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Angela Hutchings
Chief Executive

AGENDA

Committee: SCRUTINY

Date and Time: Wednesday, 10th January 2024, at 7.00pm

Venue: Council Committee Room 1, Council Offices

Membership: Councillors Isaacs(Chairman),Bowker, Edwards, Egan, Harvey, Jones, Thomas ,J.Thornton.

Officers attending:
Angela Hutchings - Chief Executive
Ann Horgan - Head of Governance
Cheryl Salmon – Elections Manager

Enquiries: Ann Horgan , ext. 2413

PART I (Business to be taken in public)

1. Apologies

2. Members' Interests

3. Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 30.11.2023.

4. Changes to the Borough Council's Electoral Cycle

Scrutiny Committee has been tasked by Council to review the response to consultation on the proposal to change the Council's current electoral cycle and move to whole-council elections every four years before formal consideration of the proposal at the Special Council scheduled to take place on 31 January 2024.



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES

30th November 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Isaacs (Chair), Bowker, Edwards, Jones, Thomas J Thornton

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Savage and A.Thornton

Officers: Ms Angela Hutchings , Ann Horgan – Head of Governance.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Egan, Harvey.

5. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

6. REVIEW OF NEW CONSTITUTION

The Committee had been tasked by Council to review the proposed new Constitution before consideration and approval by Council and implementation with the new administration in 2024.

This meeting had been convened to formally complete the review.

The Committee had held a mixture of informal workshops and public meetings on 9 October, 25 October, 7 November, 8 November and 9 November to inform the review. Visiting members also attended and contributed at various times. Cross party involvement was achieved throughout. The Committee was in favour of an overhaul of the Constitution and was, in general, supportive of the work which had been done and the proposals put forward by the Cabinet.

The Committee had, to date, had sight of Chapters 1 and 2 which was where the major proposed changes were being made and were appended to the agenda. Chapters 3 and 4 contained Codes and Schemes and delegations functional, technical drafting which was intended to be improved for clarity and understanding.

Chapter 3 Codes and Schemes covered the following:

- The Member Code of Conduct - is unchanged.
- Members Allowances is to be reviewed for the new administration in May 2024.
- Improved guidance for gifts and hospitality.
- Improved clarity of Member/ Officer Protocol.

Chapter 4 Functions and Responsibilities contains Scheme of Delegations for Cabinet and the Officer Scheme of Delegation which was being revised to reflect the new organisation.

The Committee's review of the Constitution centred on the following proposals:

Adoption of the "Strong Leader" model;

- i. The role of overview and scrutiny in good corporate governance;
- ii. Changes to other committees;
- iii. Council Procedure Rules; and
- iv. Cabinet Procedure Rules.

Adoption of the "Strong Leader" model

The Committee acknowledged that the elements of the drafting which gave effect to the Strong Leader model of governance were necessary to bring the Constitution into line with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the way that other authorities with executive arrangements operate.

Accordingly, the Committee endorsed the provisions in Chapters 1 and 2 of the draft Constitution with specific reference to the following:

- a. Financial and administrative delegations to be made to Cabinet members to exercise under a new governance process which enables Cabinet members to exercise delegated powers outside of formal Cabinet meetings. The detailed drafting will still need to be reviewed for clarity and understanding at the meeting of Full Council on 31 January 2024. The Committee was reassured that the Constitution is a "living" document and that it will continue to be reviewed by members periodically in the future and that the most appropriate forum for that review would be the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- b. That the Leader is appointed for a 4-year term from the majority group or where there is no majority is appointed by Council. The drafting sets out their role and responsibilities and grounds for early termination are also set out;
- c. That the Deputy Leader is appointed by the Leader with additional clarity around role and responsibilities laid out; and
- d. Duties and responsibilities of the Cabinet members are also set out with explanation as to how changes can be made in-year.

Role of scrutiny

The Committee was clear that the role of scrutiny required improvement in order to perform the checks and balances required for a Strong Leader model.

The Committee agreed with the proposals set out in Article 9 of the Constitution, namely that there should be one Overview & Scrutiny Committee ("OSC") but proposed that it should comprise 15 members instead of the suggested 11 members. It was noted that the OSC will be politically balanced.

Initially the Committee had concerns that replacing the existing Policy and Scrutiny Committees ("PSCs") with Task and Finish groups ("TFGs") would reduce inclusion of members in the scrutiny function. The Committee considered whether the existing PSCs should be retained but formalised as sub-committees of OSC.

Following detailed debate, the Committee agreed with the provisions of paragraph 17 of Chapter 2 of the draft Constitution which set out the procedure rules for OSC and was satisfied that the flexibility of the TFGs would fit better with a co-ordinating function of OSC, to deliver against the work programme agreed between the Chair of the Committee and the Leader of the Council. The ability of OSC to determine the terms of reference and composition of TFGs gave the Committee comfort that participation in TFGs would enable members with particular expertise or interest to

contribute to those areas of scrutiny which are within their field of experience, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the overall scrutiny function.

The Committee agreed that there should be a standing sub-committee of OSC dedicated to Climate Action to reflect the importance of this subject.

The Committee also agreed with the provisions of Article 17 – OSC Procedure Rules and the proposal for a new informal procedure to enable resolution of the issue without formal call-in. This reflects best practice.

Changes to other committees

The Committee agreed with the proposal to create a standing sub-committee of the Licensing Committee to purely deal with driver matters. This would be called the “Drivers’ Panel”. It was noted that this would not prevent the standing up of an ad hoc Licensing Sub-Committee e.g. for a police review of a premises licence.

The Committee agreed that additional drafting required by law should be added to reflect how the Staff Appointments and Review Panel will act as an investigation and disciplinary committee.

The Committee agreed that the Audit Committee be re-named “Audit and Governance Committee” and its terms of reference extended to place more emphasis on risk management and the robustness of the corporate governance framework.

The Committee agreed that the Review Committee be re-named “Standards Committee” dealing with conduct matters as currently but also terms of reference extended to cover oversight and review of member induction training and the members’ training programme. It will be a standing committee.

Council Procedure Rules

The Committee reviewed proposed changes to the Council Procedure Rules in Chapter 2 of the draft Constitution.

The Committee favoured limiting meetings to 2 hours rather than the 3 hours proposed, provided that the drafting made clear that this rule could be suspended by a majority vote of members present if the meeting needed to continue.

The Committee disagreed with the proposal to limit the number of public questions to be taken at a meeting of full council. There was a clear acknowledgement that whilst it was important to ensure that the agenda was robustly managed so that council business could be transacted, that the public question period should not be limited.

The Committee agreed that there should be a new opportunity for Chairs of committees to speak to full Council on key issues about the work of their committees which needed to be brought to the attention of Council provided that this was on notice to the Chief Executive and with the agreement of the Mayor (to enable agenda management). (The drafting of this new provision would need to be reviewed at the meeting of full Council.)

The Committee agreed with the proposal that the Mayor’s powers to change the order of the agenda be made explicit.

The Committee agreed with the proposal to change the number of public questions asked at full council from two to one per member of the public. It was noted that a question may be reasonably multi-faceted but must be directly related in subject matter to qualify as a single question. It was proposed that the decision of the Chief Executive as to whether a question or part of a question is admissible be final.

The Committee agreed that the time limit in which questions previously asked can be asked again, be reduced from 2 years to 6 months, to bring it in line with the statutory decision-making moratorium for full Council.

Following detailed examination, the Committee agreed that there be a maximum of 5 Motions on Notice for the purposes of agenda management. The Committee, however, made the following observations:

- a. Motions should be admitted to the agenda on a first come first served basis as determined by the Chief Executive.
- b. Where there are more than 5 valid Motions submitted, then if in the discretion of the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Mayor) there is sufficient agenda time to take more than 5 Motions, then additional Motions should be added to the agenda.
- c. Where there are more than 5 valid Motions submitted, and there is not sufficient agenda time, then those additional Motions will be deferred to the next meeting of Council, if they are not withdrawn.

The Committee considered whether the proposals restricted the prerogative of members to bring motions on subjects which are important to them. There was discussion as to the need to have a good quality of debate on motions and that this would be compromised if there were too many motions on the agenda. For that reason it was also felt that limiting the amount of time to be spent on motions was not a reasonable solution. It was acknowledged that it did not happen very often that there were more than 5 motions on an agenda but that when it happened, it caused congestion in the agenda. It was mooted that if it did not happen very often that there were more than 5 Motions on an agenda that this proposed amendment would not be necessary. It was acknowledged that the Constitution was a living document and it was agreed that this provision should be kept under review and come back to the Committee no later than the end of January 2025.

The Committee did not agree that Motions on Notice should be supported by the proposer, seconder and 3 other supporters rather than just proposer and seconder, to improve quality of debate and use of time, recognising that this may be an issue if a small party and there is no cross-party support. The Committee noted that this proposal was intended to ensure that Motions had sufficient member support to justify agenda time but that of itself did not outweigh the potential disadvantage caused to smaller parties. There was acknowledgement that this sort of arrangement was not novel and that other authorities do have this provision, but the Committee believed the arrangements should remain unchanged.

Cabinet Procedure Rules

The Committee agreed with the proposals put forward by Cabinet:

- a) To amend the current requirement to meet monthly to a minimum of 6 times per municipal calendar to give flexibility, in line with other councils;
- b) To improve drafting to aid understanding and provide clarity;

- c) That the Budget and Policy Framework will go to OSC for pre-scrutiny before coming to Cabinet and thereafter to Council. This is best practice but will require some practical changes to ensure sufficient time in the municipal calendar; and
- d) To replace current provisions for visiting members to ask questions on Cabinet agenda items with a new process which would mean one question (not a statement), per visiting member, per agenda item, in writing on notice with one oral supplementary question as an extension of or arising from the original written question.

Other recommendations made by the Committee

In their review of this work, the Committee also considered other improvements which might be made to the Constitution which it would like to bring to the attention of the Cabinet:

- a) To create a service standard (which sits outside of the Constitution) to enable circulation of minutes of formal public meetings to members within 7 working days of that meeting. Amendments would still fall to be made at the next meeting of the Committee/Council (as this is a legal requirement) but early circulation whilst memories are fresh will improve accuracy as comments can be fed back to officers in a timely fashion. The current service standard is 10 working days, so the Committee acknowledges that there may be resourcing implications which Cabinet needs to take into account; and
- b) That the constitutional arrangements for the operation of Development Management Committee (DMC) be subject to a separate review by the Committee in consultation with the Chair and members of the DMC and the Planning Advisory Service (PAS). This follows on from the original PAS review which in its list of recommended actions, suggested that such a follow-on review should be undertaken.

The Committee having considered a comprehensive paper along with draft recommendations:

Resolved:

To report to Cabinet with the following recommendations

1. That the composition of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee should be 15 members instead of the suggested 11 members; politically balanced.
2. That any time limit for public meetings should be 2 hours rather than the 3 hours proposed, provided that the drafting makes clear that this rule could be suspended by a majority vote of members present if the meeting needed to continue.
3. That there should be no change to the total number of public questions to be taken at a meeting of full council.
4. That the drafting for the number of public questions to be asked by a member of the public at full council makes clear that a question may be reasonably multi-faceted but must be directly

related in subject matter to qualify as a single question. It is also proposed that the decision of the Chief Executive as to whether a question or part of a question is admissible be final.

5. That the drafting for Motions on Notice makes clear that
 - a. Motions on Notice be admitted to the agenda on a first come first served basis as determined by the Chief Executive;
 - b. Where there are more than 5 valid Motions on Notice submitted, then if in the discretion of the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Mayor) there is sufficient agenda time to take more than 5 Motions on Notice, then additional Motions on Notice should be added to the agenda;
 - c. Where there are more than 5 valid Motions on Notice submitted, and there is not sufficient agenda time, then those additional Motions on Notice will be deferred to the next meeting of Council if they are not withdrawn; and
 - d. That the operation of these provisions should be kept under review and come back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for formal consideration no later than the end of January 2025.
 - e. That there should be no change to the number of members required to support a Motion on Notice.
6. That, outside of the Constitution, the Cabinet consider implementation of a service standard to enable circulation of minutes of decision-making public meetings to members within a timely period following that meeting.
7. That the Cabinet commissions a review of the constitutional arrangements for the operation of Development Management Committee.

Chairman

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10th January 2024

Subject: Changes to the Borough Council's Electoral Cycle

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present to the Committee the results to the consultation on the proposal to change the Council's current electoral cycle and move to whole – council elections every four years.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the Council meeting on 11 October 2023, Council gave approval to consult on the proposal to change the Council's current Electoral Cycle.
- 2.2 Council approved the consultation process and agreed that this Committee should consider the results and make a recommendation to be considered by Full Council at a Special meeting to be convened on 31st January.

3. Information before the Committee

- 3.1 To assist the Committee the following is being provided to the Committee:
- Report and appendix to Council 11.10.2023 (Appendix A)
 - Consultation form (Appendix B)
 - Results of Consultation (Appendix C)
 - Report on online consultation (Appendix D)
 - Report on online comments (Appendix E)
 - Report of hard copy consultation (Appendix F)

4. Response to Consultation

- 4.1 Public consultation took place between Monday 16 October 2023 and Monday 18 December 2023. The period had been extended following consultation with the Leader of the Council for two weeks from Monday 27 November to give a further opportunity to obtain a response. Members were informed. During this time residents were encouraged to respond through social media.
- 4.2 Political parties were also contacted with details of the consultation.

- 4.3 The Full result is set out in Appendix C including a breakdown of the consultation between online and hard copy responses. In summary a total of 257 responses were received of those 154 favoured a change to whole council elections with 103 indicating a wish to stay the same.
- 4.4 Examination of the comments submitted reflect the points supporting the reasons for change or no change contained in the supporting information for the consultation.(Appendix E).
- 4.5 The Committee is invited to review the consultation response.

5. Corporate Implications

(a) Financial Implications

The financial implications are within the main body of the report to Council at paragraphs 5.5 through to 5.10.

Should the Council ultimately move to elections once every four years, the financial impact of this will be smoothed to ensure that an election year does not result in a spike in the budget requirement. The smoothing would be achieved by creating a quadrennial elections earmarked reserve and contributing to it every year.

(b) Legal Implications

See the report to Council the process to be followed as set out in Sections 32 - 36 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act.

(c) Human Resources and Equality Implications

There are none to be addressed in the report. However, an Equality impact Assessment will be completed and included in the report to Special Council in January 2024

(d) IT and Asset Management Implications

There are none to be addressed by this report.

6. Links to Council's Priorities and Objectives

- 6.1 The Council's democratic arrangements support all the Council's priorities and objectives.

7. Timescale for Implementation and Risk Factors

- 7.1 It is planned to take a decision on this matter at a Special Council meeting on 31 January 2024 and if agreed will be implemented from the whole-council elections on 2 May 2024.

- 7.2 If the Council passes the resolution to make the change, it cannot reverse its decision for at least 5 years. If, in the future, the Council sought to revert to elections by thirds after the expiration of 5 years, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England must decide whether to conduct another review of boundaries and warding arrangements.

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to review the response to consultation and make recommendations to Special Council to be convened on 31 January 2024.

Resolution Required

Background Papers

None

Report Author: Ann Horgan Head of Governance Monitoring Officer

ORDINARY COUNCIL

11th October 2023

Subject: Changes to the Borough Council's Electoral Cycle

Report of: Chief Executive – Angela Hutchings

1. Purpose of Report

To seek authority to consult on the proposal to change the Council's current electoral cycle and move to whole-council elections every four years

2. Links to Council's Priorities and Objectives

The Council's democratic arrangements support all of the Council's priorities and objectives.

3. Recommendations

(1) That the Chief Executive be authorised to consult on changing the Council's electoral cycle from elections by thirds to whole-council elections every four years;

(2) That the consultation process set out in this report be approved;

(3) That Scrutiny Committee consider the results of the consultation and make a recommendation to be considered by Full Council; and

(4) That a Special meeting of the Council be convened for 31 January 2024 in order for Council to consider the results of the consultation, the recommendation from Scrutiny and determine proposals for any change in its electoral governance arrangements.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Council has held elections by thirds since 2004. Elections are held in three years out of every four with a third of borough councillors elected at each election, with Essex County Council (ECC) elections held in the fourth year.

- 4.2 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has recently undertaken a review of the Council's electoral arrangements and the Castle Point (Electoral Changes) Order 2023 came into force in July 2023. The effect of the changes is that Castle Point is now represented by 39 councillors, three councillors for each of its 13 wards. To implement the changes, the Council is required to hold whole-council elections on 2 May 2024 and then will return to elections by thirds from 2026 onwards (the next ECC elections will be held in 2025).
- 4.3 Therefore, it is an opportune time to review the effectiveness of the Council's current electoral cycle and decide whether to return to elections by thirds from 2026 onwards or change to whole-council elections every four years.
- 4.4 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables the Council to resolve to change its electoral cycle and move to whole-council elections every four years.

5. Report

- 5.1 The main body of this report sets out the arguments for moving to whole-Council elections every four years contrasted with arguments about retaining election by thirds.

Considerations in support of changing to whole-council elections

Political stability and more time to effect change.

- 5.2 Administratively, a four-year term gives greater stability for implementation of policy and effecting change. The annual election cycle reduces the working time available for Members, not just because of the 6-week pre-election period, but also in the weeks leading up to the pre-election period as campaign plans emerge. The delay between close of polls and Annual Council also means that most of the month of May is also ruled out for business. Therefore, in practice, the municipal year comprises only 8 months during which substantive work can be undertaken. The increasingly strategic nature of local government means many of the outcomes a council seeks to deliver or influence span more than one municipal year and so it becomes difficult to demonstrate progress and impact in such a tight window.

Increased democratic understanding and engagement.

- 5.3 There is often a suggestion four-year terms are contrary to the principles of democracy as elections in three years out of every four provide more frequent opportunity for electors to vote and influence the political make-up of the Council. This is not a universally held sentiment as low electoral turnout numbers testify; expectations of voters are rooted in delivery, not elections. There would be a clearer opportunity for the electorate to change the political composition of the council once every four years. However, it should be noted that unlike Parliament, there is no provision for the Council to go to the polls earlier than the four-year period.

- 5.4 The Electoral Commission undertook a review of electoral cycles in 2003 in a report entitled *The Cycle of Local Government Elections in England*. The Electoral Commission, having considered the evidence and arguments presented during the consultation process concluded that a pattern of whole-council elections for all local authorities in England would provide a clear, equitable and easy to understand electoral process that would best serve the interests of local government electors. The Electoral Commission, therefore, recommended that each local authority should hold whole-council elections, with all councillors elected simultaneously, once every four years. However, this is still currently a matter for local choice, as demonstrated by the mixed pattern of electoral cycles across England.

Reduced cost of democracy

- 5.5 Holding whole-Council elections once every four years rather than smaller elections every three years out of four would cost less. The average cost of elections in the last 5 years has been £133,000 per annum, net of income from others for whom we have held elections. The May 2023 elections cost the Council in the region of £122,000.
- 5.6 Under elections by thirds, it is reasonable to assume in a four period the Council would incur costs of £360,000 plus the costs of any by-elections held. In the last four years the Council has had three by-elections. Two were combined with the 2021 Borough elections. One was standalone (St Peter's Ward in 2022) and cost approximately £10,500. Note that there is a greater risk of by-elections within a four-year term.
- 5.7 Operating a four-year term does ever so slightly increase the cost of running an election. The count is likely to take longer and therefore costs for count staff will increase, as may some of the costs around printing ballot papers. However, the majority of the costs would be no different. It is estimated that the cost would increase by just £4,000 to £126,000.
- 5.8 Therefore, the estimated saving by moving to a four-year term is £240,000 every four years, or £60,000 per annum. Even if there was an additional by-election in each year, the savings remain significant.
- 5.9 In addition, by aligning with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) elections, additional savings would be achieved through cost sharing. If a change was to take effect from 2024, it would coincide with the PFCC elections which also run on a four-yearly cycle. This would mean that we would share costs (currently 50/50) with the PFCC in 2024, 2028 and so on. One point to note, however, is that if the role of PFCC were to be incorporated into any County Combined Authority (CCA) devolution deal, the CCA itself will be subject to elections and it remains to be seen what electoral cycle that might be adopted and from when. If the change were to take effect from 2026, we would bear the full cost of our own elections from 2028 and in subsequent cycles
- 5.10 Currently, the Borough elections coincide with the Town Council and, if the change was made, that would no longer be possible. A standalone election would cost the Town Council between £20,000 and £25,000.

Less disruption to public buildings

- 5.11 Holding whole-council elections once every four years would also be less disruptive for public buildings used as polling stations, for example schools. Although it should be noted that no other elections would be affected by these changes. Parliamentary, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Essex County Council and Canvey Island Town Council elections would continue on their normal electoral cycle. Under the current timetable for all elections this would mean that only from 2026 and every subsequent fourth year there would be no elections in Castle Point.

Considerations in support of maintaining election by thirds

Current system is well-established and understood

- 5.12 Voting for one councillor at a time under elections by thirds is well understood by voters in Castle Point. Voting for three councillors at the same time under whole-council elections could cause confusion.

Political accountability and risk of democratic disengagement

- 5.13 The withdrawal of the opportunity to vote more frequently may disengage some of the Borough's electors if they can only vote once every four years, as opposed to elections by thirds. Elections in three years out of every four provide more frequent opportunity for electors to vote and to influence the political make-up of the Council. This may, therefore, provide more immediate political accountability and provide a more up-to-date reflection of the views of local people.

Political stability

- 5.14 Electing by thirds means there is more continuity of councillors without any chance of all councillors being replaced in a single election. This can also lead to greater political stability as change from one administration to another is likely to be more gradual under this system.

More dynamic political environment

- 5.15 Election by thirds can provide more frequent turnover of councillors; a regular influx of newly-elected councillors can potentially bring new ideas and fresh approaches to the Council.

6 Public Consultation

- 6.1 If an authority wishes to move from thirds to whole-council elections, it must consult. Councils undertaking such consultation must:
- Take reasonable steps to consult such persons that it believes appropriate on the proposed change;

- Have regard to the outcome of the consultation before making its decision;
- Convene a special meeting of the Council to make a resolution;
- Pass a resolution to change by a two-thirds majority of those voting;
- As soon as practicable after passing such a resolution, produce and make available to the public (at its own cost) an explanatory document setting out details of the new scheme.
- Give notice to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

6.2 It is therefore recommended that the Council undertakes a consultation exercise which includes an opportunity for the public and other stakeholders to express their views on the options available.

6.3 It is proposed that this consultation is primarily undertaken by way of an on-line questionnaire supplemented by hard copies of the questionnaire in appropriate venues. The questionnaire would include:

- Information on the current electoral arrangements
- Information on the proposed changes together with an impact of the change
- Reasons to change to whole-council elections and reasons to keep elections by thirds.
- The choice of 'tick boxes' for the respondent to indicate their preferred option.
- A box for reasons or any comments on the proposal (optional to complete)
- A question to indicate if they are completing the questionnaire as a local resident or as a representative of a group or organisation.
- Basic demographic information such as gender, ethnicity and age.

A copy of the proposed questionnaire is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

6.4 Hard copies of the questionnaire will also be available from public buildings across the Borough, including: Council Offices at Kiln Road; Canvey Island Town Council; leisure centres; and libraries.

6.5 An analysis of the results from the consultation will be included in a report submitted to the Special Council meeting on 31 January 2024.

7. Corporate Implications

(a) Financial Implications

The majority of the financial implications are within the main body of the report at paragraphs 5.5 through to 5.10.

Should the Council ultimately move to elections once every four years, the financial impact of this will be smoothed to ensure that an election year does not result in a spike in the budget requirement. The smoothing would be achieved by creating a quadrennial elections earmarked reserve and contributing to it every year.

(b) Legal Implications

The legal implications are dealt with in the report which describes the process to be followed as set out in Sections 32 - 36 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act.

(c) Human Resources and Equality Implications

There are none to be addressed in the report. However, an Equality impact Assessment will be completed and included in the report to Special Council in January 2024.

(d) IT and Asset Management Implications

There are none to be addressed in the report.

7. Timescale for implementation and Risk Factors

It is planned to take a decision on this matter at a Special Council meeting on 31 January 2024 and if agreed will be implemented from the whole-council elections on 2 May 2024.

If the Council passes the resolution to make the change, it cannot reverse its decision for at least 5 years. If, in the future, the Council sought to revert to elections by thirds after the expiration of 5 years, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England must decide whether to conduct another review of boundaries and warding arrangements.

8. Background Papers

Part 2 (specifically s.32 – 36) Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Report Author: Angela Hutchings Chief Executive



HAVE YOUR SAY ON LOCAL ELECTIONS

COUNCIL LAUNCHES CONSULTATION ON ELECTION CYCLE

We're interested in your views on whether we should change to 'whole-council elections' every four years starting in May 2024, or retain the existing system of 'elections by thirds'. The change would see the whole council elected at the same time at one election every four years.

Following the meeting of Full Council on 11th October 2023 it was agreed to consult on the proposal to change Castle Point Borough Council elections to a four year cycle.

Below is some background information and the arguments for both electoral cycles to help you give an informed view on the issue.

The consultation will run from Monday 16th October until Monday 27th November 2023.

Our Council – From May 2024 Castle Point Borough Council will have 39 Councillors representing 13 wards. Each ward will be represented by 3 councillors and each councillor is elected for a four-year term of office.

Current cycle - elections by thirds - Currently the Council holds 'elections by thirds' which means elections are held for a third of all seats each year, for three successive years out of four. This means electors vote in Borough Council elections in all three years.

Whole council elections - Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Council has the power to change its electoral arrangements to 'whole council elections' which would mean that all seats on the Council would be elected at the same time, once every four years.

Please note no other elections will be affected by any future change to Castle Point Borough Council's electoral cycle. Parliamentary; Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner; Essex County Council; and Canvey Island Town Council elections will continue on their normal electoral cycle.

Timing of any change - Whole council elections will be held in May 2024 as a result of a review of electoral arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and this consultation will not affect that arrangement. If the change is approved, the next Borough Council elections would be held in May 2028 and every subsequent four years. If the change is not approved, then the next Borough Council elections (following May 2024) would be held in May 2026 under the current 'election by thirds' arrangements.

Full council meeting - outcome of the consultation - A meeting of the Full Council on 31st January 2024 will consider the issue further including responses to this consultation. The Council's Scrutiny Committee will meet separately – before the Full Council meeting - to consider responses to this consultation and make recommendation to Full Council.

Reasons to change to whole council elections

- A clear mandate from the electorate once every four years would enable the Council to adopt a more strategic, long-term approach to policy and decision-making and focus less on yearly election campaigning.
- The results from whole-council elections are simpler and more easily understood by the electorate. This may increase turn-out at local elections;
- There would be a clearer opportunity for the electorate to change the political composition of the council once every four years;
- Holding whole-Council elections once every four years rather than smaller elections every three years out of four would cost less and would be less disruptive for public buildings used as polling stations, for example, schools

Reasons to keep elections by thirds

- Elections in three years out of every four provide more frequent opportunity for electors to vote and to influence the political make-up of the Council. This may, therefore, provide more immediate political accountability and provide a more up-to-date reflection of the views of local people.
- Electing by thirds means there is more continuity of councillors without any chance of them all being replaced in a single election.
- Voting for one councillor at a time under elections by thirds is well understood by voters. Voting for three councillors at the same time under whole-council elections could cause confusion.
- An election by thirds provides a regular influx of newly-elected councillors who can bring new ideas and fresh approaches to the Council

HAVE YOUR SAY

☐

Change to whole Council elections

☐

Keep it as it is, elections by thirds

Please use the space below if you would like to explain the reason for your answer (optional).

ABOUT YOU

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

- ☐ Resident
- ☐ Organisation

If you are responding as an individual, please indicate your postcode below (optional)
[Postcode]

By answering the following questions, you will help us to see if there are differences in the views of different groups of residents. All the information you give will be kept completely confidential. There is a “prefer not to say” option for each question.

What is your age?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 -24
- ☐ 25 – 34
- ☐ 35 – 44
- ☐ 45 – 54
- ☐ 55 – 64
- ☐ 65 – 74
- ☐ Over 75
- ☐ Prefer not to say

How you define your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Are you registered as disabled?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

How would you describe your ethnicity?

- ☐ White
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black

- ☐ Mixed ethnicity
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What is your religion?

- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Other religion
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please indicate the type of organisation:

- ☐ Political party
- ☐ Public sector
- ☐ Community and voluntary sector
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Other (please specify below)

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Appendix B

HAVE YOUR SAY ON LOCAL ELECTIONS

COUNCIL LAUNCHES CONSULTATION ON ELECTION CYCLE

We're interested in your views on whether we should change to 'whole-council elections' every four years starting in May 2024, or retain the existing system of 'elections by thirds'. The change would see the whole council elected at the same time at one election every four years.

Following the meeting of Full Council on 11th October 2023 it was agreed to consult on the proposal to change Castle Point Borough Council elections to a four year cycle.

Below is some background information and the arguments for both electoral cycles to help you give an informed view on the issue.

The consultation will run from Monday 16th October until Monday 27th November 2023.

Our Council – From May 2024 Castle Point Borough Council will have 39 Councillors representing 13 wards. Each ward will be represented by 3 councillors and each councillor is elected for a four-year term of office.

Current cycle - elections by thirds - Currently the Council holds 'elections by thirds' which means elections are held for a third of all seats each year, for three successive years out of four. This means electors vote in Borough Council elections in all three years.

Whole council elections - Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Council has the power to change its electoral arrangements to 'whole council elections' which would mean that all seats on the Council would be elected at the same time, once every four years.

Please note no other elections will be affected by any future change to Castle Point Borough Council's electoral cycle. Parliamentary; Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner; Essex County Council; and Canvey Island Town Council elections will continue on their normal electoral cycle.

Timing of any change - Whole council elections will be held in May 2024 as a result of a review of electoral arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and this consultation will not affect that arrangement. If the change is approved, the next Borough Council elections would be held in May 2028 and every subsequent four years. If the change is not approved, then the next Borough Council elections (following May 2024) would be held in May 2026 under the current 'election by thirds' arrangements. (Elections for Essex County Council take place in May 2025).

Full council meeting - outcome of the consultation - A meeting of the Full Council on 31st January 2024 will consider the issue further including responses to this consultation. The Council's Scrutiny Committee will meet separately – before the Full Council meeting - to consider responses to this consultation and make recommendation to Full Council.

Reasons to change to whole council elections

- A clear mandate from the electorate once every four years would enable the Council to adopt a more strategic, long-term approach to policy and decision-making and focus less on yearly election campaigning.
- The results from whole-council elections are simpler and more easily understood by the electorate. This may increase turn-out at local elections.
- There would be a clearer opportunity for the electorate to change the political composition of the council once every four years.
- Holding whole-Council elections once every four years rather than smaller elections every three years out of four would cost less and would be less disruptive for public buildings used as polling stations, for example, schools.

Reasons to keep elections by thirds

- Elections in three years out of every four provide more frequent opportunity for electors to vote and to influence the political make-up of the Council. This may, therefore, provide more immediate political accountability and provide a more up-to-date reflection of the views of local people.
- Electing by thirds means there is more continuity of councillors without any chance of them all being replaced in a single election.
- Voting for one councillor at a time under elections by thirds is well understood by voters. Voting for three councillors at the same time under whole-council elections could cause confusion.
- An election by thirds provides a regular influx of newly-elected councillors who can bring new ideas and fresh approaches to the Council.

HAVE YOUR SAY

☐

Change to whole Council elections

☐

Keep it as it is, elections by thirds

Please use the space below if you would like to explain the reason for your answer (optional).

ABOUT YOU

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

- ☐ Resident
- ☐ Organisation

If you are responding as an individual, please indicate your postcode below (optional)
[Postcode]

By answering the following questions, you will help us to see if there are differences in the views of different groups of residents. All the information you give will be kept completely confidential. There is a “prefer not to say” option for each question.

What is your age?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 -24
- ☐ 25 – 34
- ☐ 35 – 44
- ☐ 45 – 54
- ☐ 55 – 64
- ☐ 65 – 74
- ☐ Over 75
- ☐ Prefer not to say

How you define your gender?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Are you registered as disabled?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

How would you describe your ethnicity?

- ☐ White
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black

- ☐ Mixed ethnicity
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What is your religion?

- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Other religion
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please indicate the type of organisation:

- ☐ Political party
- ☐ Public sector
- ☐ Community and voluntary sector
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Other (please specify below)

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Appendix C

ELECTION CYCLE RESULTS

16th October – 27th November

	Online	Hard Copy	Total
Change to Whole Council Elections	34	7	41
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	34	20	54
Total No. Responses	68	27	95

28th November – 18th December

	Online	Hard Copy	Total
Change to Whole Council Elections	112	1	113
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	39	0	39
Total No. Responses	151	1	152

Overall Results

	Online	Hard Copy	Total
Change to Whole Council Elections	146	8	154
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	83	20	103
Total No. Responses	229	28	257

APPENDIX D

Election Cycle Consultation (NEW CLOSING DATE - ENGAGEMENT EXTENDED)

<https://consultation.castlepoint.gov.uk/corporate-policy/election-cycle-consultation>

This report was created on Tuesday 19 December 2023 at 11:57

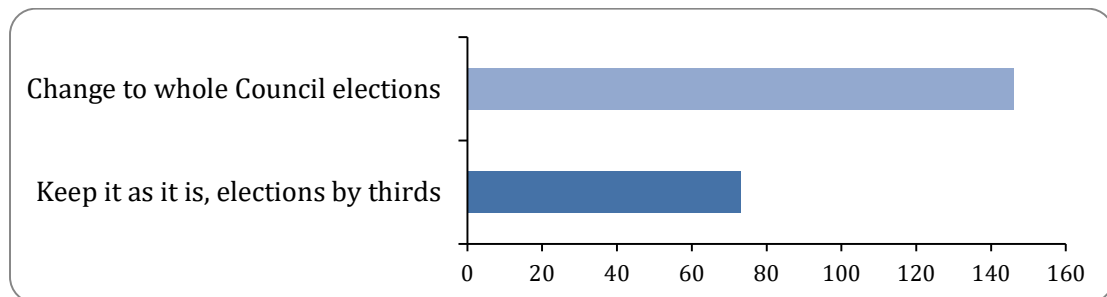
The activity ran from 16/10/2023 to 18/12/2023

Responses to this survey: **219**

1: Please indicate your preferred election cycle

Preferred election cycle

There were 219 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Change to whole Council elections	146	66.67%
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	73	33.33%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

2: Please use the space below if you would like to explain the reason for your answer (optional).

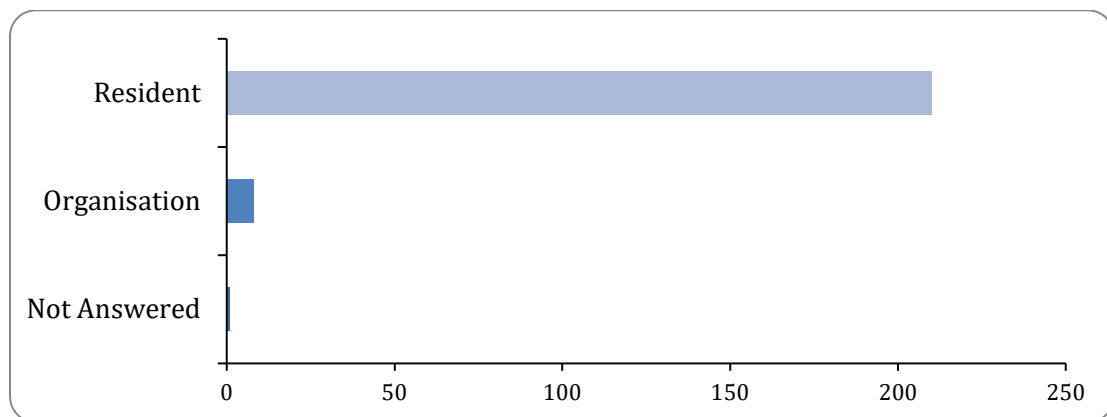
Reason for election cycle preference

There were 133 responses to this part of the question.

3: Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Respondent Type

There were 218 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Resident	210	95.89%
Organisation	8	3.65%
Not Answered	1	0.46%

4: If you are responding as an individual, please indicate your postcode.

Postcode

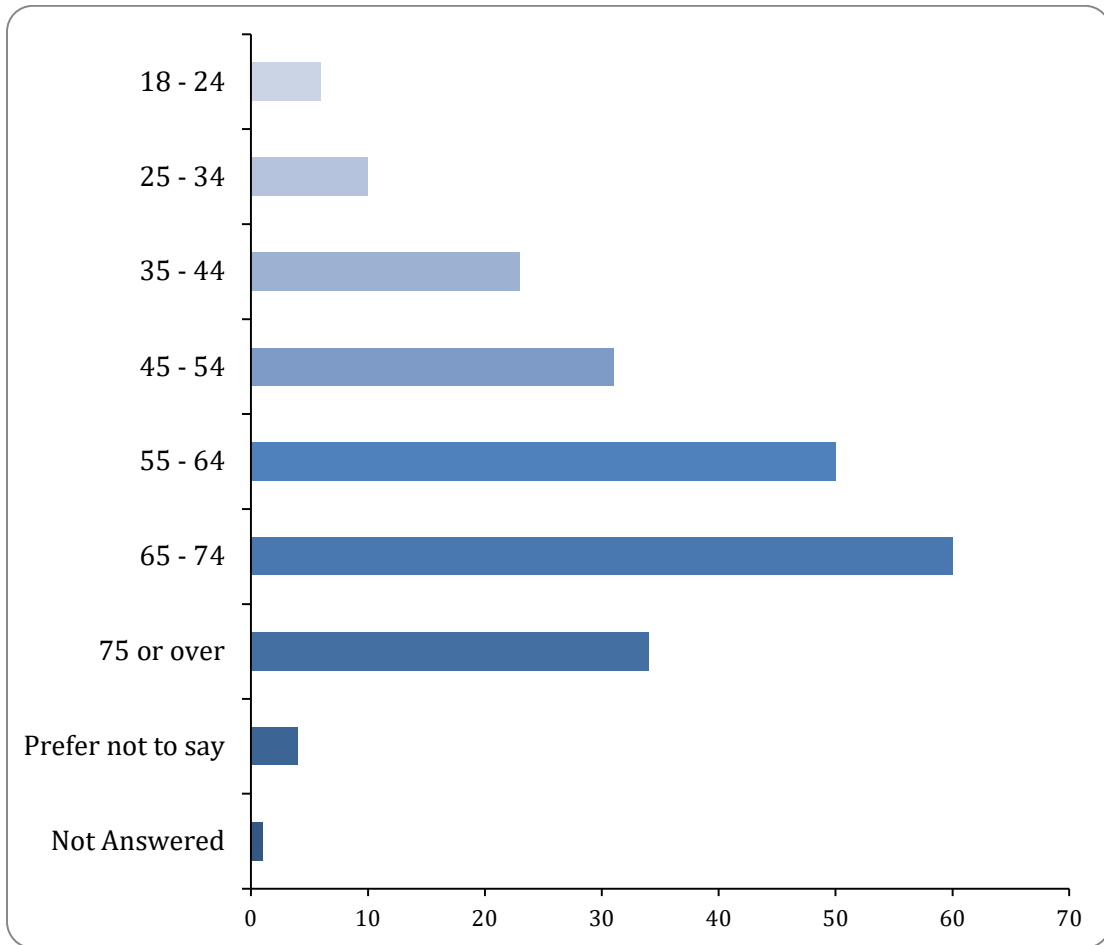
There were 199 responses to this part of the question.

5: What is your age?

Age Range

There were 218 responses to this part of the question.

Castle Point Borough Council



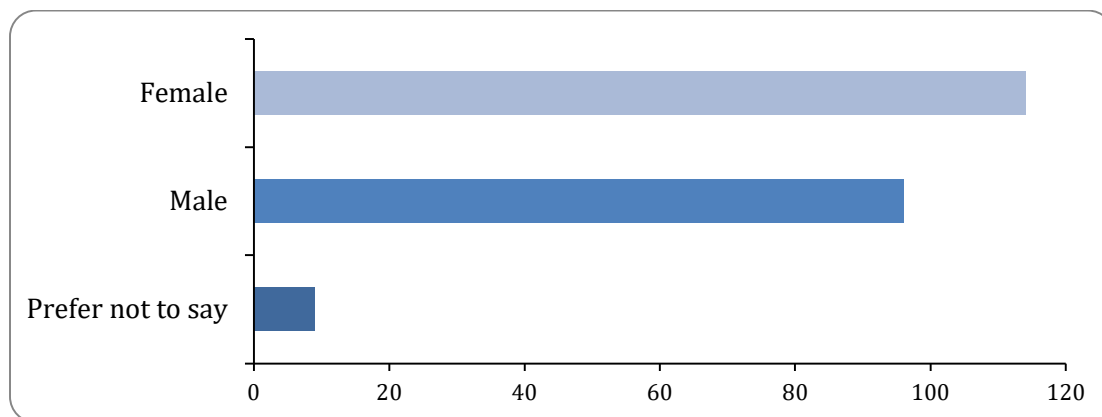
Option	Total	Percent
Under 18	0	0.00%
18 - 24	6	2.74%
25 - 34	10	4.57%
35 - 44	23	10.50%
45 - 54	31	14.16%
55 - 64	50	22.83%
65 - 74	60	27.40%
75 or over	34	15.53%
Prefer not to say	4	1.83%
Not Answered	1	0.46%

6: How do define you gender?

Gender Identity

Castle Point Borough Council

There were 219 responses to this part of the question.

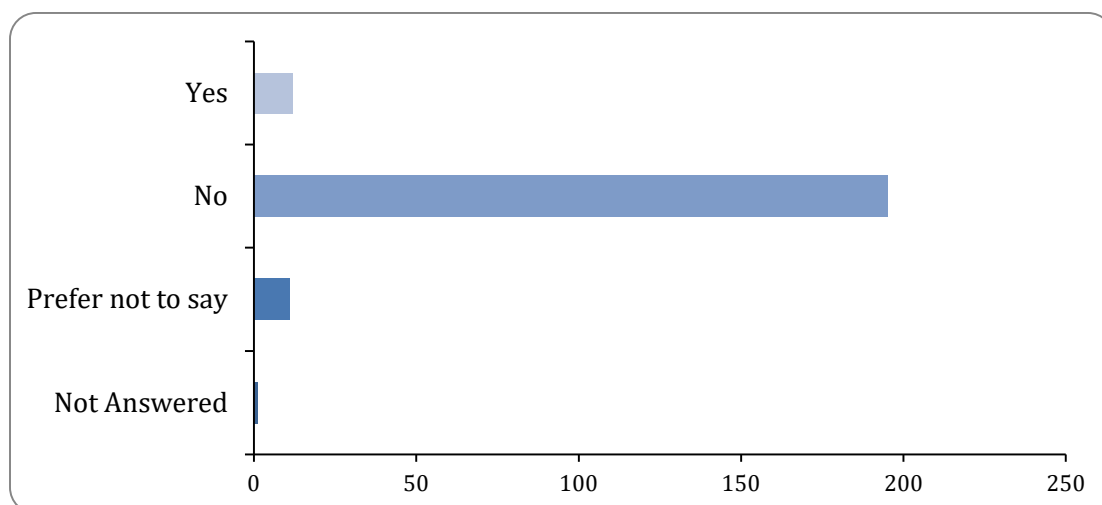


Option	Total	Percent
Female	114	52.05%
Male	96	43.84%
Non-binary	0	0.00%
Transgender	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	9	4.11%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

7: Are you registered as disabled?

Disability

There were 218 responses to this part of the question.

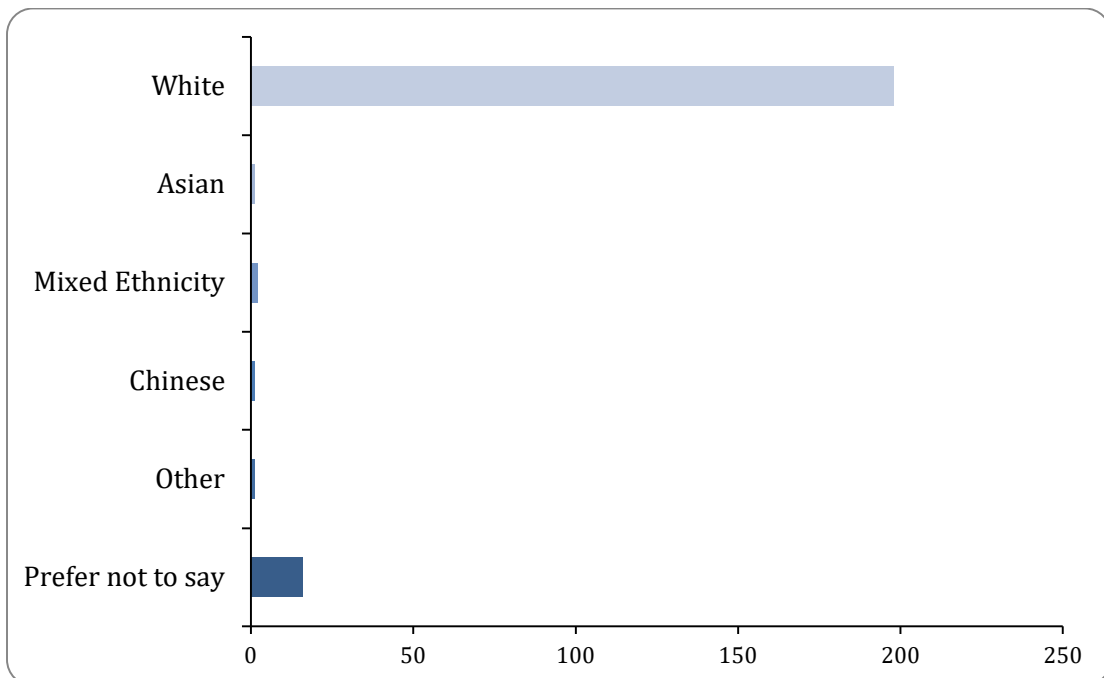


Option	Total	Percent
Yes	12	5.48%
No	195	89.04%
Prefer not to say	11	5.02%
Not Answered	1	0.46%

8: How would you describe your ethnicity?

Ethnicity

There were 219 responses to this part of the question.

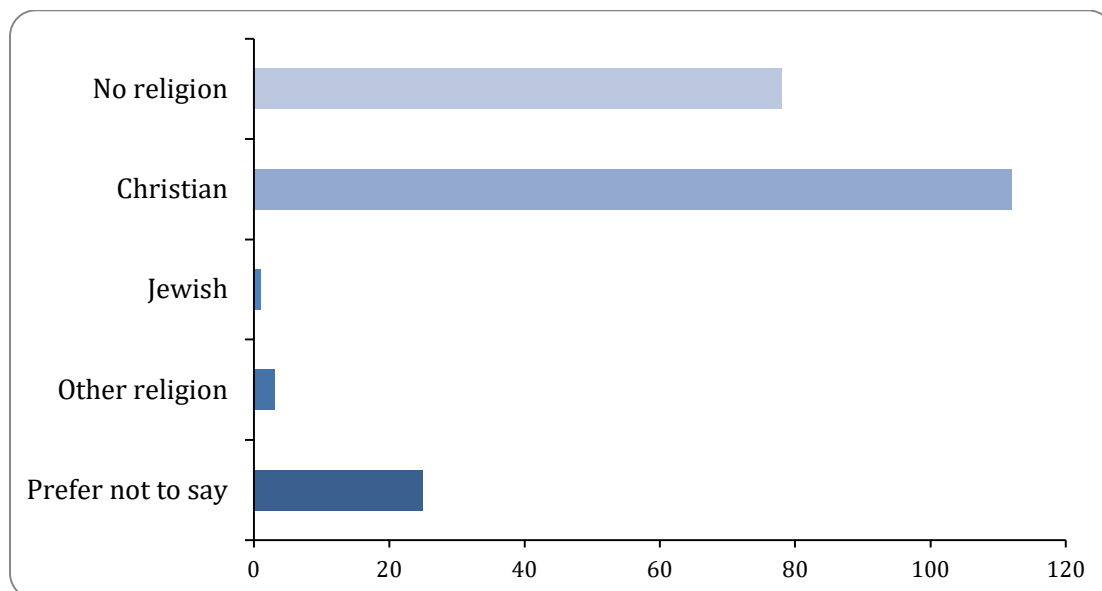


Option	Total	Percent
White	198	90.41%
Asian	1	0.46%
Black	0	0.00%
Mixed Ethnicity	2	0.91%
Chinese	1	0.46%
Other	1	0.46%
Prefer not to say	16	7.31%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

9: What is your religion?

Religion

There were 219 responses to this part of the question.



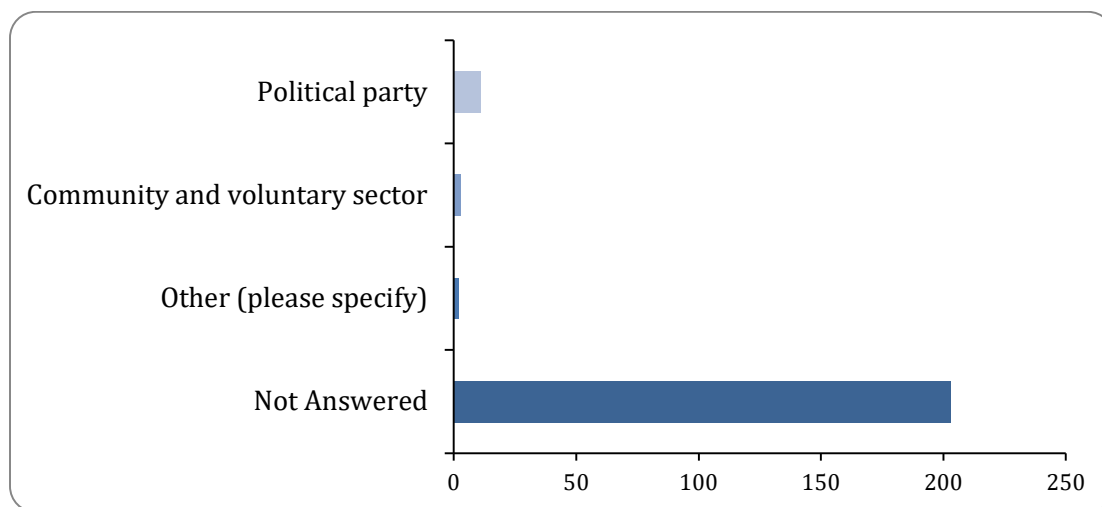
Option	Total	Percent
No religion	78	35.62%
Christian	112	51.14%
Buddhist	0	0.00%
Hindu	0	0.00%
Jewish	1	0.46%
Muslim	0	0.00%
Sikh	0	0.00%
Other religion	3	1.37%
Prefer not to say	25	11.42%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

10: If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please indicate the type of organisation

Organisation type

There were 16 responses to this part of the question.

Castle Point Borough Council



Option	Total	Percent
Political party	11	5.02%
Public sector	0	0.00%
Community and voluntary sector	3	1.37%
Business	0	0.00%
Other (please specify)	2	0.91%
Not Answered	203	92.69%

Other Organisation Type

There were 2 responses to this part of the question.

Please indicate your preferred election system	Please use the space below if you would like to add any comments	Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation? - Respondent Name	If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please indicate the type of organisation
Change to whole Council elections	It really makes no difference what local	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Save taxpayers money by not having c	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	4 years is a long time in politics - if you	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	The current system is more transparent	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	This choice does not include my preferred	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Thank you, previously we have seen 's	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Elections in three years out of every five	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	I believe that election's by thirds show	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	This is better for long term decision making	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Fed up doing it most years, once every	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	More people would come out to vote.	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	To simplify and allow councillors more	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	No change what isn't broken	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	none	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	It seems at present doesn't matter what	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Elections by thirds can often create a	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Public want & need clarity on elected	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Better continuity within the council.	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Making elections less frequently then	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	It will enable the electorate to express	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Keep all councillors focused on doing their	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Cheaper, less disruption with schools &	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Hopefully new blood would bring the	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Whole council elections are much easier	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	It stops the yearly chaos for councilors	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Better continuity across the council. More	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Too long, as it guarantees the council	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Change is too slow in castle point.	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	If there is an issue, it is too long to make	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	It is painful enough trying to keep up with	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	I'm thinking maybe it's a good idea to	Resident	

Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Prevents knee jerk changes in council	Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	It gives local people an option to vote	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Elections in three years out of every fo	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	4 very sensible reasons from the consi	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Immediate Political Accountability Nev	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	If I had a choice, I would actually prefe	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	We elect a government nationally in tl	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	For better democratic and understand	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	People moving into CP can contribute	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	I believe that this makes political parti	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Because it easier	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	I have served as a CPBC Cllr. 1973-76	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	The continuity argument.	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Saves money more to be spent on the	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	People lose interest having to go out t	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Once every 4 years enough and it mus	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Fewer times to go to the polling statio	Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Once every four years is better becaus	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	It would be better as I wouldn't have t	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	More stable council	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Better election	Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	We really do need to change to electic	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Elections have to be changed to every	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	We must change elections to every fo	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Why oh why would any sane person w	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Change to save the council funds Fund	Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	This change is long overdue and will b	Organisation
Change to whole Council elections	General elections are every 4 years, ar	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	The 4 year cycle would save money by	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Saves money by not organising electio	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	I feel a four yearly election will give th	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	I believe that the council will need at l	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	I think that we can have a say on who	Resident

Change to whole Council elections	It would cost less, waste of money.	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	The people elected are more likely to	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	I think this provides better continuity.	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	The public need the ability to vote out	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Would save the council money	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	I believe it makes good economic sens	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	It would save money and the public ar	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	The public want & need continuity, ev	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	It aint broke, dont fix it.	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Stop wasting money on elections and	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Opportunity for change	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	To save the public frustration of havin	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	If council no good then we can change	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Personal circumstances change for ver	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Some years ago we had a four year tur	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	There is the possibility of almost all th	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Continuity will provide a degree of sta	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	being able to vote each year gives the	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Having local elections only every four	Resident	As a ratepayer with knowledge of past events when Castle Point or its previous inc
Change to whole Council elections	Reduces Council costs.	Resident	
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	I completely agree with the reasoning	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Simpler for the electorate to understa	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	More stability and ability for longer te	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Significantly reduces election costs.Aff	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Organisation	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Will give the current administration a	Organisation	
Change to whole Council elections	Long term planning and long term stra	Organisation	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Shifting to a four year cycle should prc	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	We need consistency if there is any ch	Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	Cost savings, long term political stabili	Organisation	
Change to whole Council elections		Resident	
Change to whole Council elections	This will give those elected the opport	Resident	

Change to whole Council elections		Organisation
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	So councillors have enough time to ac	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	I believe this will save a great deal of r	Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Think it would be for the best for all re	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Thinks is for the best	Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	I think the 4 year option would give w	Organisation
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	To show what the people want more a	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	4 year whole elections would benefit t	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Better to have a steady council, than k	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Not good to keep changing as it enabl	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	It enables some time for the majority i	Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	It gives the elected members and adm	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Save cost of running annual elections.I	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	I think more people would turn out to	Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Will save taxpayers money	Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Changing to a whole every four years i	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Cost of holding election '	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	No adequate explanation why change	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Keeps everything balanced and they c	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	If a Councillor or council does not perf	Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	In my experience, a lot of councillors c	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	A much more straightforward idea ma	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Simpler and more logical	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Yearly would be a waste of money	Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	In my opinion the existing system give	Not Answered
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	It provides an opportunity to hold the	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	It gives continual opportunity for the €	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	much fairer system	Resident

Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Wastes less money on yearly election	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Saves money on yearly elections	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Easier for councillors to get things don	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Allows for councillors to be better plac	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	It ensures councillors are regularly acc	Organisation
Change to whole Council elections	Various elections get complicated.	Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	To allow continuity of council member	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Because it well heip with people with	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Need to ensure accountability and lim	Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds		Resident
Keep it as it is, elections by thirds	Keeping the elections as they are ever	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	Whole council elections would give th	Resident
Change to whole Council elections	A clear mandate from the electorate c	Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident
Change to whole Council elections		Resident

nisation - Other Organisation Type

arnation did vote only every our years.

Appendix F**HARD COPY RESPONSES**

LOCATION	CHANGE	KEEP	NO VOTE	TOTAL
Castle Point council offices	1	3	0	3
Canvey Island Town Council Offices	0	0	0	0
Runnymede Leisure Centre	3	0	0	3
Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	1	0	0	1
Canvey Island Library	1	3	1	5
Great Tarpots Library	0	0	0	0
Hadleigh Library	2	12	0	14
South Benfleet Library	0	2	0	2
TOTAL	8	20	1	28