

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES COUNCIL**

**DATE: 15 NOVEMBER 2024**

**REPORT OF: HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS & POLLING PLACES  
2024**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1** Richmond upon Thames Borough Council has undertaken a review of its polling district and polling stations.
- 1.2** Under the provisions within the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, the previous statutory review of all the polling districts and polling places in Richmond was undertaken in 2019 and again in 2021 following the ward boundary review. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has reviewed all of the ward boundaries in Richmond. The Richmond (Electoral Changes) Order 2020, to implement recommendations made by the LGBCE for new electoral arrangements in Richmond, was made on 5th November 2020. New ward arrangements for Richmond came into force at the local elections on 5 May 2022. The final recommendations can be found on the LGBCE site <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/richmond-upon-thames>
- 1.3** The number of wards remain at 18, and the number of elected Councillors remain at 54. Each ward is represented by three members. As a result of this a further review of the polling districts was required before the changes are implemented in time for the full local council elections to be held on Thursday 5 May 2022.
- 1.4** The Electoral Registration & Administration Act 2013 requires all authorities to keep polling districts and polling places in its area under review.

### **2. Recommendation**

That the Council agree:

- I. The polling places and polling district boundaries as set out in this report in paragraph 3.4 taking effect at the next local elections on 5 May 2026.
- II. The whole Polling Districts are designated as Polling Places allowing the (Acting) Returning Officer to allocate polling stations as they become available or as land to place a portacabin for voting purposes can be identified and agreed. This is permitted in such circumstance under Section 18B (5) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

### **3. Details**

- 3.1** A Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Places was published on 5th August 2024 seeking representations and views from residents, political

parties, local councillors and persons or groups possessing expertise in relation to access to possible polling places. Further representations, comments and feedback was sought on the proposed polling districts or polling places set out in this report. The aim of the review is to ensure that:

- All electors have as reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and that
- So far as is reasonable and practicable that the polling places are accessible to all electors having regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons
- To consider the current polling districts forming new polling districts or a major part thereof, where this can be achieved to ensure continuity where possible
- To consider natural boundaries for example railway lines, major roads and rivers.

### **3.2 Roles and responsibilities and definition of terms**

#### **(a) The Council**

The statutory responsibility for reviewing UK Parliamentary polling districts and places rests with each relevant local authority in Great Britain for so much of any constituency as is situated in its area. Depending on the structure of the local authority, it may not be the full council which makes the decisions on any changes to polling districts or polling places. Some local authorities have delegated that function to a committee or sub-committee. This will be set out in the council's constitution. For Richmond delegated authority sits with the Council.

#### **(b) The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)**

Where a local authority makes any alterations to the polling districts within its area, the ERO must amend the register of electors accordingly – either on a notice of alteration or by publishing a revised register. The changes to the register take effect on the date that the ERO publishes a separate notice stating that the alterations have been made, which should be done to coincide with the publication of a notice of alteration/publication of a revised register. Richmond intends to republish the register of electors based on the current polling scheme on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

#### **(c) The (Acting) Returning Officer**

The election rules require the (Acting) Returning Officer to decide how many polling stations are required for each polling place and they must allocate electors to the polling stations in such manner as they think most convenient.

### 3.3 New wards effective May 2022

Below is a table of all the wards. This also shows how many Councillors will be elected to represent each ward.

<b>WARD</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>PD Prefix</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>
Heathfield Ward	Twickenham	HEA, HEB, HEC	3
Whitton	Brentford and Isleworth	WHA, WHB, WHC	3
West Twickenham	Twickenham	WTA, WTB, WTC	3
St. Margarets & North Twickenham	Twickenham	SMA, SMB, SMC	3
South Twickenham	Twickenham	STA, STB	3
Twickenham Riverside	Twickenham	TRA, TRB	3
Hampton	Twickenham	HAA, HAB	3
Fulwell & Hampton Hill	Twickenham	FHA, FHB	3
Hampton Wick & South Teddington	Twickenham	HWA, HWB, HWC	3
Teddington	Twickenham	TEA, TEB	3
Hampton North	Twickenham	HNA, HNB	3
North Richmond	Richmond Park	NRA, NRB, NRC	3
South Richmond	Richmond Park	SRA, SRB, SRC, SRD	3
Ham, Petersham & Richmond Riverside	Richmond Park	HPA, HPB, HPC, HPD	3
East Sheen	Richmond Park	ESA, ESB, ESC	3
Mortlake & Barnes Common	Richmond Park	MBA, MBB, MBC	3
Kew	Richmond Park	KWA, KWB, KWC, KWD	3
Barnes	Richmond Park	BNA, BNB, BNC	3

### 3.4 **PROPOSED CHANGES**

To view the maps, please see Appendix 1

Comments and feedback from the consultation can be found in Appendix 2

### **Heathfield (HE)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

### **Whitton (WH)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

It is worth noting that the Whitton Ward has moved from the Twickenham Constituency to the Brentford and Isleworth Constituency, for Parliamentary elections only.

### **West Twickenham (WT)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

### **St Margarets and North Twickenham Ward (SM)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

### **South Twickenham Ward (ST)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

### **Twickenham Riverside (TR)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

### **Hampton (HA)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

### **Fullwell and Hampton Hill (FH)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

### **Hampton Wick & South Teddington (HW) - (previously Hampton Wick)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

### **Teddington (TE)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward with the exception of Elleray Hall. A new building will be replacing Elleray Hall in 2026.

It is proposed that the polling place moves to the new building on completion of the build. The new building remains within the polling district TEB.

#### **Hampton North (HN)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

#### **North Richmond (NR)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

#### **South Richmond – (SR)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

#### **Ham, Petersham & Richmond Riverside Ward (HP)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

#### **East Sheen (ES)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

#### **Mortlake & Barnes Common (MB)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

#### **Kew (KW)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

#### **Barnes (BN)**

The currently designated Polling Districts and Places are now well established. No issues of note were raised at either major poll in 2024. Therefore, it is recommended that the current scheme continues for this ward.

### **3.5 Consultation**

A Notice of holding a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places was published on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024 which established the commencement of the public consultation and ended on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The consultation sought views on the existing polling scheme and any suggested changes thereto. As per the recommendations in the Electoral Commission guidance this review notice was published on the council website, sent to all elected members and local political parties. The review invited formal and informal representations.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

The costs of the polling districts and polling places review will be met from within existing budgets. The costs of actual polling are met within the Council's budget for borough elections. However, the polling costs for the GLA and parliamentary elections are met from the Cabinet Office budget.

#### **5. Policy and Equality Implications**

Electoral Services considered a review of all possible polling places and used a suitability and access checklist. One checklist has been completed for each existing poll place and all proposed new polling places. All polling staff receive equalities training as part of the induction for working on the election.

#### **6. Background Papers**

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/>

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/2/schedule/A1>

#### **7. Contacts**

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