



# **Spelthorne Borough Council**

## **Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review**

### **Returning Officer Recommendations**

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19 December 2019

## The Review Process

A public notice posted was posted at the Council Offices at Knowle Green, on noticeboards within Spelthorne and on the Council's website.

11 October 2019	Start the review by posting the review notice – Consultation period commences
11 October 2019	Publish the Returning Officer's Submission
29 November 2019	Consultation period concludes
12 December 2019	Final recommendations published
19 December 2019	Council consider the recommendations

## Criteria for Polling Places and Polling Districts

There are a number of factors to take into account when considering polling districts and polling places. Guidance from the Electoral Commission lists the following key considerations:

With regard to polling district boundaries:

- Boundaries: Are these well-defined? For example, do they follow the natural boundaries of an area? Is it clear which properties belong in the polling district?
- Location: Are there suitable transport links within the polling district, and how do they relate to the areas of the district that are most highly populated? Are there any obstacles to voters crossing the current polling district and reaching the polling place e.g., rivers, railway lines, impassable main roads?

With regard to polling places:

- Location: Is the polling place reasonably accessible within the polling district? Does it avoid barriers for the voter such as steep hills, major roads, rivers etc.? Are there convenient transport links?
- Size: Can the polling place accommodate more than one polling station if required? If multiple polling stations are required, is the polling place large enough to accommodate all voters going even where there is a high turnout?
- Suitability: Is the building readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections? Is there any possibility that the building may be demolished as part of a new development or withdrawn as a facility? Is the building accessible to all those entitled to attend the polling place?

The Electoral Commission advises that location, size and layout of any polling place / station must be a key consideration when deciding on the number of electors to be allocated to a polling station. In conducting a review, it is proposed that no more than 2,000 voters should be assigned to each polling station for elections and referenda,

to ensure efficiency. In the event of a combined and/or Parliamentary Election, given more complex arrangements and higher voter turnout, it is proposed that these levels be reduced.

Consideration should also been given to the increased possibility of confusion and delays occurring where polling stations for more than one ward are allocated in the same building. It is therefore, suggested that, as far as is reasonably practical, polling stations for different wards should not be located in the same polling place. However, this is not always practical.

Inevitably there will be an element of compromise between the different factors involved in reviewing polling places and polling district boundaries, and indeed the Electoral Commission acknowledges this as follows: "In practice, however, the choice of polling places will often be a balance between the quality of a building (access, facilities etc.) and the proximity of the building to the electors. When making a decision, all factors will need to be considered and the authority will need to be able to demonstrate their reasoning behind their decision".

Where, because of local circumstances, a polling place has been selected that is not fully accessible, reasonable adjustments must be undertaken to provide access for all electors.

## Summary of Consultees

Current Premises	Other consultees
Ashford Church of England School Ashford Congregational Church Hall Beaclerc Infant School Buckland Primary School, Infant and Junior Charlton Village Hall Chennestone Primary School Echelford Primary School Fordway Centre Laleham Village Hall The Leacroft Centre The Manning Room Meadhurst School Resource Centre Riverbridge Primary School The Salvation Army Hall Saxon Primary School Shepperton Village Hall St Matthew's Church Hall St Michael's RC School St Peter's Church Hall St Saviour's Church Staines Community Centre Stanwell Congregational Church Hall Stanwell Fields School Stanwell Moor Village Hall Stanwell Village Hall Stanwell Youth Centre Sunbury Youth Centre The Well, St Martin's Court Hall	All Spelthorne's Resident's Associations  RNIB  Age UK  Surrey Health Action Scope  Runnymede & Spelthorne Citizens Advice Bureau  The booking staff for proposed premises  Borough Councillors / County Councillors

## Challenge of this review

Although the Electoral Commission has no initial role in the review process itself, it does have an important role in respect of considering representations and observations made that a Council has not conducted a review so as to:

- meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency, or a body of them (i.e the reasonable requirements of a particular area of the authority have not been satisfactorily met); or
- take sufficient account of the accessibility to disabled persons of polling stations within a designated polling place.

## **Who may make a representation to the Electoral Commission?**

Section 18D (1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, sets out who may make representations to the Electoral Commission namely;

- not less than thirty registered electors in the constituency
- any person who made representations to the Council when the review was being undertaken (except the Returning Officer)
- any person who is not an elector within the constituency who the Electoral Commission feels has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons
- In England, any parish council which is wholly or partly situated within the constituency (or parish meeting where there is no council).

Also the Returning Officer may make observations on any representations made to the Commission.

## **Review by the Electoral Commission**

The Electoral Commission is required to consider any such representations and observations and may direct the relevant Council to make any alterations it sees necessary to the polling places designated by the review.

Should a Council fail to make the alterations within two months of the direction being given, the Commission may make the alterations itself.

## **Proposal**

The publication of these recommendations contains details of current polling district and polling places for each of the 13 Wards within Spelthorne, along with the details of any proposed changes.

The Council will make a final decision on 19 December 2019.

Any new polling districts, polling places and polling stations will become effective at all elections held after this date. Electors will be notified in writing if there have been any changes to their Polling Place.

## **RETURNING OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

The recommendation is that the Polling Place for each polling district is coterminous with the proposed polling station.

<b>Polling Districts</b>	<b>Current Polling Station</b>	<b>Electorate (as at 3 May 2019)</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>AC1</b>	Echelford Primary School, Park Road, Ashford, TW15 1EX	1060	Retain this site as no feasible alternative has been identified.
<b>AC2 &amp; AC4</b>	Ashford C of E School, School Road, Ashford, TW15 2BW	1868 & 1014	Recommendation is to retain existing polling stations (2 stations in the building). Recommendation is to consider alternative room within the school.
<b>AC3</b>	Meadhurst School, Feltham Hill Road, Ashford Common, TW15 1LP	1061 & 1097	Change to Ashford Methodist Church Clarendon Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 2QR (2 stations in the building)
<b>AE1</b>	St Matthew's Church Hall, Muncaster Close, Ashford, TW15 2EE	1458 & 1561	Recommendation is to retain existing polling stations (2 stations in the building)
<b>AE2</b>	St Michael's RC School, Feltham Hill Road, Ashford, TW15 2DG	1329 & 1326	Recommendation is to retain existing polling stations (2 stations in the building)
<b>ANS1</b>	Stanwell Congregational Church Hall, Viscount Road, Stanwell, TW19 7RD	1763 & 1492	Recommendation is to retain existing polling stations (2 stations in the building)
<b>ANS2</b>	Fordway Centre, Stanwell Road, Ashford, TW15 3DU	1705 & 1051	Recommendation is to retain existing polling stations (2 stations in the building)
<b>AT1</b>	The Salvation Army Hall, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, TW15 3JY	1268 & 1347	Recommendation is to retain existing polling stations (2 stations in the building)

<b>Polling Districts</b>	<b>Current Polling Station</b>	<b>Electorate (as at 3 May 2019)</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>AT2</b>	Ashford Congregational Church Hall, Clarendon Road, Ashford, TW15 2QA	1269 & 1317	Recommendation is to retain existing polling stations (2 stations in the building)
<b>HSW1</b>	Halliford Community Centre. Upper Halliford Road, Shepperton, TW17 8SE	1410	Recommendation is to retain existing polling station and add another station for voters from HSW2 who previously attended Springfield Primary School.
<b>HSW2</b>	Springfield Primary School	1078 & 1114	Recommendation is to change to Hawkedale School for voters east of the A244. Voters west of the A244 to go to Halliford Community Centre.
<b>HSW3</b>	St Mary's Parish Hall, Green Street, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 6RN	1224	Recommendation is to retain existing polling station
<b>LSG1</b>	Laleham Village Hall, The Broadway, Laleham, TW18 1RZ	675	Recommendation is to retain existing polling station
<b>LSG2</b>	Saxon Primary School, Briar Road, Shepperton, TW17 0JB	1659 & 1627	Recommendation is to change to St John Fisher Church Hall (2 Polling Stations in building)
<b>LSG3 &amp; LSG4</b>	Charlton Village Hall, Hetherington Road, Charlton Village, Shepperton, TW17 0SN	1214 & 773	Recommendation is to retain existing polling stations (2 stations in the building)
<b>RL1</b>	St Peter's Church Hall, Laleham Road, Staines upon Thames, TW18 2DX	1278 & 1316	Recommendation is to retain existing polling stations (2 stations in the building)
<b>RL2</b>	Buckland Primary School (Infant), Berryscroft Road, Staines upon Thames, TW18 1NB	770 & 942	Recommendation is to change to the Staines and Laleham Sports Association, Worple Road (2 stations in the building).

<b>Polling Districts</b>	<b>Current Polling Station</b>	<b>Electorate (as at 3 May 2019)</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>RL3</b>	Buckland Primary School (Junior), Berryscroft Road, Staines upon Thames, TW18 1NB	833	Recommendation is to change to Staines and Laleham Sports Association, Worple Road.
<b>S1, S1 &amp; S4</b>	The Leacroft Centre, Raleigh Court, Leacroft, Staines upon Thames, TW18 4PB	1224, 1288 & 584	Recommendation is to retain existing polling stations (3 stations in the building)
<b>S2</b>	Staines Community Centre, Thames Street, Staines upon Thames, TW18 4EA	966	Recommendation is to retain existing polling station
<b>S3</b>	Riverbridge Primary School, Park Avenue, Staines upon Thames, TW18 2EF	1524	Recommendation is to retain existing polling stations (2 stations in the building)
<b>SC</b>	(Polling Station 37) St Saviour's Church, 205 Vicarage Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 7TP	1647	Recommendation is to change to Sunbury Ex-Servicemen's Club, Staines Road West, Sunbury Cross, Sunbury on Thames TW16 7BG. This is a new Polling Place for voters broadly south of Staines Road West.
<b>SC</b>	(Polling Station 38) St Saviour's Church, 205 Vicarage Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 7TP	1568	Recommendation is to change to Sunbury Youth Centre, Bryony Way, Beechwood Avenue, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 7RH with an alternative of Kenyngton Manor School Bryony Way, Beechwood Avenue, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 7QL
<b>SC</b>	(Polling Station 39) Sunbury Youth Centre, Bryony Way, Beechwood Avenue, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 7RH	1265	Recommendation is to retain existing station with an alternative of Kenyngton Manor School Bryony Way, Beechwood Avenue, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 7QL



<b>Polling Districts</b>	<b>Current Polling Station</b>	<b>Electorate (as at 3 May 2019)</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>SC</b>	(Polling Station 40) Sunbury Youth Centre, Bryony Way, Beechwood Avenue, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 7RH	1117	Recommendation is to change to The Running Horse Public House, Grovely Road, Sunbury on Thames TW16 7LB (one station) with an alternative of Kenyngton Manor School Bryony Way, Beechwood Avenue, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 7QL
<b>SE1</b>	The Manning Room, St Ignatius Roman Catholic Church, Green Street, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 6QB	1278	Recommendation is to retain existing polling station
<b>SE2</b>	Chennestone Primary School, Manor Lane, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 5LE	1664 & 1384	Recommendation is to retain existing polling stations (2 stations in the building). No alternatives have been identified.
<b>SE3</b>	Beauchlerc Infant School, 116 French Street, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 5LE	1196	Change to Riverside Arts Centre, 57-59 Thames Street, Sunbury on Thames TW16 5QF
<b>SN1</b>	Stanwell Moor Village Hall, Horton Road, Stanwell Moor, Staines upon Thames, TW19 6AE	960	Recommendation is to retain existing polling station
<b>SN2</b>	Stanwell Village Hall, High Street, Stanwell, TW19 7JR	1452	Recommendation is to retain existing polling station
<b>SN3</b>	Stanwell Youth Centre, Hadrian Way, Stanwell, TW19 7HE	1624	Recommendation is to retain existing polling station
<b>SN4</b>	Stanwell Fields Church of England Primary School, Clare Road, Stanwell TW19 7DB	1318	Recommendation is to change to St David's' Church Hall, Everest Road, Stanwell TW19 7EE
<b>SS1</b>	The Well, St Martin's Court Hall, Kingston Crescent, Ashford, TW15 3ND	1450	Recommendation is to retain existing polling station

<b>Polling Districts</b>	<b>Current Polling Station</b>	<b>Electorate (as at 3 May 2019)</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>SS2</b>	Resource Centre, Staines Park, Commercial Road, Staines upon Thames, TW18 2QJ	1133 & 1134	Recommendation is to retain existing polling stations (2 stations in the building)
<b>SS3</b>	Buckland Primary School (Junior), Berryscroft Road, Staines upon Thames, TW18 1NB	1460	Recommendation is to use Laleham Methodist Church Hall in Edinburgh Drive Staines TW18 1PH.
<b>ST</b>	Shepperton Village Hall, High Street, Shepperton, TW17 9BL	1335. 1371, 1327 & 1306	Recommendation is to use existing polling stations (4 stations in the building)

#### **Informative:**

The following Polling Places and Polling Stations will be in use when Parliament passes the relevant legislation and Spelthorne takes in an area from Runnymede Borough Council as part of the Spelthorne Constituency. These stations were not reviewed as part of this review.

<b>EH3</b>	The Hythe Centre, Thorpe Road, Staines, TW18 3HD	230	Recommendation is to use existing polling station
<b>ET4</b>	Egham Cricket Club Pavilion, Vicarage Road, TW20 8NP	246	Recommendation is to use existing polling place – at non-parliamentary elections ET5 would be combined with this station
<b>VW4</b>	St. Ann's Heath Junior School, Sandhills Lane, GU25 4DS	61	Recommendation is to combine with ET4 at Egham CC. Would be combined with VW2 at non- Parliamentary elections
<b>TH1</b>	Thorpe Village Hall, Coldharbour Lane, Thorpe, TW20 8TE	845	Recommendation is to use existing polling place

<b>TH2</b>	The Mobile Unit - Truss`s Island, Chertsey Lane, Staines	1138	Recommendation is to use existing polling place
<b>TH3</b>	The Mobile Unit - Ashleigh Avenue, (Off Warwick Avenue), Thorpe, TW20 8LB	1738	Recommendation is to relocate Mobile Unit to Junction of Wavendene Ave/Thorpe Lea Road