

INTRODUCTION

The Council of the London Borough of Harrow was created by the London Government Act 1963 with first elections taking place on 7 May 1964. Full powers were assumed on 1 April 1965 after the Council acted as a “shadow” to the previous authority, the Council of the Municipal Borough of Harrow.

The London Government Act created 31 other London Boroughs and also the Greater London Council. By the Act, Harrow’s local government neighbours became the London Boroughs of Hillingdon, Ealing, Brent and Barnet. To the north of Harrow was the county of Hertfordshire and the Watford Rural, Bushey Urban, and Elstree Rural District Council areas. After local government reorganisation in April 1974 Watford Rural District became part of the new Three Rivers District, whilst Bushey Urban District and Elstree Rural District became part of the new Hertsmere District Council.

Harrow was unique among all the newly-formed London Boroughs in that the new authority took over the administration of just one local government area — the Municipal Borough of Harrow — in its entirety. Consequently there was no alteration of Borough or ward boundaries, although the number of Councillors representing each ward was modified.

The composition of the Council was 56 Councillors and 9 Aldermen. Each of the wards elected three, four or five Councillors, dependent on the size of the electorate. Electors had as many votes as there were Councillors for the ward. The Aldermen on the Council (being not more than one-sixth the number of Councillors) were elected by the Councillors from among themselves or from persons qualified to be Councillors. Half the number of Aldermen retired at election times.

The 1963 Act provided for the first elections of the Borough to be held in May 1964 and every third year thereafter. This was amended by the London Government Act 1967, which postponed elections for one year, so that they would take place in May 1968 and every third year thereafter. Consequently the term of office of the Aldermen elected in 1964 increased by one year, so that retirement years would now be 1968 and 1971.

Aldermen in England and Wales, except for the London Boroughs, were abolished in 1974 under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972. In 1976 the Home Secretary made an Order under the Act extending the term of office of London Borough Councillors by one year, so making the next elections in 1978. The Order also had the effect of extending the term of Aldermen in the London Boroughs by one year until the office was finally abolished in May 1978.

At the May 1978 election the Councillors were elected from a new set of wards, details of which are given in Appendix Q. Election results can be found in the companion volume *Harrow Votes: The London Borough of Harrow 1978-2001*.

Between 1964 and 1978 the London Borough of Harrow had an area of 12,555 acres (5,081 hectares) and a population of approximately 205,000.