street	
CHR4	1,989	1,515	474	The Roundhouse, Corner of Cardinal Bourne St & Great Dover Street	
CHR5	2,051	1,625	426	Rockingham Community Centre, Falmouth Rd/Rockingham St	

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## Chaucer Map



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# Dulwich Hill

**Electorate:** 6,793

**Postal voters:** 1,635

## Ward Summary

Dulwich Hill ward is a two member ward in the south of the borough.

There are four polling districts in this ward. The ward is predominantly residential with very few public or commercial spaces, and borders the neighbouring borough of Lewisham, which makes identifying suitable polling station venues particularly challenging. The polling station for DLH1 is situated just over the boundary in neighbouring Peckham Rye ward, in a shared double station with PHR3. This has been used as a shared station for several elections and has not presented any issues to date.

## Summary of Changes

The polling station for DLH2, Dawson Heights Community Room, is extremely small and not ideal for use as a polling station. The polling district and neighbouring areas are almost entirely suburban housing with no public or commercial spaces, meaning that there are no alternative venues available within this or neighbouring polling districts.

The geography of the district (Dawson Heights estate is situated on top of a steep hill) means that sharing a polling station in neighbouring districts to the west or north would negatively impact on the accessibility of voters on the eastern side of Dawson Heights.

Lordship Lane Estate TRA hall on Bew Court was previously used as the polling station for this ward, but following ward boundary changes is no longer in Dulwich Hill ward and is now used as a polling station for Dulwich Wood ward. This venue is not suitable for use as a double polling station.

The use of a Portakabin or other temporary building was considered but this would carry considerable cost. Availability issues (for example, in 2021 almost the entire Portakabin portfolio nationally was used for Covid19 testing and vaccination stations) would also represent a considerable risk.

Dawson Heights Community room will continue to be used and boundary changes to reduce the electorate at this polling station include:

- Moving properties on Mount Adon Road, Upland Road and Lordship Lane from DLH2 to DLH3

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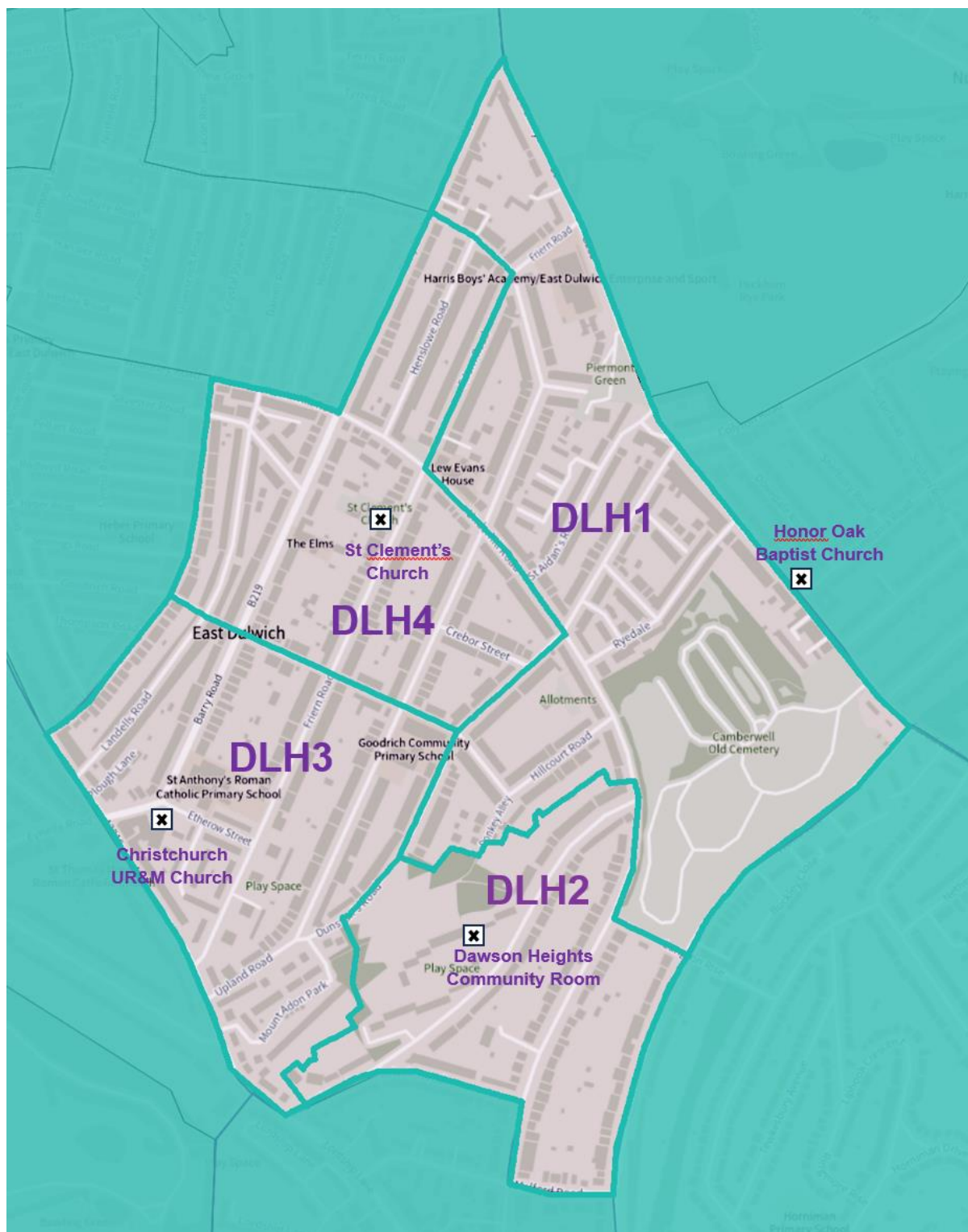
## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
DLH1	1,947	1484	463	Honor Oak Baptist Church, Forest Hill Road	Shared double station in neighbouring ward
DLH2	1,317	982	335	Dawson Heights Community Room, Ladlands, Dawson Heights Estate, Overhill Road	Very small venue
DLH3	1,672	1210	432	Christchurch UR&M Church, 263 Barry Road, London	
DLH4	1,857	1418	439	St Clements Church Hall, Friern Road Or Barry Road	

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## Dulwich Hill Map



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# Dulwich Village

**Electorate:** 7,446

**Postal voters:** 2,169

## Ward Summary

Dulwich Village ward is a two member ward in the south of the borough.

There were four main polling districts in this ward and two smaller sub-districts. The two sub-districts were small enclaves due to the current parliamentary constituency boundaries. The new parliamentary constituency boundaries will follow ward boundaries and these enclaves will disappear.

## Summary of Changes

Under the previous scheme Dulwich Village consisted of four main polling districts, and two small sub-polling districts, DLV1A and DLV1B. These sub-districts were necessary due to the parliamentary constituency boundaries being non-coterminous with the borough ward boundaries.

The new constituency boundaries will be coterminous with current borough ward boundaries. It is no longer necessary to separate DLV1A and DLV1B for administrative purposes and these sub-districts have been merged in to DLV1.

There are no changes to polling stations in this ward. All voters in DLV1 already use Herne Hill Methodist Hall and there is no proposed change to the polling venue as a result of the boundary change.

Small adjustments to the other polling district boundaries in this ward were included in draft proposals. Following representations received during the public consultation (appendix A), the polling district boundaries will remain unchanged with the proposed small adjustments not implemented.

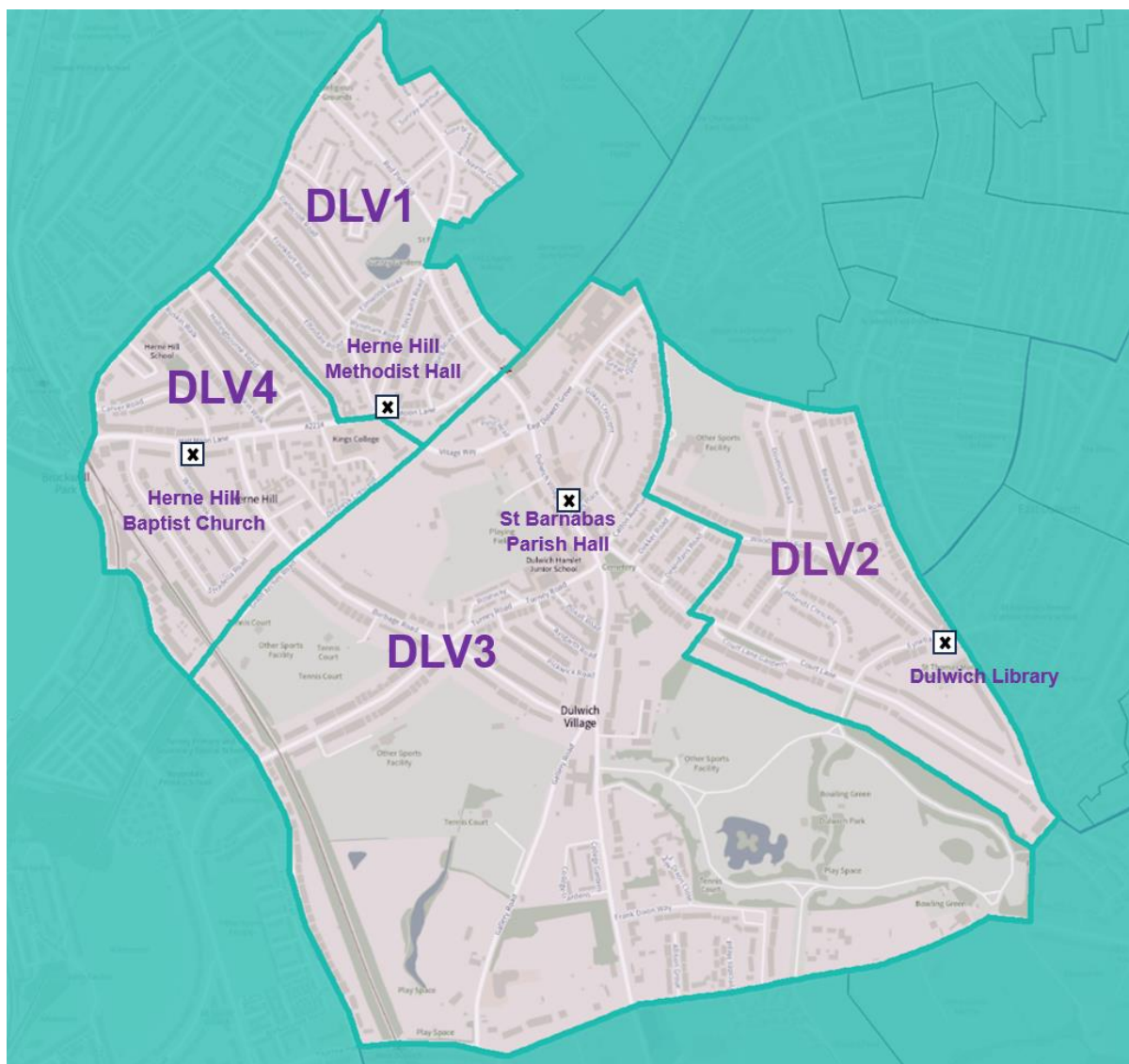
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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
DLV1	2,150	1,618	532	Herne Hill Methodist Hall, Half Moon Lane, London	
DLV2	1,565	1,070	495	Dulwich Library, 368 Lordship Lane, London	
DLV3	2,078	1,342	736	St Barnabas Parish Hall, 23 Dulwich Village, London	
DLV4	1,653	1,198	455	Herne Hill Baptist Church, Half Moon Lane, London	

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## Dulwich Village Map



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# Dulwich Wood

**Electorate:** 7,166

**Postal voters:** 2,267

## Ward Summary

Dulwich Wood ward is a two member ward in the south of the borough. There are four polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

The electorate for DLW1, Dulwich College Old Library is very small (989 electors), and the neighbouring polling districts are considerably larger. However, the local geography makes it difficult to distribute electors equally across the ward.

The initial proposals had changes to polling district boundaries to balance out the electorate to ease the pressure on neighbouring polling stations. Representations were received during the public consultation (appendix A) indicating that the changes were likely to cause voter confusion.

As the in person electorate figures for the polling stations in this ward are all well below our target numbers, it is agreed that the majority of the existing boundary scheme should remain in place apart from the minor adjustments below.

Under the old scheme, on foot access to the DLW3 polling station for electors on the northern part of College Road was either via a steeply stepped and poorly lit footpath through Sydenham Hill train station or a considerable detour via either the top or bottom of College Road. In order to make the polling station experience safer and more accessible for those voters, the following properties will now vote at Dulwich College Old Library:

- All properties on Woodhall Drive, Woodhall Avenue and 97-101 College Road moved from DLW3 to DLW1.

In order for the polling station at Kingswood House to appear in the correct polling district the following adjustment has been made:

- Moved Huntley House moved from DLW4 to DLW3

Kingswood House will replace Kingwood Estate TRA as a polling station venue.

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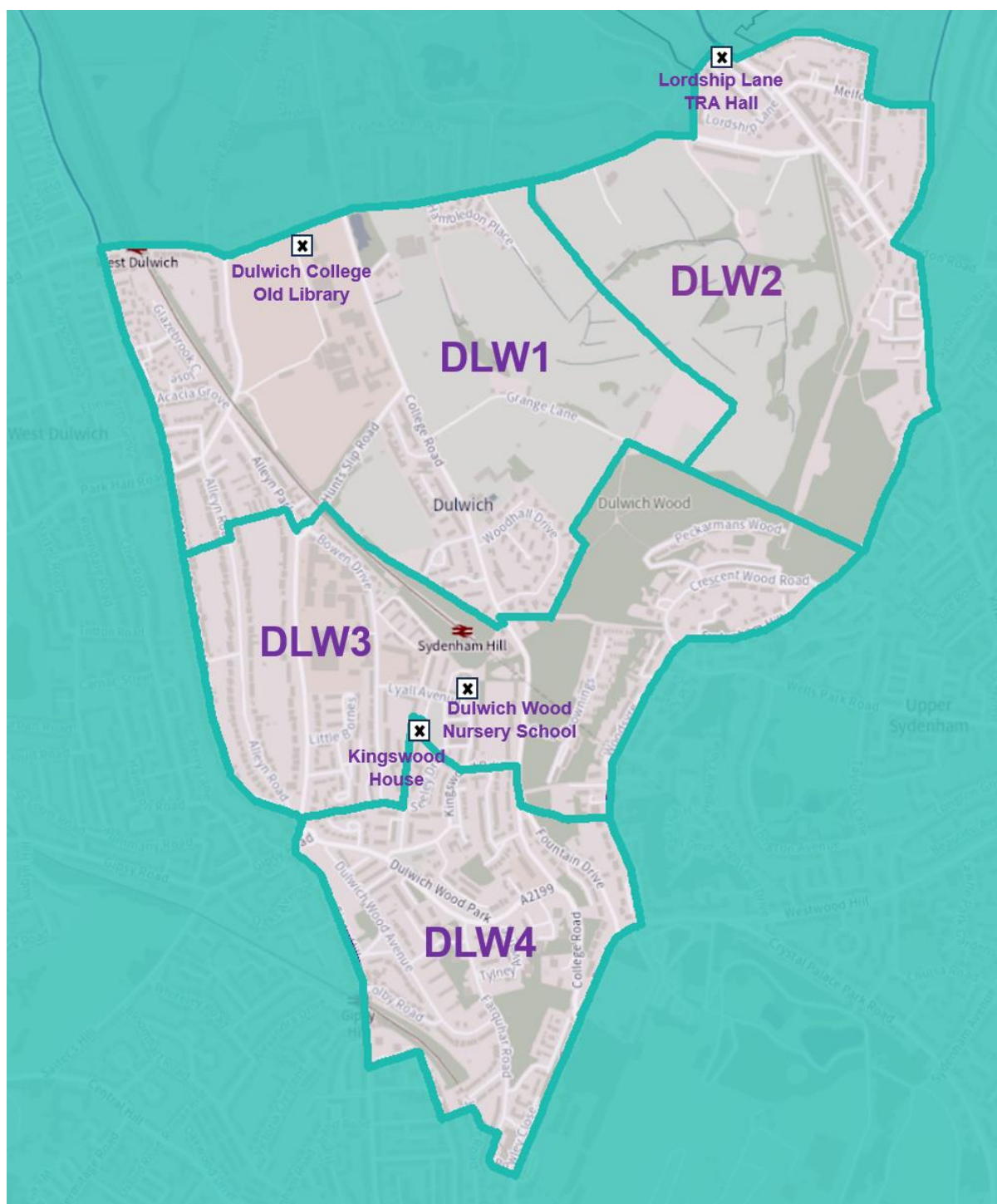
## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
DLW1	1083	861	421	Dulwich College Old Library, Dulwich Common	
DLW2	1,728	1,283	445	Lordship Lane TRA Hall, Bew Court, Lordship Lane	
DLW3	2052	1,284	733	Dulwich Wood Nursery School, Lyall Avenue	
DLW4	2303	1,404	714	Kingswood House, Seeley Drive	New venue

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## Dulwich Wood Map



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# Faraday

**Electorate:** 7,663

**Postal voters:** 1,863

## Ward Summary

Faraday ward is a three member ward in the centre of the borough. There are currently five polling stations in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

Under the previous scheme, Faraday consisted of four main polling districts and one sub-district, FRD3A. FRD3A was only necessary due to the parliamentary constituency boundary being non-coterminous with the borough ward boundary.

The new constituency boundaries will be coterminous with current borough ward boundaries, making it no longer necessary to separate FRD3A for administrative purposes. This sub-district has been merged in to FRD3. Voters in FRD3 will continue to vote at InSpire - the Crypt at St Peter's.

Some boundary changes to the remaining polling districts have been made in order to balance all electorate figures.

Currently voters in FRD2 and FRD4 are allocated to Michael Faraday Primary School. Electors in FRD2 will vote in the Una Marson Library, Thurlow Street, London once the facility is open later in 2023, and electors in FRD4 will continue to vote in Michael Faraday Primary School.

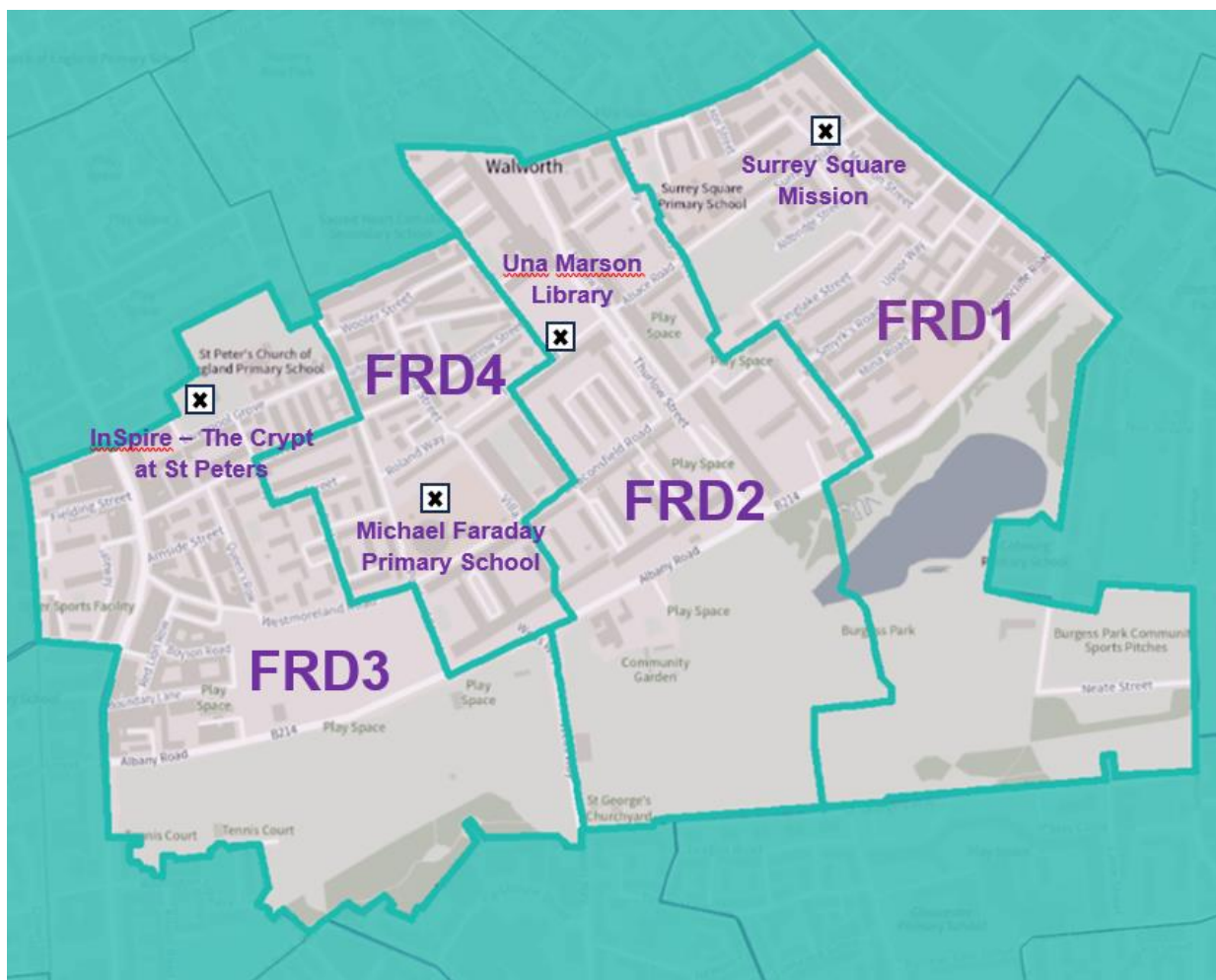
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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
FRD1	1,846	1,440	406	Surrey Square Mission, 16 Surrey Square, London	
FRD2	1,895	1,412	483	Una Marson Library, Thurlow Street, London	New venue. Michael Faraday Primary School to be used if the library is not available.
FRD3	1,951	1,447	504	InSpire - the Crypt at St Peter's, Liverpool Grove, London	
FRD4	1,971	1,471	500	Michael Faraday Primary School, Portland Street, (Hopwood Road entrance), London	

## Faraday Map



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# Goose Green

**Electorate:** 10,155

**Postal voters:** 1,863

## Ward Summary

Goose Green ward is a three member ward in the south of the borough. There are five polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

The previous polling scheme was very imbalanced, with two polling districts (GGR3 and GGR5) considerably over the recommended electorate guidelines. Boundary changes were required in order to balance the electorate in these polling district.

The current polling station for GGR1 (Arnott Road Baptist Church) is unavailable for use due to renovation work. This venue is also not very well located, situated on the eastern boundary of the polling district and not within reasonable walking distance for the majority of the electors within the polling district.

Arnott Road Baptist Church has been replaced with Goose Green Centre which is part of St John's Church on Goose Green. This is a local landmark and centrally located in the polling district.

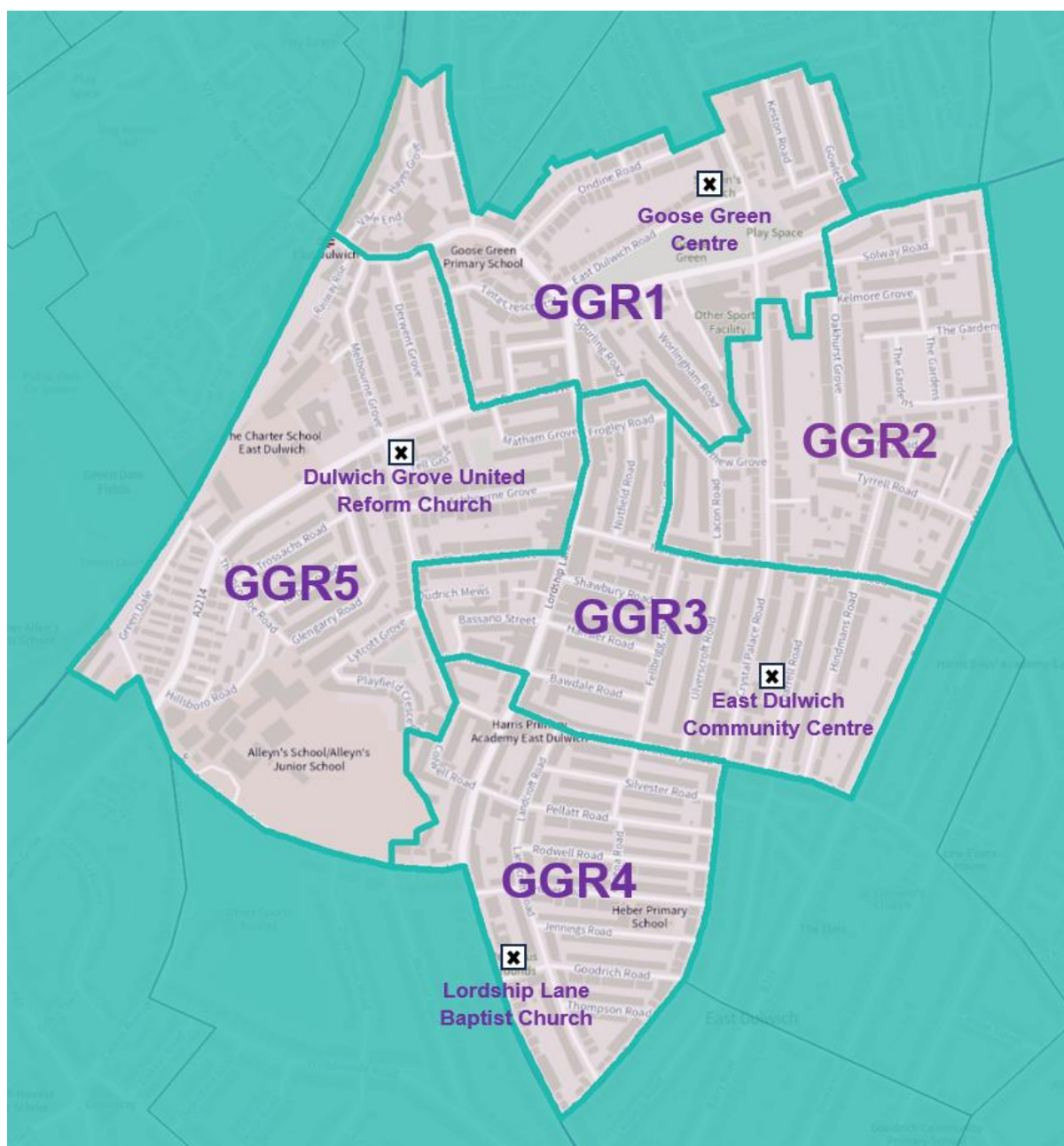
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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
GGR1	2,025	1,549	476	Goose Green Centre, 62A East Dulwich Road	New venue.
GGR2	1,939	1,471	468	East Dulwich Community Centre, 46-64 Darrell Road	Double station shared with GGR3
GGR3	2,050	1,534	516	East Dulwich Community Centre, 46-64 Darrell Road	Double station shared with GGR2
GGR4	1,963	1,508	455	Lordship Lane Baptist Church, 287 Lordship Lane	
GGR5	2,178	1,689	489	Dulwich Grove United Reformed Church	

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## Goose Green Map



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# London Bridge & West Bermondsey

**Electorate:** 10,206

**Postal voters:** 2,535

## Ward Summary

London Bridge & West Bermondsey ward is a three member ward in the north of the borough. There are five polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

Representations were received during the public consultation (appendix A) indicating that the draft proposals for LBW3 and LBW4 would split the St Saviours estate and cause confusion for voters.

Suggestions were made with a view to keep the estates together whilst maintaining balanced electorate numbers across the ward.

As a result the changes to this ward include:

- Moving all of St Saviours Estate north of Abbey Street into from LBW2 to LBW3
- Moving properties south of Grange Walk and north of Grange Road from LBW3 to LBW4
- Moving properties west of Tower Bridge Road from LBW3 to LBW4

There are no changes to polling station venues for this ward.

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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
LBW1	2,064	1,515	549	Bermondsey Village Hall, Kirby Grove, London	Double station with LBW5
LBW2	1,936	1,452	484	Downside Fisher Youth Club, Coxson Place, Druid Street, SE1 2EZ	
LBW3	2,104	1,562	542	Kagyusamyedzong London, Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Centre, 15 Spa Road, London	
LBW4	2,116	1,626	490	Haddon Hall Baptist Church, 22 Tower Bridge Road, London	
LBW5	1,986	1,428	558	Bermondsey Village Hall, Kirby Grove, London	Double station with LBW1

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## London Bridge & West Bermondsey Map



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# Newington

**Electorate:** 9,960

**Postal voters:** 2,329

## Ward Summary

Newington ward is a three member ward towards the north of the borough. There are five polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

The previous parliamentary constituency boundary did not align with the ward boundary. This results in 486 voters from the NTN4 polling district in Newington ward voting in the Camberwell and Peckham constituency at parliamentary elections.

As the new constituency boundaries will be coterminous with the existing ward boundaries, it is no longer necessary to have a separate polling district for administrative purposes.

The boundary has been adjusted to increase the number of voters in polling district NTN4. This change required small boundaries changes to the remaining polling districts in order to balance all electorate figures.

Brandon 3 Senior Hall will be replaced by Rachel Leigh Community Hall. This is a large venue, more centrally located and within reasonable walking distance for the majority of the electors within the polling district.

The available space at Brandon Library is too small and no longer suitable for use as a polling station. This venue will be replaced by The Jack Hobbs Club.

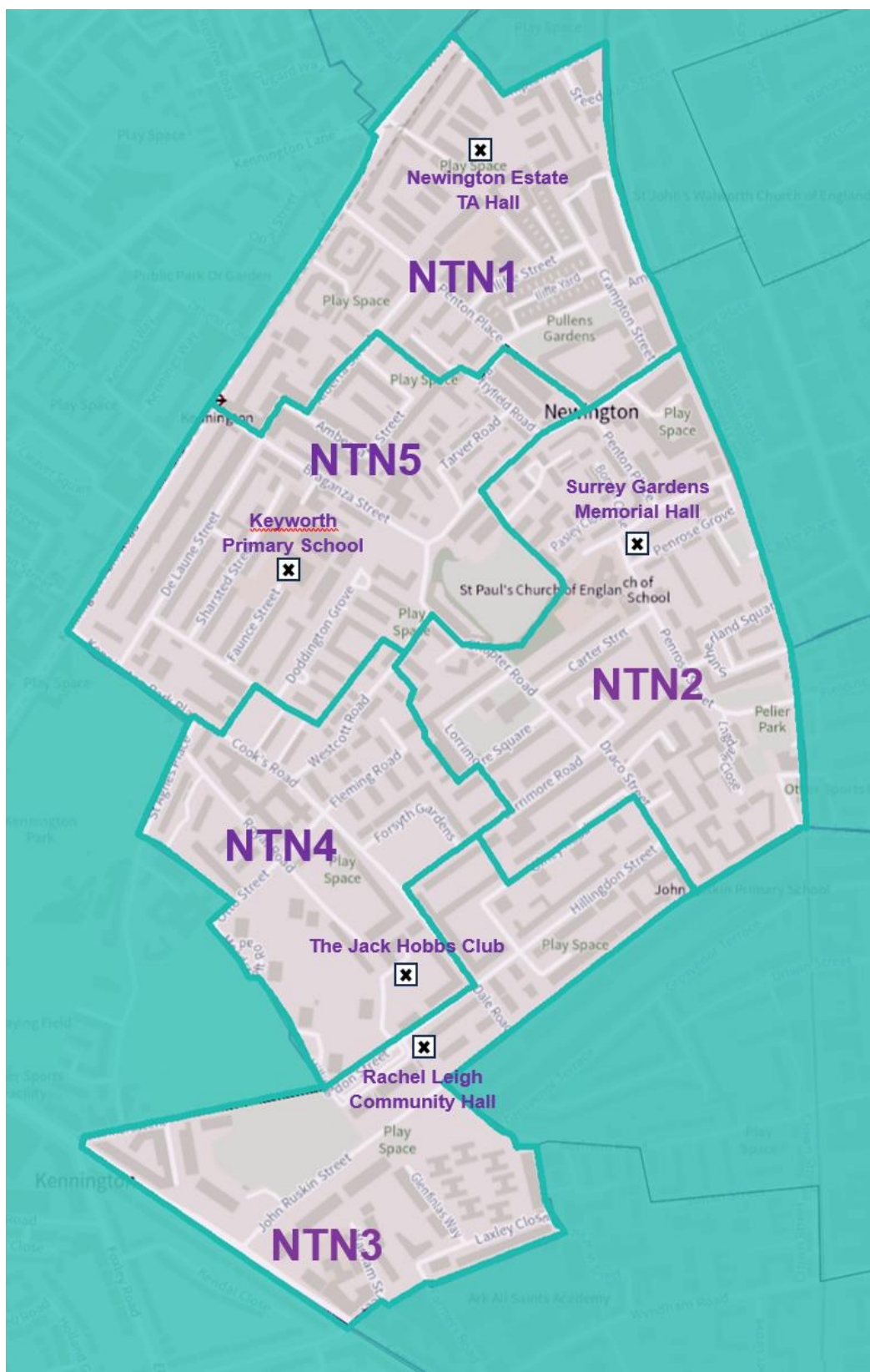
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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
NTN1	2,042	1,559	483	Newington Estate TA Hall, 77 Canterbury Place, Newington Estate, London	
NTN2	2,096	1,565	534	Surrey Gardens Memorial Hall, Penrose Street, London	
NTN3	1,979	1,588	388	Rachel Leigh Community Hall, 32 Andrews Walk, London	New venue.
NTN4	1,913	1,394	519	Jack Hobbs Club, Maddock Way, London	New venue.
NTN5	1,930	1,460	470	Keyworth Primary School, Faunce Street, London	

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## Newington Map



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# North Bermondsey

**Electorate:** 11,005

**Postal voters:** 3,031

## Ward Summary

North Bermondsey ward is a three member ward in the north of the borough. There are five polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

Following representations received during the public consultation (appendix A), it has been agreed that the initial proposed changes to polling district boundaries were unnecessary and could lead to voter confusion. There are now no changes to boundaries in this ward and the existing polling district scheme has been retained.

The number of polling station voters for NBM2 will be slightly above the target figure of 1,800 but well below the Electoral Commission recommended number of 2,250.

In the past it was not possible to identify a suitable polling station venue in NBM1. This meant that electors in that polling district were required to go to Downside Fisher Youth Club, which is located in neighbouring London Bridge & West Bermondsey ward.

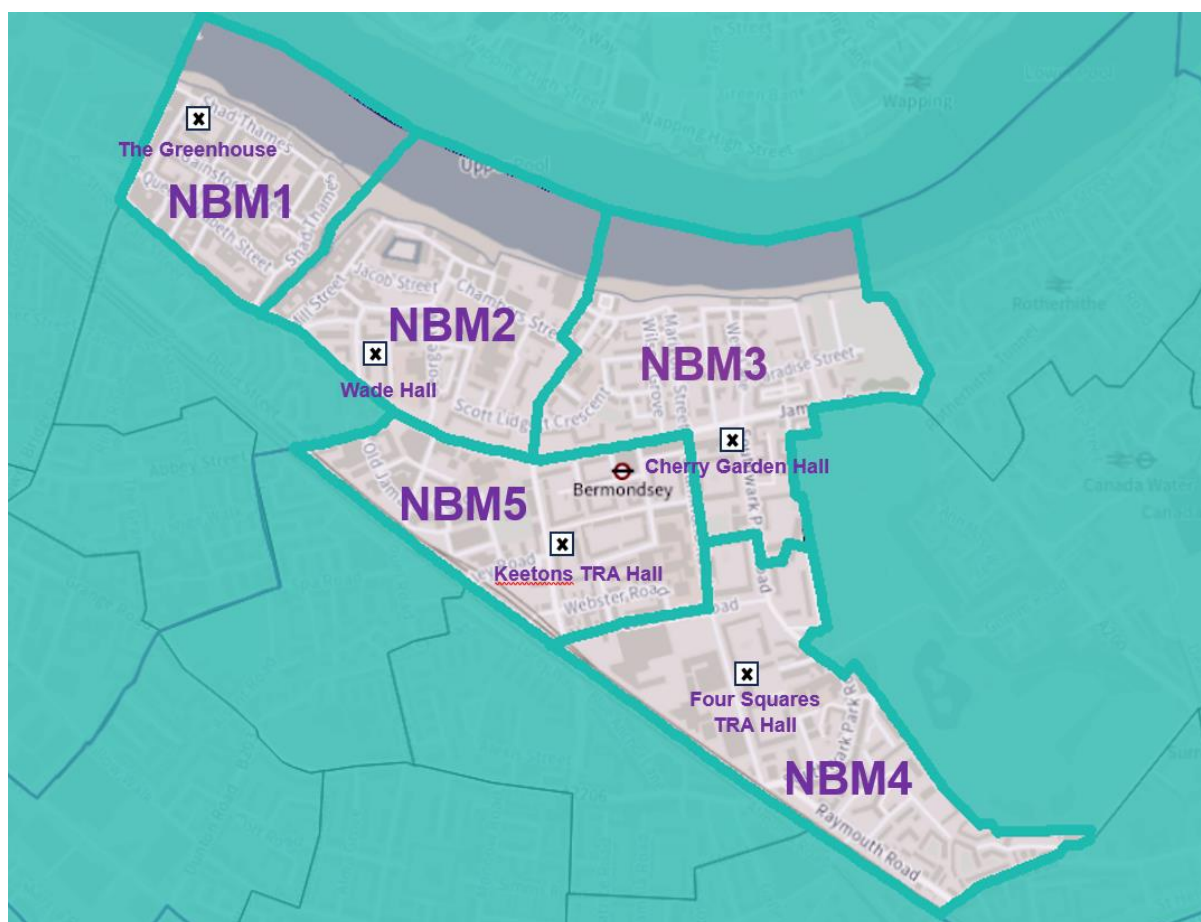
A newly opened venue - The Greenhouse in Courage Yard, Shad Thames - has now been identified to replace Downside Fisher Youth Club for voters in NBM1.

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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
NBM1	2,199	1458	741	The Greenhouse, Courage Yard, Shad Thames, London	New venue.
NBM2	2,455	1,807	648	Wade Hall, Dickens Estate, SE1 2DH	
NBM3	2,124	1,562	562	Cherry Garden Hall, 210 Jamaica Road, London	
NBM4	2,056	1,509	547	Four Squares TRA Hall, 1 Marden Square, London	
NBM5	2,171	1,586	585	Keetons TRA Hall, 2 Tranton Road, Keetons Estate, London	

## North Bermondsey Map



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# North Walworth

**Electorate:** 10,489

**Postal voters:** 2,558

## Ward Summary

North Walworth ward is a three member ward towards the north of the borough. There are five polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

Under the previous scheme, the number of electors in each polling district was unbalanced. The number of polling station voters in NWL5 was 2,234 and exceeded the maximum recommended number of 1,800.

The polling district boundaries have been adjusted in order to balance out the number of electors at each polling station.

As Doubtfire Hall is no longer available for use as a polling station, this venue will be replaced by Pembroke House, 80 Tatum Street.

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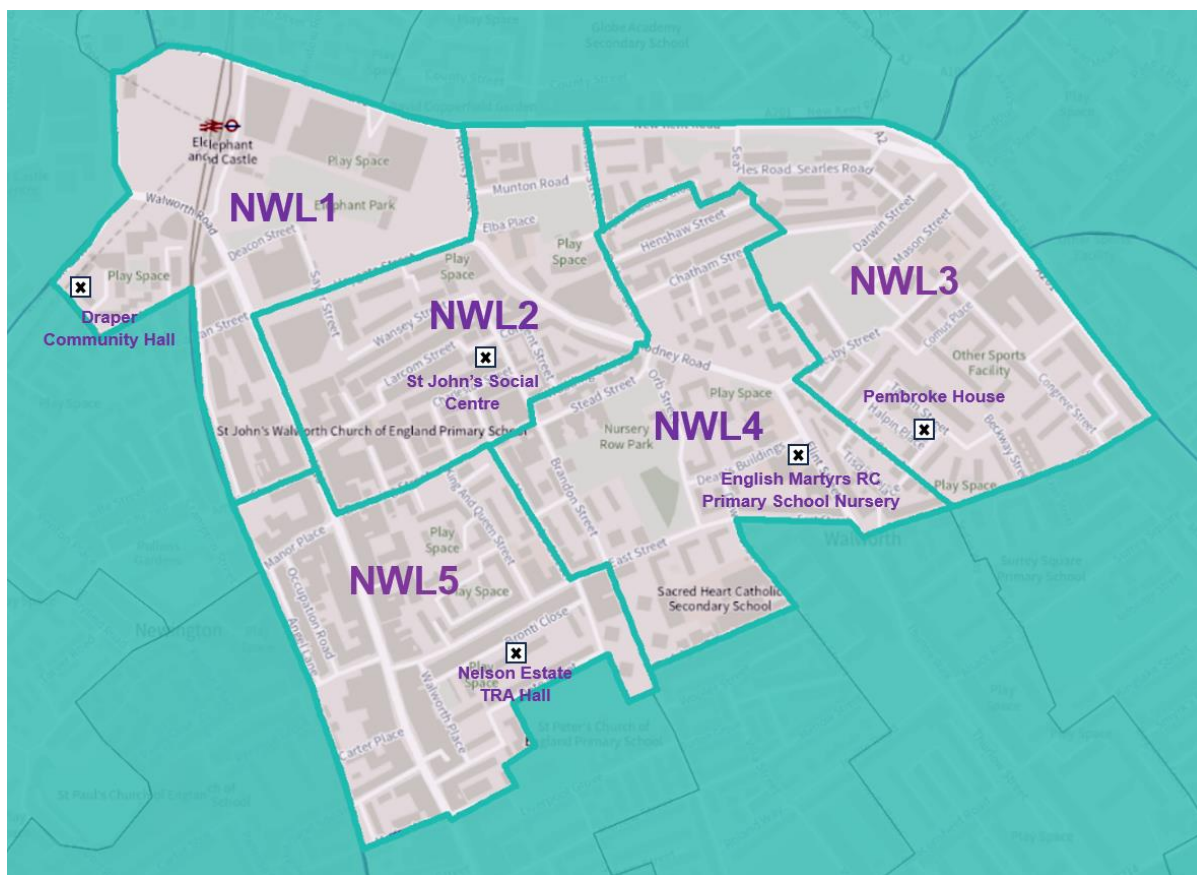
## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
NWL1	2,058	1,591	467	Draper Community Hall, 1 Howell Walk, Draper Estate	
NWL2	2,106	1,574	532	St John`s Social Centre, Larcom Street	
NWL3	2,106	1,548	558	Pembroke House, 80 Tatum Street	New venue.
NWL4	2,176	1,574	602	English Martyrs RC Primary School Nursery, Flint Street	
NWL5	2,043	1,574	469	Nelson Estate TRA Hall, Trafalgar House, Bronti Close	

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## North Walworth Map



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# Nunhead & Queen's Road

**Electorate:** 11,245

**Postal voters:** 2,465

## Ward Summary

Nunhead & Queen's Road ward is a three member ward in the centre of the borough. There are five polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

Under the previous scheme, the number of electors in each polling district was unbalanced. The number of polling station voters in NQR5 was 2,813 and exceeded the maximum recommended number of 1,800. NQR1 and NQR2 also exceeded the recommended number.

The polling district boundaries have been adjusted and a sixth polling district has been created in order to balance out the number of electors at each polling station. This arrangement is in line with other wards of a similar electorate that have six polling districts.

Dene Community Centre has been identified as a new polling station venue for NQR6.

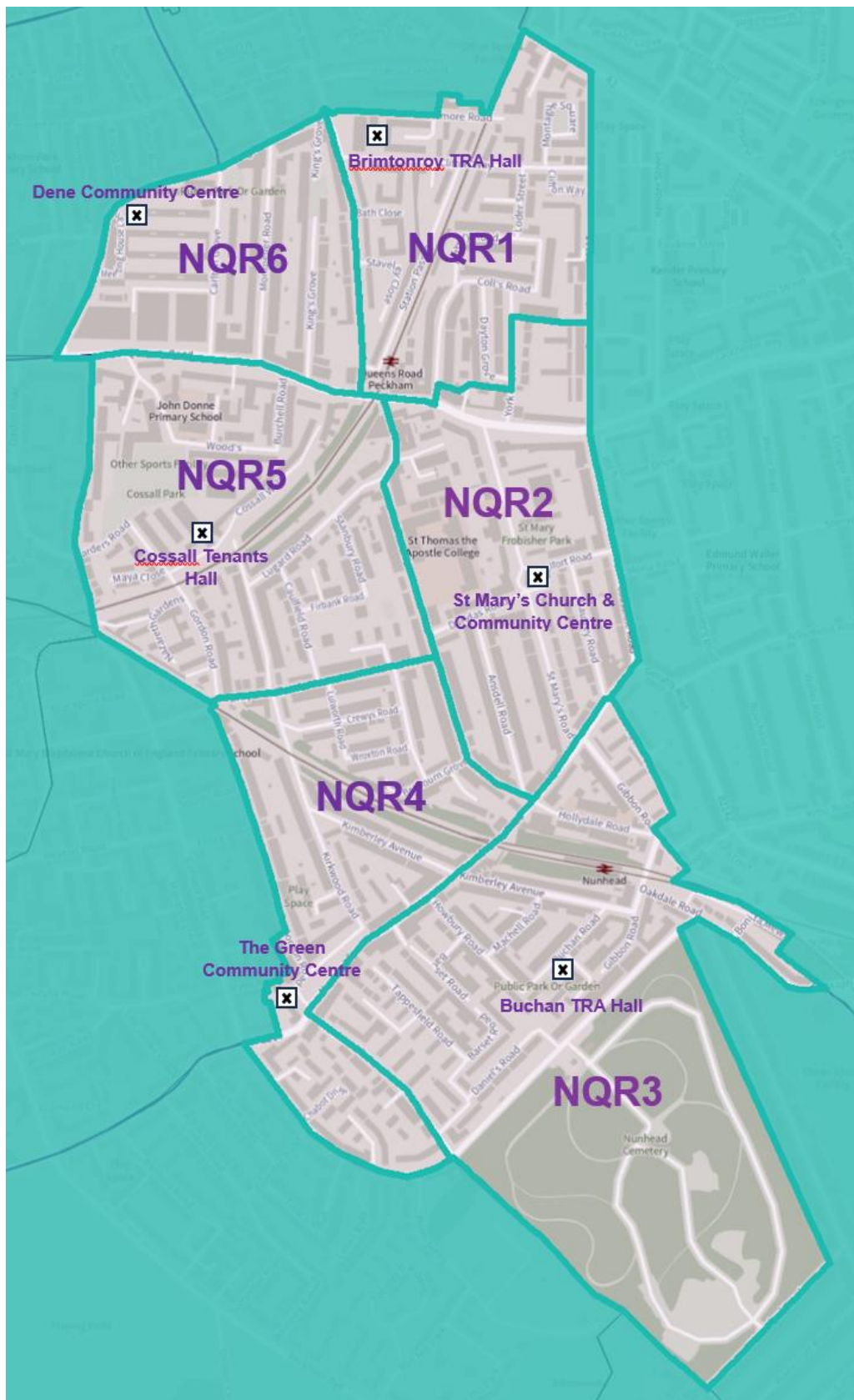
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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
NQR1	1,848	1,457	409	Brimtonroy TRA Hall, Brimington Estate, 2 Culmore Road, London	
NQR2	1,841	1,472	413	St Mary's Church & Community Centre, 17 St Mary`s Road, London	
NQR3	1,696	1,324	372	Buchan TRA Hall, 86 Buchan Road, London	
NQR4	1,765	1,344	377	The Green Community Centre, Nunhead Green, London	
NQR5	2,229	1,740	489	Cossall Tenants Hall, 48 Mortlock Close, London	
NQR6	1,866	1,443	405	Dene Community Centre, 95b Meeting House Lane, London SE15 2TU	New venue.

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## Nunhead & Queens Road Map



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# Old Kent Road

**Electorate:** 11,684

**Postal voters:** 2,896

## Ward Summary

Old Kent Road ward is a three member ward in the centre of the borough. There are six polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

A number of boundary adjustments have been made to the pre-existing polling district scheme in order make the polling stations in this ward more accessible for the majority of electors, including:

- all properties on Harmony Place, Fortune Place and Coopers Road have been moved from OKR2 to OKR1
- four properties on Cardine Mews have been moved from OKR4 to OKR5

There are no changes to the polling station venues in this ward.

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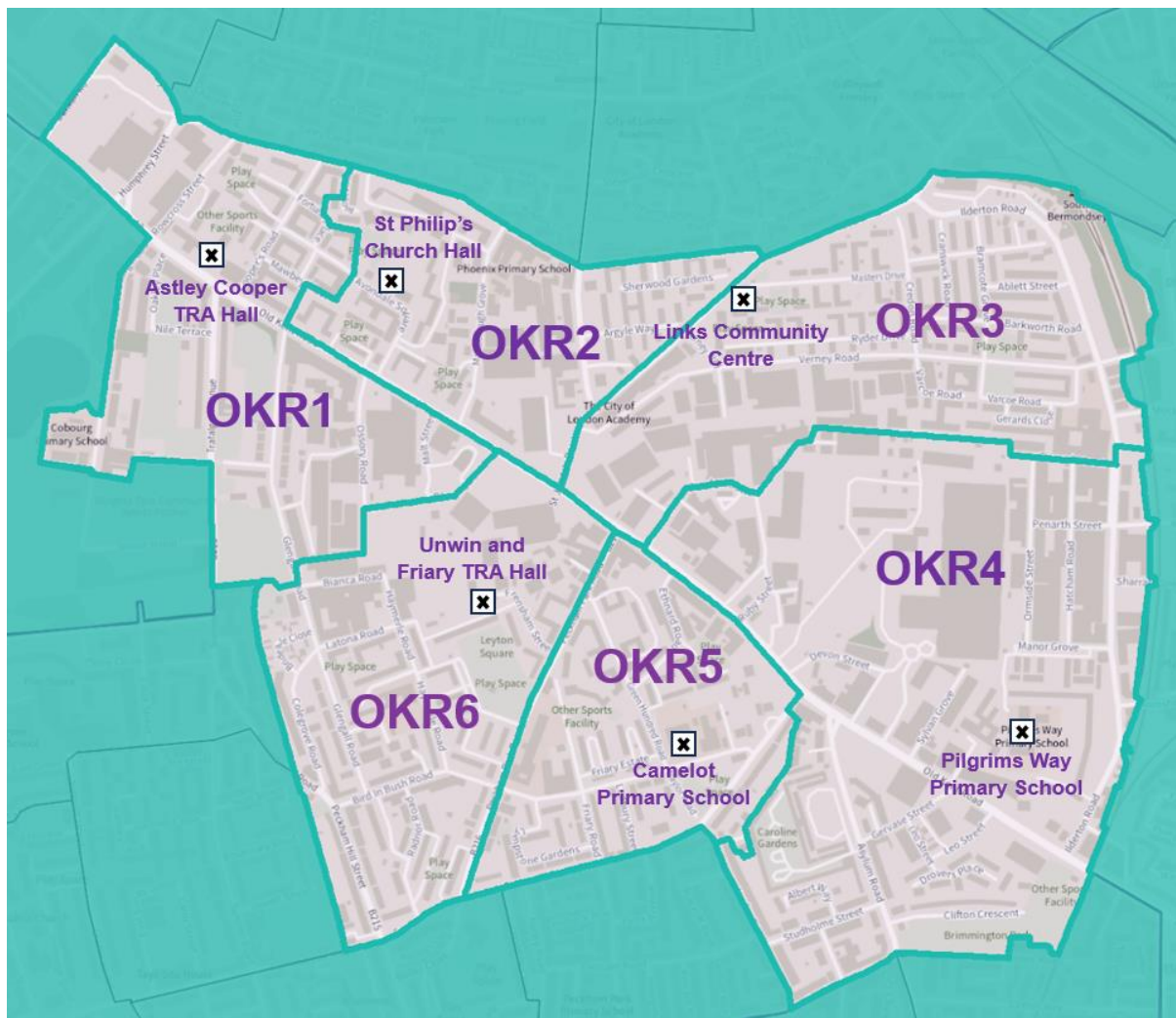
## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
OKR1	1,946	1,441	505	Astley Cooper TRA Hall, 375 Old Kent Road	
OKR2	1,895	1,383	512	St Philip`s Church Hall, Avondale Square	
OKR3	2,023	1,526	497	Links Community Centre, 353 Rotherhithe New Road	
OKR4	1,918	1,446	472	Pilgrims Way Primary School, Manor Grove	
OKR5	1,887	1,438	449	Camelot Primary School, Bird In Bush Road	
OKR6	2,006	1,516	490	Unwin and Friary TRA Hall, Frensham Street	

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## Old Kent Road Map



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# Peckham

**Electorate:** 10,202

**Postal voters:** 2,268

## Ward Summary

Peckham ward is a three member ward in the centre of the borough. There are five polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

All polling district electorates fall within the guideline numbers No boundary changes were required for this ward.

There were some accessibility issues at The Apostolic Faith Church. This venue will be replaced by Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park. Whilst the use of schools is generally avoided, it has not been possible to identify a suitable alternative in this polling district.

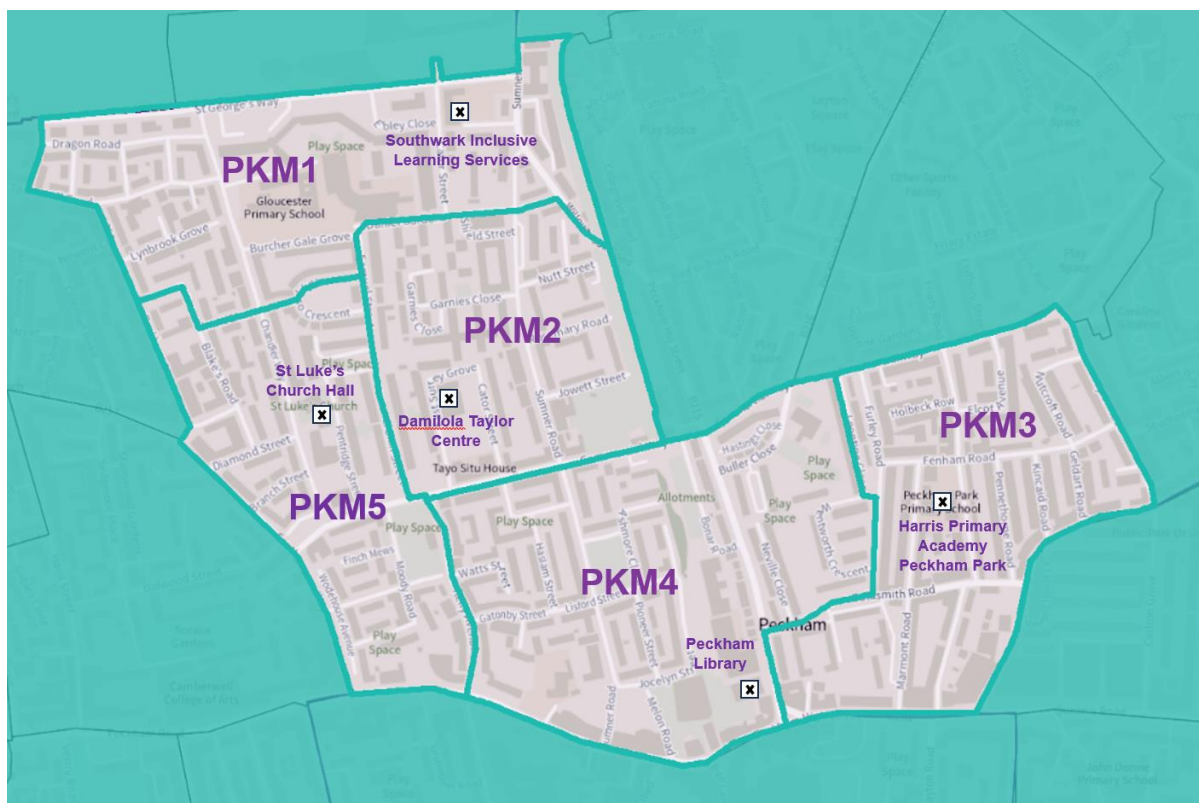
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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
PKM1	2,039	1,583	456	Southwark Inclusive Learning Services, 2 Davey Street, London, SE15 6LF	
PKM2	1,859	1,459	400	Damilola Taylor Centre, 1 East Surrey Grove, London	
PKM3	2,126	1,650	476	Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park, Marmont Road, London	New venue.
PKM4	2,344	1,804	540	Peckham Library, Peckham Hill Street, London	
PKM5	1,834	1,396	438	St Lukes Church Hall, Pentridge Street, London	

## Peckham Map



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# Peckham Rye

**Electorate:** 7,113

**Postal voters:** 1,638

## Ward Summary

Peckham Rye ward is a two member ward in the centre of the borough. There are four polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

In the draft proposals, the properties east of Rye Hill Park were moved from PHR4 to PHR2 in order to balance the electorates.

However, following representations received during the initial councillor consultation (appendix A), no changes have been made and the number of electors at Rye Hill Estate Tenants Hall will slightly exceed the target number of electors.

There are no changes to the polling station venues in this ward.

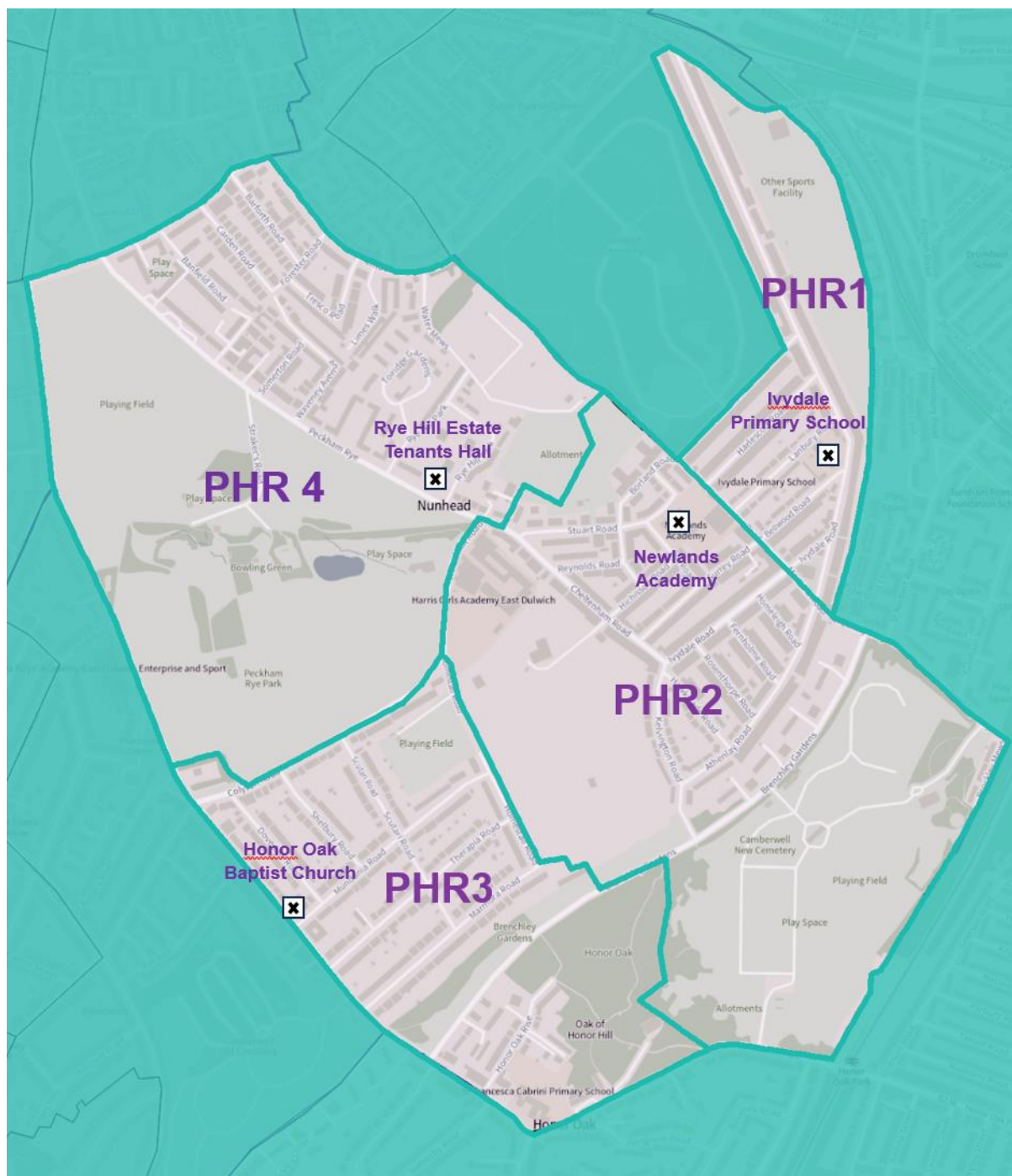
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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
PHR1	1,173	913	260	Ivydale Primary School, Ivydale Road, Nunhead, London	
PHR2	2,040	1,579	461	Newlands Academy, Entrance via Rye Road, London	
PHR3	1,486	1,128	358	Honor Oak Baptist Church, Forest Hill Road, London	
PHR4	2,414	1,855	559	Rye Hill Estate Tenants Hall, 241 Peckham Rye, London	

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## Peckham Rye Map



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# Rotherhithe

**Electorate:** 10,695

**Postal voters:** 2,641

## Ward Summary

Rotherhithe ward is a three member ward in the north of the borough. There are five polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

The boundary adjustments to balance out the number of electors for each polling station include:

- Moving Hanover House and Fairmont House from RTH5 to RTH2 to balance the electorates
- Adjusting the boundary between RTH3 and RTH4 to balance the electorates

Silverlock Tenants Hall had previously been used as a double station to accommodate electors in both RTH3 and RTH4. Electors in RTH4 will vote at the new venue (Rotherhithe Community Centre). Electors in RTH3 will continue to vote at Silverlock Tenants Hall.

After assessment of representations received during the public consultation (appendix A), the following change to the initial proposals has been agreed:

- The southern part of boundary line between RTH3 and RTH4 moved eastward to follow the railway up to Rotherhithe New Road, moving the properties between the railway south of Rotherhithe New Road and Luxford Street into RTH4.

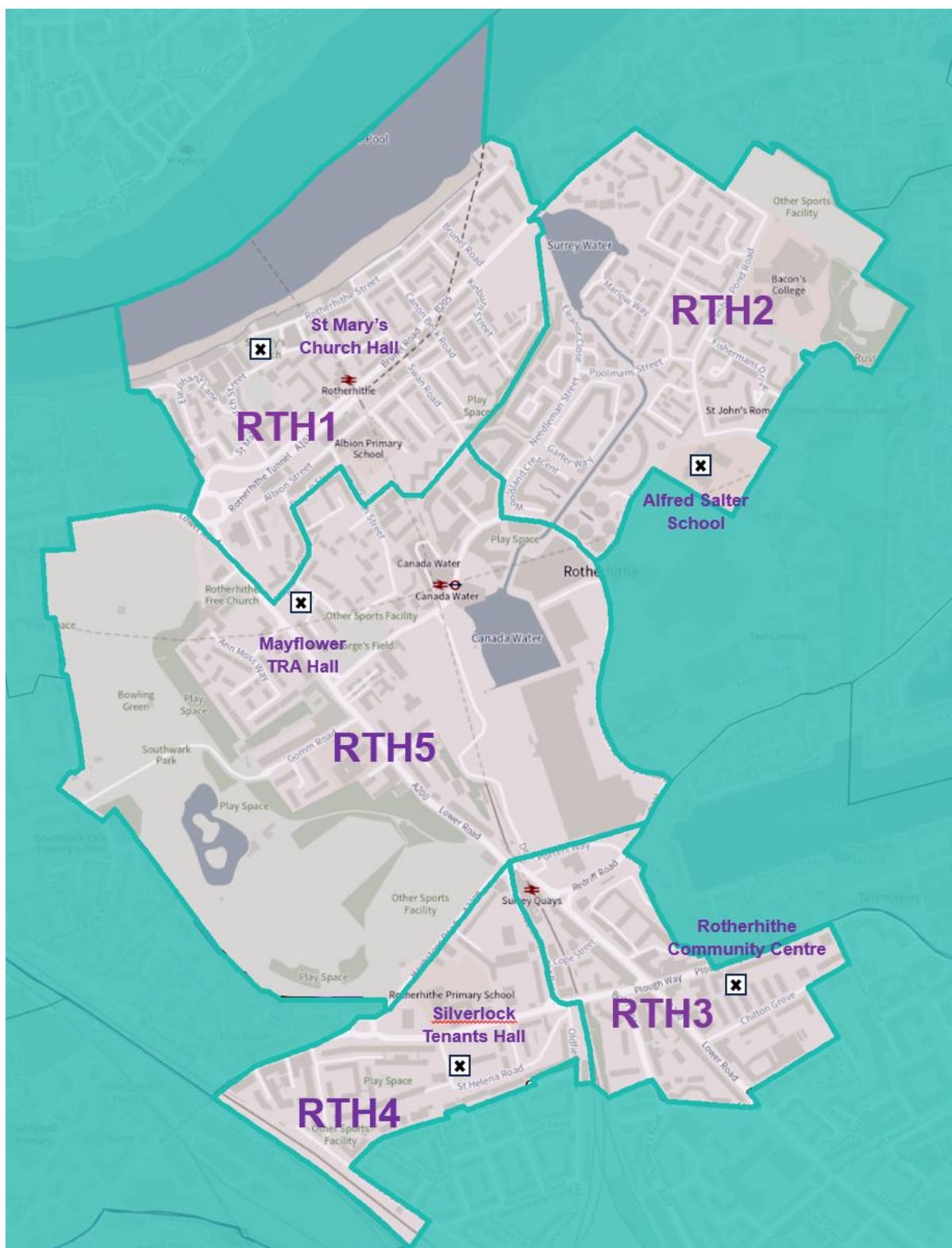
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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
RTH1	2,411	1,782	629	St Mary`s Church Hall, St Marychurch Street, London	
RTH2	2,346	1,730	616	Alfred Salter School, Quebec Way, London	
RTH3	1,554	1,161	393	Rotherhithe Community Centre, 30 Plough Way, London	New venue.
RTH4	1,895	1,458	437	Silverlock Tenants Hall, Warndon Street, (Off Rotherhithe New Rd), London	
RTH5	2,489	1,876	613	Mayflower TRA Hall, Neptune Street, London	



## Rotherhithe Map



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# Rye Lane

**Electorate:** 10,497

**Postal voters:** 2,327

## Ward Summary

Rye Lane ward is a three member ward in the centre of the borough. There are five polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

All polling district electorates fall within the guideline numbers, therefore no boundary changes are required for this ward.

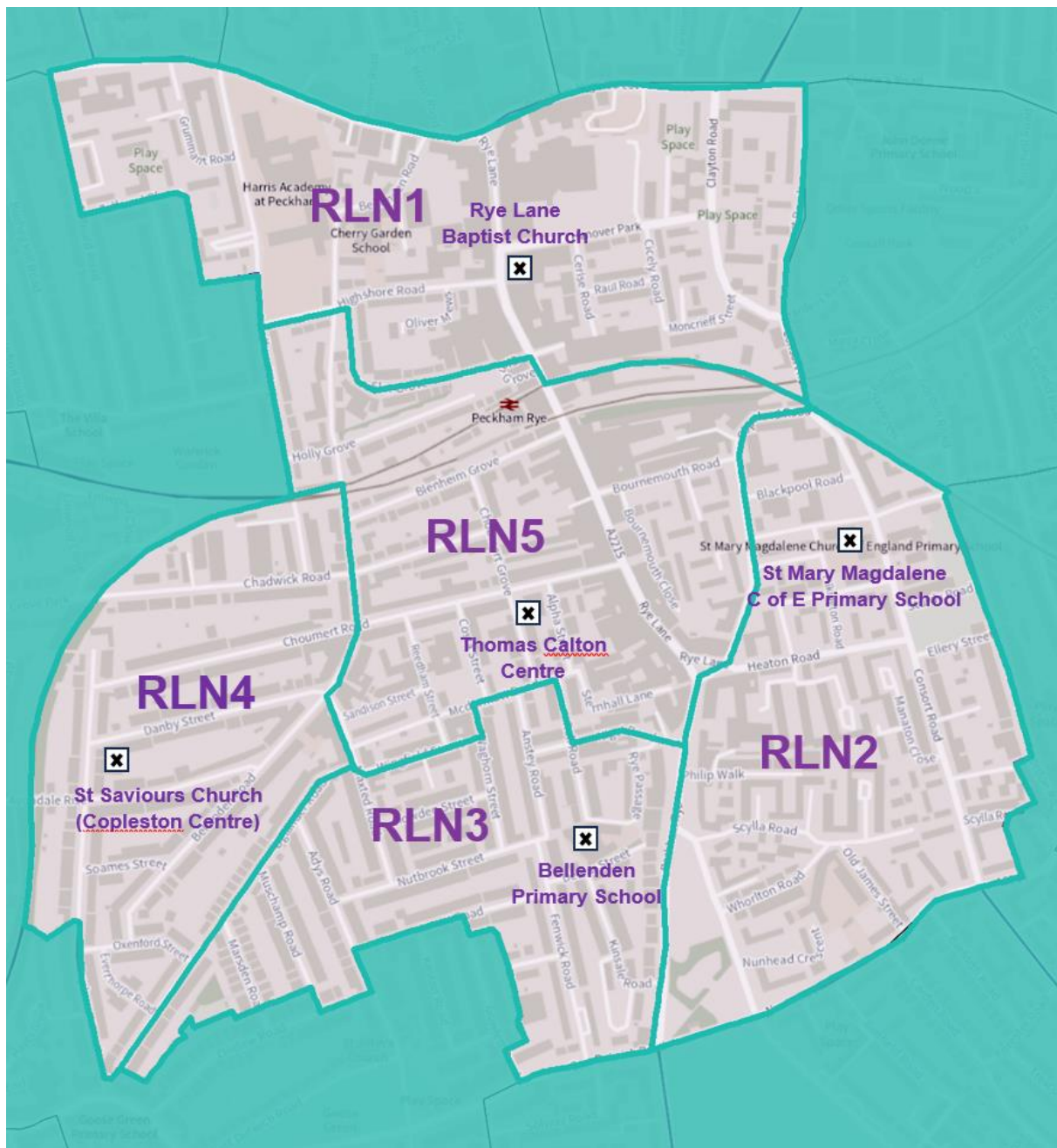
Consort Tenants Hall is not currently available for use as a polling station and the condition of the hall is unknown. St Mary Magdalene Primary School will be used, until and unless Consort Tenants Hall is once again available. Whilst the use of schools is generally avoided, it has not been possible to identify any other suitable venues in this polling district.

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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
RLN1	2,401	1,824	577	Rye Lane Baptist Chapel, 59A Rye Lane, Entrance in Cerise Road, London	
RLN2	2,314	1,798	516	St Mary Magdalene C Of E Primary School, 48 Brayards Road, London	New venue.
RLN3	2,105	1,595	510	Bellenden Primary School, Dewar street, London	
RLN4	1,770	1,360	410	St Saviours Church (Copleston Centre), Copleston Road, London	
RLN5	1,907	1,533	374	Thomas Calton Centre, Corner of Alpha Street and Choumert Road, London	

## Rye Lane Map



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# South Bermondsey

**Electorate:** 10,982

**Postal voters:** 2,639

## Ward Summary

South Bermondsey ward is a three member ward towards the north of the borough. There are five polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

All polling district electorates fall within the guideline numbers, therefore no boundary changes are required for this ward.

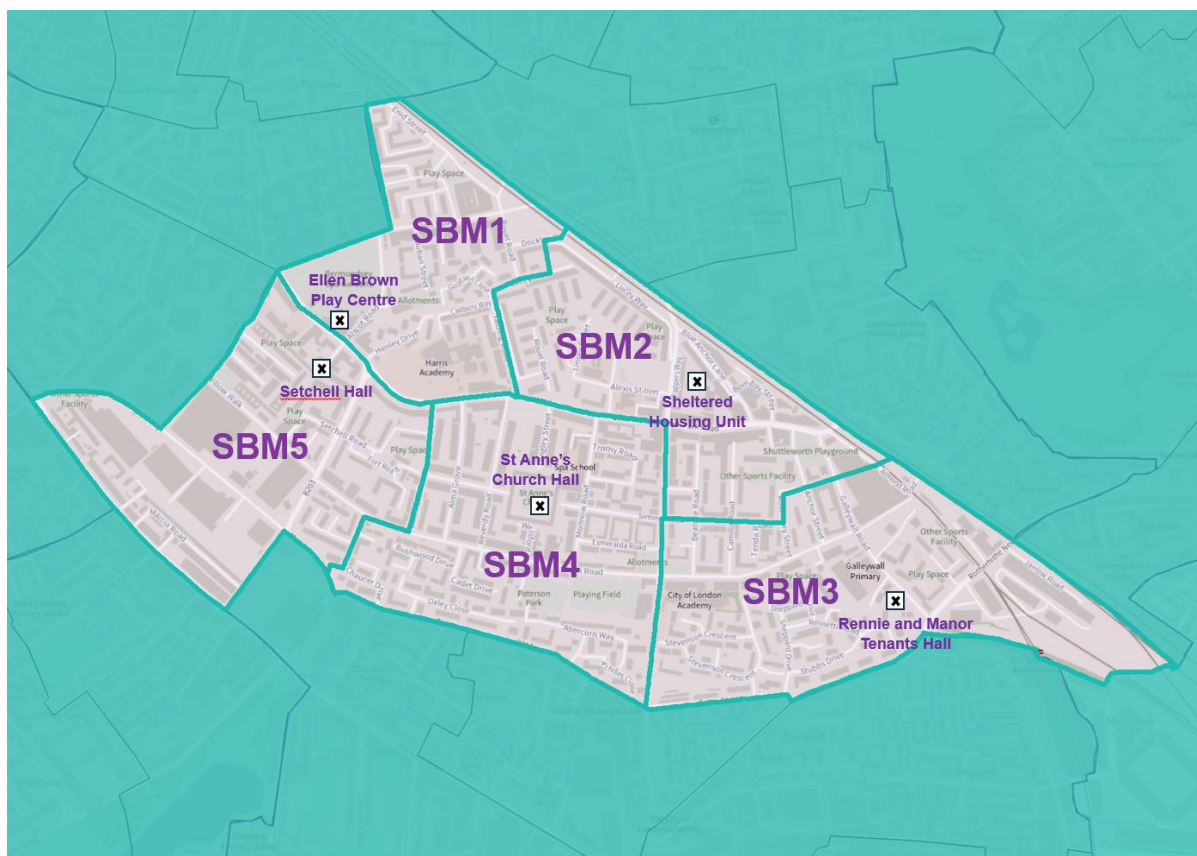
There are no changes to polling station venues in this ward.

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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
SBM1	2,093	1,578	515	Ellen Brown Play Centre, 145 Grange Road, London	
SBM2	2,089	1,622	467	Sheltered Housing Unit, 53 Rock Grove Way, London	
SBM3	2,156	1,632	524	Rennie and Manor Tenants Hall, Galleywall Road, London	Previously known as Galleywall Tenants Hall
SBM4	2,282	1,644	638	St Anne`s Church Hall, Thorburn Square, London	
SBM5	2,362	1,803	559	Setchell Hall, Setchell Estate, Alscot Road, London	

## South Bermondsey Map



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# St George's

**Electorate:** 5,499

**Postal voters:** 1,396

## Ward Summary

St George's ward is a two member ward towards the north of the borough. There are three polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

The previous polling station for SGG3, Castle Leisure Centre does not have a dedicated space for use as a polling station and a temporary partition was required to be built onsite at every election.

The changes to this ward include:

- Replacing Castle Leisure Centre with The Salvation Army Hall on Princes Street.
- A small boundary change to SGG3 to bring the new polling venue within the polling district. No other suitable venues have been identified within then old SGG3 boundaries.

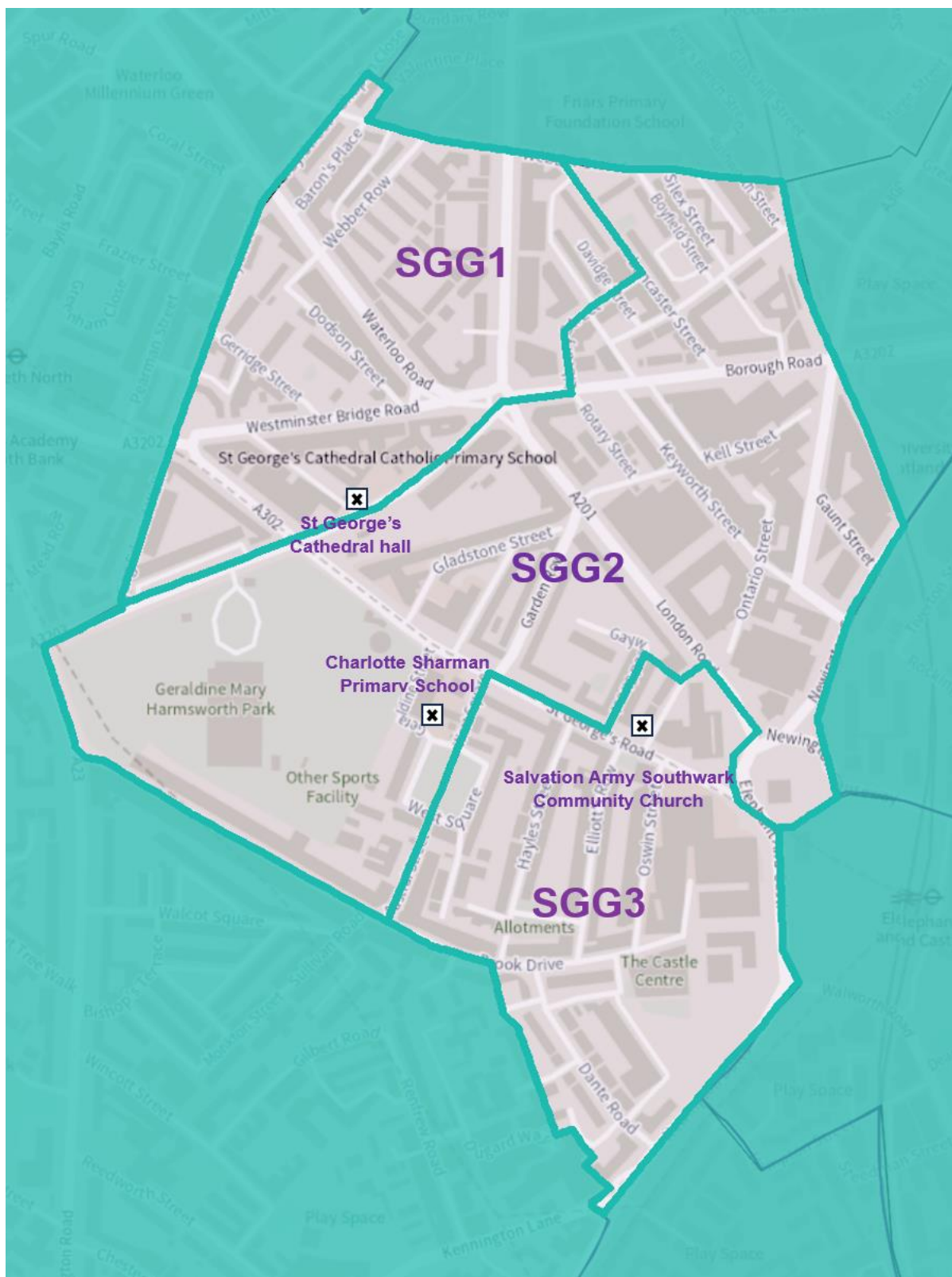
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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
SGG1	1,854	1,351	503	St George`s Cathedral Hall, Lambeth Road, London	
SGG2	1,820	1,329	491	Charlotte Sharman Primary school, West Square, London	
SGG3	1,825	1,399	426	The Salvation Army Southwark Community Church, 1 Princes Street, London	New venue.



## St George's Map



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# St Giles

**Electorate:** 10,925

**Postal voters:** 2,550

## Ward Summary

St Giles ward is a three member ward towards the centre of the borough. There are six polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

All polling district electorates fall within the guideline numbers, therefore no boundary changes are required for this ward.

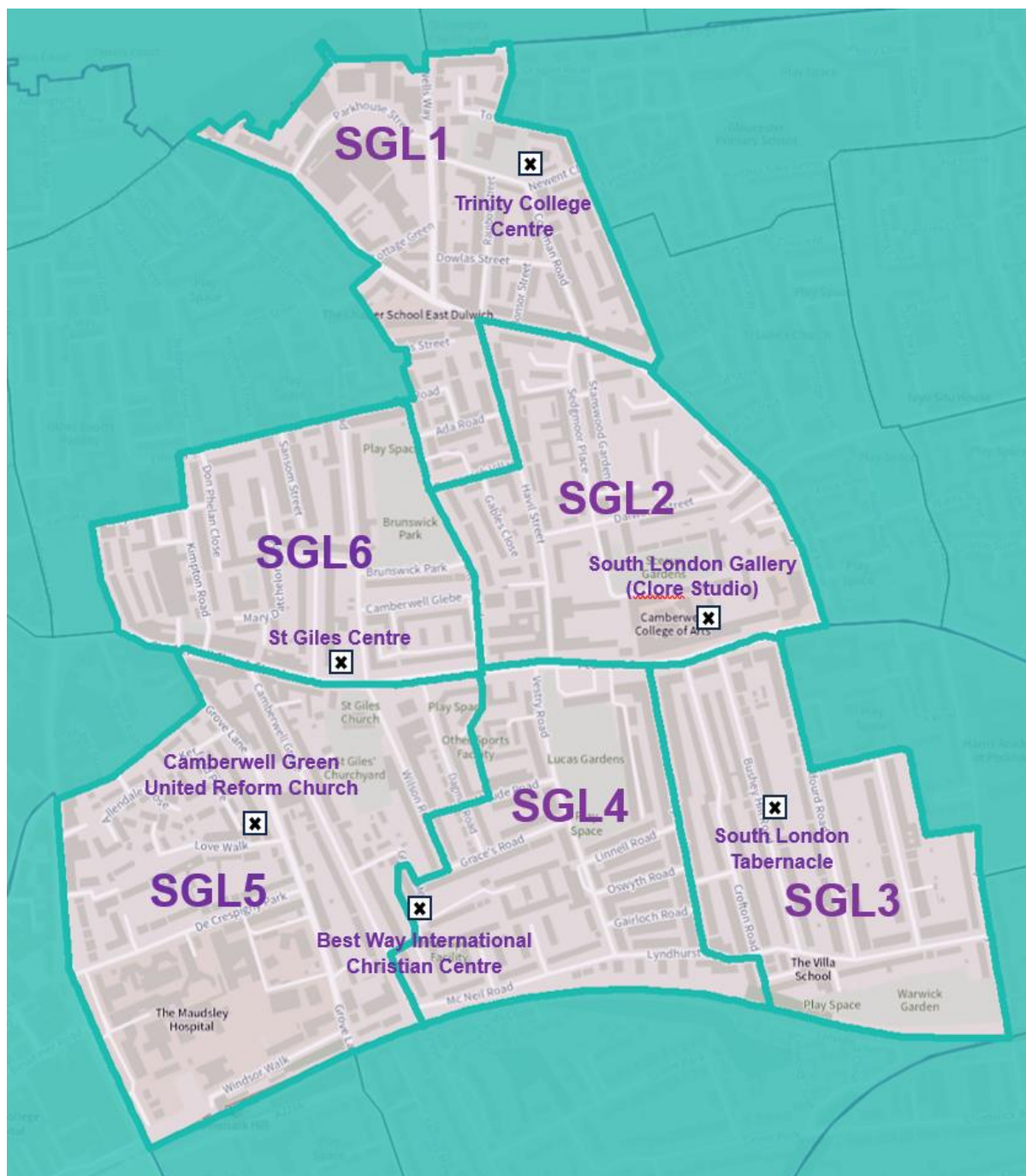
There are no changes to the polling station venues in this ward.

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## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
SGL1	1,629	1,241	388	Trinity College Centre, 1 Newent Close, London	
SGL2	2,067	1,537	530	South London Gallery (Clare Studio), 65-67 Peckham Road, London	
SGL3	1,623	1,248	375	South London Tabernacle Baptist Church, Welton Hall, Bushey Hill Road, London	
SGL4	1,949	1,509	427	Best Way International Christian Centre, Gospel Faith Mission, 11-14 Graces Mews, SE5 8JF	
SGL5	1,666	1,278	401	Camberwell Green United Reform Church, Entrance In Love Walk, Camberwell Green, London	
SGL6	1,991	1,515	476	St Giles Centre, 81 Camberwell Church Street, London	

## St Giles Map



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# Surrey Docks

**Electorate:** 9,677

**Postal voters:** 2,587

## Ward Summary

Surrey Docks ward is a three member ward in the north of the borough. There are currently four polling districts in this ward.

## Summary of Changes

Under the previous arrangements, SDK4 contained 2,613 electors, of which 1,918 were polling station voters. This is above the review's recommended polling station electorate, with no room to allow for a possible reduction in postal voters at future elections.

In order to allocate no more than 1,800 polling station voters to each station, an additional polling district has been created. Voters in this additional polling station will vote at Docklands Community Centre. The venue was assessed and found to be suitable for three stations.

The majority of voters will continue to vote at their usual station, however voters at properties along Quebec Way have been allocated to Docklands Community Centre rather than Surrey Docks Water Sports Centre.

There are no changes to the polling station venues in this ward.

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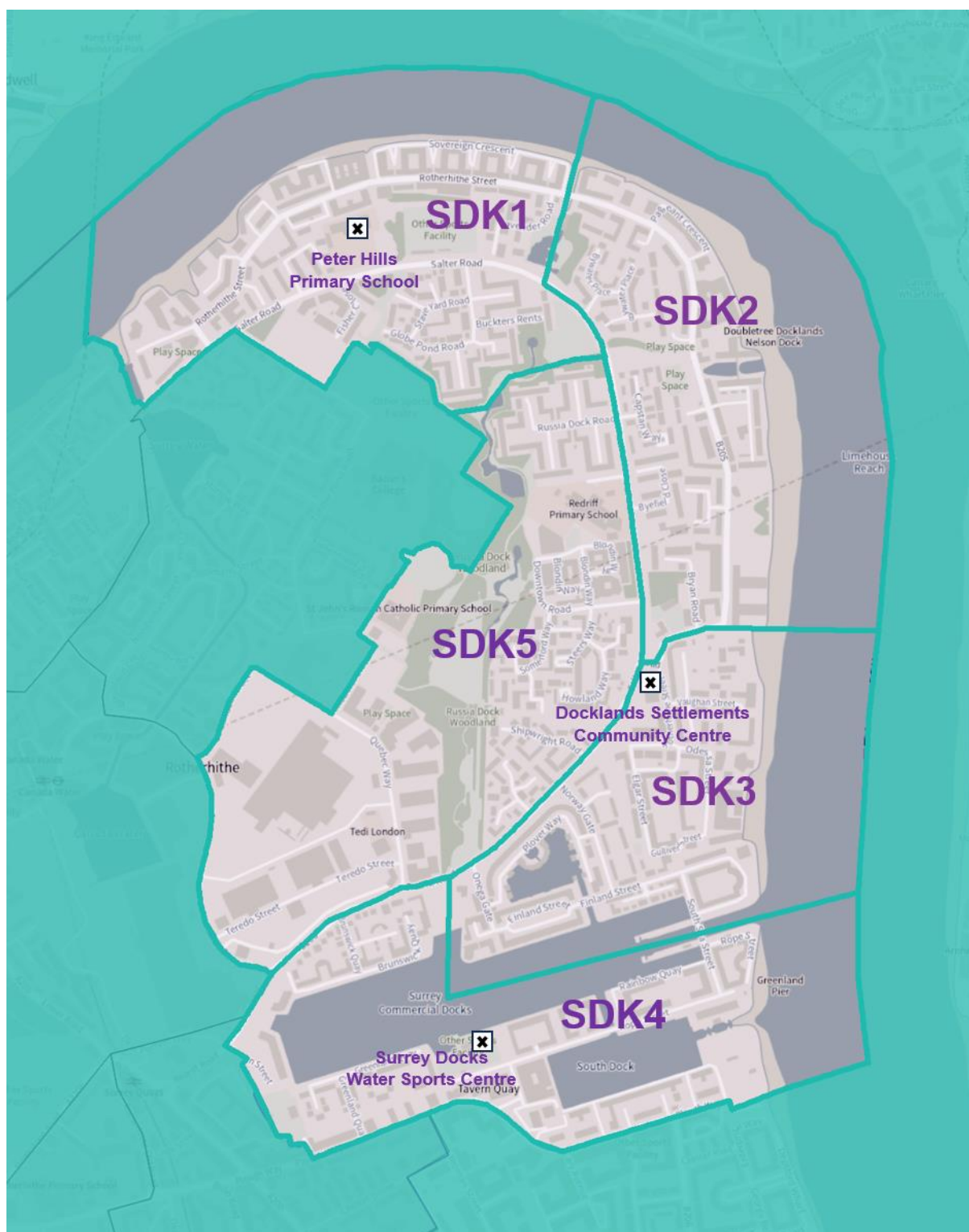
## Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
SDK1	2,284	1,638	646	Peter Hills C of E Primary School, 2 Beatson Walk, London SE16 5ED	
SDK2	1,791	1,322	469	Docklands Settlements Community Centre, 400 Salter Road, London SE16 5AA	Triple station shared with SDK3 and SDK4
SDK3	1,812	1,277	535	Docklands Settlements Community Centre, 400 Salter Road, London SE16 5AA	Triple station shared with SDK2 and SDK3
SDK4	2,015	1,399	616	Surrey Docks Water Sports Centre, Rope Street, London SE16 7SX	
SDK5	1,775	1,261	514	Docklands Settlements Community Centre, 400 Salter Road, London SE16 5AA	Triple station shared with SDK2 and SDK4

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## Surrey Docks Map



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# Appendix A

## List of Submissions and Responses

Below is a record of all submissions received during the consultation period along with the response.

Ward/Polling district(s)	Name	Submission	Response
Camberwell Green, Champion Hill, Dulwich Village, Dulwich Wood, Newington	Bayo Dosunmu Chief Executive & Acting Returning Officer London Borough of Lambeth	As the Acting Returning Officer for the Vauxhall & Camberwell Green and Dulwich & West Norwood Constituencies, may I express my appreciation for this. Having undertaken a review thereof, my only comment would be to particularly welcome your explicit determination to stay well within Electoral Commission Guidance on the maximum size of Polling Stations. We very much share this approach and it speaks to a determination to achieve consistent standards of service across the Constituencies.	None
Dulwich Hill, Goose Green, Peckham Rye	Jennifer Daothong Chief Executive and Acting Returning Officer London Borough of Lewisham	As the Acting Returning Officer for the parliamentary constituency of Lewisham West & East Dulwich, I have reviewed the proposals for the 3 wards within the constituency. I have noted the scope and criteria of the review and have no comments on the detail of the polling scheme.	None
Dulwich Village	Cllr Andy Simmons	The online maps imply that there will be changes to the polling districts above and beyond tackling the issues at the old Dulwich and West Norwood / Camberwell and Peckham border.	Agreed.  Aside from Incorporating DLV1A and DLV1B into DLV1, Dulwich Village boundaries will remain unchanged.

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			<p>While there is currently an imbalance between polling districts in this ward, the in-person electorate for each of them is still considerably below what we have set as our target. On balance it would be beneficial to leave these boundaries unchanged to avoid voter confusion.</p>
Dulwich Village, Dulwich Wood	Helen Hayes MP	<p>I am writing with my feedback in relation to the Southwark review of polling districts and polling places.</p> <p>I have confined my comments to the wards in the Dulwich areas of Southwark which will form part of the new Dulwich and West Norwood constituency following the boundary review, namely Dulwich Wood and Dulwich Village. I am content with the proposals for Dulwich Wood ward, and with the merging of polling districts which are currently across constituency boundaries.</p> <p>I note the proposal to make minor adjustments to polling districts in order to even out the number of electors. Minor changes are difficult to communicate to voters and risk causing confusion and deterring people from voting. Since these changes are minor and appear unlikely to have any significant impact if they are not implemented, I would urge the Council to prioritise the encouragement and ease of voting, and not to make minor changes which will have marginal</p>	<p>Dulwich Village: Agreed. Aside from Incorporating DLV1A and DLV1B into DLV1, the existing boundary scheme.</p> <p>Dulwich Wood: Agreed in part.</p> <p>The majority of the existing polling district boundaries in the ward will be retained apart from minor adjustments which are necessary for practical reasons.</p> <p>Polling station details are included on poll cards and electors will be reminded to check their polling station details. Notices/signage will be in place at venues.</p>

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		administrative benefits but risk reducing turnout in elections.	
Dulwich Wood	Mrs M Whitlock	I live on the Kingswood estate and the Kingswood house is a great place for the voting venue along with Dulwich wood school as both are central to the Estate, and are large Building ,as there are many older/disabled tenets on the estate bother are central on the estate, both have access to the disabled Just thought as I live on the estate I would let you know that both place are the best places for all on the estate and surrounding area to use	None
Dulwich Wood	Bernhard Schunemann	<p>Dear Electoral services department, thank you for this consultation.</p> <p>From my perspective the proposals are very good in that I have TWO polling stations in short walking proximity of my house (Dulwich Wood Nursery and Kingswood House)</p> <p>This is not true to people who live up the hill from me (in the Sydenham Hill area of the voting district: residents of Sydenham Hill, Crescentwood Road and Cantisbury House, Woodsyre and Peckermans Wood) all these people will probably DRIVE to vote.</p> <p>I think in an urban area it should not be necessary to have to drive to vote.</p>	<p>No change to draft proposal.</p> <p>A separate polling station for this part of the polling district would serve too few electors to be practicable.</p> <p>No suitable alternative venues have been identified in this area. Dulwich Wood House has been assessed and is not suitable for use as a polling station.</p>

		I propose therefore that a polling station should be placed strategically for those who live in that part of the district (instead of one of the two which are right next door to each other: Dulwichwood Nursery and Kingswood House). The only public building that springs to mind which is well known and accessible is 'The Dulwichwood house' public house.	
Dulwich Wood	Martin Rogers	Good morning, I am a Southwark resident, in Dulwich Wood. My polling district is DLW2. None of the proposals impact me, and that's fine. My current polling place works well for me.	None
Faraday - FRD3	Angela Schwarz	I am forced to get a postal vote as my polling station is too far away	While this polling station is located on the edge of the district it is situated within a reasonable walking distance for the majority of electors. No other suitable venues have been identified in this area.

Goose Green	Julia Hillman	<p>I am commenting for the Goose Green ward only.</p> <p>How will residents understand what centre to vote in? Will this be notified on a polling card or also by email?</p> <p>Will there be signage up on the day to make the respective ward clear for each room?</p>	<p>Polling cards are issued ahead of any elections that are held. An additional poll card email will also be sent to voters where we hold email details.</p> <p>Double polling stations will carry clear signage, indicating where electors are allocated.</p>
Goose Green	Finola Gowers	<p>Why, when I live right next door to Dulwich Leisure Centre (Tribeca Court), do I have to traipse to Darrell Road to cast my vote? It seems completely ridiculous to have to go so far, when I could just pop next door. It simply means I get in my car to vote, which I'm sure is not compatible with Southwark's environmental aims.</p>	<p>Dulwich Leisure Centre is no longer suitable for use as a polling station as the room that was used is no longer available for hire. The replacement polling station for Tribeca Court is the Goose Green Centre which is directly opposite Dulwich Leisure Centre on Goose Green.</p>
Goose Green	Sandra Moody	<p>I am emailing on behalf of the Moody household in regards to the Polling Station feedback.</p> <p>For many years my family, when it came to voting in general and local elections, had used the Dulwich Grove United Reform Church (Melbourne Grove) as the polling station. Our household is situated on Chesterfield Grove, East Dulwich.</p> <p>It was convenient for my Mother, especially as she has mobility problems relating to osteoarthritis. She enjoyed the short trip to the polling station to contribute her vote.</p>	<p>We've taken into account the extra challenges brought by the new rules in the Elections Act 2022 when determining the number of electors in each polling district.</p> <p>The boundary adjustments have made it necessary for some voters to travel a bit further to cast their votes. However, the new polling station location is still within reasonable walking distance for the majority of voters.</p> <p>Options to vote by post or proxy are available to all electors.</p>

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		<p>However, the polling station has now been moved to Lordship Lane Baptist Church (Lordship Lane), for our household, without consultation, which is a long walk, where there is a hill, even after taking the bus.</p> <p>It is an additional upset that residents that live just across the road from the house, are still able to cast their vote at the Dulwich United Reform Church.</p> <p>It had been suggested that my Mother cast her vote through the post. She and the rest of the household do not feel comfortable for our personal details to be sent by post.</p> <p>We are hoping that there will be a return to our household of the polling station of Dulwich United Reform Church.</p>	
London Bridge and West Bermondsey	Humaira Ali	<p>I'd like to give feedback on proposals to move ward boundaries within London Bridge and West Bermondsey.</p> <p>Your proposals to move all of Thomson and Attilburgh houses which are part of the St Saviours estate will cause confusion and disenfranchise voters.</p> <p>Can I suggest that instead of moving some of St Saviours north of Abbey Street that you move all of St Saviours estate north of Abbey street into LBW3 and move the boundary of LBW4 up to Grange Walk between</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The final scheme has been amended to reflect the suggested changes.</p>

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		<p>TBR and The Grange incorporating residents on the South side of Grange Walk, both sides of Grange Road up to the Grange and all the side streets up to and including the West side of the Grange.</p> <p>The only decision you would then need to make is for the private properties north of grange walk and the Alwyn Estate whether it stays in LBW3 or moves down to LBW4. that then gives you flexibility on whether you cut off Purbrook Estate or that little corner that you've pushed into LBW1. That potentially can remain in 2 or join 3.</p> <p>My feedback is purely around keeping estates together as people tend to talk to each other and confusion often comes when people are given different instructions in the same locale.</p>	
London Bridge and West Bermondsey	Cllr Emily Hickson	These look fine to me.	Revised scheme for this ward sent to all ward councillors for their comment – confirmation received from Cllr Hickson
North Bermondsey	Larry Broomhead Vice-Chair Wrayburn Community Organisation	The Board of Wrayburn Community Organisation (WCO) objects to the change in polling station from Wade Hall to Cherry Garden Hall.	Agreed.  The initial proposed changes to polling district boundaries were unnecessary and could lead

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		<p>We have voted at Wade Hall for decades and residents don't want to cross a busy main road (Jamaica Rd is often congested &amp; polluted with vehicle fumes and this will deter our elderly residents &amp; families from voting if have to go across to Cherry Garden Hall).</p> <p>Wrayburn Community Organisation is a constituted body. It's TRA &amp; a TMO.</p>	<p>to voter confusion. There will be no changes to boundaries in this ward and the existing polling district scheme will be retained.</p>
North Bermondsey	Cllr Hamish McCallum	<p>I am pleased to see the change for Shad Thames polling district and have no further comments.</p>	<p>Revised scheme for this ward sent to all ward councillors for their comment – confirmation received from Cllr McCallum</p>
North Bermondsey	Cllr Rachel Bentley	<p>This all seems in order.</p>	<p>Revised scheme for this ward sent to all ward councillors for their comment – confirmation received from Cllr Bentley</p>
North Bermondsey	Cllr Rachel Bentley	<p>Thank you for this update and on the postal vote process. I am really pleased the Greenhouse will be used as a polling station which adds another string to its bow as a space within the ward!</p>	<p>None</p>
Nunhead & Queens Road	Samual A Clemmett	<p>I find myself getting in pain if standing for any time short or long terms would be possible to have a table designated or allocated for fellow disabled people we can jump the line this allows disabled people the luxury of being able to get access immediately giving us time to get back to a seat in my case back to my seat "Mobility scooter" I have been offered mail voting but refused I want to vote in</p>	<p>The Elections Act 2022 requires the Returning Officer to provide and make reasonable provisions in polling station to allow electors to be able to vote, including accessibility arrangements for disabled voters</p> <p>All venues have been assessed and meet accessibility requirements as set out by the Electoral Commission.</p>

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		person in a booth then personally dropping my voting card into the ballot box.	Additional seating will be made available in all polling stations and the Presiding Officer is also permitted to assist disabled voters.
Nunhead & Queens Road	Fiona Nwabudike	Regarding the polling voting and also people with disabilities should be considered as priorities to vote and they should be discriminated and they should not be underrated.	<p>The Elections Act 2022 requires the Returning Officer to provide and make reasonable provisions in polling station to allow electors to be able to vote, including accessibility arrangements for disabled voters</p> <p>All venues have been assessed and meet accessibility requirements as set out by the Electoral Commission.</p> <p>Additional seating will be made available in all polling stations and the Presiding Officer is also permitted to assist disabled voters.</p>
Nunhead & Queens Road NQR1	Janet Burnett	The voting station is to far better it be on side of park where it was before.	<p>In order to help mitigate the additional pressures placed on polling station staff as a result of the new provisions in the Elections Act 2022, this review has applied a maximum of 1,800 polling station electors to each polling station</p> <p>The boundary adjustments have made it necessary for some voters in NQR6 to travel further to cast their votes. However, the new polling station location is still within reasonable walking distance for the majority of voters.</p>
Peckham - PKM5	Patrick York	With the demographical increases and new builds within Peckham. It is now	No change to original proposal.

		<p>imperative that The Adventure Centre, Kelly Street, SE15 5LD to be integrated as a new polling station. I pray you accordingly forward my comments to the polling station proposal under response to me.</p>	<p>The Location is close to the existing polling station for PKM2 and would be an unnecessary change likely to cause voter confusion.</p> <p>The Adventure Centre has also confirmed that it is not available for daytime hire.</p>
Rotherhithe	G.Davis Chair Silverlock Hall TRA	<p>The proposed Polling station in Plough Way is not suitable for residents in Tissington Court and Balman. This is reverting back to how it was several years ago. Many residents declined to vote and it was too far for them to go and not direct bus route. It was therefore changed to Silverlock TRA Hall which is a suitable size to accommodate the amount of residents, thus giving all residents the opportunity to vote, which is not being taken away from them. It didn't work before so why go back to it.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The southern part of the boundary between RTH3 and RTH4 has been moved east to the railway, which presents a more natural boundary and will be less confusing for voters.</p>
Rotherhithe	Julie Eyles Secretary Silverlock TRA	<p>We are concerned that the residents of Balman estate and St Helena will be disenfranchised to vote.</p> <p>The location of the polling station means that there is at least double the walk time to the polling station (which is literally across the road at present). Where they voted at Silverlock Hall you are now proposing they go to Rotherhithe community centre (which is not known to anyone as it is by Surrey Quays) they have to attempt to walk across two main roads up to Plough Way. There is no public transport</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The southern part of the boundary between RTH3 and RTH4 has been moved east to the railway, which presents a more natural boundary and will be less confusing for voters</p>

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		<p>that takes you directly to the polling station. In order to get to Plough Way a resident would have to take a 381 or 1 bus to Canada Water and then 199 back out to Plough Way which will take some considerable time. On the way back, one stop to Surrey quays station and walk back home from there, again quite some distance.</p> <p>This is detrimental to the less abled resident and wheelchair voter.</p> <p>We are concerned that our aging and/or less mobile residents will be prevented from voting which is their democratic right.</p> <p>This centre is completely unknown to residents as their local TRA hall is Silverlock. It is not on the main road and not visible to pedestrians or even signposted. This hall will be very difficult to locate. This again will disenfranchise voters.</p>	
<p>South Bermondsey - SBM5</p>	<p>Anita Bathie</p>	<p>On reading regarding we're the voting offices will be this is will not serve a vast among of the community. Old people that can not travel people coming home from work were there offices are not near or on there way home. This is ridiculous why can't we still have voting in local hall. I work I'm central London like a lot of people and would not want to travel even further to vote which on speaking to people will not bother to vote</p>	<p>No polling station or boundary changes have been proposed for this ward.</p> <p>The polling station for SBM5 has been used for elections for over 20 years and is within reasonable walking distance for the majority of voters.</p>

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Surrey Docks	Jo Roberts-Young	Agree to share polling Station in Salter St. I.E. Docklands Settlements Community Centre, 400 Salter Road, London SE16 5AA. There is good access by bus and walking.	None
St George's SGG2	Jonathan Sedgwick	<p>I am very happy with the local polling facilities.</p> <p>I am however very concerned about new legislation which seems designed to prevent people from poorer backgrounds from voting. People who don't have driving licenses and passports. I think this is likely to cause major problems in polling stations. I hope that staff will be given adequate support and help to be able to ensure that these people are able to exercise their democratic right to vote!</p>	<p>The risks associated with voter ID requirements are outside of the scope of this review. However, in order to help mitigate the additional pressures placed on polling station staff as a result of the new provisions in the Elections Act 2022, this review has applied a maximum of 1,800 polling station electors to each polling station, which is below the Electoral Commission recommendation of 2,250. Polling station staff will be given sufficient training ahead of polling day.</p>
St Giles - SGL6	Fr Nick George	<p>We offer our St Giles' Centre Hall as a Polling Station, and we are very happy to continue to offer it for hire as such.</p> <p>We put in place a temporary ramp to allow wheelchair access, and this has proved successful.</p> <p>I am aware though that this arrangement may not comply with disability requirements, and it may be that a bespoke ramp, with handrails etc may need to be hired in by Southwark and installed for this purpose.</p> <p>Also – whilst there is a toilet which is available to the public it also does not</p>	<p>Comments have been noted. An assessment visit has been carried out and this venue meets accessibility requirements.</p>

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		<p>comply with Disability requirements.</p> <p>I thought that I should let you know this as it may be that you have representatives from St Giles' Ward who are also commenting about this venue.</p> <p>I would be very happy to speak with someone, or arrange to have the entrance of St Giles' Centre (81 Camberwell Church Street SE5 8RB) checked out, and a solution specified in time for the next election.</p> <p>I could also supply a photograph if that was helpful.</p>	
Surrey Docks	Cristaina Aragoni	<p>You always had one polling station in Peter Hills primary school (on Rotherhithe street) - which serves well the whole of Rotherhithe area.</p> <p>I sincerely hope you keep it.</p> <p>Having many people driving to the nearest polling station (eg Canada Water ) is only going to cause more traffic and more pollution. Centralising is not the solution, in my optioning.</p>	<p>Peter Hills School is still used as a polling station for SDK1 in the north of the ward.</p> <p>A lack of suitable venues elsewhere in the ward necessitates the use of a single venue, Docklands Settlements Community Centre as a polling place for three polling districts - SDK2. SDK3 and SDK5.</p>
Whole Borough	Rupert Bailie	<p>I am a Southwark resident in SE24</p> <p>I have read your proposals briefly. I note you must provide reasonable facilities etc.</p> <p>Your proposals do not address the burdens arising from requirements for voters</p>	<p>In order to help mitigate the additional pressures placed on polling station staff as a result of the new provisions in the Elections Act 2022, this review has applied a maximum of 1,800 polling station electors to each polling station, which is below the Electoral Commission</p>

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		<p>to provide proof of identity on either voters or the provision of facilities.</p> <p>There are evidenced equalities risks from these requirements which you have not taken the opportunity to mitigate.</p> <p>Please would you consider and mitigate these risks which are fundamental to democracy and bring forward revised proposals.</p>	<p>recommendation of 2,250. All venues have been assessed and meet accessibility requirements.</p> <p>Our Equalities Impact Assessment is included in appendix A of the final report.</p>
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## Results of Initial Councillor Consultation

Ward/Polling district(s)	Name	Submission	Response
Borough and Bankside	Cllr David Watson	I don't think we'd have any objections to Christchurch Hall as a venue in itself. However, this new geographical distribution of polling stations would leave residents in the North East of the ward with considerably further to travel. This obviously presents issues for those with mobility problems, but more broadly could be a disincentive to voter turnout in those parts of the ward. Has the team considered other venues in the North central area of the ward? E.g. The Globe Theatre, Tate Modern. Forgive me if those aren't appropriate venues.	Bankside House will continue to be used as a polling station in this ward.
Chaucer	Cllr Joseph Vambe	I am happy with these proposed adjustments subject to Cllr Dennis' approval. Cllr Dennis is far more experienced and therefore more aware of any implications.	None
Newington	Cllr Natasha Ennin	Thanks for the email below, the following locations were mentioned to us: 1. Pasley TRA hall 2. Walworth gardens – (not technically in Newington) 3. Pelier TRA hall 4. Brandon 3 – due to the high number of elderly residents in that area, it might be best that this remains as a polling station.	Suggested venues have been assessed. Brandon 3 is no longer suitable for use as it is no longer centrally located in the polling district. Rachel Leigh Community Hall is a large venue, more centrally located and within reasonable walking distance for the majority of the electors within the polling district.
North Bermondsey	Cllr Rachel Bentley	This looks reasonable. My main concern that I thought I'd expressed previously is the distance for some voters in NBN3 to their polling	Postal voting as an option to voting in person will be widely communicated to all electors as part of the

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		<p>station. This polling district has a large number of elderly residents (some in sheltered accommodation) and I'm not sure of the bus routes that would take people to the Four Squares. I think a postal vote drive would be helpful to enable people not to be disenfranchised.</p>	<p>communications strategy for electoral registration.</p>
<p>North Bermondsey</p>	<p>Cllr Hamish McCallum</p>	<p>Thank you for this. I agree with Rachel's observation. Also, please may I raise one more issue. As you know, the polling station for NBM1 is currently outside of the district/ward due to previous lack of facility within the Shad Thames area. This was never a desired location, but was the least-worst option since Tower Bridge Primary School ceased to be a polling place several years ago. I am pleased to say that there is now a new suitable venue for a polling station within Shad Thames (NBM1) itself, which will be far more appropriate for those residents. The venue is 'The Greenhouse' events space in Courage Yard and opened earlier this year. This is owned by LBS as freeholder but managed by an agency named Solid Ground. We recently held a ward forum meeting in the space, and it strikes me that it would be a perfect polling station for Shad Thames (NBM1). I would be grateful if you would follow up on this, with a view to moving to that venue for future elections.</p>	<p>The Greenhouse has been assessed and will be used as the polling station for NBM1</p>



<p>Nunhead and Queen's Road</p>	<p>Cllr Reginald Popoola</p>	<p>Thank you for the proposals you laid before us.</p> <p>One consideration I'd like to be factored in is that there isn't an easily accessible polling station at one of our estates, the Dene estates. The one they use is at the Cossall but the Dene estates have a high concentration of older residents who find the travel across Queens Road and deep into the Cossall Estate very difficult. I'd be preferable if the new polling station was located at the Dene rather than a double polling station at the Brimington.</p> <p>I'd aware that their newly built community centre could be used as a base of elections with all of the relevant facilities staff will need to manage the polling station.</p> <p>Please let me know your thoughts.</p>	<p>Dene Community Centre has been assessed and will be used as the polling station for NQR6.</p>
<p>Old Kent Road</p>	<p>Cllr Richard Livingstone</p>	<p>I think I am happy with the current venues. However, having looked at the polling district boundaries recently, there are a couple of amendments I would like to be considered.</p> <p>Firstly, the northern section of the boundary between OKR1 and OKR 2 is a little odd, splitting parts of the New Coopers Road estate. The current boundary runs north from Old Kent Road along Mawbey Road, east along Mawbey Place, then west along Harmony Place,</p>	<p>Boundary changes agreed and added to public consultation proposals.</p>

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		<p>turning north to follow Fortune Place to Coopers Road and then north to Rolls Road.</p> <p>It would make more sense (and improve the equality of numbers in each polling district) if this boundary were moved eastwards so that all the properties that run off Coopers Road are in OKR1. This would involve having all the properties on Harmony Place (including Hope Court), Fortune Place and Coopers Road (including Monmouth Court) in OKR1. This would not only keep this area together but it would also reduce the distance people have to walk as there is no route between Hope Court and Marlborough Court between Old Kent Road and Rolls Road. All parts of these polling districts are currently in Bermondsey and Old Southwark, and so there are no difficulties at a Parliamentary constituency level in making this change – as well as increasing the numbers in OKR1 (which is relatively small) and decreasing them in OKR2 (which is relatively large).</p> <p>Secondly, a more minor issue is the awkward boundary through Cardine Mews that currently separates OKR4 and OKR5. I think it would be preferable if all the addresses were in OKR5 as Camelot School is much closer and the change would only involve moving 4 properties (9-12 Cardine Mews) from OKR4 to OKR5.</p>	
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		I hope these changes make sense. Please let me know if these can be put into place.	
Peckham	Cllr Barrie Hargrove	These are very good in my view.	None
Peckham Rye	Cllr Victoria Mills	<p>I oppose this change – sorry! This was proposed last time boundaries changed and we opposed it then too.</p> <p>The Rye Hill polling district is a very large district and we have tried to find ways to divide it up in a different way but always without success because there is no alternative venue for the far side of the district. As we cannot resolve that, all this change ends up doing is sending a handful of residents to Newlands despite them living nearer to Rye Hill and despite them having voted at Rye Hill for many, many years. I think the very slight marginal benefit of reducing the Rye Hill district by a very small amount is outweighed by the confusion this might cause. As a result, I think the boundaries should remain as they are.</p>	Agreed - no change to existing polling scheme.
Rye Lane	Cllr Jasmine Ali	<p>Thanks for this</p> <p>On the Consort Hall we are hoping that after a spate of Occupations during lockdown and beyond – the council will be in a position to reclaim the building for residents and elections.</p> <p>Therefore the TRA Hall on Consort is likely to remain open for the elections. Can we check this?</p>	St Mary Magdelene School will be used temporarily until certainty around the availability of Consort Tenants Hall can be confirmed.

South Bermondsey	Cllr Cassandra Brown	Thanks for your flexibility. After consulting with my colleagues and South Bermondsey's organiser, I can confirm that no changes are required.	None
St Giles Ward	Cllr Jason Ochere	I am content with this remaining the same, as per the map.	None
Surrey Docks	Cllr Nick Johnson	We will have a look on this and get back to you asap. One question: when we change where people vote, residents often get confused and turn up at the wrong place. This often results in them abandoning their attempt to vote. Do we know how many residents will be sent to a polling station other than the one they normally use and is there the option of letting them vote anyway if they arrive at the wrong one / or is there a way we can clearly signpost that they need to go to a different polling station this time?	All electors with a change of polling station will be contacted. Information will be included on poll cards and notices/signage will be in place at old venues.

# Appendix B

## Polling District, Polling Place and Polling Station Review 2023 Equality Impact and Needs Analysis

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## Section 1: Equality impact and needs analysis details

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<b>Proposed policy/decision/business plan to which this equality analysis relates</b>	- <b>Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations 2023</b>
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<b>Equality analysis author</b>	Richard St Pierre				
<b>Strategic Director:</b>	Doreen Forrester-Brown				
<b>Department</b>	Electoral Services	<b>Division</b>	Governance & Assurance		
<b>Period analysis undertaken</b>	May-October 2023				
<b>Date of review (if applicable)</b>					
<b>Sign-off</b>	Doreen Forrester-Brown	<b>Position</b>	Assistant Chief Executive – Governance & Assurance	<b>Date</b>	06/11/2024

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## Section 2: Brief description of policy/decision/business plan

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### 1.1 Brief description of policy/decision/business plan

In accordance with the requirements of the Representation of the People Act 1983, and the Electoral Administration Act 2013, Southwark Council has a statutory duty to carry out a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations that are used at parliamentary elections, in the period from 1 October 2023 to 31 January 2025.

The purpose of the review is to assess the current arrangements and make any necessary changes to improve the convenience and accessibility of polling stations for electors.

All polling places are subject to a site assessment where electoral officers visit the premises and conduct a thorough assessment of the facilities, access and location using the Electoral Commission polling station evaluation checklist (see appendix C).

Note that no polling place will be recommended unless it can be adapted to allow it to pass the assessment (such as by providing temporary ramps or lighting, for example), or, in very exceptional circumstances, where there are simply no more suitable venues or other alternatives available within the polling district or within a reasonable distance of it.

The review has taken in to consideration any representations from local residents and stakeholders in the ward, including any issues regarding access to premises or facilities for persons with disabilities. Any elector can make their views known and the process for doing so has been publicised.

The initial public consultation document was shared with approximately 140,000 Southwark residents via email, publicised on the Council's social media accounts and the Southwark website. Representations were also sought from other stakeholders, including elected members, political party groups, the Community Southwark Network and local disability groups.

Comments and representations received are published in appendix A of the final report.

We contacted several local disability groups while we were creating the initial proposals but only received feedback from the Southwark Disablement Association. Feedback on the criteria we used for assessing our polling stations (Electoral Commission guidelines following the Elections Act 2022 accessibility regulations) was positive. During the public consultation period we invited local disability groups and the Community Southwark Network to comment on the proposals but have received no representations from them.



## Section 3: Overview of service users and key stakeholders consulted

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### 2. Service users and stakeholders

<p><b>Key users of the department or service</b></p>	<p>All registered electors, candidates and political parties.</p>
<p><b>Key stakeholders were/are involved in this policy/decision/business plan</b></p>	<p>Southwark residents, Southwark Electoral Services, Acting Returning Officer, Acting Returning Officers for London Boroughs of Lambeth and Lewisham, Elected Members, political party groups, local community groups, local disability groups</p>

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## Section 4: Pre-implementation equality impact and needs analysis

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This section considers the potential impacts (positive and negative) on groups with 'protected characteristics', the equality information on which this analysis is based and any mitigating actions to be taken, including improvement actions to promote equality and tackle inequalities. An equality analysis also presents as an opportunity to improve services to meet diverse needs, promote equality, tackle inequalities and promote good community relations. It is not just about addressing negative impacts.

The columns include societal issues (discrimination, exclusion, needs etc.) and socio-economic issues (levels of poverty, employment, income). As the two aspects are heavily interrelated it may not be practical to fill out both columns on all protected characteristics. The aim is, however, to ensure that socio-economic issues are given special consideration, as it is the council's intention to reduce socio-economic inequalities in the borough. Key is also the link between protected characteristics and socio-economic disadvantage, including experiences of multiple disadvantage.

**Socio-economic disadvantage may arise from a range of factors, including:**

- poverty
- health
- education
- limited social mobility
- housing
- a lack of expectations
- discrimination
- multiple disadvantage

**The public sector equality duty (PSED)** requires us to find out about and give due consideration to the needs of different protected characteristics in relation to the three parts of the duty:

1. Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation
2. Advancing equality of opportunity, including finding out about and meeting diverse needs of our local communities, addressing disadvantage and barriers to equal access; enabling all voices to be heard in our engagement and consultation undertaken; increasing the participation of underrepresented groups
3. Fostering good community relations; promoting good relations; to be a borough where all feel welcome, included, valued, safe and respected.

The PSED is now also further reinforced in the two additional Fairer Future for All values: that we will

- Always work to make Southwark more equal and just
- Stand against all forms of discrimination and racism

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**Age** - Where this is referred to, it refers to a person belonging to a particular age (e.g. 32 year olds) or range of ages (e.g. 18 - 30 year olds).

Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan; this also includes needs in relation to each part of the duty.	Potential Socio-Economic impacts/ needs/issues arising from socio-economic disadvantage (positive and negative)
<p><b>Younger Voters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Younger voters may be more anxious about voting for the first time, and/or be uncertain what the rules are.</li> <li>Younger voters may be less likely to possess valid photographic ID such as driving license or passport.</li> </ul> <p><b>Older Voters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Older voters may generally have more disabilities and have more mobility issues and sight difficulties than younger voters.</li> <li>They may require more time and the ability to sit down for a rest.</li> <li>The route to the station could be experienced as long or difficult to walk.</li> <li>Some older voters may be less likely to possess valid ID</li> <li>Older voters may not be digitally literate and unable to make applications online.</li> <li>Older voters are more likely to be unaware of the requirements for voter ID introduced by the Elections Act 2022.</li> </ul> <p><b>Children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children may be negatively impacted if their school or nursery or after school club or activity is closed down for the day to be used as a polling venue. This may affect their education, and in some cases can add to family pressures where alternative childcare is not readily available. Children could potentially be made to feel unwelcome in polling stations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voters from poorer backgrounds are less likely to possess valid photographic ID such as driving license or passport.</li> <li>Voters from poorer backgrounds may lack online access</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electors without valid ID may apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) which can be used as proof of ID in the polling station.</li> <li>Electors without online access can apply for a VAC using a paper form.</li> <li>Electors will also be able to apply for a VAC at any Southwark Library. Library staff will be given full training and provided with tablets for this purpose by the electoral services team.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electors without valid ID may apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) which can be used as proof of ID in the polling station.</li> <li>Electors without online access can apply for a VAC using a paper form.</li> <li>Electors will also be able to apply for a VAC at any Southwark Library. Library staff will be given full training and provided with tablets for this</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voter ID requirements and information on postal voting is included on poll cards.</li> <li>• Comprehensive communication plan in place to give information to voters ahead of major electoral events, including posters in libraries and other community spaces to target those who may not have access to social media etc.</li> <li>• Where possible the polling place should be situated within reasonable walking distance for the majority of the electors within the polling district.</li> <li>• Items and signage to be clearly displayed, especially the guidance to voters, so that all voters are aware of what they need to do.</li> <li>• Calm and welcoming atmosphere created by the polling staff so that new voters are confident and able to ask questions, with additional information leaflets or guidance on display.</li> <li>• A chair available for voters who need a rest before or after voting.</li> <li>• Schools should be avoided if good, convenient, alternative locations are available in the polling district. Where this is not possible, every effort should be made to support the school to stay open and to minimise disruption. This may mean siting the polling station in an outbuilding such as a gymnasium or nursery room. However, the number of buildings that are suitable to use as polling stations is limited, and it is not currently possible to avoid using schools altogether. Schools have good accessibility, are usually well known to local voters and considered safe places for most voters who might be more worried using some other venues, and for that reason in many situations they may still represent the best venue for a polling place in their community.</li> <li>• Employment practises that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve.</li> <li>• Survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Southwark to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics.</li> <li>• Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues.</li> <li>• Equalities training for polling staff.</li> </ul>	<p>purpose by the electoral services team.</p>
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**Disability** - A person has a disability if s/he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Please note that under the PSED due regard includes:

Giving due consideration in all relevant areas to "the steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities." This also includes the need to understand and focus on different needs/impacts arising from different disabilities.

Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan; this also includes needs in relation to each part of the duty.	Potential socio-economic impacts/ needs/issues arising from socio-economic disadvantage (positive and negative)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The route to the station could be experienced as long or difficult to walk.</li> <li>• Ability to access polling venues due to lack of wheelchair/mobility entrance, parking, light and space.</li> <li>• Insufficient light inside polling venue.</li> <li>• Signage and official notices – at wrong height or too small.</li> <li>• Inability to hear instructions of polling staff.</li> <li>• Difficulty in understanding the polling process.</li> <li>• Inability to read ballot papers or make a mark on ballot papers.</li> <li>• Some people may require more time and the ability to sit down for a rest before or after voting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voters from poorer backgrounds are less likely to possess valid photographic ID such as driving license or passport.</li> <li>• Voters from poorer backgrounds may lack online access</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All polling venues assessed for accessibility.</li> <li>• A chair available for voters who need a rest before or after voting.</li> <li>• Temporary ramps and lighting installed in polling venues where necessary.</li> <li>• Site visits prior to elections outside of summer to assess potential risks or issues due to weather or lack of daylight.</li> <li>• Extra training on assisting voters with a disability and statistics recorded by presiding officers where assistance has been provided.</li> <li>• Polling station staff to follow standard procedures for handling of voters in polling places. Procedure to account for various disabilities – e.g. Use of plain English, speaking clearly, listening carefully, being approachable, providing materials such as tactile voting device for the visually impaired, or the pictorial voting guide for learning disabled.</li> <li>• Additional training for presiding officers on the official procedures and forms required for them to assist voters with disabilities or for companions to assist voters with disabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electors without valid ID may apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) which can be used as proof of ID in the polling station.</li> <li>• Electors without online access can apply for a VAC using a paper form.</li> <li>• Electors will also be able to apply for a VAC at any Southwark Library. Library staff will be given full training and provided with tablets for this purpose by the electoral services team.</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calm and welcoming atmosphere created by the polling staff so that all voters are confident and able to ask questions, with additional information leaflets or guidance on display.</li> <li>• Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve.</li> <li>• Survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Southwark to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics.</li> <li>• Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues.</li> <li>• Equalities training for polling staff.</li> </ul>	
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### Gender reassignment:

- The process of transitioning from one gender to another.

**Gender Identity:** Gender identity is the personal sense of one's own gender. Gender identity can correlate with a person's assigned sex or can differ from it.

<b>Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan; this also includes needs in relation to each part of the duty.</b>	<b>Potential socio-economic impacts/ needs/issues arising from socio-economic disadvantage (positive and negative)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being mis-gendered by the polling staff – e.g. referred to by the wrong gender.</li> <li>• Experiencing transphobia or other discrimination by polling staff – and the fear of that happening.</li> </ul>	
<b>Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training materials raise awareness of the use of gender specific pronouns.</li> <li>• Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve.</li> <li>• Survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Southwark to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics.</li> <li>• Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues.</li> <li>• Equalities training for polling staff.</li> </ul>	

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**Marriage and civil partnership** – In England and Wales marriage is no longer restricted to a union between a man and a woman but now includes a marriage between a same-sex couples. Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples and must be treated the same as married couples on a wide range of legal matters. **(Only to be considered in respect to the need to eliminate discrimination.)**

Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan	Potential socio-economic impacts/ needs/issues arising from socio-economic disadvantage (positive and negative)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific negative impacts identified.</li> </ul>	
<b>Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve.</li> <li>Survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Southwark to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics.</li> <li>Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues.</li> <li>Equalities training for polling staff.</li> </ul>	

**Pregnancy and maternity** - Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan; this also includes needs in relation to each part of the duty.	Potential socio-economic impacts/ needs/issues arising from socio-economic disadvantage (positive and negative)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pregnant voters may have mobility issues.</li> <li>Pregnant voters may need to rest at the polling station, before or after voting.</li> <li>Parents may need to bring their children to the polling venue and fear that their children may not be welcomed or viewed as a nuisance by polling station staff or other venue users.</li> </ul>	
<b>Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken</b>	
<p>Where possible the polling place should be situated in a convenient location within reasonable walking distance for the majority of voters.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polling stations are assessed for their accessibility.</li> <li>• Polling venues should have enough room for pushchairs/buggies to be easily manoeuvred round the polling station and for extra seating.</li> <li>• Children are allowed into polling stations, and staff are careful to ensure that polling places are as safe as possible for them.</li> <li>• Polling station staff training incorporates equalities training, and our encouraged to let parents know that children are very welcome in our polling stations.</li> <li>• Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve.</li> <li>• Survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Southwark to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics.</li> <li>• Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues.</li> </ul>	
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**Race** - Refers to the protected characteristic of Race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins. N.B. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller are recognised racial groups and their needs should be considered alongside all others

<b>Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan; this also includes needs in relation to each part of the duty.</b>	<b>Potential socio-economic impacts/ needs/issues arising from socio-economic disadvantage (positive and negative)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This group will contain people with English as a second language. This can lead to several negative impacts including: difficulty in identifying the polling station venue address, difficulty in speaking with polling staff, polling staff not understanding the voter, and accessibility of signs and notices.</li> <li>• Impact of systemic racism. Some people in this group may have experienced systemic racism and have a feeling or belief that their participation in elections is not welcome.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voters from poorer backgrounds are less likely to possess valid photographic ID such as driving license or passport.</li> <li>• Voters from poorer backgrounds may lack online access</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps on poll cards as well as written addresses.</li> <li>• Pictorial guidance for voters posters in polling stations.</li> <li>• Employment practises that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve.</li> <li>• Survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Southwark to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electors without valid ID may apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) which can be used as proof of ID in the polling station.</li> <li>• Electors without online access can apply for a VAC using a paper form.</li> <li>• Electors will also be able to apply for a VAC at any Southwark Library. Library staff will be given full training and provided with tablets</li> </ul>

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<p>analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues.</li> <li>• Equalities training for polling staff.</li> </ul>	<p>for this purpose by the electoral services team.</p>
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**Religion and belief** - Religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (e.g. Atheism). Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.

<b>Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan; this also includes needs in relation to each part of the duty.</b>	<b>Potential socio-economic impacts/needs/issues arising from socio-economic disadvantage (positive and negative)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some people may not wish to enter a church, mosque or synagogue in order to vote.</li> <li>• Potential for some religious groups to experience discrimination, or the fear of discrimination, from polling staff.</li> <li>• Voters who wear face coverings for religious reasons may be unwilling to remove their face covering in public in order to verify their photographic ID.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When using a religious building, where possible use a space in the building that is not usually used for worship.</li> <li>• Electors may have their ID checked in private if they wish. Where a separate room is not available or suitable for checking photographic ID in private, privacy screens will be provided.</li> <li>• Mirrors will also be provided, so that voters who removed their face coverings for identification purposes can ensure their face covering is in place correctly before leaving the private area</li> <li>• Cultural awareness of polling staff and general polite behaviour towards residents.</li> <li>• Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve.</li> <li>• Survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Southwark to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues.</li> <li>• Equalities training for polling staff.</li> </ul>	
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**Sex** - A man or a woman.

<b>Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan; this also includes needs in relation to each part of the duty.</b>	<b>Potential socio-economic impacts/needs/issues arising from socio-economic disadvantage (positive and negative)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women may feel more concerned than men about approaching stations that are not in well-lit areas or that can only be accessed by alleyways or subways (although fear of assault is not limited to women). This may stop women from voting if they can't attend the polling station during daylight hours or if they feel the area around the polling place is unsafe.</li> <li>• Some women may feel undue pressure from partners or companions to vote in a certain way.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voters from poorer backgrounds are less likely to possess valid photographic ID such as driving license or passport.</li> <li>• Voters from poorer backgrounds may lack online access</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External areas are assessed for perceived safety – there should be good street lighting, the general area should be open with high visibility of surroundings, and venues that are not easily accessed other than via any dimly lit subways or alleys should be avoided.</li> <li>• The polling station should be easily located from main roads, and well signposted. Additional signage can be provided to guide voters to stations if it is not immediately apparent from the major thoroughfare.</li> <li>• Maps are provided on poll cards, and the Council also provides an online search tool to find detailed maps to polling stations</li> <li>• Polling staff are given full training in how to spot possible case of undue influence.</li> <li>• Companions are not permitted to assist in the polling booth, apart from cases of people with disabilities being assisted by a companion, when the relevant forms must be completed and recorded by the presiding officer.</li> <li>• Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve.</li> <li>• Survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Southwark to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electors without valid ID may apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) which can be used as proof of ID in the polling station.</li> <li>• Electors without online access can apply for a VAC using a paper form.</li> <li>• Electors will also be able to apply for a VAC at any Southwark Library. Library staff will be given full training and provided with tablets for this purpose by the electoral services team.</li> </ul>

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<p>analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues</li> <li>• Equalities training for polling staff.</li> </ul>	
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**Sexual orientation** - Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes

<b>Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan; this also includes needs in relation to each part of the duty.</b>	<b>Potential socio-economic impacts/needs/issues arising from socio-economic disadvantage (positive and negative)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voters with these characteristics may have experienced, or fear experiencing discrimination from polling station staff or other venue users.</li> </ul>	
<b>Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equalities training and awareness is incorporated in training for polling staff.</li> <li>• Calm, welcoming atmosphere at polling stations for all voters promoted at training.</li> <li>• Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve.</li> <li>• Survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Southwark to analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics.</li> <li>• Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues</li> </ul>	

## Human Rights

There are 16 rights in the Human Rights Act. Each one is called an Article. They are all taken from the European Convention on Human Rights. The Articles are The right to life, Freedom from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, Freedom from forced labour, Right to Liberty, Fair trial, Retrospective penalties, Privacy, Freedom of conscience, Freedom of expression, Freedom of assembly, Marriage and family, Freedom from discrimination and the First Protocol

<b>Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Human Rights Act 1998 conveys the right to participate in free elections and the right not to be discriminated against.</li> </ul>

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- The review of Polling District and Polling Stations intends to have positive implications on the exercise of this human right.

**Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken**

- The actions taken during the review of our polling stations and polling district intend to remove or minimise any barriers to access for residents, thus preventing disenfranchisement

# Appendix C

## EC Polling place / polling station – evaluation checklist

### Part A – Current polling place details

Polling place identifier	
Polling place name	
Polling place address	
Number of electors (If more than one polling station within the polling place, identify split of electors)	
Building availability for future elections/referendums	

### Polling place review

Check	√	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there suitable transport links?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there any access issues regarding main/busy roads, railways, rivers, etc.?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the polling place capable of accommodating more than one polling station together with the necessary staff and equipment? If so, could it accommodate all allocated voters going in and out of the polling stations, even where there is a high turnout?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the building readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there any possibility that the building may be demolished as part of a new development?</li> </ul>		

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**Identify any complaints/comments received from stakeholders at previous electoral events**

Part B – External areas access and facilities

Check	(√)	Comments
• Are there good public transport links to the polling place?		
• Is the approach to the building safe and free from obstructions and does it have a dropped kerb?		
• Is the building clearly identifiable?		
• Is additional signage required between street and entrance?		
• Is there the facility to put up the required signage for polling day?		
• Are there parking facilities for disabled people?		
• Are there parking facilities for polling staff?		
• Does the approach to the building have external lighting?		
• Does the building have level access? Yes/No. If no – • Has a purpose built ramp been installed? • If so, does it have a handrail? • Does the ramp have a gentle slope? • Does the building require a temporary ramp or is there an alternative disabled access?		
• Is the entrance door wide enough for a disabled person using a motorised wheelchair?		
• Are the doors light enough for frail/elderly voters to open?		
• Can the 'Guidance for voters' notice be clearly displayed outside the premises, as required by the election rules?		
• Are there any external security concerns?		
• Can tellers be accommodated outside the building?		

## External plan – B1

Show external layout, street name(s), car parking (including disabled car parking), ramps, steps, lighting, appropriate places for signage, etc.

***Sketch layout; provide photographs as appropriate.***



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## Part C – Internal areas access and facilities

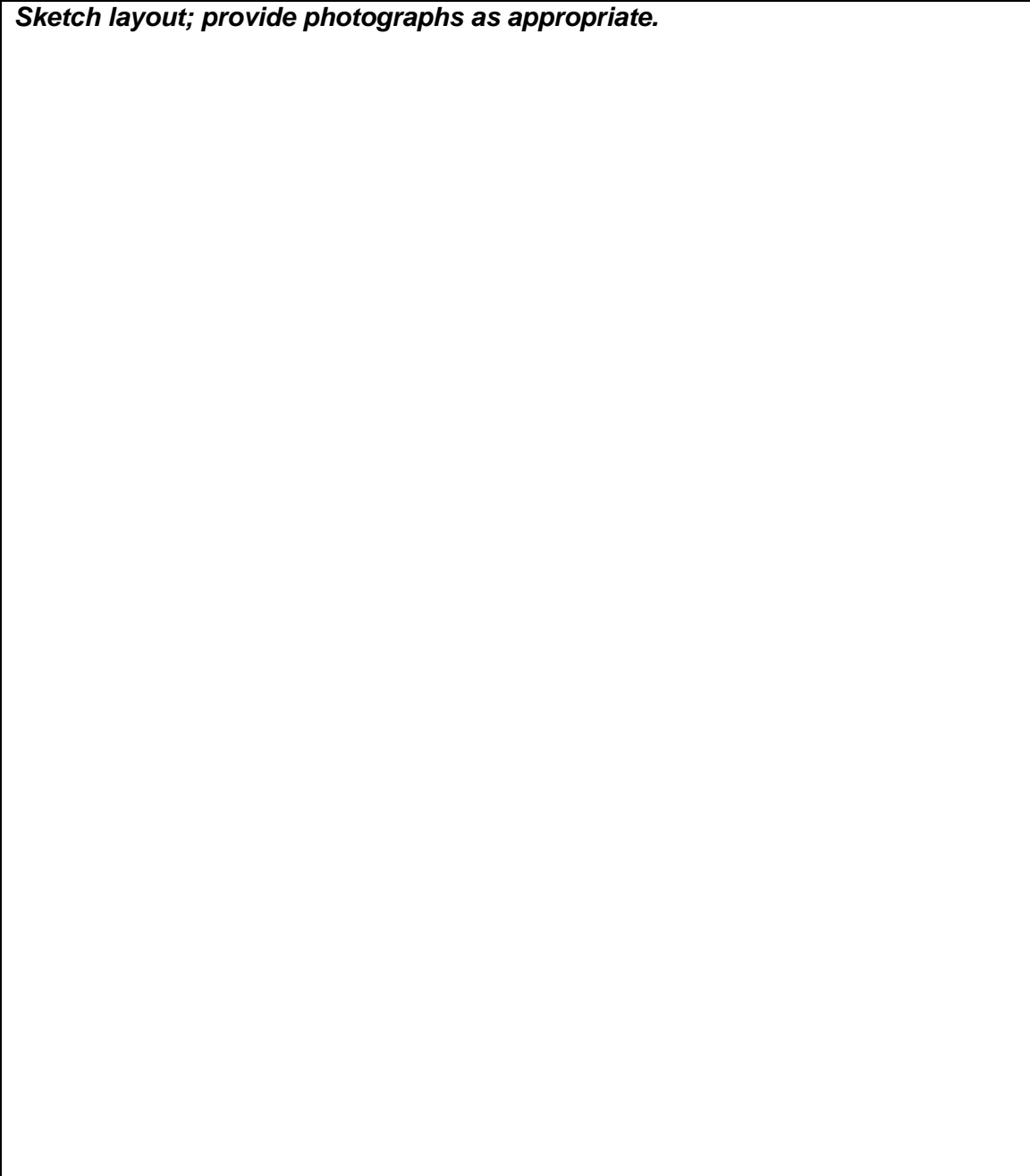
Check	(√)	Comments
• Are all doors easy to open (including by wheelchair users) or do they need to be permanently locked back?		
• Are there any internal steps or obstructions/hazards?		
• Are any doormats level with the floor?		
• Is the floor covering non-slip (including in wet weather)?		
• Are there any corridors that may cause access problems?		
• Is there adequate lighting in the corridors?		
• Are there toilet facilities?		
• Is there a kitchen that staff can use?		
• Is the area adequately lit for day and night time?		
• Is there adequate space for signage?		
• How many polling stations can the building accommodate?		
• Does the building have a telephone available (land line) in the event of mobile network problems?		



## Internal access leading to polling station(s) – C1

Show internal areas of the building, excluding the actual polling station where voting will take place, including corridors that link to the polling station, kitchen and toilets, and highlight any possible signage requirements and potential hazards. Also indicate door swing direction and ease of opening, any areas of poor lighting, and any areas of uneven floor, etc.

***Sketch layout; provide photographs as appropriate.***



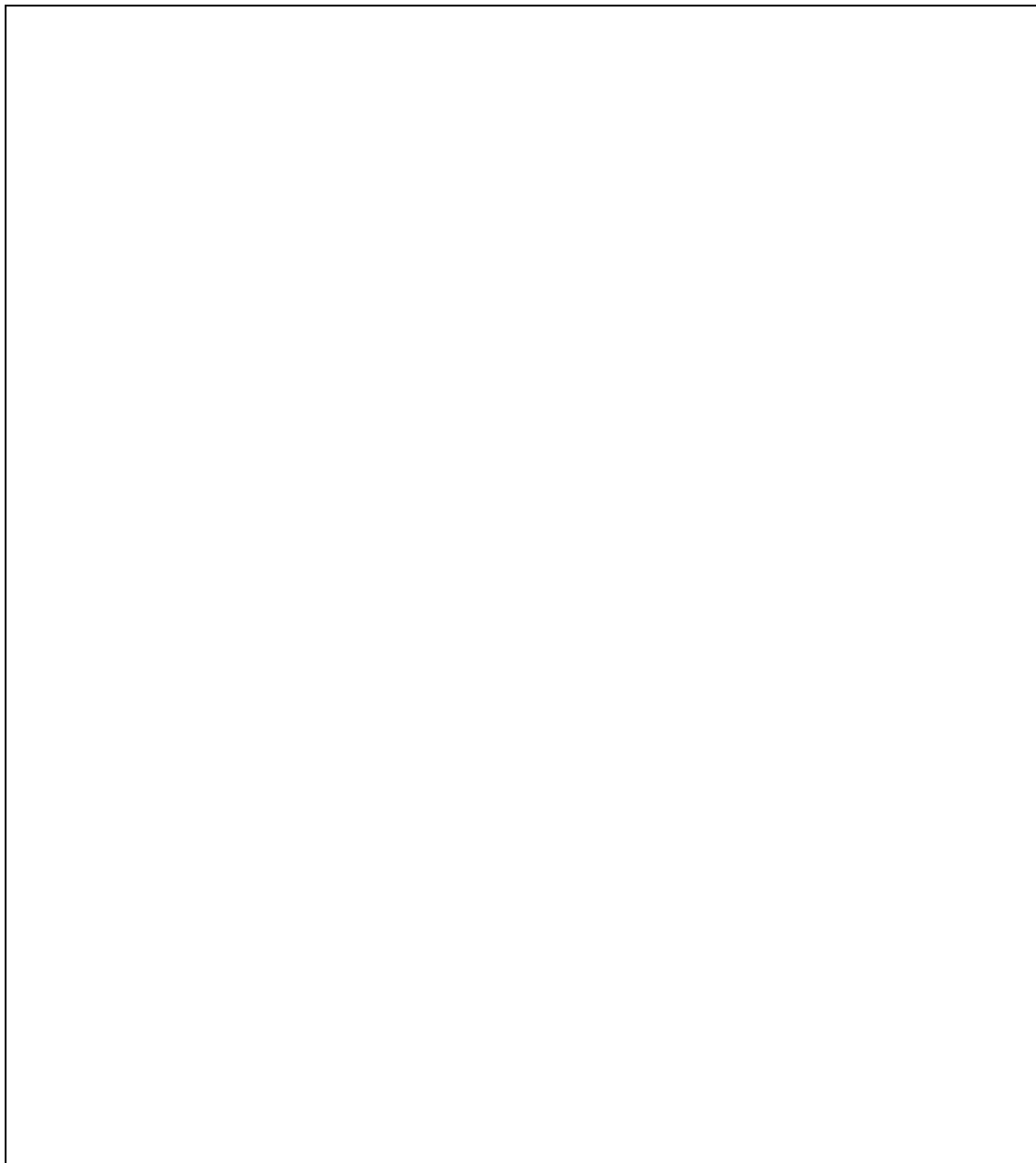
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## Part D – The polling station(s)

Check	(√)	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there sufficient space to accommodate and manage the flow of a high volume of electors in the case of a high turnout of electors?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If multiple polling stations need to be provided, are there other rooms available, or can the space be clearly divided to provide adequate room for more than one polling station?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there sufficient space inside the polling station to comfortably accommodate staff, voters, polling agents and observers?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could ballot booths be positioned in a way that would preserve the secrecy of the ballot, even where there may be a high volume of electors?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there adequate lighting for day and night time?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there suitable furniture (tables and chairs) available for all types of election for polling staff and for those voters who may need to rest?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could motorised wheelchairs be accommodated?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can the official notices be clearly displayed, including the large-print version of the ballot paper(s)?</li> </ul>		

## Internal – The polling station(s) – D1

Identify the size and shape of the area available for polling. Include the position of the door(s), any windows and how the furniture and equipment should be laid out to accommodate all those entitled to be inside the polling station, taking into account access requirements for all voters, including those in wheelchairs, and demonstrating how the space should be used to ensure the most efficient flow of voters and the effective administration of the voting process.



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