

CHANGING TO WHOLE COUNCIL ELECTIONS – EXPLANATORY DOCUMENT

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

Huntingdonshire District Council held a special meeting on 16 December 2015 and decided to change to a scheme for whole council elections. This means that, on 3 May 2018, and every fourth year afterwards, electors in Huntingdonshire will vote to elect all district councillors simultaneously. Huntingdonshire District Council also agreed to pass an Order to amend the scheme for parish and town council elections within Huntingdonshire so that from 2018 all town and parish council elections will continue to take place on the same day as elections for district councillors.

These decisions were made by Huntingdonshire District Council, following a vote requiring a two-thirds majority, in accordance with sections 32 to 35 and 53 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the Act). A copy of the relevant council report can be found [here](#).

Huntingdonshire's councillors currently are elected 'by thirds', as a third of the seats on the council are up for election each year for three consecutive years, before one year in which no district council elections are held. Councillors serve a term of four years regardless of the year in which they are elected.

The council conducted a consultation regarding proposed changes to its electoral scheme. It consulted with various interested parties including:

- district councillors
- county councillors
- town and parish councils
- neighbouring district / city councils
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- local Members of Parliament
- local Members of the European Parliament
- the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- the Hunts Forum of Voluntary Organisations.

The consultation has been featured on the council's website and printed copies of the consultation were available from the council's principal office. There also has been a press release. The consultation asked whether the council should elect one third of its councillors every year and have one year without an election or elect all of its councillors every four years? The level and detail of the response to the consultation is contained within the report to the council.

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](#).

The council's principal office address is:

Huntingdonshire District Council, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN

The hours of opening are: Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.