

Committee: General Purposes Committee

Date: 6th November 2014

Wards: all

Subject: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Lead officer: Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services

Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison

Contact officer: Tim Revell, Interim Head of Electoral Services

Reason for urgency: The Chair has agreed to the submission of this late item in order to comply with the committee's work programme, and to ensure the report can progress to the next Council meeting.

Recommendations:

- A. That the General Purposes Committee recommends that the full Council agrees to the revisions to the polling districts and polling places as set out in the appendix.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is part of the process of reviewing all parliamentary polling districts and polling places in the borough. All London boroughs, district councils and unitary authorities are required to undertake a full review within 16 months of 1st October 2013. The previous full review was completed in November 2011. Further changes to polling stations were agreed by the council in November 2012 and April 2014. The Committee is requested to consider the proposals and to recommend a decision by the full Council.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 **Context** ; the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 substituted sections 18(1) to (3) into the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA83) in place of the previous section 18C. This required each relevant local authority to complete a review of the parliamentary polling districts and polling places within its area within a period of 16 months beginning on 1st October 2013. Further reviews must then take place every fifth year after that in the period beginning 1st October.
- 2.2 **Timing**; the last full review took place in Merton in 2011 in accordance with the previous statutory arrangements. There were further reviews in Abbey, Cannon Hill, Hillside, Pollards Hill and Ravensbury wards (2012) and Cricket Green, Graveney, Merton Park and St Helier wards (2014).
- 2.3 **Review process**; beginning the current review was agreed by the General Purposes Committee on 26th June 2014 and a public notice was issued on 8th July 2014. This invited all residents, particularly disabled residents, to comment on the existing arrangements or any other matters. Persons or bodies making representations were asked, if possible, to give alternative places that could be used as polling places. Details of the existing arrangements including maps

were available on the council's website and in paper from Electoral Services. An on-line survey was set up on the website to facilitate the submission of responses. The consultation period ran from 8th July until 5th September, a period of two months. Details of the consultation process are set out in paragraph 4 below and responses are incorporated into the appendix.

- 2.4 **Definitions;** 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. A ***polling place*** is the building or area in which polling stations are selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer. A polling place within a polling district must be designated so that polling stations are within easy reach of all electors from across the polling district. A ***polling station*** is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place. Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the council, polling stations are chosen by the relevant Returning Officer.
- 2.5 **Scope;** polling districts and polling places for other elections are not automatically part of the compulsory review. However, as polling districts and polling places for other elections are based on UK Parliamentary polling arrangements, the requirements of any other elections held within the area have been taken into consideration.
- 2.6. **Legislative requirements;** local authorities must comply with the following legislative requirements regarding the designation of polling districts and polling places:
- the council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
 - the council must seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled;
 - 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 district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district (for example, if no accessible polling place can be identified in the district)
 - the polling place must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the district how they will be able to reach the polling station
- 2.7 **Guidance;** other guidelines are recognised good practice, but may not always be possible:
- natural, well-defined boundaries are preferred;
 - all properties in a minor road or estate should be in the same polling district (unless the ward or constituency boundary makes this impossible);

- there should be an even spread of polling places;
- the polling district should be the 'catchment area' for the polling place and no elector should have to pass another polling place to get to their own;
- the polling places that voters are familiar with are not changed unless there is a strong need to do so.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. This is a statutory review so there was no alternative to carrying it out. The outcome of the review (see appendix) has produced suitable options in some wards so members will need to judge which would be the most appropriate location for a polling place.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND OUTCOMES

- 4.1. To allow electors and others to submit views as easily as possible an on-line questionnaire was posted on the council's website in early July and all consultees were encouraged to submit views in this way. A paper alternative was available for consultees who were not comfortable with electronic communication. By the close of the consultation period on 5th September 81 responses had been received. Only one of the existing polling places, Pelham Primary School, was the subject of significant dissatisfaction accounting for 22% of all responses. These respondents objected that its use as a polling place meant that the school had to close harming the education of the pupils and in some cases creating childcare problems for parents. These responses, those relating to other polling places and how they should be addressed are set out in the appendix.
- 4.2. At the beginning of the process in early July the MPs for Mitcham & Morden and Wimbledon, the MLA for Wandsworth & Merton, agents for the political parties who contested the borough council elections on 22nd May and all members of the council were formally advised that the review was taking place and invited to submit views. Views received from members of the council are set out in the appendix. No other views have been received from the political sphere.
- 4.3. In conducting such a review it is particularly important to consult those who have experience of assessing access for persons with different disabilities. Meetings therefore took place with Merton Centre for Independent Living (MCiL), Merton Vision and Age UK Merton to engage them in the review. All three organisations circulated information to constituent organisations and members via their newsletters and encouraged them to participate in the review.
- 4.4. To ensure that the review took account of accurate, current information the senior presiding officers (SPOs) at each polling place were asked to complete a detailed evaluation based on their experience on 22nd May covering location, accessibility and facilities. The person responsible for each polling place was also invited to participate although few did so. The general point that emerged from the SPO evaluation concerned the quality of the external signage which suffered during the heavy shower on polling day. In future all external signs outside polling stations will be weather-proof. At some polling stations SPOs reported that there was insufficient signage, inadequate lighting by the polling

booths and identified access issues. Additional signs will be provided where appropriate and MCI, which has expertise in these matters, has been commissioned to undertake access audits at appropriate polling stations to allow issues to be addressed before the parliamentary election in 2015. Issues regarding lighting will be taken up with those responsible for the premises concerned.

- 4.5. The statutory provisions require the Acting Returning Officer to comment on both existing and proposed polling stations. His comments were published on 16th October and his comments on each polling place included in the appendix.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The Council meeting on 19th November must make the decision on the review. The revised register of electors to be published on 1st December will be amended to reflect any changes to polling districts. A further review must be completed within a period of 16 months beginning on 1st October 2018. This does not preclude any changes being made to polling districts or polling places that may become necessary during the intervening period.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Current electoral registration budgets are covering the costs of this statutory review. Future budgets will need to cover the next full review due in 2018 and any interim reviews needed. It is estimated that the proposals will add under £1,000 extra cost to the local election budget in 2015 (and every four years thereafter, assuming no by-elections). This will consist of additional accommodation costs.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Council has a duty under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983) to divide its area into polling districts for parliamentary elections, to designate a polling place for each polling district, and to keep these under review. The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000¹ list section 18 of the RPA1983 as one of the functions that are not to be the responsibility of an authority's executive. This function has not been specifically delegated by the Council.
- 7.2 The statutory requirements on the conduct of the review, and on any challenge, are set out in sections 18A to 18E and Schedule A1 of RPA 1983, as amended. Following the completion of a review, the Council must publish all correspondence, representations and minutes of meetings in connection with the review, and the details of the designation of polling districts and polling places as a result of the review (RPA 1983, Schedule A1), and the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006².

¹ SI 2000/2853

² SI 2006/2965

- 7.3 The Electoral Registration Officer is required to make the necessary adaptations to his registers of electors and to publish a notice stating that the adaptations to polling districts have been made (RPA, section 18A).
- 7.4 Following the conclusion of a review certain persons have the right to make representations in writing to the Electoral Commission who may if they find that the review did not meet the reasonable requirements of the electors or did not take sufficient account of disability issues direct the council to make alterations to the polling places.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 it is the duty of a public authority in the exercise of its functions to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not;
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics;
 - Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people;
 - Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.
- 8.2 In providing services and access to them the Council is required by law to make reasonable adjustments in order to avoid discriminating against disabled persons. When considering what adjustments should be considered as reasonable the council is required to have regard to the relevant code of practice. The following are some of the factors to be taken into account when considering what is reasonable:
- Whether taking any particular steps would be effective in overcoming the substantial disadvantage that disabled people face in accessing the services in question;
 - The extent to which it is practicable for the service provider to take the steps;
 - The financial and other costs of making the adjustment;
 - The extent of any disruption which taking the steps would cause;
 - The extent of the service provider's financial and other resources;
 - The amount of any resources already spent on making adjustments; and
 - The availability of financial and other assistance.
- 8.3 The right to free elections forms part of Article 3 of Protocol 1 of the Human Rights Act 1998. Any resident is entitled to vote, if qualified by age and nationality, and if not subject to any other legal incapacity.

8.4 As indicated above, the principles have been followed of seeking to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances, and seeking to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled. There is a commitment to ensure that all polling places are accessible.

8.5 The aim of enhancing community cohesion and engagement would be expected to be achieved by the principles in 8.1 and 8.2 through promoting democratic engagement by seeking to make voting in person as easy as possible for residents of all communities.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Integrity plans are maintained for elections. These involve working closely with Merton Police on operational matters, together with liaising with the Metropolitan Police Service officer specifically delegated with responsibility for potential election offences.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The authority must complete the review by the end of January 2015. Any challenge to the Electoral Commission would impact on the arrangements being made for the parliamentary elections in May 2015.

10.2 In reviewing polling places, the reasonable facilities for staff at polling stations during elections have been considered. The physical fabric of possible polling places has also been considered to reflect the need for members of the public to visit their polling station.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Details of existing and proposed arrangements, submissions and comments, and maps of Ravensbury, Pollards Hill, Abbey and Merton Park Ward proposals.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (a) Reports on polling stations made by Electoral Services staff, by presiding officers and polling station inspectors at past elections.
- (b) Detailed responses to consultation.

London Borough of Merton

General Purposes Committee – 6th November 2014

Review of polling districts and polling places

Details of existing and proposed arrangements, and submissions and comments

Each ward is listed separately. The first table shows the existing polling district, the number of all registered electors as at 1st September 2014, the polling place, and whether there is suitable disabled access (indicating where a permanent or temporary ramp is used). The initial proposals – and any necessary comments – are shown after each table.

The submissions are shown following the initial proposals, together with the comments of the Acting Returning Officer. The final proposals – and any additional comments – are in the final table for each ward.

The website at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/voting/youraddress.htm> has downloads for ward maps. These show the current polling districts and their polling places. Maps, including a large map of all polling districts, are also held in the Electoral Services office.

Lower Morden (A)

Existing arrangements			
<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
AA (1)	1,520	St. Martin's Church, Camborne Road, Morden, SM4 4JL	permanent ramp
AB (2 & 3)	3,084	Morden Assembly Hall, Tudor Drive, Morden, SM4 4PG	permanent ramp
AC (4 & 5)	2,396	Emmanuel Church Hall, Dudley Drive, Morden, SM4 4QG	permanent ramp

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

St Martin's church ; one respondent satisfied with the venue, one concerned that step free access narrow & venue difficult to find.

The Acting Returning Officer's view is that the church is in a fairly prominent location and that the step free access is of a reasonable quality.

Morden Assembly Hall; two 2 responses; both respondents satisfied.

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

St Helier (B)

Existing arrangements

<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
BA (6 & 7)	2,207	Morden Primary School, London Road, Morden, SM4 5PX	permanent ramp
BB (8)	1,950	Congregational Church Hall, Green Lane, Morden, SM4 6SR	level
BC (9)	2,202	Abbotsbury Primary School, Abbotsbury Road, Morden, SM4 5JS	level
BD (10)	1,493	Abbotsbury Primary School, Abbotsbury Road, Morden, SM4 5JS	level

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Morden Primary School; one respondent was dissatisfied with the use of the school as a polling station.

Abbotsbury Primary School; one respondent who was satisfied with the venue.

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

Colliers Wood (C)

Existing arrangements

<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
CA (11 & 12)	1,994	Colliers Wood Community Centre, 66-72 High Street, Colliers Wood SW19 2BY	level
CB (13)	2,021	St. Joseph's Church Hall, 63 High Street, Colliers Wood, London, SW19 2JF	permanent ramp

CC (14)	1,337	Christ Church Hall, Christchurch Road SW19 2NW	temporary ramp
CD (15)	1,232	Positive Network Centre, Taylor Road, Mitcham, CR4 3JR	level
CE (16)	1,470	Abbey Orchard Community Room, Singleton Close SW17 9JZ	level

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Colliers Wood Community Centre; Councillor Draper and two other respondents were satisfied with the venue.

St. Joseph's Church Hall; one respondent who was satisfied with the venue.

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

Lavender Fields (D)

Existing arrangements

<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
DA (17 & 18)	2,581	South Mitcham Community Centre, Haslemere Avenue, Mitcham, CR4 3PR	level
DB (19 & 20)	3,287	Lavender Park Pavilion, Steers Mead, Mitcham, CR4 3HL	level
DC (21)	1,719	Bond Primary School, Bond Road, Mitcham, CR4 3HG	temporary ramp

Initial proposals

No change

South Mitcham Community Centre is outside of polling district DA and the polling place is shared with polling district EA in Cricket Green Ward. This means that four polling stations have to be accommodated in one hall. Though this arrangement is not ideal, no alternatives would appear to make an overall improvement for the majority of the electors of polling district DA.

Submissions

South Mitcham Community Centre; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

Cricket Green (E)

Existing arrangements

<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
EA (22 & 23)	2,559	South Mitcham Community Centre, Haslemere Avenue, Mitcham, CR4 3PR	level
EB (24)	1,999	Benedict Primary School, Benedict Road, Mitcham, CR4 3BE	permanent ramp
EC (25)	1,514	Age UK Merton, 277 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 3NT	permanent ramp
ED (26)	1,439	11th Mitcham Scout & Guide Headquarters, Mitcham Park, Mitcham, CR4 4EN	temporary ramp
EE (27)	601	Mitcham Garden Village, Mitcham, CR4 4HE	level

Initial proposals

No change

South Mitcham Community Centre is shared with polling district DA in Lavender Fields Ward. The four polling stations in one hall require careful management.

Submissions

South Mitcham Community Centre; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

Ravensbury (F)

Existing arrangements

<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
FA	742	Ravensbury Club Room, Ravensbury Grove,	permanent

(28)		Mitcham, CR4 4DL	ramp
FB (29)	1,487	Communal Tenants' Rooms, 90 Rawsley Avenue, Mitcham, CR4 4BX	level
FC (30 & 31)	2,509	Portacabin, Gifford House, 67C St. Helier Avenue, Morden, SM4 6HY	permanent ramp
FD (32)	1,874	Malmesbury Primary School, Malmesbury Road, Morden, SM4 6HG	permanent ramp
FE (33)	827	Merton & Morden Guild, 34A Aberconway Road, Morden, SM4 5LF	level

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Communal Tenants' Rooms; one respondent who was dissatisfied with the venue.

Portacabin, Gifford House; the Acting Returning Officer considers that it is difficult to accommodate two polling stations in this venue particularly in view of the turnout anticipated at a parliamentary election.

Final proposed arrangements (see accompanying map)

Graveney (G)

Existing arrangements			
<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
GA (34 & 35)	2,468	Links Primary School, Frinton Road SW17 9EH	permanent ramp
GB (36 & 37)	2,833	St. Barnabas Church, Thirsk Road, Mitcham, CR4 2BD	level
GC (38 & 39)	2,018	Beecholme Primary School, Edgehill Road, Mitcham, CR4 2HZ	level

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Beecholme Primary School; two respondents both of whom were very satisfied.

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

Figge's Marsh (H)

Existing arrangements

<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
HA (40)	612	Age UK Merton, 277 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 3NT	permanent ramp
HB (41 & 42)	2,360	Gorrington Park Primary School, Sandy Lane, Mitcham, CR4 2YA	permanent ramp
HC (43 & 44)	3,198	St. Mark's Church Hall, St Mark's Road, Mitcham, CR4 2LF	permanent ramp
HD (45)	2,126	Acacia Centre, 230 Grove Road, Mitcham, CR4 1SD	level

Initial proposals

No change (the use of Age Concern Merton, which is in Cricket Green ward, is acceptable.)

Acacia Centre has its main entrance in Grove Road but also has access from Acacia Road that is more convenient for most electors in polling district HD.

Submissions

Acacia Centre; one respondent who supported the use of centre as it has good disabled access.

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable, assuming the use of the Acacia Road entrance for HD as well as the Grove Road entrance.

Longthornton (I)

Existing arrangements

<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
IA (46)	1,518	Streatham Vale Baptist Hall, Leonard Road, London, SW16 5SY	permanent ramp
IB (47)	1,080	Westminster City School Sports Pavilion, 245A Tamworth Lane, Mitcham, CR4 1DH	temporary ramp
IC (48)	1,592	Stanford Primary School, Chilmark Road, London, SW16 5HB	level

ID (49 & 50)	2,668	St. Olave's Church, Church Walk, London, SW16 5JH	permanent ramp
IE (51)	982	Acacia Centre, 230 Grove Road, Mitcham, CR4 1SD	level

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Streatham Vale Baptist Hall; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

Westminster City School Sports Pavilion; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

St Olave's Church; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

Acacia Centre; one respondent who supported the use of the centre as it has good disabled access [see also Figge's Marsh ward above].

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

Pollards Hill (J)

Existing arrangements

<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
JA (52 & 53)	2,563	New Horizon Centre, South Lodge Avenue, Mitcham, CR4 1LT	level
JB (54)	851	Westminster City School Sports Pavilion, 245A Tamworth Lane, Mitcham, CR4 1DH	temporary ramp
JC (55 & 56)	2,778	Sherwood Primary School, Abbots Road, Mitcham, CR4 1JP	permanent ramp
JD (57)	1,868	Moat Housing Office, 50 Montgomery Close, Mitcham, CR4 1XT	permanent ramp

Initial proposals

No change, the use of Westminster School Sports Pavilion, which is in Longthornton ward, is acceptable.

Submissions

New Horizon Centre; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.
Westminster City School Sports Pavilion; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue [see Longthornton ward above].

Moat Housing Office; Councillor Whelton on behalf on the ward councillors suggested that Kent Close and Lindsey Close be moved from JD to JA as the premises were slightly cramped. The arrangements for the ward were otherwise satisfactory.

The Acting Returning Officer's view is that the experience of electors can be enhanced by reducing the numbers who vote at the Moat Housing Office and transferring them to the New Horizon Centre which has the capacity to cope with larger numbers.

Final proposed arrangements (see accompanying map)			
Move Kent Close and Lindsey Close from JD to JA; otherwise the existing arrangements are acceptable.			
<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
JA (52 & 53)	2,903	New Horizon Centre, South Lodge Avenue, Mitcham, CR4 1LT	level
JB (54)	851	Westminster City School Sports Pavilion, 245A Tamworth Lane, Mitcham, CR4 1DH	temporary ramp
JC (55 & 56)	2,778	Sherwood Primary School, Abbotts Road, Mitcham, CR4 1JP	permanent ramp
JD (57)	1,528	Moat Housing Office, 50 Montgomery Close, Mitcham, CR4 1XT	permanent ramp

Village (K)

Existing arrangements			
<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
KA (58)	1,721	St. Mary's Garden Hall, 30 St Mary's Road, London, SW19 7BP	level
KB (59)	1,423	Christ Church Hall, 2 Cottenham Park Road, London, SW20 0RZ	temporary ramp
KC (60 & 61)	2,264	Lecture Hall, Lingfield Road, London, SW19 4QD	separate level entrance
KD (62)	934	St. Matthew's (CoE) Primary School, Cottenham Park Road, London, SW20 0SX	level

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Christ Church Hall; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

St. Matthew's (CoE) Primary School; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

Raynes Park (L)

Existing arrangements

polling district	electors	polling place	disabled access
LA (63)	889	Christ Church Hall, 2 Cottenham Park Road, London, SW20 0RZ	temporary ramp
LB (64 & 65)	3,011	Raynes Park Methodist Church Hall, Worples Road, London, SW20 8RA	temporary ramp
LC (66)	1,783	Cottenham Park Recreation Ground Pavilion, Melbury Gardens, London, SW20 0DH	temporary ramp
LD (67)	1,677	Raynes Park Sports Ground, Taunton Avenue, London, SW20 0BH	permanent ramp

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Christ Church Hall; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

Raynes Park Methodist Church Hall; two respondents, one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue and who was dissatisfied due to the nature of the ramp. If practicable adjustments will be made to the ramp.

Cottenham Park Recreation Ground Pavilion; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

Hillside (M)

Existing arrangements

polling district	electors	polling place	disabled access
MA (68 & 69)	2,774	Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Edge Hill, London, SW19 4LP	temporary ramp
MB (70 & 71)	2,154	St. Mark's Hall, Compton Road, London, SW19 7QD	level access
MC (72)	1,759	Drake House, 44 St. George's Road, London, SW19 4ED	permanent ramp

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Sacred Heart Parish Hall; one respondent who was neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the venue.

St. Mark's Hall; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

Drake House; on polling day some electors experienced difficulty in finding this venue. This will be addressed by enhanced signage at this location.

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

Wimbledon Park (N)

Existing arrangements			
polling district	electors	polling place	disabled access
NA (73)	1,881	Wimbledon Park Primary School, Havana Road, London, SW19 8EJ	level access
NB (74 & 75)	3,170	Christ The King Church Hall, The Crescent, London, SW19 8AW	temporary ramp
NC (76 & 77)	2,264	Bethel United Church Hall, Kohat Road, London, SW19 8LD	permanent ramp
ND (78)	847	Marchard Hall, Rear of Coronation Hall, Ashcombe Road, London, SW19 8JR	level access

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Wimbledon Park Primary School; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

Marchard Hall; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

Trinity (O)

Existing arrangements

<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
OA (79)	1,006	Holy Trinity Church Hall, The Broadway, London, SW19 1RY	level
OB (80)	1,367	Everyday Church, 28-30 Queen's Road, London, SW19 8LR	level
OC (81 & 82)	2,197	Holy Trinity (CoE) Primary School, Effra Road, London, SW19 8PW	level
OD (83 & 84)	2,775	Garfield Primary School, Garfield Road, London, SW19 8SB	level

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Holy Trinity Church Hall; two respondents both of whom were very satisfied with the venue.

Everyday Church; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

Holy Trinity (CoE) Primary School; two respondents both of whom were very satisfied with the venue.

Garfield Primary School; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

Dundonald (P)

Existing arrangements			
<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
PA (85 & 86)	2,115	Dundonald Primary School, Dundonald Road SW19 3QH	level
PB (87)	1,787	St. Andrew's Hall, Herbert Road, London, SW19 3SH	level
PC (88 & 89)	3,040	Dundonald Church, 577 Kingston Road SW20 8SA	level
Initial proposals			

No change

Submissions

Dundonald Primary School; one respondent who was satisfied with the venue.

St. Andrew's Hall; one respondent who was satisfied with the venue.

Final proposed arrangements
No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

Abbey (Q)

Existing arrangements			
<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
QA (90 & 91)	2,191	Pelham Primary School, Southey Road SW19 1NU	level
QB (92 & 93)	2,277	All Saints Church Hall, Norman Road SW19 1BT	level
QC (94)	1,260	Merton Hall, 78 Kingston Road SW19 1LA	level
QD (95)	1,863	High Path Community Resource Centre, 63 High Path SW19 2JY	permanent ramp

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Pelham Primary School; 18 respondents of whom 7 were very dissatisfied with the venue, 4 were dissatisfied, 6 neither satisfied nor dissatisfied and one satisfied. However, all the respondents objected to the use of the school which required it to be

closed thus affecting their children's education and in some cases causing difficulties for parents' childcare arrangements. The chair of the governing body had also previously voiced her objections to the use of the school. Alternative polling places suggested by respondents were Merton Hall, Kingston Road, Bethel Baptist Church, Wimbledon Broadway and the Salvation Army, Kingston Road.

Councillor Judge, on behalf of Abbey ward councillors, has suggested that either the John Innes Centre, Kingston Road or the Salvation Army, Kingston Road could be used.

The Acting Returning Officer's view is that Pelham Primary School meets all the criteria for use as a polling station and as it is near the centre of the polling district is the most conveniently located. However, it is recognised that the closure of a school can be disruptive and he is happy to look at suitable alternatives which avoid this. Of the alternatives suggested it is recommended that Merton Hall is not used for QA polling district. It is outside the polling district and electors would need to cross a major road to reach it. It is already used as a polling station for QC (94) and would not be able to accommodate two additional stations. Whilst the alternative locations suggested are on the edge of the polling district it is small and compact so that electors are unlikely to be seriously inconvenienced. Following a detailed evaluation the Salvation Army is considered to be a suitable location for the polling place in QA.

Merton Hall; nine respondents all of whom were satisfied with the venue.

High Path Community Resource Centre; one respondent who was satisfied with the venue.

Final proposed arrangements (see accompanying map)			
<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
QA (90 & 91)	2,191	Salvation Army, 109, Kingston Road SW19 3LT	permanent ramp
QB (92 & 93)	2,277	All Saints Church Hall, Norman Road SW19 1BT	level
QC (94)	1,260	Merton Hall, 78 Kingston Road SW19 1LA	level
QD (95)	1,863	High Path Community Resource Centre, 63 High Path SW19 2JY	permanent ramp

Merton Park (R)

Existing arrangements			
<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
RA (96 & 97)	1,979	Cricket Pavilion, John Innes Recreation Ground, Hill Lane, London, SW20 9ES	level except slight lip at entrance
RB (98 & 99)	1,927	St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Path, London,	permanent

99)		SW19 3HJ	ramp
RC (100 & 101)	3,186	Morden Baptist Church Hall, 36 Crown Lane, Morden, SM4 5BL	level

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Cricket Pavilion; two respondents, one satisfied with the venue and one concerned about parking and step free access.

The Acting Returning Officer's view is that experience has shown that this venue is a little cramped to accommodate two polling stations comfortably and with the higher level of turnout anticipated for a parliamentary election this might prove problematical. This could be addressed by realigning the boundary between RA and RB. The polling place for RB could accommodate a larger number of electors than are currently allocated to it.

Councillor Southgate on behalf of Merton Park ward councillors indicated his support for realigning the boundary between RA and RB as set out on the map.

St. Mary's Church Hall; two respondents both satisfied with the venue and commenting on the good step free access.

Morden Baptist Church Hall; two respondents both satisfied with the venue.

Final proposed arrangements (see accompanying map)

<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
RA (96)	704	Cricket Pavilion, John Innes Recreation Ground, Cannon Hill Lane, London, SW20 9ES	level except slight lip at entrance
RB (97,98 & 99)	3,250	St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Path, London, SW19 3HJ	permanent ramp
RC (100 & 101)	3,186	Morden Baptist Church Hall, 36 Crown Lane, Morden, SM4 5BL	level

Cannon Hill (S)

Existing arrangements

<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
SA (102)	1,352	Merton Adult College, Whatley Avenue SW20 9NS	permanent ramp

SB (103)	1,689	Endeavour Club, 190 Martin Way, Morden, SM4 4AJ	level
SC (104 & 105)	1,996	Eastway Day Centre, 44 Eastway, Morden, SM4 4HW	level
SD (106 & 107)	2,187	Hillcross Primary School, Ashridge Way, Morden, SM4 4EE	permanent ramp

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Hillcross Primary School; one respondent who was satisfied with the venue but found the ramp steep.

Final proposed arrangements

No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable

West Barnes (T)

Existing arrangements

<i>polling district</i>	<i>electors</i>	<i>polling place</i>	<i>disabled access</i>
TA (108 & 109)	2,238	Sacred Heart (RC) Primary School, Burlington Road, New Malden, KT3 4ND	permanent ramp
TB (110 & 111)	3,104	St. Saviour's Hall, Church Walk, London, SW20 9DL	level
TC (112 & 113)	2,117	Holy Cross Church Hall, Adela Avenue, New Malden, KT3 6HT	permanent ramp

Initial proposals

No change

Submissions

Sacred Heart (RC) Primary School; Councillor Jeanes suggested that West Barnes Library or the Murugaa Temple, Burlington Road could be used as an alternative to the school.

The Acting Returning Officer does not support the use of West Barnes Library as it is outside the polling district and not easily accessible from TA as it is on the other side of a railway embankment. The possible alternatives have been investigated but would not be suitable as polling stations.

St. Saviour's Hall; one respondent who was very satisfied with the venue.

Holy Cross Church Hall; two respondents who were both very satisfied with the venue.

Final proposed arrangements
No change; the existing arrangements are acceptable