

Partial Review of Polling Districts and
Polling Places

Central Hove, Goldsmid, and Wish Wards
of
Brighton & Hove City Council

Consultation Document

Consultation Period runs from 20 October 2014 to 19 December 2014

1. Background to the Review

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the council has a duty to divide its area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district for UK Parliamentary elections. It also has to keep these arrangements under review. The arrangements made for parliamentary elections are also used at other elections.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006, as amended, places introduced a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their polling districts and polling places at least once every five years. A full review including wide consultation was carried out in autumn 2013, and changes took effect for the European Parliamentary elections in May 2014.

Following those elections, issues have arisen about three of the council's designated polling stations and it is therefore necessary to carry out a partial review in Central Hove, Goldsmid and Wish Wards.

The existing Brighton & Hove City Council ward boundaries, and the parliamentary constituency boundaries, are not part of this review, although they will be reviewed periodically in future by the relevant Boundary Committee or Commission.

2. Definitions

"Polling districts" are geographical electoral areas into which wards and constituencies may be sub-divided.

"Polling places" are the buildings or areas designated by the council where electors in a polling district go to vote in person.

The polling place should in normal circumstances be situated within the polling district for which it is designated, but in some circumstances, for example where no suitable polling place can be found, then the polling place may be designated outside the polling district.

"Polling stations" are the number of issuing desks in the building that is the designated polling place, which generally range from one to three. The Returning Officer determines the number of polling stations depending on the electorate at a particular election. Wherever possible there should be no more than 2,500 electors allotted to a polling station.

3. The Review Process

The Returning Officer's proposals have been included in this consultation paper.

The council invites comments on the proposals. Public notice about the consultation will be given. The consultation paper will be sent to councillors, Members of Parliament, local political parties, and any other interested groups or persons, including those who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

4. The Review Timetable

The timetable for the review is set out below:

Consultation document to be circulated	Monday 20 October 2014
Closing date for representations	Friday 19 December 2014
Final proposals published via Agenda papers and website	Thursday 15 January 2015
Council's Policy & Resources meeting – approval of polling place changes	Thursday 22 January 2015
City Council and General Parliamentary Elections	Thursday 7 May 2015

5. The Proposals

This document sets out details of current polling district and polling places for the five wards in question, and details of issues and any proposed changes.

The principles behind these proposals are:

- a) To try and identify new polling places in areas where the existing provision is inadequate or inconvenient.

- b) To ensure, as far as practicable, that any new polling places are accessible to people with disabilities.

c) To ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

d) To try and minimise disruption to schools.

6. Making comments

Any elector may make representations. Representations must be received by **Friday 19 December 2014**, and should be addressed to:

Electoral Services
Brighton & Hove City Council
FREEPOST BR 2003
Town Hall
Brighton
BN1 1ZW

or emailed to: electors@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Polling station scheme and Returning Officer's Proposals

Electorates as at 1 September 2014

Central Hove Ward, Hove Constituency

Polling District	Electorate	Previous Polling Place	Number of polling stations
UY	5,188	Hove Town Hall, Norton Road	3
UZ	2,201	Hove Library, Church Road	1

Hove Town Hall is not available for use as a polling station on 7 May 2015 as it will be undergoing refurbishment.

The Returning Officer's staff have approached a range of alternative premises, including the Parish Room at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Norton Road. This is considered to be a suitable venue for polling. It is in the same road close to Hove Town Hall. It is a large room with suitable facilities for voters, and there is disabled access via Hova Villas.

Q1 Do you approve of the Parish Room, Church of the Sacred Heart being used as a polling station for UY polling district?

Q2 Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?

Goldsmid Ward, Hove Constituency

Polling District	Electorate	Previous Polling Place	Number of polling stations
NV	4,118	Ajex Hall, Eaton Road	2
NW	2,172	All Saints Church Hall, Eaton Road	1
NX	2,138	Vallance Community Centre, Sackville Road	1
NY	1,843	Cottesmore St Mary's RC Primary School, The Upper Drive	1
NZ	1,617	Avondale Centre, Montefiore Road	1

The Avondale Centre is no longer available for hire as a polling station.

The Returning Officer's staff have not been able to identify alternative premises within the polling district itself. However Brighton & Hove Sixth Form College (BHASVIC) has been approached, and they do have a suitable room for hire. This could be approached from Crocodile Walk, and has disabled access. The college would be able to remain open.

Q3 Do you approve of the Refectory Room, BHASVIC, being used as a polling station for NZ polling district?

Q4 Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?

Wish Ward, Hove Constituency

Polling District	Electorate	Previous Polling Place	Number of polling stations
SV	2,082	St Leonard's Church Hall, Glebe Villas	1
SW	1,432	Aldrington Recreation Ground Pavilion, Saxon Road	1
SX	1,395	Aldrington Recreation Ground Pavilion, Wish Road	1
SY	1,470	Children's Centre, West Hove Infant School	1
SZ	774	Sanders House Communal Room, Ingram Crescent West	1

The Pavilion at Aldrington Recreation Ground, Saxon Road, is not available for use as a polling station because it has been leased to a private playgroup. At the last election, the Wish Road pavilion was used as a polling station for both SW and SX polling districts. However, this would not be a suitable arrangement for the combined City Council and General Elections on 7 May 2015.

The Returning Officer's staff have approached a range of alternative premises, but have not been able to identify suitable premises in a central location.

One option could be to site a portacabin in Saxon Road. It is not practical to site a portacabin in the Recreation Ground itself. However, it would be feasible to site a marquee in the Recreation Ground.

Q5 Do you approve of a portacabin being used as a polling station for the SW polling district, sited in Saxon Road.

Q6 Do you approve of a marquee being used as a polling station for the SW polling district, sited within the Recreation Ground.

Q7 Are there any other alternatives that the Council should consider?