



WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL: CHANGING TO WHOLE-COUNCIL ELECTIONS EXPLANATORY DOCUMENT

(Published in accordance with s35 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007)

Decision to adopt a new scheme for whole-council elections

At an Extraordinary Meeting of Worcester City Council held on 22 February 2022, the Council resolved to adopt, from May 2024, a new **scheme for whole-council elections**, under section 34 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (**the Act**).

This means that, from 2024, the Council will only hold its own elections once every four years and each time it does so, all of its Councillors will be elected.

This decision was made by the Councillors of Worcester City Council, in accordance with section 33 of the Act, which required a majority of at least two thirds of the Councillors voting on it.

[View the Council report, the appendix summarising the findings of the public consultation, the minutes of the meeting and the video recording of the meeting.](#)

Background

Before this decision was taken, Worcester City Council's electoral arrangements have been that Councillors are elected 'by thirds', in that a third of the seats are up for election each year for three consecutive years, before one year in which no district council elections are held.

The law makes it clear that it is for a local council to decide whether to keep or change its electoral arrangements as set out in legislation, but that before voting to change its electoral arrangements, the Council should take reasonable steps to consult such persons as it thinks appropriate on the proposed change.

The Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 14 December 2021 resolved to commence a consultation process on whether to change the Council's electoral cycle to whole council elections or stay with elections by thirds, which was the

existing arrangement. Another option set out in legislation, which is elections by halves, was not available to this Council.

During January and February 2022, the Council undertook a three-week public consultation and wrote to statutory organisations as well as its residents' panel. The consultation was publicised using press releases, social media campaigns and via the Council's website. [A summary of the consultation responses is available in the report appendix to the Council meeting.](#)

The Councillors debated arguments for and against the current arrangements. [These are set out in the report to and the minutes of the meeting.](#)

The Council resolved to move to elections every four years. The first year of the new arrangements is 2024 which means that the current arrangements, elections by thirds, will continue until then.

Contact details

In accordance with section 35 of the Act this explanatory document is available for public inspection at the Council's principal office at the Guildhall at all reasonable times.

It is also available to the public through the Council's website at www.worcester.gov.uk

The Council's principal office address is: Worcester City Council, Guildhall, High Street, Worcester, WR1 2EY

For more information please contact: electoralservices@worcester.gov.uk