

## 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 in May 1978 following the Borough Elections, when 63 Councillors were elected from 21 wards of approximately equal electorates, each ward electing three Councillors. The wards were created by The London Borough of Harrow (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978. At the same time the office of Alderman was abolished.

In the summer of 1998, the Local Government Commission for England commenced a boundary review of the wards of all London Boroughs. The ward changes for Harrow were published as their report no. 96, and the new ward structure was used for the first time at the 2002 Borough Election.

The change in the ward boundaries meant it was no longer practical to revise and extend a previous publication in this series, namely *Harrow Votes: The London Borough of Harrow, 1978-2001*. The results contained in this book are therefore those of the 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018 Borough Elections and of intervening and subsequent by-elections. The current volume can be used in conjunction with the 1978-2001 volume, but as a result of the redrawn ward boundaries the statistics should only be compared in the pre-2002 and post-2002 periods for the following six wards: Harrow on the Hill, Harrow Weald, Pinner South (formerly Pinner West), Stanmore Park, Wealdstone and West Harrow (formerly Ridgeway), where the boundary changes were of a minor nature in terms of electorate.

Before the next Borough Election takes place in 2022 it is expected that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England will conduct a review of Harrow's electoral arrangements and ward boundaries.

At the time of the 2001 Census, the population of the London Borough of Harrow was just over 206,800, an increase of 3,800 compared to 1991. However, the 2011 Census showed a large jump in the population to 239,100, an increase of 32,300 (15.6%) since 2001.

The 2011 Census 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.

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