

REPORT TO: FULL COUNCIL

DATE: 9 DECEMBER 2021

TITLE: REFERRAL FROM ELECTORAL REVIEW
WORKING GROUP – HARLOW COUNCIL
ELECTORAL CYCLES

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RECOMMENDED that:

- A** The Council does not proceed with public consultation on opting for all out elections at this time.

BACKGROUND

1. The Working Group considered a report on holding a consultation on the Council changing its electoral cycle to all out elections, from the current system of elections by thirds. Further details are included in the report to the Working Group attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

ISSUES/PROPOSALS

2. Having considered the report, the Working Group recommended to Full Council that the Council does not proceed with public consultation on opting for all out elections at this time for the following reasons:
 - a) The time constraints of making a decision following a consultation by the end of March;
 - b) The Covid-19 pandemic is still ongoing;
 - c) Given the results of the survey on turnout in local elections there were concerns that there wouldn't be enough public appetite for a meaningful result;

- d) A consultation would not be appropriate at the current time; and
 - e) There is no current budget for the consultation.
3. The Working Group noted that the possibility of changing to all out elections could be explored at a later date.

IMPLICATIONS

Implications are set out in the report attached as Appendix 1.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report to the Working Group dated 30 November 2021

Background Papers

None.

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

None.