Appendix A - Local Elections Turnout Consultation Questionnaire

1. Are you registered to vote?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		99.40%	167
2	No		0.60%	1
3	Don't Know		0.00%	0
			answered	168
			skipped	0

2. If you are not registered to vote, why not?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Confusion about the voter registration process		0.00%	0
2	None of the political parties represent my views		40.00%	2
3	Don't know enough about the political parties and their policies		0.00%	0
4	Vote is unlikely to affect outcome		60.00%	3
5	Not eligible to vote (e.g. due to nationality)		0.00%	0
6	Choose not to vote		20.00%	1
7	Other (please state):		0.00%	0
			answered	5
			skipped	163

Other (please state): (0)

No answers found.

3. If you choose to vote, which type of elections do you normally vote in?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	District		74.40%	125

3. If you choose to vote, which type of elections do you normally vote in?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
2	County		67.26%	113
3	Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner		50.00%	84
4	Parliamentary		88.69%	149
5	None		8.33%	14
		answered		168
		skipped		0

4. Which voting method do you normally use?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	In-person		66.07%	111
2	Postal		26.19%	44
3	Proxy		0.60%	1
4	Don't Vote		7.14%	12
		answered		168
		skipped		0
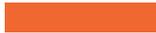
5. How likely would the following stop you from voting?

Answer Choices	Very likely	Likely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Unlikely	Very unlikely	Response Total
Didn't know the candidates	32.74% 55	17.86% 30	16.07% 27	14.29% 24	19.05% 32	168
Didn't know the candidates' policies	42.26% 71	20.24% 34	13.10% 22	8.33% 14	16.07% 27	168
Couldn't park at or get to the polling station	16.07% 27	10.12% 17	14.29% 24	17.26% 29	42.26% 71	168
Polling station access was difficult	13.69% 23	10.71% 18	16.67% 28	13.69% 23	45.24% 76	168
Poor weather	5.36% 9	10.71% 18	23.21% 39	20.24% 34	40.48% 68	168
Work commitments	10.12% 17	13.10% 22	19.64% 33	21.43% 36	35.71% 60	168
Parties that stood in my ward don't represent my views	29.17% 49	20.24% 34	25.60% 43	9.52% 16	15.48% 26	168
Confusion about the voting process	4.76% 8	5.36% 9	19.64% 33	21.43% 36	48.81% 82	168

5. How likely would the following stop you from voting?

answered	168
skipped	0

Other (please state) (43)

1	I found it difficult to find meaningful information about the candidates for my area in the last local elections. I very nearly didn't vote as a result. It meant that national issues influenced my thinking rather than local issues
2	Not enough women represented in our council
3	Voting is a total waste of time. Whatever is promised is never given
4	I always vote but we need to see more of local cllrs in our wards (more accessible) . Many people don't know who they are or how to contact them. Would it be possible to put names of cllrs (those in position &prospective candidates) in local areas eg shoping areas and libraries ? Voters also need more info about where they stand on local issues. In general elections there needs to be a clearer connection between national and local issues. We also need an end to blatant lies / misrepresentation on publicity material (both paper and on line) which leads to disengagement by voters . That's for starters. People I know think if only the political parties could stop point scoring and attempt some kind of collaborative working to solve problems for residents that would be a good start at regaining trust . Focus on resident needs often gets lost . . And that looses those who most need to engage. Can we also have some clear , accessible information about which area of local govt is responsible for what . . And how people can get their voices heard ? Eg the appaling state of Harlow roads is not directly a local Council issue. It rests with ECC but local people can contact local County Cllrs and urge them to be proactive on their behalf. It would be good to have accessible live on line feed of council meetings. Great if the Council can make the physical process of voting easier but its the areas I have mentioned that I think will go some way to improve engagement.
5	feel like district council of all parties have no pride in our town and allow things to get run down. drivers allowed to park however they like with no regard for safety, bushes overgrown across footpaths, litter everywhere and cycle tracks left in disrepair. also if the problems down to essex council surely its up to Harlow council to chase them.
6	Yes. I don't think candidates are visible enough. They don't broadcast their views, or policies widely enough. Some candidates I vote for solely because of the party they represent. Not because I know of the candidate or their policies and what they stand for.
7	Women fought long and hard to achieve voting rites we in particular must use our vote always
8	Local elections..... I never have a clue who's even running. I haven't seen details on these people for a long time, nor seen social media posts locally about them. I also detest the fact my kids school gets shut as well and that is our polling centre, so I can go in for a 2 minute job but for that my child looses another 5 hours of education on top of what they've already lost.
9	Decent candidates and parties are needed. The choice in Harlow is Tory who only care about pensioners and homeowners (both protected from austerity cuts) or Labour who are a complete and utter joke now. There is no one for a low paid, working age person to vote for. We just pay the tax rises that support and protect the Tory's favourite demographic, pensioners. National insurance rise, a nice way to thank us for working on the front line during the pandemic. Thanks for the pay cut, it was so worth putting myself at risk☺ FYI we won't forget how poorly we have been treated.
10	I didn't know I had three slips last time so filled in two but posted all 3 together so I could have the police chief one again
11	Moving away from FPTP would considerably dissuade me from voting. The country has already given it's view on PR in a once in a generational referendum and it should not be considered again.
12	Not knowing candidates has never stopped me from voting before, HOWEVER, it's extremely rare that I know anything about the local candidates at all before I get to the polling station. There is terrible lack of campaigning and visibility. I imagine that this will stop many people from voting, even if I always make a point to vote in every election (local or national) that is called.
13	Local elections should be about the person ,have become too political,which is a shame.
14	The whole voting process is stuck in the past and that is a key reason why voter turnout is getting lower as

	time moves on. In the rest of our lives technology progresses however voting still has to be done in person or by post. This is not practical for people in the 21st century. Voting should be a simple, quick task that only takes a couple of minutes, that could be done on the train while commuting to work, or in the evening while cooking dinner. Building societies, for example Nationwide, have managed to set up a system to allow voting online - it should be possible for the Government to do the same.
15	Having now gone to the end of the survey and noted that you have completely avoided the real question I must note that the thing which would stop me from voting is the blatant rubbish spouted to win votes, none of which ever comes to fruition. Bottom line, Harlow is a dump because the Council allows it to be a dumping ground! If they bothered to clean up people would be less likely to dump. This is a generic principle which applies to all manner of issues and is a far wider comment than that relating to emptying public waste baskets. If the Council has no pride, which they clearly don't, then they can't possibly expect anyone else to. Being an elected representative is not about earning a salary, it is not about party political tit for tat,, it is about caring for the local area and it's people. Until this returns to a voluntary position undertaken by people who actually care this situation will not change.
16	Some of these questions are not relevant. There should be a N/A option. For example - work commitments not relevant as I am retired. Similarly I have recently used postal voting to avoid contact due to the virus.
17	Parties are just playing politics all the time. Nobody can just say yep that was a good idea let's go with it. It totally puts the electorate off. Just do what's best for the town with your parties view on it, it's not a fight all the time. It looks childish and nobody cares
18	First past the post is the biggest con in the world. It's an abomination. All elections should be based on proportional representation. And this is coming from a floating voter. I've seen the same names as councillors for the last 20 years in some wards. And things don't change. Which says to me councillors don't care about their wards just their payments and expenses
19	No real choice same candidates e.g. Essex Highways etc Difficulty finding out what candidates stood for even with research. Each candidate should publish a mandate
20	I don't see anyone of the council actually doing anything. Lots of words being spoken but my perception is not a great deal actually being done.
21	Hate voting for candidates who don't seem to fight for what I believe in and who don't take ACTION to improve our town.
22	The problem is that even when residents contact the Council or Cllrs that little seems to get done: Cllrs are more concerned about doing down members from other political parties and telling the electorate what the politicians think would be good for us than really listening. People haven't the time for surveys or consultations like this because normally these documents long, take time to access and are either consciously or unconsciously biased to get responses the authors want or reflect their political views. The basics are clear, listen and survey existing complaints to contact Harlow, Cllrs should share with all Cllrs the issues upon which residents contact them,working together for the benefit of residents, make current services work, like fix pot holes, empty bins, improve amenities, cut pollution and congestion, enhance the quality of life for residents, preserve and improve green spaces and parks, fix cycleways, cut crime, secure better GP services, protect the Stort Valley and town from congestion, pollution and Flooding with surface water, and sewage from the Gilston Harlow North North hggt estate. . It's not rocket science. GET ON WITH THESE ISSUES rather than spending time and money on proposed underground railways, which again is assumed we all would really want. Again no one asked! To put out a consultation on the failure of involvement because the consultation system isn't working isn't the answer, get out and talk, be more direct. And consult in straightforward ways: via Your Harlow and local Social media groups, survey teams in Supermarkets and shopping centres: especially on big issues. But keep it short a direct: Use direct questions like : "Would you want to move PAH to the edge of town ? Here are possible advantages: here are possible disadvantages " Yes or No? Please give reasons:" Done. And agree with previous comments, same old faces, same old responses, whatever the party the bins didn't get emptied and the marketless market Square, that once thrived is still a desolate and dead area. What do we get high rise flats with the Council degeneration team promising more of these awful buildings. Haven't the Council realised that such housing provision was a disaster in the 1950s and are still not wanted (except by property developers) Just a lack of consultation again: we get a survey that fails to ask " What would you like high rise rabbit boxes of private homes or traditional homes with gardens : Council houses or private rental?" But instead get a survey recently that asks "What roof angle and what's the minimum distance between such high rise buildings we are going to build (whatever you think) would you like?" Better consultation and engagement is needed on.the part of the council if residents are going to bother to vote: voting doesn't seem to change anything and a better system of local democracy is needed between elections. Otherwise repeating the same actions again and again and expecting different outcomes is the definition of madness. Einstein I think

5. How likely would the following stop you from voting?

23	I have strong views about using your right to vote to the point I personally feel it should be mandatory
24	In local elections, I like to vote for the person, not the party. Unfortunately, the candidates are promoted by their party and the policies that are published are those that align with party policies. We don't get to know if a candidate actually supports something that is not the party line and they may lose votes (or people are less likely to bother voting) because it really does seem, even locally, that a vote is for the Conservative - or Labour - or LibDem - or other - party, not the person.
25	In past experience the elected party has not followed the pledges in its manifesto. Therefore, I find it very difficult to trust most of the parties. I vote for the party whose views I agree with and can trust the most
26	I live in Miles Close playhouse is awful polling centre have to pay to park if you dont walk. Really annoying when the little church couple of minutes walk away is a polling station
27	The first past the post system is not fit for purpose and many people feel it renders their vote valueless.
28	Not confusion of voting of process but no opportunity to ask questions to the candidates or their representatives. Now you just get a leaflet shoved through the door. No one canvasses any more. Have no real idea of what they stand for other than the generic blurb on their leaflets. If candidates can't be bothered to get their policies across then people can't be bothered to vote.
29	I research the candidates beforehand. I always vote in person.
30	There is no help to read the voting papers and anyone disability is not considered. Plus not disability's are visible
31	Every party comes to the table with an empty bowl of lies, so what's the point people are getting fed up with empty promises.
32	The candidates are suits who do not live in the real world.
33	This survey will not solve the low turn out at local elections. It is down to the fact that in my opinion, all local councillors should be independent the electorate are fed up with Westminster policies dictating local issues, and those having Parliamentary aspirations towing the party line to further their careers at the expense of the town. The reason there was a low turn out is due to the fact that the Town does not have a local newspaper it is proven that older people are more likely to vote and a lot of them do not have access to 'Your Harlow' which is the only local news medium. The local labour party had limited canvassing due to a split concerning 'Momentum' and the Conservative supporters who always vote were left with an open goal to take power of Harlow Council. But again this survey will not reveal the real reason there was a low turn out. just another political tick box exercise.
34	Candidates when elected do not do as promised.
35	The ward i am in had boundaries changed without consultation
36	I do have a political bias, so when the candidates of my preferred party do not bother to door knock or produce decent literature, I am more likely not to vote so that I am not actively voting against or for them.
37	Because the polling stations are usually in schools, the schools close and parents take advantage of the day to go out somewhere that would usually be busier or more expensive out of term time. Don't use schools as polling stations.
38	Reduced choice of candidates. It seems limited to conservative or labour, both of which do not represent the views of the majority of the public. The get voted in on promises that they never keep and don't act in the best interest for the people that they are paid to represent. Morally corrupt government at the moment, the worse i have seen in over 50 years
39	Whoever we vote for in local elections leads to no improvement in services. This question is pretty stupid as the "other" answer answers it - so putting very unlikely is meaningless.
40	Feel most of the candidates are Out of touch with what people want and policy's are never followed through or it's not clear what inprovements have actually been made
41	Can't believe anything they say, they are only out for themselves.
42	Candidates don't seem interested in letting people know who they are and what they stand for etc. As someone who does a postal vote I find that I only get information about who they are through the door after the deadline for sending the postal vote back in. Its like they don't want you to vote for them. Even then half of the candidates don't have any information whatsoever that's easy to find and don't even bother to put a leaflet through the door.

5. How likely would the following stop you from voting?

43	Requiring voter ID is the biggest form of disenfranchisement I can think of and seems deliberately calculated to exclude a certain demographic from voting in order to solve a problem that does not exist with postal voting fraud. Disgraceful policy reminiscent of authoritarian regimes. Not in my name. Further, I just had to use an external website to find out what ward I live in as the information was not easily accessible on the council website. I'm fairly IT savvy so pretty sure this should be easier to find.

6. Have any of the matters set out in question 5 ever stopped you from voting in the past?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		41.67%	70
2	No		55.95%	94
3	Don't Know		2.38%	4
			answered	168
			skipped	0

7. If yes to question 6, which of the following stopped you from voting?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Didn't know the candidates		52.63%	40
2	Didn't know the candidates' policies		51.32%	39
3	Couldn't park at or get to the polling station		9.21%	7
4	Polling station access was difficult		5.26%	4
5	Poor weather		7.89%	6
6	Work commitments		17.11%	13
7	Parties that stood in my ward don't represent my views		50.00%	38
8	Confusion about the voting process		2.63%	2
9	Other (please state):		19.74%	15
			answered	76
			skipped	92

Other (please state): (15)

1	See above
2	Polling station in a country lane without pavements or street lights. No public transport which is poor service anyway stops there
3	A lot of younger people do not understand the process or the relevance and I think a lot of the people in the

7. If yes to question 6, which of the following stopped you from voting?

	community often feel voting in a councillor is irrelevant to council staff leadership decision making process so can not be bothered to vote. Iv heard this a lot from older generations who all echo the same sentiments. Does not matter in the grand scheme of things who is elected in. One party may want better for the community but if disregarded by council staff it is a fruitless exercise. If one party remains complacent and gives up trying as the battle for change is ignored then motivation and morale is lost. I don't think it's a political party problem your tackling. I think it is a leadership and management problem deep rooted within the staff at the council that puts people off voting as they see it as a pointless exercise to take time out of their busy schedules.
4	Health and mobility issues
5	Candidates policies will always be an issue whether voting or not.
6	The fact no matter who you vote for nothing changes, Harlow as a town has gone so down hill over the last 10-15 years. The local authority dont seem to be interested in what the local people want and what the local issues are, the communication between residents and the council is poor, the actions of the council do not reflect the issues bringing the town down.
7	Didn't have any candidates to discuss or being able to challenge their policies either at my door or anywhere else in Harlow.
8	All current political parties are useless
9	My vote wouldn't affect the result. Need PR. No idea who my councillors are in newhall. They make no attempt to canvas voters as guaranteed to win because of the party they stand for.
10	Poor candidates
11	Pointless voting as they are all the same, liars!
12	We have not had any candidates from any party canvas our estate for many years now. Nor do we EVER see the local councillors in our ward. If you want to claim to represent your community you need to be part of it! An edition of Harlow News to coincide with the local elections clearly setting out the parties policies / how to register to vote etc could make a significant difference to intake in people voting.
13	No point - whichever party is in power makes no improvement - they are all as bad as each other.
14	You can tell when politicians are lying because there lips move
15	My barrier to voting, is that the government are hiding behind their language and neither show or stand under, the 7 Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles). As per government website: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life/the-7-principles-of-public-life--2

8. What is your gender?

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Male		39.29%	66
2	Female		57.74%	97
3	Prefer not to say		2.38%	4
4	Other (please specify):		0.60%	1
			answered	168
			skipped	0
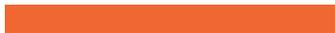
Other (please specify): (1)

1	Mind your own business this and other personal questions is not relevant: it's the poor process of engagement from politicians that's at fault

9. Please select your age category

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	18-24		2.38%	4
2	25-34		10.12%	17
3	35-44		22.02%	37
4	45-54		20.83%	35
5	55-64		26.19%	44
6	65-74		16.07%	27
7	75 or older		2.38%	4
			answered	168
			skipped	0

10. Please select which ward you live in.

	Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Bush Fair		8.33%	14
2	Church Langley		23.81%	40
3	Great Parndon		6.55%	11
4	Harlow Common		4.76%	8
5	Little Parndon and Hare Street		5.36%	9
6	Mark Hall		11.90%	20
7	Netteswell		5.36%	9
8	Old Harlow		16.07%	27
9	Staple Tye		4.17%	7
10	Sumners and Kingsmoor		5.36%	9
11	Toddbrook		4.17%	7
12	Don't Know		4.17%	7
			answered	168
			skipped	0

11. Do you have a disability?

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total

11. Do you have a disability?

1	Yes		13.10%	22
2	No		82.14%	138
3	Prefer not to say		4.76%	8
			answered	168
			skipped	0