

Ward Boundary Review – Ward Pattern submission – Appendix A I

Electoral Review of Royal Borough of Greenwich: Warding Arrangements

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Royal Borough of Greenwich welcomes this review of its electoral boundaries and the opportunity to submit representations to the Commission
- 1.2. The request by the Local Government Boundary Commission for a submission on the future Council Size of Royal Greenwich was agreed unanimously by the Council in its meeting on 26 February 2020.
- 1.3. The review is now in the phase of Warding Arrangements and is requesting submissions of Ward Patterns as to how the Royal Borough's Wards should look from 2022.
- 1.4. This document contains a profile of the Royal Borough and evidence to support the Ward Pattern including new Ward names.
- 1.5. Appendix B shows the mapping of the Royal Borough and each new Ward in detail.

2. Local Authority Profile

Setting and Location

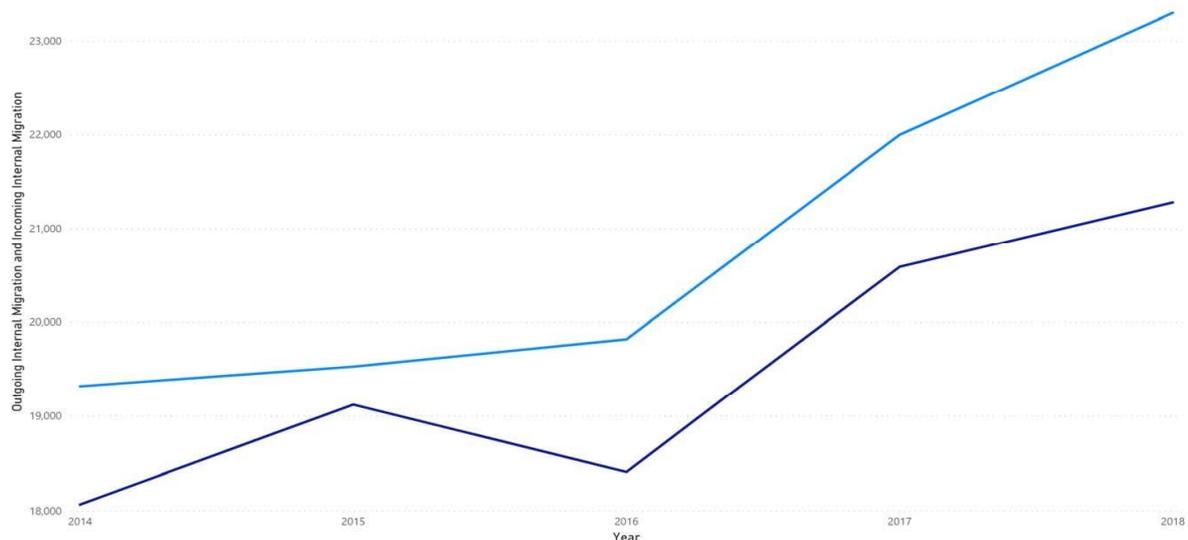
- 2.1. The Royal Borough of Greenwich is an inner London Borough in southeast Greater London. The borough lies along the south bank of the River Thames between Deptford and Thamesmead. It is 5,044 hectares in size, bounded by the London Boroughs of Bexley to the east, Bromley to the south, Lewisham to the west.
- 2.2. The Borough was formed in 1965 by the amalgamation of the former area of the Metropolitan Borough of Greenwich with part of the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich to the east. To mark the Diamond Jubilee of Elizabeth II, Greenwich became a Royal Borough on 3 February 2012 due to its historic links with the Royal Family and to its UNESCO World Heritage Site status as home of the Prime Meridian. The Royal Borough of Greenwich's main office is The Woolwich Centre on Wellington Street. The building faces the Town Hall (opened in 1906) in which the Council Chamber is based.
- 2.3. The Borough's main communities can be broadly divided into three geographic areas: Eltham, Greenwich and Woolwich/Plumstead, although there are a range of smaller areas with strong local distinctiveness, such as Charlton and Thamesmead.
- 2.4. There is a significant range of urbanisation within the Borough, with areas to the north, such as Woolwich and Greenwich Peninsula experiencing sustained periods of developments, with dense housing and blocks of flats, while the south of the Borough has larger, less dense concentrations of housing.

Population and Demographics

- 2.5. The population of the Royal Borough of Greenwich is approximately 285,000¹. In the 2011 census, the population was estimated at 255,000. The population is projected to increase by 16% over the next 10 years (2020-2030). This growth can be attributed in large part to the development that has been taking place across the Borough, resulting in significant increases in residential properties.
- 2.6. The Royal Borough of Greenwich has a relatively young population. 22% of the population are aged between 0-15. 68% of the population are of working age 16-64 and 10% of the population are aged 65 and over². Over the next 10 years the proportion of working age residents is expected to remain fairly static (68.5%), while the proportion of 65+ residents is expected to increase by 1.6 percentage points (from 10.7% to 12.3%) and the proportion of 0-15 years olds is projected to decrease by 2 percentage points (21.1% to 19.1%).
- 2.7. There is a high level of population mobility within the Royal Borough of Greenwich, with the equivalent of approximately 7.5% of the Borough's population moving to the Borough from elsewhere in the UK each year, and a comparable amount leaving the Borough³. In terms of numbers, in 2018, Greenwich is ranked 15th out of 33 London boroughs for inward internal migration, and 17th out of 33 for outward internal migration. The graph below shows internal migration to and from the Borough from 2014 to 2018:

Internal Migration (2014 to 2018)

● Outgoing Internal Migration ● Incoming Internal Migration



- 2.8. This high level of population mobility creates challenges in respect of engagement, where a significant proportion of residents are likely to be less familiar with Council and other local services and may therefore have greater difficulty accessing them.

¹ Office of National Statistics 2018 estimate

² 2011 Census

³ Office of National Statistics, *Internal migration: matrices of moves by local authority*

- 2.9. Greenwich's population is 49.6% male and 50.4% female⁴. Life expectancy in the Royal Borough of Greenwich for women is 83 years and is 79.5 for men⁵. These are similar to the national average.
- 2.10. As of 2018, the ethnic background of Greenwich's residents was 62.67% White, 16.9% Black, 13.73% Asian, and 6.69% Mixed/Other⁶. The largest BAME ethnic background within the Borough is Black African, with approximately 15% of the Borough's residents of this ethnicity.
- 2.11. As recorded in 2016-17, 32.7% of residents were born abroad. Based on the 2011 census, the largest migrant population by country of birth was recorded as Nigeria (5%), followed by Nepal (1.9%) and India (1.7%). Greenwich has one of the largest Nepalese communities in London, as many Ghurkha families have settled in the area following service with the army.
- 2.12. This diversity is reflected in the languages spoken by Greenwich residents, with more than 84 different languages being spoken by residents in the home⁷, 83.15% of residents speaking English in the home, compared to 92.03% across England. The five non-English languages most widely spoken in the home in the Royal Borough of Greenwich are:

Language	Percentage of Residents
Nepalese	2.09%
Polish	0.92%
French	0.89%
Lithuanian	0.78%
Other Chinese (not Mandarin or Cantonese)	0.73%

- 2.13. Information from the Borough's schools suggests that residents who speak non-English languages in the home are likely to be younger, with 40% of primary and 36% of secondary school pupils known or believed to have a first language other than English⁸. This is a significantly higher percentage than the neighbouring boroughs of Bexley, Bromley and Lewisham⁹.
- 2.14. A wide range of nationalities are represented in the Borough, with British nationals comprising 78.65% of the Borough's population¹⁰. The chart below sets out the various regions whose nationals comprise the Borough's population:

⁴ 2011 Census

⁵ Office of National Statistics, *Health state life expectancy at birth and at age 65 years by local areas, UK 2019*

⁶ Office of National Statistics 2018 Estimate

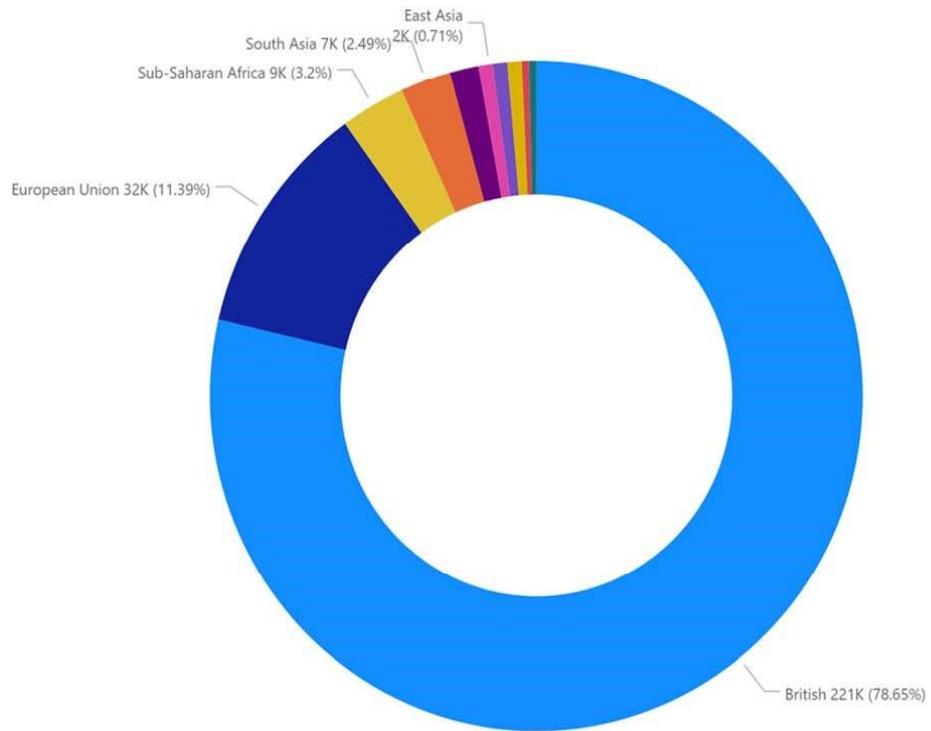
⁷ 2011 Census – Main Language Spoken in the Home

⁸ Department for Education: *Percentage of Pupils by First Language, Borough 2018 update*

⁹ Bexley: 20%/14%; Bromley: 15%/10%; Lewisham: 35%/29%. Department for Education: *Percentage of Pupils by First Language, Borough 2018 update*

¹⁰ Office of National Statistics 2018 Estimate

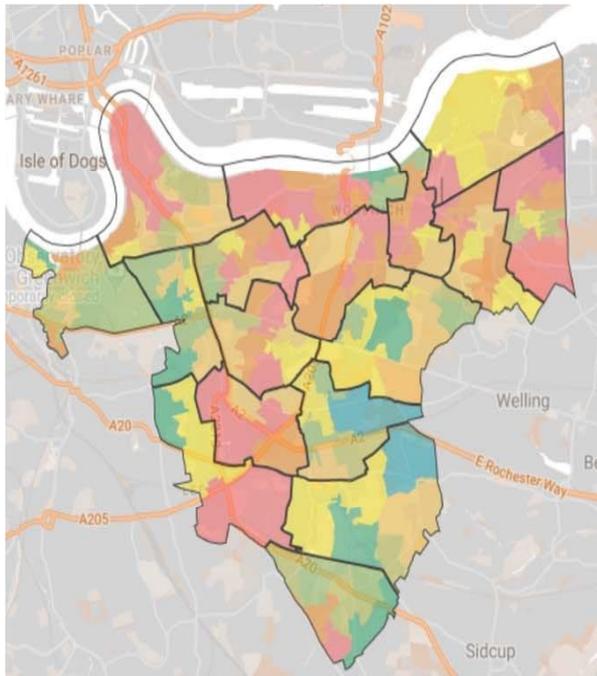
Nationality by Region (2018 ONS Estimate)



Deprivation

2.15. Greenwich is the 60th most deprived local authority in England overall, the 34th most deprived local authority in England for deprivation affecting children, and the 20th most deprived local authority in England for deprivation affecting older people¹¹. The majority of Local Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the Borough (111 of 151) falling into the most deprived 50% of LSOAs in England, while 33 LSOAs are in the most deprived 20%. The map below sets out the levels of deprivation by decile for the LSOAs in the Royal Borough of Greenwich¹²:

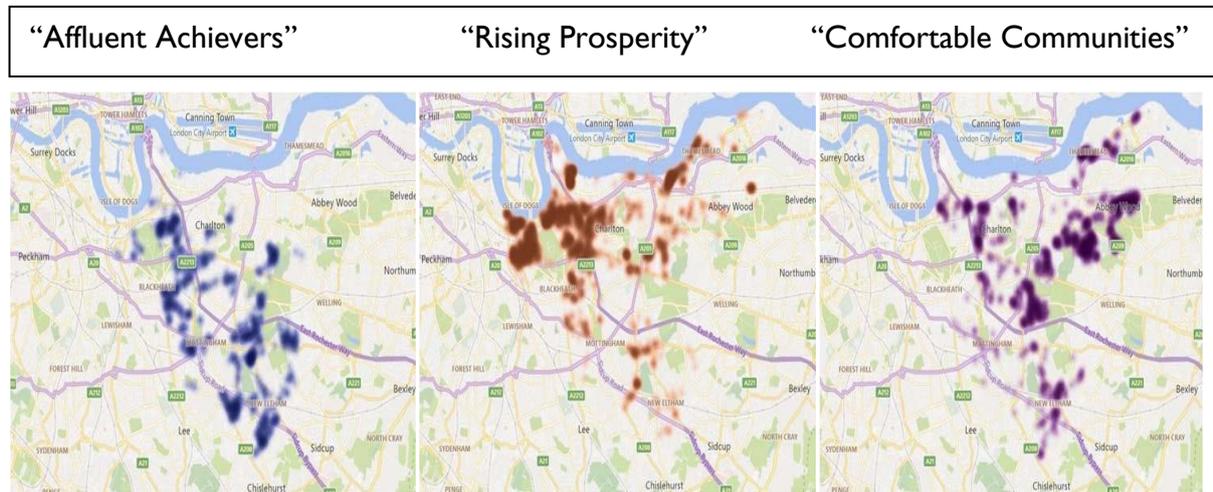
¹¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: *English Indices of Deprivation 2019* ¹² Office of National Statistics: *English Indices of Deprivation 2019*



Index of Multiple Deprivation Deciles (Lower is More Deprived)

- 0%-10%
- 10%-20%
- 20%-30%
- 30%-40%
- 40%-50%
- 50%-60%
- 60%-70%
- 70%-80%
- 80%-90%
- 90%-100% - None in Borough

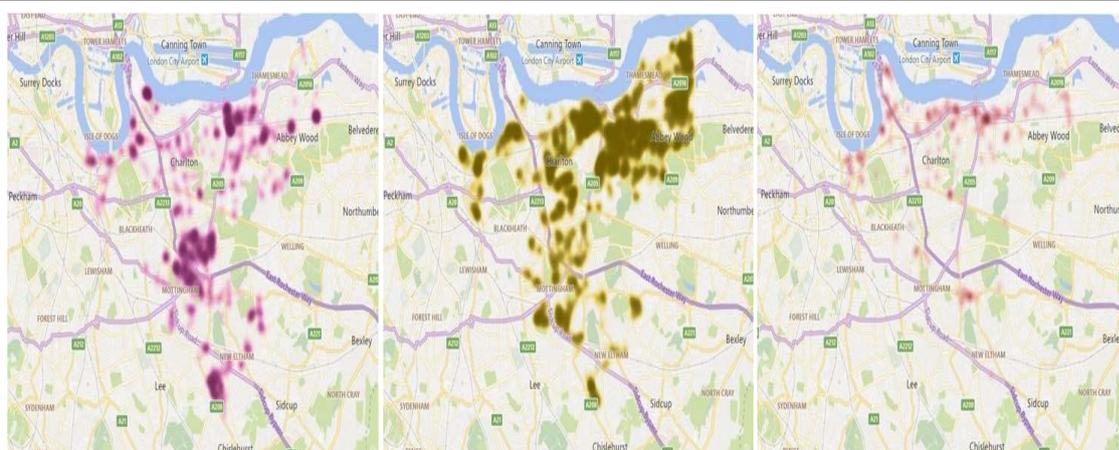
2.16. A more detailed examination of the challenges faced by the Royal Borough of Greenwich in respect of deprivation is available through the Acorn CACI household dataset, which uses a range of measures at household level. This data provides a highly granular level of detail in respect of specific addresses within the Borough, rather than aggregating data into defined areas such as with the Index of Multiple Deprivation, by assigning addresses within the Borough into one of six categories and 57 types. Heatmaps of these categories, as well as brief descriptions are set out below:



“Financially Stretched”

“Urban Adversity”

Not Private Households



Category	Description
“Affluent Achievers”	These are some of the most financially successful people in the UK. They live in wealthy, high status rural, semi-rural and suburban areas of the country. Middle aged or older people, the ‘baby-boomer’ generation, predominate with many empty nesters and wealthy retired. Some neighbourhoods contain large numbers of well-off families with school age children, particularly the more suburban locations.
“Rising Prosperity”	These are generally younger, well educated, and mostly prosperous people living in our major towns and cities. Most are singles or couples, some yet to start a family, others with younger children. Often these are highly educated younger professionals moving up the career ladder.
“Comfortable Communities”	This category contains much of middle-of-the-road Britain, whether in the suburbs, smaller towns or the countryside. All life stages are represented in this category. Many areas have mostly stable families and empty nesters, especially in suburban or semi-rural locations. There are also comfortably off pensioners, living in retirement areas around the coast or in the countryside and sometimes younger couples just starting out on their lives together.
“Financially Stretched”	This category contains a mix of traditional areas of Britain. Housing is often terraced or semi-detached, a mix of lower value owner occupied housing and homes rented from the council or housing associations, including social housing developments specifically for the elderly. This category also includes student term-time areas. There tends to be fewer traditional married couples than usual and more single parents, single, separated and divorced people than average.
“Urban Adversity”	This category contains the most deprived areas of large and small towns and cities across the UK. Household incomes are low, nearly always below the national average. The level of people having difficulties with debt or having been refused credit approaches double the national average. The numbers claiming Jobseeker’s Allowance and other benefits is well above the national

	average. Levels of qualifications are low and those in work are likely to be employed in semi-skilled or unskilled occupations.
Not Private Households	These are postcodes where the bulk of the residents are not living in private households (e.g. defence establishments, traveller sites, refuges, hospitals and nursing homes).

- 2.17. This data demonstrates the mix of communities and backgrounds within the Royal Borough of Greenwich, with pockets of severe deprivation across the Borough, including in areas of comparative affluence. The complexity of these communities in turn impacts on the range of work required from Councillors in their Wards, particularly when engaging and working with communities.
- 2.18. The levels of deprivation in the Borough create particular challenges, which the Council has sought to address through a range of measures, such as the establishment of organisations such as Greenwich Local Labour and Business (GLLaB), which provides training and assistance to residents seeking employment, as well as a large amount of support for third sector funding, including providing one of the largest voluntary and community sector funding programmes in London.
- 2.19. These issues in turn create a wide range of issues for Councillors, ranging from lobbying developers and new businesses to the Borough to recruit local people, overseeing and scrutinising the work of the Council in responding to these challenges, and assisting residents of their Ward in responding to the challenges associated with deprivation, such as issues relating to housing.

Future Growth and Expected Demographic Changes

- 2.20. The Royal Borough of Greenwich's population and electorate is projected to grow significantly in the next six years. The following table sets out projected population and electorate growth by current Ward in the Royal Borough of Greenwich:

Ward	2020 estimated Population	2020 Electorate	2026 Projected Population	2026 Projected Electorate
Abbey Wood	16,757	11,109	17,156	12,586
Blackheath Westcombe	13,279	10,073	13,123	10,425
Charlton	15,238	10,657	15,103	11,138
Coldharbour and New Eltham	13,322	9,974	13,595	10,365
Eltham North	13,054	10,013	13,615	10,520
Eltham South	12,365	9,532	12,539	9,959
Eltham West	12,615	9,777	15,220	13,385
Glyndon	19,507	11,608	20,801	12,110
Greenwich West	21,173	15,446	20,795	16,202

Kidbrooke with Hornfair	14,648	10,648	14,427	11,105
Middle Park and Sutcliffe	14,344	10,154	14,163	10,527
Peninsula	22,849	16,790	31,362	22,994
Plumstead	17,847	11,083	18,098	11,392
Shooters Hill	13,760	9,947	13,260	10,298
Thamesmead Moorings	23,924	12,261	28,205	13,686
Woolwich Common	19,076	11,812	20,750	12,460
Woolwich Riverside	24,434	14,720	33,042	18,555
Total	288,192	195,604	315,252	217,707

2.21. Using these figures, the projected population and electorate per Councillor can be modelled:

Number of Councillors	2020 Electorate by Councillor	2026 Projected Electorate by Councillor	90% lower limit	110% upper limit
51 - Current Number of Councillors	3,835	4,269	3,842	4,696
55	3,556	3,958	3,562	4,354
56	3,493	3,888	3,499	4,276

3. Council Size

- 3.1. The Commission believes that councillors have three broad aspects to their role. These are categorised as: Strategic Leadership, Accountability (Scrutiny, Regulation and Partnerships), and Community Leadership.
- 3.2. The Council considered and unanimously agreed a request that the Council's size be increased to around 55 Councillors. The reasons for requesting that the Council's size increase by around four are that it would better allow Councillors to provide their scrutiny functions and recognise the large number of representative appointments Councillors perform. It would additionally mean that the increased electorate and corresponding casework over the next few years will not increase significantly from current levels.
- 3.3. Taking the last three years, casework shows around a 12-15% growth with residents finding that due to social media and efforts by the Council to increase participation Councillors are more accessible with residents finding it increasingly easy to contact them. Residents increasingly expect timely responses to queries about services and requests for assistance.

- 3.4. Royal Borough of Greenwich Councillors are appointed to a significantly greater number of outside bodies than other similar local authorities. The total, currently 69, means that Councillors' time is additionally in demand to suitably represent residents on those bodies. This additionally suggests that an increase is needed.
- 3.5. An increase of around 8% (to 55) or to 10% (to 56) in numbers will assist Councillors in providing the governance and scrutiny functions required and to provide sufficient representation for residents during a period of increasing demands from electors.
- 3.6. Several Councillors have remarked that it would be difficult to operate with single Councillor wards. Reasons include the ability for casework and other duties of the Councillor to be shared. The Council therefore requests that the Boundary Commission avoid single-Councillor Wards.

4. The Royal Borough's proposed Ward Pattern – The Minimum Change Rewarding Scheme for Greenwich

Introduction

- 4.1. This scheme aims to reflect the changing demographics of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, while improving the extent to which wards reflect our local communities, following clear boundary lines where possible and keeping the overall level of change to a minimum given the current pattern of wards has been established for nearly 20 years. It is a scheme for 14 three-member wards and 7 two-member wards, totalling 56 councillors, one more than the 55 the Local Government Boundary Commission are minded to recommend. All wards are within the 10% tolerance level on the 2026 projected electorates.

Equal Electorates

- 4.2. All wards are within the 10% tolerance policy adopted by the Commission, with an average variance of under 4% from the Elector per Councillor ratio of 3,888 based on the 2026 projections of the local government electorates and 56 Members. 15 of the 21 wards are within 5% of the electoral quota. This represents a vast improvement on the current position and allows significant headroom for the vicissitudes of development and electorate trends.

Number of Councillors

- 4.3. Royal Greenwich's local government electorate is projected to increase by 12% in the next 6 years and this will represent a 43% increase in the electorate at the time of the previous rewarding in 1999. Thus, the elector per councillor ratio was 2984 in 1999, is currently 3827 in 2020 and with 56 councillors would be 3887.6 in 2026. This will be a fair balance between the representational role of ward councillors as community champions and effective and convenient local government in undertaking the role and duties of the authority. While the Royal Borough had suggested 55 councillors, we have found that a pattern of 56 councillors affords for less change and better reflection of community ties. We note that in London Boroughs that have completed their reviews, four had final recommendations with one more or fewer councillor than

the Commission was originally minded to recommend and commend this flexibility to facilitate a pattern of wards that better meet the Commission's objectives.

Minimum Change

- 4.4. Two wards – Abbey Wood and Woolwich Common are unchanged three-member wards. Another two high growth wards are wholly divided into two wards – Peninsula into two 3-member wards and Greenwich West into two 2-member wards. The current Thamesmead Moorings ward merely adds the rest of Thamesmead currently in Glyndon to create two 2-member wards. Woolwich Riverside is also divided into a 3-member Arsenal ward (acquiring a small portion of Glyndon GL2 on the Arsenal side of the railway line) and a 2-member Woolwich Dockyard. Charlton and Blackheath Westcombe change just slightly to better reflect local ties. The above creates the four new wards, other wards are only changed by one or two polling districts with Glyndon and Coldharbour becoming 2-member wards. Overall, fewer than 11500 voters move wards in this scheme, just 5% of the projected 2026 electorate, counting the new split wards as continuations.

Reflecting Community Ties

- 4.5. The very distinctive Thamesmead Town community is brought wholly within two Thamesmead wards (within Greenwich, Thamesmead East is in the Bexley Borough). Furthermore, there is a clear separation between the Thamesmead Moorings area which includes Thamesmead Central and Thamesmead West. Glyndon is then wholly within Plumstead as is the revised Plumstead and Shooters Hill wards. The Slade area is reunited within Shooters Hill ward ending the artificial division down Kirkham Street. East Greenwich has its own ward reflecting a tight historic community. Blackheath within Greenwich is reunited, bringing the Blackheath Park area including the famous Cator estate together within a slightly enlarged Blackheath Westcombe ward. Coldharbour becomes a core ward reflecting the strong sense of identity the estate has and New Eltham is united within Eltham South by a transfer from Coldharbour and New Eltham.
- 4.6. While some communities remain inevitably divided between wards due to their size – Charlton, Woolwich and Plumstead – overall the scheme represents a significant improvement in terms of reflecting local communities and a sense of place.

Clear Boundary Lines

- 4.7. There is also an improvement in the adoption as far as possible of clear boundaries. The elevated Ridgeway footpath continues as a boundary in the East; the Greenwich and Woolwich railway line is used as the southern boundary of Woolwich Arsenal and continues to be used as the boundary between Charlton and Peninsula and between Blackheath Westcombe and East Greenwich. The A102/A2 Blackwall Tunnel Approach Road, which is a motorway-style trunk road, is the boundary between Peninsula and East Greenwich, Blackheath Westcombe and Charlton then Kidbrooke with Hornfair. Other boundaries generally follow main roads or go through open spaces.

Effective and Convenient Local Government

- 4.8. Royal Greenwich has broadly benefitted from having 3-member wards which allows for a breadth of representation in most situations. So, for example on a local planning or licensing matter, one councillor may be on the Committee/Board, one may be conflicted in some way or otherwise unavailable and thus the third councillor can be an effective advocate for local residents. Where residents have opposing views on an application, two councillors can represent them respectively. However, the pattern of a mix of two and three-member wards allows for them to better reflect local communities overall and two councillors can generally work effectively together to ensure they fully represent their voters. We think that single member wards have the same advantages and distinct disadvantages on planning and licencing or, indeed, if the councillor is on maternity leave, has onerous caring responsibilities or a bout of very poor health whereas in multi-member wards other councillors can share the burden.

5. The 2026 Wards

Thamesmead – Thamesmead Moorings (2) and Thamesmead West (2)

- 5.1. Thamesmead is a town in its own right, founded by the former GLC in 1968 with an estimated population of 41000 and growing rapidly with a young and highly diverse population. The eastern third of the town is in Bexley Borough.
- 5.2. There is a compelling case for two 2-member wards wholly within the Greenwich part of Thamesmead town which divides naturally between the two communities of Thamesmead Moorings that includes the town centre and Thamesmead West which includes significant riverfront developments as well as three prisons and the proposed new development between Belmarsh and Plumstead bus garage. Thamesmead Moorings ward has its own Neighbourhood Forum for the same geographical area.
- 5.3. The GLI area of Glyndon has always been something of an anomaly and properly sits in a Thamesmead ward. In Thamesmead, originally Thamesmead New Town, there is no council housing and Peabody is the legacy social housing provider as well as running the parks and open spaces and much of the infrastructure.

Abbey Wood and Plumstead – Abbey Wood (3), Glyndon (2), Plumstead (3), Shooters Hill (3)

- 5.4. Abbey Wood ward largely reflects the SE2 area of Abbey Wood village (aside from a little over the Bexley border) and it is proposed it is unchanged. The Plumstead community comprises Plumstead, Shooters Hill and most of the current Glyndon ward although the historic ecclesiastical and pre-1899 civil parish boundary included some of Woolwich Common (see Woolwich). Losing its Thamesmead extremity to the new Thamesmead West ward, Glyndon also loses GL7 in Plumstead Common to Plumstead ward and a small slither of GL2 north of the railway line to Woolwich Arsenal, this includes Plumstead Manor school and much of Plumstead Common thus leaving a 2-member Glyndon ward entirely within Plumstead.

- 5.5. Plumstead ward gains this GL7 area to bring the vast majority of Plumstead and Winn's Common into Plumstead ward. It loses the residential part of PL5 to Shooters Hill while retaining the Common, this unites the Slade area which was artificially divided in the last review down Kirkham Street. This means the northern boundary of Shooters Hill is entirely along the boundary of the Common and both Plumstead and Glyndon residents are entirely north of the Common. The addition of PL5 (south of King's Highway, the rest being open space) brings Shooters Hill ward up to size for three councillors.

Woolwich – Woolwich Common (3); Woolwich Arsenal (3); Woolwich Dockyard (2)

- 5.6. Woolwich is a metropolitan centre, historic military and industrial town with the Arsenal, Dockyard and Barracks. It is also the administrative centre of the Borough. Woolwich Common is a densely populated ward stretching from Woolwich town centre to Shooters Hill Road including Woolwich Common, the Barracks and military estate, Queen Elizabeth Hospital as well as the main residential areas of Burrage Town, Woolwich Common estate, Barnfield and around Herbert Road. It is recommended to be unchanged retaining three councillors.
- 5.7. Historically, some of the ward has been associated with Plumstead and some with Woolwich and there has long been an ambiguity but the ward very much draws to Woolwich Town Centre with Herbert Road providing a vibrant small local centre. The current Woolwich Riverside ward will be entitled to 4.69 councillors in 2026 and has seen significant development with a new community on the Royal Arsenal and much more development planned in Charlton Riverside as well as redevelopment of the Morris Walk and Maryon estates on the Charlton/Woolwich border.
- 5.8. It is therefore proposed that this is divided between a 3-member Woolwich Arsenal ward including WR3 (Arsenal), WR8 (town centre) and WR7 (St.Mary's) taking in the 452 voters from Glyndon GL2 north of the railway line and directly opposite the Arsenal and a 2-member Woolwich Dockyard ward. This will mean the southern boundary is along the railway line up to General Gordon Square. Heronsgate School in this small area serves both the immediate area and children from the Royal Arsenal. The remainder of Woolwich Riverside includes the historic Woolwich Dockyard area (now an estate) including Dockyard station, the Woodhill area and some parts of Charlton SE7 and Charlton Riverside.
- 5.9. There would be good case for including them in Charlton, but numbers do allow for the transfer of the Charlton Parkside area (Heathwood, Kinveachy and parts of Woodland Terrace SE7) into Charlton ward. This then creates a more Woolwich-based 2-member Woolwich Dockyard ward including the new developments at Morris Walk and Maryon Road, Kidd Place estate, the eastern part of Charlton Riverside, the Dockyard and Cardwell areas.

Charlton and Kidbrooke – Charlton (3); Kidbrooke with Hornfair (3)

- 5.10. While the Charlton SE7 community stretches across four current wards, the majority of Charlton is within the current Charlton ward centred on the historic Charlton House and Charlton Village. Part of Charlton is in Kidbrooke with Hornfair ward (the Hornfair part) including the Charlton Lido while other parts are in Woolwich Riverside and the Peninsula wards. As Charlton is broadly the right size, only slight changes are recommended to the 3-member ward to better reflect very local ties – with the south of the Rectory Field Conservation area which is an SE3 postcode transferring to Kidbrooke with Hornfair ward, these roads feed into Old Dover Road and do not gravitate towards Charlton. Indeed, Sunfields Place is already divided and there is no connecting road between most of this area and the north of the Conservation Area feeding into Charlton Road. The scheme addresses a clear anomaly of Heathwood and Kinveachy Gardens SE7 currently in Woolwich Riverside ward WR4, but clearly part of Charlton and central to the Charlton Parkside community group, being transferred to Charlton.
- 5.11. Charlton has strong boundaries on its western side (the A102 trunk road), northern (railway line) and quite strong on the eastern (Maryon Park, Maryon Wilson Park, a little less neat around Little Heath, and then around Charlton cemetery, QEH and the Meridian Sportsground).
- 5.12. The southern boundary with Kidbrooke with Hornfair follows Canberra and Indus Roads and then is less clear and our scheme therefore proposes a clear boundary along Marlborough Lane uniting the whole Hornfair estate in Kidbrooke with Hornfair ward. Kidbrooke with Hornfair includes old Kidbrooke (as opposed to Kidbrooke Park and the new Kidbrooke Village) and the Charlton part on the northern side of Shooters Hill Road. While many residents clearly feel closer to Charlton, electoral equality makes change very difficult and the inclusion of “Hornfair” in the ward name reflects this area so it is recommended the ward remains with 3 members. Again, the Western boundary is the trunk A2 road, while the southern is Rochester Way, the use of Bournbrook Road divides the Brook estate in half so KH6 (apart from Rochester Way between the A2 and Broad Walk) is transferred to Eltham West ward to bring the established estate together and create a clear boundary through open spaces.

Greenwich – Greenwich West (2); Greenwich Maritime (2); East Greenwich (3); Peninsula (3)

- 5.13. Greenwich, from which the Borough takes its name, is a World Heritage Site with a strong Royal, naval, industrial and maritime history including the historic town, part of Deptford SE8, largely Victorian East Greenwich and the Peninsula formerly the Greenwich Marshes. It has seen the most development and population growth in the Borough and currently with two 3-member wards, is now entitled to 10 councillors on 2026 projections. The current Greenwich West ward has an entitlement of 4.09 councillors and is bounded by the Thames, the Lewisham Borough boundary, Greenwich Park and Park Row so difficult to change. It is therefore proposed to form

two 2-member wards wholly within the current Greenwich West. Greenwich Maritime ward would bring together the World Heritage Site in GW2 and GW4 with the remainder of the riverfront in GW1 the other side of Deptford Creek, and would include the Old Royal Naval College, Cutty Sark, the National Maritime Museum, Royal Observatory, Greenwich Park and include the University of Greenwich campus. Then GW3, GW5, GW6, GW7 and GW8 would form a new West Greenwich 2-member ward which would centre around the Ashburnham Triangle and the residential neighbourhood around St. Alfege Church which are either side of Greenwich Station, bounded by the A200 (Creek Road) and Deptford Creek. It would also bring the Coldbath and Orchard Estates in SE13, connected to the other part of the ward by the Ravensbourne River (fed by Deptford Creek) and the DLR line at Elverson Road.

- 5.14. The current Peninsula will have a touch shy of 23,000 voters in 2026 and entitled to six councillors. It is therefore proposed to create two 3-member wards wholly within Peninsula. The established part of Peninsula, mainly but not entirely Victorian, is East Greenwich centred on a busy shopping area along Trafalgar Road with the new Greenwich Centre. It is proposed that PA1, PA2, PA3, PA4, PA7 and PA8 form a tight and coherent 3-member East Greenwich ward bounded by the river, Morden Wharf, the A102 trunk road, the railway line and Park Row. The remainder of the current Peninsula including PA6 (itself entitled to 2.3 councillors) which is a fast-developing new town adding to the Greenwich Millennium Village built c2000 should join with the PA5 Charlton Riverside area to form a new 3-member Peninsula ward. Again, there would be clear boundaries of the river, Anchor and Hope Lane, railway line and A102.

Blackheath – Blackheath Westcombe (3)

- 5.15. Blackheath Westcombe was established in 2002 broadly amalgamating the former Vanbrugh ward with most of the old Blackheath ward and the Kidbrooke Park part of the old Ferrier ward. It is all within SE3 and west of the A102 trunk road, the heath itself dividing Blackheath SE3 from Westcombe Park SE3. The electorates and stark western (Greenwich Park), northern (railway line) and eastern (A102 dual carriageway) boundaries prevent a practical reversion to the former wards and the current ward is somewhat under average electors with there being very little development in this well-established community. There is extraordinarily strong civic engagement. Blackheath Village straddles Greenwich and Lewisham, but part of Blackheath in Greenwich lies within the MSI area of Middle Park and Sutcliffe with an artificial division of the Cator estate along Blackheath Park.
- 5.16. Therefore, the only solution without crossing the defined boundaries and dividing other communities, is to extend the ward by re-absorbing this part of Blackheath Park MSI creating a 3-member ward with a strong community resonance.

Eltham – Eltham North (3), Eltham South (3), Eltham West (3), Coldharbour (2), Middle Park & Sutcliffe (3)

- 5.17. For these purposes, Eltham includes SE9 Eltham Town, the SE12 (Lee) part within Greenwich and the new Kidbrooke Village SE3 in the current Eltham West ward. Coldharbour is a strong estate-based community with its own centre and identity, built on London's last farm in 1947, and by shedding CN2 and CN3, can become a core 2-member Coldharbour ward. Adding CN2 and CN3 to Eltham South unites the distinctive New Eltham community either side of the railway line within one ward, an enlarged 3-member Eltham South (currently the ward with the lowest electorate).
- 5.18. Eltham North is slightly undersized, so adding the remainder of the Progress Estate Conservation Area in EW1 allows an enlarged 3-member ward better reflecting community ties.
- 5.19. Eltham West is slightly oversized due to the development of the Kidbrooke Village (formerly the Ferrier estate) so losing EW7 to Middle Park and Sutcliffe allows it to retain 3 members and maintain the new community in one ward, this draws the boundary down the A2213 Kidbrooke Park Road main road. Eltham West then gains most of KH6 to unite the Brook estate in one ward.
- 5.20. Then Middle Park and Sutcliffe loses its Blackheath part to Blackheath Westcombe at its northern extremity uniting the Cator estate, retaining the Brooklands estate (often called Casterbridge) in MS1 and gaining EW7 to make a clear eastern boundary. There are strong links between the Moorhead Way area (EW7) and Brooklands with the terminus for both the 335 and B16 buses, Brooklands and Wingfield Primary schools. Thus, it remains a 3-member ward but is more coherent than the current ward which stretches into Blackheath Village.