



Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations in Hastings

**Consultation document for interim review
held in October 2023**

Consultation period runs from

2 to 22 October 2023

Contents:

	Page
Contact information	2
1. Background to this review	3
2. Definitions	3
3. The review process	3
4. The role of the (Acting) Returning Officer	4
5. Proposals	4
6. Polling district boundary changes	4
7. Making representations	5
8. Completion of the review	6
9. Challenging the outcome of the review	6
10. Who may make a representation to the Electoral Commission?	6
11. Review by the Electoral Commission	7
Appendix – Proposals document	9

Contact information:

Information on who can make representations and where to address representations is given on page 5 of this consultation document.

If you want to talk to someone about this review, please contact:

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Hastings Borough Council
Muriel Matters House
Breeds Place
Hastings
TN34 3UY

Telephone (01424) 451747

E-mail: electoralservices@hastings.gov.uk

If you would like to receive this consultation document in an alternative format, such as large print, please let us know by contacting Electoral Services:

- E-mail: electoralservices@hastings.gov.uk
- Telephone: (01424) 451087

1. Background to this review

The council must regularly review the division of its area into polling districts and the places where electors are asked to vote. Full reviews must be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2013.

The relevant legislation can be found in section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006. Guidance is also published by the Electoral Commission.

The Council's last full review under the legislation was carried out in 2019. Due to the recent completion of the Boundary Commission for England's review of parliamentary constituencies, we have decided to undertake a short, interim review now with a full review taking place in 2024.

Further information about the procedures for making representations is given later in this paper and the detailed proposals, including proposals for change, are set out in the appendix.

2. Definitions

“Parliamentary constituency”. This cannot be changed by the review. It is the division of the constituency into polling districts and places that is the subject of the review. It should be noted that only the parts of the Hastings and Rye constituency that falls within the Borough of Hastings is being reviewed by the Council. The area of the constituency that lies outside the Borough (Rye and Eastern Rother and Brede Valley and Marsham) will be reviewed separately by Rother District Council.

“Polling district”. The area created by the division of a constituency or ward into smaller parts, within which a polling place can be determined which is convenient to the electors.

“Polling place”. The building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer.

“Polling station”. The actual area where the process of voting takes place. This must be located within the polling place and designated for the particular polling district. This function is the responsibility of the (Acting) Returning Officer.

3. The review process

As part of the review process the Council must:

- Seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
- Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable the polling places are accessible to those who are disabled, and
- When considering or reviewing the designation of a polling place, have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

The council is required to publish notice of the holding of a review. Information about the review is made available on the council’s website and can also be obtained in person from the Electoral Services Office at Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings TN34 3UY.

The consultation document will also be sent to the local Member of Parliament, Borough Councillors, County Councillors and local political parties. It will also be sent to organisations who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have alternative accessibility needs.

The consultation period for this review will last for approximately 3 weeks.

The timetable for this review is set out below:

Publication of notice and consultation document.	Monday 2 October 2023
Closing date for representations.	Sunday 22 October 2023
Final proposals heard by Cabinet.	Monday 6 November 2023
Final proposals published (as part of the agenda papers for the Council meeting to be held on 22 November 2023). These will be available on the Council’s website.	Tuesday 14 November 2023
Council approves scheme.	Wednesday 22 November 2023
Revised electoral register 2024 published.	Friday 1 December 2023

4. The role of the (Acting) Returning Officer

The Council is required to consult the (Acting) Returning Officer for every Parliamentary constituency that is wholly or partly within its area. This consultation document already includes any proposals made by the (Acting) Returning Officer.

5. Proposals

The appendix to this consultation document sets out details of current polling district and polling places for each of the 16 wards in the Borough of Hastings and details of proposed changes.

6. Making representations

Any elector in the whole of the Hastings and Rye constituency (whether they live in the Borough or not) may make representations to the Council.

Representations will also be considered from individuals or organisations who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have alternative accessibility needs.

We would encourage anyone making representations to suggest alternative polling districts/places to those proposed where appropriate and to give reasons for the alternative. This is especially relevant to those polling stations that are situated outside of a polling district or are currently in use as a dual polling station.

Any representations must be received by Sunday 22 October 2023.

You can email your representations (with the words “Polling Places Review” in the subject line) to electoralservices@hastings.gov.uk

If you prefer, you can write to us with your representations. These should be addressed to:

Polling Places Review
Electoral Services
Hastings Borough Council
Muriel Matters House
Breeds Place
Hastings
TN34 3UY

All representations received will be available for viewing, by appointment, at our offices. Even if you have already commented on the proposals, you may make further submissions in response to other representations. Any further submissions must be received no later than the consultation closing date on 22 October 2023.

7. Completion of the review

The final proposals will be submitted to the Full Council meeting on 22 November 2023. This report will be published on 14 November 2023. Councillors will be asked to consider the proposals and representations received and make a final decision. The Council is required to give reasons for its decisions in respect of the designation of both polling districts and polling places.

A revised electoral register will be published on 1 December 2023.

In addition, the council must publish:

- all correspondence sent to the (Acting) Returning Officer in connection with the review and all correspondence sent to any person who the council thinks has particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability;
- all representations made by any person in connection with the review;
- the minutes of any meetings held by the council where details of the review have been considered;
- details of the actual designations of polling districts and polling places agreed as a result of the review; and
- details of where the results of the review have been published.

8. Challenging the outcome of the review

Although the Electoral Commission has no initial role in the review process itself, it does have an important role in respect of considering representations and observations made that a Council has not conducted a review so as to:

- meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency, or a body of them (i.e. the reasonable requirements of a particular area of the authority have not been satisfactorily met); or
- take sufficient account of the accessibility to disabled persons of polling stations within a designated polling place.

9. Who may make a representation to the Electoral Commission?

The following may make representations to the Electoral Commission namely;

- not less than 30 registered electors in the constituency
- any person who made representations to the council when the review was being undertaken (except the (Acting) Returning Officer)
- any person who is not an elector within the constituency who the Electoral Commission feel has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons;

Also the (Acting) Returning Officer may make observations on any representations made to the Commission.

10. Review by the Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is required to consider any such representations and observations, and after doing so, may direct the relevant council to make any alterations it sees necessary to the polling places designated by the review.

Should a council fail to make the alterations within two months of the direction being given, the Commission may make the alterations itself.



Appendix

Interim review of polling districts and polling places in Hastings
Interim review (October – November 2023)

Proposals document

Electorate as at **1 September 2023**

An interactive map of all polling stations can be found here

<https://maps.hastings.gov.uk/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=58e524b729a3471581ba45dc3517e5f7>

HASTINGS AND RYE CONSTITUENCY

Ashdown Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
A1	Hastings Centre, The Ridge, Hastings TN34 2SA	1,147	Situated outside of the polling district (as no suitable accommodation within). Good access. Free off-road parking for electors and excellent public transport links. Currently a dual polling station with polling district F1.	No change. Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked. In inclement weather, maximum of 2 tellers in alcove area in foyer.	Currently the most suitable venue within the immediate area. There are no issues with duality of this venue. No complaints have been made about the duality of this venue
A2	St Johns Church Room, Upper Church Road, St Leonards on Sea TN37 7BS	1,131	Situated within polling district. Satisfactory access. Unrestricted on-street parking and satisfactory public transport links.	No change. Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue.
A3	Bannatyne Spa Hotel (Montgomerie Suite), Battle Road, St Leonards on Sea TN38 8EA.	1,682	Situated just outside of the polling district. Free off-road parking for electors and satisfactory public transport links.	No change. Tellers' area: Outside main entrance. Maximum of four tellers in outer foyer area.	Currently the most suitable venue within the immediate area. No complaints have been made about this venue.

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

Baird Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
B1	Elim Pentecostal Church, Elphinstone Avenue, Hastings TN34 2DJ	1,761	Situated within the polling district. Level access. Unrestricted on-street parking and public transport links nearby.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue
B2	Broomgrove Community Centre, Junction Malvern Way/Chiltern Drive, Hastings TN34 3PY	2,083	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Unrestricted on-street parking.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

Braybrooke Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
C1	St Mark's United Reformed Church Hall, Hughenden Place, Hastings TN34 3TB	1,989	Situated within the polling district. Temporary lighting installed on polling day. Satisfactory access. Restricted on-street permit parking, but excellent public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Raised patio area outside, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	No other suitable venue in polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue
C2	Amherst Tennis Club, Amherst Gardens, Hastings TN34 1TU	1,962	Situated within the polling district. Satisfactory access. Unrestricted on-street parking and public transport links in near vicinity.	No change Tellers' area: Outside venue, at the bottom of the entrance ramp ensuring access to venue is not blocked.	Currently the most suitable venue in polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

Castle Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
D1	His Place Church Hall, Robertson Street, Hastings TN34 1HL	1,686	Situated within polling district. Level access and good lighting. Within pedestrianised zone of town centre. Pay and display parking in the vicinity, but excellent public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance or within outer lobby, ensuring access is not blocked.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue.
D2	Quaker Meeting House, South Terrace, Hastings TN34 1SA	1,491	Situated within polling district. Level access and good lighting. Pay and display parking in the vicinity and excellent public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked. In inclement weather, maximum of 2 tellers in lobby area.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue.
D3	Mendham Memorial Hall, Vicarage Road, Hastings TN34 3LZ	1,534	Situated within polling district. Level access and good lighting. On-street parking and nearby public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked. In inclement weather, maximum of 3 tellers in lobby area by staircase.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue.

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

Central St Leonards Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
E1	The Royal Victoria Hotel, Marina, St Leonards on Sea TN38 0BD	2,793	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Pay and display parking opposite venue, allocated disabled parking and good public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked. If inclement weather, maximum of 3 tellers may stand at the back of the main reception area.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue
E2	Christ Church Parish Centre, 2 Christchurch Courtyard, London Road, St Leonards on Sea TN37 6GL	2,205	Situated within the polling district. Satisfactory access and good lighting. Limited parking in vicinity, allocated disabled parking on-site and excellent public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance in courtyard area, by memorial.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

Conquest Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
F1	Hastings Centre, The Ridge, Hastings TN34 2SA.	1,588	<p>Situated within the polling district. Good access. Free off-road parking for electors and excellent public transport links.</p> <p>Currently a dual polling station with polling district A1.</p>	<p>No change</p> <p>Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked. If inclement weather, maximum of 2 tellers in alcove area in foyer.</p>	<p>Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district.</p> <p>No complaints have been made about the duality of this venue</p>
F2	St Peter and St Paul Church Hall, Parkstone Road, Hastings TN34 2QE	2,198	<p>Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Unrestricted on-street parking, car park, and good public transport links.</p>	<p>No change</p> <p>Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked.</p>	<p>Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district.</p> <p>No complaints have been made about this venue</p>

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

Gensing Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
G1	YMCA, The Y Sportscentre, St Paul's Road, St Leonards on Sea TN37 6RS	2,418	Situated within the polling district. Satisfactory access. Limited on-street parking. Public transport links in nearby vicinity.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked. If inclement weather, maximum of 2 tellers in foyer.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue
G2	St John's Parish Hall, Brittany Road, St Leonards on Sea TN38 0RD	2,194	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Unrestricted on-street parking and public transport links in near vicinity.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

Hollington Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
H1	Robsack Community Centre, Bodiam Drive, St Leonards on Sea TN38 9TW	1,304	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Unrestricted parking and good public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue
H2	Tilekiln Community Centre, Tilebarn Road, St Leonards on Sea TN38 9PA	1,217	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Unrestricted parking and good public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue
H3	Hollington Youth Club, 1 Wishing Tree Road North, St Leonards on Sea TN38 9LL	1,287	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Unrestricted on-street parking and good public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

Maze Hill Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
I1	Arthur Easton Centre, St Michael's Hospice, 25 Upper Maze Hill, St Leonards on Sea TN38 0LB	1,648	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Limited parking and public transport links in near vicinity.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance under covered area. Telling must not interfere with hospice activity.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue
I2	The Taplin Centre, Healey House, 3 Upper Maze Hill, St Leonards on Sea TN38 0LQ	2,135	Situated within the adjoining polling district (I1). Level access and good lighting. Unlimited on-street parking and public transport links in near vicinity.	No change. Tellers' area: Outside main entrance on sloped drive area, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	No other suitable venue found so far within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

Old Hastings Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
J1	All Souls Hall, Athelstan Road, Hastings TN35 5JE	1,860	Situated within the polling district. Satisfactory access and good lighting. Limited on-street parking and public transport links in near vicinity.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue
J2	All Saints Church Hall, All Saints Street, Hastings TN34 3BG	1,974	Situated within the polling district. Satisfactory access and good lighting. Restricted on-street parking and good public transport links.	No change. Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

Ore Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
K1	Salvation Army Hall, 418 Old London Road, Hastings TN35 5BB	2,139	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Limited on-street parking and excellent public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue
K2	Downs Farm Community Centre, Crowborough Road, Hastings TN35 5EA	1,798	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Unrestricted parking and public transport links in near vicinity.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked. Otherwise, a maximum of three tellers may convene in hallway area.	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

St Helens Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
L1	Christ Church Blacklands Church Hall, Laton Road, Hastings TN34 2ES	2,316	Situated at the very edge of the polling district. Satisfactory access (with ramp). Unrestricted on-street parking and public transport links in near vicinity.	No change Tellers' area: Maximum of 3 tellers in foyer area. No tellers to stand outside the entrance as access too narrow.	No other suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue.
L2	Hastings United Football Club, Pilot Field, Elphinstone Road, Hastings TN34 2AX	1,568	Situated at the very edge of the polling district. Level access, separate accessible entrance and good lighting. Unrestricted on-street parking and good public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance at bottom of ramp, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	No other suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue.

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

Silverhill Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
M1	St Luke's United Reformed Church Hall, Alma Terrace, St Leonards on Sea TN37 6QT	2,105	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Limited on-street parking and good public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about the duality of this venue.
M2	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 2 Ledsham Avenue, St Leonards on Sea, TN37 7LE	2,053	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Off-street parking with satisfactory public transport links.	No change since 2021. Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	No other suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about the duality of this venue

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

Tressell Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
N1	Christ Apostolic Church, 1 The Ridge (Entrance Clifton Road), Hastings TN34 2AA	1,314	Situated at the very edge of the polling district. Satisfactory access and good lighting. Limited on-street parking and public transport links in near vicinity.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue.
N2	Calvert Church Hall, Mount Pleasant Road, Hastings TN34 3SP	2,321	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Limited on-street parking and good public transport links.	No change from 2022. The previous polling place was The Bridge Community Centre, 361 Priory Road, Hastings TN34 3NW. A change in leaseholder necessitated move to new polling place. Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked.	Currently the most suitable venue that is available within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue.

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

West St Leonards Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
O1	West St Leonards Community Centre, 130 Bexhill Road, St Leonards on Sea TN38 8BL	2,028	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Limited on-street parking and satisfactory public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked	No other suitable venue in polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue.
O2	West St Leonards Primary Academy, West St Leonards School, Harley Shute Road, St Leonards on Sea TN38 8BX Change to: West St Leonards Community Centre, 130 Bexhill Road, St Leonards on Sea TN38 8BL	1,573	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. Limited on-street parking and satisfactory public transport links.	Change of venue as shown. Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked	Previous polling place is no longer available. We have used the community centre as a dual station for the last two elections. Currently no other suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue.

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.

Wishing Tree Ward

PD Letters	Polling Place	Electorate	Issues, Options and considerations	(Acting) Returning Officer/Local Authority Proposal	Reasons
P1	Hollington Parish Room, 177 Wishing Tree Road, St Leonards on Sea TN38 9LD	2,045	Situated within the polling district. Level access. Limited on-street parking and satisfactory public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked. In inclement weather, maximum of 2 tellers in foyer area.	No other suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue.
P2	Four Courts Community Centre, Sydney Close, St Leonards on Sea TN38 9DD	2,161	Situated within the polling district. Level access and good lighting. On-site parking and satisfactory public transport links.	No change Tellers' area: Outside main entrance, ensuring access to venue not blocked	Currently the most suitable venue within the polling district. No complaints have been made about this venue.

The polling district boundaries for this ward do not need to be reviewed.