

Mid Sussex District Council - Polling Districts & Polling Places Review 2023

1. Introduction to the Review

Local authorities must review their polling districts and polling places for UK parliamentary constituencies at least once every five years.

Compulsory reviews must be started and completed within the period of 16 months, beginning on the 1st of October every fifth year after the 1st of October 2013.

2. Definitions

Polling District	<p>A polling district is an area created by the sub-division of a UK parliamentary constituency for the purposes of a UK parliamentary election.</p> <p>In England, each parish must be a separate polling district, although larger parishes can be divided into two or more polling districts.</p> <p>A parish must not be in a polling district which has a part of a different parish within it, or any un-parished part of the local authority area within it.</p>
Polling Place	<p>A polling place is the building or area in which a polling station(s) is located.</p> <p>A polling place within a polling district must be designated so that polling stations are within easy reach of all electors from across the polling district.</p>
Polling Station	<p>A polling station is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place.</p> <p>Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the local authority, the responsibility of the allocation of polling stations is only that of the Returning Officer. In the case of Mid Sussex District Council, the Returning Officer is the Chief Executive.</p> <p>The scope of this review does not include that of the allocation of polling stations.</p>

3. Scope of the Review

The scope of the review **covers** the following:

- The designation of polling districts.

We must ensure that each parish is a separate polling district, although larger parishes may be divided into two or more districts where appropriate.

We must ensure that polling districts have appropriate elector numbers and are not too large where practical.

- The designation of polling places for each polling district.

We must designate a polling place for each polling district unless special circumstances apply.

Polling places must be an area within the polling district unless special circumstances apply.

A polling place must be of appropriate size and where practical, be in easy reach of all electors.

Accessibility requirements must also be considered when designating polling places.

The review **does not** cover the following:

- *Changing of ward or constituency boundaries or names, which are the responsibility of the Local Government Boundary Commission (for wards) and the Boundary Commission for England (for constituencies).*
- *The allocation of polling stations, this decision is reserved solely to the Returning Officer.*

4. Further Information

Further information regarding the review of polling districts and polling places can be found on the Electoral Commission website here: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/reviews-polling-districts-polling-places-and-polling-stations>.

Information relating to our review, including notices and the project timetable can be found on our website here: <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/elections-voting/polling-places-review/>.

Mid Sussex District Council – Review of Polling Districts & Polling Places 2023

Consultation Response Form

Section 1 – About You

Please provide us with your details including contact information.

Contact information may be used by us to contact you further about your comments.

We will not disclose the personal details of individuals making comments. We may include, however, the names of interested parties i.e., councillors, political parties etc in our final report.

Name (OR Organisation Name (if applicable))	
Address	
Postcode	
E-mail Address	
Telephone	
Elector Number (if applicable/known)	
Your Representation e.g: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Local Resident</i> • <i>Local Organisation</i> • <i>Town/Parish Council</i> • <i>Councillor</i> • <i>Political Party</i> • <i>Member of Parliament</i> • <i>Polling Station Inspector</i> 	

Section 2 – Your Submission

Polling Districts

The designation of polling districts must also be considered as part of this review.

As stated in the guidance provided at the beginning of this consultation form, we must consider the following when reviewing our polling districts:

- *We must ensure that each parish is a separate polling district, although larger parishes may be divided into two or more districts where appropriate.*
- *We must ensure that polling districts have appropriate elector numbers and are not too large where practical.*

An interactive map detailing the provisional polling district scheme which is under review can be found on our website here:

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/elections-voting/electoral-boundary-map/>

Do you wish to provide comments regarding the polling district scheme?

***If yes**, please complete the questions in the section below to provide your comments.*

***If no**, please move to the ‘Polling Places’ section, to provide your comments regarding polling place(s).*

Are you content with the proposed scheme of polling districts shown in the mapping provided on our website?	
Yes	No (Please provide any alternative suggestions or comments below)

Polling Places

Do you wish to provide comments regarding a polling place?

If yes, please complete the details of the polling place and provide your comments in response to our questionnaire in the section below.

If no, please move to the 'Conclusion' section to provide any further comments regarding the review.

What is the name of the polling place(s)?

Please provide the name(s) and/or address(es) of the polling place you wish to comment on.

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General

I find the location of the polling place:

<i>Suitable</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Unsuitable</i>	<i>Other (Provide further comments below)</i>

Are/is the polling place easy to locate?

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Other (Please provide further comments below)</i>

Are there adequate transport facilities to and from the polling place? <i>Please consider public transport links and parking facilities at the venue.</i>		
Yes	No	Other (Please provide further comments below)

Once inside the polling place, are/is the voting area(s) easily accessible and can voting be cast in a private and straightforward manner?		
Yes	No	Other (Please provide further comments below)

Disabled Access & Facilities

Do you believe the polling place provides suitable access for those with disabilities? <i>Please consider the following:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General access to the venue (e.g is there step-free access?) • Transport and parking facilities (e.g is there suitable public transport for those with disabilities? Are there disabled parking spaces available for use and adequate in number?) • Access to the voting area (e.g is access suitable for those with disabilities? Can individuals cast their vote in a private and straightforward manner without difficulty regardless of disability?) • Any other issues which may pose difficulty to those with disabilities? 		
Yes	No	Other (Please provide further comments below)

Conclusion on Polling Place(s)

Overall, do you believe the polling place are/is suitable for use as a polling station?

Please consider all your answers to the previous questions, in addition please consider:

- *Is the building itself suitable for use as a polling place?*
- *Do current polling station arrangements inside the polling place meet the needs and requirements of voters?*

Yes	No	Other (Please provide further comments below)

If you are not satisfied with current arrangements for the polling place you are commenting on, are/is there a more suitable location that could be used?

Yes – I do know of suitable alternative polling place(s). Please provide details in the box provided.

No – I do not know of an alternative polling place(s)

If you think that there are more suitable premises within the same polling district(s) that could be used for polling purposes, please give the address below and your reasons for suggesting this.

Please note that there are many considerations when selecting a polling place for the electorate to go to vote. Examples of some of the considerations include the following:

- *Is it big enough to accommodate the number of electors allocated?*
- *Is it in as central location as possible for the polling district it serves?*
- *Will there be long term guaranteed use of the polling place?*
- *Will it, as far as practicable, be accessible to people with disabilities?*

It is not always possible to meet all of these requirements due to the availability of facilities within the polling district(s).

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Conclusion

If you have any other comments in relation to polling district(s) or polling place(s), please provide these in the box below.

Thank you for taking the time to contribute to this review.

Please send to: FAO: The Electoral Services Team, Mid Sussex District Council, Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1SS or e-mail: elections@midsussex.gov.uk by 5pm, Wednesday 3rd January 2024.