

INTRODUCTION

The London Borough of Harrow was created by the London Government Act 1963, together with 31 other London Boroughs. These assumed full powers from former authorities on 1 April 1965.

From May 1964 until May 1978 there were 65 members of the Council of the London Borough of Harrow — 9 Aldermen, and 56 Councillors elected from 15 wards. The composition of the Council changed following the London Borough of Harrow (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978: the office of Alderman was abolished and the May 1978 Borough Elections saw 63 Councillors elected from 21 wards of approximately equal electorates (each ward electing three Councillors).

In the summer of 1998, the Local Government Commission for England commenced a boundary review of the wards of all London Boroughs. Ward boundary changes for Harrow were published in the Commission's report no. 96, and the new wards were used for the first time at the 2002 Borough Election.

At the end of July 2018, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England commenced a review of Harrow's electoral arrangements and ward boundaries; at the same time reviews started for 24 other London Boroughs. The Commission stated that it would recommend a Council size of 55 for Harrow, a reduction of 8 Councillors. At the conclusion of the consultation process, the Commission published their final recommendations in May 2019: Harrow's Councillors would no longer be elected from a uniform pattern of three-member wards but from a mixture of two- and three-member wards. Full details were contained in the appropriate Order: the London Borough of Harrow (Electoral Changes) Order 2020 (S.I. 2020/72).

The radical nature of the outcome of the review — in Council size, ward structure and boundaries — meant it was no longer practical to continue to revise and extend the previous publication in this series, namely *Harrow Votes: The London Borough of Harrow, 2002-2021*. The results contained in this book are therefore those of the 2022 Borough Election and of any subsequent by-elections.

At the time of the 2011 Census, the population of the London Borough of Harrow was just over 239,100. It showed that Harrow had a very diverse population: 31.9% of residents stated that they were White-British and 69.1% that they came from a minority ethnic group. The Census also showed that Harrow had the largest percentage in England and Wales of people with the Hindu faith (25.3%), the highest number of Jains (2.2%) and the sixth highest with the Jewish faith (4.4%). 37.3% were classified as Christians and 12.5% as Muslims. The first results from the 2021 Census, held on 27 March, showed that since the previous Census, the population of Harrow had risen by 22,200 to 261,300, a change of +9.3%.

Harrow Council administers an area of 12,367 acres (5,005 hectares).