

Local council by-elections You are in the Types of elections section Home Voter Types of elections Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location.

First published: 8 June 2023 Last updated: 6 July 2023 Local council by-elections A local council by-election happens when a councillor leaves their seat during their term. A seat can become vacant when a councillor: resigns or dies is declared bankrupt is disqualified from being a councillor is convicted of a serious criminal offence When the seat becomes vacant, a local by-election will be called if an election is requested by electors registered to vote in the local area. Who can vote in these elections To vote at a local council by-election you must be registered to vote and: be 18 years of age or over on polling day, or be over 16 years of age in Scotland and Wales be a British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or a qualifying foreign national who is living in Scotland or Wales and has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need such permission be resident at an address in the UK (or a UK citizen living abroad who has been registered to vote in the UK in the last 15 years) not be legally excluded from voting information about who is eligible to vote . Voting in these elections Local council elections in England use the first-past-the-post system. Councillors in England sit for a four-year term. However, when a councillor is elected through a by-election, they will serve for the remainder of the original term. For example, if a by-election takes place one year after the scheduled local election for that seat, the councillor who is elected will serve for three years until the next scheduled local election. Voting in these elections Local council elections in Wales use the first-past-the-post system. Councillors in Wales sit for a five-year term. However, when a councillor is elected through a by-election, they will serve for the remainder of the original term. For example, if a by-election takes place one year after the scheduled local election for that seat, the councillor who is elected will serve for four years until the next scheduled local election. Voting in these elections Local council elections in Northern Ireland use the single transferable vote system. Councillors in Northern Ireland sit for a four-year term. However, when a councillor is elected through a by-election, they will serve for the remainder of the original term. For example, if a by-election takes place one year after the scheduled local election for that seat, the councillor who is elected will serve for three years until the next scheduled local election. Voting in these elections Local council elections in Scotland use the single transferable vote system which means that you vote using numbers. Your ballot paper will list all the candidates standing for election in your council ward.

Councillors in Scotland sit for a four-year term. However, when a councillor is elected through a by-election, they will serve for the remainder of the original term. For example, if a by-election takes place one year after a local election, the councillor who is elected will serve for three years until the next local election. Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. Related content Types of elections about the types of elections in the UK. Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Which elections you can vote in Learn more about which elections you can vote in. Voting in person Voting in person on polling day? Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station.