

APPENDIX 1
Summary of Representations received in the 2021 Polling District and Polling Place Review Consultation

	New ward	Proposed Polling District	Respondent type/Representation	Acting Returning Officer's Comments
R1	Beckenham Town & Copers Cope	General Comments	Beckenham Conservative Association - Happy with these arrangements	Positive feedback noted. Thank you.
R1 & R2	Beckenham Town & Copers Cope	BEC1	Beckenham Conservative Association - would ask you to push for use of St Paul's which is far preferable to the school or if can't be resolved Kent Cricket Ground may be preferable to returning to Worsley Bridge. Ward Councillor - As a Member for Beckenham Town and Copers Cope as well as former Portfolio holder for Education, can I echo Mr Cooke's comments re Worsley Bridge School and the desirability of moving away from closing schools for use a Polling Stations. While I realise there is a cost implication, I would suggest given so much disruption to children's education recently there is a strong case for keeping schools open. There is as well of course a childcare implication in any closure of a school, even for a day.	We have contacted St Paul's Beckenham Church again and have now received verbal confirmation of their availability as a polling place but still waiting for confirmation in writing. No issues are expected.
R3	Beckenham Town & Copers Cope	BEC3 & BEC3X	Beckenham URC - It is clearly appropriate to tell you that Beckenham United Reformed Church in Oakhill Road will be closing in July 2022. The buildings are being sold and at this stage we have no idea what will happen to them. We are hopeful that it will be sold to another church but only time will tell. If you require any further information please contact me. Bromley Liberal Democrats - Does Burnhill Road have to sit in BEC3X? Could it be moved to BEC2 to avoid an unusual boundary?	Thank you for advising us that the Church will be closing in July 2022. To avoid/reduce any voter confusion I am proposing to use the Beckenham United Reformed Church at the Local elections in May 2022, especially as at this stage we are not aware of any alternative venue in the polling district. However, in the meantime we are contacting possible alternative venues outside the polling district at St Barnabas Beckenham, Beckenham Running Club and Beckenham Sports Club to ascertain their availability/suitability. The situation will be kept under review. It may be possible to move Burnhill Road as requested, when the final result of the Parliamentary Bounday Review is known. However, in the meantime we are trying to minimise the number of anomalies. The situation will be kept under review.
R4	Bickley & Sundridge	BIC3	St George's Primary School - Just to confirm that we are happy to carry on being a polling station.	Positive feedback noted. Thank you.
R5	Bickley & Sundridge	BIC6X	Trinity United Reformed Church telephone call - We will be closing in July 2022. in talks with potential new owners of the church who will hopefully want to retain the current hall users, but this is not certain	It is noted that the Church will be closing in July 2022. To avoid/reduce any voter confusion I am proposing to use the Church at the May 2022 Local elections. However in the meantime we are contacting possible alternative venues in the polling district including Bromley Bowling Club, St John's Church Hall and St Joseph's Church to ascertain their availability/suitability. The situation will be kept under review.
R6	Biggin Hill	BIG1	Head Teacher (Oaklands Primary School) - We have no problem being a polling station.	Positive feedback noted. Thank you.
R1	Bromley Common & Holwood	General Comments	Beckenham Conservative Association - Satisfactory proposals	Positive feedback noted. Thank you.
R7	Chelsfield	CHE4	St Mary's Green Street Green Church - Just to confirm that we are very happy to continue being the official polling station for our polling district going forward with the new boundaries. I am sure you will be in touch with the appropriate forms etc nearer the date of the next election.	Positive feedback noted. Thank you.
R8	Chislehurst	CHS3	Head teacher (St Nicholas Primary School) - Ideally, we would not like to be used as a polling station as the use of the school affects the number of days our pupils are in school	We have now undertaken a visit to Chislehurst Methodist Church Hall and I can confirm that it is available and suitable for use as a double polling station as an alternative to St Nicholas Primary School
R8	Chislehurst	CHS4	Head teacher (St Nicholas Primary School) - Ideally, we would not like to be used as a polling station as the use of the school affects the number of days our pupils are in school.	We have now undertaken a visit to The Sydney Arms and I can confirm that it is available and suitable for use as a polling station as an alternative to St Nicholas Primary School

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R25	Chislehurst	CH3 & CHS4	(RECEIVED after CONSULTATION period ended) Councillor/Resident - I appreciate that I am writing to you after the deadline, but I would like to make a comment regarding the proposed Chislehurst ward polling district boundaries, as a long-term resident of the ward. The old CH4 polling district was too large – it takes over 20 minutes to walk to the polling station and up a significant incline from the lower parts. This is not supportive of voter participation, considering that Chislehurst has one of the oldest populations in the borough and not all residents have cars. I note that the proposed Chislehurst polling district CHS3 is effectively the successor to CH4, and retains its oversized nature. I propose that CHS3 be subdivided into two polling districts, using the change in elevation as the divide where possible. Please find attached a map showing how I propose that the polling district be subdivided. I have suggested two variants (1 and 2) as I am not sure how the populations would stack up in either scenario – the solid red line works for either. As Chislehurst is one of the larger 3-member wards I think 6 polling districts is justified. In terms of polling places, I propose St Nicholas' Church, Church Row for the eastern polling district, and Christ Church, Lubbock Road for the western polling district. As both are churches their use would not disrupt any local schools, and both have sufficient parking nearby. Both are central to their respective proposed polling districts.	I agree that the (old) polling district of CH4 was large and, following previous feedback and as part of this review, I have split the (old) CH4 into 2 polling districts (CHS3 and CHS4), making each roughly half the size (in area). In addition, in order to avoid using St Nicholas Primary School as a polling place, alternative venues have been identified, contacted and site visits made to assess suitability (see above). I note your suggested proposal and enquiries are being made to see if St Nicholas Church (contacted some while ago but unavailable due to a nursery school operating at that time) and Christ Church are available/suitable as possible polling places. I would also mention that the (new) Chislehurst ward has the lowest electorate of the 15 three member wards. At this stage I am reluctant to change my initial proposals recommending the split of the polling district and the use of the Chislehurst Methodist Church Hall and the Sydney Arms, but this will be kept under review.
R9 & R10	Clock House	CLH1	Ward Councillor - In general I believe it is preferable if schools are avoided for polling stations but I understand why these are used as alternative have a significant cost implication. In terms of Clock House, the CL1 polling district is the most problematic. Following the building works at Stewart Fleming School the possibility of having the polling station at the school while it remains open should be explored. The alleyway for access to Suffield Road is now tarmacked so using this entrance could be possible. Otherwise The Graces pub could be an alternative if this is possible whilst open for normal business via the accessible side-door. Head Teacher (Stewart Fleming Primary School) - Further to your email sent today, I can confirm the school will be happy to be used as a polling station in the future.	The Graces Bar and Grill is no longer available for use as a polling place - it was only used at the May 2021 elections because the business/ premises were closed due to the Covid pandemic. Unfortunately there are no other suitable alternative venues to the school in the polling district. However, we will continue to work with the Head Teacher to see if the school can be kept open on polling day.
R11	Crystal Palace & Anerley	CPA2	Ward Councillor - In the context of this review, we wish to request consideration of a new polling station for what is currently the CP4 polling district (recognising this description will change with the new boundaries). Currently, Anerley Town Hall is used for both CP3 and CP4, but is a considerable distance away from the bulk of properties in the polling district. Given the density of electors in South Penge Estate, we wish to request that provision be made nearer to these properties, such as use of the day nursery (owned I believe by LBB) in Betts Park or a mobile facility sited in or close to the estate.	I thank the Councillor for suggesting alternative venues to the Town Hall. We have contacted Betts Park Pre-school but unfortunately they are not available and have advised that "the nursery school is open everyday for working parents and we don't have the space to pack away the resources and equipment as it is a purpose built pre-school and not used for any other purpose...". I am reluctant to use a mobile facility as it is not considered Covid secure, does not provide suitable facilities for staff, is not easily accessible and is significantly more expensive. I am not aware of any suitable alternative venue to the Town Hall but will keep the situation under review. Most of the electors in this area have traditionally voted at the Town Hall and no negative feedback has been received.
R12	Farnborough & Crofton	FAC6X	St Nicholas Orpington Church - We are happy to accommodate you at any time you require.	Positive feedback noted. Thank you.
R1	Hayes & Coney Hall	General Comments	Beckenham Conservative Association - Considered very satisfactory	Positive feedback noted. Thank you.
R1	Kelsey & Eden Park	General Comments	Beckenham Conservative Association - Satisfactory despite anomaly of Azalia Hall outside ward but agree no obvious alternative. Pleased use of Marion Vian does not involve school closure.	Your comments are noted. Thank you.

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R13	Kelsey & Eden Park	KEP3	Marian Vian School - The building that is usually used for polling day is being converted into a nursery, the school therefore wouldn't be able to host in that building. Ideally the school would prefer not to shut for the day to accommodate the polling station.	<p>I quite understand the concerns of the school and we are exploring the possibility of using the Beckenham Rugby Club as an alternative venue to the school. However as no response has been received. We will continue to work with the Head Teacher to see if the school can be kept open on polling day.</p> <p>This polling station cannot be combined with Azelia Hall (already a double polling station), as the Hall does not have sufficient space to accommodate a further 2 polling stations.</p>
R14	Petts Wood & Knoll	General Comments	Ward Councillor - I also see that bureaucracy is in full flow previously polling districts were 2 letters and a number, some appear to be 66% bigger. Might I be bold and suggest a shorter nomenclature, e.g. PK1 if these have to change. I fully support the letter extension for the other Parliamentary Constituencies, e.g. PK1X. It is also a moot point, but this seems to preempt the Boundary Commission's parliamentary review. I would suggest that it makes more sense to go on what we know now as fact and that all of PK3 should be one polling district without splitting between what was FC1/2 and the old PW2. These are bound to change, look at the LG BCE review and the iterations of that, if needs be these can be revisited post a Boundary review, which will have to happen in any event.	<p>I thank the Councillor for his comments regarding the labelling of the polling districts. The coding we have adopted clearly differentiates between the 'old' & 'new' polling districts. This is important as for a period of time, it will be necessary to produce information (including electoral registers) on both "old" and "new" polling district schemes. The coding has also been devised so that the names of the wards are in the same alphabetical order as the codes, making it easier for administrative purposes (this is not the case with the "old" polling district codes).</p> <p>In terms of the Parliamentary Boundary review, whilst an initial proposal has been suggested by the Parliamentary Boundary Commission, it is by no means certain that this will be the final proposal. As we do not know where the (final) parliamentary boundaries may be drawn, we need to be able to identify any anomalies (as recommended by the Electoral Commission). Once the Parliamentary Boundary review is complete there may not be sufficient time to conduct another Polling District review as, for example, a 'snap' General Election could be called at any time. However once we are able to, any anomalies not required can be amalgamated. For example, areas where there are corresponding numbers with/without X (for example PEK3 and PEK3X) can be amalgamated. Where the X is singular (for example PEK5X) this can be removed.</p>
R15	Petts Wood & Knoll	PEK3X	Crofton Infant School - Thank you for forwarding the information on the proposal to remove Crofton Infant School as a polling station. This is a decision that the school welcomes as we continue to work with our students to make up for all the teaching lost during the Covid lockdowns and school closures. As you know the children have lost so much time these last 18 months due to Covid restrictions and lockdowns, and our term dates for 2021-2022 have been published for over a year and did not accommodate the May 5 local elections, so if we were to have to use the school as a polling station then we would have to add this as an unavoidable additional school closure, as we are unable to have the children on site when in use as a polling station. We remain hopeful that the amalgamation of polling districts means that it will be possible to remove the school as a polling station as a permanent decision going forwards, and will await your final clarification after the consultations and discussions.	<p>I am grateful to the school for their feedback and understand their concerns. I am pleased to confirm that a site visit of Crofton Baptist Church has now been undertaken and the venue has been assessed as suitable for use as a double polling station, as an alternative to Crofton Infant School.</p>
R16 & R14	Petts Wood & Knoll	PEK5X	<p>Ward Councillor - The Petts Wood & Knoll councillors are delighted with the new arrangements especially being able to avoid disrupting schools. It's a pity the Baptist Church in Tower Road wouldn't play ball as that would have been perfect. Against that the Methodist Church is familiar to voters. I note that the Methodist Church will share wards but Crofton Baptist never could!</p> <p>Ward Councillor - Firstly Vinson Close, Knoll Rise, Augustus Lane, Orchard Grove, Station Approach etc, would be more appropriate to vote at St John's Church as it avoids crossing the main roads and is closer in proximity and easier for the electorate to get to the polling station. These roads could be added to the old PW4 polling district. You may even wish to consider moving all the additional area from OR4 to St John's Church if there is capacity. I may have missed the detail, but I'm not aware of any OR1 addresses coming in to Petts Wood & Knoll. Can you very kindly identify the roads that this applies to please?</p>	<p>As we are unable to use the Baptist Church, there appears to be no suitable alternative building to use as a polling place in this polling district. As a result and in accordance with the law "special circumstances" apply allowing the polling place to be outside the polling district. In the case mentioned by the Councillor - there was a suitable polling place (Crofton Infant School) available in the polling district, so "special circumstances" did not apply.</p> <p>It may be possible to move these roads when the final results of the Parliamentary Review are known. However, in the meantime we are trying to minimise the number of anomalies. Also, whilst I agree in principle to the suggested proposal, St John's Church is already a double polling station and there is not sufficient space for it to accommodate another polling station. Furthermore, most of the voters in these roads have voted at the Methodist Church for many years. This anomaly may be resolved and incorporated once the Parliamentary Boundary Review is complete.</p> <p>I can confirm that there are <u>no</u> OR1 addresses coming into Petts Wood & Knoll. This was an error on our part and I apologise for any confusion this may have caused.</p>

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R17	Plaistow	PLA2	St Andrew's Church - Please add us to the ok to use list	Positive feedback noted. Thank you. Please note that the boundary of this polling district has been amended by moving Gladwell Road, Hilldrop Road and part of Burnt Ash Lane into PLA3 (see below)
		PLA3	Sundridge Working Mens Club	Sundridge Working Mens Club has been identified as a suitable alternative venue to Parish CE Primary School. A visit has been undertaken and the Club is considered as suitable for use as a double polling station in place of the school. The polling district boundary has been amended by moving Gladwell Road, Hilldrop Road and part of Burnt Ash Lane from PLA2 into this polling district, as this polling place is more conveniently located for the voters in these roads and at a shorter distance
R2 & R1	Shortlands & Park Langley	General Comments	<p>Ward Councillor - As a general comment it seems a shame that the opportunity for a full review of PD boundaries has not been undertaken. I give, purely as an example and there are many like this, Romanhurst Gardens is much nearer both South Hill Woods and St Peters polling stations than St Mary's. No account seems to have been taken of geography to where PS's are now. I could list loads of anomalies like this and with a very major change to ward boundaries I think this is a huge opportunity missed.</p> <p>Beckenham Conservative Association - Let me say at the outset that we are saddened and disappointed that the Returning Officer has not taken the opportunity of a complete review of polling districts but simply to make changes forced by the boundary review. This has made even more size anomalies in polling districts than previously and we have a real fear that some polling stations may have problems dealing with the enlarged volume particularly if social distancing is still needed. In addition the failure to have a full review has created lots of extra anomalies over the distance that electors need to travel to polling stations. There are many cases where electors live much nearer to other polling stations than the one allocated and in some cases actually have to drive or walk past a polling station to get to their station some distance further away. While these issues can probably be addressed in a future review we know that frequent changes to polling station locations causes confusion which in turn effects turnout and we had hoped that an attempt would be made to address these issues in time for May 2022. That said we welcome the continued effort to avoid using schools, particularly if closure is needed because of the disruption to students, parents and careers. We hope that further work can continue to totally stop using schools, long term. As a general comment we are surprised you've decided on SHP as code for this ward. We consider SPL would be easier to understand and better reflect the comments from the LGBCE.</p>	<p>I note the comments of the Councillor and the local association. I would like to emphasise that we have undertaken a full and detailed review of every polling district boundary, polling place and polling station in the Borough. However, where possible, I have retained the current polling places/stations to avoid/reduce confusion and disruption to electors (who may have traditionally voted in that particular polling station).</p> <p>Additionally, we are often limited to the capacity of some polling places e.g. South Hill Wood Bowling Club only has sufficient space to accommodate a single polling station. I am also required to comply with Electoral Commission's guidance that the number of electors allocated to a polling station should not exceed 2,5000.</p> <p>Finally, as you are aware, I am also keen to avoid any further disruption to pupils education, where possible. A number of suitable alternative venues to schools have been identified during this review and I will be using these at the Local elections next May 2022. Where no suitable alternative venue can be identified, we will continue to use the school but we will work with the Headteacher to see if the school can be kept open on polling day, so that children's education is not interrupted.</p> <p>Please see my comments above regarding the lettering/coding of the (new) polling districts.</p>
R2 & R1	Shortlands & Park Langley	SHP1 & SHP1X	<p>Ward Councillor - I am concerned about whether St Mary's church can satisfactorily take the additional volume which, at 2015 estimates, will be over 3,500 electors. Parking is difficult and there is only one entrance to the hall so even with multiple polling stations I fear congestion. One possible solution would be the use Shortlands Library for SHP1X possibly changing the boundary between SHP1 and SHPX to go down the centre of Shortlands Road which would roughly balance SHP1 and SHP1X.</p> <p>Beckenham Conservative Association - If anomalies in SHP 1 and 2 can be resolved then they would seem to be very satisfactory</p>	<p>We have recently undertaken a visit to St Mary's Church and the venue is considered suitable for use as a double polling station. The premises has a large hall, with a wide entranceway. It has a car park, which can be used for disabled voters and on street parking.</p> <p>The suggested solution does not resolve the situation and these anomalies can not be combined with another polling district (as they must be kept separate) and 2 polling stations would still be needed. However, once the Parliamentary Review has been finalised these anomalies can be reviewed.</p>
R2 & R1	Shortlands & Park Langley	SHP2 & SHP2X & SHP2Y	<p>Ward Councillor - No comment entirely agree your proposals. However the map seems slightly wrong, albeit not relevant at present but maybe in future, your map appears to show the boundary between KEP and SPL going down the centre of St Dunstons Lane. It's clear from the Commissions changes that they intend the entirety of St Dunstons Lane to be in SPL. Although I accept there are, currently, no domestic properties on the KEP side there could be in the future, or at least applications. I feel the boundary line needs slightly redrawing. A similar comment applies to precisely where the line is drawn at the junction of a Red Lodge Road and The Avenue. It's clear that the LGBCE intend all the golf course to be in SPL.</p> <p>Beckenham Conservative Association - If anomalies in SHP 1 and 2 can be resolved then they would seem to be very satisfactory</p>	<p>We have checked the information received from the Boundary Commission. Whilst we note the comments on the site in relation to the ward, the mapping files received from the Commission and the maps posted on it's website have been checked and our maps/proposals are correct. In any event, I am unable to make any changes to the ward boundaries.</p>

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R18	Shortlands & Park Langley	SHP3	<p>South Hill Wood Bowling Club - I have looked at the proposals for our polling area and the use of the bowls clubhouse as the polling station. It makes sense to use this building rather than the school and we have no objections to this use as I'm sure sufficient notification and compensation will be provided to enable the club to make the necessary adjustments.</p> <p>Ward Councillor - No specific comment other than the point in paragraph 3 above and other than I welcome the change to South Hill Wood Bowling Club</p>	Positive feedback noted. Thank you
R2 & R1	Shortlands & Park Langley	SHP4	<p>Ward Councillor - No specific comment other than the point in paragraph 3 above and certainly welcome the return to St Marks School as the Vue Cinema was totally inappropriate and many complaints received. I, and I know you, would prefer to get away from Schools where possible but I can't think of an acceptable alternative.</p> <p>Beckenham Conservative Association - Agree that use of Vue Cinema was very inappropriate and not suitable and whilst agree use of St Marks school is not ideal we, like you, have no suggestions for alternatives.</p>	Positive feedback noted. Thank you
R2 & R1	Shortlands & Park Langley	SHP5X	<p>Ward Councillor - No specific comment on boundaries other than the point in paragraph 3 above. However, as you comment the use of Valley School is not satisfactory. Possible alternatives would be, in this order of preference, Shortlands Golf Club, The bowling clubhouse in Queensmead, Shortlands Tavern or a mobile unit parked in Queensmead Recreation ground or in Golf Club car park if the Golf Club itself is not suitable.</p> <p>Beckenham Conservative Association - In relation to SHP5 we agree use of Valley School is far from ideal. Possible alternatives would be Shortlands Golf Club, Shortlands Bowling Club or Shortlands Tavern and would urge the returning officer to actively investigate these.</p>	<p>Thank you for suggesting alternative venues to Valley School, which I have investigated and can advise that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The Shortlands Tavern is too small to accommodate a double polling station ii) The Bowling Club is too small to accommodate any polling station iii) Shortlands Golf club have been contacted as to their availability, but no response has been received iv) A mobile unit is too small to accommodate a double polling station, is not considered Covid secure, does not provide suitable facilities for staff, has accessibility issues and is significantly more expensive. <p>We have worked with the Head teacher at Valley Primary School so that the school can be kept open on polling day. The arrangements worked well at the 2021 GLA Elections and the Head teacher is happy for them to continue at future elections.</p>
R19	St Mary Cray	General Comments	<p>Councillor - for the St Pauls and St Mary Crays wards I have some concerns that the positions of a number of polling stations are at the edge of polling districts making it difficult for some residents to access these</p>	<p>We have been looking at possible alternative venues to the schools used as polling places in this area for a number of years, but unfortunately the polling stations proposed in these two wards appear to be the only suitable locations. All of the proposed polling stations have been used at least once (at the GLA Elections in 2021) with some being used at many previous elections, and are therefore familiar to voters. I am not aware of any complaints being received from voters about the location of their polling stations in these wards.</p> <p>As mentioned above, I am keen to retain the current polling places/stations to avoid/reduce confusion and disruption to electors (who may have traditionally voted in a particular polling station). Additionally, we are often limited to the capacity of some polling places. I am also required to comply with Electoral Commission guidance that the number of electors allocated to a polling station should not exceed 2,5000.</p>
R20	St Mary Cray	SMC6X	<p>Bromley Adult Education College - I am writing to confirm your message has been received. No problem for the Poverest centre AEC to be used as a polling station.</p>	Positive feedback noted. Thank you.
R19	St Paul's Cray	General Comments	<p>Councillor - for the St Pauls and St Mary Crays wards I have some concerns that the positions of a number of polling stations are at the edge of polling districts making it difficult for some residents to access these</p>	see above
R21	St Paul's Cray	SPC2	<p>Bromley Youth Support Program - premises owners - That is fine with the East Hub @ Link Youth Centre</p>	Positive feedback noted. Thank you.
R22	St Paul's Cray	SPC3	<p>St Barnabas Church - We are happy for St Barnabas church hall to continue to be used as a polling station.</p>	Positive feedback noted. Thank you.
R23	St Paul's Cray	SPC4X	<p>St Pauls Cray CE School - Thank you for your email, we understand that our premises will be continued to be used as a polling station and will await more information nearer the time.</p>	Positive feedback noted. Thank you.

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R24	West Wickham	WEW1	St Francis Church - No problem to use St Francis Church Hall as a Polling Station on the 5th May 2022.	Positive feedback noted. Thank you.
R25	West Wickham	WEW2	Riverside SPC - As per last year, the Riverside School site on Hawes Lane (Riverside West Wickham), BR4 9AE can be used as a polling station; however, Riverside SPC (BR5 3HS) and Riverside Beckenham (BR3 4HY) should not be used as polling stations. This has been the arrangement in place for a while. The disruption to pupils and families will be too great to close these sites.	Your comments are noted. Thank you.
R1	West Wickham	WEW3	Beckenham Conservative Association - Slight concern that WEW3 uses a station outside the PD and and a significant distance from some electors. However agree no obvious alternative and also agree that Miller and Carter was completely not suitable. However using Pickhurst junior school whilst by no means ideal is considered to be only realistic possibility.	Your comments are noted. Thank you