








## Appendix B

# Local Government Boundary Review – Councillor Survey

### 1. How long have you been a Councillor with Harlow Council?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	1 to 4 years		52.63%	10
2	5 to 8 years		5.26%	1
3	9 to 12 years		0.00%	0
4	13 to 16 years		5.26%	1
5	Over 16 years		36.84%	7
			answered	19
			skipped	0

### 2. Which political party do you represent as a Councillor?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Conservative		47.37%	9
2	Labour		47.37%	9
3	Other (please specify):		5.26%	1
			answered	19
			skipped	0

Other (please specify): (1)

1	Labour and Co-operative
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### 3. Why did you want to become a Councillor?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	19
1	I was interested in how decision were made that had an impact on my local school		
2	I wished to make a positive contribution to the town where I grew up. I believe it was not being administered as it should be and many areas required improvement.		
3	to do the right thing to use my skill set to help others to hold the council to account		
4	To make our town a great place to live.		
5	To make a positive difference to people's lives and the community I live in		
6	To serve the local community. Many local issues have arisen since and I continue to do extensive case work for local residents.		
7	To help people and give voters a choice		
8	To help my community To give something back		
9	When I retired I had time to think about making a difference to the area I live in so I became a councillor		
10	To help my local community		
11	To make difference to my community		
12	I wanted to make a difference, didn't know we received an allowance		
13	Because I felt I had something to offer and because of a life long interest in politics and the community		
14	To make change and get rid of a failing Council.		
15	To ensure that services provided and decisions made that impact residents of the town, we're made in the best of interest of residents. Ensuring fair access to all		
16	To help others		
17	Wanted to make a contribution to community		
18	I've wanted to be a councillor for some years, however, family and business pressures left me with little time for this until a few years ago.  I wanted to become a councillor to try to improve the environment, prosperity and well being of the people of my town. Harlow has given me so much and I felt it was time for me to give something back.		
19	To help residents		
		answered	19
		skipped	0








#### 4. Would you recommend becoming a Councillor if you were asked?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	94.74%	18
2	No	5.26%	1
		answered	19
		skipped	0

Comments: (6)

- 1 It's never easy and there is always someone who will verbally attack you  
They don't see the person they just see politicians.  
They feel it is ok to not be nice .  
Others value you but it's always the shouty ones who get heard.  
We get a back deal from media,
- 2 Rewarding experience particular as one grows into the role
- 3 You have influence to help people and alter policy. To promote the town and your ward.
- 4 Depends on the person
- 5 Although, I would be honest about the time commitments, which make it difficult for many.
- 6 I love being a councillor and I love having the unique opportunity it gives me to try to make a difference.
















**5. In addition to your role as a Councillor, what other position do you hold within the Council?**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Leader		0.00%	0
2	Deputy Leader		5.26%	1
3	Cabinet Member		31.58%	6
4	Committee Chair		10.53%	2
5	Committee Vice Chair		15.79%	3
6	Member Champion		21.05%	4
7	None		26.32%	5
8	Other (please state role):		42.11%	8
			answered	19
			skipped	0

Other (please state role): (8)

1	None executive of the trading company for the council HTS
2	I am also a Committee Member for Development Management (Planning) and Audit & Standards. I understand I may be appointed to the Working Group for the forthcoming Boundary Review.
3	Leader of Opposition
4	Have been the Leader of the Council and for the last ten years Cabinet member for finance now in opposition
5	Council appointed director of Harlow Trading Services as an Excecutive Director. Also sit on Development Committee
6	Chair of scrutiny
7	.
8	Chair of council

## 6. What Committees / Boards / Panels / Working Groups do you belong to?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Council		89.47%	17
2	Audit and Standards		42.11%	8
3	Housing Forums		15.79%	3
4	Cabinet		31.58%	6
5	Cabinet Policy Development Working Group		15.79%	3
6	Call in Sub Committee		10.53%	2
7	Hearing Sub Committee		0.00%	0
8	Licensing Committee		26.32%	5
9	Licensing Sub Committee		26.32%	5
10	Scrutiny Committee		21.05%	4
11	Development Management Committee		26.32%	5
12	Shareholders Sub Committee		15.79%	3
13	Harlow Local Highways Panel		26.32%	5
14	Covid 19 Recovery Working Group		21.05%	4
15	Regulatory Sub Committee		0.00%	0
16	Town Plan Panel		21.05%	4
17	Other (please specify):		10.53%	2
			answered	19
			skipped	0
Other (please specify): (2)				
1	Once again have been a member of a variety of committees and working groups			
2	Reserve for Call In Sub Committee, Hearing Committee and Scrutiny Committee			

### 7. Have you been appointed by the Council to represent it on any outside bodies?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	47.37%	9
2	No	52.63%	10
		answered	19
		skipped	0

### 8. Please list the organisations and role, including any appointments to other bodies that are not linked to a council appointment.

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	10
1	Harlow college		
2	Chair of the Gibberd Garden Trust Member Civic society Labour Party activist West Essex camera branch		
3	Deputy Cabinet @ Essex County Council Vice President Chartered Institute of Journalism Chair of Members Board Passmores Academy Trustee CIOJ Benevolent Fund		
4	HOSC Aid Stansted Airport Trust Committee		
5	Age Concern board		
6	Razed Roof Committee Great Parndon CA Harlow Occupational Health Trust		
7	Can't remember what they are...		
8	None		
9	Harlow Arts Council		
10	Non-executive Director of HTS		
		answered	10
		skipped	9

**9. On average, how many hours per month do you spend on Council (and political) business? This includes online / email**









<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>1 to 5 hours</b>	<b>6 to 10 hours</b>	<b>11 to 15 hours</b>	<b>16 to 20 hours</b>	<b>Over 20 hours</b>	<b>Response Total</b>	
Attendance at Council Committees	36.84% 7	47.37% 9	5.26% 1	5.26% 1	5.26% 1	19	
Attendance at other Council meetings	50.00% 9	27.78% 5	16.67% 3	5.56% 1	0.00% 0	18	
Time spent on party political business	43.75% 7	25.00% 4	12.50% 2	0.00% 0	18.75% 3	16	
Attendance at external meetings as a representative	64.29% 9	35.71% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	14	
Ward surgeries	75.00% 9	25.00% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	12	
Engaging with constituents e.g. home visits	42.11% 8	26.32% 5	10.53% 2	10.53% 2	10.53% 2	19	
Dealing with constituents enquiries / casework	26.32% 5	31.58% 6	21.05% 4	10.53% 2	10.53% 2	19	
Preparing for meetings	44.44% 8	22.22% 4	11.11% 2	16.67% 3	5.56% 1	18	
Attending workshops, training, conferences etc.	69.23% 9	23.08% 3	0.00% 0	7.69% 1	0.00% 0	13	
Travel	73.33% 11	26.67% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	15	
Other	50.00% 2	0.00% 0	25.00% 1	0.00% 0	25.00% 1	4	
						answered	19
						skipped	0

**10. Please rank the following in order of importance in your role as Councillor. With 1 being the most important and 10 being the least important.**

Item	Total Score <sup>1</sup>	Overall Rank
Listen to the views of local people	155	1
Support the local community	148	2
Address issues concerning the whole area	125	3
Represent local residents views to the Council	111	4
Deal with complaints	108	5
Attend council meetings	102	6
Hold surgeries for constituents	92	7
Plan local services	89	8
Keep the public informed about local activities	78	9
Other	37	10
<sup>1</sup> Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is a sum of all weighted rank counts.	answered	19
	skipped	0
If you selected other please specify (4)		
1	Attention to Council finances and budgetary issues	
2	This is an impossible question and not appropriate to rate one function over another	
3	The above was difficult as you have equal weighting and in part depends on role administrators or opposition.	
4	Consult with the community regarding the council's proposals and feed back responses to the cabinet.	





### 11. How many cases / issues do you deal with, on average, per month?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	1 to 5		15.79%	3
2	6 to 10		21.05%	4
3	11 to 15		31.58%	6
4	16 to 20		5.26%	1
5	21 to 25		0.00%	0
6	26 to 30		5.26%	1
7	31 to 35		5.26%	1
8	36 to 40		5.26%	1
9	41 to 45		10.53%	2
10	46 to 50		0.00%	0
			answered	19
			skipped	0

**12. Are there instances when the level of your residents' enquiries cannot be coped with? If so, how often does this occur?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	19
1	It how you mange expectations don't over commit,		
2	Not so far.		
3	no		
4	sometimes around election time.		
5	Occasionally		
6	Very occasionally a resident will be an unreasonable in making complaints and allegations but this would be no more than one or two a year.		
7	Occasionally. Enquiries come in all forms, telephone, email, Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp and written letter. Replies get delayed about once a month and have to be prioritised over other work or leisure to catch up.		
8	Yes usually planning issues		
9	Never Sometimes I struggle but usually find a way		
10	Rarely		
11	Occasionally Would like more time to follow up on issues		
12	If it involves things that a county councillor deals with. I can normally point people in the right direction. So does not normally occur		
13	No		
14	I am useless at admin, so most days.		
15	No		
16	no		
17	/		
18	* The above figure includes cases dealt with as the result of requests for help from constituents, cases taken up during regular my neighbourhood walk-rounds and cases taken up as the result of regular consultations with the people of my ward. I am also asked to take up cases outside my ward by Robert Halfon, some of these are complex cases that Rob has been unable to resolve. I have averaged my total figures over 5 months as I spent 6 weeks campaigning for the by election and left me little time for anything but keeping my casework ticking over. No, there have never been times when I felt I could not cope. There have, however, been times when coping has been a struggle.		
19	no		
		answered	19

**13. Is the time you spend on council business what you expected when you became a councillor?**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		52.63%	10
2	No		47.37%	9
			answered	19
			skipped	0

Comments: (6)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | I am spending much more time than I anticipated.   |
| 2 | But you grow into the role   |
| 3 | There was a change of control in May and there is a lot of new policies and strategies to devise and implement and monitor |
| 4 | Far greater  |
| 5 | Far more. Didn't expect things to be in as bad of a state as they are.   |
| 6 | I spend more time on council work than I thought I would.  |

**14. Please indicate the methods of communication you use and give a percentage of time spent on each method.**

Item	Average	Min	Max	Std. Deviation	Total Responses
Written letters	4.90	0.00	15.00	4.95	10
Email	53.28	7.00	90.00	23.04	18
Surgeries/Face to face	14.75	3.00	50.00	12.57	16
Door to door	20.35	2.00	80.00	20.07	17
Social media	9.69	1.00	30.00	7.81	13
Other (please specify in comments box)	21.00	5.00	44.00	14.34	4
				answered	18
				skipped	1

Comments: (6)

1	For most complaints or enquiries, I make it a point to visit the resident/area concerned.
2	Once again too difficult to quantify
3	Telephone 15%
4	Meetings with groups
5	Phone
6	Text messages Much of my face to face work takes the form of consultations and home visits.








**15. To what extent do you think you are effective in your role as a Councillor in this authority?**

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Extremely effective	0.00%	0
2	Very effective	57.89%	11
3	Somewhat effective	42.11%	8
4	Not so effective	0.00%	0
5	Not at all effective	0.00%	0
		answered	19
		skipped	0




**16. Is there anything else about your experience as a Harlow Council Councillor that might be relevant to the Council's submission on Council size?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	8
1	I think that compared to neighbouring towns, Harlow has the smallest number of councillors. With the growth of the district and with HGGT, some new wards will need to be created to eliminate current distortions. This should result in an additional 3 councillors. Furthermore, the HGGT Project will result in the establishment of new districts that will require representation. It is likely that the entire HGGT area will have to be reformed under a single authority rather than under the current three district authorities.		
2	The size of the Council should be increased. Up until 2002 the Council had 42 members. The ruling party only has at most 20 councillors at present and with experience and ability being important to do a job properly this leaves the majority group with a rather small amount of choice for what are very demanding roles, particularly with the Cabinet system. Harlow council in my opinion should have at least 3 to 6 more councillors. With the growth of the town this new size could easily be accommodated in forming one or two more wards with three members each.		
3	Regeneration is major priority for the council which covers many areas including the council's housing stock. There are major schemes underway and others in the process of planning and development of policies requiring consultation. Recovery from Covid is another major issue requiring planning and organisation. The town is growing with major residential developments, a new motorway junction, the arrival of the Health Protection Agency, a new hospital, a new Local Plan, regeneration of the town centre and other retail areas is coming, plus the development of Harlow and Gilston Garden Town and its sustainable transport corridor. There are developing Enterprise Zones. The council provides the local leadership for all these activities to ensure they happen, they provide what Harlow needs and to monitor progress. Nearly all of this is additional to what the council has been doing,		
4	Feel that having 3 members for size of ward I represent is important		
5	I think the number of councillors seems to fit		
6	There needs to be more councillors for more areas. The wards should be smaller with 1 member per ward, but more wards created.		
7	Should have more councillors - wards of 1 more / 36		
8	Netteswell has a number of deprived constituents, this and HTS's landscaping and house repairs backlog generates a lot of casework. I don't believe less than three councillors would be sufficient to cope with Netteswell's casework requirements.		
		answered	8
		skipped	11

### 17. What is your age?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	18 to 24 years		5.26%	1
2	25 to 34 years		0.00%	0
3	35 to 44 years		21.05%	4
4	45 to 54 years		5.26%	1
5	55 to 64 years		10.53%	2
6	65 to 74 years		36.84%	7
7	75 and over		10.53%	2
8	Prefer not to say		10.53%	2
			answered	19
			skipped	0





### 18. What is your gender?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Male		84.21%	16
2	Female		10.53%	2
3	Prefer not to say		5.26%	1
4	Other (please specify):		0.00%	0
			answered	19
			skipped	0
Other (please specify): (0)				

### 19. What is your sexual orientation?




Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Heterosexual	83.33%	15
2	Homosexual	0.00%	0
3	Bisexual	0.00%	0
4	Prefer not to say	16.67%	3
5	Other (please specify):	0.00%	0
		answered	18
		skipped	1
Other (please specify): (0)			

## 20. What is your ethnic group?




Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
<b>White</b>				
1	British		78.95%	15
2	Irish		5.26%	1
3	Other		0.00%	0
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>				
4	Indian		0.00%	0
5	Pakistani		0.00%	0
6	Bangladeshi		0.00%	0
7	Any other Asian background		0.00%	0
<b>Mixed</b>				
8	White and Black Caribbean		0.00%	0
9	White and black African		0.00%	0
10	White and Asian		0.00%	0
11	Any other mixed background		5.26%	1
<b>Black or Black British</b>				
12	Caribbean		0.00%	0
13	African		0.00%	0
14	Any other black background		0.00%	0
<b>Other Ethnic Group</b>				
15	Chinese		0.00%	0
16	Any other Ethnic Group		0.00%	0
17	I do not wish to disclose my ethnic origin		10.53%	2
			answered	19
			skipped	0







## 21. What is your religion?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Christian 	42.11%	8
2	Muslim	0.00%	0
3	Buddhist	0.00%	0
4	Hindu	0.00%	0
5	Jewish	0.00%	0
6	Sikh	0.00%	0
7	No religion 	42.11%	8
8	Prefer not to say 	15.79%	3
9	Other (please specify):	0.00%	0
		answered	19
		skipped	0
Other (please specify): (0)			

## 22. Disability is defined as “physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a person’s ability to carry out normal day to day activities”. Do you consider yourself disabled?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes 	16.67%	3
2	No 	66.67%	12
3	Prefer not to say 	16.67%	3
		answered	18
		skipped	1

**23. Which of the following best describes your current circumstances, excluding your work as a councillor?**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Self Employed		10.53%	2
2	Employed full time (30 hrs or more per week)		52.63%	10
3	Employed part time (16 or more hours but less than 30 hours per week)		0.00%	0
4	Employed part time (less than 16 per week)		0.00%	0
5	Unemployed		0.00%	0
6	Unable to work due to illness		5.26%	1
7	Retired		31.58%	6
8	Student		0.00%	0
9	Looking after Home / family		0.00%	0
			answered	19

**24. If you are employed please answer the additional questions**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Which sector do you work in?		90.91%	10
1	Health			
2	hospitality			
3	manufacturing			
4	Charity			
5	PR / Public Affairs			
6	Warehousing and logistics			
7	charity			
8	Politics			
9	Private			
10	Recruitment and Transport Logisitics consultancy			

2	How would you describe your main occupation?	100.00%	11
	1 Nurse		
	2 Consultant		
	3 IT Project Manager		
	4 engineer		
	5 Charity worker		
	6 Consultancy		
	7 Supervisory		
	8 charity worker		
	9 Political Advisor		
	10 Supported housing manager		
	11 Managing Director		
3	To what extent does your employer support your work as a councillor?	100.00%	11
	1 Flexible working		
	2 N/A		
	3 time		
	4 no support at all		
	5 A little		
	6 Gives unpaid leave		
	7 In a silent way		
	8 a little		
	9 Little		
	10 None		
	11 Totally		
		answered	11
		skipped	8

**25. How safe do you feel in your role as a Councillor and in dealing with the following?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Extremely confident</b>	<b>Very confident</b>	<b>Somewhat confident</b>	<b>Not so confident</b>	<b>Not at all confident</b>	<b>Response Total</b>	
Holding Ward surgeries	12.50% 2	68.75% 11	12.50% 2	0.00% 0	6.25% 1	16	
Engaging with constituents e.g. home visits	22.22% 4	50.00% 9	16.67% 3	11.11% 2	0.00% 0	18	
Personal visits to your home	18.75% 3	31.25% 5	6.25% 1	12.50% 2	31.25% 5	16	
Lone working	22.22% 4	44.44% 8	11.11% 2	16.67% 3	5.56% 1	18	
Attending meetings, workshops, training, conferences etc.	42.11% 8	47.37% 9	5.26% 1	0.00% 0	5.26% 1	19	
Travel	44.44% 8	50.00% 9	5.56% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	18	
Other (Please specify in the comments box)	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1	
						answered	19
						skipped	0