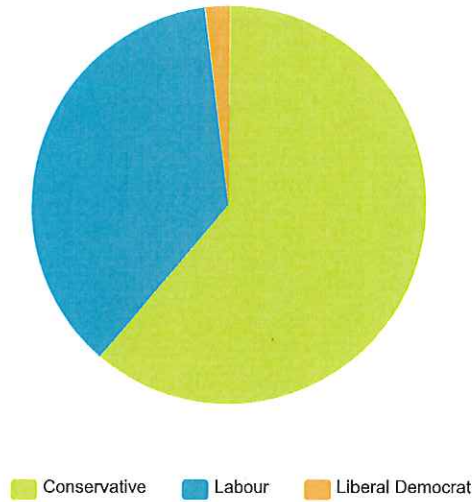


Members' Questionnaire

Q2 What group are you? (Please tick one option only)

Answered: 49 Skipped: 4

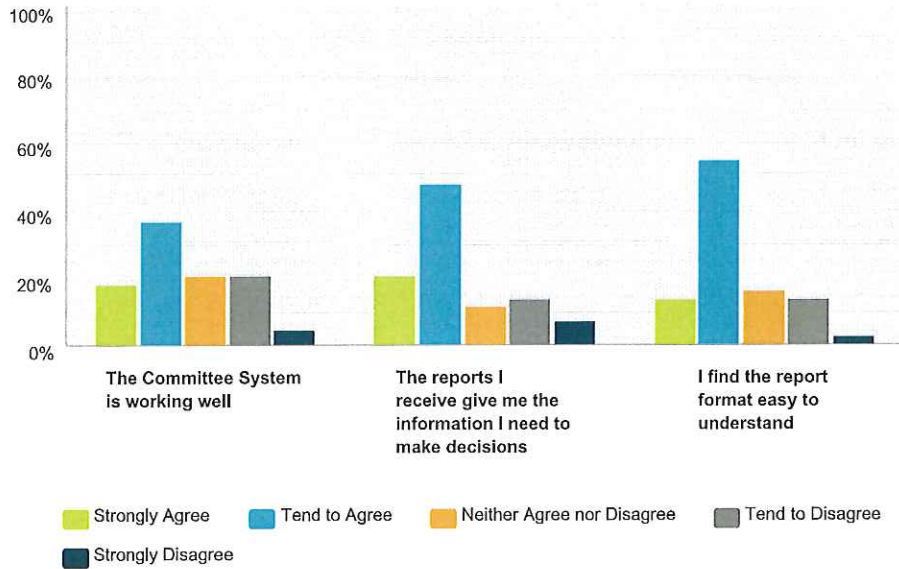


Answer Choices	Responses	
Conservative	61.22%	30
Labour	36.73%	18
Liberal Democrat	2.04%	1
Total		49

Members' Questionnaire

Q3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Please tick one option on each row)

Answered: 44 Skipped: 9

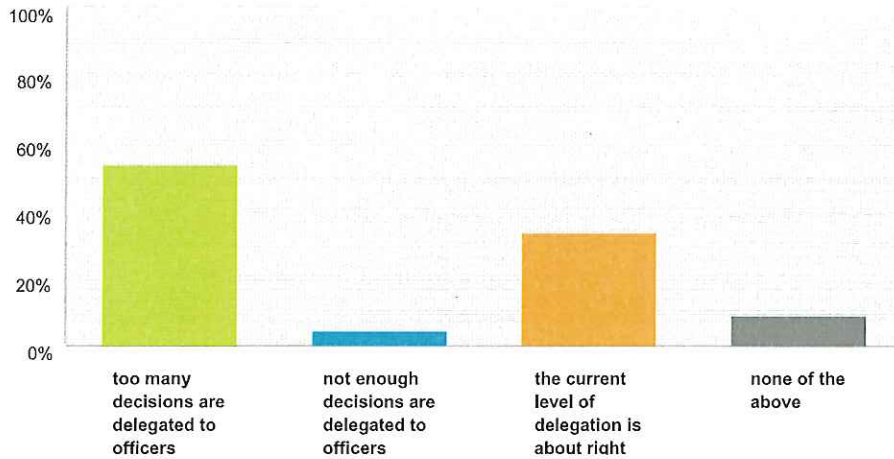


	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
The Committee System is working well	18.18% 8	36.36% 16	20.45% 9	20.45% 9	4.55% 2	44
The reports I receive give me the information I need to make decisions	20.45% 9	47.73% 21	11.36% 5	13.64% 6	6.82% 3	44
I find the report format easy to understand	13.64% 6	54.55% 24	15.91% 7	13.64% 6	2.27% 1	44

Members' Questionnaire

Q4 Considering the extent to which decisions are currently delegated to officers, please tell us which of the following statements most closely matches your opinion: (Please tick one option only)

Answered: 45 Skipped: 8



Answer Choices	Responses
too many decisions are delegated to officers	53.33% 24
not enough decisions are delegated to officers	4.44% 2
the current level of delegation is about right	33.33% 15
none of the above	8.89% 4
Total	45

Members' Questionnaire

Q5 Please give reasons for your answer:

Answered: 32 Skipped: 21

Summary of main points from responses:

Officers do not always take the decisions that councillors would wish

Officers do not consult councillors or provide only selected information if they do

A balance is required but some major decisions are tipped too far in favour of delegated decisions with limited democratic oversight.

Councillors should be doing the policy making and if too many decisions are delegated members can lose track of what is happening and therefore may not make the right policy decisions

Even where decisions are delegated officers should consult and discuss with local councillors

There are many 'transactional' items such as simple contract extensions or variations which come to ARG

It would be useful for a list of officer decisions to be available at the committee meetings with a link for more information.

A committee that meets for 3 hours every few months cannot guide every detail. There is a risk of paralysis with the committee system.

There are some areas around decisions taken by delegation or under urgency where that could have been avoided by better planning.

There are arguably too many "in principle" decisions where the final decision is taken by officers in conjunction with the Chair, which essentially replicates an executive decision.

There has been a transfer of power from the member to officers

Some critically important decisions which have wider implications need to have strong political control by members.

Members do not have a strong enough input into key contract issues such as outsourcing and benchmarking bids for contracts.

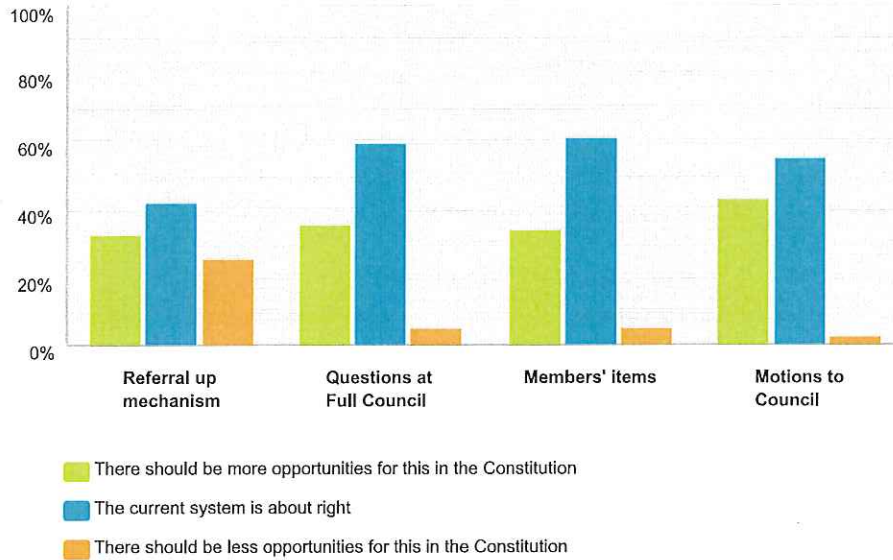
Councillors end up with the blame from residents for things that we didn't have any knowledge of

There are enough checks and balances in the system for councillors to question decisions if required.

Members' Questionnaire

Q6 Considering the various opportunities to hold the administration to account, please tell us which of the following statements most closely matches your opinion: (Please tick one option on each row)

Answered: 44 Skipped: 9

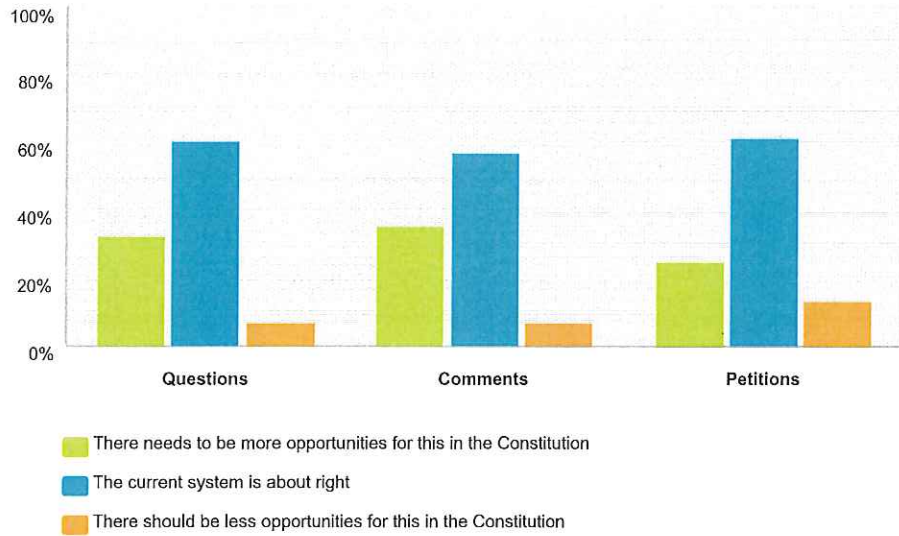


	There should be more opportunities for this in the Constitution	The current system is about right	There should be less opportunities for this in the Constitution	Total
Referral up mechanism	32.56% 14	41.86% 18	25.58% 11	43
Questions at Full Council	35.71% 15	59.52% 25	4.76% 2	42
Members' items	34.15% 14	60.98% 25	4.88% 2	41
Motions to Council	42.86% 18	54.76% 23	2.38% 1	42

Members' Questionnaire

Q7 In relation to the following opportunities for public participation and engagement, please tell us which statement you agree with most: (Please tick one option on each row)

Answered: 45 Skipped: 8

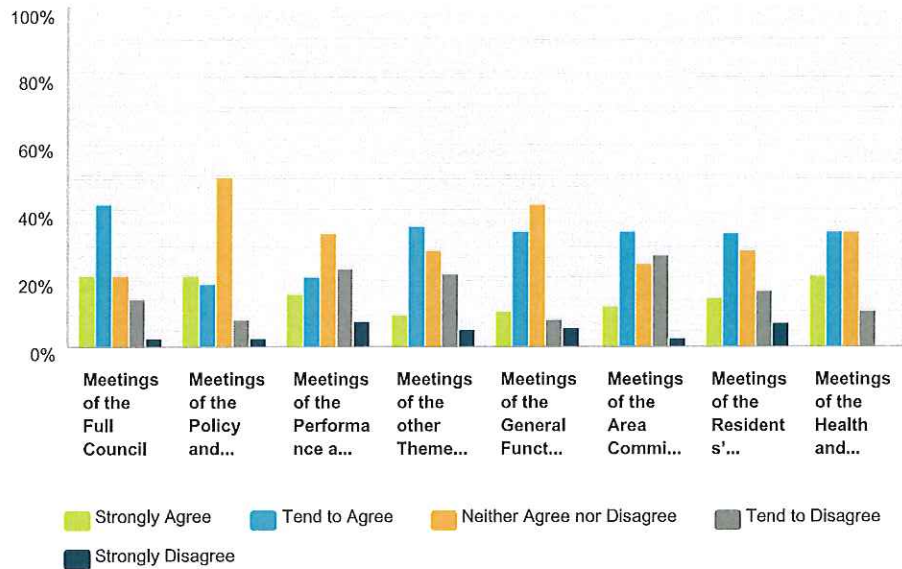


	There needs to be more opportunities for this in the Constitution	The current system is about right	There should be less opportunities for this in the Constitution	Total
Questions	32.56% 14	60.47% 26	6.98% 3	43
Comments	35.71% 15	57.14% 24	7.14% 3	42
Petitions	25.00% 11	61.36% 27	13.64% 6	44

Members' Questionnaire

Q8 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following committees have clear terms of reference? (Please tick one option on each row)

Answered: 44 Skipped: 9



	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Meetings of the Full Council	20.93% 9	41.86% 18	20.93% 9	13.95% 6	2.33% 1	43
Meetings of the Policy and Resources Committee	21.05% 8	18.42% 7	50.00% 19	7.89% 3	2.63% 1	38
Meetings of the Performance and Contract Management Committee	15.38% 6	20.51% 8	33.33% 13	23.08% 9	7.69% 3	39
Meetings of the other Theme Committees	9.52% 4	35.71% 15	28.57% 12	21.43% 9	4.76% 2	42
Meetings of the General Functions Committee	10.53% 4	34.21% 13	42.11% 16	7.89% 3	5.26% 2	38
Meetings of the Area Committees	12.20% 5	34.15% 14	24.39% 10	26.83% 11	2.44% 1	41
Meetings of the Residents' Forums	14.29% 6	33.33% 14	28.57% 12	16.67% 7	7.14% 3	42
Meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board	21.05% 8	34.21% 13	34.21% 13	10.53% 4	0.00% 0	38

Members' Questionnaire

Q9 Please give reasons for your answer:

Answered: 25 Skipped: 28

Summary of main points from responses

Theme committees must be given a fuller role in performance and policy scrutiny in their specialist areas, and the opportunity to drill down further than Performance and Contract Monitoring is able to have the time (or specialist knowledge) to do.

Committees should be able to scrutinise/question other organisations in the borough

It is not clear what purpose the Performance and Contract Management Committee serves.

There should be more meetings of Residents Forums. This is the only forum which engages the public face to face

Many committees overlap and due to the contracting out of many services, some committees seem redundant or not powerful enough.

It is still unclear how things can be done in-year via area committees. Deciding everything borough-wide by Environment committee once a year in the Spring for the next municipal year is too inflexible and its introduction was handled badly

Health and Wellbeing has no opposition representation so goes against the ethos of the committee system.

It's a new system and we need to be flexible in how we evaluate and amend.

Due to the necessity for joint working between the Council, the NHS and the Voluntary Sector on the HWBB and the need for a strong and united Local Authority position, the current composition of the HWBB and the TOR are the correct ones.

All of the functions of Residents Forums could be far more effectively and efficiently carried out by the Area Committees.

Theme committees are a rubber stamping exercise.

At theme committees there is not enough data presented, although this can be rectified if, when members are informed that the papers are published there is a link to the most up to date performance data from the appropriate delivery unit.

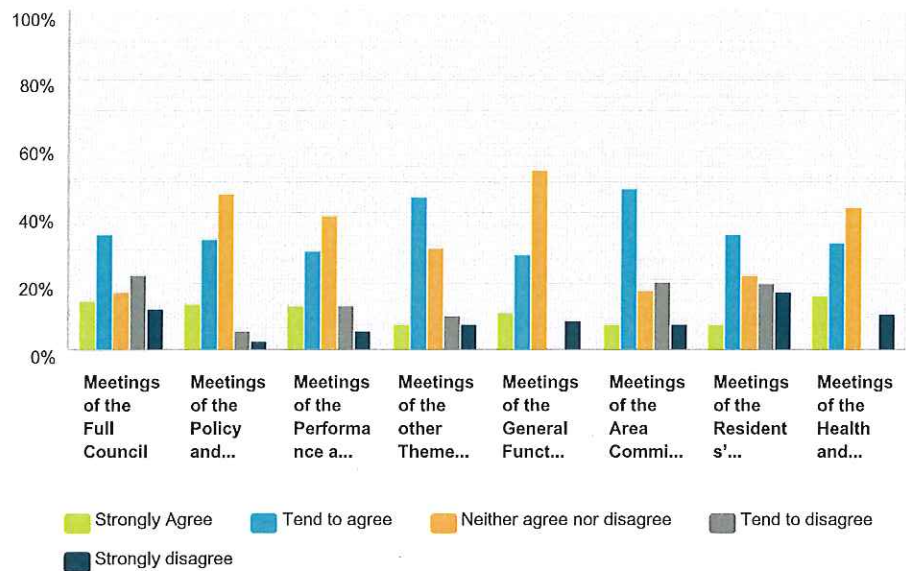
Full Council is not always a useful forum but it is difficult to improve under the current set-up.

The utility of some of the committees is very unclear. A committee that just notes matters is almost pointless.

Members' Questionnaire

Q10 Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree that the following committees work well? (Please tick one option on each row)

Answered: 44 Skipped: 9



	Strongly Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
Meetings of the Full Council	14.63% 6	34.15% 14	17.07% 7	21.95% 9	12.20% 5	41
Meetings of the Policy and Resources Committee	13.51% 5	32.43% 12	45.95% 17	5.41% 2	2.70% 1	37
Meetings of the Performance and Contract Management Committee	13.16% 5	28.95% 11	39.47% 15	13.16% 5	5.26% 2	38
Meetings of the other Theme Committees	7.50% 3	45.00% 18	30.00% 12	10.00% 4	7.50% 3	40
Meetings of the General Functions Committee	11.11% 4	27.78% 10	52.78% 19	0.00% 0	8.33% 3	36
Meetings of the Area Committees	7.50% 3	47.50% 19	17.50% 7	20.00% 8	7.50% 3	40
Meetings of the Residents' Forums	7.32% 3	34.15% 14	21.95% 9	19.51% 8	17.07% 7	41
Meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board	15.79% 6	31.58% 12	42.11% 16	0.00% 0	10.53% 4	38

Members' Questionnaire

Q11 Please give reasons for your answer:

Answered: 22 Skipped: 31

Summary of points made in response:

The rules for forums and area committees have been subject to many changes . The public are confused and the ability of area committees to respond to resident concerns has been devalued by the cap on area funding. The survey is premature before the new regimes have had a chance to operate

There have been some chaotic council and some committee meetings. Full Council is merely theatre

There is debate about to which committee information should go - there are a lot of areas which go across different committees

Generally the committees work well. On both the Area and Residents Forums we are slowly improving the way they are run.

If the meeting is chaired properly then the meeting works well.

The council is operating well under the current committee system structure.

Full Council works well only when it is managed in a disciplined and orderly fashion.

The grants process within the Area Committees did not work particularly and the ability to get deliverable outcomes has been mixed.

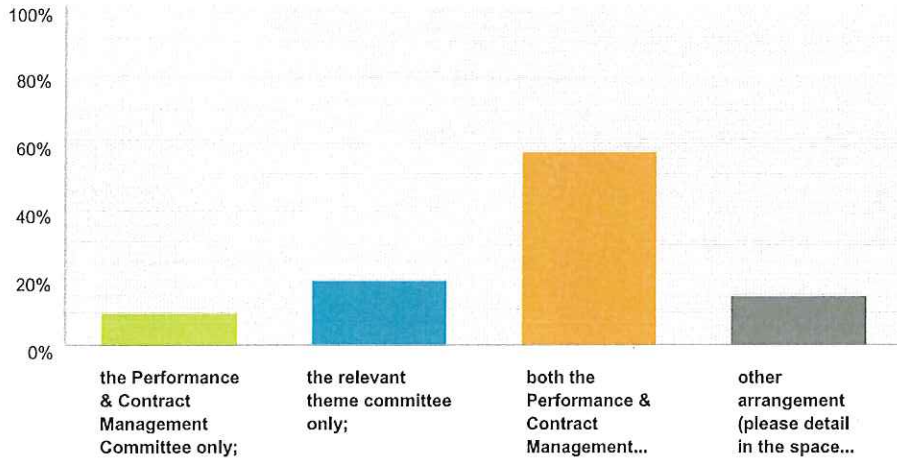
Residents forums are potentially excellent but are not owned by officers

The Performance and Contract Management Committee asks members to review performance across the entire range of council services without much context or in many cases relevant experience. Perhaps performance and contract management could be added as agenda items to other relevant committee meetings.

Members' Questionnaire

Q12 In relation to performance, do you think that performance information should be reported to....? (Please tick one option only)

Answered: 42 Skipped: 11

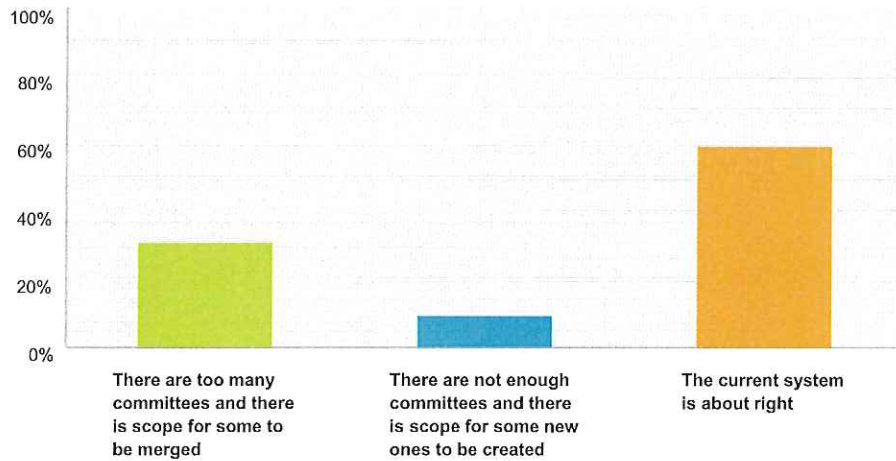


Answer Choices	Responses	
the Performance & Contract Management Committee only;	9.52%	4
the relevant theme committee only;	19.05%	8
both the Performance & Contract Management Committee and relevant theme committee; or	57.14%	24
other arrangement (please detail in the space provided below)	14.29%	6
Total		42

Members' Questionnaire

Q13 Considering the current committee structure, please tell us which of the following statements most closely matches your opinion: (Please tick one option only)

Answered: 42 Skipped: 11

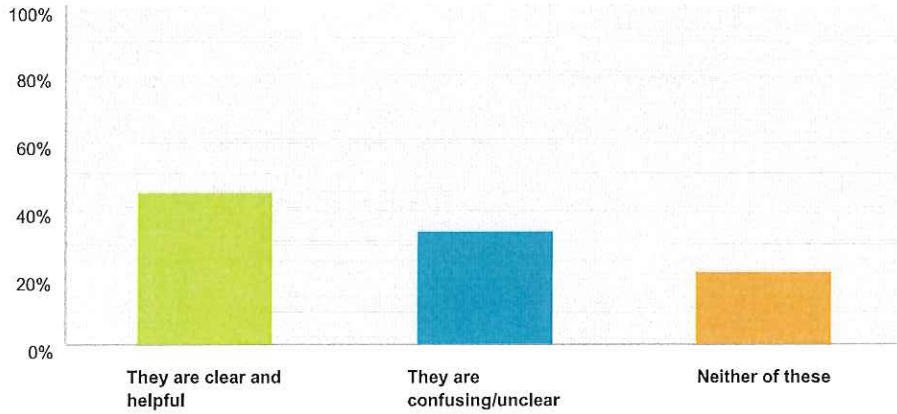


Answer Choices	Responses	
There are too many committees and there is scope for some to be merged	30.95%	13
There are not enough committees and there is scope for some new ones to be created	9.52%	4
The current system is about right	59.52%	25
Total		42

Members' Questionnaire

Q14 In relation to Council Procedure Rules please tell us which statement you agree with most: (Please tick one option only)

Answered: 42 Skipped: 11

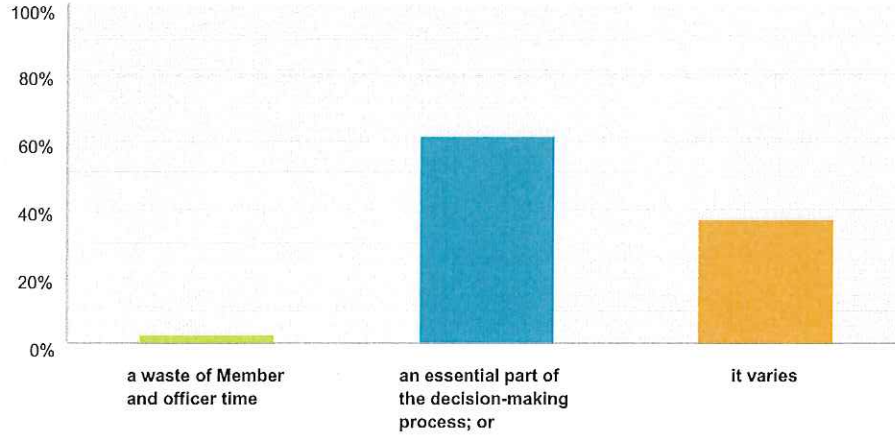


Answer Choices	Responses
They are clear and helpful	45.24% 19
They are confusing/unclear	33.33% 14
Neither of these	21.43% 9
Total	42

Members' Questionnaire

Q15 Do you think that the current system of pre-meeting and call-overs for committees is...? (Please tick one option only)

Answered: 41 Skipped: 12



Answer Choices	Responses	
a waste of Member and officer time	2.44%	1
an essential part of the decision-making process; or	60.98%	25
it varies	36.59%	15
Total		41

Members' Questionnaire

Q16 Please give reasons for your answer:

Answered: 23 Skipped: 30

Summary of points made in response

The pre meeting is essential. The call over is necessary although if there are no 'late items/changes' they may only need to be brief meetings.

Callover immediately before a meeting is no use to an opposition. Given enough lead time and attendance by relevant officers, pre-meetings are useful e.g. extra information can be requested.

These are an essential means of identifying any problem areas prior to the public meetings for non chairing members of the committee.

If members have not attended the pre-meeting they can feel inhibited from making valid contributions to the Committee meeting or they may waste everybody's time raising irrelevant issues.

It is useful to be able to put concerns to officers in a non-political environment.

Depends on the agenda

On call-over - it varies depending on the level of engagement and nature of the papers involved, and there is still a concern about confidentiality.

Without it the committees would be almost unmanagable but i do not believe it is sufficient as by the time of the callover the die is cast.

The big issue is the time Committee chairs have to review the papers.

Attendance of members at these has been somewhat erratic. If the Committee system is to work effectively then attendance is essential

The chairman should be strong and knowledgeable enough to chair the meeting without recourse to a pre-meeting

Members' Questionnaire

Q17 Are there any other issues relating to the working of the Committee system which you would like to raise?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 16

Summary of points made in response

Referring up is at the whim of individuals, always along party lines and pointless as there is very little time for debate.

Councillors are not backbenchers and should never be referred to as such

The petition threshold is too weak and low.

Theme committees need to be able to develop ideas and a greater performance monitoring and scrutinising role (while not duplicating the work of other committees).

Clearer indication of the responsibilities of officers as opposed to the committee

Committee agendas are too heavy. Therefore there is not enough time to discuss the items in detail.

Performance indicators must be reported to theme committees and any comments can go to P and R

There are too few meetings

The rules for referral up to full council have been changed and the survey is too early as we haven't had time to work through the changes.

When members of the public are addressing a committee then the Chair should ensure they are heard in silence

There is sometimes a danger of debate being taken over by the prominence given to questions and comments at the start of the meetings.

Full Council should have more opportunity to discuss, and possibly review, committee decisions rather than debating national political issues

The ARG committee and the Community Leadership committee should be scrapped.

The lack of pre-decision scrutiny is a problem and the committee system as it stands has not improved that situation.

The big issue is that officers in whose name papers are issued do not consult Councillors on ward issues before they are written.

It should be possible to co-opt individuals onto the theme committees as non-voting members who can bring their expertise to bear.

Members' Questionnaire

Q18 Are there any changes to the Constitution which you would like to see?

Answered: 37 Skipped: 16

Summary of points made in responses

The constitution as it relates to full council is confusing and contradictory.

There should be formal training/support for members in how the system works.

There should be more involvement of members in producing the reports.

The system we have gone for seems to be a committee system in name only. There is still a cabinet and it needs to be held to account.

There should be Monthly meetings otherwise the agendas are too unwieldy

Much more opportunities for the public to take part

Members of the public should have 5 minutes to address the planning committees, as in the past, instead of just 3 minutes at present.

We should verify whether or not people who sign petitions are actually residents of the Borough before including them in the number required for consideration

Area Committees should take over the functions of the Residents' Forums and to have greater powers over decisions on how their Budgets are spent.

Stronger powers for opposition refer up.

A return to 5-minute questions/statements from the floor at Council meetings, at the Mayor's discretion

A maximum of two motions to be debated at full council Less time for questions to leader

In general the Constitution operates well and offers good opportunities for all councillors to play a positive role.

There should be better definition about motions for the adjournment and the ability to extend the time of Full Council meetings

There is a question even in a committee system about in whose name the papers are issued which would fundamentally change the dynamic in some areas

At full Council should be more focus on previous committee decisions less on national politics