

You are hereby summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of the

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Date: Wednesday 29 September 2021

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre, Mote Park, Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors Bartlett, Mrs Blackmore, Brice, Brindle, Bryant, Burton, Cannon, Clark, Coates, Cooke, Cooper, Cox, Cuming, Daley, English, Eves, Fissenden, Forecast, Fort, Garten, Mrs Gooch (Mayor), Mrs Grigg, Harper, Harwood, Hastie, Hinder, Holmes, Joy, Khadka, Kimmance, McKay, McKenna, Mortimer, Munford, Naghi, Newton, Parfitt-Reid, Perry, Purle, Mrs Ring, Mrs Robertson, D Rose, M Rose, Round, Russell, J Sams, T Sams, Spooner, Springett, Trzebinski, R Webb, S Webb, de Wiggondene-Sheppard, Wilby and Young

AGENDA

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1. Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Dispensations (if any)
4. Disclosures by Members and Officers
5. Disclosures of Lobbying
6. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information.
7. Petitions
8. Question and Answer Session for Members of the Public
9. Questions from Members of the Council to the Chairmen of Committees

Issued on Tuesday 21 September 2021
Over/:

Continued

Alison Broom

Alison Broom, Chief Executive

10. Report of the Democracy and General Purposes Committee held on 8 September 2021 - Whole Council Elections - Decision Stage 1

INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

In order to ask a question at this meeting, please call **01622 602899** or email committee@maidstone.gov.uk by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting (i.e. by 5 p.m. on Monday 27 September 2021). You will need to provide the full text in writing.

Questions must relate to a matter to be discussed at the meeting.

In order to make a statement in relation to an item on the agenda, please call **01622 602899** or email committee@maidstone.gov.uk by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting (i.e. by 5 p.m. on Monday 27 September 2021). You will need to tell us which agenda item you wish to speak on.

If you require this information in an alternative format please contact us, call **01622 602899** or email committee@maidstone.gov.uk.

To find out more about the work of the Council, please visit www.maidstone.gov.uk.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

29 SEPTEMBER 2021

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRACY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2021

WHOLE COUNCIL ELECTIONS – DECISION STAGE

Issue for Decision

To consider the results of the consultation carried out on whole council elections and decide whether or not to change to whole council elections.

Recommendations Made

That Council agrees the following motion, with a requirement of a majority of at least two-thirds of the members voting on it, for it to be implemented:

“That Maidstone Borough Council hereby adopts a scheme of whole council elections, meaning an electoral cycle of one election every four years with all councillors being elected, with the first such election being in 2024.”

Reasons for Recommendation

At its meeting on 8 September 2021, the Committee considered the outcomes of the public consultation on whole council elections. 3,130 responses were received and of the respondents who expressed a preference, 71.6% were in favour of whole council elections, and the result was within the margin of error that would be expected for a survey of that scale.

The Committee also considered the agreed whole council election factors, political factors, survey response, financial implications and other relevant considerations in deciding whether to recommend whole council elections to Council.

A date of 2024 was recommended as it meets the requirements of not being a county council election year and is the year that the Council will already have all out elections in response to the Local Government Boundary Review.

Alternatives Considered and Why Not Recommended

To not agree to change to whole council elections, but in the event that Council does not achieve the necessary majority to change to whole council elections the Committee resolved the following:

In the event that Council does not accept the recommendation, a report be brought back to the Committee on further options such as a referendum.

Background Documents

None

Appendices

None