

INTRODUCTION

The creation of Harrow Urban District Council took place in April 1934 by virtue of the Middlesex Review Order, 1934. Shortly afterwards, in November 1935, a petition was presented to the Privy Council asking for the granting of a Charter of Incorporation. Borough status was at that time denied, but a second petition in April 1950, drawing attention to the fact that Harrow, in terms of both population and rateable value, was the largest Urban District in England and Wales, succeeded.

On 3 March 1954 the Charter of Incorporation making Harrow a Borough passed under the Great Seal of the Realm, and Harrow became the first Urban District to be granted a Charter since 1939. On 4 May the Charter of Incorporation was presented by the Duke of Gloucester at a ceremony at the Kodak Hall, Wealdstone. The first Borough elections were held on 13 May, and on 24 May the Council met for the first time.

The composition of the new Harrow Council was 45 Councillors and 15 Aldermen. At the initial elections in May 1954 each of the 15 wards elected three Councillors, irrespective of the size of the electorate. Thereafter elections were held annually for one third of the seats. Aldermen served for periods of six years. (Shorter terms of one year or four years were served by those Aldermen elected in May 1954.)

The last meeting of the Council was held on 31 March 1965. After this date a new authority, the London Borough of Harrow, assumed full powers. The London Borough was created as a result of the London Government Act 1963, and the first elections to the new London Borough Councils took place in May 1964.

In 1954 the local government neighbours of Harrow were the Boroughs of Hendon, Wembley and Ealing; Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council (Middlesex); and Watford Rural District Council, Bushey Urban District Council and Elstree Rural District Council (all in Hertfordshire). The Borough of Harrow had an area of 12,555 acres (5,081 hectares). Between 1954 and 1965 the population of Harrow fell from approximately 218,000 to 205,000.