

AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER SECTION 100B(4)(b) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, THE CHAIRMAN IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE REPORT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE THAT THERE IS A NEED TO INVESTIGATE ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE INITIAL POLLING SCHEME PRIOR TO FINALISING THIS REPORT, AND RECOMMEND A FINAL POLLING SCHEME TO THE COUNCIL PRIOR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2007.

PAPER NO. **07-1057**

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 28TH NOVEMBER 2007

Report by the Chief Executive and Director of Administration (and Returning Officer) on a final proposed scheme for Wandsworth, following consultation on a review of polling districts and polling places.

SUMMARY

This report presents a revised polling scheme setting out polling districts and polling places for the Borough, following on from the publication of an initial scheme on 11th October 2007 for consultation. There is a requirement to approve a final revised scheme by 31st December 2007. The proposals published for consultation proposed a sub-division of the SMD polling district in St Mary's Park Ward, and six changes to polling places.

The consultation gave rise to 10 separate proposals covering 11 polling districts. A number proposed the seeking of new polling places in what they thought would be more convenient locations for voters, but the majority were not feasible since suitable polling places could not be found.

The new SME polling district to cover the Battersea Reach development in St Mary's Park was supported, but it has not been possible to find an ideal polling place in the district and an alternative in an adjacent district is therefore recommended at present.

Two comments were related to the proposed replacement of the polling place at West Hill Library with the Wandsworth Civic Suite, which was considered by respondents too far away. Accordingly the Library building is proposed for retention on the assumption that it can continue to be used once converted to a museum: a temporary location in an adjacent Church Hall has also been identified and is considered suitable when the Library is unavailable during conversion.

A proposal to divide the RHD polling district in Roehampton to create a separate new district on the Roehampton University Campus - which was previously suggested but not supported - is still not considered cost-effective.

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A proposal to change the location of the polling place for SMD in St Mary's Park Ward from Caius House, Holman Road to Battersea Mission, 20-22 York Road, was suggested by respondents to be inferior to a move instead to York Gardens Library; further information indicated that Caius House is likely to be now still available in May 2008 for the Greater London Authority elections, and hence it is now proposed for retention: however should a temporary alternative in 2009 or 2010 be needed, Battersea Mission is considered a better location than York Gardens Library although there may be other options at that time. The opportunities for a better temporary location would in any case be reviewed in early 2009.

In a number of other cases the proposals received from consultation are reviewed, but are not recommended, as suitable premises could not be found to enable them to proceed. The final proposals will, subject to adoption by the Council, be sent to the Electoral Commission who will consider any representations that the review has not been properly conducted.

### **Recommendations**

1. The Committee are recommended to recommend to the Council that a revised polling scheme for polling districts and polling places as set out in this report be now approved, with the following specific recommendations on the comments received on the initial scheme that was previously approved for consultation:-
  - a) Balham Ward – BHD District : the proposal to change the polling place is not currently practicable and it is recommended that the Henry Cavendish School Annexe is retained as the polling place;
  - b) East Putney Ward – EPA District : the proposals to change the polling place to South Thames College or Putney High School, both in Putney Hill, are not practicable and it is recommended that the Methodist Church Hall, Gwendolen Avenue, be retained;
  - c) Fairfield Ward – FFB and FFE Districts : it is recommended that the proposal to move the polling place for both districts to Wandsworth Civic Suite should not be progressed, and that West Hill Library Building be retained as the permanent location on the assumption that it can be reused once it is open as a Museum; in the short-term, whilst the Library building is closed for conversion, the Church Hall, St. Thomas a Becket RC Church, Santos Road, could be used;
  - d) Nightgale Ward – NGD District : a number of improvements to the entrance and other proposals are planned at the proposed polling place, but there is no reason to change it from St. Mary Magdalen Church Hall, Trinity Road;
  - e) Roehampton Ward – RHB District : a proposal to change the polling place to Heathmere School is not considered desirable or warranted and a proposal to change to a Petersfield Rise location is not considered feasible. Therefore it is recommended that the proposal to use the St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, 218 Roehampton Lane be accepted;

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- f) Roehampton Ward – RHD District : a proposal to divide the polling district into two, with a new district made up of the Roehampton University Campus (and possibly Fairacres), with a new polling place on the Campus or at the Eastwood Community Centre, Aubyn Square, is not considered cost-effective or justified at present;
- g) St Mary’s Park Ward – proposed new SMD District : a proposal that the new polling district should have a polling place temporarily at York Gardens Library, rather than Battersea Mission is not considered justified; it is considered that Caius House, Holman Road (which should now still be available in May 2008) be retained as the polling place : if a temporary replacement becomes necessary thereafter due to redevelopment, Battersea Mission, York Road, should be considered first as it is marginally nearer and more convenient and within the district, although other options should also be investigated at the same time;
- h) St Mary’s Park Ward – proposed new SME District : a proposal to find a polling place on the Battersea Reach development or at Chatfield Heath Centre, Chatfield Road, has not proved feasible, and it is recommended that at present the Battersea Youth Centre, Hope Street, be identified as the polling place for the new district until a better alternative becomes available;
- i) West Hill Ward – WHC District : a proposal to divide the district into two, with a new district in the South West portion of WHC, voting at a polling place around the Victoria Drive/Albert Drive junction, is not considered feasible or justified; therefore it is recommended that the current proposal of St Paul’s Community Centre, Inner Park Road, be confirmed as the polling place for the district; and
- j) West Putney Ward – WPB and WPD Districts : a proposal to create two new districts with a north/south divide, and a polling place at St Margaret’s Church Hall, Putney Park Lane, to replace the proposed polling place at the Sports Pavilion, Coppice Drive, is not considered feasible and it is therefore recommended that the Sports Pavilion be confirmed as the polling place with the current district boundaries maintained at the present time, with the situation monitored as the new developments on the Queen Mary’s Hospital sites are completed.

### **Introduction**

- 2. Under Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, a local authority is required to divide its area into polling districts for each of its parliamentary constituencies and to keep them under review. In doing so, the local authority must seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- 3. Also, a polling place is to be designated for each polling district and they must be kept under review. In the main, the local authority must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; that so far as is reasonable and practicable each polling place (either potential or when reviewed) is accessible to electors who are disabled; and that the polling place is in the polling district –

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unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the polling district.

4. In Paper No. 07-898 to 10th October 2007 meeting of this Committee, it was reported that the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (Section 16) required each local authority to review all of the polling districts and polling places in its area before the end of 2007 and thereafter review the resultant polling scheme at least every four years. The report

reviewed all polling places and districts. It proposed the division of the SMD polling district into two: an eastern SMD district and a new western SME district, to cater for new developments at Battersea Reach. It further proposed changes to the premises used for four polling places, for FFB and FFE in Fairfield Ward, for QTD in Queenstown Ward, for SMD in St. Mary's Park Ward, and for RHA in Roehampton Ward.

5. This new proposed scheme was approved for consultation, and was subsequently sent to all political parties, Councillors, MPs and other stakeholders for comment within 30 days.

### **Comments Received from the Consultation Stage**

6. A number of comments were received. There were six sets of written comments, including one from the three St. Mary's Ward Councillors, one from the MP for Battersea, and one from the Green Party. One set of comments was from a previous Labour Party agent (but acting in a personal capacity) and one from the Conservative Party agent. Further, discussions were held with a blind voter who had provided some comments. Finally SCOPE (a UK disability organisation whose focus is people with cerebral palsy) submitted some general guidance on ensuring polling places are accessible, although they did not comment on the proposed scheme.
7. The comments received were analysed and found to comprise ten separate proposals involving the following wards and districts:-

Balham	BHD.
East Putney	EPA.
Fairfield	FFE.
Nightingale	NGD.
Roehampton	RHB.
Roehampton	RHD.
St. Mary's Park	SMD.
St. Mary's Park	SME.
West Hill	WHC.
West Putney	WPB and WPD

In all other cases the original proposals are effectively accepted either implicitly, or via direct comments to that effect. These 11 polling districts and the comments received are discussed below, and final proposals given, having regard to those comments. [Appendix 1](#) sets out the detailed proposals for all wards and districts, reflecting the same recommendations below.

8. **Balham Ward – BHD District**

Current proposal – Henry Cavendish School Annexe

Comments received:

The MP for Battersea has commented that the current and proposed polling place is shared with Lambeth which can cause confusion for local voters. Alternatives would include the Balham Library Hall in Ramsden Road.

Discussion of the comment

It is agreed that the proposed polling place is not ideal. However, it has been used for a long period since no other alternative has been found within an acceptable distance. Balham Library Hall is not available as it is already fully used for the NGB district of Nightingale Ward for three polling stations with no spare space available. No suitable substitutes for NGB have been found that would release Balham Library Hall for use by BHD. It is therefore proposed that the Henry Cavendish School Annexe continues as the polling place for this district.

**East Putney Ward – EPA District**

9. Current Proposal – Polling Place at Methodist Church Hall, Gwendolen Avenue

Comment received:

A comment was received from the former Labour agent that EPA is a polling district with a station located right on its perimeter – and quite a distance from the bulk of the population, which lives to the east of Putney Hill. The quality of the facilities at the current EPA polling place is not criticised, but it is at the very end of Gwendolen Avenue. This is an inappropriate location for a polling place given the size in both geographic and population terms of this district and the physical divide of Putney Hill. Options suggested as alternatives are South Thames College and Putney High School for Girls, both on Putney Hill.

Discussion of the comment

10. The fact that the current polling place for the EPA district is not central and hence not ideal is agreed. However, the distance from its current location to the ‘centre of gravity’ of the district is not out of line with that in many other districts. It is recognised, however, that Putney Hill is a significant barrier to ease of movement for voting. Nevertheless, this location has not given rise to complaints in the past, or any other similar comments on this consultation.

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11. Putney High School for Girls has been visited in the past, and the possibility of a polling station there discussed with the previous Head. However, she was unable to identify any suitable space that could be used, and was not happy with the public having access to any part of the School with pupils in attendance on the same day.
12. South Thames College, Putney Hill is not readily useable in term time and cannot therefore be relied upon for a regular location as an election may not necessarily arise out of term time. Also the site is shortly to be sold for redevelopment in line with the South Thames College reorganisation plan.
13. Other sites in the area have been examined on a number of occasions in the past, including the Group 64 Theatre, Ravenna Road, and various church halls. These have all either proved to be unavailable or no closer than the current Gwendolen Avenue location to the district centre. It is therefore recommended that the current location be retained.

### **Fairfield Ward - FFE and FFB Districts**

14. Current Proposal – Wandsworth Civic Suite

#### Comments received:

Two comments from the local MP and the Conservative agent related to the proposal of Wandsworth Civic Suite as an alternative to the previous polling place at West Hill Library and suggested that a location nearer the Library should be sought. It was also suggested that the Library building could possibly be re-used permanently once reopened as a museum.

#### Discussion of the comments

15. It is accepted that the proposed location at Wandsworth Civic Suite (which has been used previously) is a long distance for voters to travel. It is now recommended that the Library building be retained as the official polling place for both districts in the scheme, on the assumption that use can be re-established once conversion works are completed in 2008. A move on a temporary basis to the St. Thomas a Becket RC Church Hall, Santos Road, is planned for 1st May 2008 Mayoral and GLA Elections. This is opposite the Library building. These premises have been inspected, and although they have four fairly steep steps, a lift is provided, and the access arrangements are fully acceptable for the disabled. Overall the access with the steps, although not ideal for the elderly, is acceptable.

### **Nightingale Ward – NGD District**

16. Current Proposal – St. Mary Magdalen Church Hall, Trinity Road

#### Comments received

A blind voter raised a number of issues about the accessibility of the polling station at St. Mary Magdalen Church Hall, and a number of associated matters on election management.

Discussion of the comments

As a result of the detailed comments, it was agreed that a number of measures would be put in hand, to help various blind, disabled or visually impaired voters at this polling place.

These include:-

- improved notices and signs;
- easier access by fixing outer gates/doors open; and
- emphasis in training polling staff on assistance for disabled and visually impaired voters.

There was no suggestion to change the station location, which has been used for many years.

17. **Roehampton – RHB District**

Current Proposal – St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, 218 Roehampton Lane

Comments received

The current polling station at St. Joseph’s Church is accepted as an excellent venue (as was the previously used station at Roehampton Parish Hall). However, both are on the very edge of the polling district and turn-out is low and a more central location in the district should be used. Suggested alternatives are splitting the district into two with separate polling places (acknowledged as probably not justified) or using a more central location at Heathmere School, Alton Road, or on the parade of shops on Petersfield Rise.

Discussion of the comments

18. It is accepted that the turn-out for this polling district can be somewhat low. The current proposed polling place is, however, at a location that is on a natural travel route of residents of RHB to local shops and bus routes: the larger food and other shops in the area are located at the top of Danebury Avenue or in the neighbouring Roehampton High Street area.
19. A location at Heathmere School is only on a natural route for parents in term-time and would run contrary to the Council’s policy of avoiding school closure. Petersfield Rise, though admittedly more central than St. Joseph’s Church Hall, would not be on a natural travel path for residents in the north-west of the polling district, e.g. Fontley Way. In any event, there are no suitable premises available there and use of temporary portacabins is not only expensive but also considered undesirable on grounds of poor accessibility for the disabled. On balance, it is considered preferable to retain the proposed polling place at St. Joseph’s Church Hall, which has good facilities, has not been the subject of any previous complaints and is on a natural travel route that many residents would use daily or regularly for shopping or local trips.

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### 20. **Roehampton - RHD District**

Current Proposal – Brookside Community Centre, Priory Lane

#### Comments received

The comment received from a former local Labour Party agent repeats one previously made that a separate polling district should be created to cover voters on the Roehampton University Campus, and possibly the neighbouring Fairacres development, who currently would have a long journey to Brookside Community Centre. A new polling place could be provided either on the campus itself, or possibly across the main road (Roehampton Lane) on the Eastwood Estate, where the community clubroom is already used for the WPB district. The residents of the Fairacres Estate, just north of the campus, also have a long journey to Brookside, and would benefit from a more conveniently located station in a new district.

### 21. **Discussion of the comments**

Previously the proposal was considered but not implemented, as although it had some merit and force of argument, it was not on balance considered that a small new district specially created on the campus for some 730 voters would be cost-effective. The distance from the campus to Brookside is some 1.3 km but the vast majority of students would not be put off by such a journey. Also there are similar distances involved for voters in the roads in the extreme south of the polling district (e.g. Roehampton Gate) but again it would not be cost-effective to create a separate district for this small enclave. The journey to vote, although perhaps among the longest in Wandsworth for both these groups, is by no means as great as that regularly expected in many rural areas. Also, for any students not wishing to walk to the Lennox Estate area (where there are in any event some shops) there are buses travelling north/south along the relevant portion of Roehampton Lane. On balance it is still not considered worthwhile and cost effective to fragment the polling district. Further growth of the university student population is not expected at present. Fairacres residents have a shorter journey to Brookside of some 0.9 km, and this is of less concern. Therefore it is recommended that the Brookside polling place be retained, although the student population on the electoral register should be monitored for possible future growth.

### 22. **St. Mary's Park Ward – SMD District**

Current proposal - Battersea Central Mission, 20/22 York Road

#### Comments received

Comments have been received from the three Ward Councillors. They have suggested that the temporary replacement for Caius House, Holman Road, should be York Gardens Library, rather than Battersea Central Mission, York Road, as it has reasonable parking, whereas the latter is on a red route and parking is impossible.

Discussion of comments

23. The temporary polling place was suggested because of proposed redevelopment of Caius House. Since proposals were formulated in September 2007, the start date of this redevelopment has slipped and it now appears that Caius House will still be available on 1st May 2008, but a replacement will be possibly required for elections held thereafter and the first half of 2010 (i.e. the May 2010 local council elections) if the redevelopment of Caius House progresses on a new schedule. It is therefore proposed that Caius House be retained as the preferred polling place in the current scheme but, if the rescheduled redevelopment scheme does progress, a temporary replacement site be sought.
24. In relation to the two suggested alternatives available for a temporary replacement, there is little to choose between the two. Battersea Mission is marginally nearer to the 'centre of gravity' of the population in the new SMD district, but has the disadvantage of no parking. York Gardens Library is rather harder to get to on foot, as it would require crossing the busy York Road and it is outside the polling district. Also it is difficult to find and access by car, since it can be reached only via crossing York Road and reaching Falcon Road, and turning off that, e.g. at Ingrave Street, and then going west towards the Kambala Estate. In any event, it would be more cost-effective to use Battersea Chapel, Wye Street, in preference to the Library, since the Chapel is already used and staffed as a polling station for elections (for LMA) and is very close to the Library. On balance Battersea Mission is preferable by a small margin. It is recommended therefore that Battersea Mission be identified as a possible temporary station if and when Caius House is unavailable due to redevelopment. However, prior to any final choice of a temporary polling place it would be advisable to search for any other premises that might become available at that time and could be better.
25. **St. Mary's Park Ward – SME District**

Current proposal – Battersea Youth Centre, Hope Street

Comments received

Comments have been received from the three Ward Councillors and the Conservative agent.

The principle of the sub-division of the current SMD district and the logic of creating a new SME district to cope with the rapidly expanding population at Battersea Reach, etc., is accepted. However, the choice of the Youth Centre across the busy York Road is questioned in both sets of comments, and it is suggested it would be far better to identify a suitable polling place on the north side of York Road, within the new SME district itself. Further, the fact that the Youth Centre is already used as a polling station for Latchmere Ward (LMD district) is pointed out as likely to be confusing for voters. Alternatives of locating the polling place for SME in the Health Centre in Chatfield Road or a meeting

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room on one of the blocks of flats in Battersea Reach is proposed. Also a temporary polling place in a portacabin type building is suggested.

### 26. Discussion of the comments

It is recognised that the Youth Centre is far from ideal: even though the distance from the 'centre of gravity' of the new SME district is not in fact extreme compared with those found in some other polling districts. The difficulty of crossing York Road is accepted as a significant barrier to convenient access, even though there is a light-controlled crossing located nearby. An exhaustive search of the SME district has, however, failed to reveal any suitable alternatives. A small business meeting room exists currently in one of the blocks, but it is too small and only temporarily provided, and in any event the management company would not permit public access past the entrance doors of the block. The Chatfield Road Health Centre was also investigated but there were no suitable areas and it seems unlikely that the Centre could be closed on an election day. The alternative of hiring a portacabin-type building for use on election day has been tried in the past and found to be unsatisfactory: costs are high, delivery charges, service and power connections are needed, and the resultant polling place is extremely cramped and unsuitable for disabled access. It is therefore not recommended as suitable accommodation. Contact has been made with the developers of Battersea Reach (St. George's plc) who were co-operative but only able to suggest the temporary use of an unspecified vacant flat, which could be located anywhere in a block depending on changing occupancies which would again raise the security issue with the management company and in any event would be too small and unsuitable. Nevertheless, contact will be maintained with the developers in the hope that suitable spaces may be available in the future phases of the development. Meanwhile there is no apparent alternative to the Battersea Youth Centre in the short term.

### 27. West Hill Ward – WHC District

Current proposal – St. Paul's Community Centre, Inner Park Road

#### Comments received

One comment was received from a previous Labour Party agent. The proposal was to create an additional polling district to cover the southern portion of the current WHC, with a new polling place near the junction of Albert Drive and Victoria Drive (possibly with a consequential change to include a southern part of WHA in the reduced WHC district). The rationale is that the terrain of the current WHC is quite hilly, with elderly voters at the bottom (south) end of Victoria Drive or Queensmere Road having a difficult climb up to the current polling station at Inner Park Road. It is further commented that WHA itself is a very large polling district that could sensibly be reduced in size.

#### Discussion of the comments

28. Although the polling districts WHC and WHA are large, they are no larger than many others in the Borough for example in West Putney, Southfields, Wandsworth Common or Graveney. It is accepted that, for a small proportion of voters, there would be an uphill journey to vote. However, overall the location of the current and proposed station in Inner

Park Road is reasonably central, and no other comments or complaints have ever been received. There are no obvious premises that could be used as an alternative polling place at the suggested location. It is recommended therefore that the proposed polling place should be retained.

29. **West Putney Ward – WPB and WPD Districts**

Current Proposals: WPB – Eastwood Community Centre, Aubyn Square, WPD – Sports Pavilion, Roehampton Playing Fields, Coppice Drive.

Comment received

It is suggested by a former Labour Party agent that these two districts be reconfigured to provide two alternative districts broadly with a north/south divide between them, along Dover House Road, to replace the current east/west division which mainly follows Parkstead Road. It is pointed out that the current and proposed location of the WPD polling place off Coppice Drive is an inconveniently long distance from areas such as Toland Square, whereas the distance due north to the Eastwood Community Centre would be less. It is also suggested that the Church Hall at St. Margaret's Church, Putney Park Lane, could be used as a polling place for a reconfigured north/south WPD district. It is suggested this would create more evenly divided polling districts. It is also pointed out the new residential developments on the Queen Mary's Hospital site will generate additional voters who will have an inconvenient journey to Coppice Drive.

30. **Discussion of the comment**

It is recognised that the Coppice Drive Pavilion is not ideal, although no other comments or complaints have been received, and the travel to vote distances, though at the longer end of the range found across all wards, are not exceptionally high. However, it is agreed that something along the lines suggested would probably be slightly superior in terms of overall convenience for residents on their journey to vote than the present arrangements. Unfortunately it has not proved possible to agree election use of St. Margaret's Church Hall, because of regular nursery bookings, and the access and internal layout (with a split level) are not of desirable standard. When the Queen Mary's Hospital developments are complete and fully occupied, it would probably make sense to rework the polling district boundaries in this area, probably more along the north/south divide suggested, unless new availability of premises suitable for polling stations is found. It is recommended that the situation should be reviewed carefully well before the 2010 local elections so that the effects of the new developments can be fully assessed. Meanwhile it does not seem practicable to make any changes because of the lack of premises to replace Coppice Drive.

**Next Stages**

31. The Council will be recommended to consider and agree on 12th December 2007 a final polling scheme, which will have to be reviewed no later than December 2011. The scheme that the Council finally approves will then be published on the web site and in local libraries. It should be noted that temporary substitutions can and will need to be made if

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polling places specified in the scheme become unavailable, or if superior polling places become available.

32. Once adopted, the scheme will also be sent to the Electoral Commission and, for a period of six weeks, representations can be made if it is considered that the polling review process has not been conducted correctly. The details will also be conveyed to local stakeholders, Party agents and all those who commented in the course of the revised process as soon as adopted by the Council.

### **Conclusion**

33. A total of 11 comments on polling districts and places was received following the publication of the Council's initial proposals for a polling scheme. A number of changes are now proposed as a consequence, and other issues have been noted for regular review as the situation changes in order that any possible improvements to the revised scheme can be made, via temporary substitutions of polling places if necessary.

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The Town Hall  
Wandsworth  
London, SW18 2PU

G.K. JONES  
Chief Executive and  
Director of Administration and  
Returning Officer

21st November 2007

### **Background Papers**

No background papers were used in the compilation of this report.

All reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, regulatory and other committees, the Executive and the full Council can be viewed on the Council's website ([www.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov)) unless the report was published before May 2001, in which case the Committee Secretary (Mr. G.S. Collins on 020 8871 6021 or [gcollins@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:gcollins@wandsworth.gov.uk)) can supply it if required.

**Battersea Parliamentary Constituency**  
(electorate figures are as at 3rd September 2007)

**Balham Ward**

Polling District BHA (electorate 3,299)

Polling Place - Broomwood Methodist Church Hall, entrance in Kyrle Road

Comments: These premises are located on the northern edge of the polling district and are the only available accommodation in the polling district which are suitable for use as polling stations. The accommodation is spacious, with good facilities, and both the approach and entrance to the polling place are flat. A Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) operates in Kyrle Road and neighbouring streets on weekdays, only between 9 30 a.m. and 10 30 a.m.

Polling District BHB (electorate 3,119)

Polling Place - The Gateway Community Centre, 51 Oldridge Road

Comments: These premises are located centrally in the polling district and are well known within the area. The accommodation is spacious, with good facilities, and both the approach and entrance to the polling place are flat. A CPZ operates in Oldridge Road and neighbouring streets on weekdays, only between 10 30 a.m. and 11 30 a.m.

Polling District BHC (electorate 2,655)

Polling Place - Balham Pentecostal Church, 18 Balham New Road

Comments: These premises are located in the southern part of the polling district and are the only identified, suitable accommodation in the polling district. The accommodation is restricted in size although adequate for the two polling stations currently allocated there; facilities are satisfactory. The approach is flat and, although there is a slight incline leading to the entrance door within the surround of the premises, this is suitable for use by disabled and infirm people. A CPZ operates in Balham New Road and neighbouring streets between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. except for Sundays.

Polling District BHD (electorate 1,949)

Polling Place - Henry Cavendish School Annexe, corner of Cavendish Road and Hydethorpe Road

Comment: This Annexe is located just outside the polling district on the eastern side of Cavendish Road and in the London Borough of Lambeth as, for a considerable period of time, it has not been possible to identify other suitable premises within the polling district for use as polling stations. Lambeth Council uses another part of the separate, main School in Hydethorpe Road as a polling place. The Annexe is well known locally and, although the accommodation is restricted in size, it is just adequate for the two polling stations currently allocated there. Facilities are satisfactory and it is necessary for the equipment there to be supplemented by the Council at times of elections by the provision of adult-sized furniture. The approach and the entrance at the corner of Cavendish Road and Hydethorpe Road are flat. CPZs operate locally and on the western side of Cavendish Road and the Zone operates between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. except for Sundays. A comment was received during consultation suggesting the polling place be made Balham Library Hall. This is commented on in paragraph 8 and is not recommended.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

### **Fairfield Ward**

#### Polling District FFA (electorate 2,601)

Polling Place - Training and Resource Centre, Alma Road

Comment: These premises are located reasonably centrally within the polling district. The accommodation is reasonably spacious, with good facilities, although the premises are situated on a road which - like most neighbouring roads - slopes downwards, south to north. Within the surrounds of the building there is a slight downward slope from the public footpath to the entrance door. However, the footpath and the premises themselves are suitable for use by disabled and infirm people. A CPZ operates in Alma Road and neighbouring streets between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays.

#### Polling District FFB (electorate 605)

Polling Place – West Hill Library Building, West Hill

Comment: During consultation comments were received suggesting West Hill Library be retained as the polling place, and if unavailable briefly, the nearby Church Hall at St Thomas a Becket Church be used temporarily while conversion to the museum proceeds. This is discussed in paragraphs 14 and 15 above.

#### Polling District FFC (electorate 2,669)

Polling Place - St Anne's Church Hall, St Ann's Crescent, opposite Rosehill Road

Comment: These premises are located centrally within the polling district. The accommodation is restricted in size although it is adequate for the two polling stations currently located there; the facilities are satisfactory. The approach from St Ann's Crescent and the entrance are flat, although the site slopes downward to the north and west and, consequently, the approach from those directions is slightly uphill, including through the surrounds of the church. A CPZ operates in local streets between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays.

Polling District FFD (electorate 3,483)

Polling Place - Louvaine Road Residents' Association, 92C St John's Hill

Comment: These premises are located towards the eastern end of the polling district and provide the only available accommodation in the polling district which has been identified as suitable for use as polling stations. The accommodation is somewhat cramped for the three polling stations currently located there; it is usually necessary for the Council to provide temporary supplementary internal electric lighting on the days of elections. The approach by St John's Hill is flat, although streets to the side of the polling place slope downwards, south to north. The entrance is narrow and there is a slight upward slope from the public footpath to the entrance, which is equipped with a handrail. A CPZ operates in local streets between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays.

Polling District FFE (electorate 1,403)

Polling Place – West Hill Library Building, West Hill

Comments: See comment for FFB and paragraphs 14 and 15.

**CONCLUSION - A change was previously proposed for polling districts FFB and FFE but opposed on consultation. Previously, West Hill Library was used as the polling place for these polling districts, and it is considered the polling scheme should retain this location as Wandsworth Civic Suite is too far for voters to travel. If a temporary alternative is required, this could be St Thomas a Becket Church Hall, Santos Road.**

Latchmere Ward

Polling District LMA (electorate 3,839)

Polling Place - Battersea Chapel, Wye Street

Comment: These premises are located on the north-western edge of the polling district and provide very good, spacious accommodation and facilities, with both the entrance and internal areas of the building permanently and comprehensively ramped. A stepped entrance is also available. The approach to the building is flat. Parking is available in Wye Street. Ingrave Street and local streets.

Polling District LMB (electorate 3,206)

Polling Place - Wilditch Community Centre, Culvert Road

Comment: These premises are located centrally within the polling district and provide very good, spacious accommodation and facilities. The approach and entrance is flat. Parking is available in Culvert Road and local streets.

Polling District LMC (electorate 1,423)

Polling Place - George Shearing Community Centre, Este Road

Comment: These premises are located on the eastern edge of the main residential area of the polling district. The accommodation is spacious, with good facilities. The approach and entrance are flat. A CPZ operates in Este Road between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays.

Polling District LMD (electorate 1,820)

Polling Place - Battersea Youth Centre, Hope Street

Comments: These premises are located centrally within the polling district and provide adequate accommodation and facilities. The approach and entrance are flat. Parking is available in Hope Street and local streets.

It is proposed that these premises will also be used for polling district SME in the St Mary's Park Ward.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

**Northcote Ward**

Polling District NCA (electorate 2,003)

Polling Place - Northcote Road Baptist Church Hall, Wakehurst Road

Comment: These premises are located centrally, although they are on the eastern edge of the polling district. The accommodation and facilities are reasonable. Generally, the streets in the polling district slope sharply uphill, east to west from Northcote Road. The entrance from Wakehurst Road to the door of the polling place is slightly sloped and the entrance has handrails. A CPZ operates in Wakehurst Road and local streets between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. except for Sundays.

Polling District NCB (electorate 3,575)

Belleville School, Belleville Road

Comment: These premises are located in the western part of the residential area of the polling district. The accommodation is spacious and the facilities are good. Generally, the streets in the polling district to the east of Northcote Road slope sharply, including Belleville Road from which access to the polling place is gained. However, the short path from the public footpath to the school building is flat. A CPZ operates in Belleville Road and local streets between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. except for Sundays.

Polling District NCC (electorate 2,997)

Polling Place - Chatham Hall, 152 Northcote Road, opposite Northcote Library

Comment: These premises are located at the northern end of the polling district. The accommodation and facilities are good. There is a slight uphill approach to the premises from Northcote Road and inside there is a permanent ramp from the small car park which is in front of the building. The entrance to the building is slightly sloping and has handrails. An alternative stepped exit to the building is available and the Council provides a temporary ramp over the steps at times of elections. Apart from the car park in front of the premises, a CPZ operates in Northcote Road and local streets between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. except for Sundays.

Polling District NCD (electorate 2,208)

Polling Place - St John's Hill Centre (formerly Peabody Hall), Peabody Estate (entrance in St John's Hill and Strath Terrace)

Comment: These premises are located in the western part of the polling district and within the Peabody Estate. They provide the only identified suitable accommodation in the polling district. The accommodation and facilities are reasonable. There is a slight ramped slope to the entrance door and this has a handrail. The premises are regularly used by disabled and infirm people. Vehicular access to the Centre is from Boutflower Road and also there are many pedestrian access points, principally from St John's Hill and Strath Terrace. There is a small car parking area in front of the Hall and a CPZ operates in local streets between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

### **Queenstown Ward**

#### **Polling District QTA (electorate 885)**

Polling Place - R.O.S.E. Community Clubroom, Ascalon Street (access for vehicles only via Wandsworth Road)

Comment: These premises are located reasonably centrally in the polling district in relation to the main concentration of electors and provide very good spacious accommodation and facilities. Both the approach and the entrance to the building are flat. Parking is available in Ascalon Street and local streets.

#### **Polling District QTB (electorate 1,915)**

Polling Place - Patmore Community Clubroom, Thessaly Road

Comment: These premises are located at the southern edge of the polling district, on the boundary with the London Borough of Lambeth, and are reasonably well situated in relation to the main concentration of electors and towards the natural entry/exit points on to Wandsworth Road. No suitable and available premises have been identified within the polling district for use for polling purposes. The building provides very good, spacious accommodation and facilities. Both the approach and the entrance, which is set back within the curtilage of the building, are flat. Parking is available in Thessaly Road.

#### **Polling District QTC (electorate 2,495)**

Polling Place - Heathbrook Park Sports Centre, St. Rule Street

Comment: These premises are situated in the south-eastern part of the polling district and provide the only identified available accommodation in that polling district which is suitable for use for polling purposes. The accommodation and facilities are good. Both the approach and the entrance are flat. A CPZ operates in St Rule Street, which is closed at a point just to the south of the premises, between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. on weekdays.

#### **Polling District QTD (electorate 3,076)**

Polling Place - All Saint's Church, Prince of Wales Drive

Comment: These premises are located reasonably centrally in the polling district and provide very good, spacious accommodation and facilities. The approach is flat, with a slight slope to the entrance within the curtilage of the building. However, this is suitable for use by disabled/infirm people. A CPZ operates in Prince of Wales Drive between 9 00 a.m. and 5 00 p.m. on weekdays.

Polling District QTE (electorate 2,226)

Polling Place - Shaftesbury Christian Centre, 2 Austin Road

Comment: These premises are located on the western edge of the polling district and provide the most suitable accommodation available within the polling district. The accommodation and facilities are good. The approach and entrance are flat. Parking is available in Austin Road and some limited Red Route parking is available in nearby Battersea Park Road.

**CONCLUSION - The only change proposed affects polling district QTD. For recent elections, Battersea Park Library in Battersea Park Road has been used, although this building is situated outside of the polling district; the accommodation there is rather cramped. The opportunity now exists to return to All Saint's Church Hall, Prince of Wales Drive, which was used previously until it became unavailable a few years ago. In view of the much superior accommodation which it offers and its convenient location within the polling district, the Returning Officer proposes to return to this location for elections in the future.**

Shaftesbury Ward

Polling District SBA (electorate 4,884)

Polling Place - Lower Hall, Battersea Arts Centre, Town Hall Road

Comment: These premises are situated centrally within the polling district and the accommodation and facilities are adequate. The approach to the Lower Hall, which is situated at the northern end of Town Hall Road, is hilly, sloping downwards south to north. Entrance to the Lower Hall is by means of fairly steep steps and a separate flat entrance is available further to the north at the rear of the Battersea Arts Centre. Town Hall Road is a private road for parking purposes and a CPZ operates in Theatre Street adjoining the Battersea Arts Centre and local streets between 8 30 a.m. and 6 30 p.m. except Sundays.

Polling District SBB (electorate 3,028)

Polling Place - Devas Club, Stormont Road

Comment: These premises are located in the north-western part of the polling district and provide the most suitable accommodation identified in the district for use for polling purposes. The Hall is situated at the rear of the premises and the approach and entrance are flat, with the accommodation and facilities being adequate for use by the number of polling stations located there. A CPZ operates in Stormont Road and local streets between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. on weekdays.

Polling District SBC (electorate 2,752)

Polling Place - Battersea Scout Centre, 15 Wickersley Road

Comment: These premises are situated at the northern edge of the polling district and provide the most suitable accommodation identified in the district for use for polling purposes. The accommodation is spacious and the facilities are good. The approach is flat, although electors living in the southern part of the district have to walk downhill to the polling place. The entrance has a step and a portable ramp is provided by the Council at times of elections. A CPZ operates in Wickersley Road and local streets between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. on weekdays.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

**St Mary's Park Ward**

Polling District SMA (electorate 2,620)

Polling Place - Dimson Hall, 141 Battersea Church Road

Comment: These premises are located in the western part of the polling district and provide the most suitable accommodation identified in the district for use for polling purposes. The accommodation and facilities are modern and very good. The approach and entrance are flat. A CPZ operates in Battersea Church Road between 9 00 a.m. and 5 00 p.m. except Sundays.

Polling District SMB (electorate 3,797)

Polling Place - Katherine Low Settlement, 108 Battersea High Street (entrance in Orville Road)

Comment: These premises are located in the western part of the polling district and provide the only suitable, available accommodation identified in the district for use for polling purposes. Both the Hall and the Canteen areas of the premises are used for polling and the accommodation and facilities are adequate for the number of polling stations located there. The approach and the entrance in Orville Road are flat. A CPZ operates in local streets between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays and a disabled parking bay is located in Orville Road.

Polling District SMC (electorate 2,866)

Polling Place - Ethelburga Community Centre, Worfield Road

Comment: These premises are located centrally in the polling district. Both the Hall and the Meeting Room will be used for polling and provide adequate accommodation and facilities for the number of polling stations located there.

The approach has a slight slope with one step which is permanently ramped and the entrance is flat. The premises are regularly used by disabled and infirm people. A CPZ operates in Worfield Street and local streets between 9 00 a.m. and 5 00 p.m. on weekdays.

Polling District SMD (electorate 1,161) (**proposed revised polling district**)

Polling Place – Caius House, Holman Road – temporary substitute if needed: Battersea Central Mission Hall (also known as Battersea Methodist Mission), 20/22 York Road

Comment: Previously, premises at Caius House, Holman Road were used: although these are planned to be shortly redeveloped they are now expected to be available in May 2008. The best alternative location has been sought. The Battersea Central Mission premises are located in the south-eastern part of the polling district and provide the suitable accommodation identified in the district for use for polling purposes. The Hall used for polling is situated to the side and rear of the main Mission building and access is via a signed pedestrian passageway. The approach is flat, although at the entrance a steep step up into the Hall will require the provision by the Council of a portable ramp. The accommodation and facilities at the Hall are adequate. York Road is a Red Route and there is time limited Red Route parking nearby. During consultation an alternative temporary polling place at York Gardens Library was suggested: this is feasible, although marginally inferior as it is slightly further away and requires the busy York Road to be crossed – see paragraphs 22-24.

Polling District SME (electorate 751) (**proposed new polling district**)

Polling Place - Battersea Youth Centre, Hope Street

Comment: This proposed new polling district comprises the western portion of the previous SMD district, and contains the new Battersea Reach development (previously known as Gargoyle Wharf). There are at present no identified, suitable premises in the proposed new SME polling district which could be used for polling purposes. It is therefore proposed to use the Battersea Youth Centre. This proposed polling place is situated slightly to the south of the proposed new polling district and it is reasonably centrally situated in terms of the east/west location of the SME polling district. The Battersea Youth Centre will also be used for polling district LMD and a description of the premises is given above in the details on Latchmere Ward. During consultation, an alternative of the Chatfield Road Health Centre, a temporary portacabin or other location in SME itself were suggested. None of these proposals were feasible – see paragraph 25.

**CONCLUSION - The closure of the Wand Youth Club in polling district SMC gave rise to the need to find an alternative location for elections. The nearest available, and still centrally located, building is Ethelburga Community Centre in Worfield Street and therefore it is proposed that this be used for polling in future.**

**Caius House is expected to be available in May 2008 and is proposed to be retained as the principal polling place. Battersea Central Mission Hall is proposed for use as a temporary polling place for polling district SMD if the polling place at Caius House Club, Holman Road is redeveloped.**

**It is proposed to split the current polling district SMD into two new polling districts - SMD and SME. As indicated above, on a temporary basis it is proposed to retain Caius House in May 2008, but use Battersea Central Mission Hall as the temporary polling place for the proposed revised SMD polling district if needed subsequently. For new polling district SME no suitable accommodation exists currently within the district and, consequently, it is proposed to use Battersea Youth Centre, Hope Street (which is also used for polling district LMD). This would offer a cost-effective means of covering the small but rapidly rising population in this area. Parts of the area of the proposed new SME polling district are still undergoing redevelopment and, if as a result of subsequent building works, a suitable polling place within the polling district can be identified at a later date, then consideration would be given to its use for polling purposes in future. A consultation proposal to use the Chatfield Road Health Centre as a polling place was not considered feasible.**

#### **Wandsworth Common Ward (part)**

Polling District WCF (electorate 1,450)

Polling Place - One O'Clock Centre, Heathfield Road

Comment: See Polling District WCC below. Polling District WCF is included in the Battersea Constituency for Parliamentary elections, and in the Tooting Constituency for other elections.

#### **Putney Parliamentary Constituency**

(electorate figures are as at 3rd September 2007)

#### **East Putney Ward**

Polling District EPA (electorate 3,748)

Polling Place - Methodist Church Hall, Gwendolen Avenue (corner of Upper Richmond Road)

Comment: These premises are located in the north-western corner of the polling district. The accommodation is adequate, although it can become congested when voting is busiest. The facilities are satisfactory. The main entrance is stepped, although a separate disabled access is available on the Upper Richmond Road side of the premises. A CPZ operates in Gwendolen Avenue and neighbouring streets only between 8 30 a.m. and 6 30 p.m. except

on Sundays. A proposal during consultation to move the polling place to South Thames College or Putney High School was not considered feasible.

Polling District EPB (electorate 3,724)

Polling Place - St Stephen's Church, Manfred Road

Comment: These premises are located close to the centre of the polling district. The accommodation is adequate and the facilities are satisfactory, although additional electric lighting may be required at times of elections; this is to be actioned by the Council when necessary. Access is level and vehicles used by disabled voters are permitted to park in the Church grounds. A CPZ operates in Manfred Road and neighbouring streets only between 8 30 a.m. and 6 30 a.m. except on Sundays.

Polling District EPC (electorate 1,373)

Polling Place - St Michael's Church Hall, Wimbledon Park Road (corner of Granville Road)

Comment: These premises are located just outside the polling district, at its south-eastern corner; no suitable or available alternative premises have been identified within the polling district for use for polling purposes. A permanent ramp is in place to provide access for disabled people, and the accommodation is spacious and has good facilities. CPZs operate in neighbouring streets to the south only between 2 00 p.m. and 3 00 p.m. on weekdays and between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays to the north.

Polling District EPD (electorate 2,271)

Polling Place - Cadet Hall, rear of 19 Lytton Grove

Comment: These premises are located in the north-eastern corner of the polling district. Access, via a driveway, is level and the accommodation is adequately sized; facilities are good. Vehicles used by disabled voters are permitted to park in the Hall grounds. A CPZ operates in Lytton Grove and neighbouring streets only between 9 30 a.m. and 10 30 a.m. on weekdays.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

**Fairfield Ward (part)**

Polling District FFE (electorate 1,403)

Polling Place – West Hill Library Building, West Hill

Comment: See Polling District FFB above. Polling District FFE is included in the Putney Constituency for Parliamentary elections, and in the Battersea Constituency for other elections.

## **Roehampton Ward**

### **Polling District RHA (electorate 881)**

Polling Place - Stag House, Stroud Crescent

Comment: These premises are located on the Putney Vale Estate which is the principal centre of residential population for this polling district. The former polling place (at the nearby Putney Vale Community Clubroom) has fallen increasingly into disrepair and its future is currently being reviewed. Access to Stag House is reasonably level and the accommodation is adequate for polling purposes; the facilities are satisfactory. On-street parking is available.

### **Polling District RHB (electorate 2,946)**

Polling Place - St Joseph's Catholic Church, 218 Roehampton Lane

Comment: These premises are located at the northern edge of the polling district and conveniently close to the centre of Roehampton. Although the Church is situated on a hill, access into the premises is level and the accommodation is spacious and facilities are excellent. Vehicles used by disabled voters are permitted to park in the Church grounds. Roehampton Lane is a Red Route. A proposal to change this polling place to Heathmere School or a shop or other premises in Petersfield Rise was not considered feasible – see paragraphs 17-19

### **Polling District RHC (electorate 3,363)**

Polling Place - Roehampton Library, Danebury Avenue

Comment: These premises are located on the eastern edge of the polling district and conveniently close to the centre of Roehampton. Access is level and the accommodation is very satisfactory, with good facilities. Parking is available in the car park adjoining the Library.

### **Polling District RHD (electorate 2,562)**

Polling Place - Brookside Community Centre, Priory Lane

Comment: These premises are located in the northern part of the polling district and are readily accessible to the majority of the district's electors, who reside on the Lennox Estate. However, it is a significant distance from other residents (e.g. of Roedean Crescent and Roehampton Gate) and from student residences on the campus of Roehampton University. Access to the premises is level and the accommodation is spacious, with good facilities. On-street parking is available nearby. Consideration has been given to a proposal made previously and again in consultation for sub-dividing this polling district to produce a new small district with a polling place within the Roehampton University Campus or at the Eastwood Estate Clubroom. However, as this

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would only include a static population of some 732 voters - virtually all of whom would be active and mobile - it is not considered essential and would not be cost-effective: see paragraphs 20,21 above.

### Polling District RHE (electorate 1,107)

Polling Place - Roehampton Church School Nursery (Ponsonby Road entrance)

Comment: These premises are situated on the western edge of the polling district, and close to the main concentration of electors. A temporary ramp to the entrance is provided by the Council at times of elections; otherwise, access is level and facilities are good. The accommodation is adequately sized for polling purposes. On-street parking is available outside the premises.

**CONCLUSION - Apart from moving the polling place for RHA to Stag House for the reasons set out above, no changes are proposed to the locations of any of the other existing polling places for this Ward.**

## Southfields Ward

### Polling District SFA (electorate 3,717)

Polling Place - St Barnabas' Church Hall, Lavenham Road

Comment: These premises are located on the eastern edge of the polling district. A temporary ramp to the entrance is provided by the Council at times of elections; otherwise access is level. The accommodation is cramped and becomes congested when voting is busiest; facilities are satisfactory. However, the Hall is the only identified suitable building available in the district for use for polling purposes. At some time in the future, the Hall is to undergo refurbishment and, for the duration of that project, it is proposed that the Church itself will be used for polling purposes. A CPZ operates in Lavenham Road and neighbouring streets only between 1 30 p.m. and 2 30 p.m. on weekdays.

### Polling District SFB (electorate 2,757)

Polling Place - Baptist Church Hall, Wimbledon Park Road (entrance at rear in Pirbright Road)

Comment: These premises are located towards the south-western corner of the polling district. The external approaches slope towards the Hall and are uneven but, overall, the access arrangement is considered to be reasonable for polling purposes. Access into the premises is level and the accommodation is spacious, with reasonable facilities, although electric lighting may be poor. The Council provides supplementary electric lighting as necessary at times of elections. A CPZ operates in Wimbledon Park Road and neighbouring streets between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays.

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### Polling District SFC (electorate 2,936)

Polling Place - Royal Military Police Building, Buckhold Road

Comment: These premises are located in the northern part of the polling district. Access is reasonably level, incorporating a permanent ramp, and the accommodation and facilities are adequate. A CPZ operates in Buckhold Road and neighbouring streets between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays.

### Polling District SFD (electorate 1,863)

Polling Place - TAVR Centre, 351 Merton Road

Comment: These premises are located centrally within the polling district, on its western boundary. Access is level and the accommodation is very spacious, with good facilities. A CPZ operates in Merton Road and neighbouring streets only between 1 30 p.m. and 2 30 p.m. on weekdays.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

## Thamesfield Ward

### Polling District TFA (electorate 2,539)

Polling Place - All Saints Church, Putney Common

Comment: These premises are located near the centre of the polling district. Access is via either the Common or Egliston Road; both approaches are level. A ramp into the Church is provided by the church authorities. The accommodation is adequately sized and facilities are good. A CPZ operates in Egliston Road and Putney Common and neighbouring streets only between 9 30 a.m. and 10 30 a.m. on weekdays.

### Polling District TFB (electorate 3,796)

Polling Place - St Mary's Church of England School, corner of Charlwood Road and Felsham Road

Comment: These premises are located near the centre of the polling district. The accommodation is very satisfactory, with good facilities. A ramp is provided by the Council at times of elections to facilitate access into the building and otherwise the approaches are level. A CPZ operates locally between 8 30 a.m. and 6 30 p.m. except for Sundays.

### Polling District TFC (electorate 2,897)

Polling Place - Putney Library, Disraeli Road

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Comment: These premises are located in the southern part of the polling district, and close to Putney High Street. Access from Disraeli Road is level; the accommodation is slightly cramped and can become congested when voting is busiest; the facilities are reasonable, although it may be necessary for the Council to provide supplementary heating at times of elections. A CPZ operates in Disraeli Road and neighbouring streets between 8 30 a.m. and 6 30 p.m. except on Sundays.

### Polling District TFD (electorate 1,910)

Polling Place - Brandlehow Nursery School (entrance from Skelgill Road - junction with Fawe Park Road)

Comment: These premises are located near the centre of the polling district. Access is level and the accommodation is adequately sized; the facilities are good. A CPZ operates locally between 8 30 a.m. and 6 30 p.m. except on Sundays.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

## West Hill Ward

### Polling District WHA (electorate 3,745)

Polling Place - Open Door Community Centre, Beaumont Road

Comment: These premises are located reasonably close to the centre of the polling district. Although the building is situated on a hill, access to and within the premises is level and the accommodation is spacious with very good facilities. Limited car parking space is available on site.

### Polling District WHB (electorate 1,359)

Polling Place - The Wimbledon Park Rifle Club, Granville Road

Comment: These premises are situated outside the polling district, just beyond its eastern boundary, as there were no identified premises within the district which were suitable and available for polling purposes. Approaches have been made to the Principal of St Cecilia's School to seek the use of part of the school premises for polling purposes but he has again confirmed just recently that this is not considered feasible.

The Rifle Club premises are set back from Granville Road, behind a terrace of houses, and situated beside a railway embankment. The accommodation is not entirely satisfactory and the floors are uneven and "springy" in places although not considered hazardous in any way. Special arrangements need to be made to screen off items of the Club's equipment. A temporary ramp is provided by the Council at times of elections to facilitate access into the building. Vehicles

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used by disabled voters are permitted to park in the Club's driveway. A CPZ operates locally only between 2 00 p.m. and 3 00 p.m. on weekdays.

### Polling District WHC (electorate 4,001)

Polling Place - St Paul's Community Centre, Inner Park Road

Comment: These premises are located near the centre of the polling district. Access into the building is level, although there is a small step from the public footpath to the Centre's surrounds; an investigation will be carried out to assess the feasibility, and safety, of the Council providing a temporary ramp at times of elections. The accommodation is spacious and has good facilities. Parking for cars is available on-street. A proposal was received in consultation to sub-divide this polling district and introduce a new polling place at or near the junction of Albert Drive and Victoria Drive. This was not considered feasible or cost-effective – see paragraphs 27 and 28.

### Polling District WHD (electorate 1,951)

Polling Place - Southfields Library, Wimbledon Park Road

Comment: These premises are located near the north-eastern corner of the polling district, and it is recognised that this is some distance from residential properties in the south-western part of the district. The premises are fully accessible to disabled people and the facilities are excellent. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward, although a continued search for more ideal premises in polling district WHB will be maintained.**

## West Putney Ward

### Polling District WPA (electorate 2,931)

Polling Place - Dryburgh Hall, Dryburgh Road (by Putney Leisure Centre)

Comment: These premises are located on the northern edge of the polling district. The accommodation is spacious and the facilities are good. Although the Hall is above ground level, a lift is available. A CPZ operates locally only between 9 30 a.m. and 10 30 a.m. on weekdays.

### Polling District WPB (electorate 2,766)

Polling Place - Eastwood Community Centre, Aubyn Square (access also by footpath next to 154 Huntingfield Road)

Comment: These premises are located near the western boundary of the polling district, with access for some voters via a footpath off Huntingfield Road. The approaches to the building are level, although there is a small step

into the Centre; an investigation will be carried out to assess the feasibility, and safety, of the Council providing a temporary ramp at times of elections. The accommodation is small, although adequate for polling purposes, and the facilities are satisfactory. Although car parking on the housing estate is controlled, voters are permitted to park in front of the polling place whilst they are voting. A proposal was received during consultation to reconfigure this polling district simultaneously with WPD, and to use this polling place for a new district with a north/south boundary to the east. This was not considered feasible – see paragraphs 29 and 30.

Polling District WPC (electorate 3,361)

Polling Place - The Ashburton Luncheon Club, 101 - 103 Carslake Road

Comment: These premises are located towards the southern edge of the polling district and are the only identified, suitable premises for polling purposes. A permanent ramp provides access into the building, the accommodation is satisfactory and the facilities are satisfactory. Although car parking on the housing estate is controlled, voters are permitted to park in front of the polling place whilst they are voting and on nearby uncontrolled roads.

Polling District WPD (electorate 1,267)

Polling Place - Sports Pavilion, Roehampton Playing Fields, Coppice Drive (entrance also from Dover House Road)

Comment: These premises are located on the southern edge of the polling district and are the only identified, suitable premises for polling purposes. A temporary ramp into the premises is provided by the Council at times of elections. The accommodation is adequate and the facilities are satisfactory. Parking for cars is available on-street. During consultation a proposal to reconfigure this polling district and have a new polling place at St Margaret's Church Hall, Putney Park Lane was received. This was not considered feasible – see paragraphs 29 and 30 above.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

**Tooting Parliamentary Constituency**

(electorate figures are as at 3rd September 2007)

**Bedford Ward**

Polling District BFA (electorate 2,711)

Polling Place - TAVR Centre, 213 Balham High Road

Comment: These premises are located in the centre of the western edge of the polling district and provide the only identified and available accommodation in that district

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for use for polling purposes. The premises occupy a prominent position on the High Road and are easily recognisable. They are spacious, with good facilities and two wide entrances to the Hall. Separate wheelchair access is provided. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. on weekdays; Balham High Road is a Red Route.

### Polling District BFB (electorate 2,972)

Polling Place - Rydevale Day Nursery, 33 Little Dimocks, Ryde Vale Road

Comment: These premises are located within a housing estate, near the centre of the populated, northern part of the polling district. Whilst the premises are of modest size, they provide adequate accommodation and facilities for polling purposes, although the Council provides adult-sized furniture at times of elections. Ramps with handrails are provided for the front main entrance and for the side entrance to the hall. No suitable alternative premises are available within the polling district. Although car parking on the housing estate is controlled, voters can park in front of the polling place whilst they are voting. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. on weekdays.

### Polling District BFC (electorate 3,359)

Polling Place - St Anselm's School, Tooting Bec Road (entrance from Louisville Road only)

Comment: These premises are located in the centre of the western edge of the populated area of the polling district. The accommodation is spacious and has good facilities; there is a shallow step at the entrance for which a ramp is provided by the Council at times of elections to make it accessible by wheelchair users. Voters are permitted to park in the school car park. A CPZ operates in Louisville Road between 9 30 a.m. and 6 30 p.m. except on Sundays; Tooting Bec Road is a Red Route.

### Polling District BFD (electorate 1,951)

Polling Place - Bruce Hall, Brudenell Road (near junction with Franciscan Road)

Comment: This polling district is designated to vote at Bruce Hall as these premises, whilst located outside the western boundary of the Ward, are considered to offer a more convenient polling place for the voters concerned (instead of the previous polling place at St Anselm's School). The accommodation allocated for the two polling stations, whilst modest, is adequate and facilities are reasonable. The entrance is flat and is easily accessible by wheelchair users. Voters are permitted to park in the Church Hall car park. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays.

These premises will also be used for polling district GNC in Graveney Ward.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

**Earlsfield Ward**

Polling District EFA (electorate 2,147)

Polling Place - Anchor Congregational Church, Garratt Lane (adjacent to John Pounds House, 271 Garratt Lane)

Comment: These premises are located conveniently almost at the centre of the polling district and they adequately accommodate two polling stations. The Hall, which has good facilities, is easily accessed via a short paved passage and a slight paved ramp. There are two large advisory disabled parking bays in front of the entrance. A CPZ operates in the area between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays.

Polling District EFB (electorate 3,887)

Polling Place - St Andrew's Parish Hall, Waynflete Street

Comment: These premises are located slightly north of the centre of the polling district and adequately accommodate three polling stations. The Hall, which has good facilities and a reasonably wide entrance, is accessed from the pavement over a slight concreted ramp. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays.

Polling District EFC (electorate 2,041)

Polling Place - St Gregory's Church Hall, 306 Garratt Lane (adjacent to Henry Prince Estate)

Comment: These premises are located in the middle of the western edge of the polling district. The accommodation is adequately sized and, whilst most facilities are considered to be good, the Council makes any necessary supplementary heating and electric lighting available at times of elections. Access to the Hall includes a permanent ramp equipped with handrails. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays. Ample off-street car parking space is available in front of the Hall.

Polling District EFD (electorate 2,795)

Polling Place - Aboyne Estate Tenants' Clubroom, Deeside Road

Comment: These premises are located within a housing estate to the east of the centre of the polling district. The accommodation is adequately sized and facilities are very good. There is a gentle gradient, built in ramp with handrails to access the hall via a wide entrance. There is ample off-street car parking in front of the Clubroom.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

**Furzedown Ward**

Polling District FDA (electorate 2,635)

Polling Place - St Paul's Church, Welham Road (entrance from Chillerton Road)

Comment: These premises are located centrally within the polling district. The accommodation and facilities are adequate. There are two entrances to this polling place - one with steps and handrails at the front of the premises and the other at the side where there is a single shallow step. At times of elections, the Council provides a temporary ramp to the side entrance into the

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Church. Parking is available in Chillerton Road and Welham Road, as well as the Church grounds.

### Polling District FDB (electorate 2,873)

Polling Place - Mitcham Lane Baptist Church, corner of Mitcham Lane and Welham Road)

Comment: These premises are located almost at the centre of polling districts FDB and FDD and the accommodation is adequately sized to contain polling stations for electors from both polling districts. There are two entrances - one of which is stepped and the other has a permanent ramp. At times of elections, the Council provides a temporary ramp and barrier treatment internally to one of the polling stations. Parking is available in Welham Road and Mitcham Lane.

### Polling District FDC (electorate 2,404)

Polling Place - The Richardson Hall, St Alban's Church Centre, corner of Thrale Road and Pretoria Road

Comment: These premises are located at the edge of the southern end of the polling district. The accommodation is provided in a modern building which is adequately sized and has good facilities. The approach is level and the entrance is wide. Limited parking is available on the premises and on-street parking is available in Pretoria Road.

### Polling District FDD (electorate 2,904)

Polling Place - Mitcham Lane Baptist Church, corner of Mitcham Lane and Welham Road

Comment: See Polling District FDB above. No suitable and available premises have been identified within the FDD polling district for use for polling purposes, but the accessibility and convenience of the Baptist Church in polling district FDB is considered satisfactory and the best reasonable solution in the circumstances.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

## Graveney Ward

### Polling District GNA (electorate 4,511)

Polling Place - Tooting and Balham Sea Cadet Corps Unit, Mellison Road (corner of Himley Road)

Comment: These premises are located in the middle of the northern half of the polling district. The accommodation is modestly sized but adequate for polling

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purposes. Facilities are reasonable. Access to the Hall is via a wooden ramp at the front provided by the Council at times of elections, as well as a ramped access from the rear garden. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. except on Sundays.

### Polling District GNB (electorate 3,453)

Polling Place - St Nicholas Church (Church Room), Church Lane

Comment: These premises are located in the centre of the southern half of the polling district. The accommodation is adequately sized and facilities are good. A ramped access is provided to the premises. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. except on Sundays. Limited parking is available in the Church grounds.

### Polling District GNC (electorate 2,713)

Polling Place - Bruce Hall, Brudenell Road (near junction with Franciscan Road)

Comment: This polling district is designated to vote at Bruce Hall as these premises, whilst located outside the northern edge of the Ward, are considered to offer a more convenient polling place for the voters concerned. The accommodation and facilities are adequate. The entrance is flat and is easily accessible by wheelchair users. Voters are permitted to park in the Church Hall car park. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays.

These premises will also be used for polling district BFD in Bedford Ward.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

## Nightingale Ward

### Polling District NGA (electorate 2,234)

Polling Place - St Jude's Church Hall (also known as Gateway House), Heslop Road

Comment: These premises are located near the centre of the polling district. The accommodation, though severely limited in size, is just adequate for polling purposes, and the facilities are reasonable. No suitable and available premises have been identified within the polling district for use for polling purposes. Access is generally level although there is a shallow step at the entrance. A CPZ operates locally only from 11 30 a.m. and 12 30 p.m. on weekdays. During consultation some proposals and comments were received from a blind voter. These will be adopted as far as practicable – see paragraph 16 above.

Polling District NGB (electorate 3,599)

Polling Place - Balham Library, Ramsden Road

Comment: These premises are located just outside the southern boundary of the polling district; no alternative suitable premises have been identified within the polling district for use for polling purposes. The Hall is fully accessible to the disabled, the approaches are level and the entrance is wide, the accommodation is adequately sized and the facilities are very good. A parking bay for use by disabled people is available just outside the entrance. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. on weekdays.

Polling District NGC (electorate 3,818)

Polling Place - St Mark's United Reformed Church Hall, Rowfant Road  
(entrance also in Balham High Road)

Comment: These premises are located near the centre of the polling district, on its eastern boundary. The accommodation is spacious and the facilities are reasonable. There is a slight ridge at the entrance to the Hall which does not inhibit wheelchair use. Access is from either Balham High Road or Rowfant Road - each leading to a long, narrow footpath at the side of the Church premises. The surface of this path in some places is uneven, with a few raised areas. As far as reasonably possible measures are taken by the Council at times of elections to lessen the impact of these shortcomings. No alternative suitable premises have been identified within the polling district for use for polling purposes. Balham High Road is a Red Route. Rowfant Road is in a CPZ which operates between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. except on Sundays.

Polling District NGD (electorate 1,434)

Polling Place - St Mary Magdalene Church Hall, Trinity Road (near junction with Bellevue Road)

Comment: These premises are located on the northern edge of the polling district. The accommodation is adequately sized for a single polling station and the facilities are good. Access is via a permanent ramp and a wide entrance. Trinity Road is a Red Route. Parking bays for use by disabled people are available opposite the Hall. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. except on Sundays.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

**Tooting Ward**

Polling District TTA (electorate 2,594)

Polling Place - Fairlight Christian Centre, Fairlight Road

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Comment: These premises are located in the centre of the southern part of the polling district. The accommodation is adequately sized and has good facilities. Access is via a permanent ramp, with handrails, and a wide entrance. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. except on Sundays.

### Polling District TTB (electorate 2,310)

Polling Place - Church Hall, Pilgrims' Union Church of God, Aldis Street

Comment: These premises are located in the southern part of the polling district. The accommodation is modestly sized but adequate and the facilities are reasonable. Access is via a permanent ramp at the entrance. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. except on Sundays.

### Polling District TTC (electorate 2,117)

Polling Place - St Augustine's Church Hall, Broadwater Road (near junction with Upper Tooting Road)

Comment: These premises are located in the northern part of the polling district. The accommodation is adequately sized and has good facilities. Access is level, with a wide entrance. Parking is available in the Church grounds. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. except on Sundays.

### Polling District TTD (electorate 2,123)

Polling Place - Tooting Hub (Youth Club), St Peter's Church Hall, 7a Beechcroft Road

Comment: These premises are located near the north-eastern edge of the polling district. The accommodation is adequately sized and has good facilities. A temporary ramp to the entrance is provided by the Council at times of elections. Two parking spaces are available in the grounds of the Hall. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 4 30 p.m. on weekdays.

### Polling District TTE (electorate 2,044)

Polling Place - Church Hall, The Church of the God of Prophecy, Lynwood Road

Comment: These premises are located near the centre of the polling district. The accommodation is adequately sized and the facilities are good, although the Council provides supplementary internal electric lighting at times of elections, together with a temporary ramp to provide access to the Hall. A CPZ operates locally between 9 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m. except on Sundays.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

**Wandsworth Common Ward**

Polling District WCA (electorate 3,198)

Polling Place - Swaffield School, St Ann's Hill

Comment: These premises are located in the middle of the western side of the polling district. The accommodation is adequately sized and has good facilities. Access is via a low gradient ramp into the entrance and then level approach into the Hall. Parking for voters is available in the school grounds. A CPZ operates locally only between 10 30 a.m. and 11 30 a.m. on weekdays.

Polling District WCB (electorate 2,473)

Polling Place - Battersea Ironsides Sports and Social Club, Openview (by junction with Burntwood Lane)

Comment: These premises are located on the south-western edge of the polling district. The accommodation is adequately sized and the facilities are good, although at times of elections it is necessary for the Council to provide a temporary ramp over a shallow step into the hall; and - if necessary - supplementary electric lighting. Parking for voters is available in the Club's car park.

Polling District WCC (electorate 126)

Polling Place - One O'Clock Centre, Heathfield Road

Comment: These premises are located at the southern end of the polling district. The accommodation is adequately sized and the facilities are good, although the Council provides adult-sized furniture and supplementary external electric lighting at times of elections. Access is level. A CPZ operates locally only between 10 30 a.m. and 11 30 a.m. on weekdays.

(For Parliamentary elections, the Polling Place for this Polling District is combined with WCA above)

Polling District WCD (electorate 1,271)

Polling Place - Trinity Road Chapel, Trinity Road (entrance next to 207 Trinity Road)

Comment: These premises are located on the north-eastern edge of the polling district. The accommodation is adequately sized and the facilities are good, although the Council may need to provide supplementary internal electric lighting at times of elections. Access is via a level path and a gentle gradient ramp; guard rails are provided at the entrance. Trinity Road is a Red Route. A CPZ operates locally only between 11 30 a.m. and 12 30 p.m. on weekdays.

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Some Red Route disabled parking bays are provided nearby and limited car parking is available in the Chapel grounds.

### Polling District WCE (electorate 1,884)

Polling Place - Fitzhugh Community Clubroom, Fitzhugh Estate, Trinity Road

Comment: These premises are located in a housing estate on the north-western edge of the polling district. The accommodation is adequately sized and has good facilities. Access is level, through a wide doorway. Although car parking on the housing estate is controlled, voters can park in front of the polling place whilst they are voting.

### Polling District WCF (electorate 1,450)

Polling Place - One O'Clock Centre, Heathfield Road

Comment: See Polling District WCC above. Polling District WCF is included in the Battersea Constituency for Parliamentary elections, and in the Tooting Constituency for other elections.

**CONCLUSION - No changes are proposed to the locations of any of the existing polling places for this Ward.**

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