

Appendix 2 - Lambeth's Electorate Forecasting Methodology

Lambeth used the LGBCE Polling District Forecasting Tool to calculate a starting point for assessing potential future changes to electorate numbers in the borough.

The tool uses ONS borough population figures of the last 3 years and compares this with the ward electorates for the same period. Lambeth used electoral register figures for the years 2018-2020 broken down by polling district as the baseline data for this forecasting.

A calculation is then made to project ward electorates for 2026 based on those trends with elector distribution at ward and polling district level remaining in line with current distribution.

Although the tool does produce a possible picture of Lambeth's electorate in 2026, we have supplemented alternative forecasts to those provided by the LGBCE.

We have taken this approach because the standardised forecasting does not account for the development of new properties which would yield over 30 new electors. There are numerous housing developments planned across Lambeth between 2020 and 2026, and therefore we wanted to supplement the figures produced by the LGBCE's tool.

Lambeth's Planning Strategy and Policy Team provided information about the anticipated number of developments over the 2020-2026 period both for 'large sites' of over 0.25ha and for smaller sites as around 22% of Lambeth's housing delivery comes from small sites. The sites included in this data were for net additional dwellings, meaning any existing housing lost through development was factored in.

Using a ratio of elector to dwelling at 1.6 to 1 (the ratio being devised by assessing the number of electors on the electoral register against the number of properties on the same register) we were able to ascertain the expected increase in electorate for each development. Only developments of over 19 units which would therefore yield 30 electors were included.

The anticipated electorate for these developments were added to the figures generated for each polling district by the LGBCE tool. The figures for each ward are set out in **(Appendix 1)**.

Problems with the population figures used by the Commission

The council wishes to express concern at the figures the Commission will be using to determine the electoral equality across the borough. For a number of reasons we think these may now not be accurate. It is likely that Covid and its economic aftermath will have an effect on population growth which has not been factored into the original calculation.

The council also believes that even taking into account circumstances prior to the Covid pandemic there may be evidence that the growth patterns in London boroughs – including LB Southwark subject of a recent review - have not fulfilled original projections.

If the geographically varied patterns of population growth across Lambeth which make up the overall projected increase in the electorate from 244,000 to 256,000 do not take place this is likely to once more ensure that parts of Lambeth are overrepresented and others underrepresented.