

## CHANGING TO WHOLE COUNCIL ELECTIONS NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### EXPLANATORY DOCUMENT

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

From May 2024, local elections in North Herts be held once every four years (known as 'all-out' or 'whole council' elections), instead of the current regime of electing 'by thirds'.

District Councillors at North Herts Council are currently elected 'by thirds', meaning that elections take place in three out of every four years, with one third of Councillors being elected each time. The new arrangement from May 2024 will mean that all Councillors are elected at the same time for a four-year term of office.

The decision was made at an Extraordinary Council meeting on 7 December 2021, specifically convened to debate the issue, following public consultation. The agenda for this meeting is available to view via this [link](#).

The decision to move to whole council elections as of May 2024 applies only to District Council elections.

North Herts Council made this decision in accordance with section 33 of the Act, which required a two thirds majority of members voting.

Some of the reasons for Councillors opting to change the electoral cycle were to reduce fatigue amongst voters, Councillors and those involved with the elections, clarity for the electorate that an election will be held once every four years and to enable the council to adopt a strategic and long-term approach to policy and decision-making.

Public Consultation was conducted between 4 October 2021 and 8 November 2021 with 54% in favour of the change and 46% wanting the system to stay as it is.

*[Please note Town and Parish elections are outside of this process.]*

In accordance with section 35 of the Act, this explanatory document is available for public inspection at all reasonable times at the Council's principle office: North Herts Council, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 3JF and is available to view on the Councils website (insert link to page)