



Joint Audit and Governance Committee  
Date 21.11.23

## ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Key Decision No

Ward(s) Affected: ALL

### **Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources**

#### **Executive Summary**

##### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 Local authorities are required to review their polling districts and polling places for United Kingdom constituencies at least once every five years.
- 1.2 The (Acting) Returning Officer has completed a statutory review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations.
- 1.3 The purpose of the review is to assess the size of the electorate in each polling district as well as the suitability of the location and access of each polling place and the number of polling stations located at each polling place.
- 1.4 As a result of the review alternative venues were investigated, and although not as a direct result of the review Members will note the polling station for Manor and Cokeham north polling districts in Adur have a new polling station

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council Polling Station Reviews, Comments and Actions taken during consultation which are detailed in the Appendices to this Report.

## **3. Context**

- 3.1 Although polling stations are informally reviewed following elections every year, this report complies with the Council's statutory duty to carry out a compulsory review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations in the District/Borough at least once in every 5 years.
- 3.2 This review is timed to take into account the Parliamentary Boundary review, in order to publish any changes to the registers of electors by 1 December (and before the next UK Parliamentary election).

## **4. Issues for consideration**

- 4.1 Since 2019 the electorate has decreased in Adur from 48221 to 47507 and in Worthing has increased from 81146 to 81615.
- 4.2 Finding suitable polling places within polling districts can be challenging. Polling places are assessed against:

- Disabled access
- Reasonable parking facilities
- Accessibility to all electors in the polling district
- Sufficient lighting, heating and space
- Kitchen and toilet facilities for staff
- General booking availability, (especially at short notice)
- Provision of tables and chairs

- 4.3 Based on the review the following changes are being made:

<b>Polling district</b>	<b>Previous polling place</b>	<b>New polling place</b>
Adur - AE & ALA/B	St. James Church Hall, Mill Road, Lancing, BN15 0PT	The Scout Hut 79-81 Manor Road

		Lancing, BN15 0HG
Worthing - WC1,WC2	Worthing Library, Stoke Abbott Road	Possible change back to room next to Assembly Hall

## 5. Engagement and Communication

5.1 The following groups and individuals were consulted as part of the review:

- Members of Parliament for East Worthing and Shoreham and Worthing West constituencies
- Adur Councillors
- Worthing Councillors
- Local contacts for political parties
- Local disability groups including Worthing Mencap, Independent Lives, Guild Care, Sight Support Worthing, Age UK, Homestart, Action for deafness, Carer's support, Turning Tides, Scooter Buddies C.I.C,
- Community Works distributed information to local community and voluntary sector organisations
- Presiding Officers

Consultation responses can be viewed on the website at:

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/polling-review/>

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1 No budget was set for this review. Work was carried out alongside other statutory work undertaken by the Electoral Services team.

6.2 The cost of hiring polling stations is funded from within existing budgets; and in the case of Parliamentary, Police & Crime Commissioner, County council, Parish and national referendums will be recharged from relevant authority.

## 7. Legal Implications

7.1 Sections 18A to 18E and schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983, and Review of Polling District and Polling Places Regulations 2006 provide the steps that must be included in a statutory review of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places.

7.2 Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure

continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

7.3 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation.

## Appendices

- [ADUR POLLING STATION REVIEW - COMMENTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CONSULTATION](#)
- [WORTHING POLLING STATION REVIEW - COMMENTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CONSULTATION](#)

## Background Papers

- <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/reviews-polling-districts-polling-places-and-polling-stations>
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/2/schedule/A1>

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## Sustainability & Risk Assessment

"Matter considered and no issues identified."

- 1. Economic**  
No impact
- 2. Social**
- 3. Social Value**  
Accessible voting for all residents who choose to vote in person at polling stations

- 4. Equality Issues**  
Provision of accessible voting for all residents is a priority consideration
- 5. Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**  
Not applicable
- 6. Human Rights Issues**  
Accessible voting for all eligible residents
- 7. Environmental**  
Provision of polling stations within walking distance
- 8. Governance**  
Not applicable