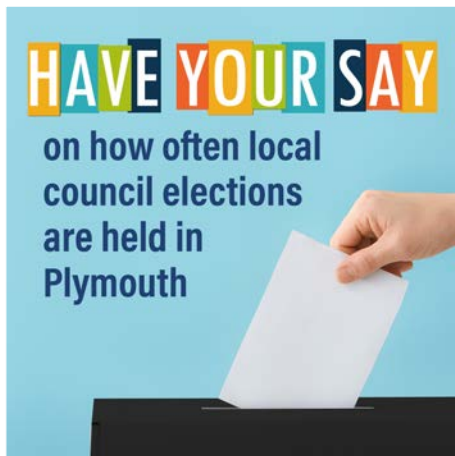


ELECTORAL CYCLE CONSULTATION COMMUNICATIONS ASSETS



SOCIAL MEDIA

Call to take survey...



ELECTORAL CYCLE CONSULTATION COMMUNICATIONS ASSETS



SOCIAL MEDIA

Electoral Cycle Explanation



ELECTORAL CYCLE CONSULTATION COMMUNICATIONS ASSETS



FACTSHEET

HAVE YOUR SAY

on how often local elections are held in Plymouth

Currently, Plymouth City Council uses an 'elections by thirds' system. This means a third of the city's 57 councillors are elected every year in a four-year cycle (with no elections in the fourth year).

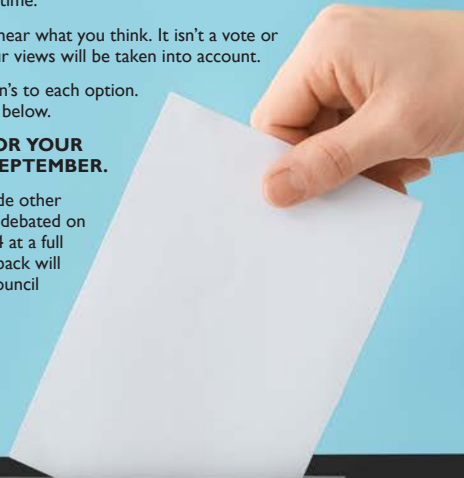
The Council is consulting with local people on whether or not it should move away from this approach and consider an alternative model where local elections are held every four years, with all 57 seats on the Council being contested at the same time.

The Council wants to hear what you think. It isn't a vote or a referendum. But, your views will be taken into account.

There are pro's and con's to each option. These are summarised below.

THE DEADLINE FOR YOUR FEEDBACK IS 22 SEPTEMBER.

Your feedback, alongside other considerations, will be debated on the 25 November 2024 at a full Council meeting. Feedback will be published on the Council website.



OUR CURRENT SYSTEM FOR ELECTIONS (called 'election by thirds')

Plymouth has 57 elected members, representing residents across 20 wards. Seventeen of these wards have three members, and three wards have two members.

The council currently uses a 'by thirds' electoral system. This means that over four years, elections are held in years one, two and three for one of the three councillors in each ward. There is no election every third year for the wards with only two members. In the fourth year there are no elections in any of the wards.

This model costs around £380k per election.

Perceived positives of this system:

- Process known and understood.
- More opportunities for voters.
- Councillors and political parties held to account by voters more regularly.
- Local issues not confused with national issues.
- Allows for gradual change at the Council.
- Can ensure that the political composition of authorities more accurately reflects the local political context.
- Continuity of Councillors.

Perceived negatives of this system:

- Less stability – regular changes of political control can affect local businesses and Council services.
- Confusing for the electorate as to which candidate is to be elected and what the process is.
- It is difficult to see through major policy decisions, or large infrastructure or regeneration projects in a single year.
- Difficult or unpopular decisions can be put off for future years, rather than taken when needed.
- Constant year on year campaigning by councillors and political parties may lead to voter fatigue and a lack of interest.

ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM FOR ELECTIONS (called 'all out elections')

This alternative model would see all councillors up for election at the same time once every four years.

Perceived positives of this system:

- Electorate can vote on four-year manifestos and long-term commitments.
- Clearer opportunity for the electorate to change the political composition of the Council.
- Electors more likely to understand the election cycle.
- Same electoral cycle as Police and Crime Commissioner which take place every four years.
- Fewer elections may mean less election fatigue and voter apathy.
- Reduced costs. A local election every year costs around £380k every year. If we move to conducting elections every four years, it is estimated that we will save £1.4m.

Perceived negatives of this system:

- Risk that some electors will disengage.
- Risk that such a change would be perceived as less democratic.
- A large turnover of councillors may lead to disruption, particularly if the direction of the council is changed significantly.
- Political complacency.
- May lead to more by-elections taking place and an increase in costs.
- Potential loss of experienced councillors.
- Less frequent elections could be detrimental to encouraging candidates to stand for election as the opportunity to serve on the Council will be less frequent.

If you require consultation information in a different format e.g. other languages / large print – please email elections@plymouth.gov.uk

If you want to have your say, go to: www.plymouth.gov.uk/xxxxx by 22 September 2024.

ELECTORAL CYCLE CONSULTATION COMMUNICATIONS ASSETS



POSTER / FLYER



HAVE YOUR SAY

on how often local council elections are held in Plymouth

Should Plymouth City Council:

Change to 'Whole Council Elections'
(One election every four years, where all councillors are elected at the same time)

OR

Keep the current system
(One councillor in each ward is elected every year for a four-year term. Elections occur every year, for three years, with no election in the fourth year)

Take the survey and give your views at:
www.plymouth.gov.uk/xxxxx
by 22 September 2024.

