

Council Assembly

Theme: Giving our children and young people the best start in life

Wednesday 22 November 2023

7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Councillors are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to consider the business contained herein

Althea Loderick
Chief Executive

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

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Contact

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Date: 10 November 2023



Council Assembly

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Wednesday 22 November 2023

7.00 pm

Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

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	PART A - OPEN BUSINESS	
1.	PRELIMINARY BUSINESS	
	1.1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
	1.2. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
	To receive any announcements from the Mayor, members of the cabinet or the chief executive.	
	1.3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances an item of business may be added to an agenda within seven working days of the meeting.	
	1.4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
	1.5. MINUTES	1 - 19
	To approve as a correct record the open minutes of the council assembly meeting held on 12 July 2023.	

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2.	ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC	
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	To formally receive any petitions lodged by members of the council or the public which have been received in advance of the meeting in accordance with council assembly procedure rules.	
	2.2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
	The deadline for public questions is 11.59pm, Thursday 16 November 2023. Questions can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk .	
	Questions from the public will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.	
3.	THEMED DEBATE	
	3.1. COMMUNITY EVIDENCE	
	The deadline for community evidence on the theme is 11.59pm, Thursday 16 November 2023. Submissions can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk .	
	Submissions from the public will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.	
	3.2. MOTION ON THE THEME	23 - 29
	The deputy leader and cabinet member for children, education and refugees to present the theme for the meeting.	
4.	DEPUTATIONS	
	The deadline for deputation requests is 11.59pm, Thursday 16 November 2023. Deputations can be emailed to constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk .	
	Deputation requests will be distributed in a supplemental agenda.	
5.	ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS	
	5.1. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME	30 - 36
	To receive any questions from members of the council.	

5.2. MEMBERS' MOTIONS		37 - 47
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To consider the following motions:

- Protect Southwark Parks from anti-social behaviour
- Homelessness and rough sleeping
- Ending violence against women and girls
- Towards a greater provision of public toilets
- Southwark stands with the trans community

6. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

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7. AMENDMENTS

Any member of the council may submit an amendment to a report or motion on the agenda. The amendments will be circulated to all members in a supplemental agenda.

ANY OPEN ITEMS IDENTIFIED AS URGENT AT THE START OF THE MEETING

EXCLUSION MOTION (IF NECESSARY)

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the council wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That under the access to information procedure rules of the Southwark constitution, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in section(s) 1 – 7 of paragraph 10.4 of the procedure rules.”

PART B – CLOSED BUSINESS

ANY CLOSED ITEMS IDENTIFIED AS URGENT AT THE START OF THE MEETING



Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting; Theme: Health and Wellbeing in Southwark) held on Wednesday 12 July 2023 at 7.00 pm at Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2023-24, Councillor Michael Situ Councillor Michael Situ (Chair)

Councillor Suzanne Abachor
 Councillor Evelyn Akoto
 Councillor Jasmine Ali
 Councillor Naima Ali
 Councillor John Batteson
 Councillor Rachel Bentley
 Councillor Cassandra Brown
 Councillor Maggie Browning
 Councillor Victor Chamberlain
 Councillor Stephanie Cryan
 Councillor Sam Dalton
 Councillor Helen Dennis
 Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
 Councillor Esme Dobson
 Councillor Gavin Edwards
 Councillor Sabina Emmanuel
 Councillor Sam Foster
 Councillor Renata Hamvas
 Councillor Barrie Hargrove
 Councillor Jon Hartley
 Councillor Youcef Hassaine
 Councillor Emily Hickson
 Councillor Laura Johnson
 Councillor Nick Johnson
 Councillor Sarah King

Councillor Sunny Lambe
 Councillor Richard Livingstone
 Councillor James McAsh
 Councillor Darren Merrill
 Councillor Victoria Mills
 Councillor Portia Mwangangye
 Councillor Graham Neale
 Councillor Margy Newens
 Councillor Jason Ochere
 Councillor Leo Pollak
 Councillor Sandra Rhule
 Councillor Bethan Roberts
 Councillor Catherine Rose
 Councillor Jane Salmon
 Councillor Martin Seaton
 Councillor Andy Simmons
 Councillor Charlie Smith
 Councillor Cleo Soanes
 Councillor Chloe Tomlinson
 Councillor Joseph Vambe
 Councillor Irina Von Wiese
 Councillor David Watson
 Councillor Kath Whittam
 Councillor Kieron Williams
 Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ellie Cumbo, Natasha Ennin, Ketzia Harper, Esme Hicks (on maternity leave), Adam Hook, Richard Leeming, Maria Linforth-Hall, Hamish McCallum, Kimberly McIntosh, Reggie Popoola and Emily Tester.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Suzanne Abachor.

1.2 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Youcef Hassaine following his election as councillor for Newington ward.

1.3 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

At this point, the programme motion was agreed:

The order of business and timings for the evening will be as follows:

Time	Business
19:00 – 19:10	1. Preliminary business and announcements
19:10 – 19:25	2.2 Public questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 public questions, with supplemental questions to be heard for up to 15 minutes
19:25 – 20:25 (20 minutes – 4 minutes' speech) (7 minutes) (5 minutes) (25 minutes) (3 minutes)	Themed debate 3.1 Community Evidence <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Health Ambassadors Network 2. Rebecca Efeotor, Managing Director of Supreme Care Services Limited 3. Professor Kevin Fenton CBE, London Regional Director at Office for Health Improvement and Disparities 3.2 Motion on the Theme <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor Evelyn Akoto, Health and Wellbeing 2. Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall, opposition spokesperson 3. Themed debate open to all other councillors 4. Cabinet member's right of reply to the debate

20:25 – 20:40 (4 minutes' speech, question to the cabinet; no questions from members)	4. Deputation requests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirby Estate <i>Tenants</i> and Residents Associations – Damp and Mould • Nunhead Residents - Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) in the Nunhead and Queen's Road and Peckham Rye Wards • Sonay Ozkutayli - Mint Street Park use as open community space
20:40 – 21:15 (5 minutes) (15 minutes) (15 minutes)	5.1 Members' Question Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late questions • Members' questions to the leader • Members' questions to the cabinet
21:15 – 22:00	5.2 Motions
	Motion 1 – Support the #LiftTheBan Campaign
	Motion 2 – Clean Up Southwark
	Motion 3 – Tackling Damp and Mould
22:00*	6. Reports
	6.1 Treasury Management – Outturn 2022-23
	6.2 New Civic Award – Climate Champion Award
	6.3 Waiver of six month councillor attendance rule – Section 85 of Local Government Act 1972

* subject to the guillotine rule; maximum 15 minutes debate per item.

Note: Any time left remaining on any item will be rolled into the next items.

That the meeting be conducted as follows:

Item 3 - Themed debate

Community Evidence Submissions

To receive submissions from the groups listed in the themed section of the agenda:

- **Professor Siobhan Gregory**, Clinical Quality Director- London, Acute Workstream Lead- Dementia Clinical Network
 - **To note** that Professor Gregory has withdrawn her submission for community evidence due to work commitments.
- **Community Health Ambassadors Network**
- **Rebecca Efeotor**, Managing Director of Supreme Care Services Limited
- **Professor Kevin Fenton CBE**, London Regional Director at Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

(Four minutes to speak)

Format

A four minute presentation from the groups.

3.1 Motion on the theme

To agree an amended themed motion:

1. f. **Insert** “crisis” after “NHS”

1. h. **Delete** “establish” and insert “established”

To note that Cllr Rachel Bentley will be speaking on behalf of Cllr Maria Linforth-Hall in responding to the cabinet member in the themed debate.

Themed debate

To run as listed in the timings above.

Item 4 – Deputations

That the meeting agree to hear deputations from:

- Kirby Estate *Tenants* and Residents Associations – Damp and Mould
- Nunhead Residents - Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) in the Nunhead and Queen's Road and Peckham Rye Wards
- Sonay Ozkutayli - Mint Street Park use as open community space

(Four minutes to speak; deputation question to relevant cabinet member, no questions from members)

Item 5.2 General motions:

Each motion to have a single debate, subject to the guillotine.

1.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

1.5 MINUTES

The minutes of the annual meeting of council assembly held on 20 May 2023 were approved as a correct record.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1 PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(See pages 1-3 of supplemental agenda 1 and additional papers circulated at the meeting)

There were 16 question from the public, the answers to which had been circulated before the meeting. The public questioners asked four supplemental questions.

3. THEMED DEBATE

At the opening of the themed debate, Councillor Kieron Williams, the leader of the council, thanked the NHS for 75 years of service and support.

3.1 COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

The meeting agreed to receive submissions from the following:

Professor Siobhan Gregory, Clinical Quality Director, NHS London, Acute Workstream Lead - Dementia Clinical Network

The representative was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments in the NHS.

Community Health Ambassadors Network

The representative spoke to the meeting for four minutes. The mayor thanked the representative.

Rebecca Efeotor, Managing Director of Supreme Care Services Limited

The representative spoke to the meeting for four minutes. The mayor thanked the representative.

Professor Kevin Fenton CBE, London Regional Director at Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

The representative spoke to the meeting for four minutes. The mayor thanked the representative.

Councillor Kieron Williams on behalf of council thanked Professor Fenton for the work he'd done with Southwark and across London in helping leading a strong response to the pandemic.

3.2 MOTION ON THE THEME

The meeting noted the amendment to the themed motion via the programme motion.

Councillor Evelyn Akoto, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, presented the motion in the themed debate.

Councillor Rachel Bentley spoke on behalf of Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall, the opposition spokesperson, and responded to the motion and proposed Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Gavin Edwards, Jasmine Ali, Victor Chamberlain, Sam Dalton, Victoria Mills, Irina Von Weise, Esme Dobson, Catherine Rose and Kieron Williams) Councillor Evelyn Akoto responded to the debate.

Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be Lost.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be Carried.

RESOLVED:

Health and wellbeing in Southwark

1. This council notes:
 - a. 5 July 2023 marked 75 years of the National Health Service (NHS).
 - b. Treating over a million people a day in England, the NHS touches all of our lives. When it was founded in 1948, the NHS was the first universal health system to be available to all, free at the point of delivery. Today, nine in 10 people agree that healthcare should be free of charge; more than four in five agree that care should be available to everyone, and that the NHS makes them most proud to be British.
 - c. Labour created the NHS. Our values are built into the NHS's founding principle that everyone, wherever they live, whatever they earn, should get healthcare that is free at the point of use.
 - d. The NHS is facing both an unprecedented immediate crisis and a long-term challenge. Right now, the NHS is not working. 13 years of Conservative and the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition governments has run the service into the ground.
 - e. The immediate crisis is that the NHS is no longer there for people when they need it: Month long waits to see a GP, ambulances that can't get to people in time to save lives, dangerously long queues in A&E, over 7 million on the waiting list for hospital treatment – a system at breaking

point.

- f. The NHS crisis has widened health inequalities, created barriers to access to healthcare and resulted in a disparity in outcomes.
- g. Everyone should be able to access the support and services they need to lead healthy lives. A Labour Government will tackle health inequalities, support mental wellbeing and help residents to be fit and active.
- h. Southwark Council have established a new in-house Active Southwark Service designed to help our residents stay healthy and fit. Giving access to a wide range of activities across our pools, leisure centres, outdoor gyms, parks and sports facilities.
- i. Southwark Council is working to ensure quality care in Southwark for those who need it, and look after people who care for others too.
- j. We are rolling out our new Residential Care Charter to ensure all Southwark residential and nursing homes have high standards of care and fair pay for care home staff. This includes every home having a Family Forum so people have a place to raise any concerns about a loved one's care.
- k. The employers of five of our biggest care homes have signed up to the Residential Care Charter, equating to nearly 70% of our care worker staff working in homes that are fully compliant and will be paid at least the London Living Wage. They will also be paid for the time it takes to carry out a proper handover between shifts, ensuring safety and continuity of care for residents. Zero hour contracts will not be used in place of permanent contracts unless requested by staff and training must be free and carried out in work time. These steps mean that our most vulnerable residents receive the best care from carers whose work is respected.
- l. We have opened a new state of the art nursing home, so all older Southwark residents who need care can continue to have a home in our borough, and we are identifying another site to open another home in the next few years.
- m. Southwark is part of the Integrated Care System a partnership that brings together the organisations responsible for health and care services in south east London, to make the greatest possible contribution to the health and wellbeing of people living in South East London.

- n. Since 2019, Partnership Southwark has been working to better join up services and support, tackle the causes of inequality, and improve the health and wellbeing of Southwark residents. Partnership Southwark is our Local Care Partnership within the overall South East London Integrated Care System, working with other health, care and non-statutory organisations and local communities to bring together services and support at a neighbourhood level so that they do a better job of keeping people healthy and meeting their needs.
 - o. The Conservative cost of living crisis has plunged many families into food poverty and food related health inequalities. Access to healthy and nutritious food impacts us at every stage in life, affecting development, wellbeing and life chances. Inequalities in diet result in inequalities in health.
2. The Council believes:
- a. This NHS crisis is leading to a two-tier system, with creaking NHS care for those who can't afford to pay, and timely care only for those with the money to go private.
 - b. Our health system faces a long-term sustainability challenge. The NHS is still designed for the world of 1948, where people needed short-term treatment for infectious disease or injury. Now, we are looking to the same system to provide more care for people with chronic long-term conditions and it is simply not set up for this.
 - c. Alongside the NHS crisis, it is extraordinary that in one of the richest countries in the world, the issue of food insecurity is soaring to unprecedented levels. The combination of food prices, wage stagnation and real-terms cuts to benefits is tipping more people into food poverty. This is not inevitable – it is a political choice by a Conservative-led government. We want a sustainable food system in Southwark to improve health and wellbeing for our population, to reduce inequalities and to protect the planet.
 - d. In Southwark, we recognise the urgency of healthy, affordable food for the health and wellbeing of our communities. The council has a strong history of tackling food insecurity together with our partners in the voluntary, community and faith sector.
 - e. We are proud to be one of only four councils in London to be recognised as cross-cutting leaders in our food work as part of the recently published Good Food for All Londoners report.
3. The Council resolves to:

- a. Support the election of a Labour government that can fix the immediate crisis and address the long-term challenge the NHS now faces after years of underfunding by the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrat governments, so that future generation can benefit from the NHS for the next 75 years and long beyond.
- b. Support the election of a Labour Government with a strong ambition to create a National Care service that will resolve the crisis in the adult social care system.
- c. Work with our communities and NHS to reduce inequalities in access to healthcare, including those faced by Black, Asian and ethnic minority people. Expanding our Community Health Ambassadors network to empower more people to work with their community to increase the uptake of life saving vaccinations and cancer screening and holding local health services to account for the work they need to do to make sure care is accessible and high quality for all.
- d. Ensure all Southwark residents can access mental wellbeing support if they need it. The Council is already rolling out support for all children and young people. We will also launch innovative new support for adults, designed and delivered with and for people from across Southwark's diverse communities. Including support for parents delivered by parents.
- e. Continue to work to provide the highest possible care for residents who need it, and increase nursing home capacity in the Borough.
- f. Provide a defibrillator (AED) for every school and in public buildings to ensure all residents have access to these lifesaving pieces of equipment.
- g. Confirm that Labour will ensure quality care in Southwark for those who need it, and look after people who care for others too.
- h. Introduce more support for all unpaid carers, regardless of whether the person they care for gets funded care.
- i. Continue to look for opportunities to bring social care services in house, under the control of user led groups or into cooperative ownership and will campaign to keep our NHS in public ownership
- j. Make Southwark a Right to Food Borough. Working with local businesses, community groups and schools to ensure everyone in Southwark has access to healthy, affordable food within a short walk of

their home.

- k. Continue to increase access to affordable food models (such as pantries) in the borough, and ensure more convenience stores provide an affordable, healthy food offer to residents. We will provide much needed support to local organisations that are tackling food poverty to embed cash-first approaches and provide a culturally appropriate food offer.

4. DEPUTATIONS

As part of the programme motion the meeting agreed to hear deputations from:

Kirby Estate Tenants' and Residents' Association

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for four minutes and thereafter asked a question of the cabinet member for council homes.

Nunhead residents

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for four minutes and thereafter asked a question of the cabinet member for climate emergency, clean air and streets.

Sonay Ozkutayli

The group's representatives spoke to the meeting for four minutes and thereafter asked a question of the cabinet member for neighbourhoods, leisure and parks.

5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

There was one late question to the leader from Councillor Victor Chamberlain, the written response to which was circulated before the meeting. There were two supplemental questions.

There were 26 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated before the meeting. There were 13 supplemental questions.

5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion 1: Support the #LiftTheBan Campaign

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Naima Ali moved the motion. Councillor Irina von Wiese seconded the motion.

There were no amendments to the motion.

After debate, (Councillors Jasmine Ali, Portia Mwangangye, Nick Johnson, and Barrie Hargrove) the substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

1. Council assembly notes that:

- a. in Southwark there are 1,002 people seeking asylum in receipt of Section 98 support and 1,273 people in receipt of Section 95 support.
- b. since 2002, people seeking asylum have only able to apply for the right to work
- c. after they have been waiting for a decision on their asylum claim for over a year, and only if they can be employed into one of the narrow, highly-skilled professions included on the Government's Shortage Occupation List.
- d. people seeking asylum are left to live on £5.84 per day, struggling to support themselves and their families, and left vulnerable to destitution, isolation, and exploitation.
- e. the potential foregone economic gain for the UK economy of allowing people to work is estimated to be £97.8 million via increased taxable income and reduced payments of accommodation/ subsistence support.
- f. 71% of people polled agreed with the statement: "when people come to the UK seeking asylum it is important they integrate, learn English and get to know people. It would help integration if asylum-seekers were allowed to work if their claim takes more than six months to process."

2. Council assembly believes that:

- a. people seeking asylum want to be able to work so that they can use their skills and make the most of their potential, integrate into their communities, and provide for themselves and their families.
- b. restrictions on right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of Southwark and the UK.

- c. allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would therefore lead to positive outcomes for those seeking asylum in Southwark and for the local and national economy.
3. Council assembly resolves to:
- a. join the Lift the Ban Coalition, which is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim.
 - b. call on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work unconstrained by the shortage occupation list after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim or further submission.

Motion 2: A Clean Southwark

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Rachel Bentley moved the motion. Councillor David Watson seconded the motion.

There was one amendment to the motion. The guillotine fell before Amendment B was moved.

Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion as amended was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

1. Council Assembly notes:
 - a. That fly-tipping and litter have increased across the country after the pandemic, and nationally costs councils millions to address.
 - b. Waste on the streets causes significant environmental and health hazards, and worsens the aesthetics of where we live.
 - c. Whilst changes in national legislation would help to tackle the issue, there is room for councils to act within the current framework.
2. Council Assembly notes the Council's record on fly-tipping:
 - a. The Council removed flytipping within 24 hours in 98.6% of cases in 2021/22, beating the target of 98%.
 - b. According to the national Flycapture database, Southwark has the

fewest incidents of flytipping reported by the public of all London boroughs who provided figures.

- c. 81% of flytipping collected is done so proactively, without the public even needing to report it.
 - d. It is notoriously difficult to find evidence for flytipping. Nonetheless, the Council's CCTV Team currently has four active cameras deployed to support enforcement activity in areas of concern for fly tipping, and since April the CCTV team have provided the Environmental Enforcement Team with 46 example of evidence.
 - e. Despite a tough financial climate, the council has not removed any funding from flytipping and instead invested £500k into improving street cleanliness in 2022/23. This includes additional resources for graffiti removal, fly-tip removal and enforcement, and litter bins to increase recycling from street cleaning.
3. Council Assembly notes the Council's record on litter and street cleaning:
- a) The resources deployed for cleaning of high profile locations such as town centres has been maintained in 2022/23 therefore no reduction in frequency.
 - b) The Council provides litter picking on residential roads between twice and six times per week, based on need. This will help maintain acceptable levels of cleanliness for litter on residential roads.
 - c) The most recent figures show the council meeting its targets for both littering and street detritus.
4. Council Assembly notes the Council's record on pest control:
- a. Reporting figures detail the total number of visits, not infestations, and for all rodent infestations not just rats
 - b. Almost 100% of pest related works involve a treatment programme which requires multiple visits to an individual property for a single infestation
 - c. All council tenants receive a free service for the most common pests including rat treatments
 - d. Those residents who pay for our service and are in receipt of benefits or state pension receive a 50% reduction in costs.
 - e. The council contracts the service to the London Borough of Croydon
5. This Council resolves to:

- a. Sustain the cross council approach of services working collaboratively to resolve the issue of fly-tip at hotspot locations. These services include Waste Management, Cleaning, Environmental Enforcement, Housing, CCTV and Markets.
- b. Maintain the Council's high standards of removing fly tipping within 24 hours and continue to aspire to beat the target of 98%.
- c. Keep up the council record of keeping Southwark streets clean, town centres and residential roads clean, with regular sweeping as well as targeted cleaning.
- d. Continue to offer all council tenants receive a free service for the most common pests including rat treatments and maintain the high standard of pest control that all residents receive from the council.
- e. Uphold the work of the enforcement team dealing with commercial waste compliance and fly-tipping and continue to provide a responsive service to our residents.
- f. Use the additional funding available in 2023/24 to address fly-tipping to enhance the fly-tipping removal service as well as to increase the level of enforcement action taken against those who are responsible for fly-tipping.

Motion 3: Tackling Damp and Mould

This motion was considered after the guillotine had fallen.

There was one amendment to the motion.

Amendment C was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion as amended was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

1. Council assembly notes that:
 - a. Damp and mould is a blight on housing in the UK and is putting lives at risk.
 - b. The tragic death of Awaab Ishak resulting from toxic mould has rightfully made damp and mould a top priority when tackling housing disrepair.
 - c. Southwark Council recognises the importance of addressing the

problems damp and mould can cause and the need for a robust system and processes, both proactive and reactive, to ensure that measures are in place to tackle and reduce issues surrounding condensation in its properties.

- d. In October 2021 the Housing Ombudsman Spotlight Report was published, this made 26 recommendations for improvements across the industry. The key items for inclusion were:
 - i. Taking a zero tolerance approach to interventions with mould; meaning to take all reasonable measures to help resolve damp
 - ii. Avoid blaming the resident – The Ombudsman felt landlords were too quick to lay the blame of the problem with residents use of the property
 - iii. It's not lifestyle – The Ombudsman case studies highlighted a number of cases had underlying issues which were not identified or addressed. The council responded by reviewing the damp and mould strategy and implementing a new approach.

- e. Since 2022 the council has:
 - i. Delivered a Major works scheme to address the damp mould and piloted the use of smart home technology on Kingswood Estate
 - ii. Consulted with residents at Area Forums and set up a resident online workshop
 - iii. Implemented a new policy which sets out how Southwark Council will respond and manage damp, mould and condensation, as well as its proactive approach to identify and remediate potential causes of future damp and mould
 - iv. Created a new Damp & Mould team in November 2022 within the repairs function who take ownership of the end to end process of a resident making an enquiry through to completion and follow-up of the works

- f. The Council has also introduced enhanced IT and additional ways a resident can contact the service. This includes:
 - i. Providing a dedicated phone number with direct access to the Damp & Mould team
 - ii. A dedicated email contact, again, direct to the team
 - iii. A new online reporting form with the ability to upload pictures and videos
 - iv. Targeted action days on estates
 - v. Posters with QR codes on display within our estates informing residents on how to report D&M
 - vi. Updated web-site with key information

- vii. Produced a new resident facing damp pack brochure
 - g. Triaging for damp and mould works are now applied. An urgent priority, which is based on residents' vulnerability and severity of hazards & risks. Routine damp and mould cases are raised on a separate priority. The dedicated team communicate with the resident, checking that they are happy at the end of the process and returning if needed for further advice or works.
 - h. As part of our initial inspection process, our trained inspectors provide guidance and a damp pack to all residents when on site. Every resident receives a Hygrometer to measures the humidity and water vapour in the air, which helps identify factors that cause damp and mould.
 - i. The Damp & Mould team have been selected on the basis of their experience of damp and across the repairs spectrum, are trained in HHSRS (housing health and safety rating system), and can flag where a property is category one and doesn't meet decent home standard
2. Council assembly welcomes:
- a. The creation of the Southwark damp and mould taskforce and hopes this team can be put to effective use in improving Southwark's response to damp and mould in the borough.
 - b. The success of the repairs action days held throughout the borough that facilitated direct engagement between council officers and residents and saw proactive repairs carried out with effective follow-ups from the repairs team.
3. Council assembly resolves to:
- a. Ensure that keeping people safe in their homes remains the number one priority for our housing teams.
 - b. Continue to use a data-led approach, with a Power BI dashboard which allowing us to accelerate our response to damp and mould. This allows the council to pull together and automate the reporting of data that is held on a separate database.
 - c. Ensure that this data is available to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Housing Scrutiny Commission and the Cabinet.
 - d. Use newly created heat maps to identify repeat visits and flag blocks which could have recurring environmental, mechanical or structural issues

- e. Build on the success of the repairs action day, by creating a calendar for future repair action days, to the benefit of residents in all wards.
- f. Continue to insure that an inspector attends every report of damp within 20 days, taking the resident through a booklet on managing damp in the home and providing each resident with a hygrometer as well as inspecting for airflow, leaks or any other issues that may be causing damp.
- g. Call on the Government to support local authorities in tackling damp and mould by providing the necessary extra resources, ensuring the council continue to keep people safe in their homes.
- h. Continue enforcement on private landlords, who do not tackle or take action to solve damp and mould issues.
- i. Offer advice and support residents raising a complaint where housing associations are failing to tackle damp and mould, as well as signposting residents on how to report them to the Ombudsman if necessary.
- j. Remain committed to working with government, the GLA and other partners to ensure we continue to eradicate damp and mould across our council homes, and work with the GLA on the development of any 'gold standard'.

6. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION

6.1 TREASURY MANAGEMENT - OUTTURN 2022-23

After debate, (Councillor Stephanie Cryan) the recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council Assembly noted the 2022-23 treasury management outturn report and in particular:
 - the update on the Economic Background
 - ***that all treasury management activity was undertaken in compliance with the 2022-23 approved treasury management strategy and within the council's prudential indicators for 2022-23, attached at appendix A***
 - ***that the balance outstanding on all external debt as at 31 March 2023 was £991m***

- *that the balance on investments at 31 March 2023 stood at £220m.*

6.2 NEW CIVIC AWARD - CLIMATE CHAMPION AWARD

After debate, (Councillor James McAsh) the recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council Assembly noted the report from the Constitutional Steering Panel and agreed to establish a Climate Champion Award as part of the council's civic awards programme.
2. That Council Assembly asked officers to further develop nomination and award criteria and that this is considered by the audit, governance and standards committee.

6.3 WAIVER OF SIX MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE - SECTION 85 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The recommendations were put to the vote and declared Carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, council assembly approved Councillor Esme Hicks' non-attendance at meetings until 2 January 2024 on the grounds of parental responsibility (maternity leave).

7. AMENDMENTS

The amendments are set out in supplemental agenda 1.

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 2.1	Classification: Open	Date: 22 November 2023	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Petitions: Nunhead, Peckham Rye, Dulwich & Remaining Areas of Southwark - Protest Against the CPZs; Save Kintore Way Nursery School	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly consider petitions from:
 - a. “Nunhead, Peckham Rye, Dulwich & Remaining Areas of Southwark - Protest Against the CPZs” regarding the implementation of CPZs across Southwark
 - b. Unison Southwark regarding the cuts to Kintore Way Nursery School.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. A petition containing 1,500 signatures or more maybe presented to the Mayor at council assembly. A petition can be submitted by a person of any age who lives, works or studies in Southwark. Petitions must relate to matters which the council has powers or duties or which affects Southwark.
3. At the meeting, the spokesperson for the petition will be invited to speak for up to five minutes on the subject matter. Council assembly will debate the petition for a period of up to 15 minutes and may decide how to respond to the petition at the meeting.
4. Council assembly should decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. A decision could be made to:
 - Take the action the petition requests
 - Not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or
 - To commission further investigation into the matter.
5. Any relevant resource or community impact issues will be contained in the comments of the strategic director.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. A petition containing over 2,400 signatures has been received from the “Nunhead, Peckham Rye, Dulwich & Remaining Areas of Southwark - Protest Against the CPZs” campaign. The petition states:

“We have written a letter to the council on behalf of all Southwark residents, visitors and small businesses, and we need everyone to sign it. The letter is from all who believe the implementation of CPZs in their areas is unnecessary and not aligned with the wishes of the local community, especially in areas where parking stress is not a concern.

This applies to areas already with a CPZ, to those currently in progress and to areas yet to start the process. Under Southwark's plans there will be CPZs across the whole borough by 2025.

Letter Summary

- We argue that the Council has no legal basis or proper purpose for imposing the CPZs, and that it has failed to consult with the affected residents and businesses.
- We cite the relevant statutory provisions and authorities that limit the council's power to impose CPZs, and accuse the Council of acting for improper purposes such as raising revenue, punishing car owners, and imposing its ideological views on parking.
- We point out the negative impacts of the CPZs on the residents and businesses, such as
- inconvenience loss of trade, damage to conservation areas, and spill-over parking.
- We request further information from the council on its legal advice, its parking account, and its reports to the Mayor on its parking income and expenditure.
- We invite the council to halt the illegal project and debate the points raised at the next meeting, or face a potential judicial review by the residents.”

7. A petition containing over 1,750 signatures has been received from the “UNISON Southwark says save Kintore Way Nursery School” campaign. The petition states:

“UNISON Southwark is calling on Southwark Council to reverse the damaging cuts that could see a nursery school unable to support some of its most vulnerable students.

Just weeks after being rated Outstanding by Ofsted, staff at Kintore Way Nursery School and Children’s Centre are being threatened with redundancy and worse working conditions. Even though 45 per cent of students have special educational needs (SEN), up from 22 per cent two years ago, staff are being threatened with the deletion of thirty four posts to create nineteen new ones which offer “greater flexibility”. This is a classic example of fire and rehire: forcing staff to take new posts that offer worse conditions and pay.

Due to the way that funding is accessed in the education sector, money for SEN pupils sometimes bypasses the nursery schools and goes straight to their primary school when pupils start there, without any backdated payments for the nursery. The nurturing environment of the nursery before SEN pupils start Reception is crucial to their development.

Staff have raised serious concerns about the wellbeing and safeguarding of these students if there are fewer staff to support, given the varied and complex needs of these pupils. With more than £20m available in Southwark Council's schools balances reserves and dedicated schools grants reserves, it is unclear why investment cannot be made to protect the wellbeing of some of Southwark's most vulnerable pupils."

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Petition Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.4, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidi Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	9 November 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		9 November 2023

Item No. 3.2	Classification: Open	Date: 22 November 2023	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Motion on the Theme: Giving our children and young people the best start in life	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The theme for this meeting is Giving our children and young people the best start in life.

The relevant cabinet member shall submit a motion on the theme. All other political groups on the council are allowed to submit one amendment to the motion. The cabinet member's motion and the amendments do not need to be seconded. The cabinet member will present the motion to the meeting, followed by the lead opposition spokesperson's response and moving of their amendment, if any. Following this, the subject matter of the theme will be open to debate. Amendment(s) from other opposition groups on the council can be moved during this part of the meeting.

Motion from Councillor Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees

1. The opening statement of the council's delivery plan is "We will support children and young people to thrive".
2. We are delivering excellent schools:
 - a. Under this Southwark Labour administration, our council is delivering the best possible start in life for our children. The recent Ofsted report for our children's services was rated Good and reported that "Children are at the heart of practice in Southwark". With 97% of our schools rated good or outstanding, education in Southwark has never been stronger.
 - b. Today education outcomes for our children and young people are consistently above the national average with many of our schools among the best 10% state-funded schools in the country.
 - c. Children in our care are also achieving phenomenal results. This year the children in our care achieved straight A's, B's, ABC's, Distinctions and Merits, with one student achieving AAA* to meet (and then accept) their offer from St Hugh's College, Oxford University. Ten students successfully progressed on to their choice

of further education. As corporate parents, we couldn't be more proud of what children in our care have achieved.

3. We are delivering Free Healthy School Meals:
 - a. This year marks 10 years since Southwark Council began providing universal free school meals for all primary school children, improving health outcomes for children and reducing the prevalence of obesity.
 - b. Now we are providing Free Healthy Schools for our nursery settings and this autumn we are piloting Free Healthy School meals for secondary school children in need.
 - c. This extra support is a lifeline for families through austerity and now the cost of living crisis. Along with our Holiday Fun programme makes sure that children in need have activities through the school holidays.
 - d. During the pandemic Southwark Council worked with the Teaching Schools Alliance and local residents to raise £500k for laptops and tablets for any child who needs one.

4. We are committed to delivering support for 100% of children and young people with a mental health need, special education needs and or disabilities:
 - a. In 2020 Southwark council opened The Nest, our free mental health drop-in for children and young people. We invested £2 million into schools as part of our commitment to support 100% of children and young people with a diagnosable mental health need.
 - b. Southwark is home to 9,000 Children with Special Education Needs, 3,000 of those children are on Education Health and Care plans. We have special needs schools, and have launched a SEND strategy for faster assessments and more opportunities for children and young people with special needs and or disabilities.

5. We are delivering justice for our young people:
 - a. Our Youth Justice Team shows a consistently lower reoffending rate than the national average, and lower than London as a whole.
 - b. Our service rated Good and the lead inspector said "There's a genuine community spirit about Southwark Youth Justice Service. From the staff to local volunteers to the children themselves, there is support for the service's work and an ambition to succeed."

6. We are delivering healthy lives:
 - a. The council is committed to enabling children in Southwark to lead happy, healthy and full lives.

- b. We further note the refurbishment of play areas across the borough so that every child has access to a top quality place to play in their neighbourhood.
7. We are delivering a Youth New Deal:
- a. Our New Deal for Young People has invested over £1.6 million in positive activities for young people
 - b. We have created 623 apprenticeships since May 2022, for people of all ages, and in particular our young people
 - c. We are building on the learning from the pilot of the sure start for adolescents – we are working with young people, parents and youth providers to deliver the vision for early intervention across the borough. This will align with our family hub development
 - d. We have launched an Information Hub with up-to-the-minute real time information on employment, education and training opportunities
 - e. We are guaranteeing mental health support for young people in our borough with projects like, Southwark Space. Southwark Space has been able to do this in an innovative way by creating a platform where young people can express themselves and tell their stories and link them to charities like the Sickle Cell Society who offer mentoring to young people with this disease.
8. This council nevertheless believes:
- a. That after thirteen years of cuts and austerity from Conservative and Liberal Democrat governments, not all families are thriving.
 - i. Early years services are underfunded and our nurseries in the absence of adequate funding are being decimated. A recent Early Education and teaching unions found that more than half of all maintained nursery schools in England had an in-year deficit in 2021-22, and 28 per cent of them had a cumulative deficit, with only 41 per cent had been able to set a balanced budget for 2022-23.
 - ii. In September 2023, a report commissioned by Action for Children, Barnardo's, The Children's Society, National Children's Bureau and NSPCC, found that spending on early intervention for children has reduced from just over £3.7 billion in 2010-11, to just over £2 billion in 2021-22 - a fall of almost half (46%), while spending on late intervention services grew from around £6 billion to £8.8 billion, again an increase of almost half (46%)

- iii. 8.3 At the same, the government Early Intervention Grant fell from £2.8 billion to £1.1 billion, a 60% fall in funding that was specifically provided to prevent children and young people and families falling into crisis before they get help and support.
 - b. There is therefore a vital need to invest in early intervention and prevention.
 - i. We are continuing to see high levels of complex need in Southwark and increasing demand for support to give our children and young people a good start in life.
 - ii. There has been a 100% increase in the number of children with the most complex special educational needs and disabilities – up from 1,421 in 2015 to 2,956 in 2023.
 - iii. Children and young people in the borough are more likely to face poverty and deprivation than the older age groups in Southwark.
 - iv. The Children’s Commissioner for England’s childhood vulnerability index, consistently ranks Southwark in the highest 10% for key areas of concern for children’s wellbeing in the home:
 - Some 5% of children in Southwark live in households where an adult has an alcohol or drug dependency
 - Some 8% of children in Southwark live in households where an adult experienced domestic abuse in the last year
 - Some 18% of children live in households where an adult has severe mental ill-health symptoms
 - A massive 23% of children live in households where an adult has one of the above risks; in total 4,360 (7%) of children live in households where an adult has two or more of the above risks; and 1% of children live in households where an adult has all three of the above risks.
9. Council assembly calls on the cabinet to support children and young people to thrive, and therefore to prioritise:
 - a. Closing the gap in life chances for our most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families.

- b. Increasing identification of special educational needs and disabilities in the early years, and intervening earlier to support families with children with SEND.
 - c. Making sure all children are school-ready at age 5
 - d. Work with our health and early years system to deliver the start for life programme
 - e. Developing the multi-agency offer and support to parents of children and adolescents to reduce the incidence of issues such as serious youth violence, exploitation, and the rate of teenagers entering care
 - f. Ensuring the best start for life for all children by ensuring more parenting support for new parents, more access to support around perinatal mental health concerns, and increasing the breastfeeding rates.
 - g. Empowering local communities themselves to develop and drive the local offer of services through our Family Hubs.
10. This council resolves to:
- a. Inspired by the London Challenge, set up a Southwark Challenge to close the gap in outcomes for our children and young people. This will be representative of schools, early year's settings, social care, housing, youth services, the voluntary sector, health, children's mental health and youth justice.
 - b. Realise the massive opportunity for our partnership services and communities to work more closely together to intervene earlier and improve outcomes for our children and families and realise the benefits and opportunities to reinvest those benefits in earlier support.
 - c. Bring our residents, community and partners together for an Early Help/Supporting Families Summit to design together, in a people powered way, the future state of our support system.
 - d. To build on the missions developed through the Southwark 2030 consultation and engagement exercise to develop a single borough vision and missions for the present and futures of our children and young people.
 - e. Work within the council and with partners to marshal our social value, power and influence to advocate and create every possible opportunity for our most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people, those with special educational needs and disabilities, our children in care, and those facing the starkest inequalities in our society.

- f. Work to transform our whole borough supporting families system away from siloed services in single centralised spaces into integrated neighbourhood delivery arrangements through our Family Hubs.
- g. Work with our partners to take the opportunity to integrate and pool resources and assets to incrementally move from a place of investing in crisis to investing in prevention.
- h. Close the gap in life chances for our most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families.
- i. Increase identification of special educational needs and disabilities in the early years, and intervening earlier to support families with children with SEND and make Southwark an exemplar in child and family centred SEND services.
- j. Make sure all children are school ready at age 5.
- k. Expand our offer of Free Healthy School Meals programme to secondary schools for pupils in families affected by the Universal Credit threshold.
- l. Develop the multi-agency offer and support to parents of children with adolescents –to reduce the incidence of issues such as serious youth violence, exploitation, and the rate of teenagers entering care.
- m. Ensure the best start for life for all children –by ensuring more parenting support for new parents, more access to support around perinatal mental health concerns, and increasing the breastfeeding rates.
- n. Empower local communities through people power, to develop and drive the local offer of services through our Family Hubs.
- o. Support the election of a government that will:
 - i. Make it a mission to break down the barriers to opportunity FOR every child, at every stage, and shatter the class ceiling.
 - ii. Create a modern childcare system with breakfast clubs in every primary school to give children the best start.
 - iii. Make sure there is a world class teacher in every classroom, recruiting 6,500 new staff, paid for by ending tax breaks for private schools.
 - iv. Introduce a broader curriculum, developing creativity, digital and speaking skills that ensure young people leave school ready for work and ready for life.
 - v. Expand apprenticeships and skills training to spread opportunity for all.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet members Motion	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team Constitutional.Team@southwark.gov.uk

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	6 November 2023

Item No. 5.1	Classification: Open	Date: 22 November 2023	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members' question time shall not exceed 30 minutes. During this time, members may not question any one cabinet member or committee chair for longer than fifteen minutes. Members are limited to one question at each meeting.

Questions to the leader will be taken first, followed by question followed by questions to other cabinet members. The order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader will be rotated. Questions to cabinet members will also be rotated. The order of portfolios will be rotated at each meeting such that the cabinet member answering questions immediately after the leader will be the second to last cabinet member to answer any questions at the next meeting of council assembly. The rotation is in line with decisions of council assembly in July 2014 and rotations circulated by the proper constitutional officer.

Cabinet members and committee chairs have discretion to refer a question to another cabinet member.

Responses to members' questions will be circulated on the evening of the meeting.

The Mayor will ask the member asking the question if they wish to ask one supplemental question to the member to whom the question was asked. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Therefore, supplemental questions to the leader or other cabinet members are not free ranging.

No question shall be asked on a matter concerning a planning or licensing application.

Notes:

1. The procedures on members' questions are set out in council assembly procedure rule 2.9 in the Southwark Constitution.
2. In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (12) & (13) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which questions to the leader appear in this report may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

Can the Leader let us know how many new council homes have been completed in the last 12 months?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID WATSON

Despite the council's failure to build the council homes it promised, private development across Southwark is booming. Residents living between construction sites are rightly asking when they will see the community benefit of all this private development. Section 106 and community infrastructure levy (CIL) contributions for community investment have reached millions of pounds but are currently just burning a hole in the council's pocket. This despite the immense financial pressures felt elsewhere and growing despondence among residents neighbouring, particularly, big developments.

Councillors were initially promised a review into CIL allocations in autumn this year. But there has been no communication about this. Why has the review been delayed?

Will the council consider increasing its use of S.106 powers to help plug the housing revenue account (HRA) funding gaps, both in cash terms and social housing provision?

When will residents who have endured years of noise and disruption see the benefits of community investments through S.106 and CIL funding?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE

Could the Leader provide an update of Old Kent Road regeneration?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RACHEL BENTLEY

The pressure on the council's finances including the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is reaching critical levels, with alarm bells being rung by many other councils facing similar problems. Whilst proper funding for vital public services must be restored by central government, it's vital that the Council's own funding streams are well-managed. Residents will have noticed commercial properties sitting vacant and are keen to know that businesses in Southwark are paying their fair share of rent and business rates. Please can you advise the following in relation to the Council's commercial property portfolio:

- What was the total amount of commercial rent arrears in 2022/2023 and in the current year to date?
- What is the overall value of arrears versus the commercial rent budget?

- Is there a strategy to support businesses such as pubs and other hospitality venues that incurred arrears during mandatory closures in the Covid pandemic?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR KIMBERLY MCINTOSH

As part of Southwark Stands Together, the council has committed to tackling racial disparities in its workforce. What progress is being made towards closing the council's ethnicity pay gap?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR EMILY TESTER

Southwark is lucky to be home to many railway viaducts and arches, dating back to the Victorian era of railway speculation – the Spa Road junction is even Grade II listed. Whilst some of the arches have been put to good use, some of the tunnels remain dingy, unlit, and unsafe.

- What will the council do to make these spaces a safe and welcoming part of the street-scape?
- How will the council ensure that the heritage assets are preserved for future generations to appreciate?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

Can the Leader update on the figures for genuinely affordable housing delivery in Southwark?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR IRINA VON WIESE

In 2020, Southwark Councillors unanimously passed a motion calling for Southwark to become a 'Borough of Sanctuary' as part of the City of Sanctuary movement.

In that time, Southwark has failed to become an official borough of sanctuary and the campaign calling for this has become inactive.

Does the council plan to uphold the commitment made in 2020 for Southwark to become a borough of sanctuary? Is there a strategy across the council for how to achieve this? Has Southwark Council as an organisation been in contact with City of Sanctuary to seek guidance as to how to become a borough of sanctuary?

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS

Could the leader outline how the council accounts for heritage and conservation issues within planning policy?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN

Residents of Styles House are rightly furious at the recent cancellation of a redevelopment they were all looking forward to. Eight council homes have now been cancelled in what is yet another blow to the council's unfunded housebuilding promise.

When was the council aware that the building design was no longer compliant with new fire safety laws?

When did the council first engage with residents and the tenants and residents association (TRA) about problems with the development?

How many other council construction projects currently in the pipeline will be affected by the issue that cancelled Styles House?

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CHLOE TOMLINSON

Can the leader outline the cost of living support available to residents in Rye Lane and across the borough over the winter?

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH MCCALLUM

At the beginning of the summer the deputy cabinet member for housing allocations committed to refreshing the allocations scheme in order to be 'chain maximising', with a pilot to be conducted in the short term.

- Please will the Leader update us on the progress of that pilot.
- How will the extra administrative burden of this new system be handled given the pressure the allocations team are under with record high waiting lists and hundreds of monthly approaches?
- Though the logic of prioritising allocations on the basis of maximising chains is sound in theory, how will the council ensure that those with the greatest need are not waiting even longer than they already are?

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SANDRA RHULE

How are we encouraging more businesses to become Living Wage employers?

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

The Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) fund in theory represents a funding stream for projects that enhance communities – but many residents feel that in practice, it is not being followed through.

- How CGS funded projects have been followed through to completion, against the total number of projects granted initial funding, to date?
- How many CGS projects have been rejected, and on what grounds?
- The flora at Nursery Row Park now taken down in the name of ‘safety’ was a CGS project – how many other CGS projects have been cancelled or removed by the council?

15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HOOD

Residents of Rotherhithe and Surrey Docks have been enduring significant traffic problems on Lower Road for months as the cycle lane works are being completed. Whilst the completion of the cycle lane is welcome, residents will be concerned about both the timeline of the project and the impact of the traffic flow adjustments.

- What modelling has been done to ensure that the end result will have lower traffic levels than before?
- The reversal of the flow of Cope Street is a welcome part of the plans - but has the council considered implementing this now (i.e blocking access from Rotherhithe Old Road) to alleviate some of the traffic pressure onto Lower Road whilst works are in progress?
- What is the timeline for completion of this project and the start of the next phase of highways work in the area?

16. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

Residents of Perronet House in St George’s Ward have been living with severe on-going leaks in the building since 2018. The delays are reportedly due to the presence of asbestos obstructing attempts by council officers to fix the leaks.

- Why has the council not been able to arrange the removal of asbestos in the past 5 years in order to allow proper repairs?
- Are any other repairs being delayed due to the presence of asbestos and how long have they been delayed for?
- Does the council have a named contractor used for the removal of asbestos and other harmful materials or is that service handled internally?

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS, LEISURE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LEEMING

How has insourcing improved our leisure services?

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS, LEISURE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR SAM FOSTER

Can you provide an update on when we can expect the Una Marson Library to open on the Aylesbury?

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS, LEISURE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

Can you provide an update on the newly re-open Kingswood Library?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS, LEISURE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

In 2011, the Friends of Nursery Row Park used £10,000 of council funding to create a flower walkway in the park.

In September 2023, council officers, at the request of the police and with no dialogue with the local community, tore down this flower walkway. The council and police claim this was in order to deter anti-social behaviour (ASB) by clearing CCTV sight lines. However, Residents report this action has done nothing to reduce ASB in the park.

- Having failed to tackle ASB in Nursery Row Park by removing the flower walkway, how does the council intend to resolve this ongoing issue?
- Will the council apologise to locals and the Friends of Nursery Row Park for destroying a flower walkway that took 10 years of care and maintenance to grow?
- Does the council have a plan to improve the park for locals or will they wait another 10 years for the flower walkway to regrow?

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS, LEISURE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR NICK JOHNSON

Having brought leisure services in-house in June, there are already reports of gyms being neglected and in disrepair. Users of one gym in Peckham have reported up to 15 broken machines at a time and mould on the premises.

- How does the council plan to improve the Peckham Pulse Gym for users?
- Does the council have a ring fenced budget for improving existing leisure facilities in budget and, if so, how much is in that budget?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS, LEISURE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR LEO POLLAK

What is being undertaken to ensure the council maintains the 30 Green Flags in our parks?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR SUNIL CHOPRA

Following the “A New Met for London” Plan, what is the council doing to ensure local residents get the policing they deserve?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR KETZIA HARPER

The Baroness Casey Review found that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is institutionally racist, misogynistic and homophobic. What is the council doing directly with the local police command unit and the MPS more widely to ensure the review’s recommendations are delivered locally?

Item No. 5.2	Classification: Open	Date: 22 November 2023	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Motions	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The councillor introducing or “moving” the motion may make a speech directed to the matter under discussion. This may not exceed five minutes¹. A second councillor will then be asked by the Mayor to “second” the motion. This may not exceed three minutes without the consent of the Mayor.

The meeting will then debate the issue and any amendments on the motion will be dealt with. At the end of the debate the mover of the motion may make a concluding speech, known as a “right of reply”. If an amendment is carried, the mover of the amendment shall hold the right of reply to any subsequent amendments and, if no further amendments are carried, at the conclusion of the debate on the substantive motion.

The Mayor will then ask councillors to vote on the motion (and any amendments).

IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution allocates responsibility for particular functions to council assembly, including approving the budget and policy framework, and allocates to the cabinet responsibility for developing and implementing the budget and policy framework and overseeing the running of council services on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, any matters that are reserved to the cabinet (i.e. housing, social services, regeneration, environment, education etc.) cannot be decided upon by council assembly without prior reference to the cabinet. While it would be in order for council assembly to discuss an issue, consideration of any of the following should be referred to the cabinet:

- to change or develop a new or existing policy
- to instruct officers to implement new procedures
- to allocate resources.

Note: In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.10 (7) & (8) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which motions appear in the agenda may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

¹ Council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (9)

1. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON (Seconded by Councillor Adam Hood)

Protect Southwark Parks from Anti-Social Behaviour

1. Council assembly notes:
 - a. Parks are one of Southwark's most vital public assets, improving the mental and physical wellbeing for residents and providing space for communities to exercise, socialise and connect.
 - b. One of Southwark council's most important responsibilities is to maintain our parks for the benefit of our communities. This work is made easier by the countless volunteers and community groups who help maintain Southwark's parks.
 - c. Anti-social behaviour has become an all too prevalent issue in our parks, turning spaces that should be for community benefit to spaces that locals may avoid.
 - d. Anti-social behaviour in our parks is therefore undermining the benefits that parks bring to communities throughout Southwark.
2. Council assembly accepts:
 - a. The council has comprehensively failed to tackle the issue of anti-social behaviour in parks.
 - b. Efforts carried out by the council, along with the police, have actively made some parks worse and undermined efforts by the community to improve them.
 - i. The reactive and inexplicable removal of table tennis tables and benches on Camberwell Green, leading to widespread ridicule of Southwark Council.
 - ii. The careless destruction of decorative flowers and vegetation in Nursery Row Park, which had been grown by the community and paid for by the council through £10,000 of Cleaner, Greener Safer Funding.
 - c. The council has failed to engage properly with community groups and 'friends of...' organisations, who actively take care of our parks, in their efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour.
 - d. The only real solution to tackling disruptive anti-social behaviour in parks is a consistent visible presence from community wardens and police safer neighbourhood teams using the full extent of the powers available to them.

3. Council assembly resolves to:
 - a. Hold regular meetings with community groups and 'friends of...' groups regarding the tackling of anti-social behaviour in parks.
 - b. Guarantee to never making any changes to parks, such as the removal of vegetation, benches or leisure equipment, without meaningful consultation with relevant local community groups and 'friends of...' groups.
 - c. Hire additional Park Liaison Officers to facilitate a visible presence in parks across Southwark in order to deter anti-social behaviour.
 - d. Direct Park Liaison Officers to use all available powers to disperse groups engaging in anti-social behaviour in parks in order to minimise disruption to local communities.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

2. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LAURA JOHNSON (Seconded by Councillor Bethan Roberts)

Homelessness & Rough Sleeping

1. Council Assembly notes:
 - a. 13 years of government cuts by Conservative and Liberal Democrat governments have left local services for single homeless people with a huge funding gap.
 - b. Between 1997 and 2010, the last Labour Government cut rough sleeping in England by three quarters, to the lowest level on record. Since the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties came to power in 2010 the number of people sleeping rough in England has more than doubled.
 - c. That rough sleeping in London is on the increase, up 12% on the same time last year.
 - d. That according to the latest figures, homelessness is up by 10%, with nearly 105,000 households in temporary accommodation, in England, last March, the highest number ever recorded.
 - e. The Local Housing Allowance (LHA) covers only 2.3% of properties advertised to rent in London. This is making it harder and harder to secure temporary accommodation in the capital.
 - f. That collectively London Councils are spending £52m every month on temporary accommodation.

- g. That these figures are rapidly worsening as a result of Home Office policies relating to the asylum process, and in particular the decision to give successful applicants just 7 days' notice to quit their accommodation following a positive decision.
- h. That Southwark is seeing a dramatic increase in homelessness applications resulting from Home Office cases, with a tenfold increase observed in the last two months.

2. Council Assembly recognises:

- a. That Southwark Council has a goal to support everyone who is on the street to access a home of their own.
- b. That Southwark is also committed to being a 'Borough of Sanctuary' giving a warm welcome to refugees and assisting with resettlement.
- c. That in 2010, homelessness figures were less than half what they are today, and rough sleeping virtually eliminated, thanks to the focused efforts of the last Labour government
- d. That the Council is continuing to invest in homelessness prevention with family mediation, and has set up 'surgeries' to support refugees with their housing options
- e. That the work of public and voluntary sector partners is vital, including Robes, BEAM, the Manna Centre, Southwark Law Centre, and St Mungo's, in our ambition to end homelessness and rough sleeping
- f. That partnership, innovation and advocacy will all be essential this year as we approach the winter months
- g. Southwark has the largest council house-building programme in the country.
- h. We must build affordable homes in order to end homelessness. That is why since 2014 we have built or started building over 3,000 new council homes. It is also the reason the council works with external partners to ensure that social rent homes are delivered as part of every major schemes. This has led, directly, to a net increase of at least 3,600 approved social rent homes in Southwark since 2014 – 2015.

3. Council Assembly resolves:

- a. To write to both the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, and the Home Secretary, requesting urgent action to

deal with the crisis in rough sleeping and temporary accommodation including:

- i. An immediate increase in the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) so that it covers the bottom 30% of rents in the local area
 - ii. Additional financial support through an increase to the Homelessness Prevention Grant, recognising the additional costs that are falling on local authorities
 - iii. An increase in funding for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) to support residents struggling with rents in a cost of living crisis
 - iv. An urgent review of Home Office policies to prevent refugees, including those who have arrived from Afghanistan and Sudan, becoming homeless.
 - v. A Cross-Departmental Strategy to end homelessness and rough sleeping.
 - vi. A long-term commitment to dramatically increase the number of social rent homes being built across the country, with an increase in dedicated grant to support this.
- b. To request publication of a 'winter plan' bringing together borough-wide efforts to prevent rough sleeping over the coming months
 - c. To develop a new Homelessness Strategy for adoption in 2024 which takes account of the rapidly deteriorating context
 - d. Ask the council to explore every lever available to build and deliver social rent homes in Southwark.
 - e. Continue the work to guarantee support to everyone who is on the street in Southwark to access a home of their own and campaign for the government action needed to end rough sleeping for good
 - f. Calls on the next Government with a plan to end homelessness, get Britain building again and deliver the biggest boost to affordable housing for a generation.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

3. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL (Seconded by Councillor Emily Tester)

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

1. Council assembly notes
 - a. Sexual violence, sexual harassment, and domestic abuse remain endemic in modern society, highlighted most recently by the

appalling murders of Sabina Nessa, Sarah Everard, sisters Bibba Henry and Nicole Smallman, and Elianne Andam.

- b. The distressing statistics that show at least 1 in 4 women have been raped or sexually assaulted as an adult, and that the conviction rate of reported rapes is below 1%.
- c. The Casey review that included a sobering quote from an officer that states that 'you might as well say it's legal in London' in relation to low detection rates of rape and serious sexual assault.
- d. The lived experience of survivors of rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence, unknowable to those who have not gone through it.
- e. The recent consultation conducted by the council last year, and the valuable contributions made by councillors, residents, and organisations.
- f. The existing council strategy, which has a time frame of 2019-2024.
- g. The recommendations made by the Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission on this subject, and the Cabinet's subsequent response earlier this year.
- h. The launch of the 'Through Her Eyes' campaign earlier this year.
- i. The cross party, cross-borough initiatives such as the Lambeth and Southwark 'safe havens' network, where 39 premises will function as places of safety and support, with staff receiving specialised training.
- j. The intersectional nature of misogynistic hate crime and violence, including the impact of race, sexuality, and gender identity.

2. Council assembly believes

- a. That male violence against women and girls is part of a broader culture of misogyny in society.
- b. More focus should be placed on changing men's behaviour than on women taking action to make themselves safer.
- c. That despite positive work by the council and local charities, more can always be done, and the opportunity to reaffirm a commitment to end violence against women and girls should not be passed.

3. Council assembly resolves

- a. To encourage all male councillors to take the White Ribbon pledge: to never use, excuse, or remain silent about men's violence against

women.

- b. To ask officers to produce a report for the Licensing Committee to explore safeguarding processes and initiatives such as 'Ask for Angela' in premises, and how they can be made a mandatory aspect of the licensing process.
- c. To call out all forms of sexual objectification and all its negative outcomes, and encourage others to do the same.
- d. To champion the wellbeing of everyone, particularly of women and girls, and encouraging the education of everyone, particularly of men and boys.
- e. To call for a review of street lighting to see where gaps and dark spots may exist across Southwark and for the improvements recommended in the review to be built into the council's capital programme. Good street lighting will not just help people feel safer, but also make a valuable contribution towards improving their safety.
- f. To have a zero-tolerance approach to misogyny and backs calls for crimes shown to be motivated by misogyny to be regarded as hate crimes and ensure this is meaningful in the workplace and in interactions with residents.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

4. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RACHEL BENTLEY (Seconded by Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall)

Towards a greater provision of Public Toilets

1. Council assembly notes
 - a. That a lack of clean, accessible public toilets traps people at home and prevents them from getting out and about.
 - b. A 2019 report from the Royal Society of Public Health, which found that one in five experience the 'loo leash' – leaving the house much less often than they would like due to a lack of public or available toilets.
 - c. The findings of a 2022 report from Age UK London, revealing that over half [52%] of respondents reduce the amount they drink before going to some places, and for older residents and many with impairments this can lead to dehydration and serious health consequences.

- d. That toilet strategies provide an important framework for local authorities to coordinate the actions needed to improve public toilet provision locally.
 - e. That public toilet provision can feature in the plans of many different council departments and strategies can offer a more joined-up approach for auditing and evaluating current provision, listening to residents, and making decisions based on population needs.
 - f. The physical and mental health imperative in adequate provision of public toilets for older residents, women, parents with young children, people with certain health conditions, and others.
 - g. The ongoing work of the Southwark Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission, who are looking into these matters and working on recommendations to formally present to Cabinet next year as part of its normal process.
 - h. That despite passing a council motion last year on providing sanitary products and bins in all toilets, there are still council owned public toilets, including in the council's own building, that currently do not.
 - i. Specific requirements that people with certain disabilities and conditions have, such as high hygiene standards for those undergoing cancer treatment.
 - j. The benefits of Changing Places toilets, of which there are already some in the Borough.
 - k. That Community Toilet Schemes are valuable additions to the availability of toilets, but should not be a replacement for general supply of toilets in public spaces.
 - l. That whilst public toilets can be sites for antisocial behavior, it would be regressive and pessimistic to not supply toilets on that basis, and other options must be explored first.
2. This council resolves
- a. To devise a Public Toilet Strategy, with a named designated officer responsible for its delivery, in order to improve provision of clean, accessible public toilets across the borough.
 - b. To conduct meaningful, inclusive, and ongoing community engagement with a diverse group of residents, as part of this Strategy.
 - c. To consider a needs assessment based on mapping existing toilets available for public use, identifying gaps by working with communities and other partners to identify solutions.

- d. To display a map of businesses already signed up to the Community Toilet Scheme on the council Website, as well as the existing public toilets map.
- e. To better signpost the locations of existing public toilets across the borough.
- f. To re-start the programme of actively canvassing local businesses to sign up to the Community Toilet Scheme, including the high visibility stickers that our neighbours in Lambeth provide.
- g. To supply sanitary products and bins in all its public toilets, including in male and non-gender specific toilets.
- h. To write to local organisations who supply public toilets, such as train station operators and current Community Toilet Scheme participants, to urge them to provide the same facilities as in (g).

Sources:

- 'London Loos' - Age UK London (2022)
- London Loos in-focus: Local authorities and toilet strategies – Age UK London (2022)
- 'Taking the P***' - Royal Society for Public Health (2019)

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

5. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN (Seconded by Councillor Irina von Wiese)

Southwark Stands with the Trans Community

1. Council assembly notes:
 - a. Southwark is the proud of home of a large, diverse and thriving LGBTQ+ community.
 - b. Results of the 2021 Census show Southwark to have the fourth largest population of LGB+ people and the fifth largest community of people identifying as trans or non-binary in England.
 - c. This year, Southwark held its first 'Pride in Southwark' event to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community. At this event, the leader of the council and leader of the opposition came together to commit to making Southwark a safer, more equal place for everyone in the LGBTQ+ community.
2. Council assembly notes with concern:

- a. Hate crimes against trans people have increased by 186% in the past five years.
- b. In London, we have seen an increase LGBTQ+ hate crimes, including two violent attacks recently in neighbouring Lambeth.
- c. The Home Office has stated that increased discussion of “transgender issues” could be behind the rise in anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes.
- d. The consistent attacks on the trans community by prominent members of the Conservative Government, Labour and Conservative MPs, and the media have created a regressive culture of fear for the trans community.
- e. The Labour Party’s decision to U-turn on their 2019 manifesto commitment to introduce self-ID is deeply distressing and worrying for people in the LGTBQ+ community and disappointing from a party that claims to stand for equality.

3. Council assembly resolves to:

- a. Call on national government to consider the de-medicalisation of the self-identification process for trans people.
- b. Produce and implement an LGBTQ+ Strategy in Southwark to address inequalities experienced by LGBTQ+ residents in the borough.
- c. Ensure all staff and individuals dealing with the council are offered the opportunity to be addressed using pronouns with which they are comfortable.
- d. Ensure comprehensive provision of publically accessible gender neutral toilets throughout the borough.
- e. Commit to continuing to give access to facilities such as changing rooms, homeless and domestic violence shelters to trans people based on their identified gender, subject to the same rules that govern any other service user.
- f. Assert, unequivocally, that trans men are men, trans women are women and non-binary genders are valid.

Note: If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Motions	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team Constitutional.Team@southwark.gov.uk

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	10 November 2023

Item No: 6.1	Classification: Open	Date: 22 November 2023	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Treasury Management – Mid-year Update 2023-24	
Wards or Groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Finance	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly note the 2023-24 mid-year treasury management update report and in particular:
 - the update on the economic background and implications for the Treasury Management Strategy in 2023-24 (paragraphs 10-22).
 - that all treasury management activity was undertaken in compliance with the approved treasury management strategy and within the council’s prudential indicators, attached as Appendix A.
 - that the balance outstanding on all external debt as at 30 September 2023 was £965m (£888m at 30 September 2022, paragraph 23).
 - that the balance of investments at 30 September 2023 stood at £148m (£198m at 30 September 2022, paragraph 30).
2. That council assembly approve the intention to add Green Bonds (Community Municipal Investments) as a source of debt financing in relation to climate-related activities (paragraph 21)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. In compliance with the Local Government Act 2003, the council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code of Practice (the Code). The Code requires local authorities to determine an annual treasury management strategy and, as a minimum, formally report on their treasury activities and arrangements to Council Assembly mid-year and after the year-end.
4. The Code provides the following objective with regard to treasury management:

“It is important that treasury management policies adequately reflect risk and in particular security, liquidity and yield, in that order of importance. No treasury management transaction is without risk and management of risks is the key purpose of the treasury management strategy.”

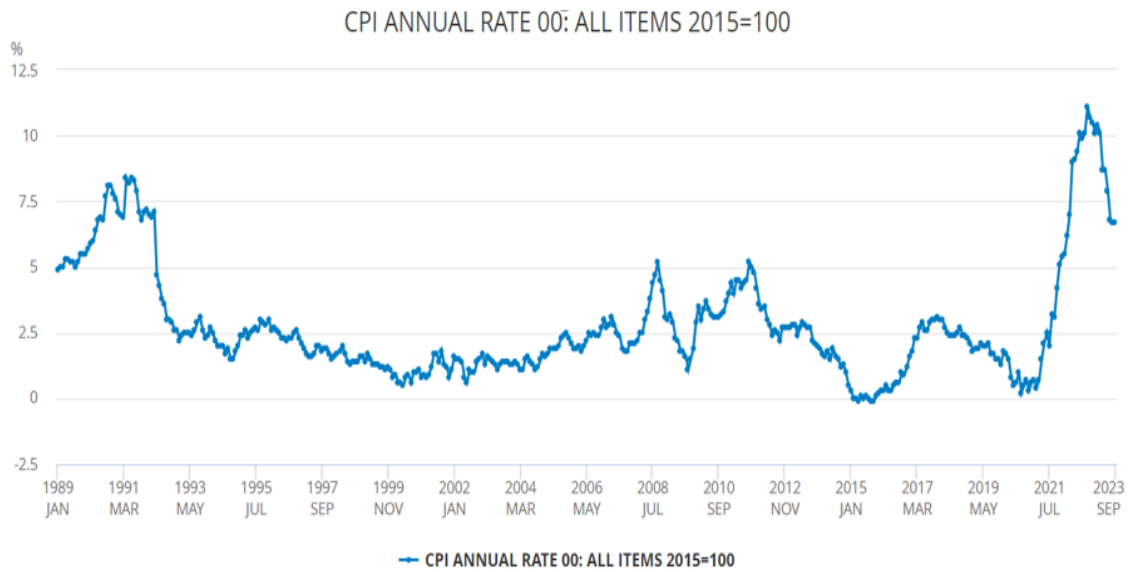
5. The council is exposed to financial risks from its investments, existing external debt, as well as future borrowing requirements arising from the council's capital programme. The risks include potential losses from investments and increased borrowing costs from changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remain central to the Authority's treasury management strategy.
6. The 2023-24 treasury management strategy was approved by Council Assembly in February 2023. Under financial delegation, all executive, managerial and operational decisions are the responsibility of the Strategic Director of Finance.
7. This mid-year Treasury Management Report covers the treasury management activity and compliance with the treasury management strategy for the period from April to September 2023.
8. CIPFA published its revised Treasury Management Code of Practice and Prudential Code for Capital Finance in December 2021. The key changes in the two codes are around permitted reasons to borrow, knowledge and skills, including the management of non-treasury investments.
9. The council's treasury management function is conducted within the framework of the Treasury Management Code. The code now also excludes extensive additional requirements for service and commercial investments.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Economic Background: April 2023 to September 2023

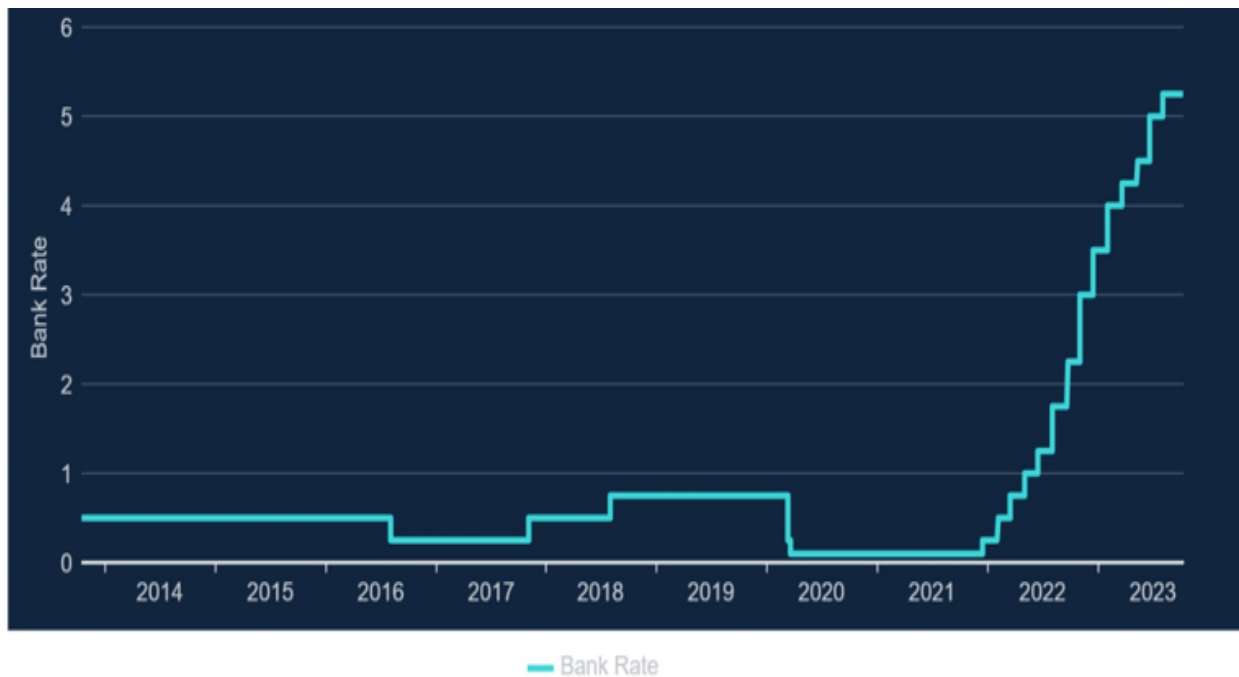
10. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee continued tightening monetary policy over most of the period and have reiterated their commitment to tightening policy further, if deemed necessary.
11. UK inflation has remained high. Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 6.7% in the 12 months to September 2023, the same rate as in August (the lowest rate since February 2022). On a monthly basis, CPI rose by 0.5% in September 2023, the same rate as in September 2022. The central bank has stated that CPI inflation is expected to decline significantly in the near term.
12. The economy grew marginally by 0.2% in August following the sharp fall in July. Analysts stated that higher borrowing costs and the higher cost of living was weighing on consumers and businesses.

CPI Inflation 1989 – 2023

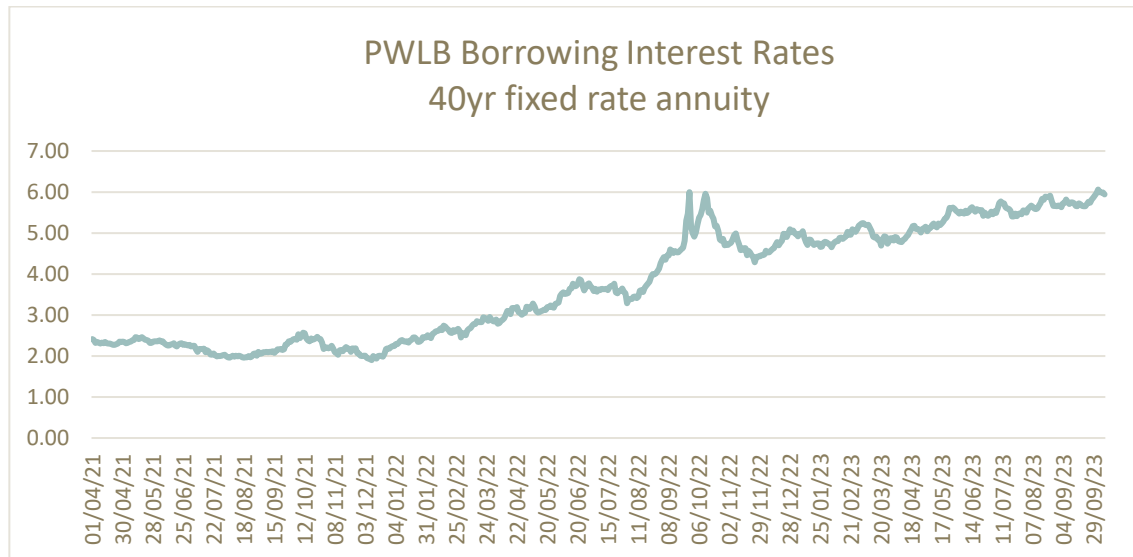


13. The Bank of England base rate rose from 0.75% in April 2022 to 5.25% in September 2023. Rates were held at 5.25%, ending a run of 14 consecutive rises after inflation started to slow down.
14. The UK economy returning to growth in August has fuelled expectations that interest rates will be left unchanged again in October. Market expectation is that interest rate will peak at this level.

Bank of England Base Rate 2013 – 2023



15. The increases in both the BOE base rate and UK Gilts are driving up the cost of external borrowing significantly. Whilst the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) remains the cheapest option; the cost of new borrowing (and refinancing maturing debt) has increased from 1.9% in December 2021 to 5.86% as at 29 September 2023 – an increase of over 308% in the space of 21 months. Rates briefly touched 6% during the peak of the political crisis in October 2022.



Implications for ongoing Treasury Management Strategy

16. The council has an ambitious capital programme, to support both the wide range of services it offers and to build new council homes. In the past, revenue balances have been utilised to forestall the need to borrow externally. This approach is commonly known as internal borrowing. Internal borrowing is cheaper than external borrowing and remains the preferred source of financing in the short term whilst sufficient funds are available.
17. However, in September 2017, officers reported to cabinet that from 2017-18 onwards there would be an increasing need to borrow externally. Since then, external borrowing has gradually increased - both as a proportion of capital funding and in absolute terms. This has been necessary because of the scale of the capital programme.
18. Southwark has one of the highest outstanding PWLB debt of all English councils. This is largely a consequence of the size of Southwark's council housing estate and its position as the 4th largest social landlord in the country. This ranking is likely to rise based on the additional borrowing that will be required in coming years to fund the capital programme.
19. The most significant part of the capital programme remains the new homes. To date, approximately £285m of external borrowing has funded the New Homes Programme and a further £706m has been previously earmarked as the sum that could be borrowed within the prudential code and

affordability limits. This amounts to £991m in total for new homes. This provision is being constantly reviewed, especially in the context of interest rate rises, rent caps and inflation.

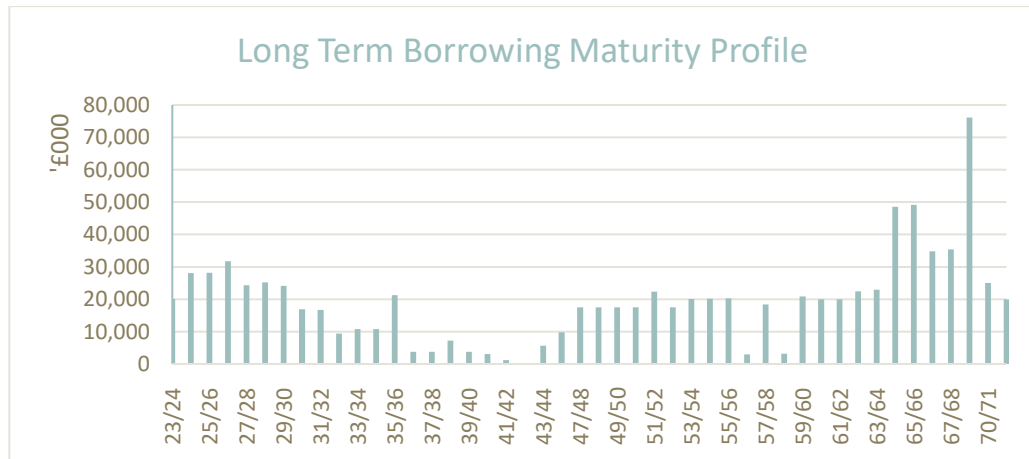
20. The need to borrow externally has a revenue impact. This is accounted for annually in the council's budget setting process, both for the Housing Revenue Account and the General Fund.
21. The council could borrow from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB), financial institutions and banks or directly from other local authorities. In the context of its efforts to address climate change, the council's strategy may include raising capital via the issuance of Green Bonds (Community Municipal Investments) or other similar peer-to-peer (P2P) loan agreements. Alternative sources of borrowing to the PWLB will be considered to ensure the lowest available rates are achieved and value for money is achieved for taxpayers. Officers will continue to seek to ensure that the entire cost of borrowing is taken into account and that best value for money is achieved for taxpayers.
22. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) report to October Cabinet, discussed the short and long term pressures in the Housing Investment Programme and the need to ensure financial sustainability. Officers will also be reviewing and revising the Treasury Management Strategy with reference to this and to the rapidly changing economic environment.

Borrowing Update

23. As at 30 September 2023, the balance outstanding on all of the council's external loans portfolio was £965m. The proportion of long-term loans outstanding stood at £915m, compared to £888m as at 30 September 2022. The majority of long-term loans outstanding was borrowed from the PWLB at fixed rates of interest.
24. In the first half of 2023-24, £5.95m of long-term borrowing was repaid and no new PWLB loans were taken out.
25. Short-term borrowing outstanding as at 30 September 2023 was £50m, with a weighted average rate of 4.36% compared to £20m in September 2022 with a weighted average rate of 0.67%. All short-term borrowing was via other local authorities which are typically at lower rates compared to other sources for short-term loans.
26. Borrowing short-term (less than one year) increases the council's exposure to interest rate and refinancing risks. To mitigate this risk, it is prudent to ensure that short-term borrowing as a proportion of the total debt portfolio is managed within prudential limits.
27. The benefits of internal/short-term borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecasted to rise

modestly. This will help inform decisions on whether the council borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional costs in the short-term.

28. The weighted average rate of interest for the council's debt portfolio was 3.78% at 30 September 2023, 3.75% at 31 March 2023.
29. The maturity profile of outstanding long term borrowing as at 30 September 2023 is shown in the chart below:



Investment Management

30. The council holds significant cash balances, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves. These are invested on a daily basis to maximise the council's return on available balances. The cash balance at 30 September 2023 was £148m (compared to £198m as at 30 September 2022). The change year on year is mainly attributable to increased expenditure thereby reducing the available cash balances at 30 September 2023. However, over the reporting period, the council's cash balances ranged between £55m and £180m due to timing differences between income and expenditure.
31. The annualised rate of return for council treasury investments for the first half of 2023-24 financial year was 4.16% an improvement on the prior year performance of -0.67%, reflecting the increasing rate of return available in the market.
32. The initial external investment portfolio totalled £100m. In July 2023 the decision was made to disinvest principal amounts on maturity, in order to reduce the council's borrowing requirement. As at 30 September 2023, the total market value of the portfolio stood at £74m.
33. To assess the external fund managers' performance, the council measures the return against a composite investment benchmark of SONIA (Sterling Over Night Indexed Average) and the one to three year gilt index. For the equivalent period of the financial year, the benchmark index annualised

return was 3.39% and the fund managers performed better with an annualised return of 3.79%.

34. The distribution of external investments by maturity and credit rating as at 30 September 2023 is set out in the table below:

Investment Maturity Profile and Credit Ratings

Investment Maturity	A		AA		AAA		Total	
	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%	£m	%
Up to 1 Year	46.6	63.0	1.3	1.8	6.4	8.6	54.3	73.4
1-2 Years	3.1	4.2	1.0	1.4	7.6	10.2	11.7	15.8
2-5 Years	0.5	0.7	2.1	2.9	5.4	7.3	8.1	10.9
Total	50.3	67.9	4.4	6.0	19.4	26.1	74.1	100.0

AAA represents the highest credit quality, AA represents very high credit quality and A represents high credit quality.

35. The investment activity during the period conformed to the approved strategy and cash flow was successfully managed to maintain liquidity.

Prudential Indicators – Actuals and Estimates

36. Local authority borrowing, investment and capital finance activity is supported by the Prudential Code for Capital Finance, the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and related guidance published by CIPFA. The codes require councils to set a series of indicators and limits each year. The 2022-23 indicators were agreed in February 2022, before the start of the financial year. Appendix A shows the outturn of the Authority against the 2022-23 prudential indicators and estimates for 2023-24.
37. The council has complied with its prudential indicators throughout the first half of 2023-24.

Community, Equalities (including socio-economic) and Health Impacts

38. This report monitors the council's compliance with the treasury management strategy and Council's prudential indicators as agreed in February 2023. This report has been judged to have no direct impact on local people and communities who are protected under the Equality Act.

Climate change implications

39. The report seeks approval for the use of Green Bonds which adds support to the council's climate change strategy.

Resource implications

40. There are no direct resource implications in this report.

Consultation

41. There has been no consultation on this report.

SUPPLEMENTAL ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Assurance) [AJW 1.11.2023]

42. The council's constitution determines that agreeing the treasury management strategy is a function of the council assembly and that the review and scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies is the responsibility of the audit, governance and standards committee.
43. Financial standing orders require the strategic director of finance to set out the treasury management strategy for consideration and decision by council assembly, also to report on activity on a regular basis to cabinet and at mid and year-end to council assembly. Furthermore all executive and operational decisions are delegated to the strategic director of finance.
44. The Local Government Act 2003 ("the 2003 Act") section 3 and the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 require local authorities to determine affordable borrowing limits and have regard to the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, also the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Guidance, published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, when considering borrowing and investment strategies, determining or changing borrowing limits or prudential indicators.
45. Section 15(1) of the 2003 Act requires a local authority "to have regard (a) to such guidance as the Secretary of State may issue". This guidance includes the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Guidance on Local Authority Investments updated February 2018 and on the flexible use of capital receipts which was updated in August 2022
46. Section 12 of the 2003 Act grants local authorities the powers to invest for any purpose relevant to its functions or for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs.
47. Council Assembly has to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between people with protected characteristics and others in accordance with section 149 Equality Act 2010. Members are referred to the "Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts" section above.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held at	Contact
Item 2.3 capital strategy and treasury management strategy, Council Assembly 22 February 2023	Southwark council 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Timothy Jones

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Prudential Indicators: 2022-23 Actuals & 2023-24 Estimates

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Clive Palfreyman - Strategic Director of Finance	
Report Author	Timothy Jones – Departmental Finance Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	6 November 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comment included
Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Assurance)	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance	No	N/A
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	6 November 2023	

APPENDIX A

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS: 2022-23 ACTUALS AND 2023-24 ESTIMATES

BACKGROUND

1. Capital finance, borrowing and investment arrangements are supported by a series of prudential indicators, drawn from the Prudential Code on Capital Finance for Local Authorities and the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice plus Guidance, published by CIPFA. The Local Government Act 2003 requires that councils have regard to these codes. The 2023-24 indicators were approved by Council Assembly in February 2023, and the 2022-23 outturn position was reported in July 2023. This appendix updates 2023-2024 indicators.
2. The indicators are grouped into three broad areas: affordability and prudence, capital finance and treasury management. The indicators are of a technical nature and existing budgets take account of capital finance and treasury activities.

AFFORDABILITY AND PRUDENCE INDICATORS

2022-23 Outturn	2023-24 Estimate	
		Ratio of Financing Cost to Net Revenue Stream A measure of the cost of borrowing and long term liabilities net of interest income and set-asides, as a percentage of
4%	7%	General Fund
7%	12%	HRA

£m	£m	Capital Financing Requirements (CFR) and Gross Debt The CFR is the balance remaining on past capital expenditure financed through debt and long term liabilities. The level of gross debt should not exceed the CFR unless prudent over the short term. Actual gross debt has
1,492	1,832	CFR
1,067	1,320	Maximum Gross Debt in the Year

CAPITAL FINANCE INDICATORS

2022-23 Outturn	2023-24 Estimate	
£m	£m	Capital Expenditure
88	147	General Fund
318	427	HRA
406	574	Total

2022-23 Outturn	2023-24 Estimate	
£m	£m	Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) The CFR is the balance on past capital expenditure financed through borrowing and long term liabilities.
704	877	General Fund
788	955	HRA
1,492	1,832	Total

TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit for External Debt:

These are limits the council determines to accommodate borrowing and long term liabilities. The lower limit is the operational boundary and takes account of existing positions and ordinary activity. The higher limit is the authorised limit, enabling additional borrowing to be taken for very short periods, in the interest of prudence, within a risk controlled framework.

2022-23 Outturn	2023-24 Limit	2023-24 Estimate	Operational Boundary
£m	£m	£m	
991	1,519	1,249	Borrowing (maximum outstanding in year)
76	71	71	Other Long Term Liabilities
1,067	1,590	1,320	Total

£m	£m	£m	Authorised Limit
1,824	1,910	1,910	Borrowing (maximum outstanding in year)
120	120	120	Other Long Term Liabilities
1,944	2,030	2,030	Total

2022-23 Outturn	2023-24 Limit	2023-24 Estimate	
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			Maturity Structure of Borrowing
			Limits accommodating existing positions with flexibility to vary exposure within a risk controlled framework.
9%	35%	8%	Under 1 year
4%	35%	3%	1 year and within 2 years
9%	50%	9%	2 years and within 5 years
10%	75%	10%	5 years and within 10 years
69%	100%	70%	10 years and over
			Limits on Investments Greater than One Year Caps on the maximum exposure to longer investments, while recognising benefits from prudent exposure within a risk controlled framework.
6%	65%	27 %	Percentage longer than one year
9.4 months	2.5 years	11.3 months	Overall maximum average maturity

Item No. 6.2	Classification: Open	Date: 22 November 2023	Meeting: Council Assembly
Report title:		Polling district, polling place and polling station review 2023	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards	
From:		Frances Biggs, Head of Electoral Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly note the polling district, polling place and polling station review 2023 agreed by the chief executive as acting returning officer and the assistant chief executive, governance and assurance, as monitoring officer.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In accordance with the requirements of the Representation of the People Act 1983, and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, Southwark Council has a statutory duty to carry out a review of polling districts and polling places for parliamentary elections, in the period from 1 October 2023 to 31 January 2025. This also needs to include consideration of the location of polling stations (existing or proposed) within polling places (existing or proposed).
3. 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.
4. The scope of the 2023 polling district and polling station review covered the following:
 - That suitable polling station provision is made for all electors
 - Identified polling stations which were found to be not fit for purpose and identify suitable alternatives where possible

- Removed sub-polling districts in wards which were previously split by parliamentary constituency boundaries, but are no longer required.
 - Made adjustments to existing polling districts, for administrative purposes in order to improve the delivery of elections
5. A Polling District is a geographical area created by the sub-division of an electoral area i.e. a UK Parliamentary constituency, a European Parliamentary electoral region, a Ward or an electoral division.
 6. 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.
 7. 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.
 8. 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.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

9. All proposals are made to ensure that where possible there is a balance of the electorate within each polling district, that polling places are convenient and easily accessible for voters.
10. These changes will take effect with the publication of the new revised register on 1 December 2023.

Policy framework implications

11. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 required a review of polling districts and polling places to be completed by 31 January 2020 and then every five years thereafter.
12. This requirement does not prevent a local authority from conducting a review at any time. It is sometimes the case that interim reviews may need to be conducted outside of the compulsory review period.
13. Initial proposals were drawn up by Electoral Services on behalf of the (Acting) Returning Officer.

Community impact statement

14. The considerations used in developing the review, taken from the Electoral Commission's guidance, fully comply with the council's equality commitments. No formal community impact statement is therefore needed

for this report to be adopted.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

15. Equality impact and needs analysis is published in appendix B of the main report (appendix 1). In accordance with the statutory requirements disability groups were consulted on the initial proposals. The Southwark Disablement Association had a meeting with the elections team as a result of this and were satisfied with the proposals.

Consultation

16. 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.
17. An initial consultation with ward councillors took place in summer 2023. All councillors were consulted on the proposals for their ward, and their views taken forward for consideration.
18. The public consultation began on 2 October 2023 and closed on 3 November 2023.
19. 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.
20. Following this process and consideration of all comments and representations, the proposed scheme has been updated to accommodate these where possible.

REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED

21. All representations received are included in appendix A of the main report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance [AJW 7.11.2023]

22. In accordance with the requirements of section 18C 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 and polling places at parliamentary elections. This report is produced in the context of the most recent compulsory review which must be started and completed between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.

This review also has to include consideration of the polling stations (current and proposed) in the polling places.

23. The council's functions relating to a review of polling districts and places are designated by law as non-executive functions, so they cannot be discharged by the Leader or Cabinet. Part 3O (5) in the Constitution specifically delegates the council's functions of deciding polling districts and places to the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Assurance). The designation and provision of polling stations is a specific duty of the Acting Returning Officer.
24. The appendix sets out the conclusions of the review and this report recommends adoption of the conclusions of the review.
25. The 1983 Act makes provision for publication of the intended review, for consultation and for the making of representations to the council in relation to the review. The appendix includes details of representations received, together with the council's responses which should be conscientiously considered in making this decision.
26. In carrying out its functions, the council must have regard to the public sector equality duty contained in section 149 Equality Act 2010. This requires the council to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct. and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The decision makers will need to pay due regard to these matters, and will note the steps taken to consult and seek views, in particular from disability groups, and the Equality Impact and Needs Analysis included in the appendix.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations 2023 Draft Proposals Report	Electoral Services Southwark Council 160 Tooley Street SE1 2QH	electoral.services@southwark.gov.uk

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations 2023 - Final Proposals

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Frances Biggs, Head of Electoral Services	
Report Author	Richard St Pierre, Rachael Yarrow	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 November 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		7 November 2023



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.

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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.

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Timetable

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

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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.

Polling District	New Polling Station	Existing Polling Station	Reason for replacement
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.

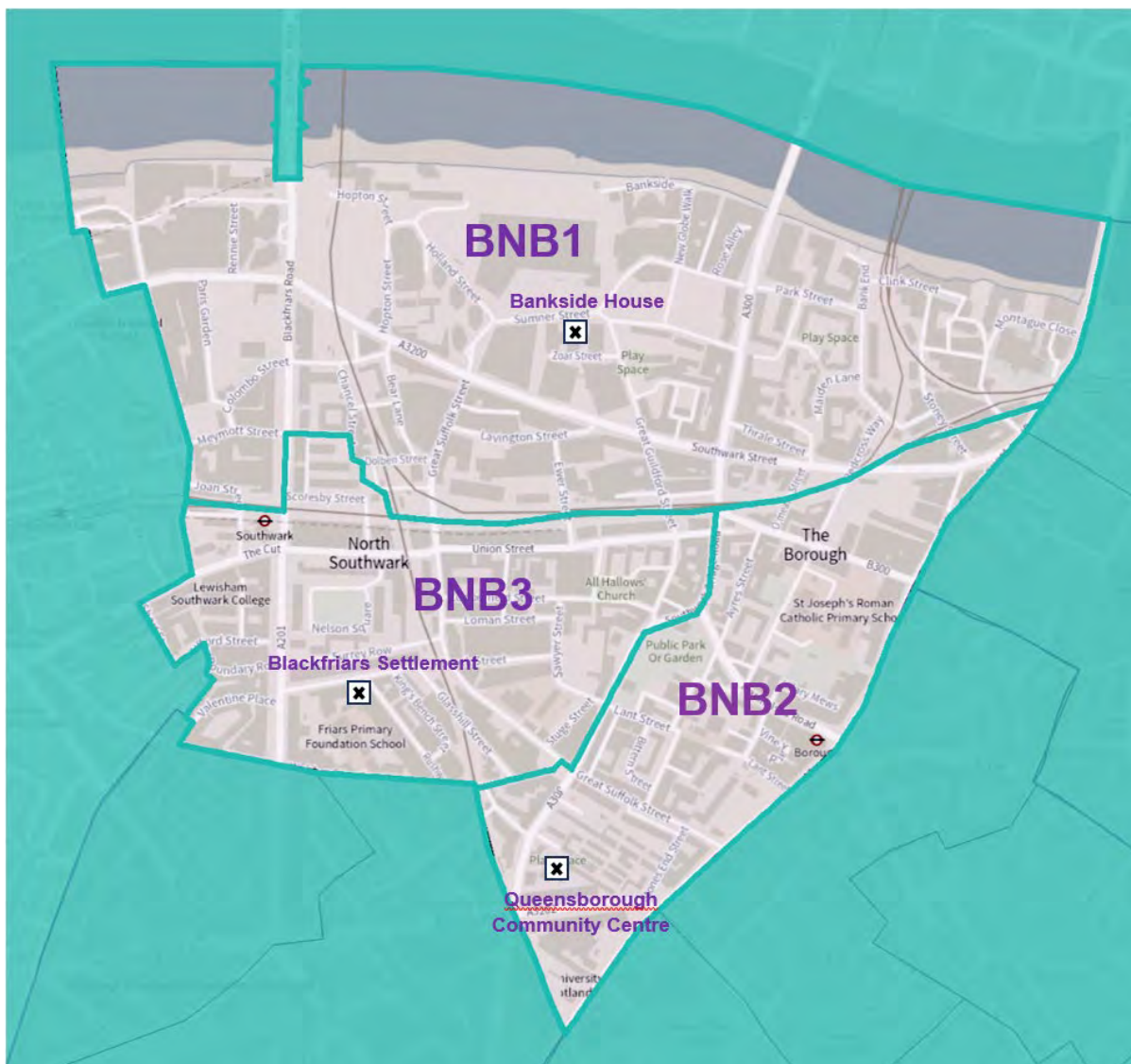
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Polling Scheme

District	Electorate	Polling Station Voters (estimate)	Postal Voters (estimate)	Venue	Notes
BNB1	2,258	1,563	695	Bankside House, 24 Sumner Street, London	
BNB2	2,151	1,620	531	Queensborough Community Centre, Scovell Road, London	
BNB3	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

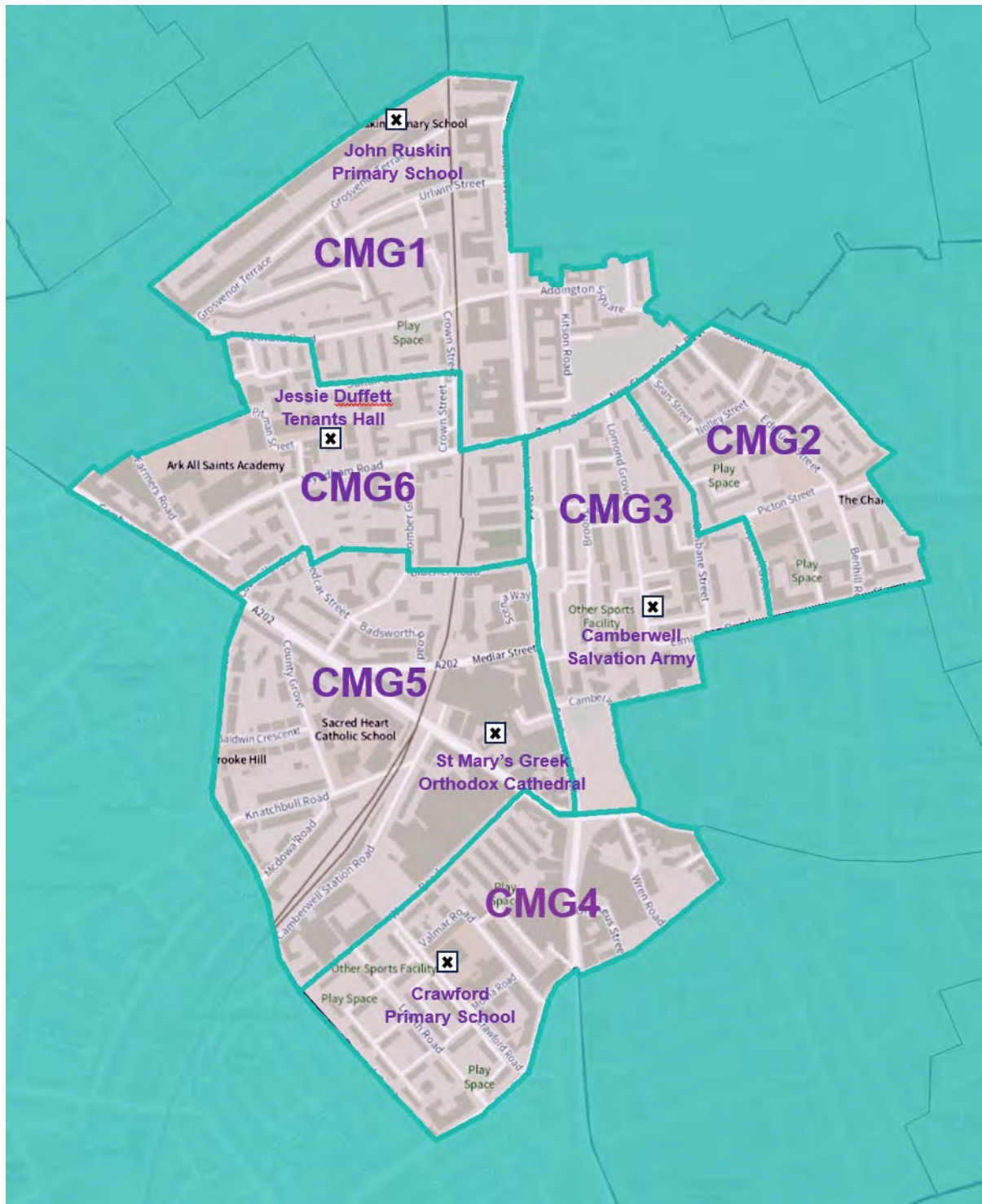
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Polling Scheme

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.

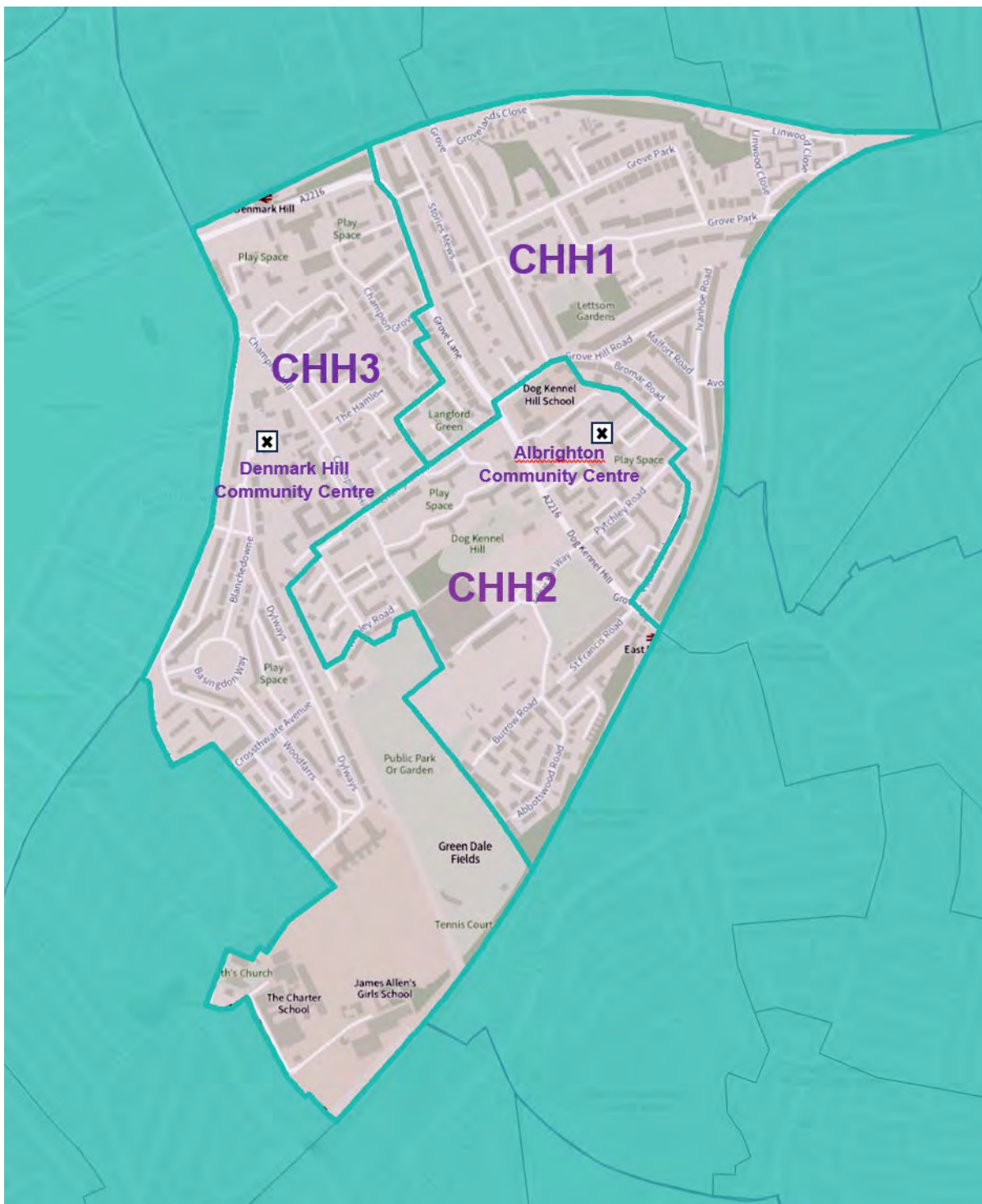
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Polling Scheme

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.

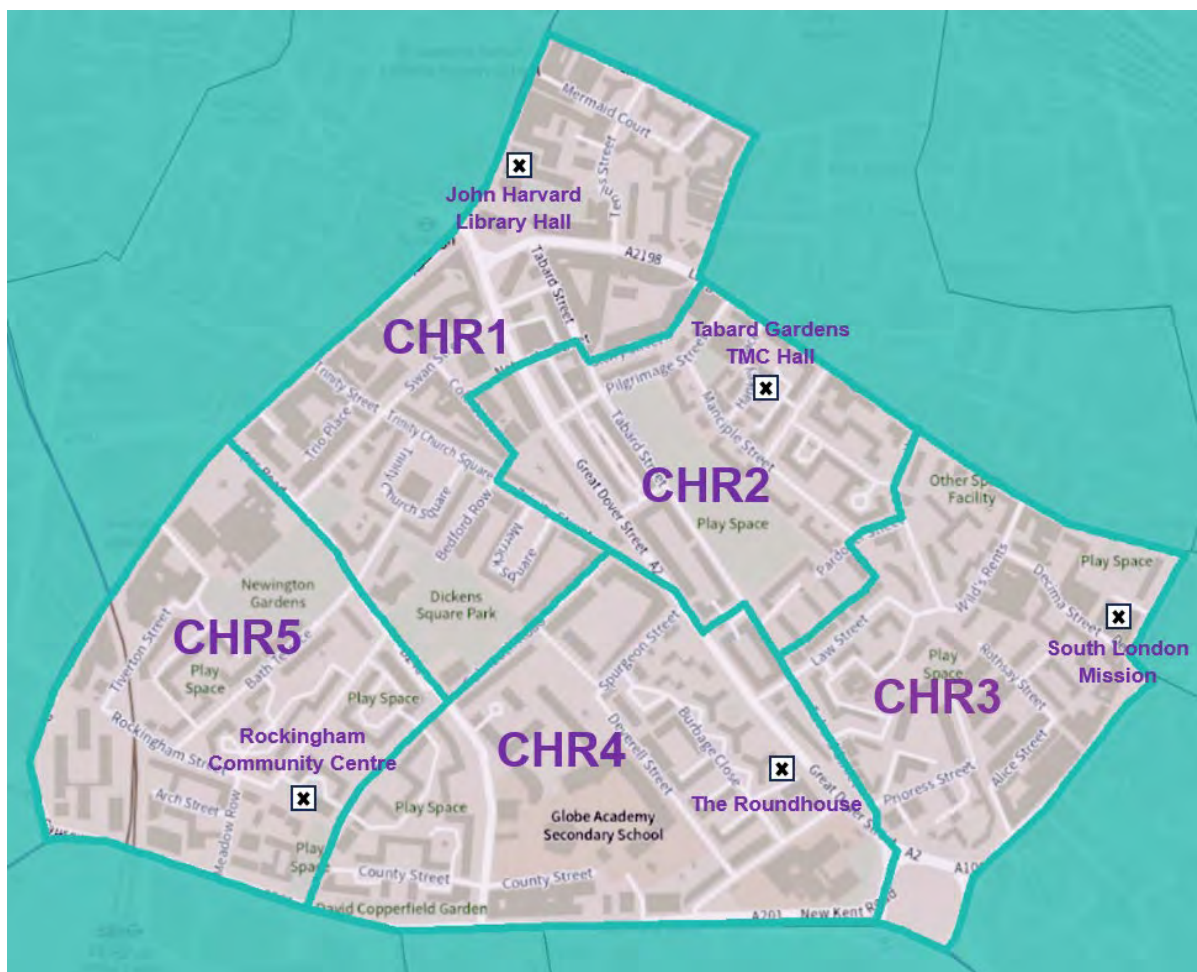
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Polling Scheme

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

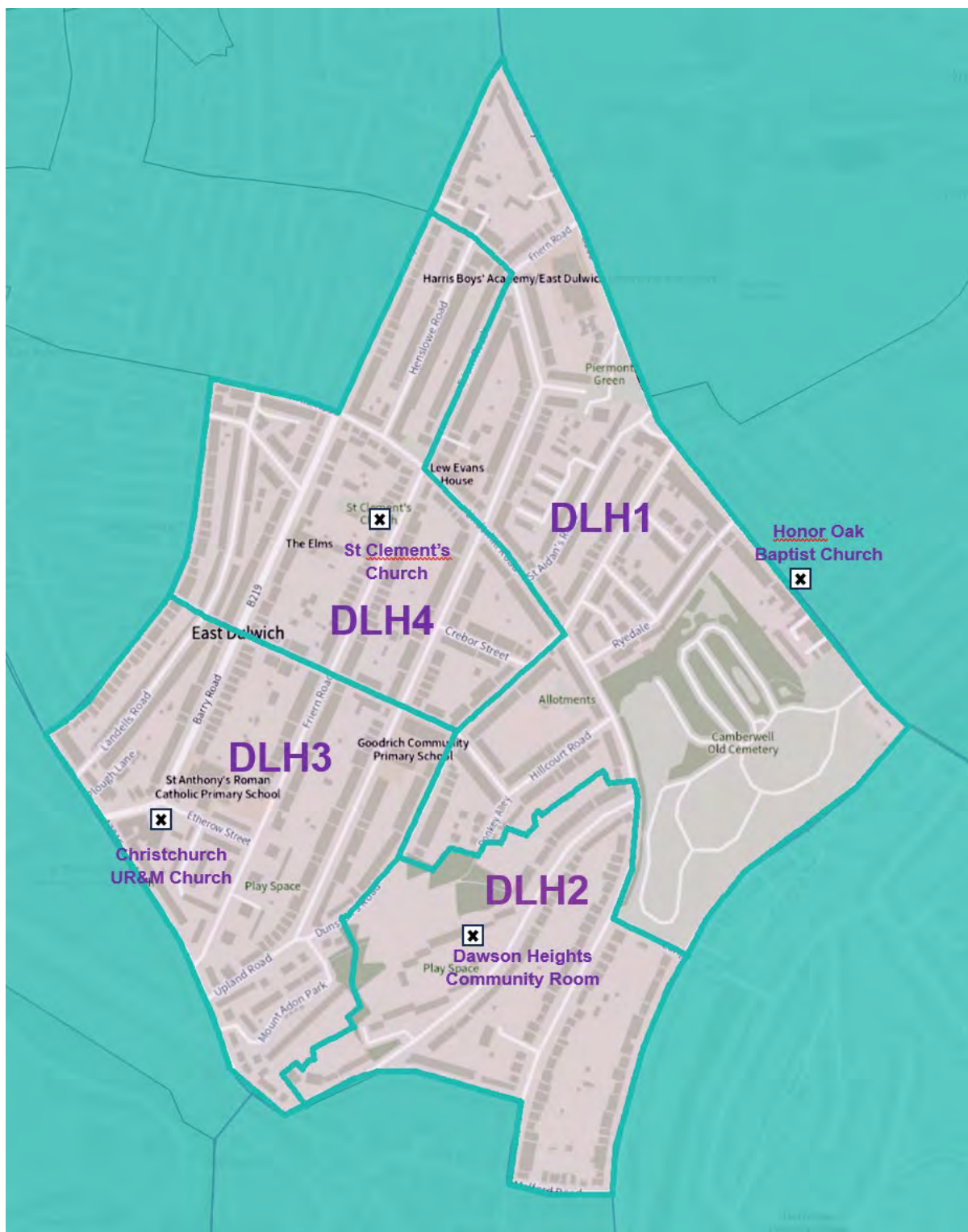
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Polling Scheme

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.

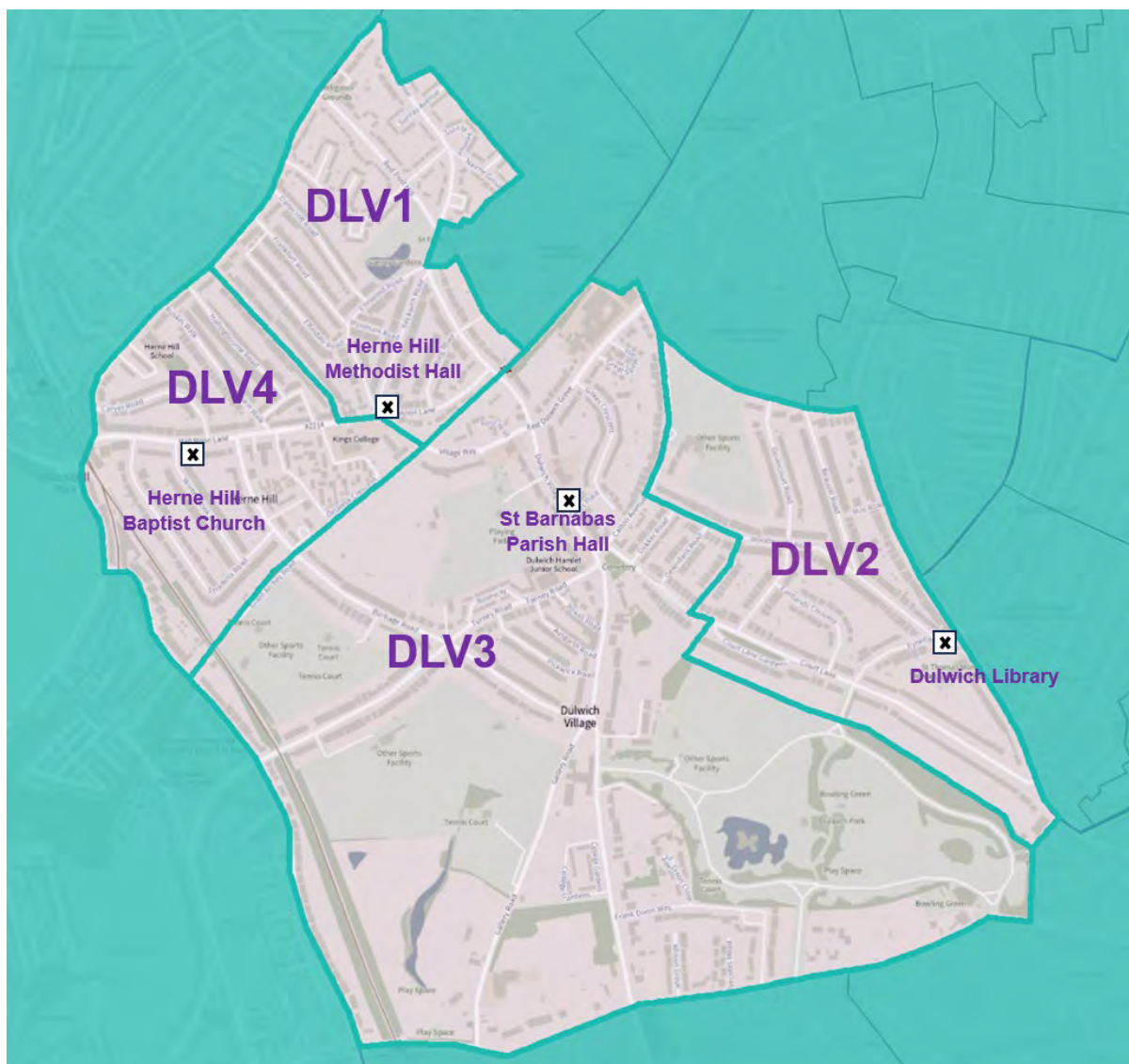
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Polling Scheme

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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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.

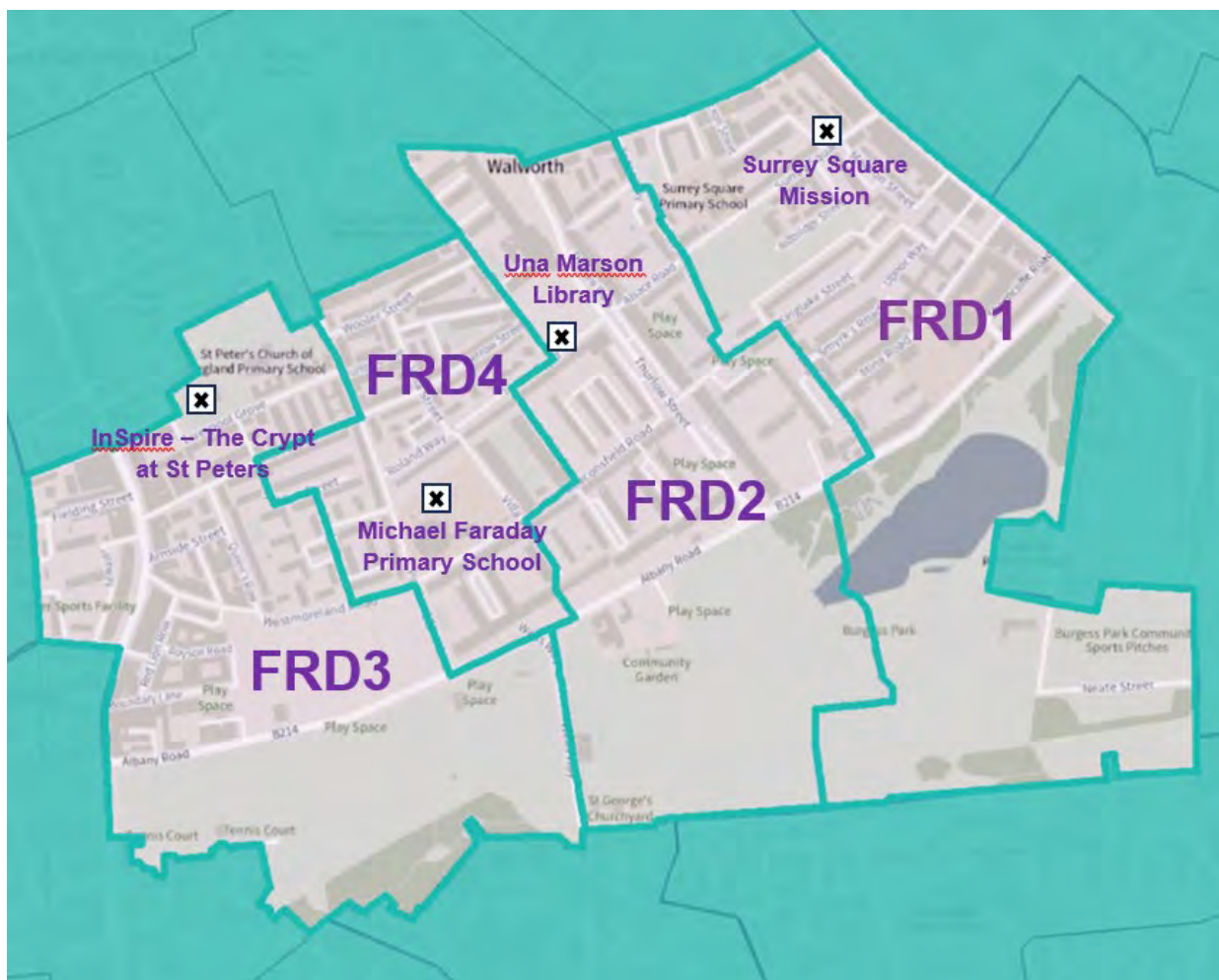
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Polling Scheme

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	

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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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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	Kagyusamy Dzong 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.

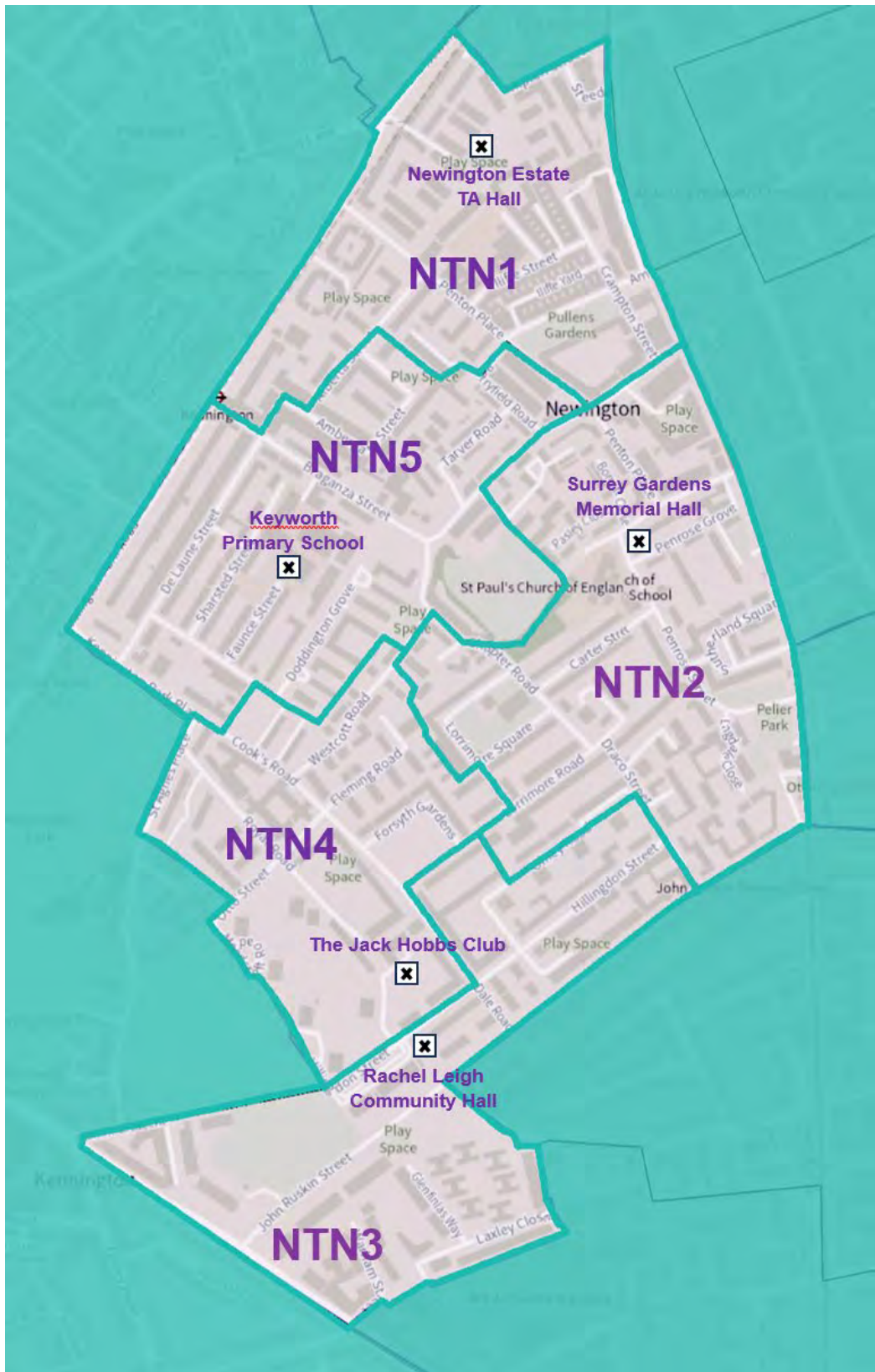
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Polling Scheme

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.

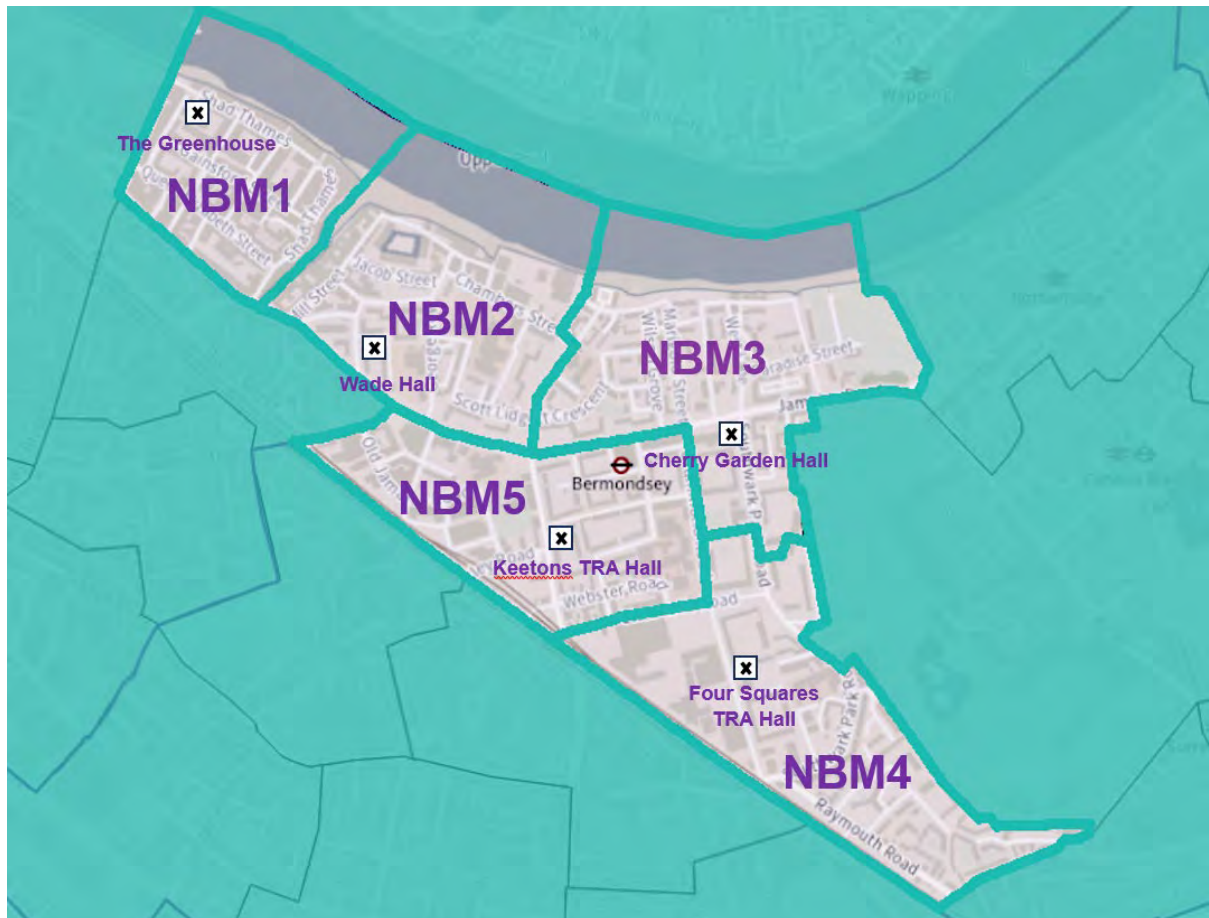
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Polling Scheme

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	

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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.

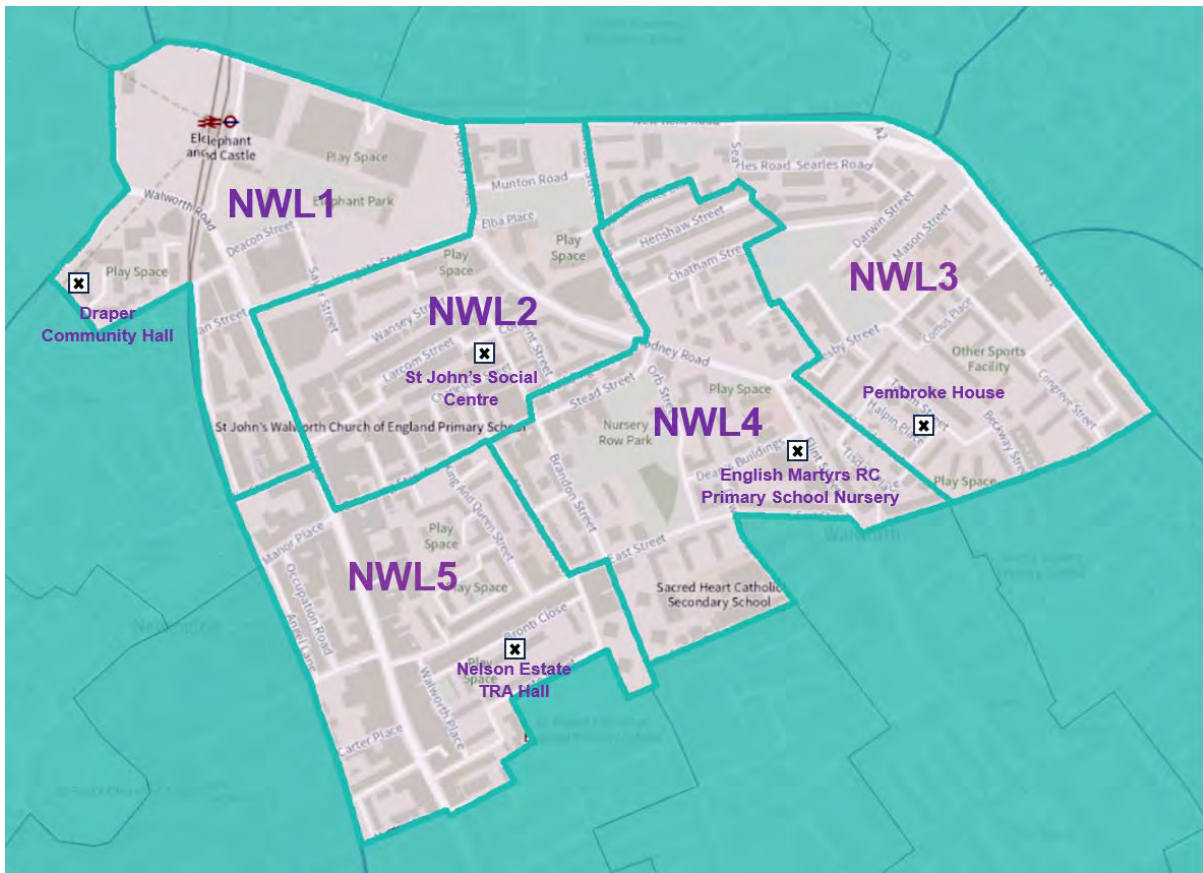
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Polling Scheme

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.

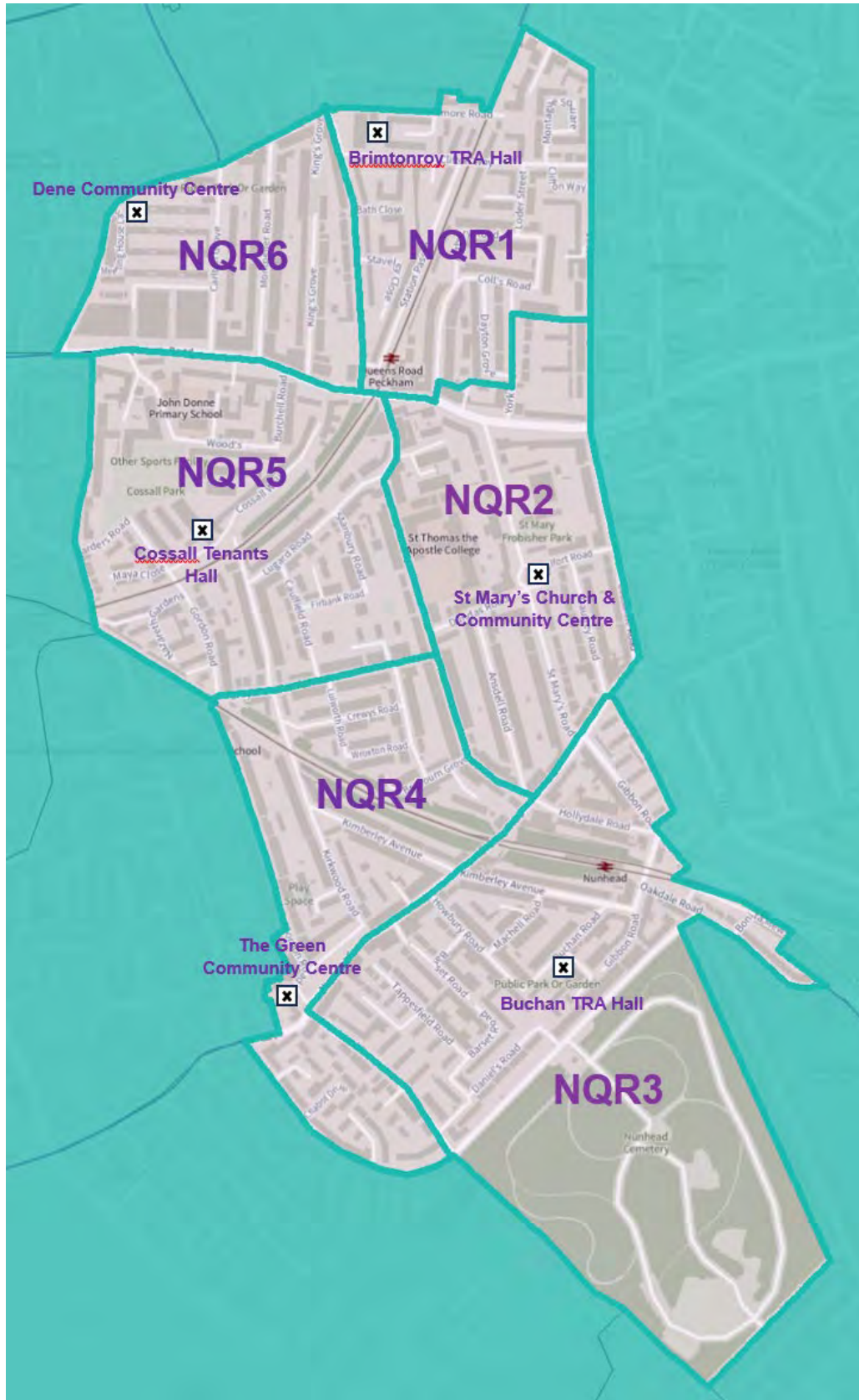
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Polling Scheme

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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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	

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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.

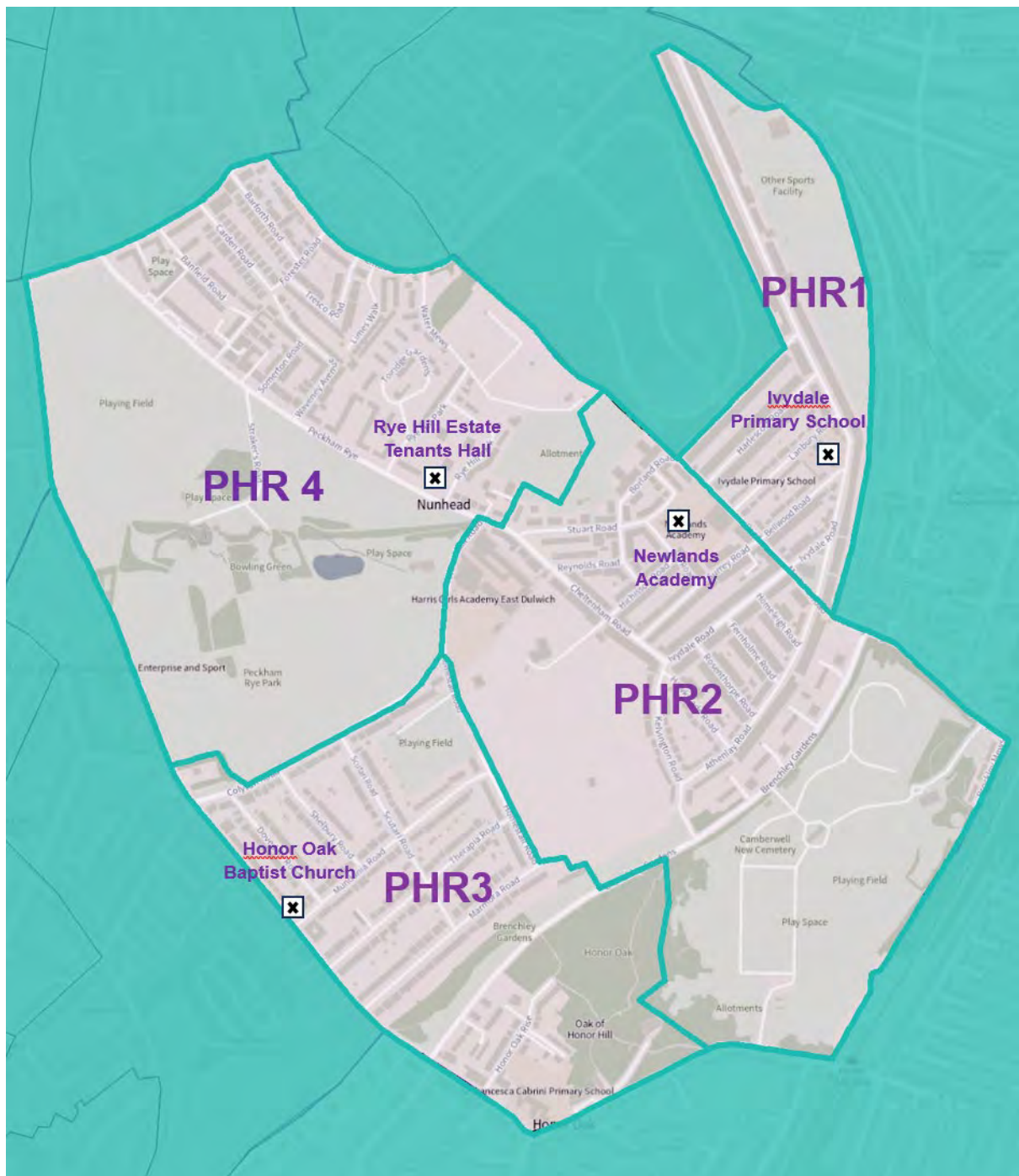
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Polling Scheme

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.

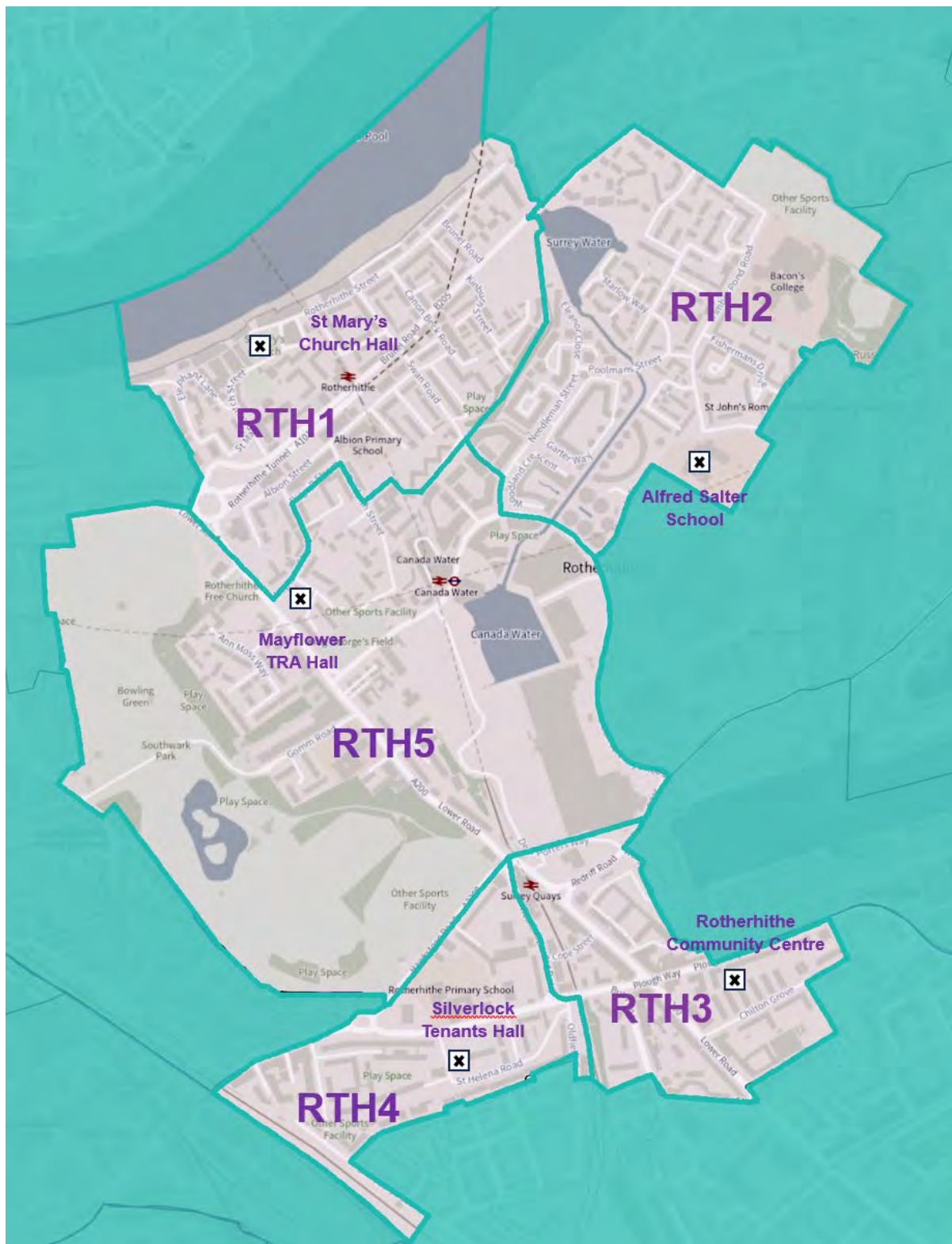
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Polling Scheme

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	

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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.

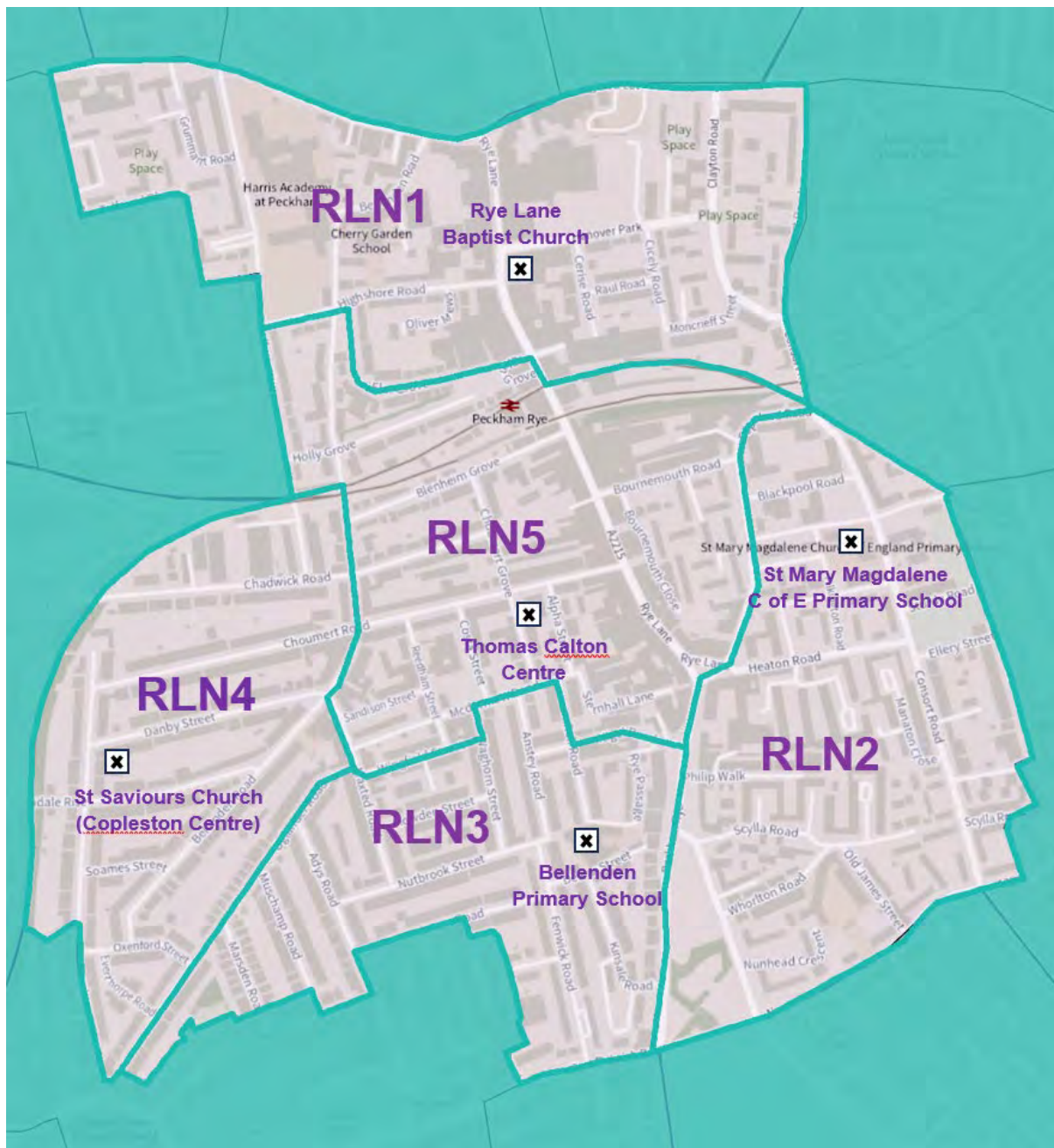
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Polling Scheme

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	

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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.

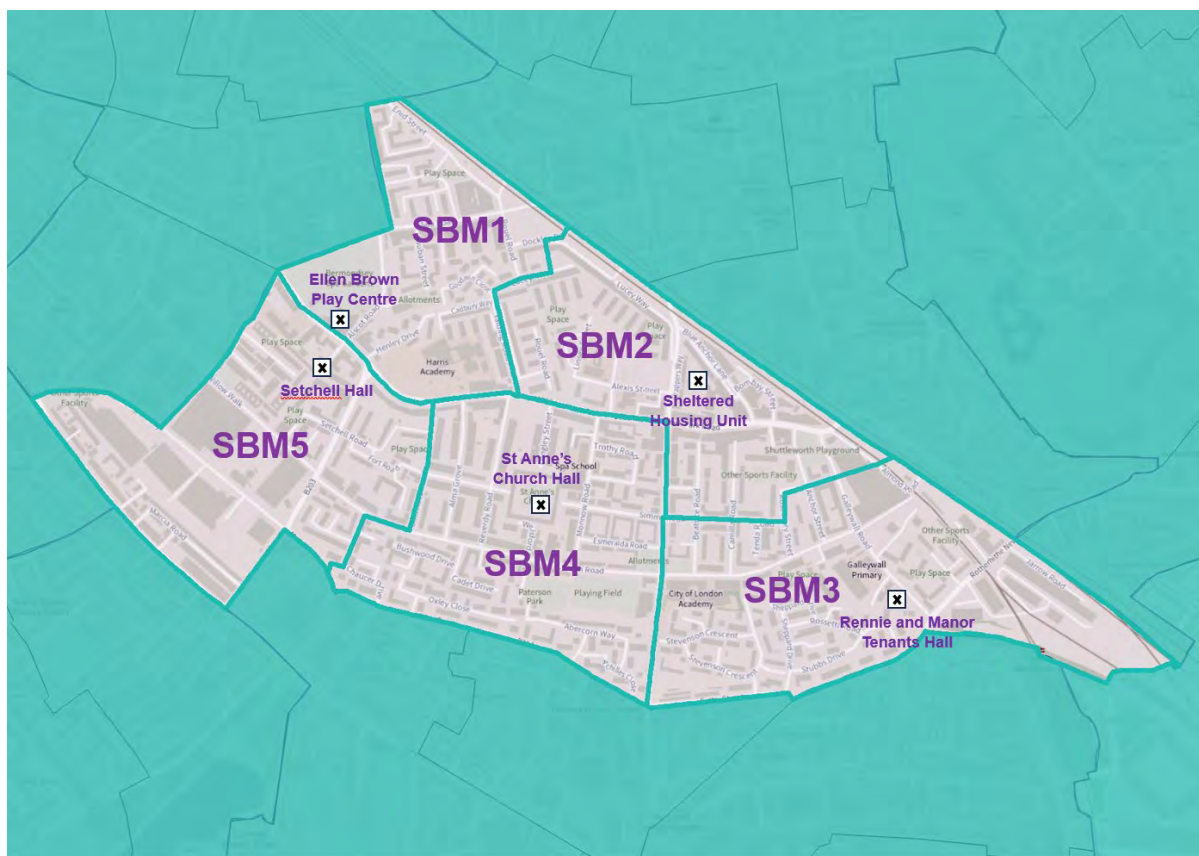
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Polling Scheme

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	

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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.

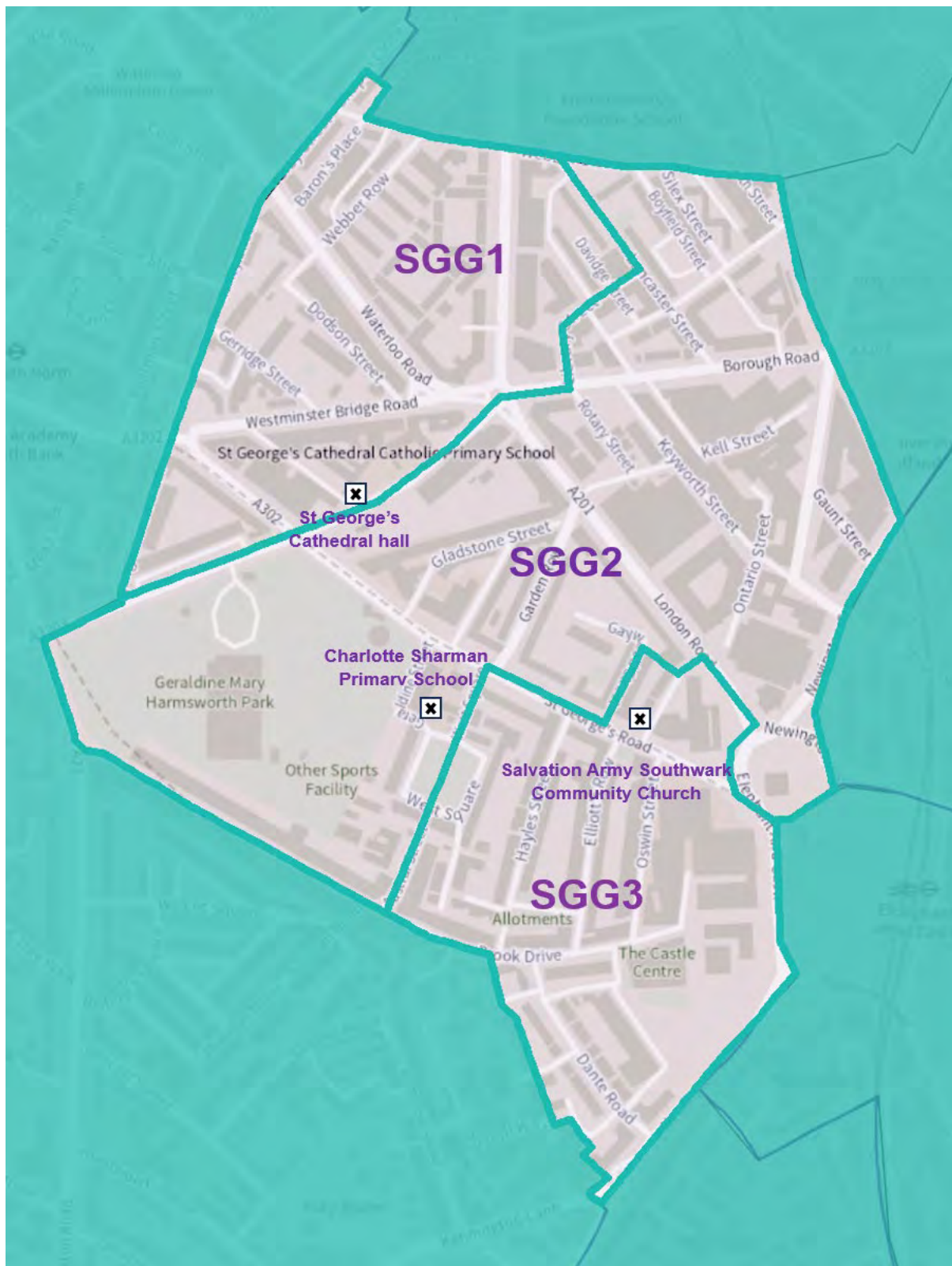
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Polling Scheme

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.

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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.

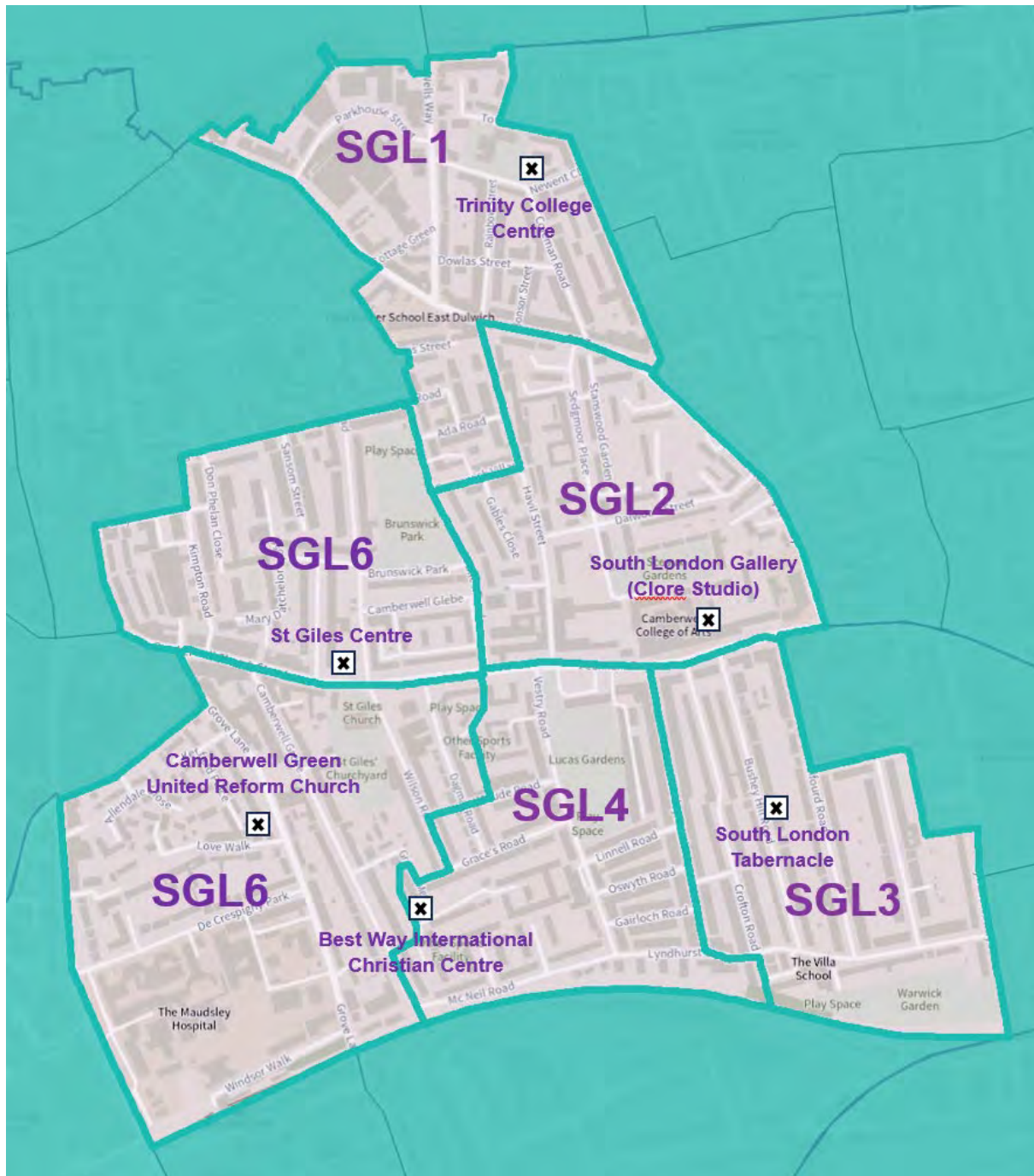
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Polling Scheme

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	

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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.

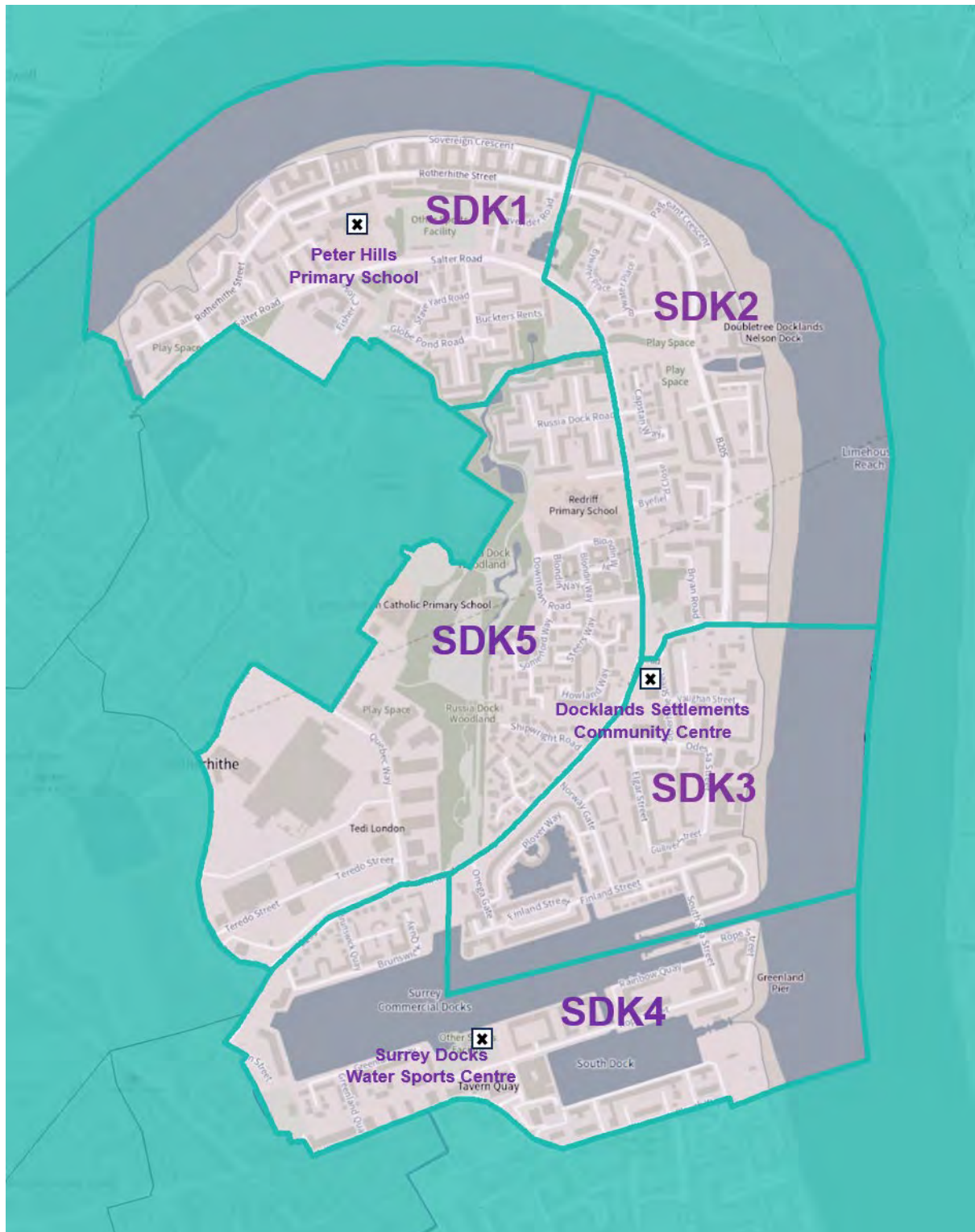
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Polling Scheme

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>

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		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.

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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.	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The initial proposed changes to polling district boundaries were unnecessary and could lead</p>

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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 & polluted with vehicle fumes and this will deter our elderly residents & families from voting if have to go across to Cherry Garden Hall).</p> <p>Wrayburn Community Organisation is a constituted body. It's TRA & 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.

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		<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>	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.
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>	Comments have been noted. An assessment visit has been carried out and this venue meets accessibility requirements.

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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>

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Nunhead and Queen's Road	Cllr Reginald Popoola	<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>	Dene Community Centre has been assessed and will be used as the polling station for NQR6.
Old Kent Road	Cllr Richard Livingstone	<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>	Boundary changes agreed and added to public consultation proposals.

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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.

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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

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

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

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.

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Section 3: Overview of service users and key stakeholders consulted

2. Service users and stakeholders

Key users of the department or service	<p>All registered electors, candidates and political parties.</p>
Key stakeholders were/are involved in this policy/decision/business plan	<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

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>Younger Voters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger voters may be more anxious about voting for the first time, and/or be uncertain what the rules are. Younger voters may be less likely to possess valid photographic ID such as driving license or passport. <p>Older Voters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older voters may generally have more disabilities and have more mobility issues and sight difficulties than younger voters. They may require more time and the ability to sit down for a rest. The route to the station could be experienced as long or difficult to walk. Some older voters may be less likely to possess valid ID Older voters may not be digitally literate and unable to make applications online. Older voters are more likely to be unaware of the requirements for voter ID introduced by the Elections Act 2022. <p>Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voters from poorer backgrounds are less likely to possess valid photographic ID such as driving license or passport. Voters from poorer backgrounds may lack online access
<p>Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Electors without online access can apply for a VAC using a paper form. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Electors without online access can apply for a VAC using a paper form. 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

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voter ID requirements and information on postal voting is included on poll cards. • 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. • Where possible the polling place should be situated within reasonable walking distance for the majority of the electors within the polling district. • Items and signage to be clearly displayed, especially the guidance to voters, so that all voters are aware of what they need to do. • 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. • A chair available for voters who need a rest before or after voting. • 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. • Employment practises that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve. • 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. • Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues. • Equalities training for polling staff. 	<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"> • The route to the station could be experienced as long or difficult to walk. • Ability to access polling venues due to lack of wheelchair/mobility entrance, parking, light and space. • Insufficient light inside polling venue. • Signage and official notices – at wrong height or too small. • Inability to hear instructions of polling staff. • Difficulty in understanding the polling process. • Inability to read ballot papers or make a mark on ballot papers. • Some people may require more time and the ability to sit down for a rest before or after voting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voters from poorer backgrounds are less likely to possess valid photographic ID such as driving license or passport. • Voters from poorer backgrounds may lack online access
Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All polling venues assessed for accessibility. • A chair available for voters who need a rest before or after voting. • Temporary ramps and lighting installed in polling venues where necessary. • Site visits prior to elections outside of summer to assess potential risks or issues due to weather or lack of daylight. • Extra training on assisting voters with a disability and statistics recorded by presiding officers where assistance has been provided. • 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. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Electors without online access can apply for a VAC using a paper form. • 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.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve. • 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. • Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues. • Equalities training for polling staff. 	
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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.

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"> • Being mis-gendered by the polling staff – e.g. referred to by the wrong gender. • Experiencing transphobia or other discrimination by polling staff – and the fear of that happening. 	
Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training materials raise awareness of the use of gender specific pronouns. • Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve. • 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. • Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues. • Equalities training for polling staff. 	

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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"> No specific negative impacts identified. 	
Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve. 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. Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues. Equalities training for polling staff. 	

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"> Pregnant voters may have mobility issues. Pregnant voters may need to rest at the polling station, before or after voting. 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. 	
Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken	
<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"> • Polling stations are assessed for their accessibility. • Polling venues should have enough room for pushchairs/buggies to be easily manoeuvred round the polling station and for extra seating. • Children are allowed into polling stations, and staff are careful to ensure that polling places are as safe as possible for them. • Polling station staff training incorporates equalities training, and our encouraged to let parents know that children are very welcome in our polling stations. • Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve. • 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. • Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues. 	
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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

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"> • 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. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voters from poorer backgrounds are less likely to possess valid photographic ID such as driving license or passport. • Voters from poorer backgrounds may lack online access
Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps on poll cards as well as written addresses. • Pictorial guidance for voters posters in polling stations. • Employment practises that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve. • Survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Southwark to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Electors without online access can apply for a VAC using a paper form. • 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

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<p>analyse the accessibility of our service for residents with protected characteristics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues. • Equalities training for polling staff. 	<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.

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"> • Some people may not wish to enter a church, mosque or synagogue in order to vote. • Potential for some religious groups to experience discrimination, or the fear of discrimination, from polling staff. • 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. 	
<p>Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When using a religious building, where possible use a space in the building that is not usually used for worship. • 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. • 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 • Cultural awareness of polling staff and general polite behaviour towards residents. • Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve. • 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. 	

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

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"> • 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. • Some women may feel undue pressure from partners or companions to vote in a certain way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voters from poorer backgrounds are less likely to possess valid photographic ID such as driving license or passport. • Voters from poorer backgrounds may lack online access
<p>Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • Maps are provided on poll cards, and the Council also provides an online search tool to find detailed maps to polling stations • Polling staff are given full training in how to spot possible case of undue influence. • 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. • Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve. • Survey after each election, asking questions about our service and accessibility, with anonymous equalities information that enable Southwark to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Electors without online access can apply for a VAC using a paper form. • 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.

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

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"> • Voters with these characteristics may have experienced, or fear experiencing discrimination from polling station staff or other venue users. 	
Mitigating and/or improvement actions to be taken	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equalities training and awareness is incorporated in training for polling staff. • Calm, welcoming atmosphere at polling stations for all voters promoted at training. • Employment practices that promote equality and inclusion, so that the polling staff are representative of the communities we serve. • 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. • Commitment within Southwark to take action to promote equality where information or feedback identifies specific or general issues 	

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

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

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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

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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"> Are there suitable transport links? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there any access issues regarding main/busy roads, railways, rivers, etc.? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the building readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there any possibility that the building may be demolished as part of a new development? 		

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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?		

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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

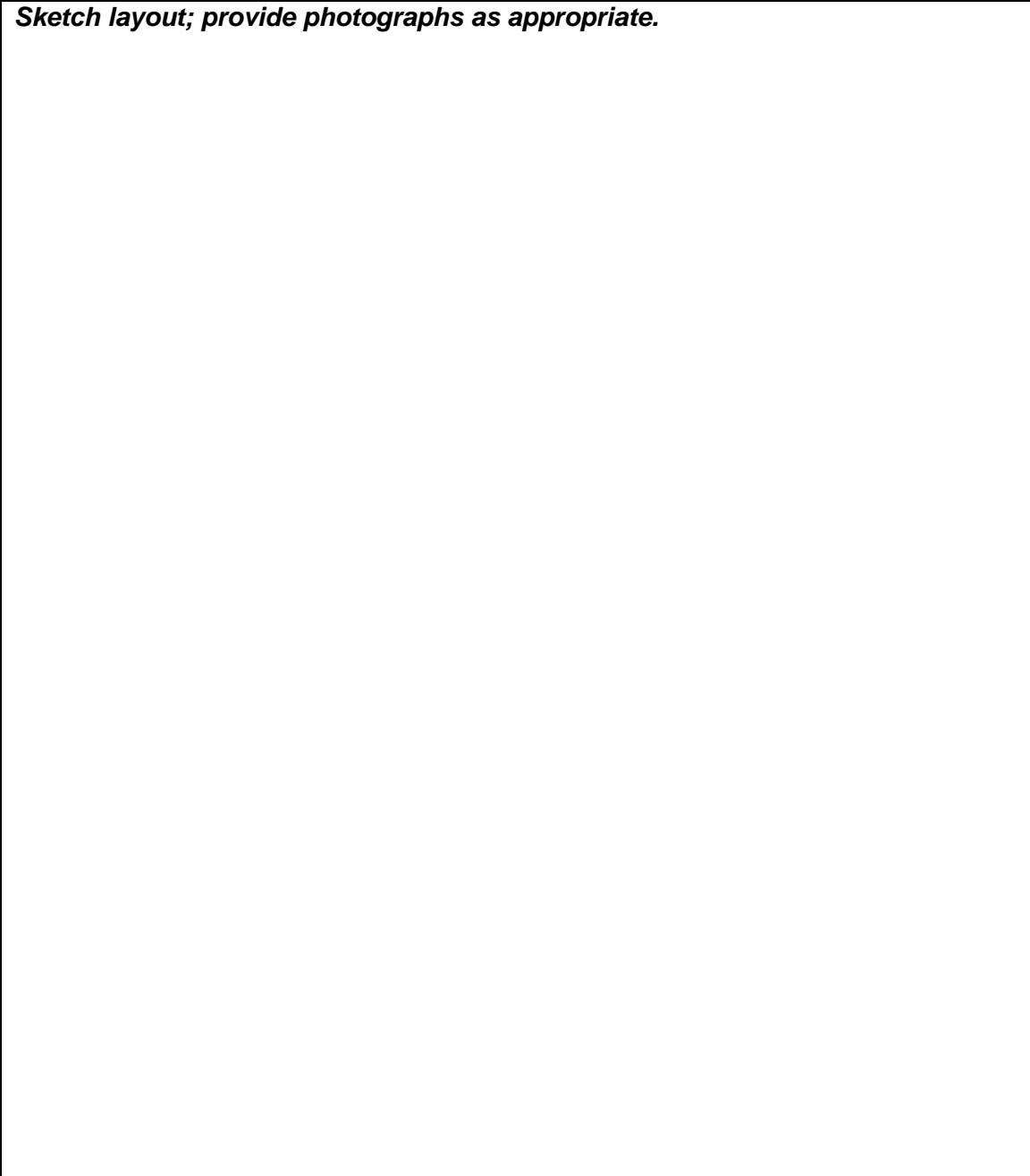
Check	(√)	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are all doors easy to open (including by wheelchair users) or do they need to be permanently locked back? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any internal steps or obstructions/hazards? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are any doormats level with the floor? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the floor covering non-slip (including in wet weather)? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any corridors that may cause access problems? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there adequate lighting in the corridors? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there toilet facilities? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a kitchen that staff can use? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the area adequately lit for day and night time? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there adequate space for signage? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many polling stations can the building accommodate? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the building have a telephone available (land line) in the event of mobile network problems? 		

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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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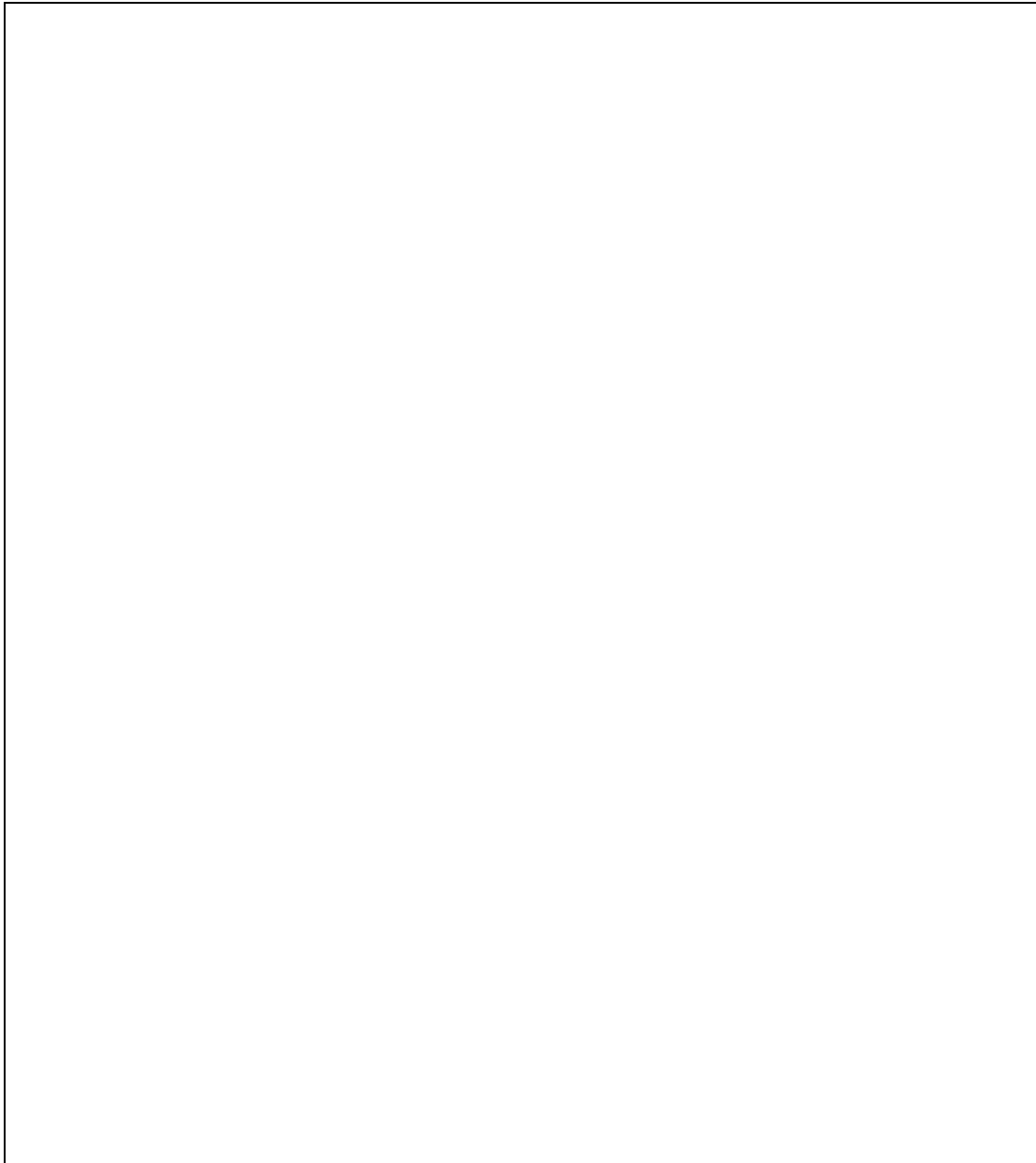
Part D – The polling station(s)

Check	(√)	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there sufficient space inside the polling station to comfortably accommodate staff, voters, polling agents and observers? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there adequate lighting for day and night time? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could motorised wheelchairs be accommodated? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can the official notices be clearly displayed, including the large-print version of the ballot paper(s)? 		

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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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**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN) (FULL LIST)
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24**

NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to
Virginia Wynn-Jones Tel: 020 7525 7055

ONE COPY TO ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	Copies	To	Copies
<p>Councillors (1 each) Councillor Jasmine Ali Councillor Sunil Chopra Councillor Renata Hamvas Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall Councillor Darren Merrill Councillor Leo Pollak Councillor Sandra Rhule Councillor Martin Seaton Councillor Andy Simmons Councillor Cleo Soanes Councillor Kath Whittam Councillor Kieron Williams</p> <p>Electronic Versions (No hard copy) All other councillors</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>Press</p> <p>Southwark News South London Press</p> <p>Group Offices</p> <p>Jack Beddoe, Labour Group Office Euan Cadzow-Webb, Liberal Democrat Group Office</p> <p>Officers</p> <p>Althea Loderick Clive Palfreyman Doreen Forrester-Brown Chidilim Agada Caroline Bruce David Quirke-Thornton Sangeeta Leahy</p> <p>Constitutional Team</p> <p>(Copies to Virginia Wynn-Jones, 2nd Floor, Hub 2, Tooley Street)</p> <p>Others</p> <p>Matt Dean, Grant Thornton Ground floor audit office, Tooley Street</p> <p>Total:</p> <p>Last updated: June 2023</p>	<p>by email by email</p> <p>by email by email</p> <p>by email by email by email by email by email</p> <p>7</p> <p>by email</p> <p>20</p>