



Oversight and Governance

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CITY COUNCIL

Monday 16 September 2024
2.00 pm
Council House, Plymouth

Members:

Councillor Tuohy, Chair

Councillor Murphy, Vice Chair

Councillors Allen, Allison, Aspinall, Bannerman, Mrs Beer, Blight, Briars-Delve, Mrs Bridgeman, Coker, Cuddihee, Dann, Darcy, Dingle, Evans OBE, Finn, Freeman, Gilmour, Goslin, Haydon, Hendy, Holloway, Krizanac, Laing, Lawson, Loveridge, Lowry, Luggier, McCarty, McLay, McNamara, Moore, Morton, Ney, P.Nicholson, S.Nicholson, Noble, Penberthy, Penrose, Poyser, Raynsford, Reilly, Ricketts, Simpson, M.Smith, R.Smith, Sproston, Steel, Stephens, Stevens, Taylor, Tippetts, Tofan, Ms Watkin and Wood.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

You can watch any of our webcast meetings on [YouTube](#). For further information on attending Council meetings and how to engage in the democratic process please follow this link - [Get Involved](#)

Tracey Lee

Chief Executive

City Council

10. Electoral Review Update 2024

(Pages 1 - 10)

16. Motions on notice

To consider motions from councillors in accordance with Part B, paragraph 14 of the Constitution.

16A Motion on Notice - Community Cohesion

(Pages 11 - 12)

16B Motion on Notice - Plymouth Pensioners

(Pages 13 - 14)

City Council



Date of meeting:	16 September 2024
Title of Report:	Electoral Review Update 2024
Lead Member:	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)
Lead Strategic Director:	Tracey Lee (Chief Executive)
Author:	Liz Bryant
Contact Email:	liz.bryant@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for City Council to note the update on the Electoral Review relating to the 2026 and 2027 Local Elections

Recommendations and Reasons

Council is recommended to note the arrangements for elections in 2026 and 2027 arising from the electoral cycle and Boundary Commissions reviews.

Reason: To ensure that all members have clarity over the changes to the election cycles that will arise as a result of these reviews.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- I. None as the report is for noting

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Effective democratic leadership and good governance impacts upon all aspects of the Corporate Plan

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The electoral reviews will have an impact on staffing resources over several departments. This additional work will be programmed accordingly and managed through advance workforce planning.

Financial Risks

None as a direct result of this report

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None as a direct result of this report

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Electoral Review Briefing Note							
B	LGBCE Timetable							
C	Councillors up for election 2026							

Background papers: v

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 24.25 5.082	Leg	LS/00 0033 90/8/ LB/06 /0924	Mon Off	Click here to enter text.	HR	Click here to enter text.	Asset s	Click here to enter text.	Strat Proc	Click here to enter text.
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Liz Bryant											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? <input type="text" value="Choose"/>											
Date agreed: <input type="text" value="Date"/>											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE 'approved by email'											
Date approved: 09/09/2024											

ELECTION REVIEW UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2024



I. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Council is currently in the process of consulting on its electoral cycle by asking the public whether they have a preference for the current elections by thirds system or a change to whole Council elections. The Council committed to undergoing this consultation process in November 2022. The details of the consultation were approved by Audit and Governance Committee on 23 July 2024.
- 1.2. The consultation commenced on 24 July 2024 and will conclude on 22 September 2024. Whilst the result of any consultation conducted must be considered as part of the Council's decision-making process, it does not commit the council or any other entity to a particular course of action. Full Council is due to consider the result of the consultation at its meeting on 25 November 2024.
- 1.3. In addition to the electoral cycle consultation, the Boundary Commission is in the process of reviewing the number of elected members the Council requires, as well as ward boundaries and sizes. The Council has submitted its Council size submission following agreement by full Council on 24 June 2024. However, the Boundary Commission has now confirmed that it will not conduct its own consultation processes until such time as the Council has concluded its own consultation and decision-making process on the electoral cycle issue.
- 1.4. Consequently, the Boundary Commission has updated their review timetable and confirmed that the implementation of any changes will not take effect until 2027. This means that all out elections cannot take place in 2026, but instead will be held in 2027. The elections in 2026 will therefore be by thirds. In light of the change in cycle arising from both reviews, clarity is required as to the timetables for 2026 and 2027 which will be dependent on the result of the electoral cycle review. The Boundary Commission's amended timetable for its review is included at Appendix B. It should be noted that the timetable has been amended due to the Council's electoral cycle review being decided upon in November and the Commission's view being that it can no longer complete its review by 2026.

2. SCENARIO PLANNING

- 2.1. The result of the electoral cycle review and the Boundary Commission's new timetable give rise to two potential timelines for the Council's elections over the forthcoming three year, as per the table below.

Topic	Council decides to remain with current electoral cycle	Council decides to change to a 'whole council election' cycle
Dates of future elections	2026: election by thirds 2027: whole council election resulting from Boundary Commission 2028: election by thirds 2029: election by thirds 2030: fallow year	2026: election by thirds 2027: whole council election resulting from Boundary Commission 2028: no elections 2029: no elections 2030: no elections

	2031: election by thirds	2031: whole council election
Councillor retirement schedules	<p>Councillors who were elected in 2022 and therefore due to be re-elected in 2026 will have a one-year term.</p> <p>Councillors who were elected in 2023 and 2024 who were expecting to be up for election in 2026 will have an extended term to 2027. A schedule of member retirements based on year of election is included at Appendix C.</p> <p>The future councillor retirement schedule will be set out in the new Order resulting from the Boundary Commission review.</p>	<p>2026: councillors elected will have a one-year term (As per the schedule at Appendix C)</p>

3. REVIEW OF THE LEGISLATION

- 3.1. The relevant legislation states that the Boundary Commission must only make a Parliamentary Order for a new electoral scheme where a council is changing from whole elections to halves or thirds, and this will also automatically trigger the requirement for the Boundary Commission to consider whether an electoral review is required. When changing to whole council elections, there is no requirement for a Parliamentary Order to be made to change the scheme. The Council resolution to change to whole elections takes precedence.
- 3.2. If the Council decides to make a change to its scheme of elections, it must:
- Publicise the change, including producing an explanatory document which sets out the details of the new scheme including when the first elections will take place under the scheme
 - As soon as practicable after the resolution has been passed notify the Boundary Commission of the change.
 - Hold ordinary elections in accordance with the previous scheme until the year of change decided by the resolution of Council. This means that if the change is to take place in 2027, elections by thirds are a legislative requirement in 2026.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1. The Council must formally notify the Boundary Commission of its decision on 25 November in respect of the election cycle.
- 4.2. As soon as formal notice is received, the Boundary Commission will start their full electoral review. The formal notice of the Council's electoral cycle decision will inform the Boundary Commission's recommendations for consultation on Council size, warding patterns and corresponding number of councillors per ward.
- 4.3. Any new arrangements arising from the Boundary Commission's review will be laid before Parliament in the autumn of 2026 and will take effect in May 2027.
- 4.4. Irrespective of whether Council decides to remain with the current electoral cycle or change to all out elections, the law mandates that PCC must hold an election by thirds in May 2026, followed by all-out elections in May 2027 which is when any new warding arrangements will take effect.

Plymouth City Council: Electoral Review Timetable

These timetables outline the key dates and activities for both the Council (shown in bold) and the Commission during the review process.

Preliminary Period

Briefings	Attendees		Key Dates
	Council	LGBCE	
Preliminary Meeting	Council Leader Chief Executive	Chair Chief Executive	JJ/CEX - 4 Aug 2023 JJ&CM – 3 October 2023
Officer Briefing	Council Officers involved in review	Review Manager Review Officer	Officers – 9 October 2023
Group Leader Briefing	Council Group Leaders	Lead Commissioner Review Manager Review Officer	Group Leaders – 2 November 2023
Full Council Briefing	All Councillors	Lead Commissioner Review Manager Review Officer	Full Council – 22 November 2023
Parish/Town Council & Local Groups Briefing	Not required	Review Manager Review Officer	TBC

Council Size

Activity	Involvement		Key Dates
	Council	LGBCE	
Develop council size proposal	Council Political Groups	Officers will be available to answer any technical queries on making a submission.	Until November 2024
Submission of council size proposals	Council Political Groups	Officers will acknowledge receipt of submissions.	26 November 2024 (with addendum)
Commission Meeting: Council Size	Not required	Commission	21 January 2025

Warding Patterns

Activity	Involvement		Key Dates
	Council	LGBCE	
Consultation on warding patterns	Council Political Groups General Public	Run consultation, collate & analyse responses.	28 January 2025 – 7 April 2025
Commission Meeting: Draft Recommendations	Not required	Commission	15 July 2025
Consultation on Draft Recommendations	Council Political Groups General Public	Publish draft recommendations. Run consultation, collate & analyse responses.	29 July 2025 – 6 October 2025
Commission Meeting: Final Recommendations	Not required	Commission	16 December 2025
Final Recommendations Published	Not required	Commission publish final recommendations report and mapping	January 2026

Order

Activity	Involvement		Key Dates
	Council	LGBCE	
Order laid	Not required	Commission	Early Spring 2026
Order made	Not required	Commission	Late Spring 2026
Implementation	Council	Not required	May 2027

APPENDIX D

Councillor Retirement Schedule: 2026/27



Councillors whose seat was last up for election in 2022 – next up for election 2026

Ward	Councillor
Budshead	Lee Finn (Conservative)
Compton	Dylan Tippetts (Labour)
Devonport	Bill Stevens (Labour)
Drake	Charlotte Holloway (Labour)
Efford and Lipson	Neil Hendy (Labour)
Eggbuckland	Chip Tofan (Conservative)
Ham	Tina Tuohy (Labour)
Honicknowle	Zoe Reilly (Labour)
Moor View	Maddi Bridgeman (The Independents)
Peverell	Jeremy Goslin (Labour)
Plympton Chaddlewood	Ian Poyser (Green)
Plympton Erle	No election
Plympton St Mary	Ian Darcy (Conservative)
Plymstock Dunstone	Stefan Krizanac (Labour)
Plymstock Radford	Rebecca Smith (Conservative)
Southway	Andy Luggier (Conservative)
St Budeaux	Sally Haydon (Labour)
St Peter and the Waterfront	Alison Raynsford (Labour)
Stoke	Tom Briars-Delve (Labour)
Sutton and Mount Gould	Mary Aspinall (Labour)

Councillors whose seat was last up for election in 2024 – next up for election in 2027

Ward	Councillor
Budshead	Alison Simpson (Labour)
Compton	Matt Smith (Labour)
Devonport	Anne Freeman (Labour)
Drake	No election
Efford and Lipson	Paul McNamara (Labour)
Eggbuckland	Chris Wood (Conservative)
Ham	Kate Taylor (Labour)
Honicknowle	Ray Morton (Labour)
Moor View	Will Noble (Labour)
Peverell	Jamie Bannerman (Labour)
Plympton Chaddlewood	Lauren McLay (Green)
Plympton Erle	Andrea Loveridge (Independent)
Plympton St Mary	Sally Ann Nicholson (Independent)
Plymstock Dunstone	Maria Lawson (Labour)
Plymstock Radford	Daniel Steel (Labour)
Southway	Carol Ney (Labour)
St Budeaux	Josh McCarty (Labour)
St Peter and the Waterfront	Lewis Allison (Labour)
Stoke	Sally Cresswell (Labour)
Sutton and Mount Gould	Chris Cuddihee (Labour)

Councillors seat was last up for election in 2023 – next up for election in 2027

Ward	Councillor
Budshead	Kevin Sproston (Labour)
Compton	Angela Penrose (Labour)
Devonport	Mark Coker (Labour)
Drake	Steve Ricketts (Independent)
Efford and Lipson	Pauline Murphy (Labour)
Eggbuckland	Tess Blight (Labour)
Ham	Tudor Evans (Labour)
Honicknowle	Keith Moore (Labour)
Moor View	Lindsay Gilmour (Labour)
Peverell	Sarah Allen (Labour)
Plympton Chaddlewood	No election
Plympton Erle	Terri Beer (Independent)
Plympton St Mary	Patrick Nicholson (Independent)
Plymstock Dunstone	John Stephens (Labour)
Plymstock Radford	Kathy Watkin (Conservative)
Southway	Mark Lowry (Labour)
St Budeaux	John Dingle (Labour)
St Peter and the Waterfront	Chris Penberthy (Labour)
Stoke	Jemima Laing (Labour)
Sutton and Mount Gould	Sue Dann (Labour)

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MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 16 September 2024

Title of Motion:

Community Cohesion

Motion Narrative and Action Required:

Council Members are deeply saddened at the murders of three young girls in Southport on July 29th. This was a tragic and unnecessary loss of life. The Council is also saddened to hear of the many others injured in the incident.

This Council believes that:

- The tragedy in Southport was exploited by malign actors, enabling them to engage in mindless thuggery and vandalism, and terrifying many people in Plymouth and surrounding areas. Mis- and disinformation, driven by social media and influential public figures, played a significant role in inflaming tensions, damaging community cohesion and putting people at serious risk of harm. This was most visibly seen in the disgraceful attempt to set fire to an occupied building in Tamworth.
- The right to peaceful protest and freedom of speech are fundamental cornerstones of British democracy. However, vandalising and destroying people's property, targeting people based on their real or perceived beliefs and characteristics and intending to harm other people does not constitute either freedom of speech, or legitimate protest.
- The damage caused was not just to property but also to people's sense of safety, this will take longer to repair.
- The speedy response of the criminal justice system to identifying criminal activity, laying charges and bringing prosecutions is helping to rebuild confidence.
- Plymouth has a long-held ambition of being an outwardly looking, community minded and welcoming global city and will continue to build to make this ambition reality.
- Diversity enhances and enriches our city.
- The majority of Plymouth residents agree with these sentiments. We do not believe that the violent events around the protest held on the 5th August 2024 in our city centre reflect the values and opinions of most of the residents of Plymouth.

Members of Plymouth City Council want to sincerely thank:

- All Council Officers involved in the preparation for, and response to, the disruptive elements of the protest and particularly thank the Street Services Team who worked so quickly to tidy up the city centre.
- The officers of Devon & Cornwall Police for their actions to maintain law and order, ensure the public's safety and protect property.

- All the local court staff, Crown Prosecution Service staff and the Judiciary for bringing swift justice in response to criminal actions.
- Other partners who worked with us in advance of the events of 5 August 2024 and have continued to do so during the ongoing recovery phase.

This Council requests that:

- The Leader writes to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP, to call for a more robust counter-extremism strategy to identify and address the drivers of violence. This should encompass digital literacy, social cohesion and resilience building and also ensure that local authorities have dedicated resourcing to drive more localised responses to extremism and viral mis- and disinformation.
- The Chief Executive writes to the Home Office requesting direct annual funding for Plymouth's Community Safety Partnership from their Prevent Fund. This would enable the Partnership to have dedicated resources to roll out the annual recommendations set out in the Counter Terrorism Local Profile. It would also enable them to work within targeted communities to identify those susceptible to radicalisation and provide early interventions to identify vulnerable groups.
- The Leader and Chief Executive continue their proactive engagement with the government to request support for the Council and our partners through the ongoing recovery work needed as a result of the events of the 5th August 2024 and to make clear to government that this is done with the full backing of the Council.
- The Democratic Support Team ensures that all members are provided with a link to the online LGA Equalities and Diversity Training module. Further to this, that Group Leaders/Whips provide the Democratic Support Team with a list of members who have undertaken this training in order that the Chief Executive can report back on members undertaking this training to the next meeting of the Council.
- The Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships writes to all Plymouth schools stressing the importance of the new Plymouth Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education being used in all local schools as a foundation to promote knowledge and understanding of different communities and encourage the values of respect, tolerance, and the willingness to learn from others.

Proposer: Cllr Daniel Steel

Seconder: Cllr Tess Blight

MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 16 September 2024

Title of Motion:

Plymouth Pensioners

Motion Narrative and Action Required:

This Council notes gas and electricity prices are about to rise by 10% in England, Scotland and Wales from October this year. This Council further notes that 10 million pensioners will no longer receive Winter Fuel Payments to help with their bills as we approach the coldest time of the year.

The proposed cut will affect hundreds of Plymouth pensioners who desperately need this 'top up' to survive the winter months.

This Council asks the Leader to –

- write to the Chancellor and the Minister for Work and Pensions to make them aware of the situation many elderly Plymouth people will find themselves in and its potential impact on their health and well-being.
- ask the Department of Work and Pensions to investigate alternative ways of alleviating fuel poverty for those Plymouth pensioners so affected.

Proposer: Cllr Andy Lugg

Seconder: Cllr Ian Darcy

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