



Derby City Council

## Derby City Council Election Cycle CONSULTATION

**We want to know your views on how often we hold local elections**

### What is this survey about?

Derby City Council currently holds Local Elections three times in every four years, with a third of seats contested at each election. There is one year where no Local Elections take place. This is known as the 'fallow year'.

We are considering adopting a 'Whole Council Elections' model, whereby one election would be held every four years starting from 2022.

We last considered adopting a 'Whole Council Elections' model in 2016. Although this did not receive the required support of two-thirds of councillors, our consultation showed that residents of Derby supported this idea.

Since 2016 the Council has changed significantly. We now have an entirely different political and administrative leadership. As a result, a resolution was made by our councillors in November 2019 to revisit the decision.

As next year is a 'fallow year' under our current model, Local Elections will not be held in 2021. This makes 2020 a good time for this change to be considered. After Local Elections this May, Political Parties and the Council would have two years to prepare for our first 'Whole Council Election' in 2022, if councillors were to approve this change.

We would like to hear the views of everyone who lives in Derby on this matter. We would like to know whether you support changing to a 'Whole Council Elections' model or whether you would prefer us to keep our current 'Elections by Thirds' model.

## Background information

### Current arrangements - 'Elections by Thirds'

Under Derby's current model, voters go to the polls three times in every four years. On each occasion voting for 17 of the city's 51 councillors, except in the fourth year when there are no elections. This is known as a 'fallow year'.

### Alternative arrangements - 'Whole Council Elections'







Under this model, voters would go to the polls once every four years, but all 51 of the available seats would be contested at the same time. Under this model there would be no Local Elections during the intervening period, unless a by-election was required for a councillor resignation, retirement or other reason.

### What do other councils do?

There are 55 Unitary Authorities like Derby in England. Derby is one of 17 of the Unitary Authorities across England which hosts 'elections by thirds', with the remaining 38 councils use the 'whole council elections' model.

### So which is better?

Both models have their own advantages and disadvantages, which is why we want you to tell us which one you prefer. Please view some of the advantages of each model below:

Election by Thirds	Whole Council Elections
 <p>Allows electors the opportunity to vote more frequently, meaning there is a greater immediate political accountability</p>	 <p>Greater continuity provides more certainty and stability between elections, which helps longer-term planning</p>
 <p>Residents who already regularly vote in elections are used to going to the polls three years out of every four</p>	 <p>Easier to understand systems could increase turnout and would bring Derby's electoral cycle in line with majority of England</p>
 <p>Reduces the risk of by-elections costs as elections are scheduled more often</p>	 <p>Would save approximately £475,000 over four years due to fewer elections</p>

## What happens next?

We will use the responses to help councillors decide whether to continue using the current model by thirds or if not make changes to the election cycle in Derby. We will hold a special Council meeting to consider the proposal. If at this meeting a two-thirds majority of councillors support a change to the election cycle, the motion will be passed and we will move to four yearly 'Whole Council Elections'.

If the Council opted to change to 'Whole Council Elections', these would take place in 2022 and every four years after that. If the current system is retained, there would be a 'fallow year' without elections in 2021 followed by elections in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

The Local Elections due to be held on Thursday 7 May are unaffected by these proposals.

This consultation will be open for residents to have their say until **Monday 23 March 2020**.

If you have any questions or want more details please contact Democratic Services on 01332 643643 or email [Committee@derby.gov.uk](mailto:Committee@derby.gov.uk)

## Your consent to take part in the survey



All information provided will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. We will only use this information to inform decision making on Derby City Council's Election Cycle. All of the information you provide will remain confidential. Information provided by you will not be shared with any third party. Please see our attached privacy statement for more information.

**Q1 Do you consent to the processing and storing of your response for the purpose of this survey?**

*(Please select one. We will not process your answers if you select 'no'.)*

☐ Yes

☐ No, I do not wish to participate in the survey

## Your feedback

Q2 **Which option would you prefer for Derby residents to elect their councillors?**

*(Please select one)*

- ☐ **Change** to 'Whole Council Elections', with elections taking place once every four years
- ☐ **Keep** the current system of electing one third of councillors at a time, with elections taking place three years out of every four
- ☐ I have no preference

Q3 **Please tell us why you have responded this way?** *(Please write in the space below)*

Q4 **Is there anything else you would like us to consider?**

*(Please write in the space below)*

## About you

The next few questions will help us to make sure that we hear everyone's views, whatever your age, circumstance or background.

### Why are we asking these questions?

To comply with our legal equality responsibilities and understand what all sections of our community feel about our services and functions. We are particularly keen to know if people from equality groups or who have protected characteristics are taking part (as referred to in the Equality Act) so that we can make any appropriate changes. You can find out more about this in the guide to public authorities.

We would like people to complete these equality questions, but it is not essential. If you do not wish to complete them, please leave the questions blank.

### Are you...*(Please select one)*

- ☐ male?
- ☐ female?
- ☐ non-binary?

### Is your gender the same as you were assigned to at birth? *(Please select one)*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

### What was your age on your last birthday? *(Please tell us your age in years)*

### To which group do you consider you belong? *(Please select one)*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British - Indian           | <input type="radio"/> Dual Heritage - White and Black African                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British - Pakistani        | <input type="radio"/> Dual Heritage - White and Asian                               |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi      | <input type="radio"/> Any other Dual Heritage background                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British - Chinese          | <input type="radio"/> White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British |
| <input type="radio"/> Any other Asian background                | <input type="radio"/> White - Irish   |
| <input type="radio"/> Black or Black British - African          | <input type="radio"/> White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Black or Black British - Caribbean        | <input type="radio"/> Any other White background                                    |
| <input type="radio"/> Any other Black background                | <input type="radio"/> Other ethnic group - Arab                                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Dual Heritage - White and Black Caribbean | <input type="radio"/> Any other ethnic group  |

If you have selected one of the 'Any other background' options, please give further details.

**Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?** *(Please select one)*

☐ Yes

☐ No

**I consider myself to be...** *(Please select one)*

☐ heterosexual/straight

☐ bisexual

☐ a gay man

☐ a gay woman/lesbian

☐ Other

☐ Prefer not to say

**Do you have any religious beliefs?** *(Please select one)*

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Prefer not to say

**If yes, to which religion do you belong?** *(Please select one)*

☐ Buddhist

☐ Christian

☐ Hindu

☐ Jewish

☐ Muslim

☐ Sikh

☐ Other

☐ Prefer not to say

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.**

For further information, please contact Democratic Services tel: 01332 643643 or email: [Committee@derby.gov.uk](mailto:Committee@derby.gov.uk)

Please return your completed questionnaire by **Monday 23 March 2020** in the pre-paid envelope provided, you don't need a stamp. You can also return your completed form to us using your own envelope addressed to:

Election Cycle Consultation  
Derby City Council  
FREEPOST  
MID24259  
Derby  
DE1 2BR

We can give you this information in any other way, style or language that will help you access it. Please contact us on: 01332 640000 Minicom 01332 640666.

## **Corporate Consultation Privacy Notice**

### **How is your information used?**

You will be asked for your consent at the beginning of every paper based questionnaire. Where we have your consent we may use your information to:

- Inform the decision on which the consultation subject matter is based or the formation of the policy, service or event that the consultation is concerned with;
- Help us understand who takes part in our consultation in terms of gender, age, ethnicity and other demographic factors and how views differ across respondents;
- Send you communications which you have requested and that may be of interest.

### **Who has access to your information?**

We may share your information with the following third parties for the reasons detailed;

- A research company that we have commissioned to undertake consultation on our behalf. If this is the case it will be clear on all consultation materials that an external agency is conducting the consultation on our behalf and they too will be bound by GDPR.
- Internally with Council departments for the purpose of:
  - Giving feedback gathered in the consultation to the services to inform their work
  - At the consultees request where they have asked that we pass on their details to the relevant department to address a particular issue or concern
  - Where a safeguarding concern has been raised in a consultation response
- Statutory agencies, such as the Police or National Fraud Authority - we may share your information with statutory agencies in line with our legal obligations and/or in completion of our public tasks.

We will not sell or rent your information to third parties. We will not share your information with third parties for marketing purposes.

For further information about how your personal information will be used, please visit [www.derby.gov.uk](http://www.derby.gov.uk) where you can see a full copy of our Privacy Notice. Alternatively you can request a hard copy from - The Consultation Team, The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby, DE1 2FS. Telephone: 01332 640745, email: [yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk](mailto:yourcityyoursay@derby.gov.uk).