



Runnymede Borough Council

Electoral Review Warding Pattern Proposal

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Introduction

Runnymede Borough Council has drawn up a warding pattern which it believes takes into account the objectives of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), achieving a balance between recognition of community links and the need to achieve a balanced electorate across 14 wards.

The Borough of Runnymede has three significant 'barriers to movement' – the M25 and M3 motorways and the railway lines in the Borough. The Council has used these as ward boundaries where possible, crossing only where there is a communication link (e.g. a bridge or level crossing) between both sides of the feature.

Member engagement was key in drawing up the proposals, with Members having the opportunity to comment on and revise proposals.

The final proposal was put before full Council on 8 February at which point Council supported the proposal for submission.

Electoral Cycle & Council Size Submission

In developing its submission to the LGBCE on Council Size, the Council wished to retain the number of Councillors at 42, recognising that, as elections were by thirds, this would require three member wards.

In retaining 42 Councillors, the Council took into account the workload of Councillors, the changing way in which people could access information and the governance arrangements of the Council.

The submission to the LGBCE set out the Council's arguments for retaining the existing number of Councillors. With the start of the consultation on warding patterns in December 2017, the LGBCE announced that it was minded to adopt a Council size of 42 Councillors for the public consultation exercise.

Electorate Population Size

The Council was charged with drawing up the anticipated electorate figures for Runnymede for 2023. This work was led by the Council's GIS team. The Council used the electorate figures as of September 2017 as a base, together with the identified residential developments up to 2023. The residential developments information was derived from the emerging Local Plan for Runnymede.

The Council used this information in conjunction with the LGBCE's practitioners guide on how to prepare an electoral forecast to provide forecasts on a polling district by polling district basis. This forecast was provided to the LGBCE in November 2017

Officers then broke the Borough down into tiles, based on the LGBCE guidance of identifiable communities, a number of which could be used to build up a new ward. The electorate for each tile was calculated in the same way as for a polling district. These tiles then allowed the Council to draw up a warding pattern which achieved ward electorate sizes within 10% of the average size for a single ward (4652 electors) whilst still having regard to community identity.

The Council believes that, by estimating population in smaller areas than polling districts, the overall estimate will be more accurate although there is a slight difference with the numbers submitted for the Council Size submission.

Warding Proposal

Development of proposed warding pattern

The LCBCE's consultation on the warding pattern, inviting proposals and comments, started on 28 November 2017. The LGBCE provided the Council with posters promoting the consultation, which were displayed on notice boards around the borough and also at local libraries and centres.

A number of examples of potential warding patterns were produced for Members to express an opinion on and the comments were collated into a final proposed ward map. This final ward map and naming scheme was proposed by Corporate Management Committee to Council.

A report was submitted to the meeting of Council on 8 February 2018. The Council supported the proposals and the Borough's formal submission is explained in the next section.

Overall, it was considered that there were three main towns in the Borough – Egham, Chertsey and Addlestone, which were large enough for two wards each. New Haw and Woodham to the south both provided natural starting points to build wards as did Virginia Water village to the north-west. With the forecast new development at Longcross and St Peters, this gave the opportunity for a new ward focussed on Ottershaw with much of the remainder of the current Foxhills ward containing the new development sites. Englefield Green and Egham Hill provided two wards with different local characteristics. Finally, the strong community identity in Thorpe was the nucleus for the tenth ward.

The Proposed Warding Pattern

The Revised Ward Boundary Proposals contained herein set out brief information supporting the proposed Wards. To meet the LGBCE's objectives, each ward needs to have a forecast electorate within 10% of the average electorate – a 'target' of 4,652 in 2023 based on the revised electorate figures previously submitted. An A3 Borough ward map and 14 A3 individual ward maps are set out in the submission. A0 maps are included in the supporting information for clarity.

The table below summarises the proposed new Borough wards for 2019 and reports on the variance of electors in each ward from the average of 4,652 electors.

Anticipated Electorate Figures 2023		
	2017	2023
Number of councillors:	42	42
Overall electorate:	61,164	65,141
Average electorate per Cllr:	1,456	1,551
Average per ward:	4,369	4652

Proposed Ward	Electorate 2017	Growth in Electorate	Electorate 2023	Variance 2023 %
Addlestone North	4,469	237	4,706	1.1
Addlestone South	4,696	-70	4,626	0.5
Chertsey Riverside	4,182	756	4,938	6.1
Chertsey St Ann's	4,942	-123	4,819	3.6
Egham Hythe	4,565	-101	4,464	-4.0
Egham Town	3,911	556	4,467	-4.0
Egham Hill	4,381	-134	4,247	-8.8
Englefield Green	4,168	466	4,631	-0.5
Longcross, Lyne and Chertsey South	2,521	1,861	4,382	-5.9
New Haw	5,082	-168	4,914	5.6
Ottershaw	5,094	-192	4,902	5.4
Thorpe	3,853	791	4,644	-0.5
Virginia Water	4,363	153	4,516	-2.9
Woodham and Rowtown	4,879	-11	4,886	-0.2
Total	61,121*	4,021	65,142	

* = The figure is slightly different to the total in the polling district report due to a less than 100% match between the electoral register and Land and Property Gazetteer.

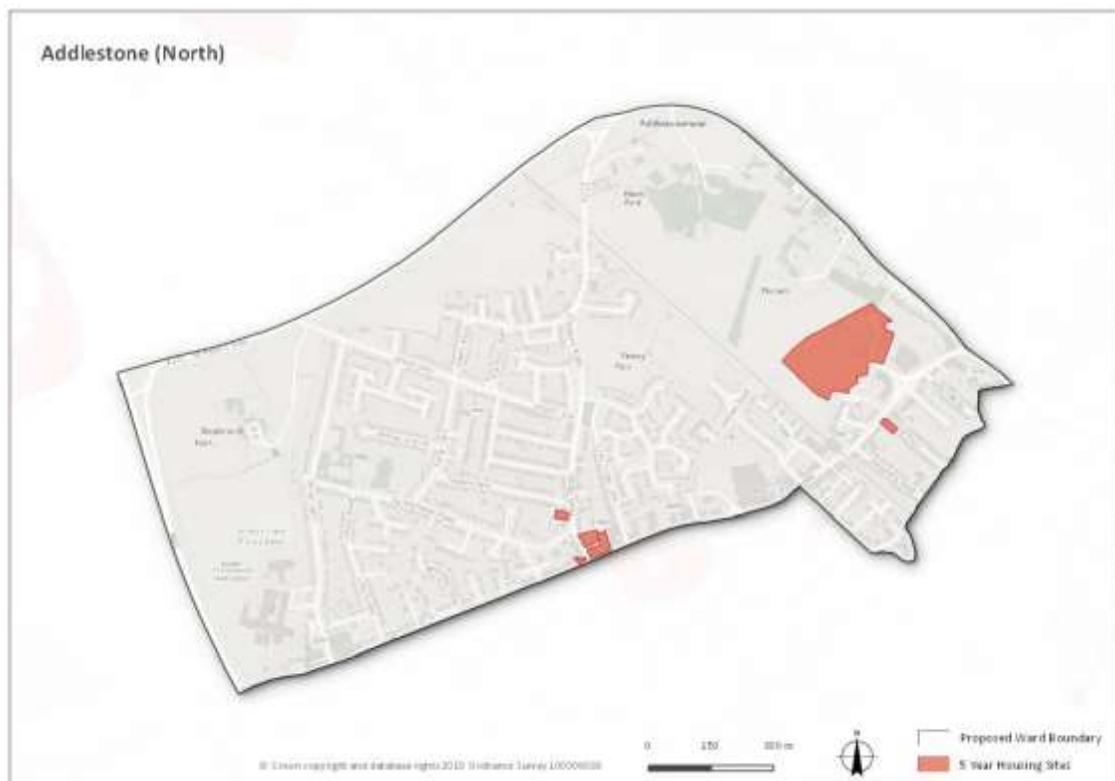
Addlestone North

The proposed Addlestone North ward contains the northern part of the town of Addlestone and is largely coterminous with the existing ward.

It is proposed that the eastern boundary is taken as the major A317 Woburn Hill road round to the Bourne river, which is then followed to Corrie Road which takes the boundary back to the existing ward boundary on Station Road. The existing ward boundary is followed round to the A320 St Peter's Way, which takes the proposed boundary back to the A317

It was felt that north and south of the B3121 were generally distinct areas of Addlestone. Retail facilities are shared between the two Addlestone wards although there are different schools in each ward.

Addlestone North is forecast to have 4,706 electors in 2023 compared to the target of 4,652. This is some 1.1% above target but reflects the fact that there is little housing planned in this area post-2023.

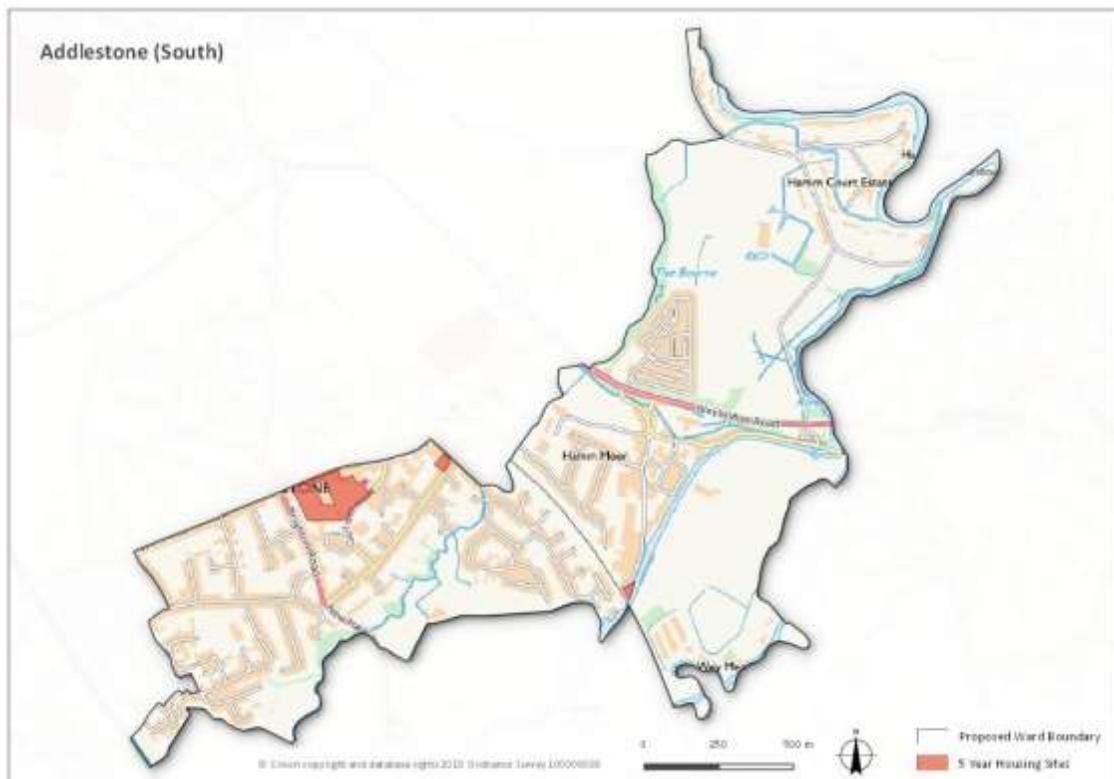


Addlestone South

The proposal for Addlestone South encompasses the southern half of the town of Addlestone, along with the residential area along the Thames at Hamm Court. The community in this area looks to Addlestone town centre for its community and retail facilities. As a dense urban area, there are good communication links between the various parts of the ward.

The boundary is defined by the Borough boundary from Dockett Eddy on the River Thames round to the railway bridge at Wey Meadows. The existing Addlestone county council electoral division boundary is then followed round to the M25, whereupon the existing New Haw ward boundary is followed to Liberty Lane, followed by the Addlestone Bourneside ward boundary along Station Road to Corrie Road. Corrie Road is followed to the Boune River, at which point the existing Addlestone Bourneside ward boundary is followed back to Dockett Eddy

Addlestone South is forecast to have 4,825 electors in 2023 compared to the target of 4,652. This is some 3.7% above target which reflects the fact that much of the new housing stock in this ward in the Addlestone ONE development will come into occupation early in the period after the review, with little major residential development planned after this.



Chertsey Riverside

Chertsey Riverside comprises the southern half of the town of Chertsey and the historic water meadows by the Thames. There is strong local affinity with the town of Chertsey and the area of the Meadows. Fordwater Road also provides a good boundary between people who look to Chertsey town centre and those who look to the Meadows.

The railway and M25 form strong boundaries to the west, followed by the A320, A317 and the existing New Haw ward boundary to the south and the Thames to the east. The proposed northern boundary runs from the Thames, down the B375 and B387 as far as the Bourne River. The boundary then takes in all properties on Fairfields before re-joining the Bourne on Free Prae Road. The Bourne river is followed to the existing ward boundary on the B375. The existing boundary takes the proposed boundary back to the railway.

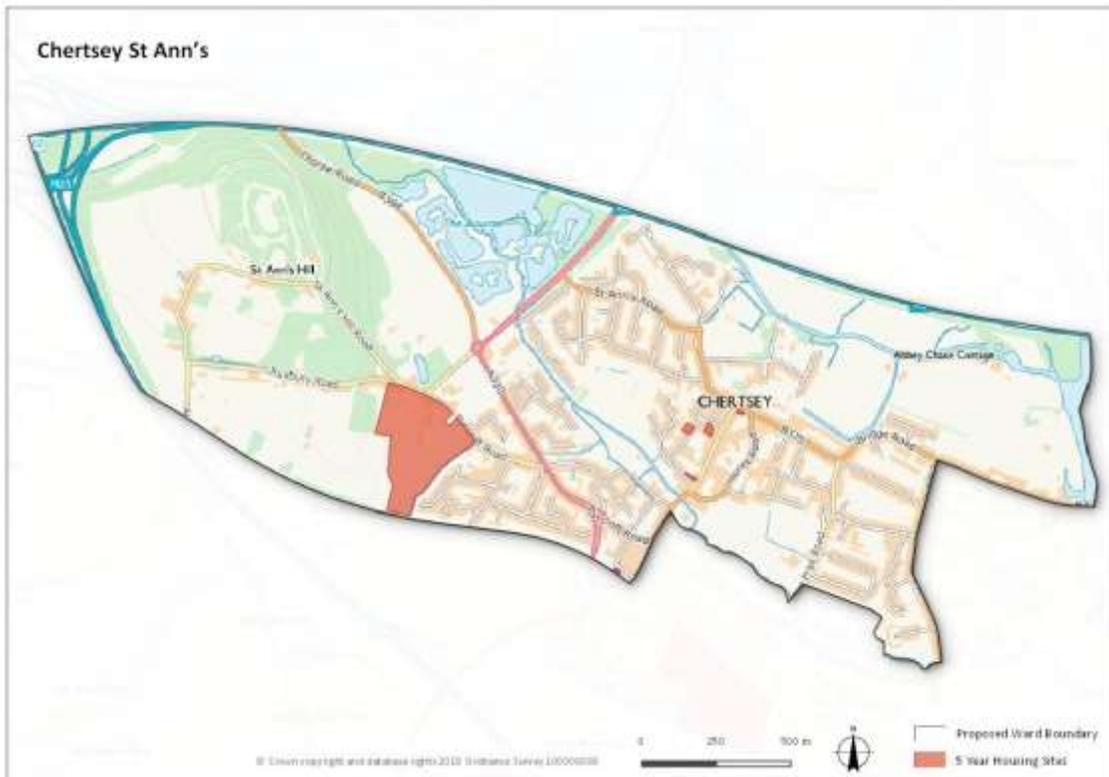
Chertsey Riverside is forecast to have 4,938 electors in 2023 compared to the target of 4,652. This is some 6.1% above target.



Chertsey St Ann's

The heart of the historic town of Chertsey forms the basis for this proposed ward, an area with strong community identity and communication links. The M3 and M25 form strong northern and western boundaries whilst the River Thames forms the eastern boundary. The southern boundary with the proposed Chertsey Riverside ward is described in that section.

Chertsey St Ann's is forecast to have 4,954 electors in 2023 compared to the target of 4,652. This is some 6.5% above target.



Egham Hythe

The proposed Egham Hythe ward takes in the eastern part of the town of Egham. There is a strong identification in the proposed ward with Egham as a town and the Hythe as a name – with links especially to the Hythe Centre and Egham Sports Centre. As a small geographic area, the communication links are good between the various parts of the ward.

The M25 forms a strong border to the west, then following Stroude Road and the Mead Lake Ditch for a southern boundary. The southern boundary of Egham town is followed to the boundary of Thorpe ward as far as the A320, which is it then proposed to follow until the railway line. The railway and River Thames then form the boundary to Staines bridge whereupon the A308 and B3376 are followed to Egham Hythe level crossing. The railway is followed again to New Road then Century Road, Rowan Avenue and around the edge of Hythe Park to Pooley Green Road, which is followed north to join the existing ward boundary on Vicarage Road, which takes the boundary back to the M25

Egham Hythe is forecast to have 4,467 electors in 2023 compared to the target of 4,652. This is some 4.0% below target.

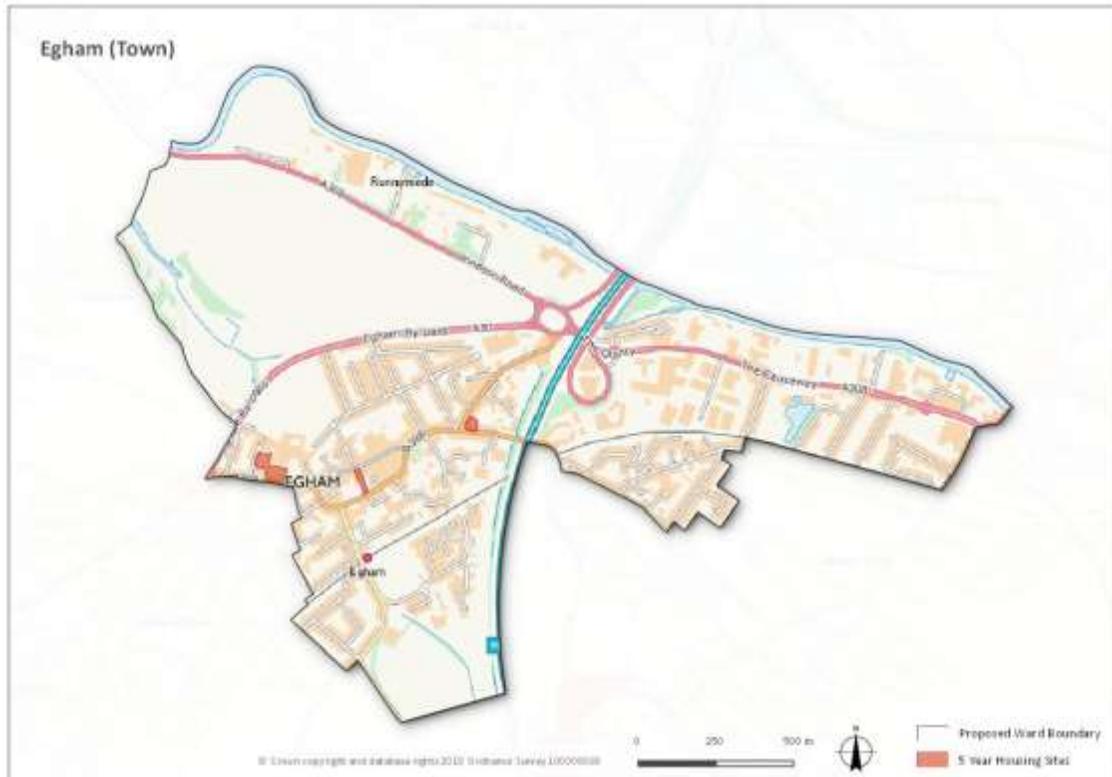


Egham Town

The proposed ward of Egham town comprises the historic heart of Egham, along with some, mainly commercial, areas along the Thames to the east of the M25. Members expressed a preference to ensure that the Egham Band Hall was included in the Egham Town ward. The community hub is Egham town centre. Communications are good in the main area with a main road (along which a number of bus services run) forming a spine in the area to the east of the M25.

East of the M25, the boundary is conterminous with the Borough boundary and the Egham Hythe ward described above. The M25 forms the boundary southwards until the existing Egham Town ward boundary which is followed to the footpath east of Boshers Gardens. The footpath takes the boundary to the railway, which forms the boundary as far as Queen's Road, at which point it runs down Rusham Road. The line of the west side of the Holloway House development is taken to the back of Stoneylands Court. Stoneylands Road, Grange Road, Blue Ball Lane and the B388 are then followed to the A30 at Egham Hill Roundabout. The existing ward boundary is then followed to the River Thames and back to the M25

Egham Town is forecast to have 4,464 electors in 2023 compared to the target of 4,652. This is some 4.0% below target.

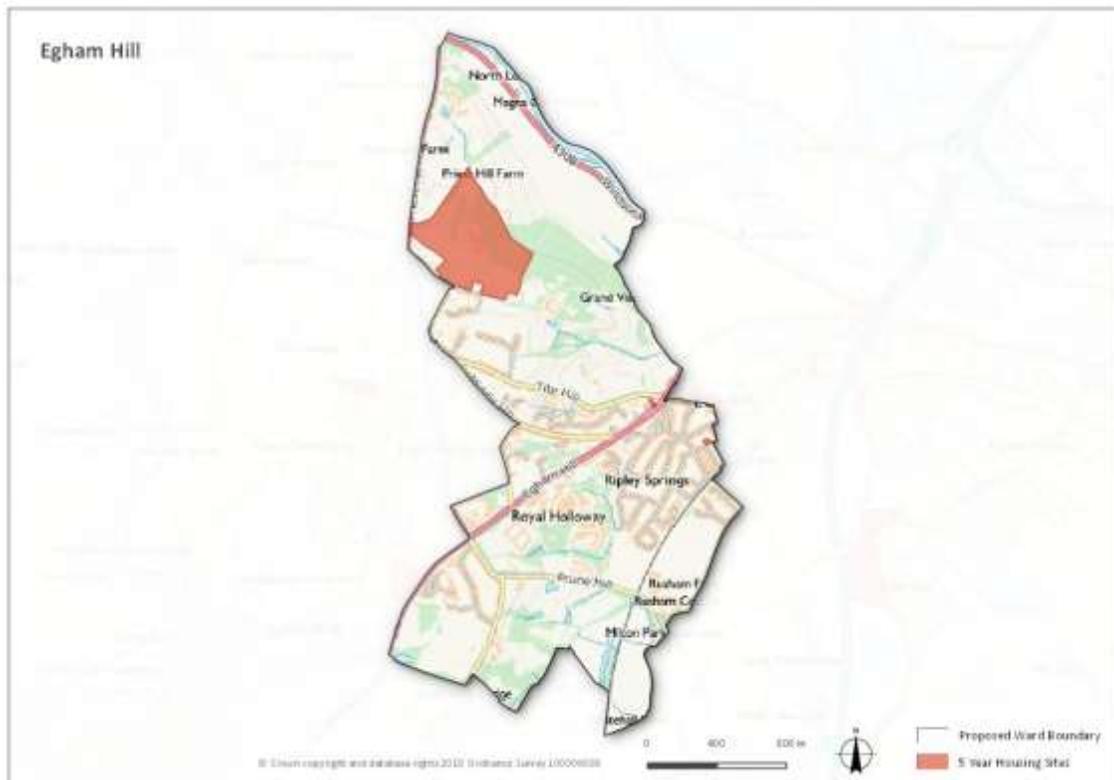


Egham Hill

The Egham Hill ward comprises mainly high density housing heading up Egham Hill from the town centre towards Royal Holloway University. There is a community hub at the Jurgens Centre, whilst the student residents focus on facilities at the Royal Holloway campus. Communications are good with the A30 Egham Hill forming a basis for the ward with branches off to either side.

From the boundary with the proposed Egham Town ward on the River Thames, the borough boundary is followed north west to the A328. The A328 takes the boundary to Coopers Hill Lane, which takes the boundary round the eastern side of Englefield Green to join back with the A328 as far as Middle Hill. Middle Hill is followed as far as Parsonage Road which is taken, followed by Harvest Road and subsequently South Road. The A328 then takes the boundary to the A30, which forms the boundary as far as the existing ward boundary by ACS school. Existing ward boundaries are followed to the railway then down Whitehall Lane as far as the Boshers Gardens footpath. The boundary is then as described in the Egham Town section.

Egham Hill is forecast to have 4,246 electors in 2023 compared to the target of 4,652. This is some 8.8% below target, but this reflects low student registration rates and allows room for expansion should the number of students registering to vote increase.



Englefield Green

The proposed Englefield Green ward contains the village centre of Englefield Green along with the area of the Green itself which is leased from the Crown Estate. There are community facilities in the village centre along with the cricket pavilion on the Green. Much of the ward is within walking distance of the village centre, with the outlying areas of Bishopsgate and Wick Road outside of Windsor Great Park having Englefield Green as their closest facilities.

The eastern boundary with Egham Hill ward is described above. From the A30, Wick Road is followed west, followed by Wick Lane heading north. After the Savill Gardens, Rhododendron Ride and the Great Park boundary are followed to the Borough boundary, which is followed to the junction with the Egham Hill ward.

Englefield Green is forecast to have 4,631 electors in 2023 compared to the target of 4,652. This is some 0.5% below target.



New Haw

The proposed New Haw ward follows many of the boundaries of the existing ward. The western boundary would be extended to include all properties east of Scotland Bridge Road and The Avenue. The main shopping area is shared between New Haw and Woodham, and the split between these two wards reflects this. There is a good link across the M25 between the two areas of the Ward. To assist with effective and convenient local governance, it is proposed to transfer an area north of the Bourne to Addlestone South so the ward and County division boundaries are coterminous.

From the Borough boundary at Scotland Bridge road, the proposed boundary takes a straight line to the end of The Avenue. The rear of the properties on Manor Drive are followed to meet the existing New Haw ward boundary, which is followed as far as the point at which the Addlestone electoral division meets the M25. The division boundary is followed east to meet the A318, from which point the proposed boundary is coterminous with the existing New Haw ward boundary as far as the Borough boundary.

New Haw is forecast to have 4,914 electors in 2023, compared to the target of 4,652. This is some 5.6% above target.



Ottershaw

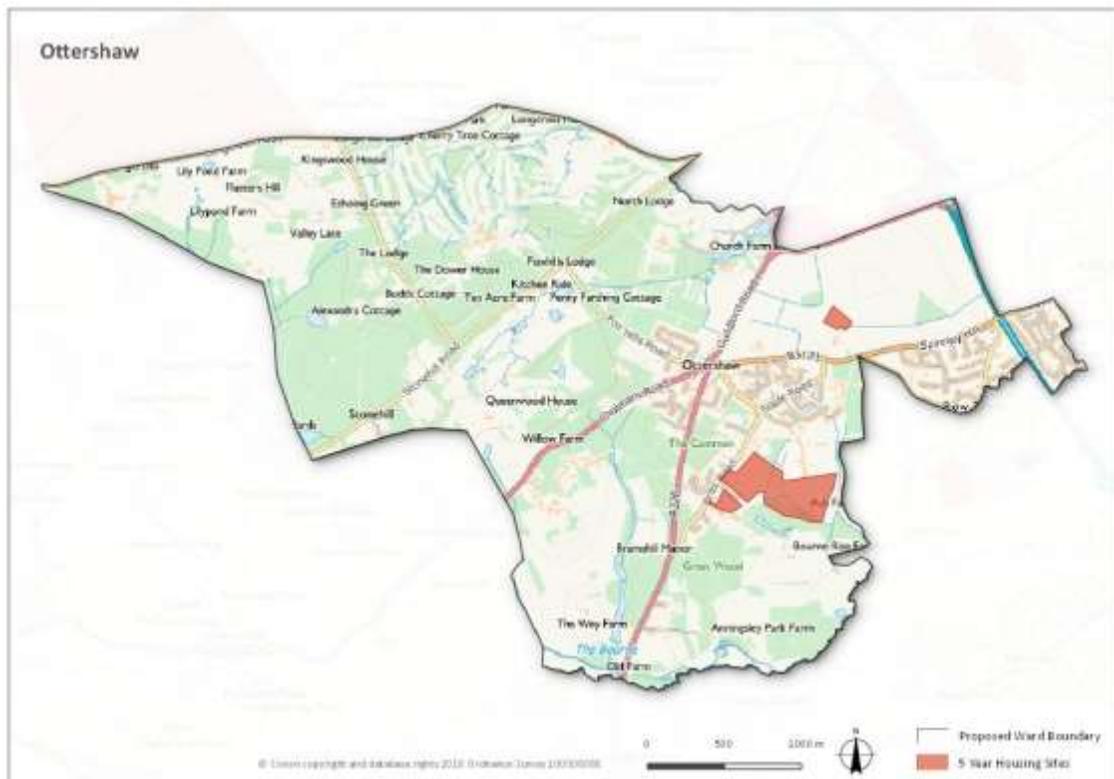
The main community in the Ottershaw ward is Ottershaw village along with the neighbouring area of Row Town. Community facilities are in the centre of Ottershaw, to which all residents have easy access on foot, or along well used road.

Residents in Row Town will look towards either Ottershaw or Addlestone for their facilities, being located half way between the two settlements. They also have two schools and Ongar Hill church to serve their needs.

The populous parts of the ward are well served by buses connecting the various areas.

From the Borough boundary where it crosses the B386 Longcross Road, the B386 is followed as the boundary as far as the junction with Stonehill Road. The western boundary of the Bournewood hospital site is followed to the A320 Guildford Road. The A320 is followed as Guildford Road & St Peter's Way to the M25. From the M25, existing ward boundaries are followed along the B3121, Liberty Lane & Monks Crescent back to the M25. The rear of the properties on Liberty Rise and the centre of Ongar Hill and Hare Hill takes the boundary to meet the existing Foxhills ward boundary, which is followed to the Borough boundary in the south west.

Ottershaw is forecast to have 4,902 electors in 2023, compared to the target of 4,652. This is some 5.4% above target.

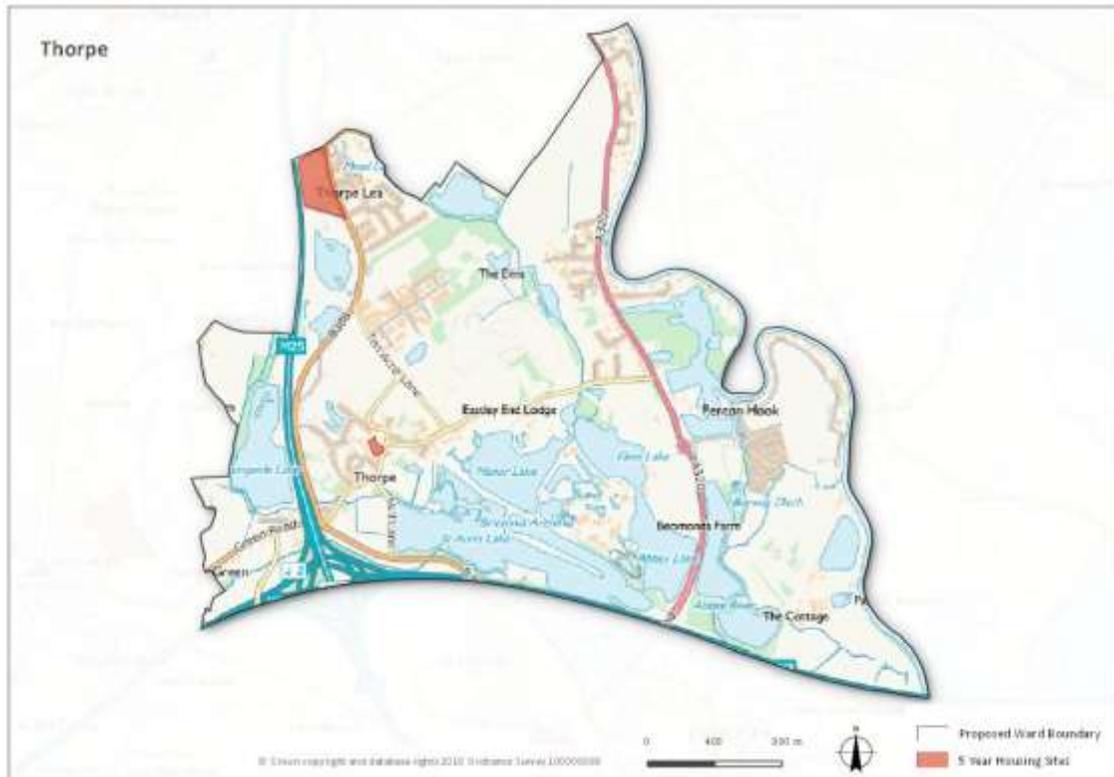


Thorpe

Thorpe Ward incorporates the village of Thorpe at its heart along with Thorpe Green and Thorpe Lea which both have strong community ties to Thorpe village. The main employment source for the area, Thorpe Park is also included in the ward. As the M3 forms a major boundary to the South, the Penton Hook area has been included with Thorpe to bring the numbers within variance. As a large mobile home site, Penton Hook forms a strong community in its own right.

The Borough boundary forms the eastern boundary of the proposed ward, down to and along the M3. From the M3, the existing Thorpe ward boundary is followed to Stroude Road. Surrey Footpath 38 is followed back to the M25, which takes the boundary to New Wickham Lane. New Wickham Lane and the B3376 are followed as far as Mead Lake Ditch, which is followed until it meets the Egham county council electoral division boundary. This boundary is followed to the A320, which is then followed north to the railway line. The railway line takes the boundary east to meet the Borough boundary.

Thorpe is forecast to have 4,644 electors in 2023, compared to the target of 4,652. This is some 0.2% below target. It was felt that in order to protect the community identity of this ward a slight over-representation would be acceptable.

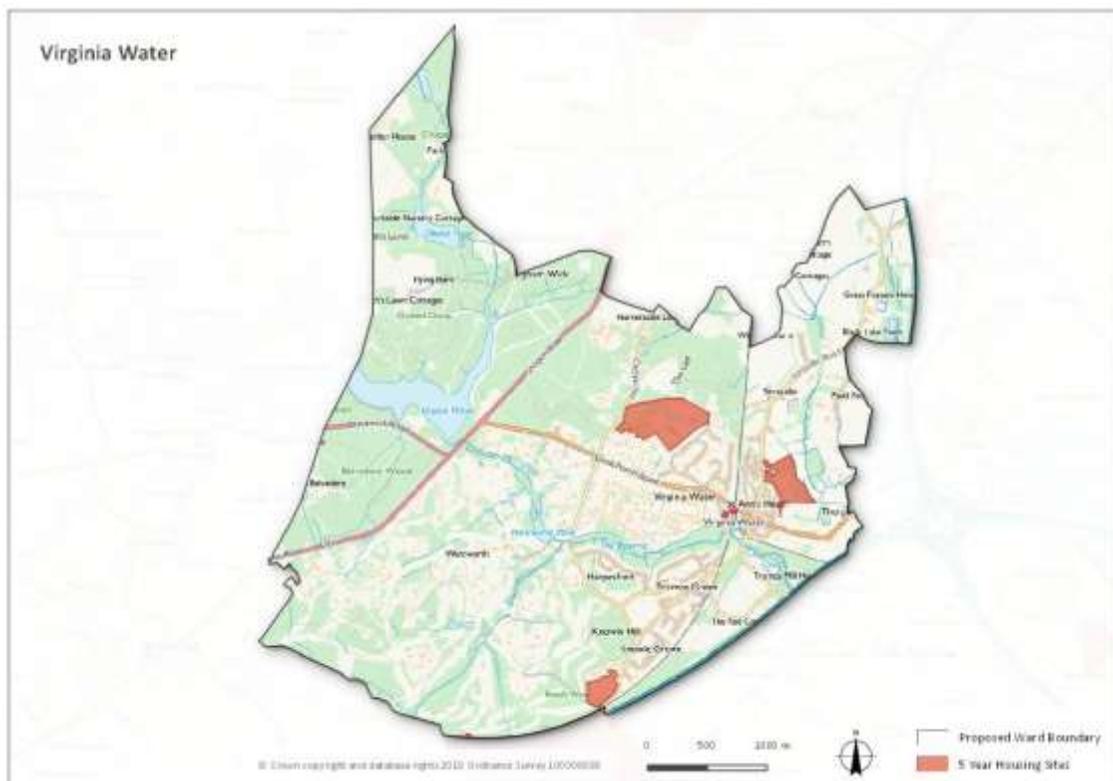


Virginia Water

The proposed Virginia Water ward is based on the established village of Virginia Water and the attached Wentworth estate. In order to bring the ward within tolerance, the area bounded by the M25, Whitehall Lane, New Wickham Lane and Stroude Road has been moved from Thorpe ward and the area of the Borough within Windsor Great Park has been moved from Englefield Green West ward as these areas are of a similar character to Virginia Water. In order to maintain the new community at Longcross in one ward, the area between Kitsmead Lane, the M3 and the railway line in the south west has been transferred to the proposed Lyne and Longcross ward.

From the point where the Virginia Water to Reading railway meets the Borough boundary, the Borough boundary forms the western boundary of the proposed ward as far as the boundary of Windsor Great Park. The Park boundary and Rhododendron Ride are followed to meet Wick Lane just north of Savill Gardens. Wick Lane and Wick Road take the boundary to the A30. The boundaries of the existing Englefield Green East, Egham Town and Thorpe wards take the proposed boundary to the M25. This is then followed south to where it meets Surrey Footpath 38 which is followed back to the existing Virginia Water ward boundary at Stroude Road. The existing boundary is then followed as far as the Kitsmead Lane bridge over the M3, at which point Kitsmead Lane, Trumpsgreen Road and the railway to Reading form the boundary back to the Borough boundary.

Virginia Water is forecast to have 4,516 electors in 2023, compared to the target of 4652. This is some 2.9% below target. It is recognised that Virginia Water is a low growth area due to the nature of the properties and land in that Ward.



Woodham and Rowtown

The proposed Woodham and Rowtown ward is based around Woodham village in the ribbon development along the South West Main Line railway to the south of the Borough. As a small area, communication links are good here. The remainder of the proposed ward lies to the north to either side of Woodham Park Road/Row Town which forms a good link to the southern part of the proposed ward. Three bus services operate between the two parts of the ward.

From the Borough boundary in the west, existing ward boundaries are followed as far as Hare Hill. Hare Hill, Ongar Hill and the rear of the properties on Liberty Rise takes the boundary to the M25. Existing ward boundaries are then followed as far as Manor Drive. The northern boundary of the properties is then followed along Manor Drive to the Avenue, at which point a straight line along The Avenue, The Broadway and Scotland Bridge Road is taken to the Borough boundary, which is followed back to the west.

Woodham and Rowtown is forecast to have 4,644 electors in 2023, compared to the target of 4,652. This is some 0.2% below target.

