

Survey Feedback

The CLC review working group carried out a survey of all county councillors in June 2019. Surveys of all district, borough, town and parish councils were carried out during the summer and early autumn 2019, with a longer lead-in time to help enable responses. In addition, all the residents and community groups who have signed up to receive CLC papers and updates via the online 'Gov Delivery' system were invited to complete the survey during summer/early autumn. Key responses received to these surveys are summarised below.

Table 1: Responses

Organisation	Responses
County Councillors	43 (out of 70 – a response rate of 61%)
District/Borough Councils	3 (out of 7): Arun District Council, Crawley Borough Council and Horsham District Council
Town/Parish Councils	25 (out of 158)
Residents/community groups	122 (out of 9,982)

Table 2: County Councillors

Question	Yes	No
Do CLCs cover the right size of area	29	14
Do CLCs meet frequently enough to be effective	28	15
Are CLCs important and beneficial for the community	31	12
Do CLCs cover the right kind of business to respond to the needs of the community?	27	16

Table 3: Local Councils

Question	Yes	No
Do CLCs cover the right size of area	21	6
Do CLCs meet frequently enough to be effective	19	7
Are CLCs important and beneficial for the community	24	3
Do CLCs cover the right kind of business to respond to the needs of the community?	21	6

Table 4: Residents and community groups

Question	Yes	No
Do CLCs cover the right size of area	96	28
Do CLCs meet frequently enough to be effective	77	48
Are CLCs important and beneficial for the community	93	30
Do CLCs cover the right kind of business to respond to the needs of the community?	81	41

- **The core purpose of CLCs:** In all surveys, respondents gave the highest ranking to 'enabling engagement between elected members and communities'. For county councillors, 'Raising the profile of the County Council's work and role' was the lowest ranked, whilst for local councils, residents and community groups the two lowest ranked were 'to take decisions in an open and transparent way' and 'having a formal committee taking place in the local community'.
- **The most valuable parts of the CLC role:** In all surveys, the highest overall ranking was given to the 'Talk with Us' sessions. Local councils, residents and community groups also gave a high ranking to 'engagement with the community on high profile local issues'. The lowest ranked element overall (for all respondents) was the nomination of school governors.

Table 5: Options for the future of CLCs

	County Councillors	Local Councils	Residents & Community Groups
Maintain as is (11 CLCs meeting 3 times per year)	12	13	53
Reduce CLCs to 7 (based on district/borough council boundaries)	8	3	18
Remove decision-making and replace with 11 informal community forums	5	1	11
Remove decision-making and replace with 7 informal community forums	0	1	8
Remove CLCs completely and use one-off meetings in the community for important local issues	8	3	8