

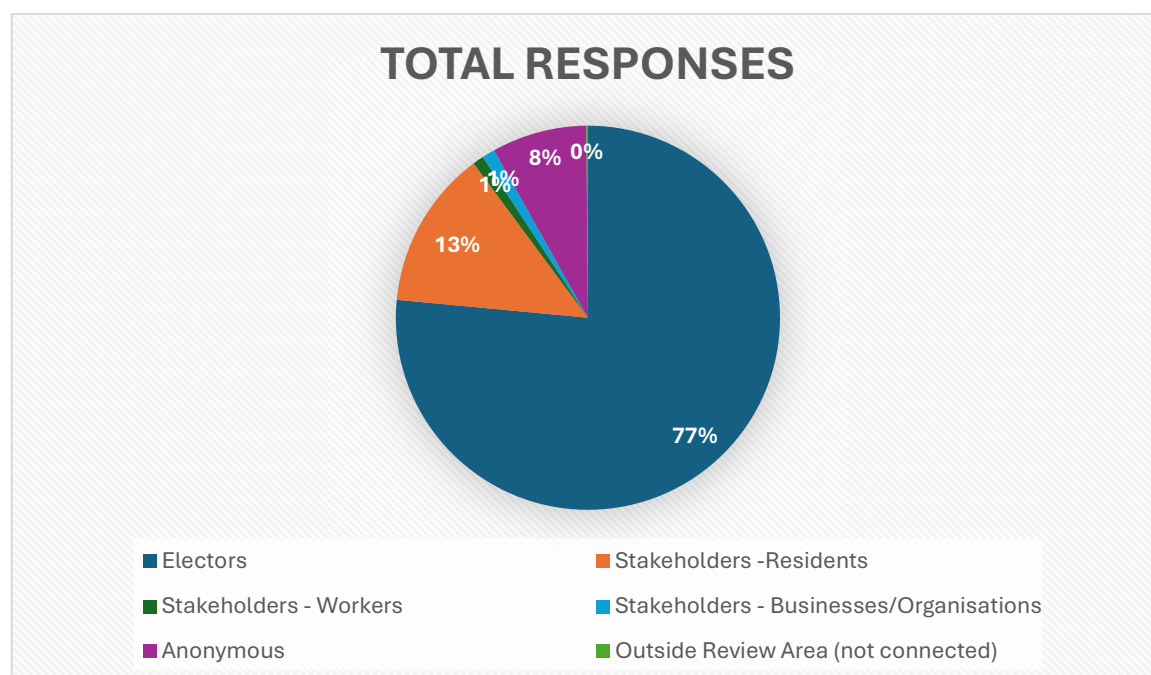
Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee**30 March 2026 (originally submitted to the Committee on 17 November 2025)****Community Governance Review – Outcome of Phase I Appendix**

Note: The figures set out in this Appendix have been checked for accuracy by the Corporate Policy and Support Service. In addition, the Council's Internal Audit Service have been asked to provide its own verification of those figures.

RESPONSE LEVELS

During the Phase I consultation period (1 July to 30 September 2025) a total of 3444 response survey forms were received. These can be segmented as follows:

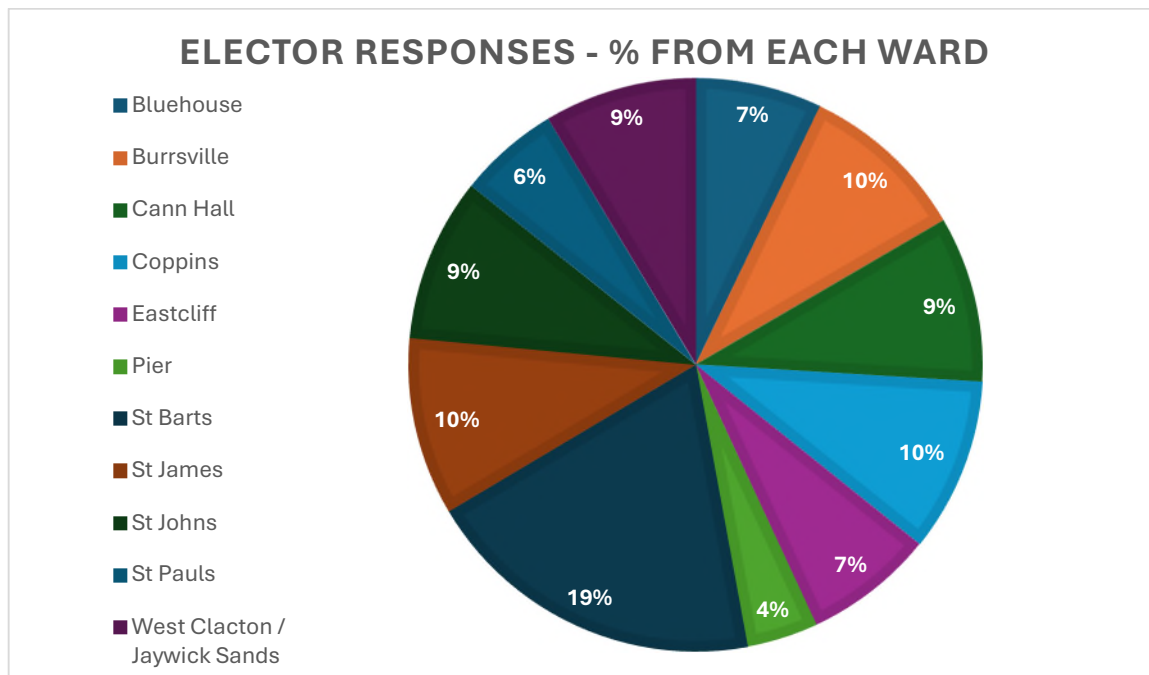
Electors	2634
Stakeholders -Residents	460
Stakeholders - Workers	33
Stakeholders - Businesses/Organisations	37
Anonymous	275
Outside Review Area (not connected)	5
TOTAL	3444



In relation to the responses from electors, whilst 2634 forms were received from households with electors, several of those forms contained responses from more than one elector at the property. As such the total number of elector respondents was 3297.

The overall electorate for the Community Governance Review area is 44,028. The survey forms returned with electors views represent an overall response of 7.49% of the entire electorate the review area.

Of the returns received, these have been analysed by District Ward area and are shown here:



Stakeholder Responses – Further Analysis;

460 forms were submitted by residents in the area who were either not on the electoral register or did not provide an address to confirm their electoral registration status.

From individuals working in the area, a further 33 forms were returned.

Among organisations, an additional 37 forms (two forms included multiple respondent addresses).

CONCLUSION FROM RESPONSE LEVELS

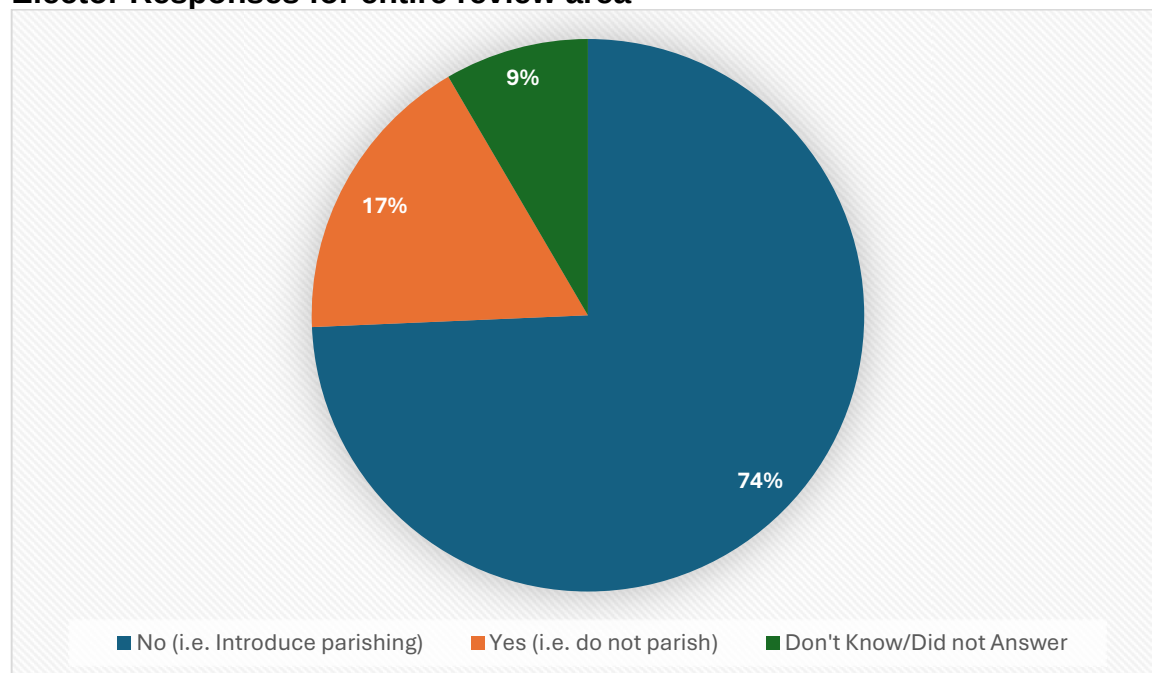
The Council had set its own minimum response level (5%) among electors in the review area and this was surpassed. The responses level overall provides evidence of engagement across the review area from local electors and from others with an interest in the review area.

QUESTION 1 – SHOULD THE AREA REMAIN UNPARISHED

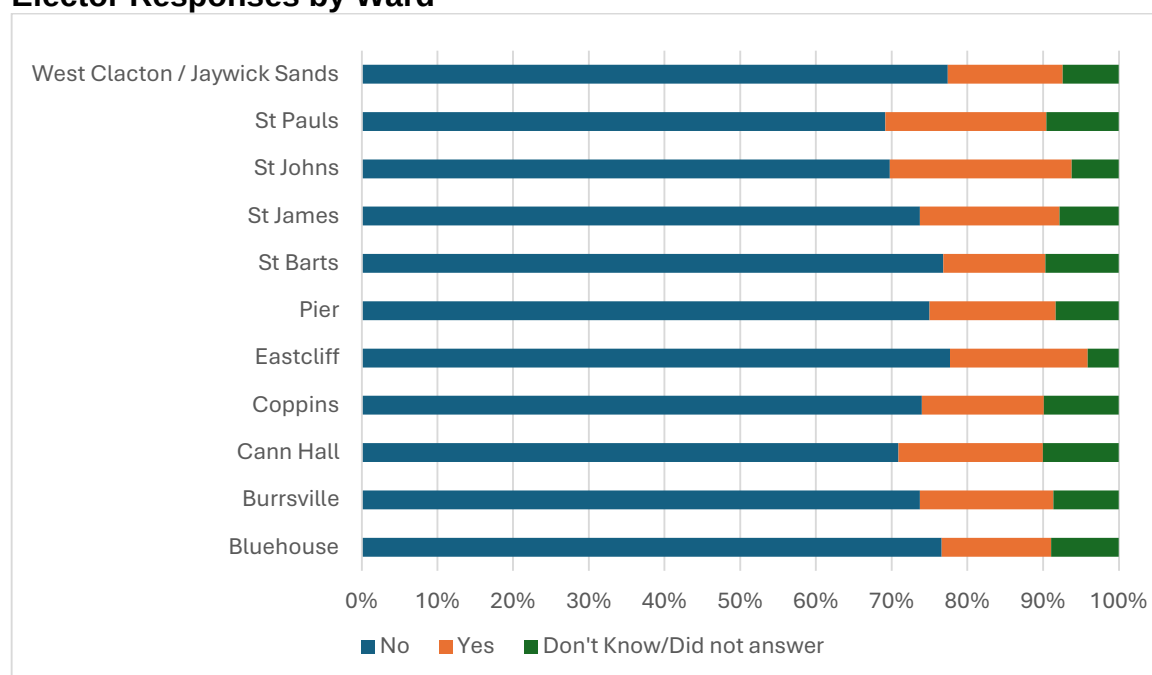
The opening question respondents were asked to provide their views on was:

1. Do you think it's right that Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands currently DO NOT have a Town Council?

Elector Responses for entire review area



Elector Responses by Ward



278 elector respondents across the review area did not answer this question or answered that they didn't know.

These are the Stakeholder answers to question 1.

From the non elector residents 306 were in favour of a town council, 96 were against and 58 didn't know.

Among organisations, an additional 39 responses were received, these responses supported parishing by a ratio of 3.5:1.

The majority of all respondents across the review area responded that a town council should exist. This was also the case across all wards.

CONCLUSION FROM QUESTION 1

There was generally strong support among respondents for parishing in the review area.

QUESTION 2 – ONE, TWO OR THREE PARISHES/COUNCILS

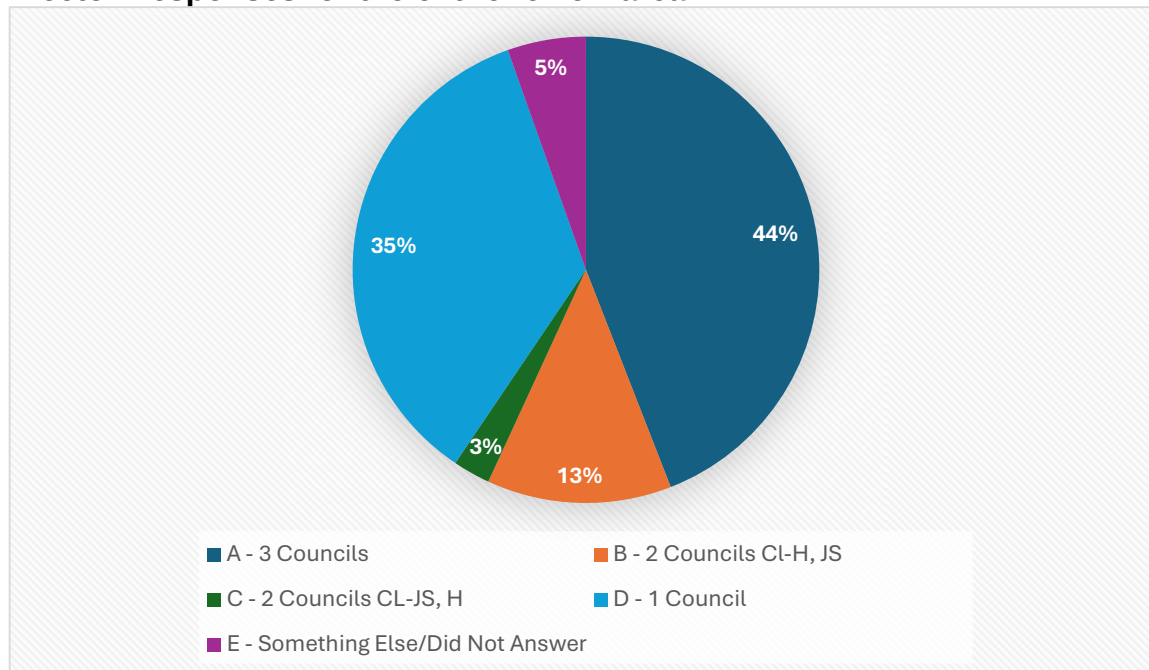
The next specific question about the future arrangements for the review area was:

2. If new local town council or councils for the review area were created what options below do you most support?

The options to choose from were:

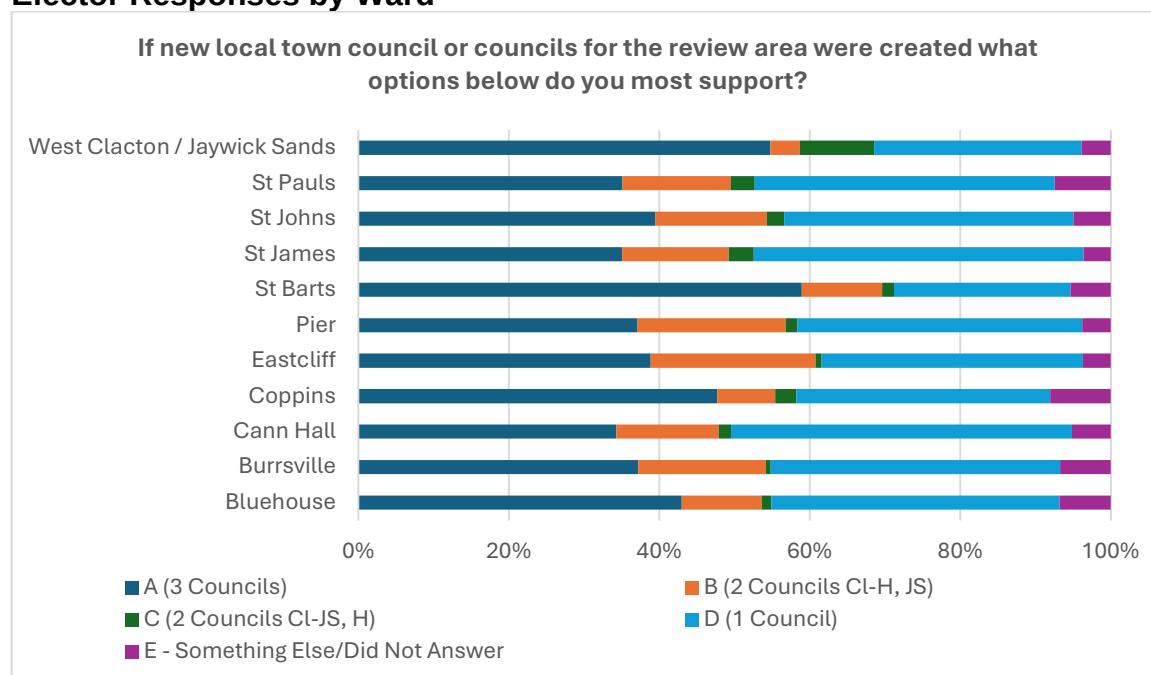
- A. SEPARATE ones for Clacton-on-Sea, for Holland-on-Sea and for Jaywick Sands (Three Town Councils)
- B. A COMBINED one for Clacton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea (Two Town Councils)
- C. A COMBINED one for Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands (Two Town Councils)
- D. A SINGLE COMBINED one for Clacton-on-Sea, for Holland-on-Sea and for Jaywick Sands (One Town Council)

Elector Responses for the entire review area



Key – CL-JS stands for a combined Clacton and Jaywick Sands Council. CL-H stands for a combined Clacton and Holland Council. Cl, H and JS stand respectively for Clacton, Holland and Jaywick Sands.

Elector Responses by Ward



Key – Cl-JS stands for a combined Clacton and Jaywick Sands Council. CL-H stands for a combined Clacton and Holland Council. Cl, H and JS stand respectively for Clacton, Holland and Jaywick Sands.

179 respondents either did not answer or made alternative comments and suggestions to those provided in the survey.

It was not possible to provide this analysis for the 275 anonymous responses, as many questions had not been answered, and for most forms, it was not possible to identify the ward from which they came from or related to.

These are the Stakeholder answers to question 2.

Of the 460 non elector residents option A saw a response of 197, option B 64, option C 18, option D 132 and option E and don't know 49. The preference for three separate councils being the most preferred.

From 33 forms returned by individuals working in the area option A saw a response of 14, option B 4, option C 1, option D 10 and option E and don't know 4. The preference for the three-council option being highest.

Among organisations, an additional 39 responses option A saw a response of 16, option B 4, option C 0, option D 13 and option E and don't know 4. The preference for three separate councils being the most preferred.

CONCLUSION FROM QUESTION 2

The two options that secured most responses were Option A (3 Councils) and Option D (1 Council). Of these Option A received the highest number of responses.

While different Wards had differing levels of support for Options A and D (in particular), it is noteworthy that absolute majorities among respondents from the communities in West Clacton-Jaywick Sands and in Holland-on-Sea wished to see Option A pursued.

OPEN TEXT QUESTION – SEEKING ANSWERS

Do you have any questions about the Community Governance Review that you'd like us to answer during this consultation?

748 questions were raised out of the 3444 forms returned. A summary of the questions can be seen below.

Top Themes from the Questions (collated using the Co-Pilot AI software)

The frequency indicator in the table identifies the extent to which the issue was raised among the 748 questions.

1. Cost & Funding	<i>Examples:</i> ▪ "How much will this cost?" ▪ "Will council tax go up?" ▪ "Where will the money come from?"	o Frequency: Very high (hundreds of mentions)
2. Decision-Making & Powers	o <i>Examples:</i> ▪ "What powers will the town council have?" ▪ "Will they have authority over budgets?" ▪ "Will they be independent from Tendring District Council/Essex County Council?"	o Frequency: High
3. Representation & Elections	o <i>Examples:</i> ▪ "Who will be elected?" ▪ "How will councillors be chosen?" ▪ "Will residents have a say?"	o Frequency: High
4. Impact on Services & Local Issues	o <i>Examples:</i> ▪ "Will potholes and roads be fixed?" ▪ "Will there be more policing?" ▪ "What services will councils provide?"	o Frequency: High
5. Purpose & Timing	o <i>Examples:</i> ▪ "Why is this being considered?" ▪ "Why now?" ▪ "What is the point?"	o Frequency: Moderate
6. Transparency & Consultation	o <i>Examples:</i> ▪ "Will feedback be taken seriously?" ▪ "Is this just a box-ticking exercise?"	o Frequency: Moderate

CONCLUSION FROM THIS OPEN TEXT QUESTION

With just over 1/5th of responses from electors included questions demonstrates an interest in understanding the issues and giving an opportunity to consider relevant information. While some of the answers to the questions raised are on the Council's web page concerning the review, further work will be undertaken to expand the frequently asked questions and address the issues posed in the responses. Individual respondents will

be notified once the update is complete, so that they can use the material to inform their approach to the Phase II consultation.

OPEN TEXT QUESTION – COMMENTS FROM RESPONDENTS

What are the main things you were thinking about when answering the previous questions? And; Do you have any further comments you wish to make about the Community Governance Review or the idea of a town council or councils for the area?

398 comments were raised out of the 3444 forms returned. A summary of the comments can be seen below.

The table below provides a summary of the comments in the responses received.

Sentiment Summary (collated using the Co-Pilot AI software)

Positive Sentiment	• Local Representation: Support for creating separate councils for Clacton, Holland-on-Sea, and Jaywick Sands to give residents a stronger voice. • Community Identity: Appreciation for recognising unique identities - Holland-on-Sea as a “village,” Jaywick’s distinct challenges, and Clacton’s regeneration needs. • Accountability: Optimism that local councils could lead to more visible action and responsiveness.
Negative Sentiment	• Cost Concerns: Strong worry about higher council tax, extra bureaucracy, and unclear funding. • Scepticism: Doubts about whether new councils will improve services or just add complexity. • Future Changes: Anxiety over Tendring District Council being absorbed into a Greater Essex authority, reducing local representation.
Neutral / Mixed Sentiment	• Governance Questions: Requests for clarity on structure, number of councillors, powers, and responsibilities. • Service Delivery: Comments highlighting issues like potholes, policing, and transport—often framed as concerns but not always tied to strong emotion. • Efficiency vs Identity: Some residents weigh pros and cons of a single combined council versus separate councils.

CONCLUSION FROM THIS OPEN TEXT COMMENTS

The above comments will assist with the communications around the Phase II consultation. The comments demonstrate the range of opinions that electors expressed through the questions in Phase I.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICES TENDRING (CVST) SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

In addition to the work undertaken directly by the Council, CVST was commissioned to engage residents in Clacton, Holland-on-Sea, and Jaywick Sands about the issue of whether to parish the review area. CVST undertook engagement in September 2025 through surveys and focus groups. Their full report is available and set out as a separate Appendix to this report.

Key Findings

Overall Sentiment: Strong trend of support for forming a Town Council.

Supportive Responses: 70

Opposed Responses: 2

Neutral Responses: 39

Themes Identified:

Community Support & Representation: Residents believe a Town Council could better address local social issues and unmet needs.

Awareness & Engagement: Awareness varied, especially among younger people; QR codes and online surveys helped increase participation.

Concerns Raised:

Future of community buildings under a Town Council.

Questions about governance structure and leadership.

Demographic Insights

Strong support from older adults and community groups.

Youth showed interest in civic engagement, especially linked to personal development (e.g., badges).

Carers and individuals with learning disabilities engaged actively but needed more information.

CONCLUSION FROM CVST ENGAGEMENT

The CVST conclude that its engagement process was inclusive and transparent, revealing majority support for establishing a Town Council. While governance and infrastructure concerns remain, residents see value in having a local body to represent their interests and address community challenges.