



Changing to whole council elections – explanatory document

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

Swindon Borough Council held an extraordinary meeting on 12 October 2023 and decided to change to a scheme for whole council elections. This means that, on 7 May 2026, and every fourth year afterwards, electors in Swindon will vote to elect all borough councillors simultaneously.

This decision was made by Swindon Borough Council following a vote requiring a two-thirds majority, in accordance with section 33 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the act). Accordingly, the Council has resolved to become subject to a scheme for whole-council elections under section 34 of the Act. A copy of the relevant Council report is attached to this explanatory document as an Appendix.

The Council conducted consultation in August and September regarding proposed changes to its electoral scheme. At that time Swindon's councillors were elected 'by thirds', as a third of the seats on the Council were up for election each year for three consecutive years, before one year in which no borough council elections were held. Each councillor would serve a term of four years regardless of the year in which they were elected.

The Council consulted with residents, parish and town councils, through our website, community groups, via Facebook and Twitter and council officers. The consultation asked whether the Council should remain with the election by thirds or move to a scheme for whole council elections whereby each councillor is still elected for four years but they are all elected at the same time at the beginning of the four years.

The level and detail of the response to the consultation is contained within the report.

In accordance with section 35 of the Act this explanatory document is available for public inspection at the Council's principal office at all reasonable times. It is also available to the public through the Council's website at www.swindon.gov.uk

The Council's principal office address is:

Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH

The hours of opening are:

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm