

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

**Report to:** General Purpose Committee

**Date:** 12/01/2026

**Subject:** Polling Places and Districts Review

**Report of:** Sharon Lea, Chief Executive and (Acting) Returning Officer

**Report author:** Zoe Wilkins, Electoral Services Manager

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## SUMMARY

The Council must divide each parliamentary constituency in the area into polling districts, designate polling places for those polling districts, and keep them under review. This report sets out the methodology and results of the 2025 review and seeks approval for the updated polling scheme.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That General Purpose Committee approve the adoption of parliamentary polling districts and parliamentary polling places as set out in the scheme contained in Appendix 1.
2. That General Purpose Committee approve the adoption of the scheme contained in Appendix 1 in relation to all other referenda and elections held within the borough.
3. That General Purpose Committee instruct the Electoral Registration Officer to make the necessary amendments to polling districts and to revise and republish the electoral register on 1 February 2026.

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**Wards Affected:** ALL

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<b>Our Values</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the <a href="#">H&amp;F Corporate Plan</a> and the H&amp;F Values</b>
Creating a compassionate and inclusive council	All polling stations and polling district boundaries are considered with the needs and convenience of residents foremost in the review - particularly those residents who may have more difficulty accessing venues that others.
Doing things with local residents, not to them	Local residents have been encouraged to respond to proposals, and the

	consultation process has been extended for as long as possible to allow maximum participation.
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## Financial Impact

Approval for the updated polling scheme will result in a small increase in costs of approximately £1100 for polling station hire overall.

The new station in Parsons Green and Sandford will cost £1350 to hire, and the move from West London Free school to the Quaker Meeting House will cost an additional £850. There is a saving of £1083 in Palace and Hurlingham from the cessation of use of the Parsons Green Club.

At Parliamentary and Greater London Authority Elections, the additional hire fees will be funded by central government, through the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, or by the Greater London Authority. Local council elections are funded by Hammersmith and Fulham Council.

*Alex Pygram, Head of Finance, Finance and Corporate Services, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025*

*Verified by James Newman, AD Finance, 12 November.*

## Legal Implications

Section 18A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended) requires that the Council divide each parliamentary constituency in the area into polling districts, to designate polling places for those polling districts, and to keep these under review.

*Joginder Singh Bola, Senior Solicitor (Contracts & Procurement), 12/11/2025*

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## Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report -none

None.

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## DETAILED ANALYSIS

### Proposals and Analysis of Options

1. Due to the complexity of the proposals, with maps and tables, please see the separate document at Appendix 1 which sets out the proposals and the reasoning behind them, and Appendix 2 which provides detailed maps.

### Reasons for Decision

2. Under Section 18A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended) the Council is required to divide each parliamentary constituency in the area

into polling districts, to designate polling places for those polling districts, and to keep these under review.

3. Some previously designated polling places are no longer available or are no longer the most convenient venues available, and this review has identified new or more suitable polling places that the Council is asked to approve.

## **Equality Implications**

4. Local authorities have a duty to review the accessibility of all polling places to disabled voters and ensure that every polling place and prospective polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to disabled voters 'so far as is reasonable and practicable' (Representation of the People Act 1983, Section 18 (2)(a)).
5. An Equality Impact Assessment, shown in Appendix 3 was developed alongside the review to consider the review's impact on electors who have protected characteristics.
6. All pre-existing polling places were visited by electoral services officers to conduct a survey to ensure they were sufficiently accessible (or could be made to be accessible with additional equipment or other adaptations). A standard survey, based on Electoral Commission guidance, was completed for each venue. The template used is provided in Appendix 5.
7. Electoral Commission guidance, shown in Appendix 5, provides further information on considering accessibility issues that was followed in completing this review.

## **Risk Management Implications**

8. The review of polling districts and places seeks to mitigate the risk that electors are impeded from voting due to poor accessibility of polling places, whether due to location, physical access, sub-standard facilities.
9. In reviewing polling places, the reasonable facilities for staff at polling stations during elections has also been considered, as has the space, facilities and general safety for members of the public visiting their polling stations. All recommended new polling places have also been assessed to ensure that they comply with accessibility requirements.

*Jules Binney, Risk and Assurance Manager, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025*

## **Climate and Ecological Emergency Implications**

10. No Climate and Ecological Emergency Implications have been identified for this review.

*Verified by: Charlotte Slaven, Head of Climate Strategy & Engagement, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025.*

## **Consultation**

11. A notice of review and initial proposals were published on the council's website and on the "Have your Say" website on 14 August 2025, updated on 22 October where new proposals were made following the initial consultation period, and closed on 5 November.
12. Links to the consultation and invitations to respond to the proposals were sent to all local elected representatives, including all Councillors, the three Members of Parliament that represent the borough, and to local political party organisers and agents active at the most recent sets of elections.
13. Although the Council used "Have your say" as the main pathway for responses, emails, letters or other written methods of response were also encouraged via the Council website and email.
14. Representations were specifically sought from local disability action groups on the accessibility and suitability of polling places.
15. 548 charities and local organisations were emailed directly inviting them to respond to the proposals either online or via email or post.
16. There were 27 responses, and these are provided in Appendix 4, both in full and summarised with the Returning Officer's comments.

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Polling District and Places Review 2025 – Final Proposals

Appendix 2 – Maps of proposed new polling arrangements

Appendix 3 – Equalities Impact assessment

Appendix 4 – Responses to consultation

Appendix 5 – Electoral Commission guidance extract and accessibility checklist