



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government**
4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

www.gov.uk/mhclg

To: Chief Executives in Surrey – by email

Elmbridge Borough Council
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Guildford Borough Council
Mole Valley District Council
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Runnymede Borough Council
Spelthorne Borough Council
Surrey County Council
Surrey Heath Borough Council
Tandridge District Council
Waverley Borough Council
Woking Borough Council

12 February 2025

Dear Chief Executives

The [Local Authorities \(Changes to Years of Ordinary Elections\) \(England\) Order 2025](#) was laid in Parliament today; it will come into force on 4 March 2025.

The Order postpones elections to East Sussex, West Sussex, Essex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Norfolk, Suffolk, Surrey, and Thurrock, for one year and extends the terms of incumbent councillors accordingly.

The Order also provides that vacancies arising in the six-month period prior to the May 2025 elections which would ordinarily have been filled at the May 2025 elections can be filled through by-elections; any such by-elections must take place in the period between the coming into force of the instrument on 4 March 2025 and 1 May 2025.

The instrument also makes consequential amendments to legislation made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England implementing boundary reviews for local government electoral areas, to ensure that the new boundaries come into effect when the postponed elections take place. This will ensure any by-elections before May 2026 will be held on current boundaries.

The link to the Explanatory Memorandum is here: [The Local Authorities \(Changes to Years of Ordinary Elections\) \(England\) Order 2025](#)

Yours sincerely,

Frances Kirwan
Deputy Director, Governance Reform and Democracy, MHCLG

