

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ADDENDUM 1 – Late Reports

4.00PM, THURSDAY, 19 JANUARY 2023

HOVE TOWN HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBER

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ADDENDUM

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Brighton & Hove City Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Agenda Item 107

Subject: Full Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023

Date of meeting: 19 January 2023

Report of: Executive Director for Governance, People & Resources

Contact Officer: Name: Michael Appleford, Head of Electoral Services & Local Land Charges
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Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

Note: Urgency

By reason of the special circumstances below, and in accordance with section 100B(4)(b) of the 1972 Act, the Chair of the meeting has been consulted and is of the opinion that this item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: Reasons for urgency

The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England delayed publication of the final ward scheme from July until October. This led to a delay in developing and consulting on a revised polling district scheme based on the new wards. Responses to the consultation could not be fully analysed until the first week of January – after the consultation closed.

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This report deals with the statutory review of all polling places and polling districts within Brighton & Hove. The Council is required to keep all polling districts and polling places under review and a comprehensive review was necessary following the ward boundary review and legislative changes to the administration of elections.
- 1.2 A consultation on proposed changes took place between 1 and 31 December 2022. Respondents were invited to provide comments and alternatives.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Committee agrees the polling district and polling place scheme outlined in Appendix 1.

- 2.2 That Committee delegates authority to the Executive Lead for Governance, People & Resources to take all measures as are necessary or incidental, as required by law, to implement the changes indicated in para 2.1.
- 2.3 That Committee delegates authority to the Returning Officer to designate alternative polling places, in the event of any polling place being unavailable, at any elections taking place prior before the next full review of polling places. Group Leaders and respective ward Councillors should be consulted prior to confirming any changes.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 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 must keep these arrangements under review. The arrangements made for parliamentary elections are used at other elections.
- 3.2 The (Acting) Returning Officer is responsible for administering parliamentary elections. At Brighton & Hove this is the Chief Executive. The (Acting) Returning Officer must be consulted and comment on polling district and polling place reviews.
- 3.3 Following the completion of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's review of Brighton & Hove's wards, it was necessary to comprehensively review all polling districts to align these to the new ward boundaries. Polling places had to be proposed for each polling district.
- 3.4 The review was undertaken in the context of several significant changes to the administration of elections including the Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review, the Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act 2022 and the Elections Act 2022. Further information about these changes and their impact can be found in Appendix 1 – pages 1-3.
- 3.5 In consultation with the (Acting) Returning Officer, the Electoral Services Management Team, Elections Project Board and the Council's Group Leaders it was agreed that to mitigate the impact of the changes. It was agreed that the new scheme should be developed with the following principles:
 - assign a polling place to each polling district and elector
 - so far as is reasonable and practicable ensure every polling station is accessible to electors who are disabled
 - help facilitate the safe and efficient delivery of local and parliamentary elections
 - reduce the number of polling places and increases the number of double/triple stations, where possible. This will enable polling places to benefit from a higher proportion of senior staff who can deal with queries

- ensure the majority of polling stations have between 1,250 to 1,750 polling station electors. This will ensure that polling stations are not too busy or quiet, our staffing resources are best utilised and Electoral Commission ratios do not require further polling station splits.
- so far as is reasonable and practicable, ensure electors will not have to walk more than 15 minutes to their polling place
- where possible, limit the use of schools
- where possible, avoid the use of temporary buildings
- implement the LGBCE ward boundary changes
- futureproof against proposed BCE parliamentary boundary changes
- ensure a wide audience are consulted about the changes

3.6 The new scheme proposes a total of 91 polling districts and 86 polling places. It is anticipated that there will be 118 polling stations. From the previous scheme, this is a reduction from 115 polling districts and 107 polling places.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The (Acting) Returning Officer and their staff reviewed all polling district and places – assessing their location within the district and step free access. Comments on the current venues were also requested from polling staff and the relevant ward members. Visits were undertaken to potential venues to assess their suitability.
- 4.2 Appendix 2 provides all the responses received during the consultation and the (Acting) Returning Officer’s comments on these.
- 4.3 Four responses were received regarding topography and the location of polling places. When designing the polling districts, topography had been considered in conjunction with our aim to make polling places within a 15minute walk. Following the consultation, we have considered the proposed alterations but have ultimately not changed the proposals. The proposed polling places are located under our agreed limit, close to bus stops that serve the district and other local amenities. Moreover, moving the polling place to advantage one set of electors could ultimately disadvantage another set.
- 4.4 Two responses were received that questioned why minor changes had been made to equalise electorates and the placement of polling district boundaries down the middle of roads. The respondents suggested this could confuse electors. Changes to the scheme have not been made based on these responses.
- 4.5 Due to the ward boundary changes and the introduction of Voter ID, this review has proposed a significant amount of change compared with recent reviews. However, middle of the road street splits are not uncommon within the previous scheme nor the previous warding. While the placement of

boundaries down the middle of roads may be necessary for electorate equalisation it also provides an element of futureproofing. The alternative is for boundaries to go behind houses but this can lead to revisions being necessary due to new developments.

- 4.6 To ensure that electors are well informed of the changes - polling station electors will be receiving up to 3 communications between January and April confirming the location of their polling place. These include - a letter or email regarding Voter ID requirements and the location of their new polling place, a poll card and an election information email. The Electoral Registration and Returning Officer now holds email addresses, in accordance with appropriate consents and safeguards, more than 75% of the electorate.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 The consultation period for this review ran from 1 to 31 December 2022. Public notice of the review was given, and information about the review was made available on the Council's website and on the Council's consultation portal. Any elector residing in the Brighton Kemptown, Brighton Pavilion and Hove constituencies were invited to make representations. Hard copies of the consultation document were available on request.
- 5.2 The consultation paper, together with maps of each ward showing the polling district boundaries, can still be viewed on the Council's website at: [Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/review-of-polling-districts-and-polling-places)
- 5.3 Ward Councillors, Members of Parliament, local political parties and other interested groups or persons were consulted.
- 5.4 Several comments were received in response to the consultation. These are summarised in Appendix 2 along with a response from the (Acting) Returning Officer.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Council is required to designate polling districts and suitable polling places for electors to cast their vote at and satisfy the (Acting) Returning Officer's requirements. The proposed changes provide more than satisfactory arrangements. Approval of these changes will allow the Returning Officer to continue their preparations for the local elections in May 2023, the Police and Crime Commissioner election in May 2024 and any further unscheduled polls.

7. Financial implication

There are no material financial implications arising from the report. Any costs arising from the review are expected to be met within existing resources.

Name of finance officer consulted: Peter Francis Date consulted 06/01/23:

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 Under sections 18A to 18E of the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Registration Act 2006, local councils are required to keep the designation of polling places as well as polling districts under review. In doing so they must act so as to give all electors in their area such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- 8.2 The Policy & Resources Committee is the Council body with delegated authority to exercise the Council's functions in relation to electoral matters.

Name of lawyer consulted: Victoria Simpson Date consulted 6/1/2023:

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 The Council is required to have due regard to its public sector equality duties (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) in the exercise of all its functions. Advancing equality of opportunity by ensuring that steps are taken to facilitate the electorate's exercise of their right to vote is a clear imperative. As a result, the Council must ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practical, every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible.
- 9.2 The (Acting) Returning Officer and their staff actively seek suitable venues. However, in some cases a polling place may not have step free access. In these situations, the (Acting) Returning Officer will provide the polling place with a ramp or will work with the venue to find an alternative measure. This occurred in 2018 at St Patrick's Riverside where a new platform lift was installed to ensure the polling place was accessible.
- 9.3 Possibility People, a local charity set up to support and involve disabled people in issues affecting their lives, were provided with the consultation document for their comment. The Communities team also distributed the consultation to other groups.
- 9.4 An Equalities Impact Assessment is being undertaken and where impacts are identified mitigating actions and adjustments are being considered. This includes providing communications regarding the location of polling places and the promotion of postal voting as an alternative. The (Acting) Returning Officer will be undertaking further consultation and further review of the Equalities Impact Assessment after the local elections to assess the impacts of the review and will consider whether any alterations to the scheme should be made.

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 The reduction in polling places should result in the decrease of energy use to heat and light venues. It should also all allow the Returning Officer to reduce the number of printed materials for display in polling places. While the use of more double stations may allow for more polling station staff to share transport to the venue.

- 10.2 Ensuring, so far as is reasonable and practicable, electors will not have to walk more than 15 minutes to their polling place should ensure most electors do not need to use transport to attend their polling station.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

1. Full Review of Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Consultation Paper and (Acting) Returning Officer Comment
2. Responses to the Full Review of Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Consultation Paper and (Acting) Returning Officer Comment

Appendix 1

Full Review of Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Consultation Paper and (Acting) Returning Officer Comment

1. Introduction & Strategy

Brighton & Hove City Council are conducting a full review of its polling districts and polling places under Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and in line with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

This review comes at a time of significant change to electoral administration in Brighton & Hove with the reforms introduced by the Elections Act 2022, the Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act, the Local Government Boundary Commission England's (LGBCE) new warding scheme for the City and the Boundary Commission for England's (BCE) latest parliamentary constituency boundary proposals.

Ward Boundary Review

The LGBCE completed their review of Brighton & Hove's wards in October 2022. Their final recommendations have made changes to boundaries across the City. While the number of Councillors remains the same – the number of wards has risen from 21 to 23. From May 2023 the wards in Brighton & Hove will be:

- Brunswick & Adelaide
- Central Hove
- Coldean & Stanmer
- Goldsmid
- Hangleton & Knoll
- Hanover & Elm Grove
- Hollingdean & Fiveways
- Kemptown
- Moulsecoomb & Bevendean
- North Portslade
- Patcham & Hollingbury
- Preston Park
- Queen's Park
- Regency
- Rottingdean & West Saltdean
- Round Hill
- South Portslade
- West Hill & North Laine
- Westbourne & Poets' Corner
- Westdene & Hove Park
- Whitehawk & Marina
- Wish
- Woodingdean

Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review

The BCE held their first public consultation period from 8 June to 8 August 2021, and a second consultation from 22 February to 4 April 2022. The Commission's latest proposals and responses to the consultations are on the BCE consultation portal. A final consultation is now running from 8 November to 5 December 2022 inclusive.

In the latest proposals, the constituencies in Brighton & Hove remain similar to the current boundaries. The only changes are:

- Hove constituency renamed Hove and Portslade
- The polling districts PHEA and PHEF in Hanover & Elm Grove ward move from Brighton Pavilion to Brighton Kemptown. These polling districts are around the Pankhurst Estate.

Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act

The Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act repeals the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011. The Act allows the Prime Minister to request a dissolution from the Sovereign which, if granted, would enable the Prime Minister to call a general election at a time of their choosing. The (Acting) Returning Officer can now receive just 25 working days to run a general election. A general election must take place by 28 January 2025 but the date is not fixed and therefore cannot be pre-planned for.

Elections Act 2022

The Elections Act 2022 will make big changes to the way elections run. The changes that will affect polling places include:

- Voter Identification - From May 2023, electors will show photo identification when they vote at a polling station. If an elector does not have suitable identification then they can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. Returning Officers will need to provide areas where electors can show their face in private. Polling station electors will be contacted about the changes in January 2023.
- Accessibility. From May 2023, Returning Officers will provide specialist equipment to voters with disabilities - if needed. Anyone over the age of 18 may assist disabled voters in the polling station.
- Postal Votes returned to Polling Stations - From July 2023, electors will sign a declaration form when returning postal voting packs to polling stations. There will be a limit on the number of packs a person can return.

As a result of the Elections Act changes, Returning Officers will need to:

- work to new ratios guiding the acceptable electorate size of a polling station
- consider how Presiding Officers will cope with a significant increase in their workload
- Consider how questions and robust feedback about voter identification are best dealt with in polling stations
- consider how core and polling station staff resources can be best utilised.

In consultation with the (Acting) Returning Officer, the Electoral Services Management Team, Elections Project Board and the Council's Group Leaders it was agreed that to mitigate the impact of the changes, the new scheme should be developed with the following principles:

- Assigns a polling place to each polling district and elector
- So far as is reasonable and practicable ensure every polling station is accessible to electors who are disabled
- Helps facilitate the safe and efficient delivery of local and parliamentary elections
- Reduces the number of polling places and increases the number of double/triple stations, where possible. This will enable polling places to benefit from a higher proportion of senior staff who can deal with queries
- Ensure the majority of polling stations have between 1,250-1,750 polling station electors. This will ensure that polling stations are not too busy or quiet, our staffing resources are best utilised and Electoral Commission ratios do not require further polling station splits.

- So far as is reasonable and practicable, ensure electors will not have to walk more than 15 minutes to their polling place
- Where possible, limit the use of schools
- Where possible, avoid the use of temporary buildings
- Implement the LGBCE ward boundary changes
- Futureproofs against proposed BCE parliamentary boundary changes
- Ensures a wide audience are consulted about the changes

The Council and Returning Officer would like to use this opportunity, to highlight their appreciation for the continued co-operation of polling places in providing their buildings for the day so that electors have a convenient place to vote.

2. The Review and Decision Making Process

The Council has published notice of holding the review and consulted the (Acting) Returning Officer for each Parliamentary Constituency in the Council's area. The (Acting) Returning Officer has commented on the proposals throughout. An interactive map of the proposals can be viewed at:

The Council will then invite comments on the proposals. The consultation paper will be published on the Council's website. It will also be sent to Councillors, Members of Parliament, local political parties and local people and stakeholders with expertise in disability and accessibility.

All representations will be considered and responded to by the (Acting) Returning Officer. They will be published in the final report by the (Acting) Returning Officer with their final recommendations. The Policy & Resources Committee will consider the proposals and make a final decision on 19 January 2023. The agreed polling districts will then be passed to the Electoral Registration Officer for publication in the revised Register of Electors. This register will be published on 1 February 2023.

3. The Review Timetable

The timetable for the review is set out below:

- Publication of notice of review, and consultation document including (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals - Thursday 1 December
- Closing date for representations - Saturday 31 December
- Final proposal published via Agenda papers and website – 11 January
- Council Policy & Resources Committee meeting – approval of scheme - Thursday 19 January
- Revised Register Published - Wednesday 1 February
- Local Elections - Thursday 4 May

4. Commenting on the Proposals

The Council and (Acting) Returning Officer welcome your thoughts on our proposals. When making comments or alternative proposals, please consider the principles that we have used to develop the scheme:

- Assigns a polling place to each polling district and elector
- So far as is reasonable and practicable ensure every polling is accessible to electors who are disabled
- Helps facilitate the safe and efficient delivery of local and parliamentary elections
- Reduces the number of polling places and increase the number of double/triple stations, where possible. This will enable polling places to benefit from a higher proportion of senior staff who can deal with queries
- Ensure the majority of polling stations to have between 1,250-1,750 polling station electors. This will ensure that polling stations are not too busy or quiet, our staffing resources are best utilised and Electoral Commission ratios do not require further polling station splits.
- So far as is reasonable and practicable, ensure electors will not have to walk more than 15 minutes to their polling place. (For the purpose of this exercise, we have calculated the walking time for the furthest elector in the polling district to the polling station using Google Maps. We have not included the most outlying properties in this calculation, such as farms, inaccessible or otherwise remote addresses)
- Where possible, limit the use of schools
- Where possible, avoid the use of temporary buildings
- Implement the LGBCE ward boundary changes
- Futureproofs against proposed BCE parliamentary boundary changes

You can respond to the review in several ways:

- Online at our consultation portal
- by email to electors@brighton-hove.gov.uk
- by post to:

The Returning Officer
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove
BN3 3BQ

If you wish your views to be considered, please ensure we receive them by 31 December 2022.

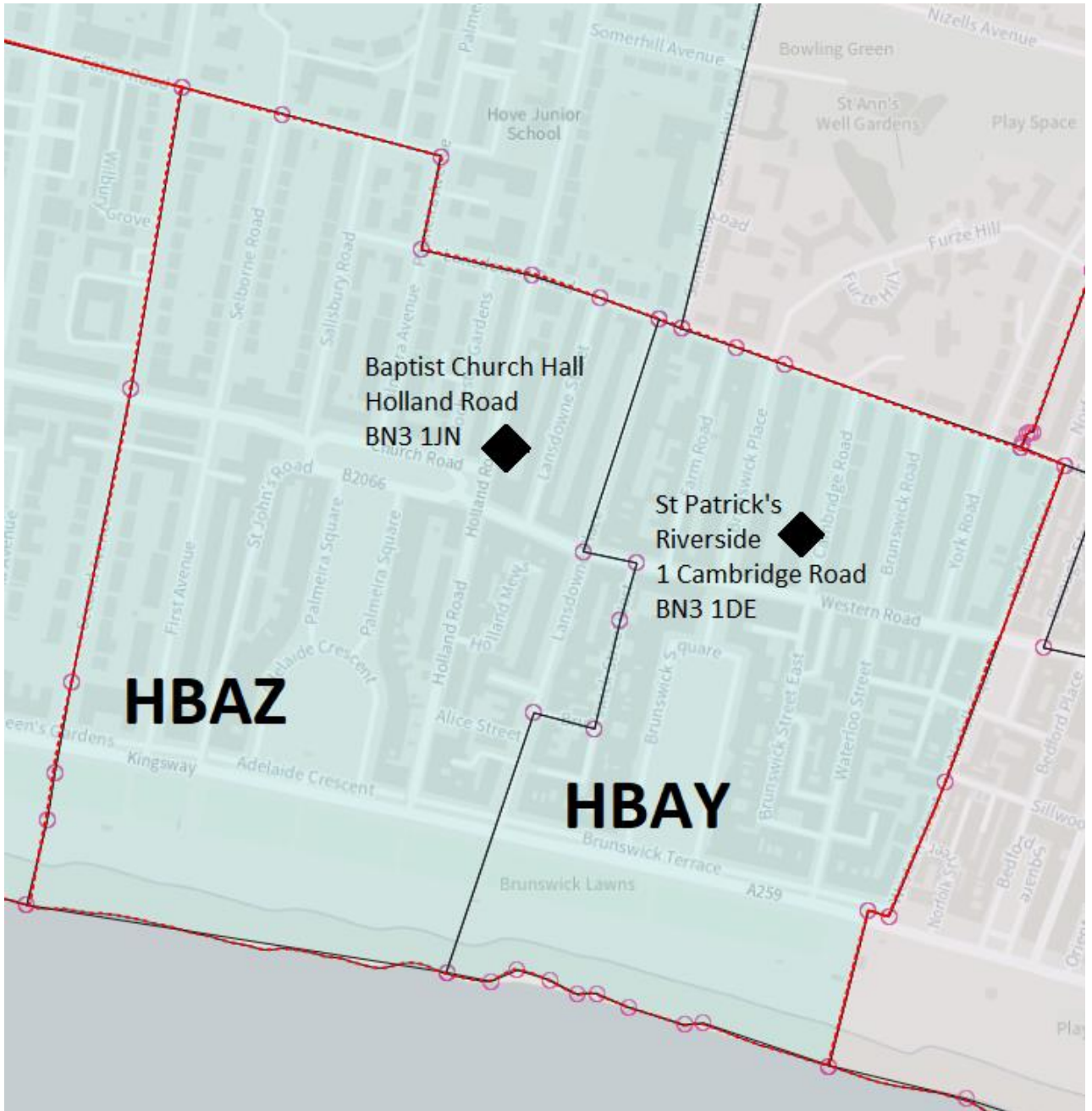
Brunswick & Adelaide, Hove

Brunswick & Adelaide's ward boundary changes were minimal at the ward boundary review.

In line with the project's aim to increase double polling stations, the ward now has only two polling districts. Each polling place will accommodate a double polling station. Electors who voted at Cornerstone Community Centre will now vote at Holland Road Baptist Church Hall. The hall is nearby, provides a space that is accessible and is a suitable size for the increased number of electors.

St Patrick's Riverside will continue to serve electors in the east of the ward. A stairlift, installed by the (Acting) Returning Officer, ensures the venue is accessible.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Hove	HBAY	3,661	3,283	St Patrick's, Riverside, 1 Cambridge Road, BN3 1DE	2	7
Hove	HBAZ	3,930	3,514	Baptist Church Hall, Holland Road, BN3 1JN	2	9



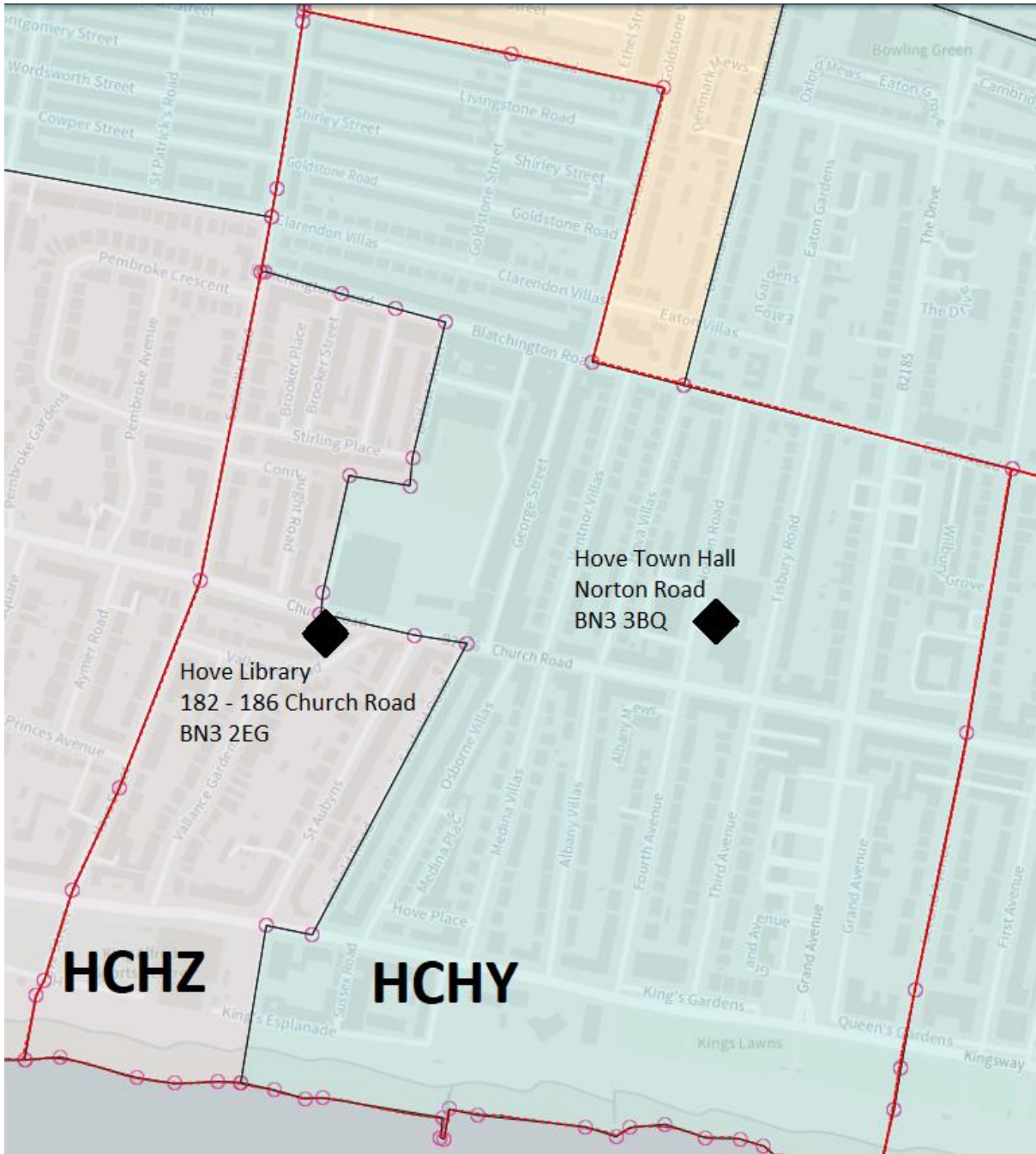
Central Hove, Hove

Central Hove ward has extended north towards Hove Station following the ward boundary review.

The new scheme proposes that the electors new to the ward vote at Hove Town Hall. Electors living in the north-west of HCHY polling district will have the longest distance to travel to vote. The walk is 13 minutes. From Sackville Road - the 5, 5A and 5B bus routes all stop at Hove Town Hall.

The boundary for the HCHZ polling district has been redrawn to ensure that the polling place at Hove Library remains a single station.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Hove	HCHY	6,727	5,833	Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, BN3 3BQ	4	13
Hove	HCHZ	1,611	1,437	Hove Library, 182 - 186 Church Road, BN3 2EG	1	7



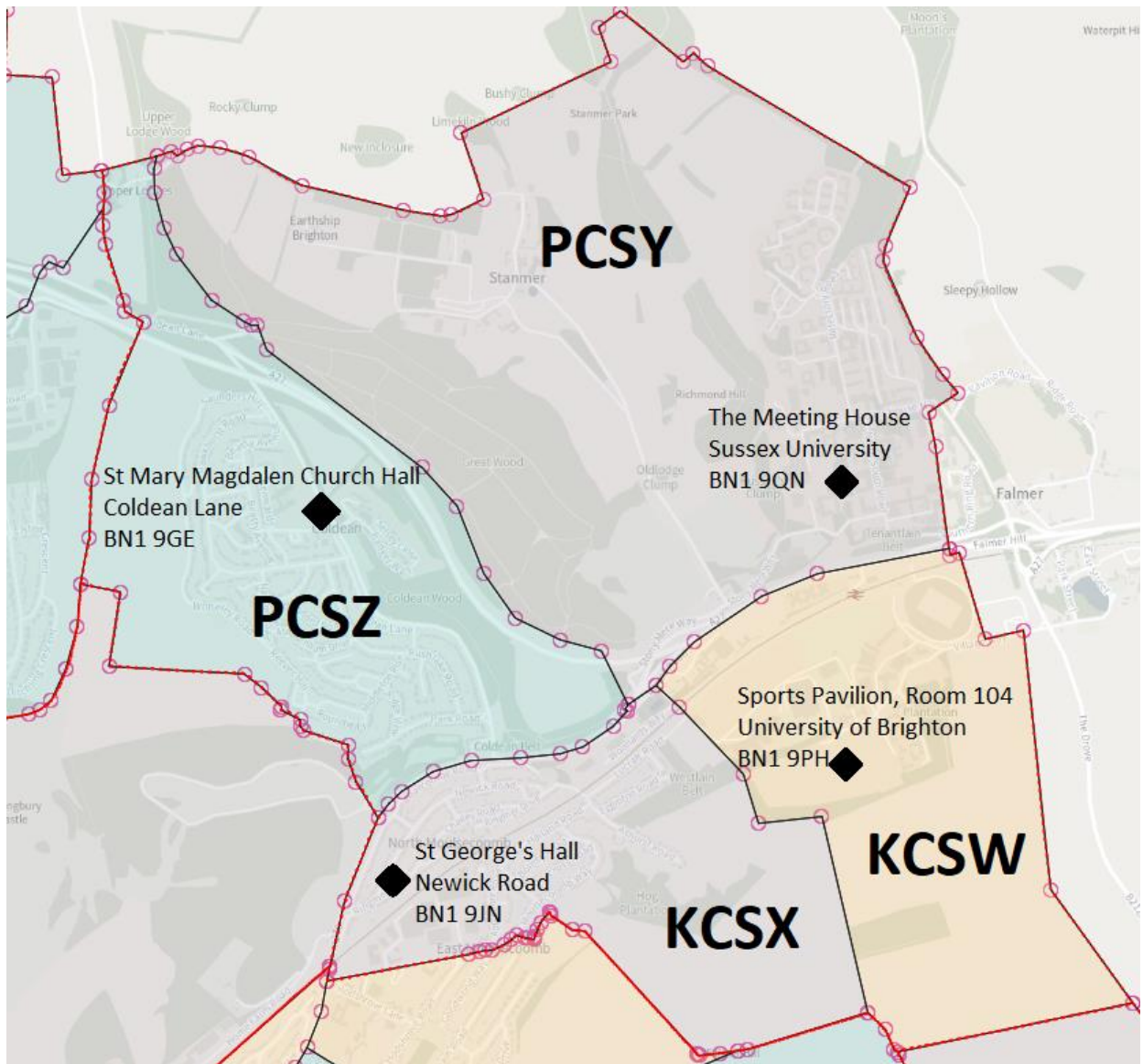
Coldean & Stanmer, Brighton Pavilion & Brighton Kemptown

Coldean & Stanmer is a new ward. It is in both Brighton Pavilion and Brighton Kemptown constituencies. The new polling districts will respect these borders.

The proposed polling district boundaries remain similar to those that joined to form the new ward. The scheme proposes that the North Moulsecoomb area merges to form one larger polling district. This removes the need for a temporary polling place at Ashurst Road. This arrangement worked well at the Police & Crime Commissioner election in 2021.

The scheme proposes a new polling place location on the Brighton University campus.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Kemptown	KCSW	357	354	Sports Pavilion, Room 104, University of Brighton, BN1 9PH	1	6
Kemptown	KCSX	1,945	1,752	St George's Hall, Newick Road, BN1 9JN	1	13
Pavilion	PCSY	1,930	1,917	The Meeting House, Sussex University, BN1 9QN	1	13
Pavilion	PCSZ	2,236	1,918	St Mary Magdalen Church Hall, Coldean Lane, BN1 9GE	1	13



Goldsmid, Hove

Goldsmid ward now encompasses the under-construction Sackville Road estate while some roads south of Hove station have moved into Central Hove ward.

Hove Rugby Club Pavilion continues to provide the most accessible venue to electors living in HGOZ polling district. There are pedestrian lights to allow electors to cross the Old Shoreham Road and parking is available on Shirley Drive. The (Acting) Returning Officer was asked to consider Ralli Hall as an alternative. However, the only room available on a Thursday is only accessible via a space that will have other events on. This does not provide a workable solution.

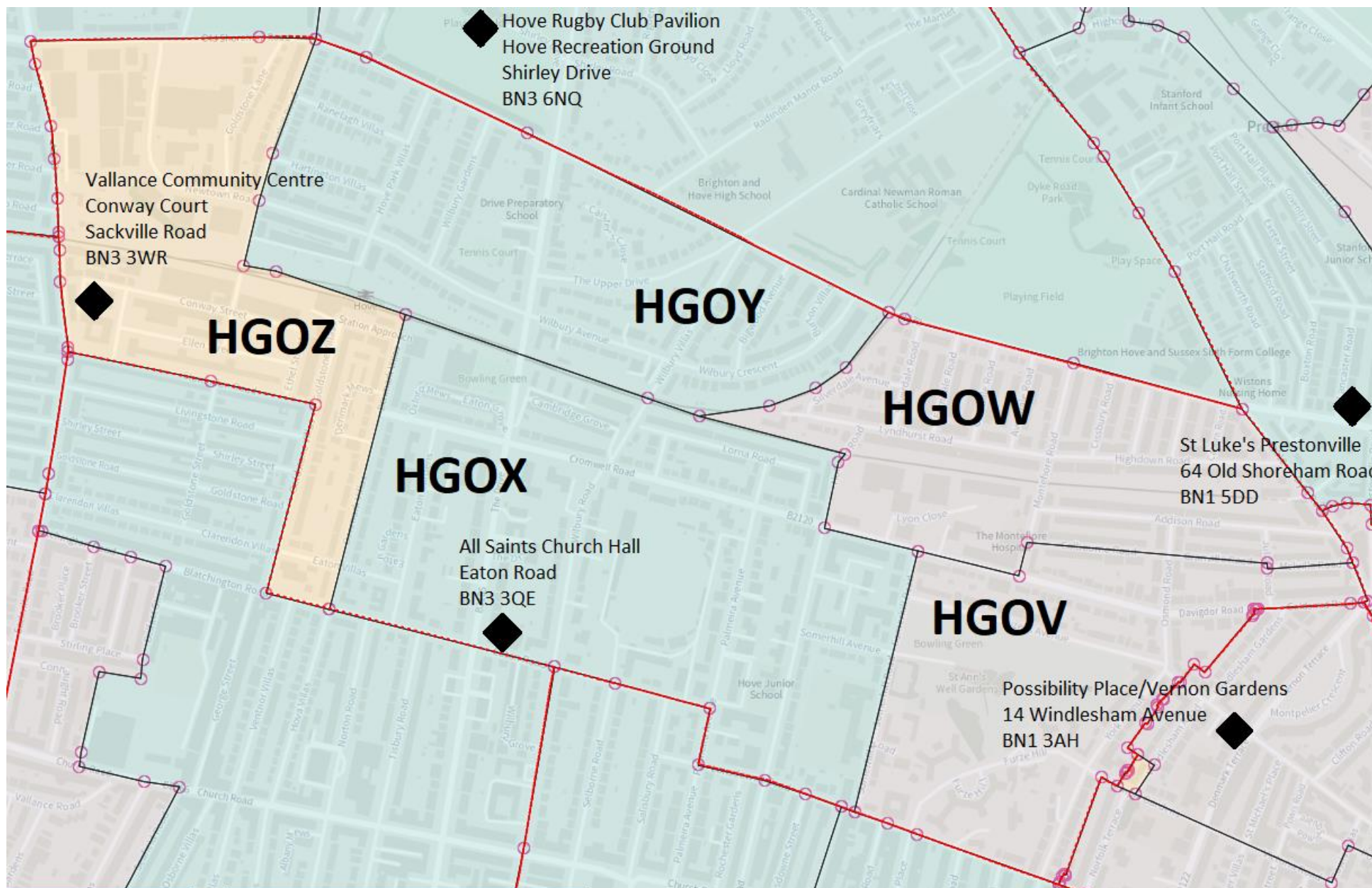
Ralli Hall is also deemed less accessible than Hove Rugby Club Pavilion due to the need to cross the railway line. Electors would either need to use the footbridge over Hove Station or go via Fonthill Road or The Drive to avoid steps. Electors with accessibility needs would either need to be driven or travel a large distance by foot to avoid steps. This potentially does not allow them to vote independently.

Elsewhere, polling district HGOZ is reduced in size from the south while now encompassing the Sackville Road estate. This proposal will ensure that there is capacity at Vallance Community Centre for electorate growth.

The east of the ward is split into a northern and southern polling district. The northern polling district, which is predominately the roads north of the railway line, will vote at St Luke's Church on Old Shoreham Road. This is a new venue. The southern district will vote at Possibility Place/Vernon Gardens which has been used for the last few elections.

The remaining central polling district will vote at a double polling station at All Saints Church. If the church is unavailable Sussex County Cricket Ground provides an excellent alternative.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Hove	HGOV	1,911	1,586	Possibility Place/Vernon Gardens, 14 Windlesham Avenue, BN1 3AH	1	11
Hove	HGOW	1,840	1,609	St Luke's Prestonville, 64 Old Shoreham Road, BN1 5DD	1	11
Hove	HGOX	3,883	3,268	All Saints Church Hall, Eaton Road, BN3 3QE	2	9
Hove	HGOY	2,029	1,646	Hove Rugby Club Pavilion, Hove Recreation Ground, Shirley Drive, BN3 6NQ	1	12
Hove	HGOZ	1,109	917	Vallance Community Centre, Conway Court, Sackville Road, BN3 3WR	1	10



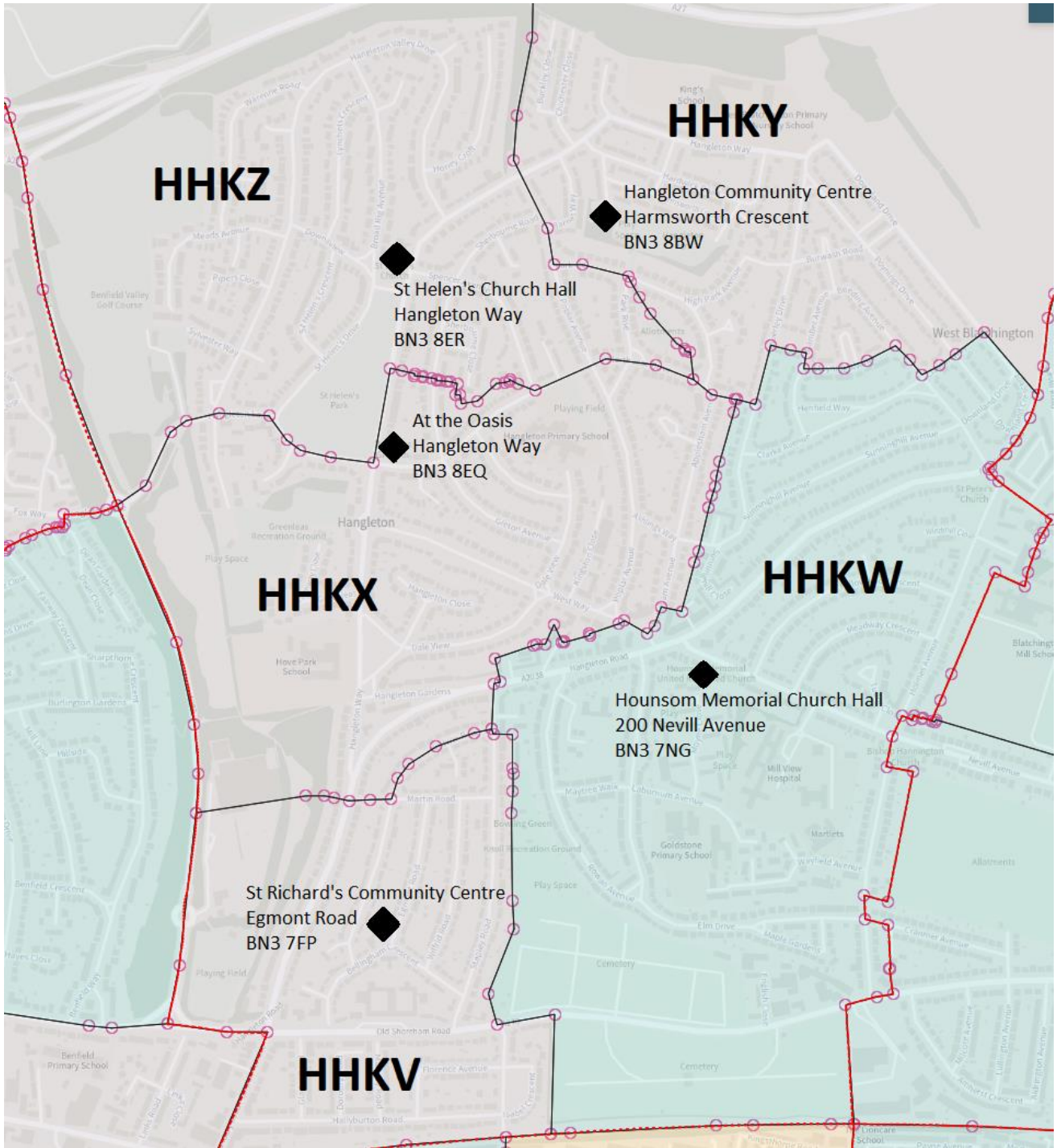
Hangleton & Knoll, Hove

Hangleton & Knoll's borders were not changed at the ward boundary review.

In line with the project's aim to increase the number of double polling stations, the polling districts around Holmes Avenue and Neville Avenue merge. All electors will now visit Hounsom Memorial Church Hall instead of some voting at West Blatchington Windmill. The new venue remains a short walk for most electors. The 5B bus route, that travels along Hangleton Road, provides a route for electors to visit the new polling place.

Other small changes to boundaries are proposed across the ward. These optimise the number of electors assigned to each polling station. Due to the topography of the north of the ward, the polling districts HHKX and HHKZ were not merged

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Hove	HHKV	1,954	1,609	St Richard's Community Centre, Egmont Road, BN3 7FP	1	9
Hove	HHKW	3,481	2,832	Hounsom Memorial Church Hall, 200 Nevil Avenue, BN3 7NG	2	12
Hove	HHKX	1,946	1,532	At The Oasis, Hangleton Way, BN3 8EQ	1	12
Hove	HHKY	1,884	1,531	Hangleton Community Centre, Harmsworth Crescent, BN3 8BW	1	10
Hove	HHKZ	1,764	1,383	St Helen's Church Hall, Hangleton Way, BN3 8ER	1	10



Hanover & Elm Grove, Brighton Pavilion & Brighton Kemptown

The ward boundaries of Hanover & Elm Grove have not changed. The development of a scheme was complicated by the revised BCE proposals and the removal of a ramp at Elm Grove Primary School – following an incident outside of an election.

The draft proposal was for electors at the top of Elm Grove and around Pankhurst Avenue to vote at The Edge Community Centre. Electors living in and around Luther Street would have been allocated to a polling station at Milton Road Hall. However, the BCE have proposed that the old polling districts PHEA and PHEF will join Brighton Kemptown constituency. To align with these proposals, these polling districts will form PHEV district and vote at The Edge. The district will be renamed KHEV if the BCE proposals are finalised.

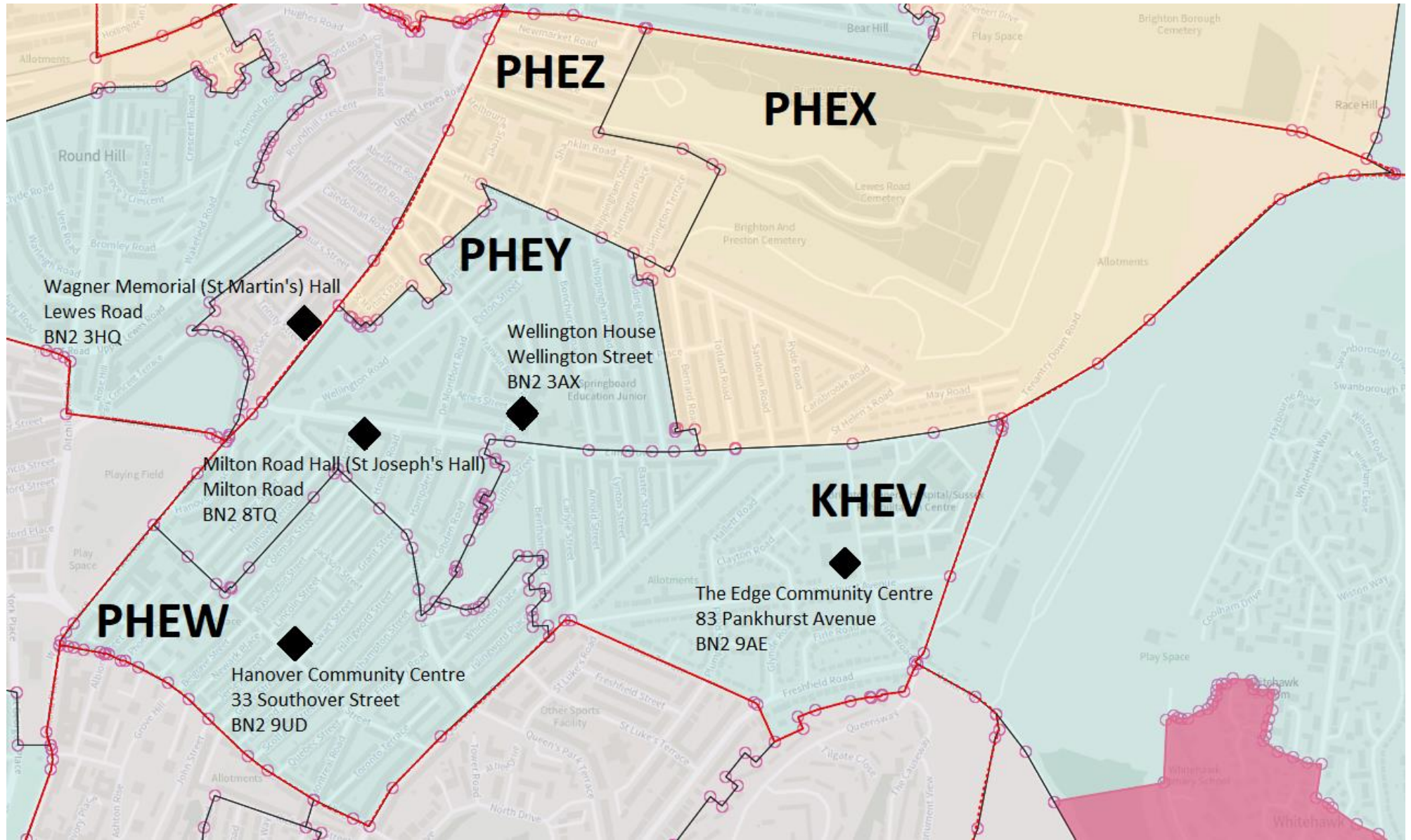
We have attempted to find an alternative polling station towards the top of Elm Grove but no suitable alternative has been found. We have enquired with The Studio on Whippingham Road. However, due to their policy of not allowing outdoor shoes on the hall floor, it was deemed too much of a risk for the (Acting) Returning Officer to pursue. It is therefore proposed that electors living north of Elm Grove and east of Bernard Road vote at a new single polling station at Wellington House. Wellington House is not suitable for an electorate larger than the one proposed in this scheme.

Electors living further down the hill that previously voted at Elm Grove Primary School will now vote at a double polling station at Milton Road Hall.

Polling district PHEW has increased in size to ensure the optimum number of electors vote there. Electors will vote at a double polling station at Hanover Community Centre.

To remove Fairlight Primary School from the scheme, most electors who voted there will now vote at Wagner Memorial Hall on Lewes Road. This proposal is in line with the project aim to remove schools from our scheme, where possible.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Pavilion (BCE proposing move to Kemptown)	KHEV	2,057	1,799	The Edge Community Centre, 83 Pankhurst Avenue, BN2 9AE	1	14
Pavilion	PHEW	3,475	3,168	Hanover Community Centre, 33 Southover Street, BN2 9UD	2	8
Pavilion	PHEX	1,277	1,171	Wellington House, Wellington Street, BN2 3AX	1	11
Pavilion	PHEY	3,521	3,242	Milton Road Hall (St Joseph's Hall), Milton Road, BN2 9TQ	2	11
Pavilion	PHEZ	1,689	1,590	Wagner Memorial (St Martin's) Hall, Lewes Road, BN2 3HQ	1	10



Hollingdean & Fiveways, Brighton Pavilion

Hollingdean & Fiveways is a new ward formed of parts of Preston Park and Hollingdean & Stanmer wards.

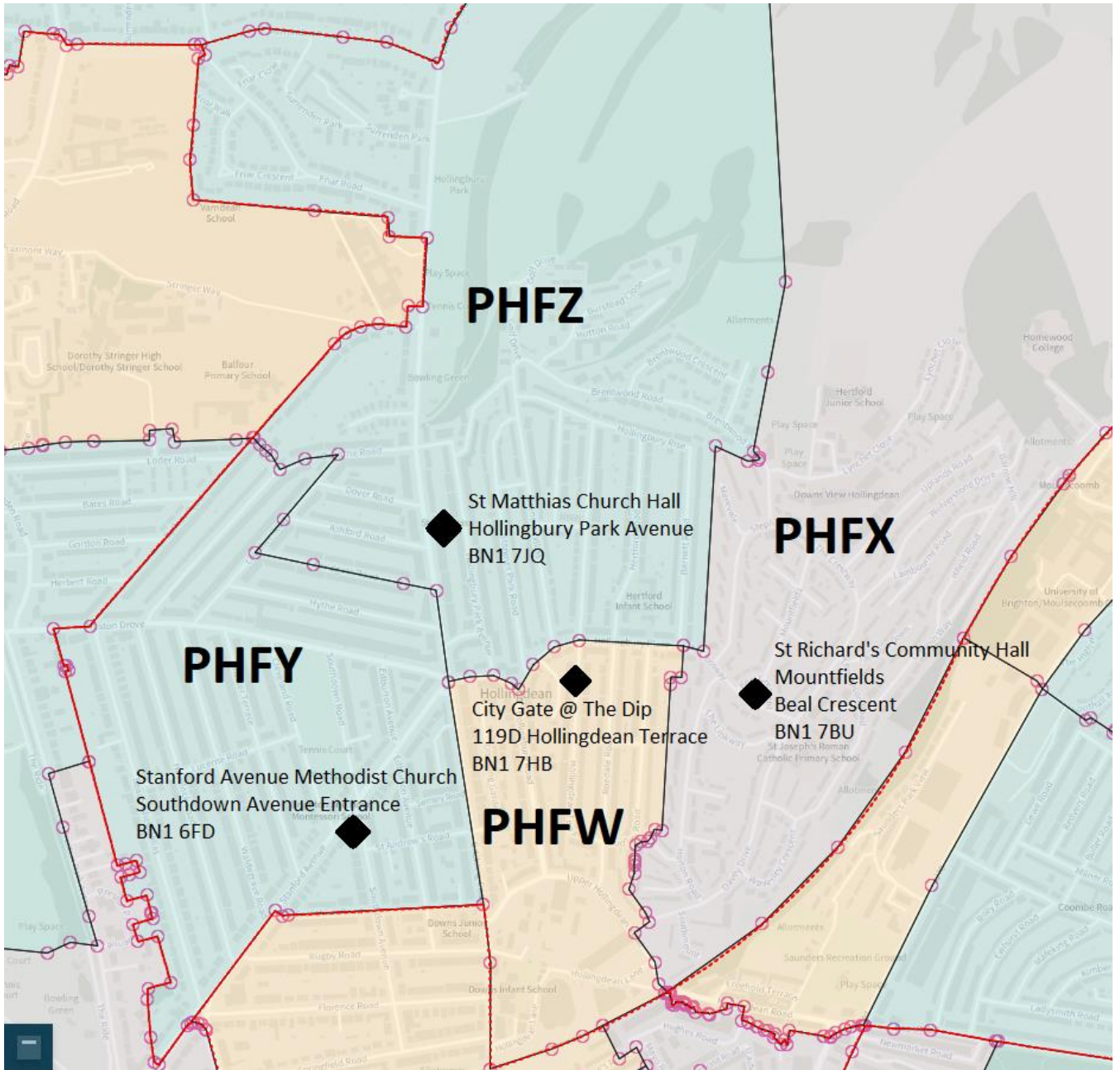
In line with our aim of reducing the number of schools used as polling stations, it is proposed that Downs Infant School will no longer be used. Most electors, who previously voted at Downs Infant School, are now proposed to vote at City Gate @ The Dip which is an existing polling station.

City Gate @ The Dip is not suitable for a double station. It is proposed that its previous electors will now vote at St Matthias Church, which is an existing station in the north of ward and is a closer option for most electors in polling district PHFZ.

Polling district PHFZ has been expanded due to ward boundary changes to incorporate the area around Friar Road. Electors can travel to their polling station, St Matthias Church, on bus routes 26 and 46, or a walk of no more than 15 minutes. Some electors on the north-west side of Ditchling Road will continue to vote at St Matthias Church.

The remaining electors on the western side of Ditchling Road, who previously voted at St Matthias Church, will now join the new PHFY polling district. PHFY incorporates these electors and a former Preston Park polling district. These electors will vote in a double polling station at Stanford Avenue Methodist Church.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Pavilion	PHFW	1,493	1,288	City Gate @ The Dip, 119D Hollingdean Terrace, BN1 7HB	1	11
Pavilion	PHFX	1,972	1,715	St Richard's Community Hall, Mountfields, Beal Crescent, BN1 7BU	1	11
Pavilion	PHFY	3,857	3,350	Stanford Avenue Methodist Church, Southdown Avenue Entrance, BN1 6FD	2	13
Pavilion	PHFZ	3,655	3,117	St Matthias Church Hall, Hollingbury Park Avenue, BN1 7JQ	2	15



Kemptown, Brighton Kemptown

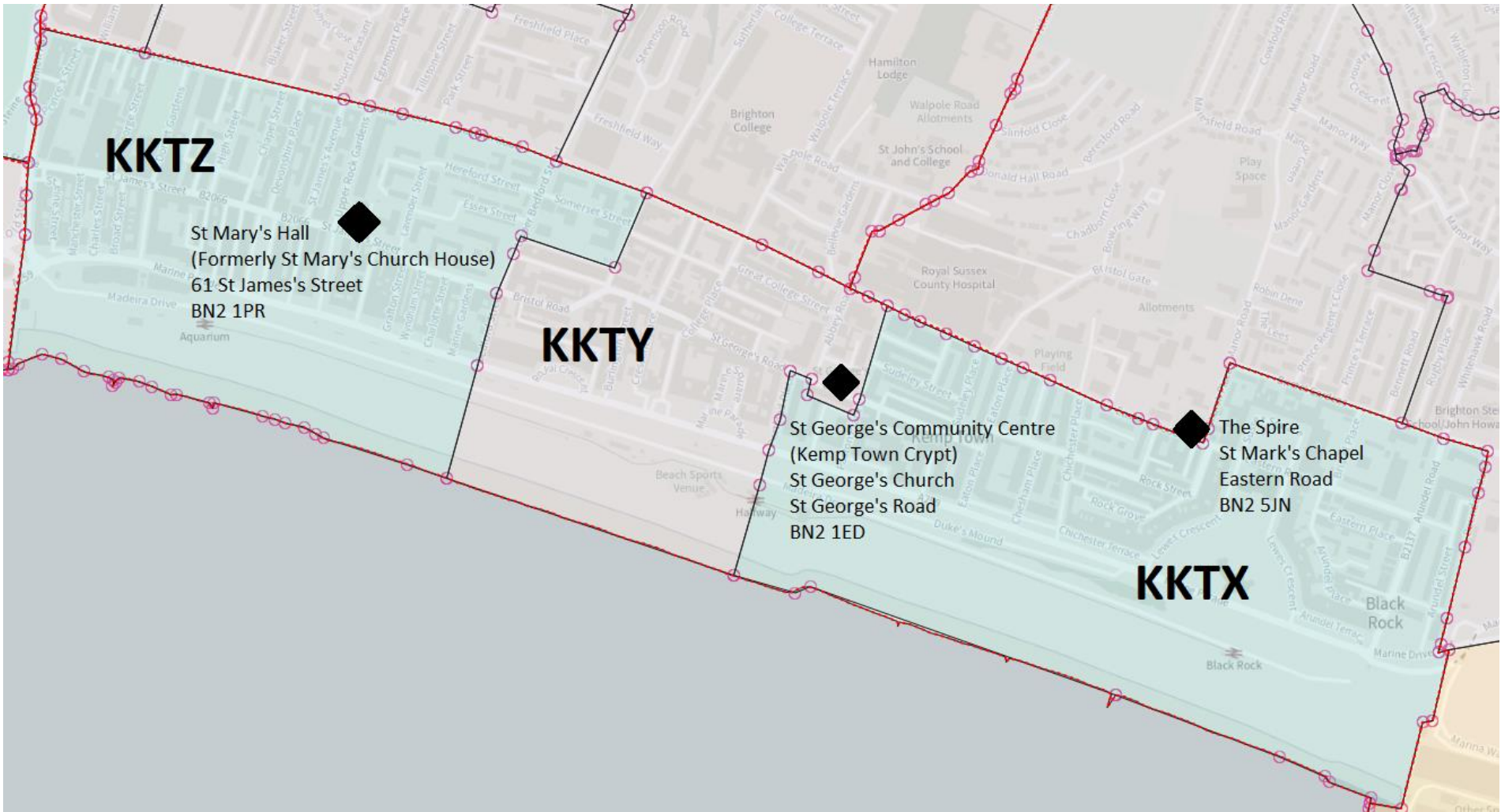
Kemptown is a new ward formed from parts of Queen's Park, East Brighton and Rottingdean Coastal wards.

The electors around St James Street and Upper St James Street will form one polling district and all vote at St Mary's Church. This will optimise the number of electors assigned to the polling place and increase the number of double polling stations. St Mary's Church is very central to this polling district.

The new KKTY polling district will use St George's Community Centre and will be a short walk for all electors. The design of the polling district allows for Esswick T.A. Social Club to be used as an alternative if the Community Centre were ever unavailable.

The final polling district in the ward is KKTX which covers the most eastern parts of the ward. The Spire provides an excellent location for a double polling station. While the venue is outside the ward, it faces the polling district and is central to those at either end of the district.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Kemptown	KKTX	3,027	2,575	The Spire, St Mark's Chapel, Eastern Road, BN2 5JN	2	10
Kemptown	KKTY	1,841	1,615	St George's Community Centre (Kemp Town Crypt), St George's Church, St George's Road, BN2 1ED	1	5
Kemptown	KKTZ	3,863	3,352	St Mary's Hall (Formerly St Mary's Church House), 61 St James's Street, BN2 1PR	2	8



Moulsecoomb & Bevendean, Brighton Pavilion & Brighton Kemptown

Moulsecoomb & Bevendean is another ward that now straddles the constituency boundaries. As with other wards in this situation – the constituency boundaries will be respected.

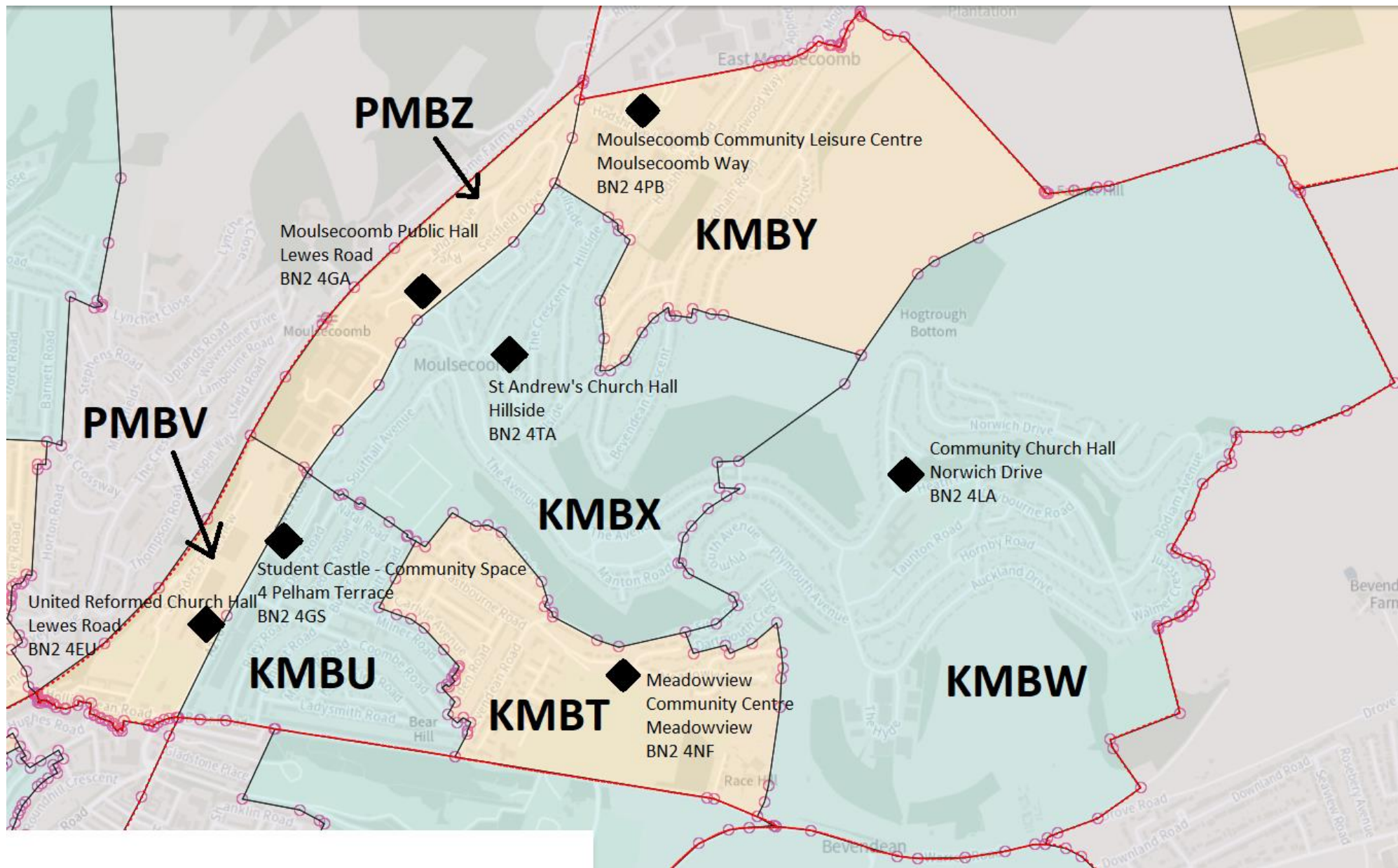
Polling districts PMBV and PMBZ are both located on the eastern side of Lewes Road. Neither reach the optimum number of electors. However, the distance between the top and bottom of these two districts makes them unsuitable for merging. They will remain as small single stations with room for electorate growth due to redevelopment of the area.

In KMBY, Moulsecoomb Leisure Centre replaces the 67 Centre. This is due to the proposed redevelopment of the 67 Centre. The venue provides an accessible and well-known replacement.

The boundaries of polling districts KMBW and KMBX remain largely unchanged except for the movement of Upper Bevendean Avenue and Lower Bevendean Avenue into KMBX.

Electors in the revised KMBU polling district will vote at the Community Room at Student Castle. This removes Coombe Road Primary School from the scheme – in line with our aims. The eastern border of KMBU with KMBT is altered. Electors in Baden Road, Carlyle Avenue, Crayford Road and Canfield Road will now vote at Meadowview Community Centre. This ensures the Community Room is suitable for polling and allows for electorate growth from the student Halls of Residence.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Kemptown	KMBT	1,280	1,115	Meadowview Community Centre, Meadowview, BN2 4NF	1	9
Kemptown	KMBU	2,707	2,500	Student Castle - Community Space, 4 Pelham Terrace, BN2 4GS	2	14
Kemptown	KMBW	2,024	1,763	Community Church Hall, Norwich Drive, BN2 4LA	1	14
Kemptown	KMBX	2,028	1,828	St Andrew's Church Hall, Hillside, BN2 4TA	1	13
Kemptown	KMBY	1,282	1,099	Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre, Moulsecoomb Way, BN2 4PB	1	12
Pavilion	PMBV	601	550	United Reformed Church Hall, Lewes Road, BN2 4EU	1	7
Pavilion	PMBZ	505	442	Moulsecoomb Public Hall, Lewes Road, BN2 4GA	1	7



North Portslade, Hove

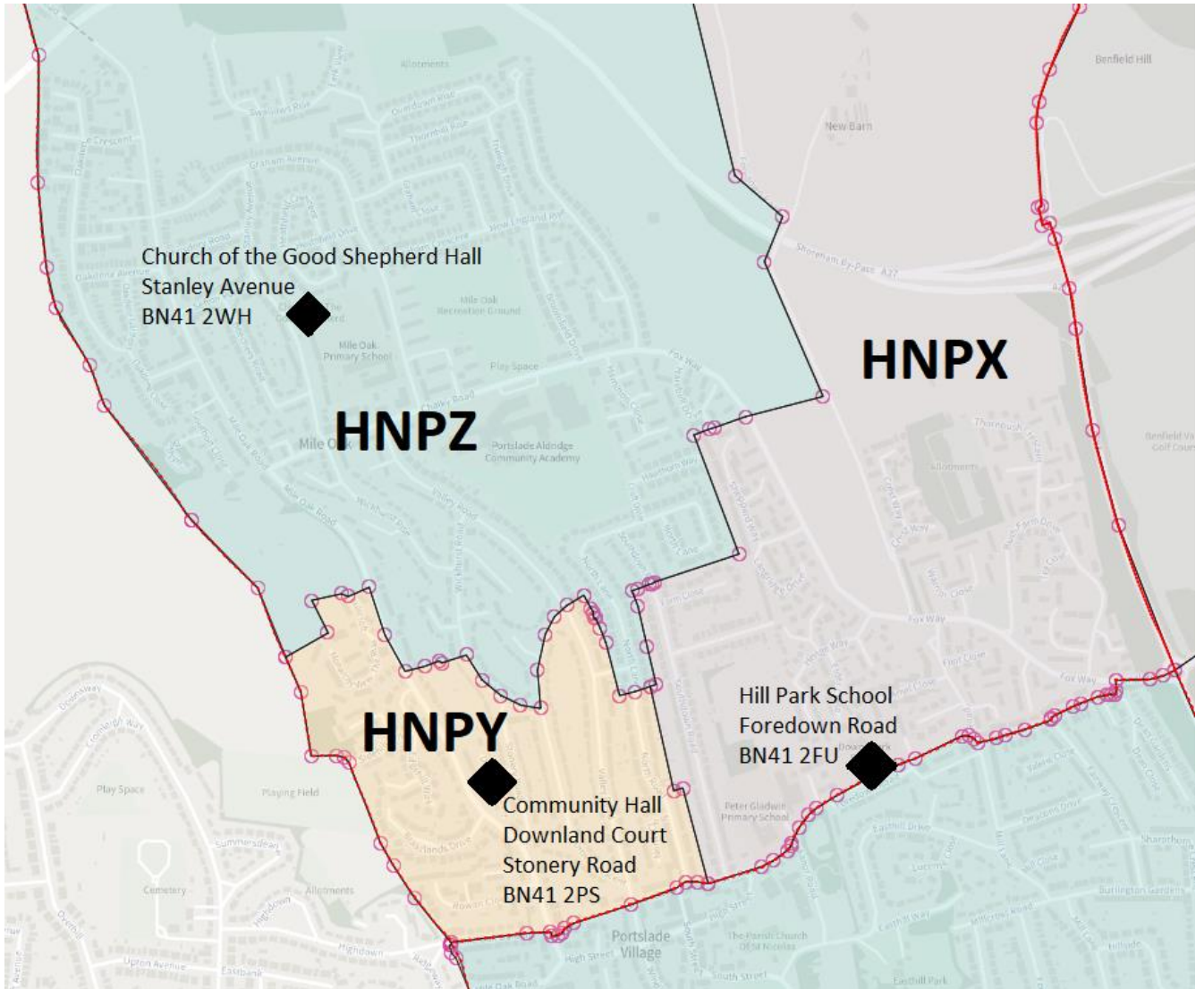
North Portslade's ward boundaries have remained unchanged since the boundary review.

The two northern polling districts will merge to form polling district HNPZ. Electors will vote in a double polling station at Church of Good Shepherd Hall. This will optimise electorates and increase the number of double polling stations.

Electors on the southern part of Mile Oak Road, and the roads coming from The Rise and Edgehill Way, will move into polling district HNPY.

The polling place at Hill Park School will move between the sites on Foredown Road to try and keep the site operational.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Hove	HNPX	1,950	1,541	Hill Park School, Foredown Road, BN41 2FU	1	13
Hove	HNPY	1,483	1,256	Community Hall, Downland Court, Stonery Road, BN41 2PS	1	9
Hove	HNPZ	4,067	3,404	Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, Stanley Avenue, BN41 2WH	2	15



Patcham & Hollingbury, Brighton Pavilion

Patcham & Hollingbury ward remains similar. The ward changes are primarily related to Peacock Lane and the roads north of Cedar Gardens joining the ward.

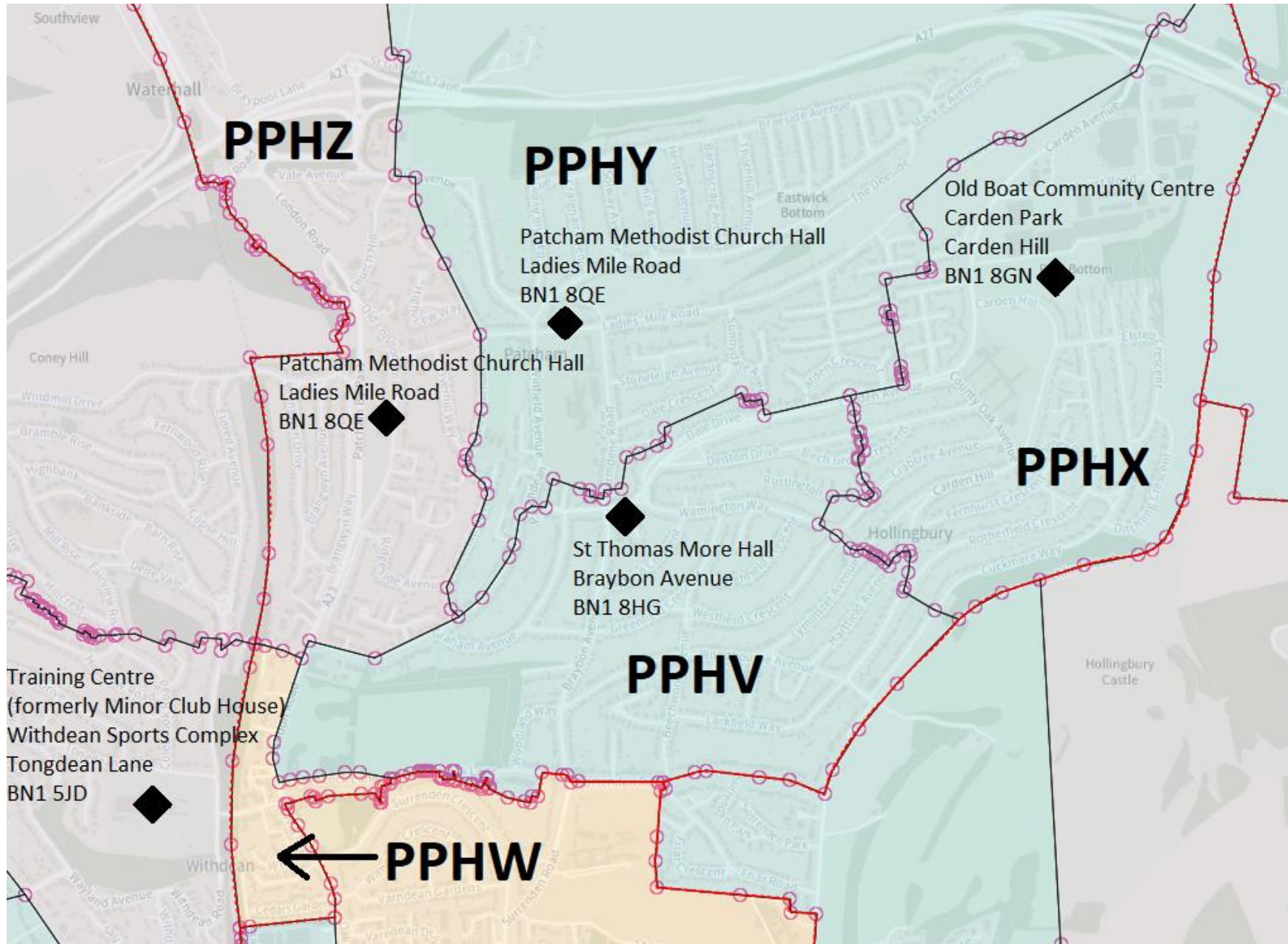
These new parts of the ward had previously voted at Withdean Sports Complex and Varndean College. Incorporating these electors into another polling district within the ward was considered. However, this would not have been beneficial to the electors. It is therefore proposed that they will vote at Withdean Sports Complex – as part of a double polling station.

Elsewhere in the ward, four polling districts have been merged into two. Creating one around central Patcham and another for Hollingbury.

Electors off Mackie Avenue voted at Patcham Community Centre in 2021. This worked well and the proposal is for these electors to continue voting more centrally - at a new double station in Patcham Methodist Church. Both the 5 and 5A bus routes serve the venue and the most outlying parts of the district.

The two Hollingbury polling districts have merged to form a single polling place with a more optimal number of electors. They will all vote at Old Boat Community Centre. No elector will have more than a 12-minute walk to their polling place.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Pavilion	PPHV	3,307	2,724	St Thomas More Hall, Braybon Avenue, BN1 8HG	2	16
Pavilion	PPHW	737	575	Training Centre, (formerly Minor Club House), Withdean Sports Complex, Tongdean Lane, BN1 5JD	1	10
Pavilion	PPHX	2,036	1,693	Old Boat Community Centre, Carden Park, Carden Hill, BN1 8GN	1	12
Pavilion	PPHY	3,716	3,094	Patcham Methodist Church Hall, Ladies Mile Road, BN1 8QE	2	20
Pavilion	PPHZ	1,830	1,434	Patcham Memorial Hall, 3 Old London Road, BN1 8XR	1	10



Preston Park, Brighton Pavilion

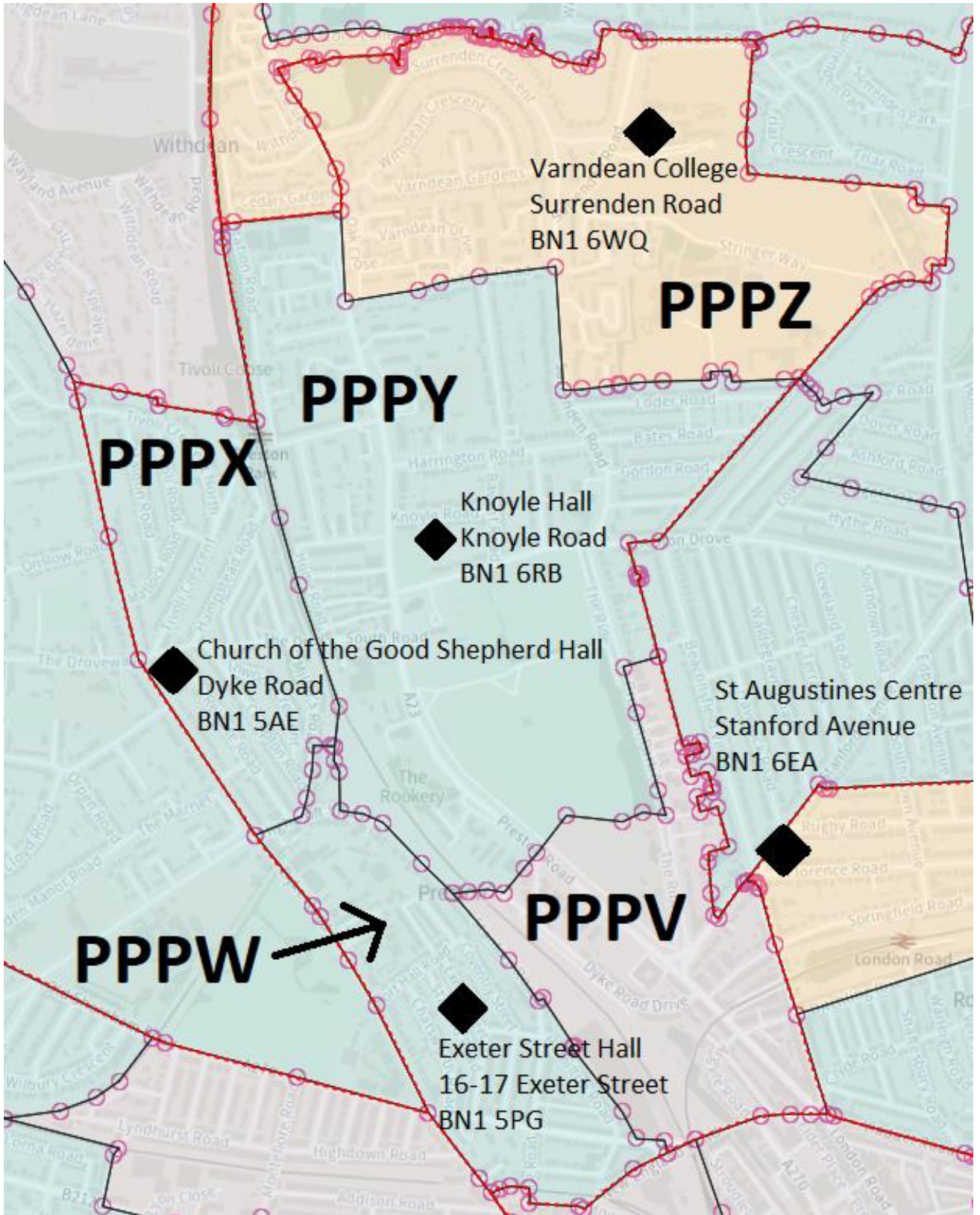
Preston Park's boundaries have changed considerably following the boundary review. Now encompassing polling districts from Withdean ward.

It is proposed that two polling districts immediately to the north of the park are merged. Knoyle Hall will act as a double polling station, replacing the portcabin in Preston Park. The furthest electors allocated to Knoyle Hall live an estimated 11-minute walk from their polling station.

St Augustines Centre is a new polling station, and although just outside of the ward, is known to the community and is no more than a 10 minute walk for electors living in polling district PPPW. St Augustines Centre will also serve electors in Round Hill ward.

Removing Varndean College from the scheme was considered. However, the lack of a suitable alternative prevented this.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Pavilion	PPPV	1,820	1,630	St Augustines Centre, Stanford Avenue, BN1 6EA	1	10
Pavilion	PPPW	2,834	2,514	Exeter Street Hall, 16-17 Exeter Street, BN1 5PG	2	11
Pavilion	PPPX	2,008	1,730	Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, Dyke Road, BN1 5AE	1	10
Pavilion	PPPY	3,574	3,029	Knoyle Hall, Knoyle Road, BN1 6RB	2	11
Pavilion	PPPZ	1,090	862	Varndean College, Surrenden Road, BN1 6WQ	1	12



Queen's Park, Brighton Kemptown

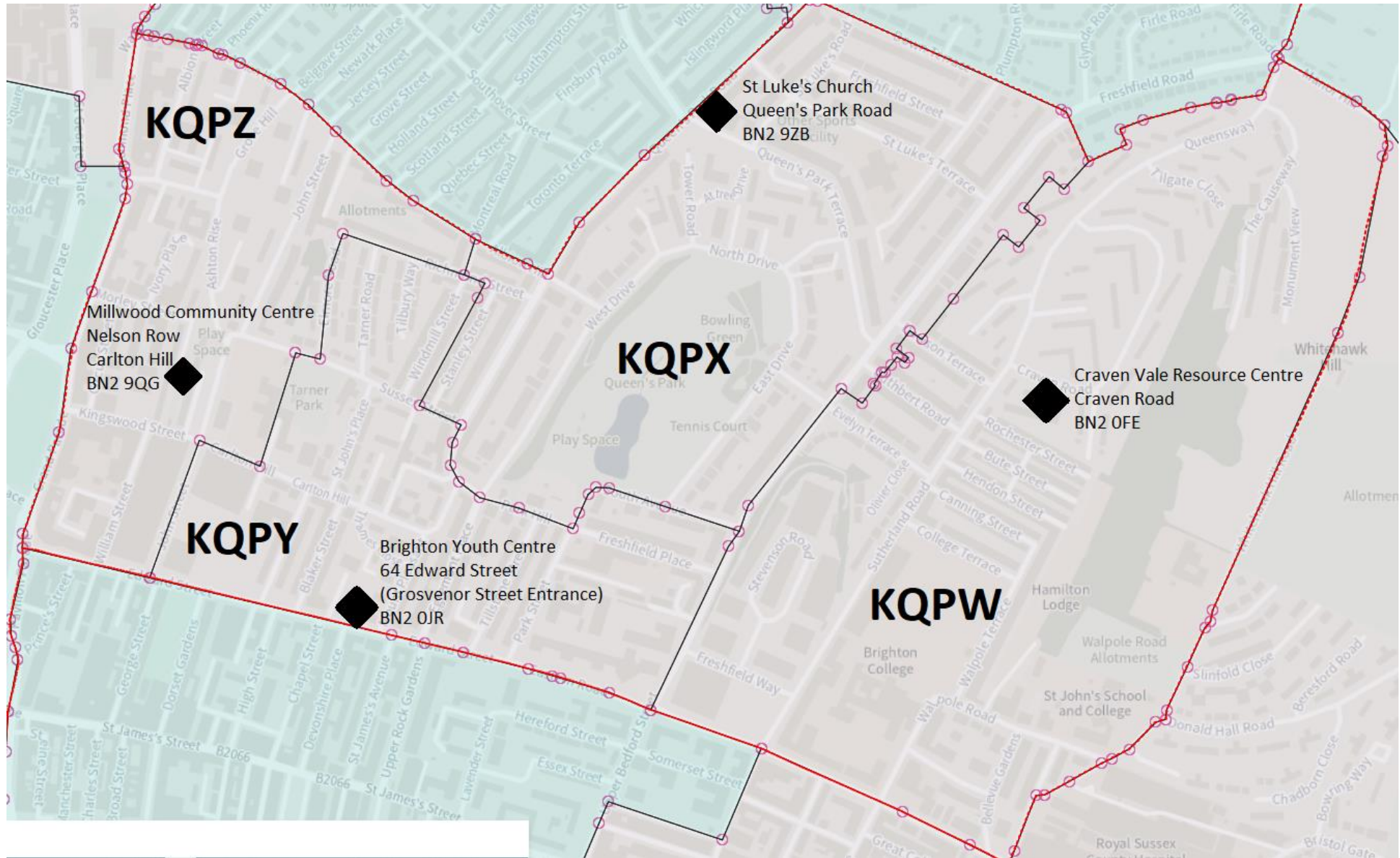
Queen's Park ward has reduced in size, having lost southern areas to the new Kemptown ward. Electors around Craven Road have joined the ward.

St Luke's Primary School will no longer be a polling station, and electors to the north, west and east of Queen's Park will now vote at St Luke's Church.

To optimise the number of electors going to each polling station, the Community Room at Thornsedale will no longer be a polling place. This small polling district will merge with its neighbour to form polling district KQPZ. Electors who voted at Thornsedale will now vote at Millwood Community Centre. This is a closer option for around half of the electors in the previous polling district.

Across the ward, polling district boundaries have been revised to optimise electorates.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Kemptown	KQPW	1,776	1,550	Craven Vale Resource Centre, Craven Road, BN2 0FE	1	12
Kemptown	KQPX	1,820	1,600	St Luke's Church, Queen's Park Road, BN2 9ZB	1	7
Kemptown	KQPY	1,656	1,391	Brighton Youth Centre, 64 Edward Street, (Grosvenor Street Entrance), BN2 0JR	1	11
Kemptown	KQPZ	1,724	1,510	Millwood Community Centre, Nelson Row, Carlton Hill, BN2 9QG	1	9



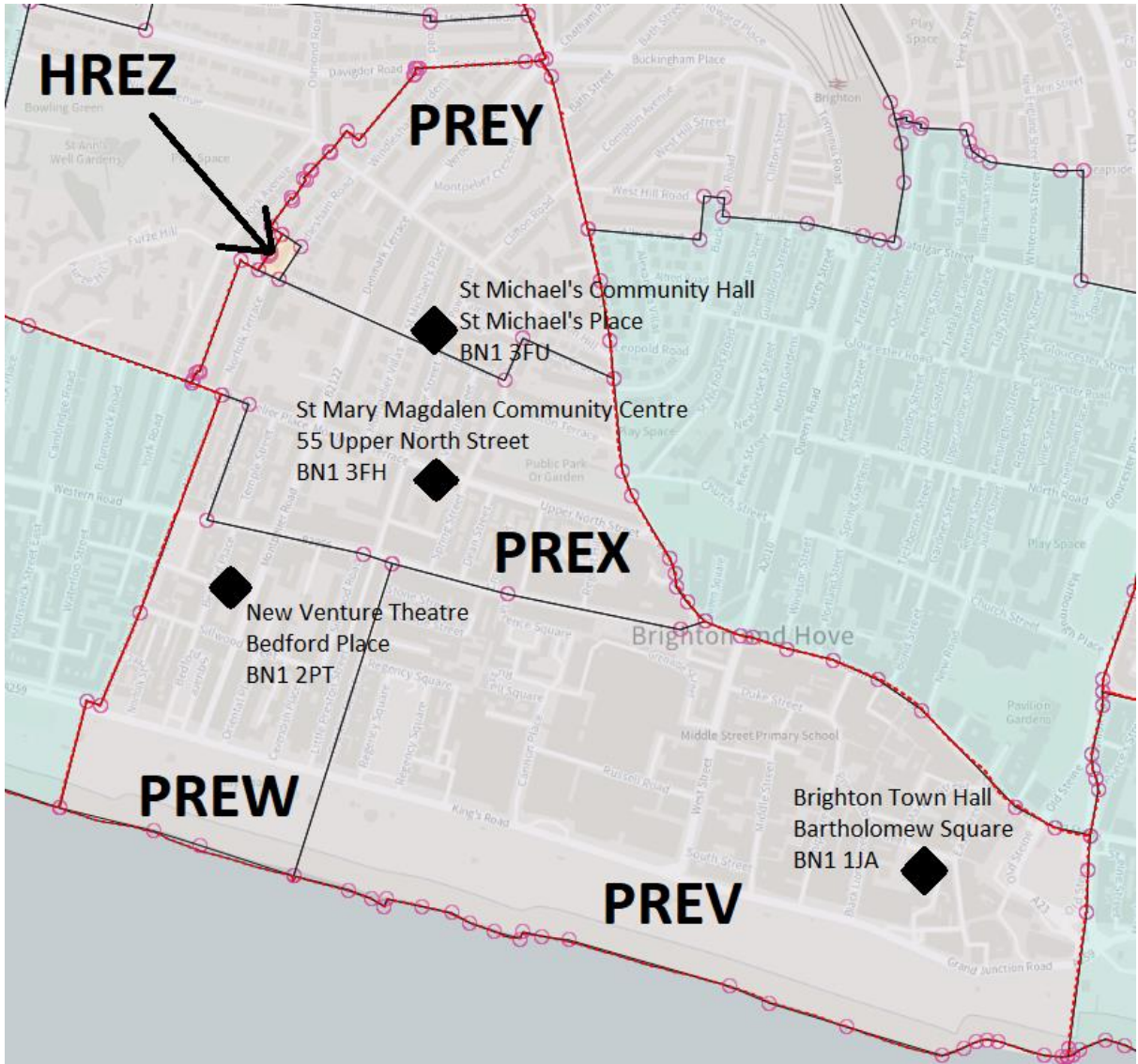
Regency, Brighton Pavilion & Hove

Regency ward's boundaries did not changed at the ward review - bar the inclusion of a small number of properties on Temple Heights/Windlesham Road.

These properties are within Hove constituency and as such will form their own small polling district. At Parliamentary elections electors will attend the polling station for adjoining polling district HGOV. At local elections, they will vote at the polling station for PREY. At a combined election, they will vote at the HGOV polling station.

The other changes in the ward are to optimise the number of electors voting at each polling place. The proposals will prevent any polling places becoming very small double stations due to changes to Electoral Commission ratios.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Hove	HREZ	28	20	Possibility Place/Vernon Gardens, 14 Windlesham Avenue, BN1 3AH; or St Michael's Community Hall, St Michael's Place, BN1 3FU	0	3
Pavilion	PREV	1,672	1,488	Brighton Town Hall, Bartholomew Square, BN1 1JA	1	14
Pavilion	PREW	1,949	1,768	New Venture Theatre, Bedford Place, BN1 2PT	1	5
Pavilion	PREX	1,944	1,716	St Mary Magdalen Community Centre, 55 Upper North Street, BN1 3FH	1	6
Pavilion	PREY	1,957	1,724	St Michael's Community Hall, St Michael's Place, BN1 3FU	1	7

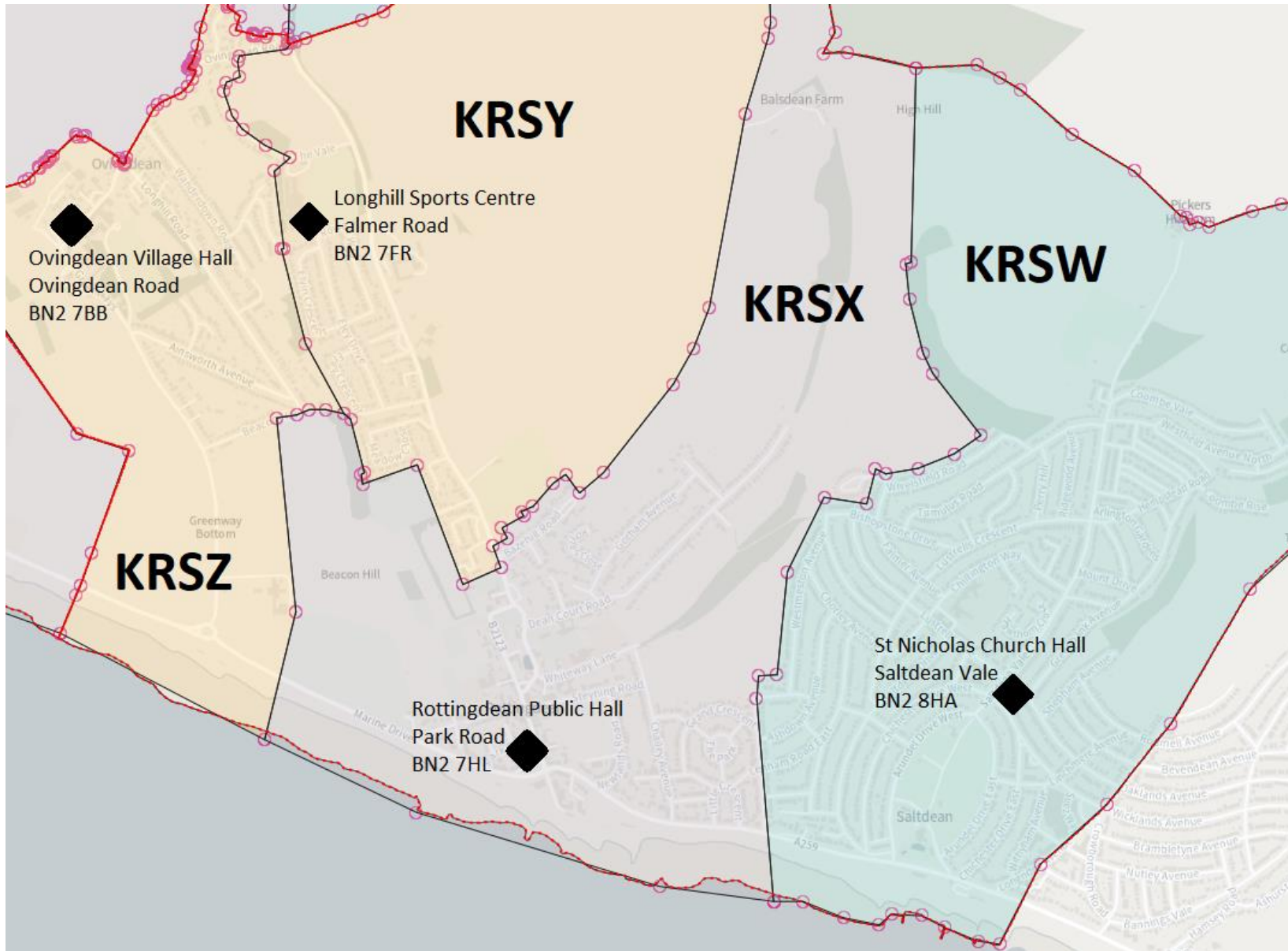


Rottingdean & West Saltdean, Brighton Kemptown

Rottingdean & West Saltdean ward is a new ward made from the previous Rottingdean Coastal ward. The new ward has lost many electors on the western side around Roedean and Sussex Square – becoming a 2-seat ward.

The polling district boundaries have not changed other than to realign with the new ward boundary. All polling places remain suitable and in West Saltdean already meet our aim to have double and triple polling stations. Due to Rottingdean Parish, it is not efficient to change any of the polling district boundaries around the main body of electors.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Kemptown	KRSW	4,646	3,652	St Nicholas Church Hall, Saltdean Vale, BN2 8HA	3	18
Kemptown	KRSX	1,843	1,456	Rottingdean Public Hall, Park Road, BN2 7HL	1	24
Kemptown	KRSY	873	662	Longhill Sports Centre, Falmer Road, BN2 7FR	1	15
Kemptown	KRSZ	962	748	Ovingdean Village Hall, Ovingdean Road, BN2 7BB	1	15



Round Hill, Brighton Pavilion

Round Hill is a new ward, consisting of areas from St Peter's & North Laine and Preston Park wards.

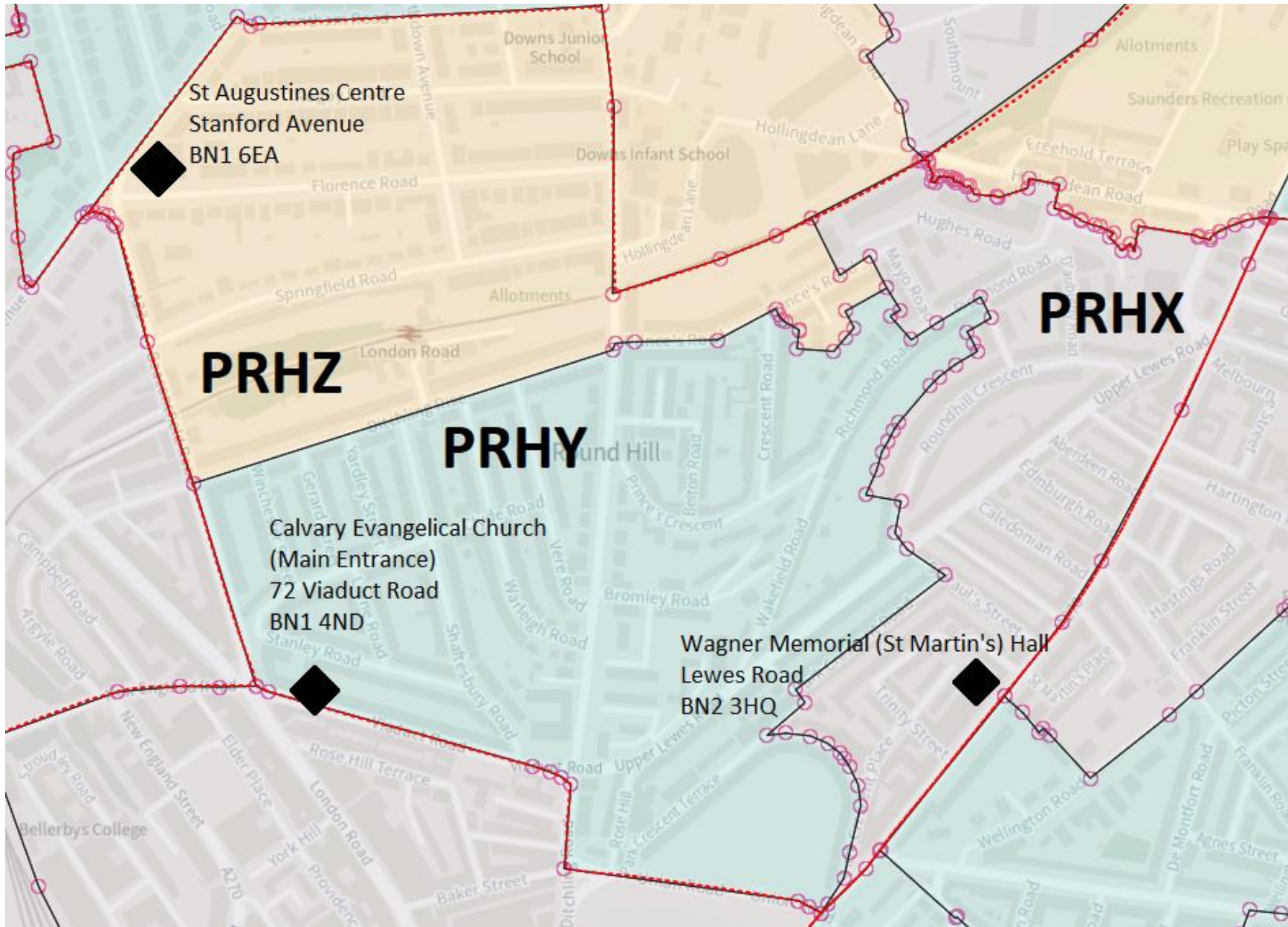
Electors in polling district PRHZ will vote at a new polling station in St Augustines Centre. The venue has better access arrangements than the current polling station for the area - Florence Road Baptist Church. St Augustines Centre will also serve a polling station for Preston Park ward.

In line with our aim to reduce the number of schools, it is proposed to no longer use Downs Infant School for electors in this area. Electors who voted at Downs Infant School will be split amongst the three remaining polling places for the ward.

Wagner Memorial Hall is the proposed polling place for polling district PRHX. Wagner Memorial Hall currently serves as a double polling station for the area. By reducing the number of electors from Round Hill ward voting at this polling station, we enable Wagner Memorial Hall to also serve as a polling station for Hanover & Elm Grove ward. This allows us to remove Fairlight Primary School from the scheme.

Calvary Evangelical Church, in polling district PRHY, will become a double station to accommodate new electors from Wagner Memorial Hall.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Pavilion	PRHX	1,901	1,789	Wagner Memorial (St Martin's) Hall, Lewes Road, BN2 3HQ	1	9
Pavilion	PRHY	3,266	2,979	Calvary Evangelical Church, (Main Entrance), 72 Viaduct Road, BN1 4ND	2	13
Pavilion	PRHZ	1,594	1,439	St Augustines Centre, Stanford Avenue, BN1 6EA	1	13

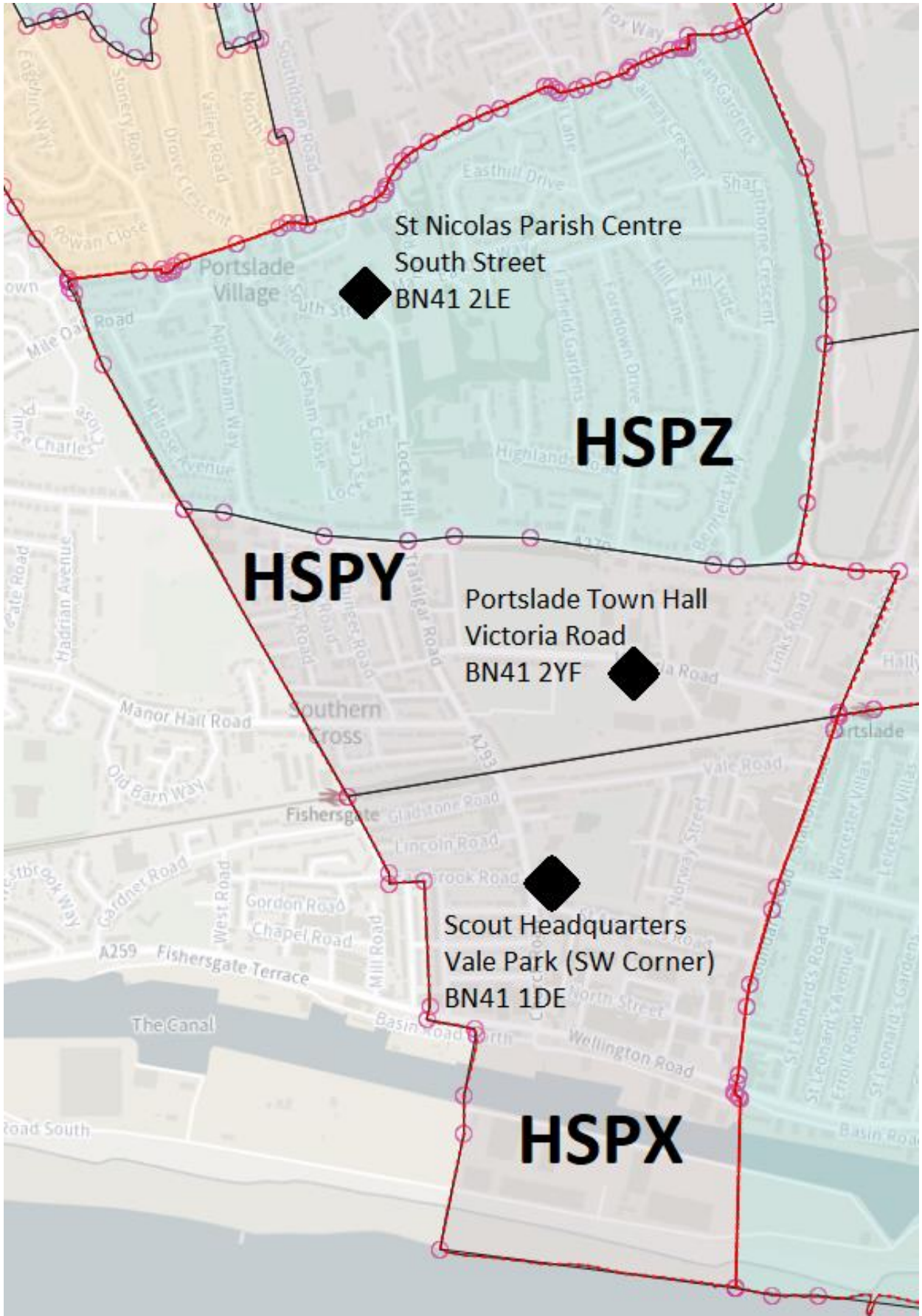


South Portslade, Hove

South Portslade ward is unchanged from the ward boundary review.

The only change to the polling district scheme is the merging of the northern polling districts. They both vote at St Nicolas Parish Centre already. The consolidation allows for improved signage and better distribution of electors between the stations.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Hove	HSPX	1,896	1,668	Scout Headquarters, Vale Park, (SW Corner), BN41 1DE	1	9
Hove	HSPY	1,832	1,602	Portslade Town Hall, Victoria Road, BN41 2YF	1	12
Hove	HSPZ	3,591	2,974	St Nicolas Parish Centre, South Street, BN41 2LE	2	15

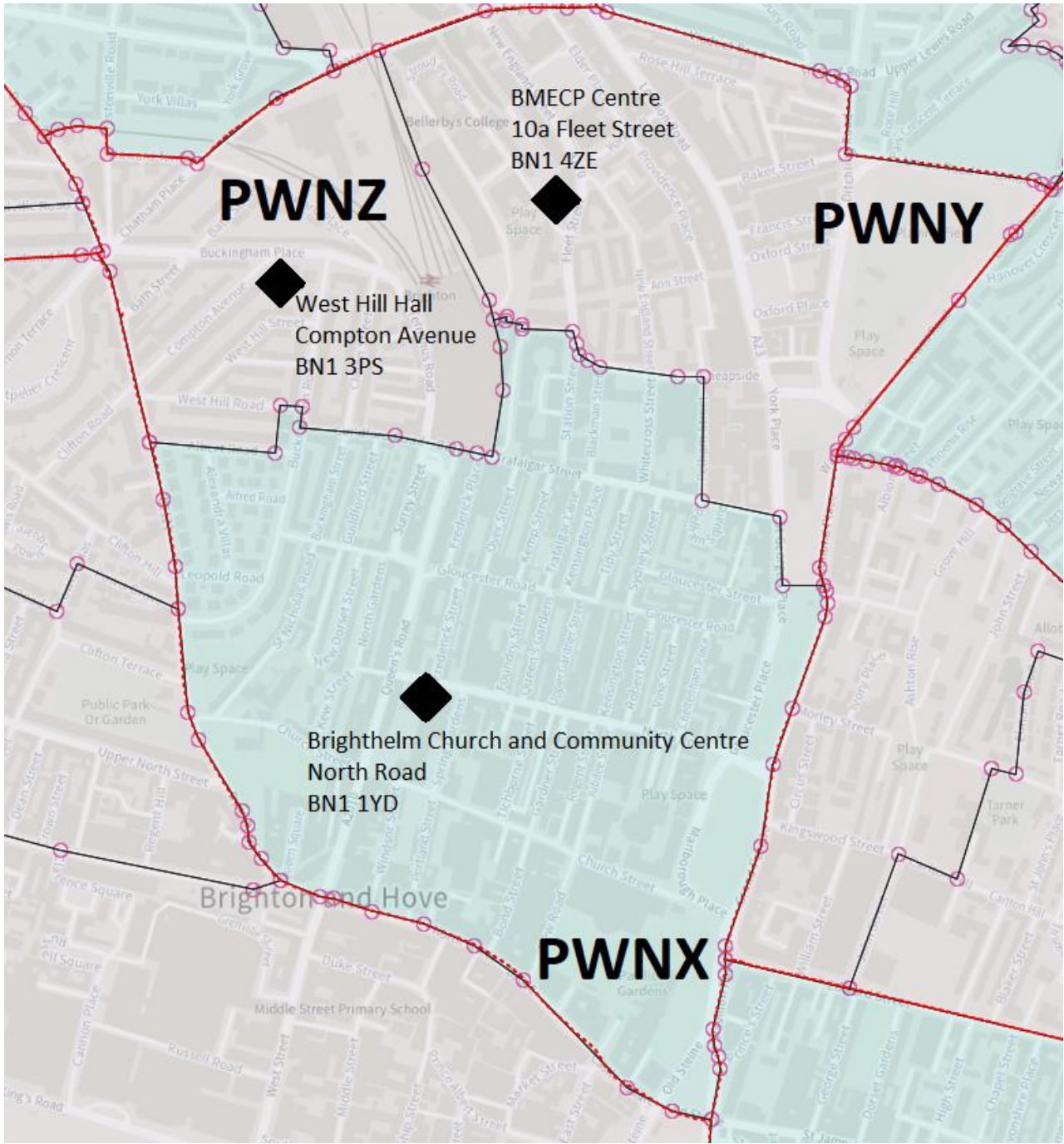


West Hill & North Laine, Brighton Pavilion

West Hill & North Laine ward is a reduced version of St Peter's & North Laine ward.

It is proposed to continue using three existing polling places for this ward. The polling district boundaries remain similar. Two polling districts have merged. The majority of electors who voted at Brighton & Hove Foyer will now vote at Brighthelm Church and Community Centre. This is a 10-minute walk for the furthest elector.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Pavilion	PWNX	3,769	3,358	Brighthelm Church and Community Centre, North Road, BN1 1YD	2	10
Pavilion	PWNY	1,824	1,668	BMECP Centre, 10a Fleet Street, BN1 4ZE	1	7
Pavilion	PWNZ	1,876	1,714	West Hill Hall, Compton Avenue, BN1 3PS	1	5



Westbourne & Poets' Corner, Hove

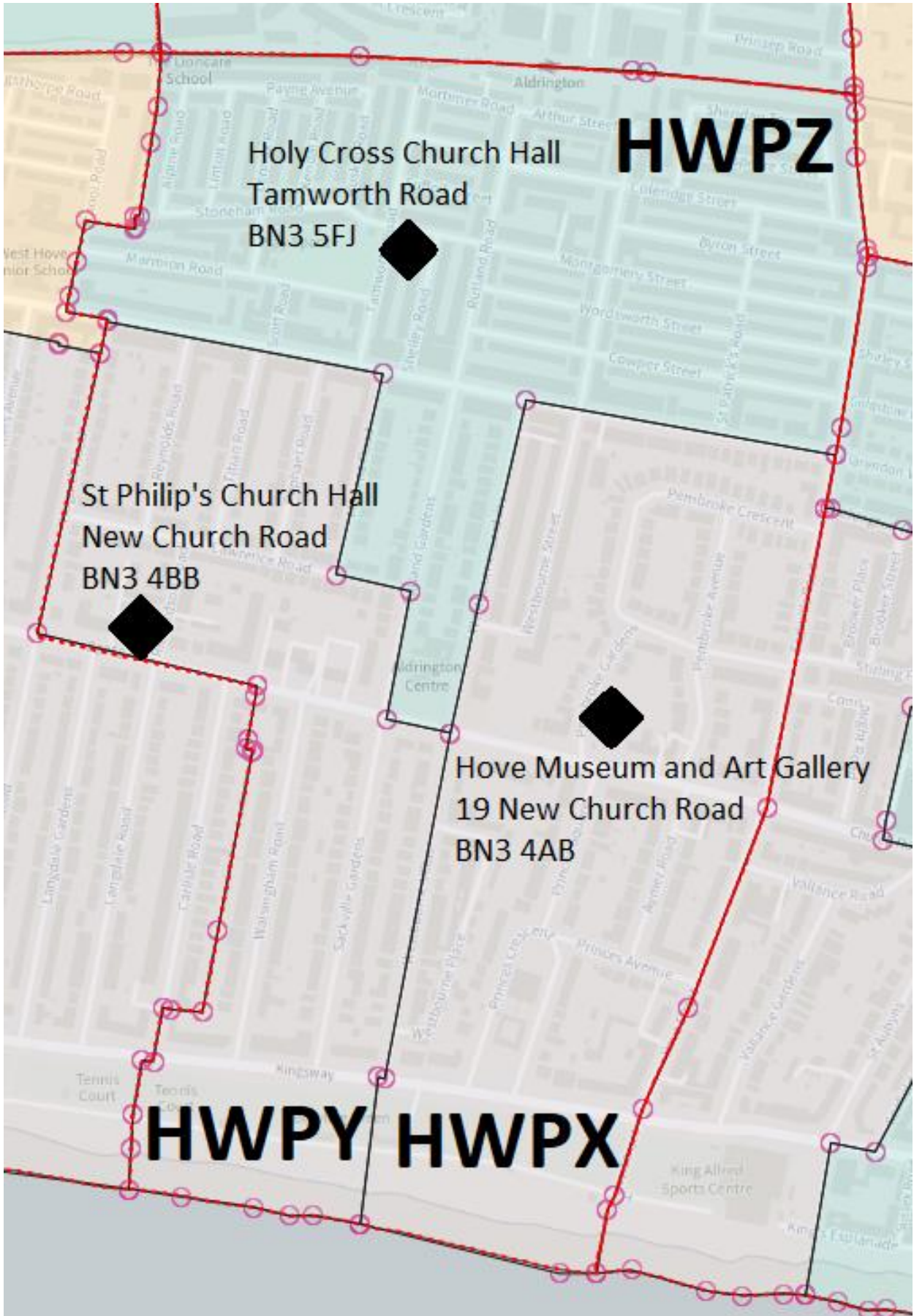
Westbourne & Poets' Corner ward has swapped some areas with Wish ward, with properties around Stoneham Park joining the ward and westerly streets below Portland Road leaving.

The changes in the north of the ward provide an opportunity to remove West Hove Infants School from the scheme therefore reducing the number of schools used. It also allows for all electors north of Portland Road to now share a polling place of Holy Cross Church. The electorate is supplemented by electors in Modena Road, Rutland Gardens and Westbourne Gardens who previously have voted at Holy Cross Church.

Below Portland Road, the electors to the East of the ward will vote in a single polling station at Hove Museum. While those to the west will vote at St Philip's Church – this will be a double polling station shared with Wish ward.

Across the whole ward no elector will have a walk of more than 10 minutes to their polling place.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Hove	HWPX	1,855	1,582	Hove Museum and Art Gallery, 19 New Church Road, BN3 4AB	1	9
Hove	HWPY	1,738	1,430	St Philip's Church Hall, New Church Road, BN3 4BB	1	10
Hove	HWPZ	3,799	3,328	Holy Cross Church Hall, Tamworth Road, BN3 5FJ	2	7



Westdene & Hove Park, Brighton Pavilion & Hove

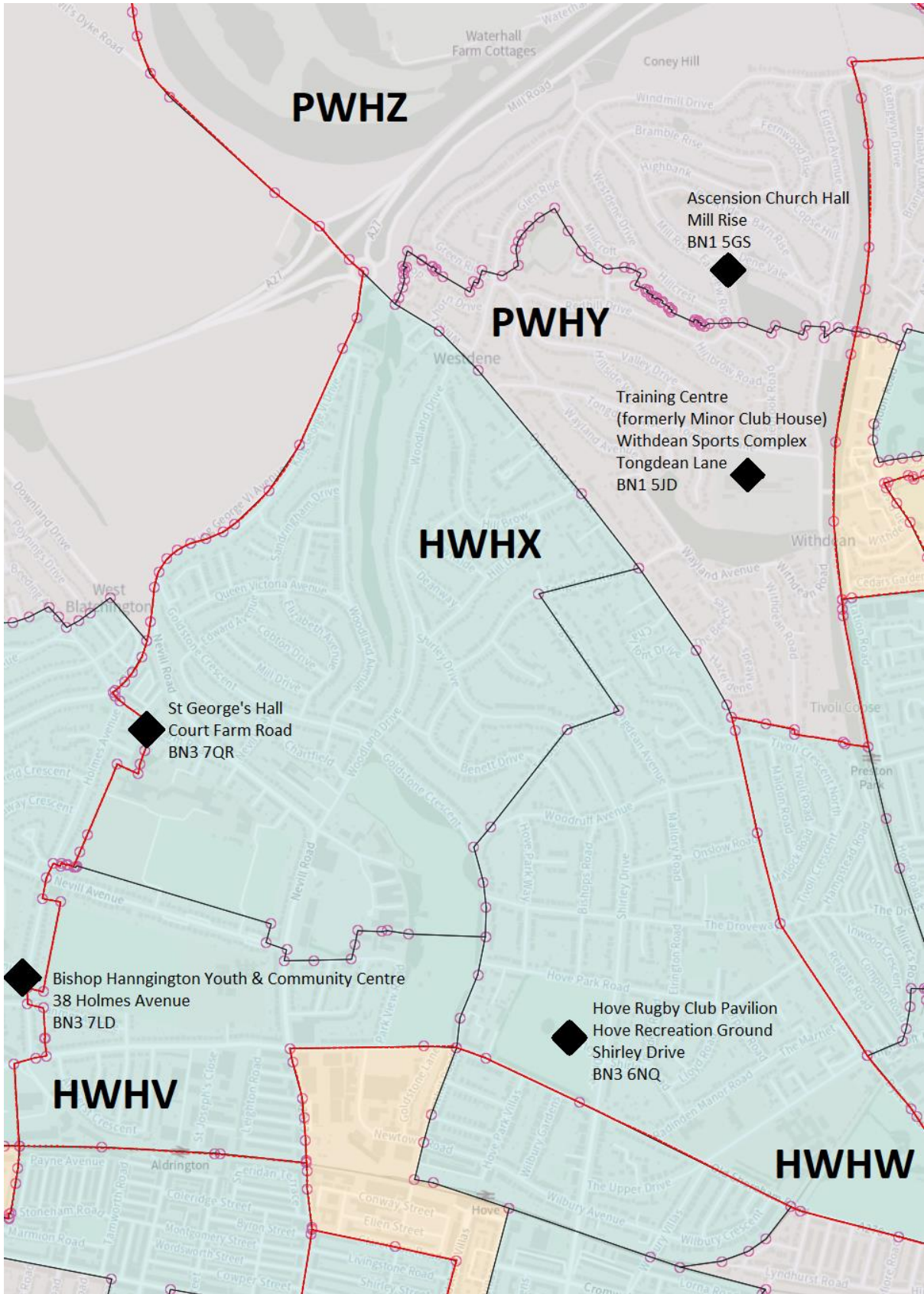
The new Westdene & Hove Park ward covers a very large geographic area. The ward also straddles the Hove and Brighton Pavilion constituencies. This boundary will be respected.

The new HWHX polling district combines two old polling districts that used to vote at St Peter's Church and Brighton & Hove Cricket Pavilion. It is proposed that electors will now vote at St George's Church Hall on Court Farm Road. This venue is accessible, has its own car park and meets our aim of increasing the number of double polling stations. For many electors in this polling district, the polling place remains a significant distance. However, the new venue is an improvement on the previous venues.

Polling districts HWHV and HWHW largely remain unchanged. Electors continue to vote at Bishop Hannington Church Hall and Hove Rugby Club Pavilion respectively.

In Brighton Pavilion, the northern district does not change and continues to vote at the Ascension Church Hall. The southern district will now incorporate roads inherited from an old polling district further down Dyke Road. All electors will vote at Withdean Sports Complex. This is a double station shared with Patcham & Hollingbury ward.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Hove	HWHV	2,038	1,630	Bishop Hannington Youth & Community Centre, 38 Holmes Avenue, BN3 7LD	1	16
Hove	HWHW	2,263	1,659	Hove Rugby Club Pavilion, Hove Recreation Ground, Shirley Drive, BN3 6NQ	1	22
Hove	HWHX	3,795	2,804	St George's Hall, Court Farm Road, BN3 7QR	2	28
Pavilion	PWHY	1,651	1,302	Training Centre, (formerly Minor Club House), Withdean Sports Complex, Tongdean Lane, BN1 5JD	1	23
Pavilion	PWHZ	1,900	1,510	Ascension Church Hall, Mill Rise, BN1 5GS	1	15



Whitehawk & Marina, Brighton Kemptown

Whitehawk & Marina ward is a new ward. It consists of Whitehawk, Marina and Roedean polling districts from previous wards.

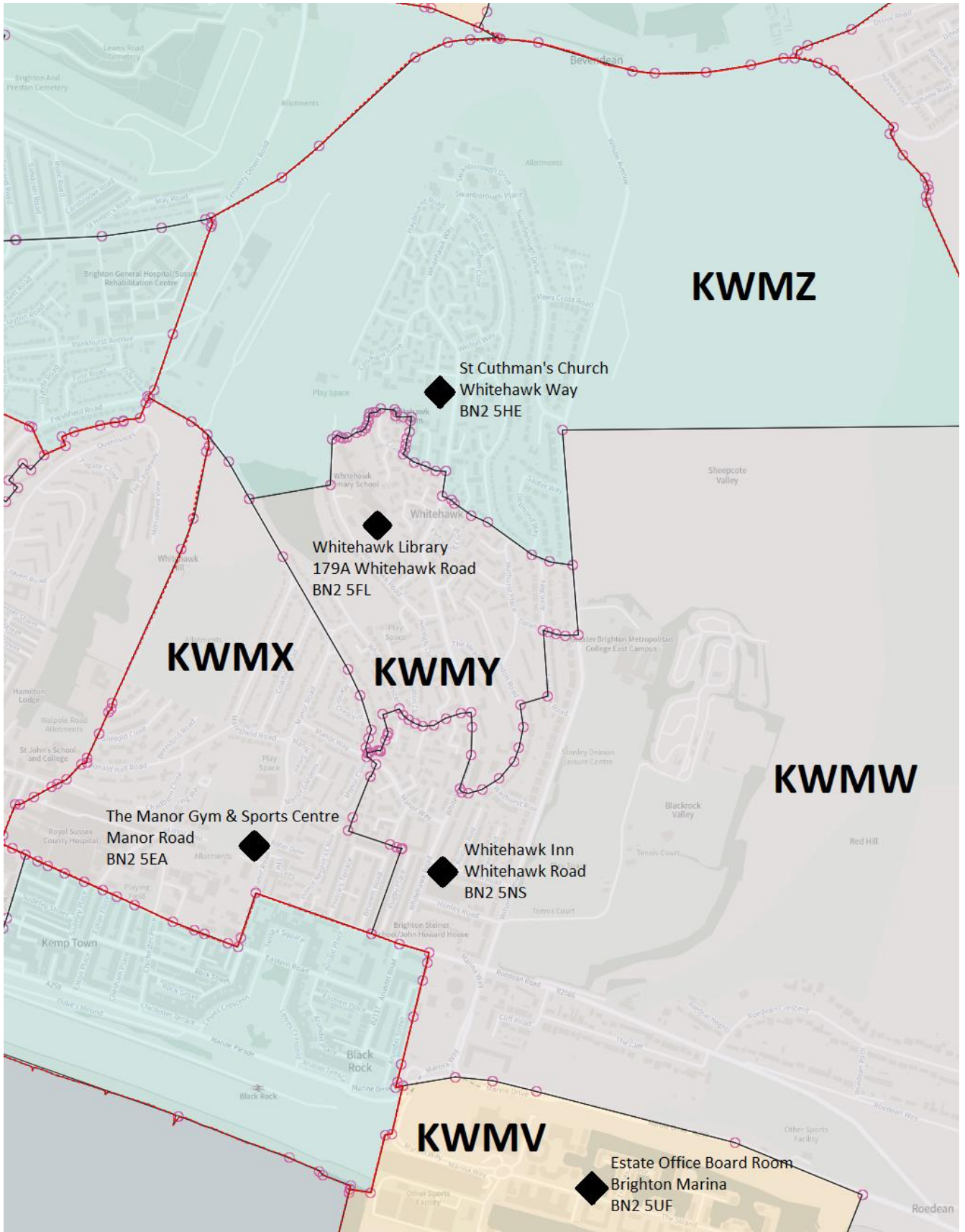
It is proposed to redraw polling districts throughout the ward. This will ensure that there are suitable polling places throughout the area. Electors to the north will vote at St Cuthman's Church. This venue is accessible, on local bus routes and known to the community.

In the central area, electors will vote at Whitehawk Library - again this provides a good polling place for local residents. At previous polls, residents in this area have voted either at Valley Social Centre/St Cuthman's Church or Whitehawk Inn.

Towards the bottom of the hill, the Whitehawk Inn will continue as a polling place, but now serves a revised area. This area includes Roedean. Roedean electors previously voted at Brighton Waldorf School.

It is proposed to no longer use Bristol Estate Community Centre. Electors previously served by this polling station will now vote at The Manor Gym. This will create a new polling district that has an increased electorate and is in line with the aim to optimise electorates.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Kemptown	KWMV	1,023	860	Estate Office Board Room, Brighton Marina, BN2 5UF	1	9
Kemptown	KWMW	1,718	1,366	Whitehawk Inn, Whitehawk Road, BN2 5NS	1	21
Kemptown	KWMX	1,874	1,553	The Manor Gym & Sports Centre, Manor Road, BN2 5EA	1	14
Kemptown	KWMY	1,671	1,363	Whitehawk Library, 179A Whitehawk Road, BN2 5FL	1	14
Kemptown	KWMZ	2,023	1,679	St Cuthman's Church, Whitehawk Way, BN2 5HE	1	10



Wish, Hove

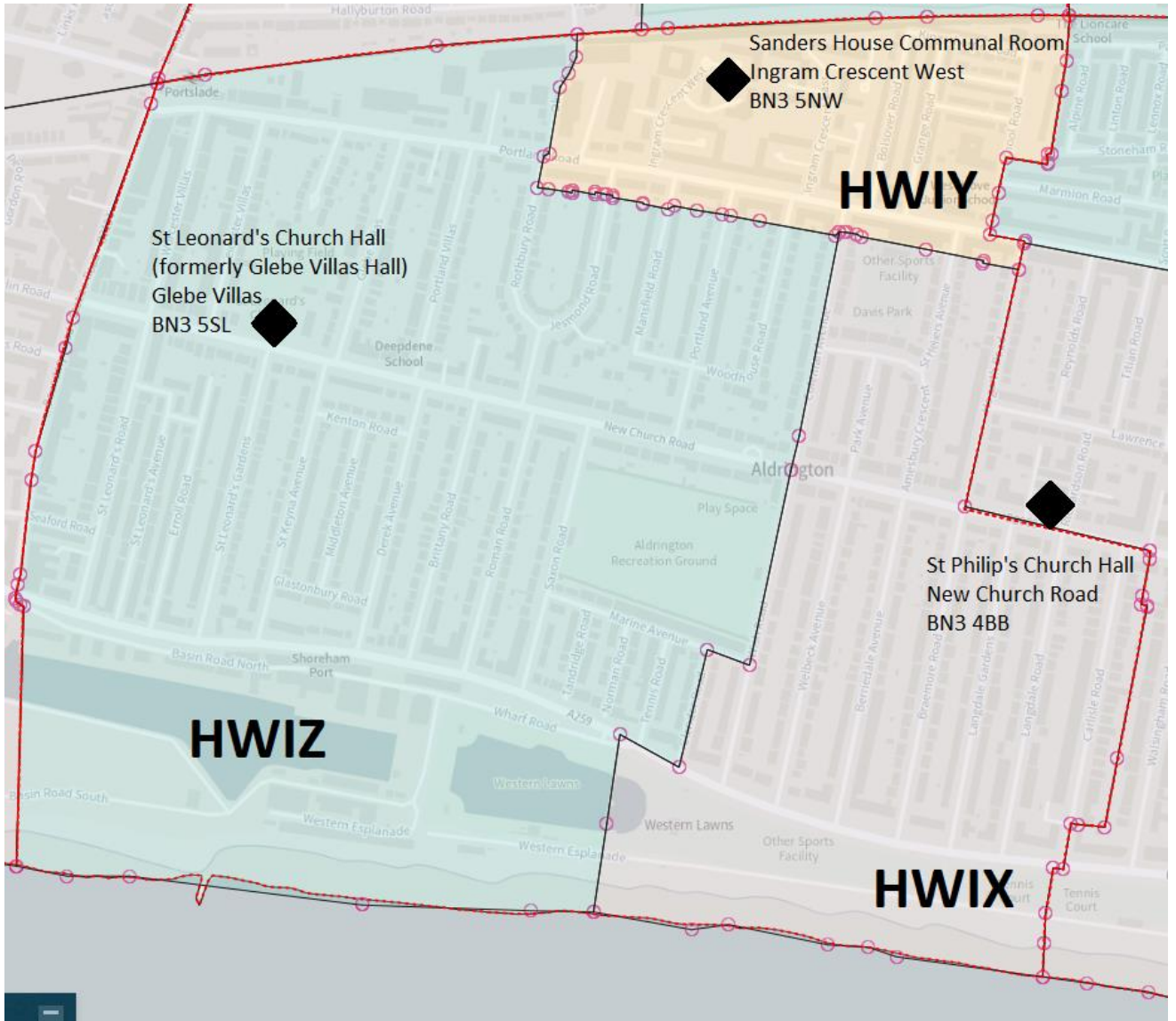
Wish ward's boundary has not changed on its western side. Properties east of School Road, around Stoneham Park, have moved into the adjoining ward. While the ward has taken in streets to its east between the seafront and south of Portland Road.

It is proposed that all electors in the north of the ward vote at Sanders House on the Ingram Crescent estate. The development around School Road will increase the electorate over the coming months. This change has removed West Hove Infants School from the scheme - in line with our project aims.

The remaining electors split into eastern and western polling districts respectively. The eastern polling district will vote in a double polling station at St Leonard's Church Hall. This venue is well known, accessible and on several east-west bus routes.

The western polling district will vote at St Philips Church on New Church Road. For many electors who have joined from the old Westbourne ward this is not a change of polling place

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Hove	HWIX	1,972	1,568	St Philip's Church Hall, New Church Road, BN3 4BB	1	9
Hove	HWIY	1,261	1,055	Sanders House Communal Room, Ingram Crescent West, BN3 5NW	1	10
Hove	HWIZ	4,105	3,404	St Leonard's Church Hall, (formerly Glebe Villas Hall), Glebe Villas, BN3 5SL	2	12



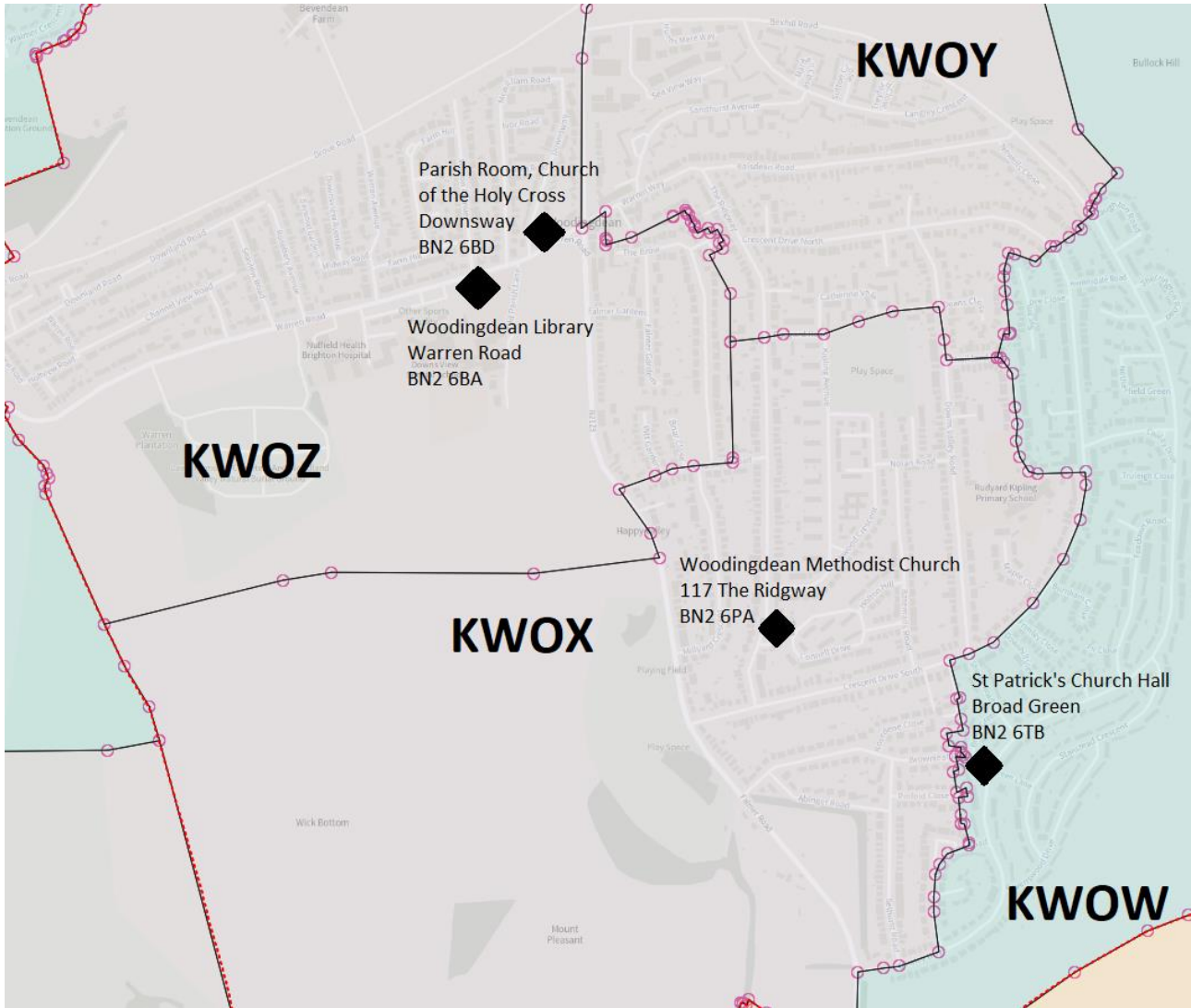
Woodingdean, Brighton Kemptown

Woodingdean ward's boundaries remain unchanged from the boundary review. significant changes to the polling district boundaries are proposed. This will remove Rudyard Kipling Primary School from the scheme.

Woodingdean Library is proposed as a new polling place in the north-west of the ward.

The redrawing of the polling districts means that no elector is more than a 15-minute walk from their polling station. Additionally, all four polling places for the ward are now situated near a bus stop which serves their polling district. Bus routes include 2, 22 and 52 serving the area. The step free Chalkland rise entrance of Rudyard Kipling Primary School is not served by a bus route.

Constituency	Polling District	Polling District Electorate	Polling Place Electorate	Polling Place	Number of Polling Stations	Furthest Walking Distance (Minutes)
Kemptown	KWOW	2,001	1,663	St Patrick's Church Hall, Broad Green, BN2 6TB	1	15
Kemptown	KWOX	1,905	1,569	Woodingdean Methodist Church, 117 The Ridgway, BN2 6PA	1	15
Kemptown	KWOY	1,660	1,355	Parish Room, Church of the Holy Cross, Downsway, BN2 6BD	1	15
Kemptown	KWOZ	1,821	1,451	Woodingdean Library, Warren Road, BN2 6BA	1	14



Appendix 2:

Responses to the Full Review of Brighton & Hove Polling Districts and Places Consultation Paper and (Acting) Returning Officer Comment

Ref	Response method	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
1	Portal	I agree fully with the proposed changes.	All	No reply necessary
2	Portal	yes [Redacted] is an amazing councillor and we want to keep [Redacted] for Sussex Square.	Kempton	Candidate nominations do not fall within the scope of this review.
3	Portal	Re Kempton ward. Calculating walking distances via Google Maps takes no account of the fact that for people in the most southerly parts of the ward all the polling stations are uphill, even though they may not be far in distance. This is unfair on people with mobility difficulties.	Kempton	<p>We have been mindful of topographical concerns across the City while conducting this review. While we are unable to completely mitigate against hills in the City, we have kept steep walks to polling stations to a minimum, and ensured polling stations lie on bus routes where possible. Electors are also able to apply for a postal or proxy vote if they are unable to reach their polling station.</p> <p>We are also limited by the location of existing available venues. We are happy to look at suggestions for alternate polling places, however we believe the proposals for Kempton strike the right balance for electors across the ward.</p>
4	Portal	The Governors and Headteacher at Coombe Road Primary School welcome the proposal to locate polling stations in Polling District KMBU away from the school. We acknowledge the statutory requirements on the Council and schools, but the closure or partial closure of the school and its co-located nursery on polling days are now incompatible with the DfE's requirements on school attendance and adversely affect the education of our pupils.	Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	We aim to avoid using schools as polling stations, and we are pleased that we have been able to remove Coombe Road Primary School from the scheme. However, we cannot provide assurances that the school won't be used as a polling station in the future if our preferred venues become unavailable or unusable.

Ref	Response method	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
5	Portal	I have a postal vote.	Unknown	No reply necessary
6	Portal	Please ensure that topographical considerations are taken into account. For example, Bristol Estate is on top of "The Steepest Hill in Brighton".	Whitehawk & Marina	We have been mindful of topographical concerns across the City while conducting this review. Bristol Estate lies within the Whitehawk & Marina ward. The longest walk from the estate to the polling station is 11 minutes. The estate is also well served by the number 37 and 37b buses, which stop outside of the polling station.
7	Portal	I do not agree with ID at polling stations	Unknown	The requirement to show photographic identification when voting in person has been introduced by central government. The Electoral Registration and Returning Officer has a statutory obligation to implement it.
8	Portal	I would like to keep my current polling station even if it does not meet all of the new proposals	Unknown	The responder has not indicated what their current polling station is, or whether it is due to change.
9	Portal	the BMECP site is good for people at the top of the polling district but up a steep hill for those on London road	West Hill & North Laine	We have been mindful of topographical concerns across the City while conducting this review. The BMECP centre is within a 7 minute walk for all electors in the polling district. Electors living on London road currently vote at the BMECP centre and we have not previously received complaints or comments about the polling station's location from these voters.
10	Portal	I am concerned about Bristol Estate as there are a lot of disabled/elderly folk who will find it difficult if there is no polling station at the community room	Whitehawk & Marina	We have been mindful of topographical concerns across the City while conducting this review. Bristol Estate lies within the Whitehawk & Marina ward. The longest walk from the estate to the polling station is 11 minutes. The estate is also well

Ref	Response method	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
				served by the number 37 and 37b buses, which stop outside of the polling station.
11	Email	<p>There is some concern about removing a polling place that serves a traditionally low turnout community in various places.</p> <p>I am not sure why there are so many small and inconvenient changes proposed, such as 2 changes of one street each in Regency seemingly just to even out the sizes. And also using the middle of the road as a boundary which makes no sense</p>	Regency	<p>We have reduced the number of polling places across the City to align with our aim of creating double polling stations. This has meant that some polling places have been removed from the scheme. Our aim has been to ensure that most electors are still within a 15 minute walk of their polling station, which has been met in lower turnout areas. Moreover, in some areas with lower turnout, some electors are now closer to the new polling places than their previous one.</p> <p>In central wards with a high population density, minor changes to polling district boundaries can have a significant impact on electorate size. We have tried to ensure an even split of electors between polling stations to mitigate the risk of queues in light of Voter ID being implemented from May. We do not have evidence to suggest these minor changes to polling district boundaries present any material inconvenience to electors. Moreover, polling station electors will be receiving up to 3 communications between January and April confirming the location of their polling place. These include - a letter or email regarding Voter ID requirements and the location of their new polling place, a paper poll card and an election information email. The Electoral Registration and Returning Officer now hold email address for more than 75% of the electorate.</p>

Ref	Response method	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
				<p>Polling district and ward boundaries tend to go down the middle of the road rather down the backs of houses. This helps to future proof the scheme, as boundaries that go down the middle of roads are less likely to be impacted by future developments.</p>
12	Portal	<p>We had an issue in HEG in that Elm Grove school was no longer deemed an appropriate location due to inaccessibility. I'm pleased that BHCC's Wellington Day Centre around the corner has been identified suitable for a single polling station in its place.</p>	Hanover & Elm Grove	No reply necessary
13	Portal	<p>1) I have only reviewed the area of the city which I reside or otherwise connected. I reviewed Preston Park, Round Hill and Hollingdean and Fiveways. This is 12 districts. 2) Of the 12 districts, one of them has less than 1,250 for the polling station (PPPZ – 862 electorates). 3) St Augustines Centre is listed for PPPV in Preston Park and PRHZ in Round Hill. It was not clear to me whether this is 2 polling stations (one for each district) or one in total. If it is only one polling station, then this would exceed 1,750 people per polling station. 4) All appear to have a max walking distance of 15 mins or less. However, I note that Surrenden Park, Friar Road, Friar Crescent and Friar Close in PHFZ appear disconnected from the rest of their district. Indeed, the people living in these roads are likely to consider themselves part of Patcham/Hollingbury or Preston Park. Given that PPPZ in Preston Park seem a bit light on</p>	Preston Park, Round Hill and Hollingdean & Fiveways	<p>PPPZ polling district has a smaller electorate than our ideal range. It was considered whether we could include these electors in the PPPY polling district however, due to distance and topography this was not proposed.</p> <p>There will be 2 polling stations at St Augustine's. One for PPPV and the other for PRHZ.</p> <p>The electors of PHFZ were previously in Withdean ward along with those of PPPZ. The ward boundary review placed these areas in Hollingdean & Fiveways and Preston Park wards respectively. Their polling districts and polling places therefore reflect these new wards.</p>

Ref	Response method	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
		<p>polling place electorate (862), why were those roads not included in that district? I think their current inclusion in PHFZ will cause some confusion with the residents. It should also be noted that residents of those streets will also have to cross a major road to get to their polling station which might otherwise be avoided.</p>		<p>It is appreciated that electors in PHFZ will need to cross Ditchling Road to vote. There are Pelican crossings available to cross this road.</p>
14	Email	<p>I do know that Possability People spells their name like that deliberately (I think because they are about 'ability not disability') so you may need to train your spell checker.</p> <p>One point I omitted in my comments below is the proposed constituency boundary change in the Hanover/Pankhurst area. We are pleased that the BCE has adopted the "minimal change" option of transferring the Pankhurst area of HEG ward into Brighton Kemptown. But the Commission has invited further comments on whether the boundary should follow the pre-existing polling district, or should simply be set along Queen's Park Road, so that the roads including Baxter Street and down to Luther street should remain in Pavilion with the rest of Hanover. Therefore you might want to divide your *HEV polling district along QP Road so that whichever version is finally adopted the register will be ready.</p> <p>I hope the final proposals for polling districts will be considerably</p>	All	<p>We have reduced the number of polling places across the City to align with our aim of creating double polling stations. This has meant that some polling places have been removed from the scheme. Our aim has been to ensure that most electors are still within a 15 minute walk of their polling station, which has been met in lower turnout areas. Moreover, in some areas with lower turnout, some electors are now closer to the new polling places than their previous one.</p> <p>Due to the ward boundary changes and the introduction of Voter ID, this review has proposed a significant amount of change compared with recent reviews. However, street splits were not uncommon within the previous scheme nor the previous warding. To ensure that electors are well informed of the changes - polling station electors</p>

Ref	Response method	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
		<p>better than the one you have published, there are far too many horrors mostly splitting streets for very little benefit and a lot of confusion likely.</p>		<p>will receive up to 3 communications between January and April confirming the location of their polling place. These include - a letter or email regarding Voter ID requirements and the location of their new polling place, a paper poll card and an election information email. The Electoral Registration and Returning Officer now hold email address for more than 75% of the electorate.</p> <p>The Returning Officer appreciates that PHEV/KHEV could be split into different constituencies in the final BCE recommendations. However, should a split along Queen's Park Road occur then we will want to have a more comprehensive look at all the polling districts in the ward. Moreover, should we split the district now then this will slow the issuing process at The Edge Community Centre by requiring poll clerks to right the polling district code on the Corresponding Number List when issuing a ballot paper.</p> <p>Polling district and ward boundaries tend to go down the middle of the road rather down the backs of houses. This helps to future proof the scheme, as boundaries that go down the middle of roads are less likely to be impacted by future developments.</p>
15	Email	<p>At present the postal service is very poor. Today I had my first delivery this month, 25 items. If this is still the case in April/ May the postal vote situation could be very unreliable!!</p>	All	No reply necessary

Ref	Response method	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
16	Email	I am a bit concerned that two very unequal polling districts have been created in CH ward.	Central Hove	Central Hove has historically had uneven polling districts with the majority of the electorate voting at Hove Town Hall. The new boundaries have been altered to allow for the new ward boundary and to ensure that our ideal electorate range is met.
17	Email – multiple with responses	This polling district is showing 2 polling stations but only one address. Court farm road is a long way away if you are in the Goldstone Valley. St George’s Hall is too close to Bishop Hannington.	Westdene & Hove Park	<p>The polling place would be St George’s Hall for the whole area. The previous polling place for Goldstone Valley was St Peter’s Church on Hangleton Road which is round the corner from the new location but doesn’t have a car park.</p> <p>Bishop Hannington is at the bottom of Holmes Avenue – not the one on the corner of Nevill Avenue and Holmes Avenue. They are therefore not particularly close. Moreover, in some localities venues will be close together but serving different communities. This is because we must work to where there are suitable venues.</p>

Ref	Response method	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
		<p>This polling district is showing 2 polling stations but only one address. Court farm road is a long way away if you are in the Goldstone Valley. St George's Hall is too close to Bishop Hannington.</p>		<p>This is a new polling district which combines the electors from Goldstone Valley and Woodland Drive. Due to the size of the electorate we are proposing there will be a double polling station operating from St George's Hall.</p> <p>St George's Hall replaces St Peter's Church (for Goldstone Valley electors) and Nevill Cricket Pavilion (for Woodland Drive electors). We think St George's Hall provides electors with a more accessible venue with good parking facilities – with both a car park and on road parking available. Those driving to Nevill Cricket Pavilion previously had to use the one way system (shared with Dolphin Nursery and Aldrington CE School) to exit the recreation ground on Nevill Avenue. The venue also had reduced accessibility to the tight turning circle for users of wheelchairs and mobility scooters.</p> <p>Before the polling place was moved to the cricket pavilion, electors around Woodland Drive had to vote at portacabins on the Hove Park School site – accessed from Old Shoreham Road. This had led to electors parking on double yellow lines along Old Shoreham Road.</p>

Ref	Response method	Responder comments	Ward (if known)	RO reply
		<p>Does the council propose to run these recommendations through a particular committee?</p> <p>This is a non-partisan process and our job is to ensure that residents do not experience major barriers to go to vote, or even where it's just inconvenient for them to go to vote. We must use this process to fix this, and honestly, I am more interested in residents voting than in some parking on double yellows for 10 minutes while doing so. I say this because the council has a policy of ignoring infractions on double yellows across the city for longer than that.</p> <p>Can we please explore options for the Goldstone Valley?</p>		<p>Following the consultation period, a report and final scheme will go to Policy & Resources Committee.</p> <p>I can confirm that polling place options have already been considered across the city – including Goldstone Valley. The result of this is the draft scheme and consultation document. The electors of Goldstone Valley have voted at St Peter's on Hangleton Road from at least 2009 (this is where my records begin). We have had no complaints from electors regarding the location of their polling station. However, during the course of our review we identified St George's Hall as an alternative as this provided better accessibility and could form a double polling station with the electors around Woodland Drive. St George's Hall is a short distance from the previous polling place. We have not identified any alternatives within the area of Goldstone Valley - with no churches or community centres in the area.</p>

Brighton & Hove City Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Agenda Item 112a

Subject: Arts Council England (ACE) Grant – Brighton Museum
Capital Works

Date of meeting: 19th January 2023

Report of: Executive Director Economy, Environment and Culture

Contact Officer: Name: Louise Peim
Tel: 07876 645135
Email: louise.peim@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that due to an administrative error the report was not included in the agenda

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 The Royal Pavilion and Museums Trust (RPMT) has secured an Arts Council England (ACE) grant for £1,463,769 to carry out repairs to the Brighton Museum roof. The Council have committed £500,000 in match funding. Due to unresolved issues regarding the building's lease, it is proposed that the Council accept and manage the grant. Due to associated risk and liabilities in managing the capital works, Councillors are required to approve acceptance of the grant.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Committee agrees to the novation of £1,463,769 grant agreement between Arts Council England and the Trust to the Council, to carry out the required repair works to the Brighton Museum roof.

3. Context and background information

3.1 Members approved capital repair works to the Brighton Museum roof at committee in December 2019. A capital budget of £1.260m was agreed.

3.2 Several developments have taken place since December 2019. After the museums' services transferred out to an independent trust in 2020, RPMT

secured a grant of £1,463,769 through ACE's Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND). This was for repair work to Brighton Museum's roof.

- 3.3 The ACE grant was initially awarded to RPMT in March 2022. Based on the roof works totaling a £1.9m project, £500,000 is committed by the Council.
- 3.4 The Trust devised a project plan, including a timeline and budget. The capital works were due to commence on site in autumn 2023, with completion set for Spring 2024. This allowed time to procure contracts and caused minimal disruption to the museum's opening hours and exhibition schedule.
- 3.5 Initially ACE required a side letter to the lease providing assurance of the building's continued use as a museum. Arts Council subsequently required a deed of variation to the lease of the building. The detail of which would have placed risk to this valuable public asset with regards to reassignment of the lease and deletion of the break clause.
- 3.6 As a solution to the lease issues, and to avoid losing a substantial grant, it is proposed that the grant is novated to the Council. If approved, the terms and conditions and the grant budget would be managed and held by the Council.
- 3.7 It is proposed that the Trust continue to progress management of the capital works as they have the capacity, with a permanent on-site team to monitor works on a daily basis. As client for the project, they have carried out preliminary procurement for a Principal Designer. If it is accepted that the grant is novated to the Council, a second round of procurement will be required to appoint a Principal Contractor in consultation with the Council's procurement team. Property & Design's Building Surveying team will provide supporting input through the joint project board, as set out in 3.8. Furthermore, they will check each financial forecast throughout the project, check interim payment requests and advise on payments.
- 3.8 Prior to the issues with the lease, when the Trust were placed to accept the grant, the Trust and the Council established a joint project board for management of these capital works. Monthly meetings are held to review procurement, progress, budget and cost plans, and scrutiny of a risk register. Council officers sit on the project board alongside senior members of staff at RPMT.
- 3.9 An agreement will be drawn up with the Trust, whereby the Trust accept risk and responsibilities for Construction Design & Management. Under this agreement the obligations placed on the Council by the ACE Grant will be passed on to the Trust. The Council will need to manage its contract with RPMT and report on progress to ACE.
- 3.10 If committee agrees to accept the grant, the capital work will begin in Spring 2024 with completion in Autumn 2024. This allows time for the project board to revise the project cost plan and procure contracts and avoids removing the roof during the winter months

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The required repair work to Brighton Museum roof was identified in a building survey report in 2019. As a result, P&R committee approved a capital budget of £1.260m in December of that year. The roof leaks during bad weather. There is a risk that if the work is not carried out, the building will not be viable to open to the public.
- 4.2 Council agreement to have the grant novated provides a solution and enables the required repair work to go ahead.
- 4.3 If the Council does not accept the grant, the funds will be lost, and the Council as freeholder could be required to carry out works further down the line at a substantial cost.
- 4.4 As with any major capital works, particularly on heritage assets, there is a risk of unexpected issues and subsequent cost overrun. As budget holder of the grant and freeholder of the building, the Council could be liable to cover cost overruns. This will be mitigated and managed through the project board who will reassess the budget and cost plan. Contingency funds will be built into the budget. The Council will ensure through its agreement with the Trust and through scrutiny of all contract standing orders, that risk of cost overrun is mitigated.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 None required.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Brighton Museum is a valuable asset for the Council, as freeholder of the building. If committee approves that the Council accepts and manages the ACE grant in addition to the £500,000 committed by the Council, required repair works can begin in Spring 2024. This secures the future sustainability of the building. If committee approve, the joint project board can progress revision of the project budget, cost plan and delivery plan as soon as possible
- 6.2 If committee do not agree, the grant will be returned to ACE. The future of the building could be at risk, with potential closures, if the building becomes unviable for public opening. In the longer term, the Council could be liable to cover extensive costs to repair the roof. As with any capital works to heritage buildings, there is a risk of cost overrun. This will be carefully mitigated through the project board.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 A budget of £1.260m was originally approved in December 2019 and included in the Council's Capital Investment Programme. The budget was met though a council contribution from capital receipts of £0.500m and

capital borrowing of £0.760m financed by the RPMT. The ACE grant of £1.464m together with the Council's contribution of £0.500m will provide a total budget of £1.964m to support Museum works. The ACE grant funding will replace the original proposed borrowing which will negate the need for the RPMT to meet revenue financing costs, and in turn strengthen the RPMT's financial viability. In the event that the cost of the works exceeds the £1.964m budget, RPMT will draw down capital borrowing and meet the financing costs as per the original business model.

- 7.2 A revised grant funding agreement will be provided by Arts Council England to include the Council as grant holders following approval of the novation by the Council. The terms of the grant will remain the same which will be a sum ringfenced to support the agreed capital project plan of the museum development. Following receipt of the new grant agreement the revised capital budget will be incorporated into the Council's Capital Investment Programme and reported through the TBM process and at the joint project board.

Name of finance officer consulted: Rob Allen

Date consulted: 02/01/23

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 Legal Services will draft the agreement between RPMT and the Council to ensure that where possible risks and liabilities and obligations relating to the project are passed on to RPMT. As set out in the body of the report there will be some additional tasks which will fall to the Council as a result of the proposed novation and the Council will be responsible to ACE for the project.

Name of lawyer consulted: Alice Rowland Date consulted: 15/12/22

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 None

10. Sustainability implications

- 10.1 Carrying out capital works to Brighton Museum roof provides an opportunity to increase energy efficiency for the building. This is supported by Historic England who were provided with a tour of the building by the Trust.
- 10.2 Health and safety in the museum building will be improved through securing and /or removing brittle greenhouse glass, which currently forms part of the roof's structure.

11. Other Implications

Social Value and procurement implications

- 11.1 The tender process will be undertaken by RPMT. This will be in accordance with BHCC's Contract Standing Orders and current Public Contract

Regulations (2015) Act. Tender evaluation criteria will include a minimum of 10% for Social Value and 10% Sustainability. This is a below threshold tender but is still subject to transparency requirements.

Crime & disorder implications:

11.2 None

Public health implications:

11.3 None

Supporting Documentation

None

