Part review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in the Borough of Eastbourne

Ratton and Hampden Park Wards

Polling District RNA

Consultation document
Consultation period runs from 5 October to 18 November 2016
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Contact information:

Information on who can make representations and where to address representations is given on page 6 of this consultation document.

If you want to talk to someone about this review or want further information please contact:

David Robinson, Senior Local Democracy Officer
Eastbourne Borough Council
1, Grove Road
Eastbourne
BN21 4TW

Telephone (01323) 415022
E-mail: david.robinson@eastbourne.gov.uk

If you want information about any other electoral matter please contact:

Tracey Pannett, Senior Electoral Services Officer,
Eastbourne Borough Council,
Town Hall, Grove Road,
Eastbourne,
BN21 4UG

Telephone (01323) 415074
E-mail: elections@eastbourne.gov.uk
If you would wish to receive this consultation document in an alternative format, such as large print, please let us know by contacting Electoral Services:

- E-mail: elections@eastbourne.gov.uk
- Telephone: (01323) 415022
- Text Relay: 18001 01323 410000

Summary of proposal:
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has now published their final recommendations for changes to the borough ward boundaries. Such reviews take place at periodic intervals with the objective of ensuring that ward electorates do not vary greatly from the average electorate for all wards.

The only change to be made is in respect of the boundary between Ratton and Hampden Park wards. An area of housing to the north-east of Hazelwood Avenue will be transferred into Hampden Park, as follows:

- Hazelwood Avenue (part) (odd nos. 33-49, 147-159)
- Seven Sisters Road (part) (odd nos. 251-289)
- St David’s Close
- St Martin’s Road
- St Paul’s Close
- Westminster Close
- Jordan’s Lane East (part) (odd and even nos. 50-72)

The ward boundary change will come into effect for the East Sussex County Council elections in May 2017, however, the change in so far as borough council elections are concerned, will not be effective until the May 2019 borough council elections.

This area will in future be designated as a separate polling district to be known as HPD.

Details of proposed voting arrangements are set out in the appendix to this consultation document.

A map also accompanies this document.
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. A full review of the whole borough must be undertaken at intervals of not less than 4 years. A review must also be undertaken when a change in a particular polling place is proposed to be made.

This review has been necessitated by the publication on 27 September 2016 by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England of their final proposals for changes to the borough ward boundaries in Eastbourne and the county division boundaries in East Sussex. The Commission’s recommendations can be seen at http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/east-sussex/eastbourne

The relevant legislation relating to polling district/place reviews can be found in section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the Electoral Administration Act 2013, 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 was carried out in 2014 and approved by the Council in November of that year.

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 that part of the Eastbourne constituency that is within the Borough of Eastbourne that is being reviewed by the Council. The area of the constituency that lies outside the Borough (Willingdon, Jevington and Wannock) will be reviewed separately by Wealden 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 Electoral Services at the Town Hall, Eastbourne.

The consultation document will also be sent to the local member of parliament, borough and county councillors and local political parties. It will also be sent to persons who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

The consultation period for this ‘mini-review’ will last for 6 weeks. The timescale will allow for a final decision to be made by the Audit and Governance Committee at their meeting on 30 November 2016 and in time for change to be brought into effect for the East Sussex County Council elections due to be held on 4 May 2017.

It should be noted that electors in the affected area will continue to be electors of their current borough ward in the event of any borough by-election occurring. The change of ward will not take effect until the May 2019 borough elections.

The timetable for this review is set out below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication of notice</th>
<th>Wednesday 5 October 2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publication of consultation document</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including Acting Returning Officer’s proposals</td>
<td>Wednesday 5 October 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing date for representations.</td>
<td>5pm Friday 18 November 2016</td>
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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 proposals made by the Acting Returning Officer for the Eastbourne parliamentary constituency.

5. Proposals

The appendix to this consultation document sets out details of the proposed new polling district, together with proposal for polling places.

6. Making representations

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

Representations will also be considered from persons who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

We would encourage anyone making representations to suggest alternative polling districts/places to those proposed where appropriate and to give reasons for the alternative.

Any representations must be received by **5pm Friday 18 November 2016**.

All representations should be addressed to:

Polling Place Review
Electoral Services
Eastbourne Borough Council
Town Hall, Grove Road, Eastbourne
BN21 4UG
If you prefer you can email your representations (with the words “Polling Place Review” in the subject line) to elections@eastbourne.gov.uk

All representations received will be published on the Council’s website as soon as possible after receipt, even if you have already commented on the proposals, you may make further submissions in response to views and comments you see on the website provided these are received no later than the consultation closing date on 18 November 2016. You can view this document, together with a map showing the ward and polling district boundaries at http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/about-the-council/consultations/

7. Completion of the review

A report will be submitted to the Audit and Governance Committee meeting on 30 November 2016. This report will be published on 22 November 2016. The council will then be asked to consider the Acting Returning Officer’s 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.

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 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 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

Part review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in the Borough of Eastbourne (October /November 2016)

Part of Ratton Ward – Polling District RNA
Part of Hampden Park Ward – new Polling District HPD

Acting Returning Officer’s proposals
(Electorate and postal voter figures as at 1 September 2016)

Ratton Ward

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polling District:</th>
<th>Current polling place:</th>
<th>Electorate:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RNA</td>
<td>Oakwood Primary Academy, Magnolia Walk, Eastbourne, BN22 0SS</td>
<td>1,169 (of which 270 electors receive a postal vote)</td>
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</table>

Acting Returning Officer’s proposal: This polling district will be reduced in size as a consequence of the decision to move an area of housing north-east of Hazelwood Avenue into Hampden Park ward, however no change is proposed to the current arrangements for those electors remaining in Ratton ward.
Reasons: Current venue is considered to provide reasonable facilities for voters and is suitably located. No suitable alternative exists in this area.

Hampden Park Ward

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polling District:</th>
<th>Current polling place:</th>
<th>Electorate:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HPD</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>290 (of which 63 electors receive a postal vote)</td>
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Acting Returning Officer’s proposal: A new polling district is to be created for electors in the area to be transferred from Ratton ward. The area comprises the following streets and homes: Hazelwood Avenue (part) (odd nos. 33-49, 147-159); Seven Sisters Road (part) (odd nos. 251-289); St David’s Close; St Martin’s Road; St Paul’s Close; Westminster Close; Jordan’s Lane East (part) (odd and even nos. 50-72).

In due course this polling district will be combined with the adjoining Hampden Park polling district HPC. However, until borough elections in May 2019, it will need to be kept distinct as any borough by-election held prior to then will have to be conducted on the old ward boundary.

From the time the Local Government Boundary Commission’s recommendations are implemented for the county council’s electoral arrangements, and in time for the May 2017 East Sussex County Council elections, electors will vote at Willingdon Trees Community Centre, Holly Place, Eastbourne, BN22 0UT for all elections with the exception of borough council elections.

For any borough council by-elections up to 2019 electors will continue vote at Oakwood Primary Academy, Magnolia Walk, Eastbourne, BN22 0SS. For the May 2019 borough council elections and thereafter electors will vote at Willingdon Trees Community Centre. After May 2019, this polling district will be moved into polling district HPC.

Reasons: The new polling district is too small and without any suitable polling place within its boundaries to justify having its own polling station. It is only being kept separate because the Commission’s recommendations are implemented at different times for the purposes of county and borough electoral area arrangements. Willingdon Trees Community Centre is located nearby and offers good facilities for voting.