

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES**COUNCIL**

Agenda Item No.

DATE: 25 SEPTEMBER 2007**REPORT OF: HEAD OF PAID SERVICE****SUBJECT: REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES****1. Summary**

The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 require the authority to review all its polling districts and polling places within 12 months of the Regulations coming into force (1 January 2007). In the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames the polling district is also designated as the polling place. This report recommends some adjustments to polling districts in five wards.

2. Recommendations

That the Council agree:

2.1 The proposals in the report to adjust the polling district boundaries with effect from 1 December as follows:

- a). **In West Twickenham Ward between polling districts CA and CC;**
- b). **In Fulwell and Hampton Hill Ward between polling districts HA and HB;**
- c). **In South Richmond Ward between polling districts MA and MD, and between MB and MD;**
- d). **In Mortlake and Barnes Common Ward between polling districts PC and PD;**
- e). **In Kew Ward between polling districts QC and QD.**

2.2 That all other polling districts remain unchanged.**2.3 That the polling district continue to be designated as the polling place.****2.4 That a further review take place of polling districts in the Kew Ward in 2008, but not before the May 2008 GLA election.****3. Details**

3.1 Under Section 18A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended) the Council is required to divide each parliamentary constituency in the area into polling districts, to designate polling places for those polling districts, and to keep these under review. Electors must be given "such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances."

3.2 A 'polling district' is a geographical area which is a sub-division of a ward or constituency, and for each polling district there must be designated a 'polling place'. This term is not defined in the legislation, but could for example be a

public building. The responsibility to designate a polling place is a matter for the Council. If no polling place is designated the polling district becomes the polling place, and it has been the Council's approach for the polling district to be designated as the polling place. Decisions about 'polling stations', on the other hand, are for the returning officer to make: the report provides details of these for ease of reference (although for availability reasons this could vary for a particular election).

- 3.3 In April 2007 letters were sent to all households in the borough inviting residents to comment on their current polling stations or suggest alternatives. Details were sent to the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition, all Councillors and agents for the main political parties, and the issue was included on the agenda at all Area Consultation Meetings during April and May 2007 inviting comments.
- 3.4 Details were also available on the Council's website with the ability to comment on line, and 309 electors who had stated an interest in the review in their returned election survey during May 2006 had a form sent to them.
- 3.5 All comments were requested by the end of May.
- 3.6 Comments were received from several Ward Councillors, from the Richmond Park Labour Party and from 342 residents.
- 3.7 A report to 17 July Council was withdrawn to enable further consideration by a cross-party working group, which duly met.
- 3.8 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the polling district should continue to be designated as the polling place.
- 3.9 The next paragraph makes recommendations on the detail for each ward.

4. Results of review

4.1 Twickenham Constituency

After consultation with all electors, it is **RECOMMENDED** that the polling districts and polling places in the following wards should remain the same, as there are no outstanding issues concerning accessibility and all reasonable facilities for voting are provided:

1. Heathfield Ward (Polling Districts AA, AB, AC)

Polling Stations: Heathfield Nursery Unit
Heathfield Library
The Community Centre, Edgar Road

2. Whitton Ward (Polling Districts BA, BB, BC)

Polling Stations: St Philip & St James Church Hall
Whitton Library
Dene Estate Social Centre

3. St Margaret's and North Twickenham Ward (Polling Districts DA, DB, DC)

Polling Stations: Heatham House
St Stephen's C/E School

All Souls Church Hall

4. **South Twickenham Ward (Polling Districts EA, EB)**
Polling Stations: St James's Hall
Holy Trinity Church
5. **Twickenham Riverside Ward (Polling Districts FA, FB)**
Polling Stations: St Mary's C/E School
Cambridge Park Bowling & Sports Club
6. **Hampton Ward (Polling Districts GA, GB)**
Polling Stations: The Beveree
The Methodist Church
7. **Hampton Wick Ward (Polling Districts IA, IB, IC)**
Polling Stations: Bullen Hall
Teddington School
St Mark's Church Hall
8. **Teddington Ward (Polling Districts JA, JB)**
Polling Stations: Teddington District Library
St John Ambulance Hall
9. **Hampton North Ward (Polling Districts KA, KB)**
Polling Stations: All Saints Church Hall
Hampton Community College
10. **West Twickenham Ward (Polling Districts CA, CB, CC)**

To ensure a more balanced number of electors in the CA (2022 electors) and CC (3084 electors) polling districts, it is **RECOMMENDED** that the boundary between CA and CC be re-drawn to move the following roads from CC to CA:

Staines Road (No 1-155)
Gothic Road
Trafalgar Road
Elmsleigh Road
Third Cross Road
Second Cross Road
Chestnut Road
Chilvers Close
First Cross Road
Hampton Road (No 12-134)

Total 555 Electorate

Polling district CA would have an electorate of 2577 (after postal votes had been taken into account) and polling district CC would have an electorate of 2529 (after postal votes had been taken into account). The distance to the polling station would not be affected.

Polling Stations: Crane Community Centre, Meadway
Community Centre, Whiteleys Way
Plato Centre, Waldegrave School

11. Fulwell & Hampton Hill Ward (Polling Districts HA, HB)

The current polling station for HA (St Mary's & St Peter's C/E School, Somerset Road) is outside the polling district, but it is not proposed to change this, as a suggestion to move to the Red Lion Public House on Stanley Road is not considered viable.

To avoid electors crossing Wellington Road it is **RECOMMENDED** that the boundary between HA and HB be re-drawn to run along the middle of Wellington Road.

The following roads are proposed to move into HB:

Paget Close
Links View Road
Burton's Road
Wellington Road (the western side only, nos. 1-55)

The polling station for HB is St James's Church Hall.

4.2 Richmond Park Constituency

After consultation with all electors, it is **RECOMMENDED** that the polling districts and polling places in the following wards should remain the same, as there are no outstanding issues concerning accessibility and all reasonable facilities for voting are provided:

1. North Richmond Ward (Polling Districts LA, LB, LC)

Polling Stations: Raleigh Road United Church Hall
Caravan in Lambert Avenue
Our Lady Queen of Peace Church Hall

2. Ham, Petersham & Richmond Riverside Ward (Polling Districts NA, NB, NC, ND, NE)

Polling Stations: Russell School Nursery Unit
Ham Hall
Ham Christian Centre
Caravan at Junction of Latchmere Lane/Cowper Road
Caravan near to the Star & Garter

3. East Sheen Ward (Polling Districts OA, OB, OC)

Polling Stations: Sheen Mount School
All Saints Church Hall
Sheen Lane Centre

4. Barnes Ward (Polling Districts RA, RB, RC)

Polling Stations: Lowther School (Nursery)
Kitson Hall
Holy Trinity Parish Room

5. South Richmond Ward (Polling Districts MA, MB, MC, MD)

To decrease the distance some electors have to travel to their polling station it is **RECOMMENDED** that:

The following roads move from MD to MA:

Berwyn Road
Orchard Rise
Sheen Common Drive
Sheen Road
Courtlands
Upper Richmond Road West

The following road moves from MB to MD:

Marlborough Road

Polling Stations:

Meadows Hall
Richmond & Putney Unitarian Church
Richmond Library
The Cambrian Centre

6. Mortlake & Barnes Common Ward (Polling Districts PA, PB, PC, PD)

To ensure a more balanced number of electors between PC and PD, it is **RECOMMENDED** that the boundary line between PC and PD should be re-drawn to move the following roads into PC:

The Broadway
First Avenue
Second Avenue
White Hart Lane
North Worple Way (No 1 – 8)

Polling Stations:

East Sheen Primary School
Caravan in Warwick Drive
St Mary the Virgin Church
Barnes Green Social Centre

7. Kew Ward (Polling Districts QA, QB, QC, QD)

With the increase of residential buildings and a small polling station at Kew Library, the current polling districts are unsuitable. It is **RECOMMENDED** that the boundary lines between QC and QD be re-drawn, and that a further review take place in 2008 after the GLA elections.

The following roads should move into QD:

Atwood Avenue
Taylor Avenue
Chelwood Gardens
Pensford Avenue
North Road
Nylands Avenue
High Park Avenue
Mortlake Road (part, numbers 191 –249)

Total 525 electors

The following road should move into QC:

Barker Close (27 electors)

This change would leave the polling district of QD with an electorate of 1559 using North Sheen Bowling Club as their polling station (already established).

Kew Library would be retained as the polling station for QC (1915 electors).

The polling districts QA and QB should remain the same, using Polling Stations at:

Queen's C/E School
St Luke's House

5. Financial Implications

The Register of Electors will need to be revised to reflect the new polling districts, and extra publicity and new maps will be required for any new polling stations at the next election. These will be met from within existing budgets.

6. Policy and Equality Implications

One of the Council's policy objectives is to increase community consultation, participation and democratic accountability.

As far as reasonable and practicable only places which are accessible to electors who are disabled should be designated as polling places.

7. Background Papers

The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary) Regulations 2006 (Statutory Instruments 2006 No 2965)
Household letter sent to all residents April 2007
Area Consultation Meeting minutes, April – May 2007
GLA Election survey – June 2004
General Election survey – May 2005
Local Election survey - May 2006
Cross-party Members' working group – 30 July 2007
Consultation responses – file held by Electoral Services

8. Contacts

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