



# Council Consultation on Election Cycle

We would like to hear your views on whether we should change to whole council elections every four years, or whether we should keep the current system of 'elections by thirds'.

We are carrying out a consultation which runs until 31 January 2022.

We have included some background information below, along with the main arguments for both electoral cycles.

## Our council

Harlow Council has 33 Councillors who represent 11 wards. Every ward has three councillors, who are elected for four years.

## Current cycle – elections by thirds

The Council holds elections for one seat in every ward for three successive years out of four.

## Whole council elections

Under this system, all councillors would be elected at the same time, once every four years.

This would not affect other elections such as parliamentary, county council and police, fire and crime commissioner elections.

## How to have your say

You can complete the online survey at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or complete the form overleaf.

## Outcome of consultation

The Council has the power to change its election cycles under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Following the consultation a meeting of the Full Council on 24 February 2022 will consider whether to change the electoral cycle or to keep it as it is.

If the election cycle were changed this would happen from May 2024.

<b>Why keep elections by thirds</b>	<b>Why change to whole council elections</b>
<p>More frequent opportunities to make your views known with more immediate political accountability.</p> <p>Greater continuity of Councillors as they can't all be replaced in a single election.</p> <p>Gradual change that retains knowledge and experience whilst allowing for new councillors with new ideas.</p> <p>Voting for one councillor at an election is simpler and understood by voters.</p>	<p>Four year mandates and less focus on yearly campaigning.</p> <p>Lower cost as elections won't take place every year.</p> <p>Allows for a complete change in councillors once every four years and we can have single or multi-member wards.</p> <p>Fewer elections may reduce election fatigue which may increase turnout.</p>

## Have your say

Keep elections by thirds

Change to whole council election

**What are your reasons for your choice above? (optional)**

Completed forms can be handed in at the Civic Centre, the Latton Bush Centre, Harlow Library, Old Harlow Library, Mark Hall Library, Great Parndon Library, or Tye Green Library.