

Section 35 Notice - Change to whole-council elections

BASILDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHANGING TO WHOLE-COUNCIL ELECTIONS

(EXPLANATORY DOCUMENT)

(Published in accordance with Section 35 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007)

Decision to adopt a new scheme for whole- council elections

At a Special Meeting of the Basildon Borough Council on Thursday 20th of March 2025, Basildon Borough Council decided to change to a **scheme for whole- council elections**, under Section 34 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (**the Act**).

This means that, in May 2028, and every fourth year afterwards, electors in Basildon Borough Council will vote to elect all 42 councillors simultaneously.

This decision was made by the 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 here, and the YouTube recording of the meeting on our website, here: [Basildon Council - Agenda for Council on Thursday, 20th March, 2025, 7.30 p.m.](#)

Background

Before this decision was taken, Basildon Borough 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 borough council elections are held, for example there are no borough council elections in Basildon in 2025.

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.

At a Full Council Meeting on 16th January 2025, Members were advised that in their review of the council's electoral boundaries in 2023, the Boundary Commission for England recommended that Basildon Borough Council move to all-out elections. At present around 70% of councils elect their Councillors this way. At the meeting of 16th January 2025, Councillors resolved to commence consultation on the council proposal to change the election cycle from elections by thirds to whole-council elections every four years from May 2028.

The Councillors also approved the consultation process set out in the report and resolved that an Extraordinary meeting of the council be convened for 20 March 2025 in advance of the Ordinary Council meeting to consider the results of the consultation.

The Council undertook a public consultation. The consultation was publicised using the Council's website using an on-line consultation form. The consultation ran for a period of 6 weeks from 27th January 2025 to 9th March 2025. Hard copies of the consultation form were also given to the Council's contact centre. 62% of those who submitted responses to the consultation were in favour of the change and 38% were against.

At a specially convened meeting on 20 March 2025, the Councillors debated arguments for and against the current arrangements. Some of the reasons for voting in favour of the change were: a clear mandate for 4 years allows for a more strategic, long-term approach to policy and decision-making, a more clearly understood 4-year election cycle may increase voter turn-out numbers, less costly and less disruptive to public buildings for example schools using a polling venues. The first year of the new arrangements is May 2028.

Contact Details

In accordance with section 35 of the Act, this explanatory document is available for public inspection at the Council's Offices at all reasonable times and available to the public on our website.

The Council's principal office address is Basildon Borough Council, The Basildon Centre, St. Martin's Square, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1DL