

# Stage 1 Consultation

## Community Governance Review

### Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

**July 2025**

#### **Background:**

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR) under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to consider creating parishes and parish councils<sup>1</sup> in all of the current area of the Borough. This has been prompted by the process of Local Government Reorganisation across Surrey which is likely to see the formation of one or more unitary authorities for Surrey, and the abolition of the existing eleven district and borough councils within Surrey, along with the abolition of the County Council.

In the event the eleven existing district and borough councils along with the county council are dissolved in April 2027 then as the whole of Epsom and Ewell Borough does not have any parish councils there will be no lower tier of local government, below that of the new unitary authority.

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council consider it important that a tier of local government should continue to be available to residents of the borough at a more local level than any unitary authority could offer, and which will be able to offer locally provided services to residents which could include:

- Greater local voice for functions and assets managed by the parish council
- Reduced risk of loss of functions and assets due to decisions taken at a distance
- Greater financial flexibility to increase (or reduce) the precept than under current council tax capping rules

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<sup>1</sup> Parishes and parish councils may also be called “communities” and “community councils”, “neighbourhoods” and “neighbourhood councils”, “villages” and “village councils”.

- Services such as parks, playgrounds and community centres can be delivered locally
- Local ability to drive economic growth by attracting funding and grants to boost the local economy and to drive local projects
- Initiatives to enhance the quality of life via provision of green spaces and cultural events
- As statutory consultees on planning matters the parish council can reflect the concerns and aspirations of local residents
- Provision of support for local businesses through events and other initiatives
- Promotion of local health and well-being projects
- Potential for provision of local youth services

## **The proposals:**

The preferred option of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is to create either one or two parishes, each with a parish council, to be named a “Community Council”, covering the whole of the current area of the borough. The two-parish proposal seeks to represent the East and West of the current borough. There are four different options for boundary arrangements for consideration by the public.

### **Option 1 (two parishes each with a parish council):**

**West** – Ruxley, West Ewell, Court, Horton, Town, Stamford, Woodcote and Langley Vale

**East** – Cuddington, Ewell Court, Auriol, Stoneleigh, Ewell Village, Nonsuch, College

### **Option 2 (two parishes each with a parish council):**

**West** – Court, Horton, Town, Stamford, Woodcote and Langley Vale, College

**East** – Cuddington, Ewell Court, Auriol, Ruxley, West Ewell, Stoneleigh, Ewell Village, Nonsuch

### **Option 3 (two parishes each with a parish council):**

**West** – Cuddington, Ruxley, Auriol, Ewell Court, West Ewell, Court, Horton

**East** – Stoneleigh, Nonsuch, Ewell Village, Town, College, Stamford, Woodcote and Langley Vale

### **Option 4 (one parish and parish council):**

**All wards**

Maps detailing the specific boundaries suggested for each of the above options are attached at Appendix 1 to this consultation document.

However, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council also welcomes the submission of alternative suggestions as to how the area of the borough could be divided up into

parish councils in order to serve residents of the area most effectively, or, indeed, whether some other form of Community Governance such as Neighbourhood Forums, Residents Associations, etc, would better serve the area, or part of it.

## Number of Councillors and Warding:

As part of this review, Epsom and Ewell Council must consider the overall numbers of parish councillors, and whether or not to divide any new parish into wards for the purposes of representation and elections.

When considering this, we have to consider whether:

- the number, or distribution of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient; and
- whether it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented

The number of electors (as at 1 May 2025) for each of the proposed options are provided below. These areas use the existing ward boundaries for the wards detailed above.

Option 1	
West: 30,042 electorate	East: 29,381 electorate
Option 2	
West: 26,489 electorate	East: 32,934 electorate
Option 3	
West: 28,601 electorate	East: 30,822 electorate
Option 4	
Total: 59,423 electorate	

We are seeking residents' views on:

1. The total number of councillors who should serve on the / each of the proposed parish councils.
2. Whether the proposed parish(es) should be warded or not.
3. If the proposed parish(es) are to be warded, the number of wards, the boundaries and names of those wards, and the number of councillors who should serve those wards.

Further details about the Community Governance Review can be found on our website at: <https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/>..... Which includes an electronic

version of this survey, and a link to the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review.

### About you:

Please state which of the following best describes you **(please select any relevant answers)**

- ☐ I live in the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council area
- ☐ I work in the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council area
- ☐ I own a business or property in the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council area
- ☐ I am a representative of a community organisation in the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council area. The name of the community organisation is:  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Other: (*Give details*) \_\_\_\_\_

Please state your postcode (based on your above selection) : \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:** Please answer as many questions as you wish. You do not have to answer all of them. At the end of the survey is a section where you can add your own free-text comments.

**1) Do you agree** that one or more parish councils should be created across the whole of the area of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council area?

- ☐ Yes Please go to Question 2
- ☐ No Please go to Question 3
- ☐ Don't know / not sure Please go to Question 4
- ☐ Some other option Please go to Question 5

**2)** Please tell us why you chose “Yes – create parish councils across the whole of the area of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council area”

- 3) Please tell us why you chose “No - parish councils should not be created across the whole of the area of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council area”

- 4) Please tell us why you don't know or are not sure on which option you prefer.

- 5) Please provide details of other options you suggest.

- 6) The preferred option of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is to create either one or two parishes, each with a parish council, to serve the whole of the Borough Council area, as shown in the map attached,. Do you agree that this is the correct number, or would you prefer a different number of parishes and parish councils?

- ☐ There should be only one parish and parish council covering the whole of the Borough Council area
- ☐ There should be two parishes and parish councils covering the whole of the Borough Council area
- ☐ There should be three parishes and parish councils covering the whole of the Borough Council area
- ☐ Don't know / not sure
- ☐ Other: If you answered “Other” then please let us know how many parishes and parish councils should be established for the whole of the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council area, and give details of the areas they should cover

**7)** Assuming that all new parishes are of roughly the same size, how many councillors should serve on each (5 is the minimum), depending upon how many are created?

- ☐ If just one is created \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ If two are created \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ If three are created \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ If four or more are created \_\_\_\_\_

**8)** The preferred option of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is that the new parish(es) should be divided into wards, largely along the lines that the existing wards of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council use. Do you think that the new parish(es) should be divided into wards?

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO
- ☐ Don't know / not sure

**9)** Epsom and Ewell Borough Council consider that any new parish should be styled a "community", and any new parish council should therefore be called a "community council" as this best reflects the nature of the areas that they will serve. However, the styles of "parish", "neighbourhood" or "village" could also be used. Please let us know your preference below:

- ☐ Community
- ☐ Parish
- ☐ Neighbourhood
- ☐ Village

**10)** Are you aware of any existing local community governance in the areas (e.g. community or neighbourhood forums, resident associations etc.) which would serve the local community as a better alternative to a parish council?

☐ YES

Please tell us more about the group, the area it covers, and the reason for your answer

☐ NO

**11)** Are there any further comments you would like to add about the Community Governance Review or the proposal to create one or more parishes and parish councils in Epsom and Ewell?

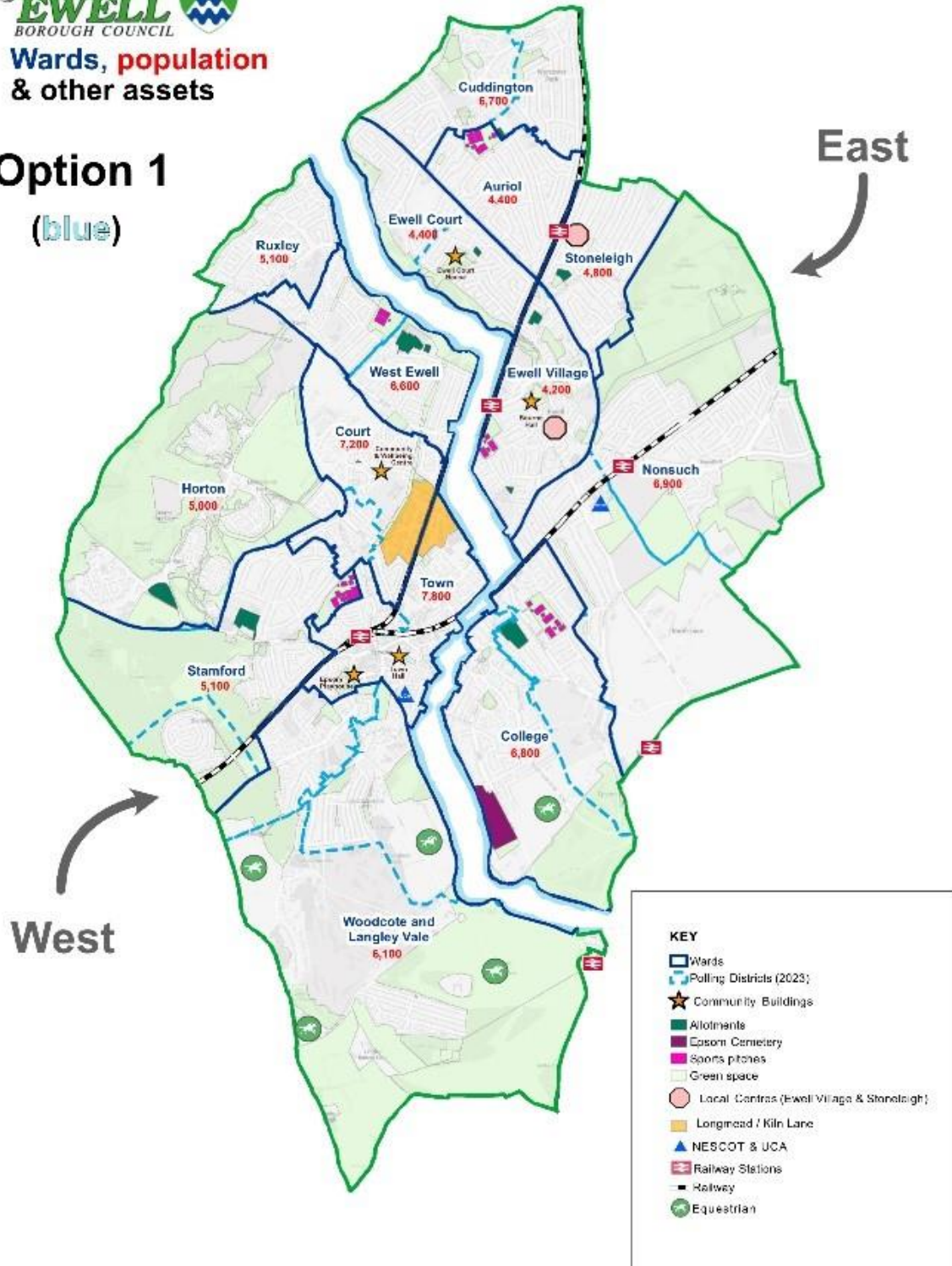
If you would like to be kept informed on the Community Governance Review and involved in the future development of draft recommendations following this initial consultation, please provide your email address below:

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Using your personal information:** Any information provided in this survey will be used in the strictest confidence and only for the use of the community governance review. Your response will form part of our published documents, but all responses will be fully anonymised. For further information on how we collect, use, share, secure and retain your personal information, and your legal rights, please see our Privacy Notice at <https://epsom-ewell.gov.uk/council/about-council/data-protection/privacy-and-cookies>

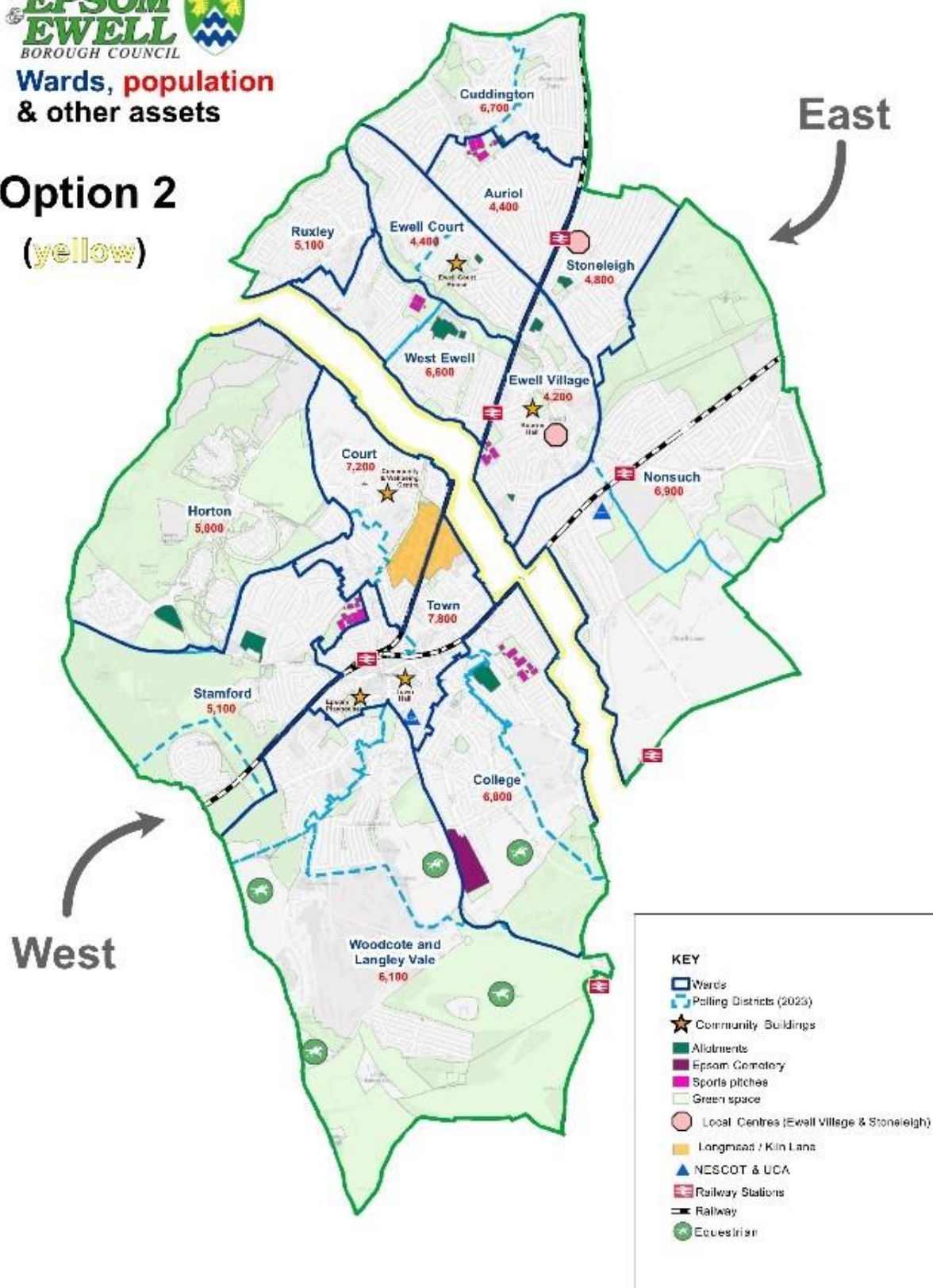
## Appendix 1

### Option 1 (blue)





**Option 2**  
(yellow)

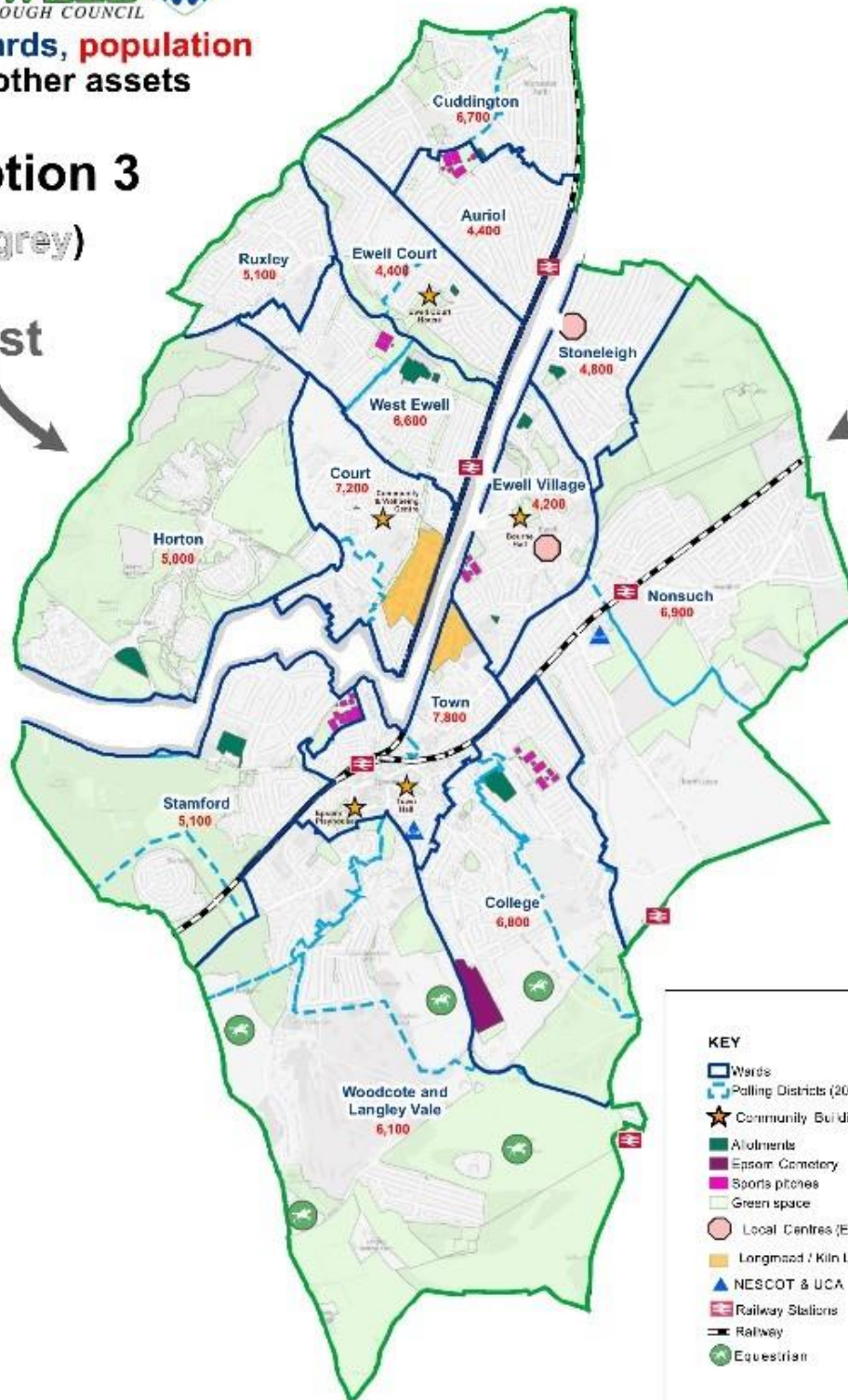


## Option 3

(grey)

West

East



0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0 1.2 1.4 1.6 1.8 2.0 2.2 2.4 Kilometers

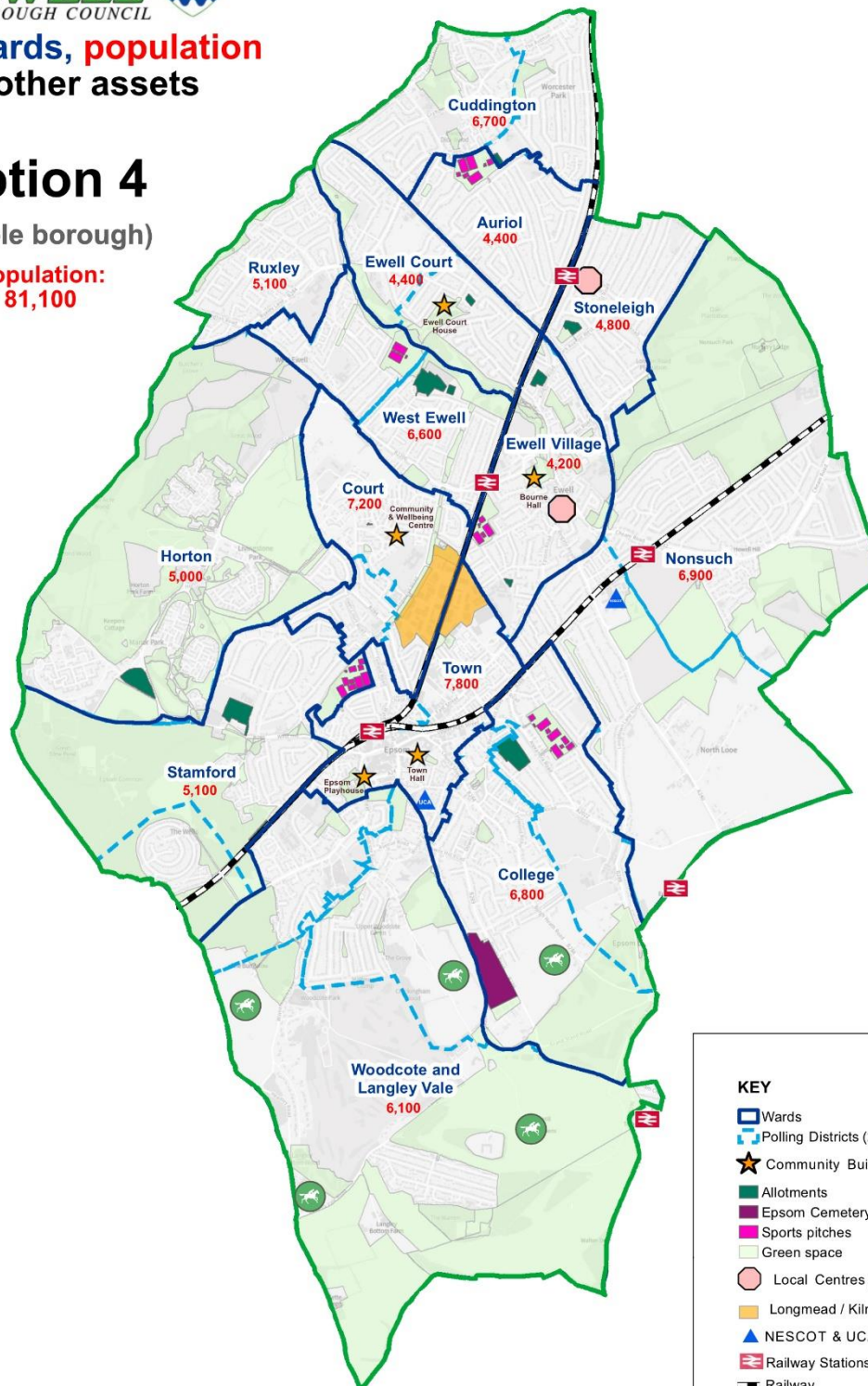
Scale 1:40,000



## Option 4

(whole borough)

**Population:  
81,100**



### KEY

- Wards
- Polling Districts (2023)
- Community Buildings
- Allotments
- Epsom Cemetery
- Sports pitches
- Green space
- Local Centres (Ewell Village & Stoneleigh)
- Longmead / Kiln Lane
- NEScot & UCA
- Railway Stations
- Railway
- Equestrian

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 Kilometers

Scale 1:40,000