



**What do  
you think?**

# **Peterborough City Council Local Elections Public Consultation Report**



Consultation: 25 July 2022 – 19 September 2022. Extended to the 26 September 2022

Report: 27 September 2022

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# 1.0 Executive Summary

Peterborough City Council consulted the public on whether it should change to whole council ('all out') elections or continue with the current system of 'elections by thirds'.

The council currently uses a 'by thirds' electoral system for 18 of its 22 wards\*. This means that over four years, elections are held in years one, two and three for one of the three councillors in each of the 18 wards. In the fourth year there are no elections. The change to whole council ('all out') elections would mean the whole council would be elected at the same time once every four years. \* West ward and Ginton & Castor ward currently have elections in years two and three whereas Barnack ward and Wittering ward already have elections every 4 years.

The proposal to move to whole elections ('all out') came out of a recent External Assurance Governance Review report, commissioned by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

This consultation relates only to Peterborough City Council local elections (including parish). No other elections will be affected by any future change in Peterborough City Council's electoral cycle. Parliamentary elections, Combined Authority Mayoral elections and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections will continue their normal electoral cycle.

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement Health Act 2007, amended by the Localism Act 2011, the council has the power to change its electoral arrangements to whole council ('all out') elections. This allows the council itself to decide whether to move to whole council ('all out') elections, or continue elections by thirds.

Through this consultation people were asked to provide their view on if the Council should move to whole 'all out' election system, where the whole council would be elected at the same time once every four years.

The findings of the consultation were:

**Do you think councillors should be voted for at the same time, meaning there is only one election every four years?**

- 64.66% said 'Yes'
- 35.34% said 'No'

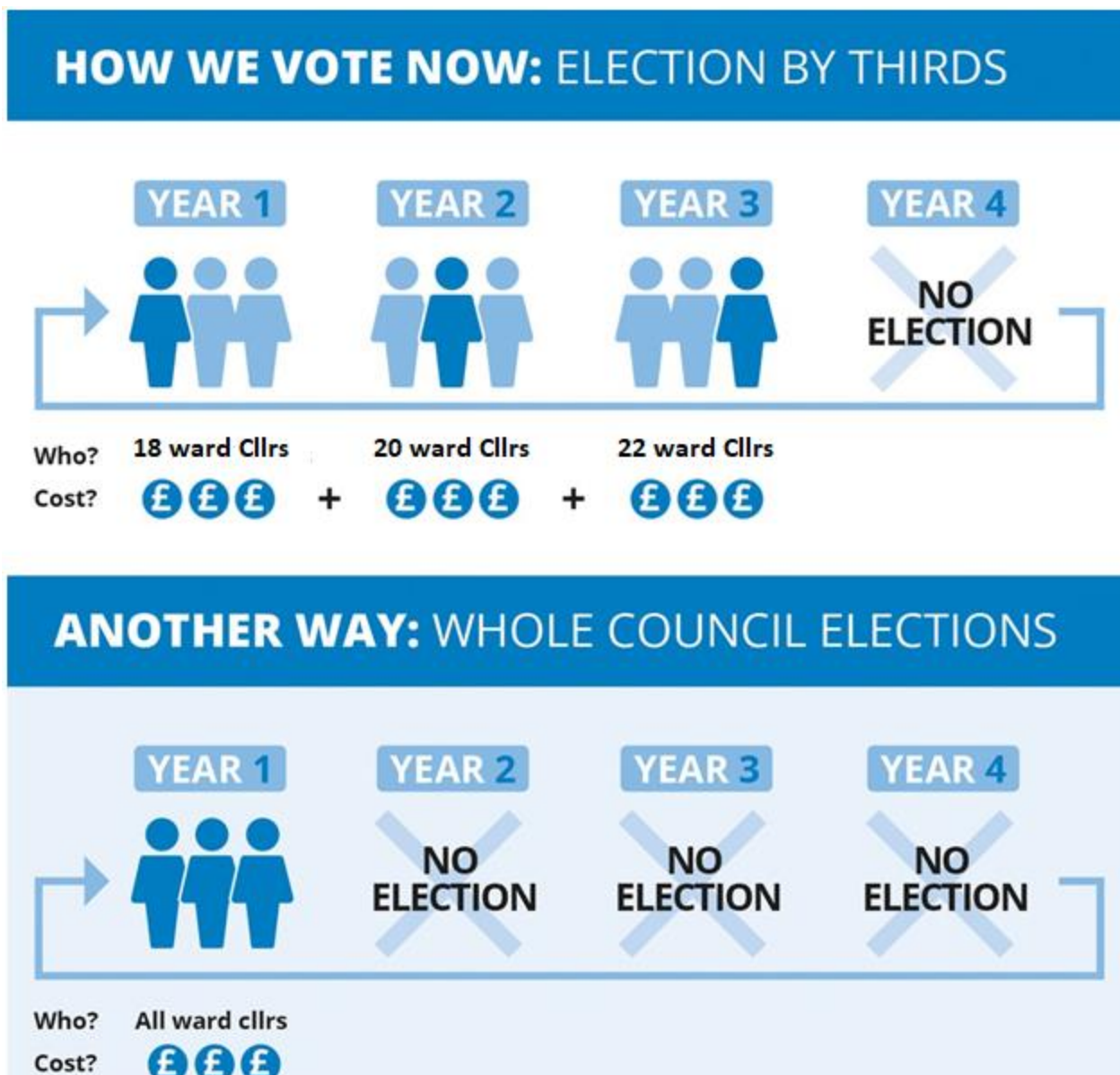


Figure 1: Illustration of Council election systems

## 2.0 Methodology

Through the elections consultation people were asked to tell us their view on a possible move to whole ‘all out’ electoral system. A set of background information was provided to enable residents to be informed to answer the question.

The poll question was ***“Do you think councillors should be voted for at the same time, meaning there is only one election every four years?”*** The options were to say ***Yes or No.***

Following the consultation, the feedback will be considered at a specially convened meeting of Council on 12 October 2022.

The consultation was carried out between 25 July 2022 – 19 September 2022, with a further week extension until 26 September 2022, due to the death of the Queen. The approach used was primarily an online public consultation through the Peterborough City Council website with a page dedicated to the Elections Consultation <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/consultations/consultation-to-change-scheme-of-elections>. Paper copies of the consultation were also made available at council buildings and the Libraries.

### 2.1 The Poll

Following closure of the consultation, the online and paper copy responses were collated and reported as one result.

### 2.2 Interpretation of Results

In terms of the results, it is important to note that the public consultation is not representative of the overall population but provides information on the opinion of those residents who engaged.

## 3.0 Results

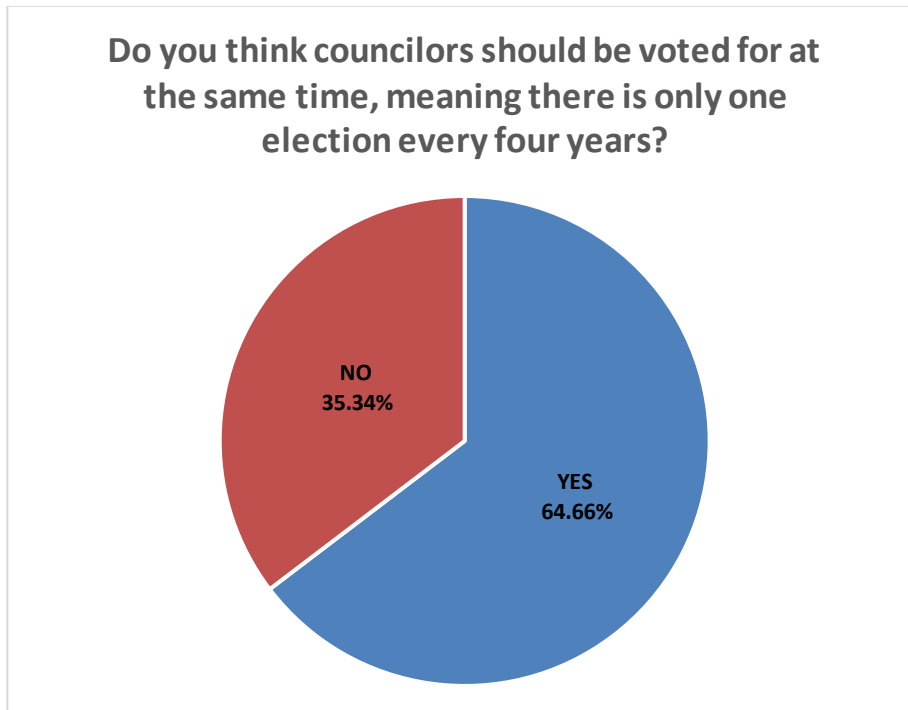
***Do you think councillors should be voted for at the same time, meaning there is only one election every four years?***

232 people contributed to the consultation, 228 took the online poll and 3 people responded using a paper copy of the poll. We also received 1 response via email from the MP for Peterborough.

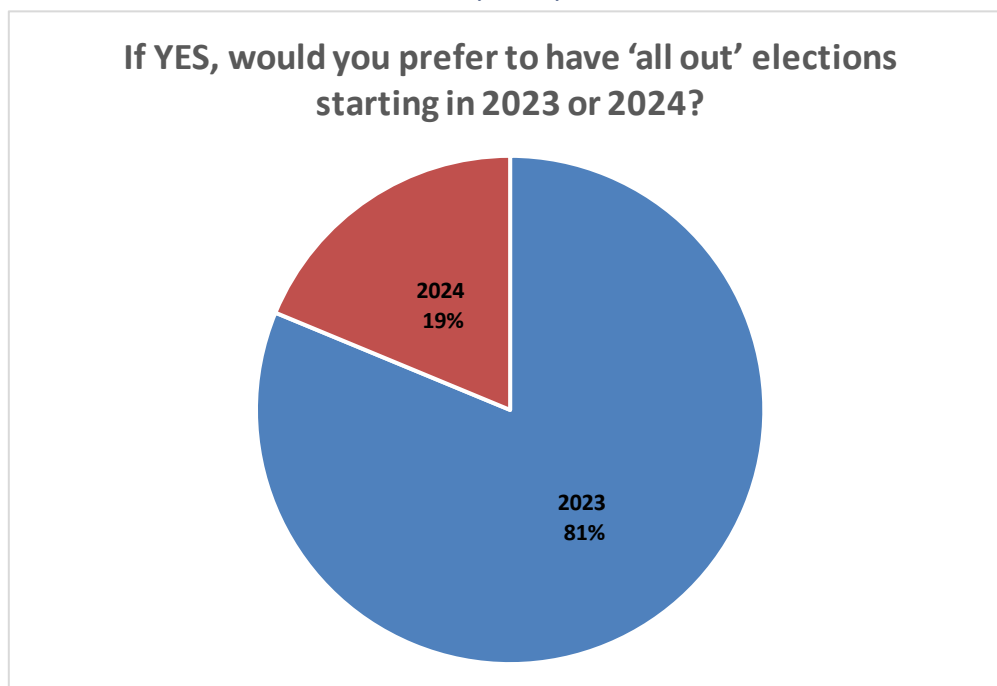
Most people 150 (64.66%) thought that the council should move to an ‘all out’ electoral system. 82 (35.34%) did not think the council should move to this system and remain at ‘thirds’.

***If YES, would you prefer to have ‘all out’ elections starting in 2023 or 2024?***

Of the people who gave a preference as to when the council should move to an ‘all out’ electoral system, 130 (81.25%) thought they should commence in 2023 with 30 (18.75%) thinking they should commence in 2024.



*Figure 2: Do you think councilors should be voted for at the same time, meaning there is only one election every four years?*



*Figure 3: If YES, would you prefer to have ‘all out’ elections starting in 2023 or 2024?*