

Responses to the public consultation

Notes:

ID - Unique ID referring to an individual respondent. They may have submitted a response and/or comment in relation to more than one area, and are listed separately for each, using the same ID.

Capacity - In which capacity the respondent submitted their response/s. A * indicates that the respondent stated this was the official response from the organisation listed.

Responses have been reviewed for personal, identifying or inappropriate content, but otherwise remain verbatim with no editing.

ASHWELL

Election dates				N Cllrs	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
⁴⁷	Resident	No	At least one council should have experience. Although I agree to reduction of number of councillors. Sounds like a cost saving excercises to me	Yes	Hard enough to get volunteers. No one seems interested I. Where they live but complain all too quickly. I served 8 years as a councillor an am too deaf now sadly to contribute to a meeting.
¹⁰⁴⁴	Resident	No	5 years is too long to ask someone to step forward and agree to serve.	No	Due to the decisions taken by the Secretary of State this village has grown significantly since 2015, son there are more residents requiring the services of the Parish Council. At present the Council does not number 12, but I see no reason why it should be limited to 7 since residents may step forward in the future to serve and assist with the workload.
¹¹⁴	Resident	Yes		Yes	
²⁶⁷	Resident	Yes	It would seem sensible to align with other elections.	Yes	Recently it has been difficult to recruit Parish Councillors. 7 is good as long as others can be co-opted or can volunteer to help with bigger projects

BALDOCK

Boundaries				Town Council	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
²⁵	Resident	No	Having a local council will enable them to make decisions on a local level and we wont have to compete with other towns at North Herts	No	I dont see why you've decided more councillors should cover West, draw better boundarys like Baldock east and central
¹³⁷	Resident	No	Council tax is too expensive as it is. Just leave it alone	No	I think this just adds more costs to residents
¹⁸⁰	Resident	No	Civil service already bloated and incompetent	No	Civil service already bloated and incompetent
¹⁸¹	Resident	No	All I and most home owners are bothered about is the yearly rise in the council tax,not adding more people on to the council gravy train	No	As above.

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184	Resident	No	No	
191	Resident	No	No	I just wonder why we would have another layer of bureaucracy. The main issues that affect us as residents are not within the power of a local council. For example the roads and congestion within the town. Also limiting the amount of traffic using our road (Icknield Way) as a rat run. The local council has no power to make changes here
215	Resident	No	No	Just another layer of bureaucrat to add to the others.
230	Resident	No	No	If it is going to increase our Council Tax, will we notice any difference? It's not exactly value for money as it stands.
232	Resident	No	No	We would prefer to stay as a District Council as we pay enough Council Tax as it is and the more councillors we have the larger the Council Tax. As we live in Aldridge Court which is a private road and we look after our own gravelled road and lighting and i cannot understand why as a Terrace house we are on Band 'F'.
270	Resident	No	No	It's unnecessary additional cost and expense to residents. I don't see any benefit having a parish council for Baldock.
299	Resident	No	No	I don't think we need to implement any changes, especially those that will cost residents money
302	Resident	No	No	A fear this would lead to the formation of another layer of unaccountable bureaucracy which I or others would be expected to pay for
311	Resident	No	No	I don't think that many councillors are needed for Baldock
315	Resident	No	No	Why do we need 3 councillors when in the past we only had one . The services are going down and down and yet your expecting us to pay more and more .

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318	Resident	No	As the changes to local government are not agreed, this should wait until it is agreed. The town council in letchworth was a waste of money until it was disbanded.	No	
322	Resident	No		No	
326	Resident	No	Just creating a further divide between old Baldock and New	No	Baldock should work as one
339	Resident	No	There is no benefit Not value for money Another layer of bureaucracy	No	There is no benefit Not value for money Another layer of bureaucracy
340	Resident	No	We have way too many costly councillors	No	
342	Resident	No	What is the purpose of this? How much money is this costing at a time when local councils are in dire need of extra resources? When Labour are talking of creating unitary councils, why would you choose to adjust boundaries of parishes now and not wait to see what happens at a county level first?	No	To suggest creating an unnecessary council with a disproportionate number of councillors at huge cost to the residents seems to highlight the council's inability to read the room. People are already crippled by rising costs and high mortgage rates, local services are being cut, schools are desperate for money to be poured into them - increasing council tax to pay for this needless restructure would be a terrible misuse of money.
351	Resident	No	Surely Bygrave and Clothall are already well served by councillors. I cannot imagine what could be gained by this adjustment. It appears to be yet another attempt to increase our council tax.	No	Baldock already has two wards, albeit named differently. Do you seriously not have more pressing concerns to address?
357	Resident	No	Answered no as don't wish my council tax to go up.	Yes	Hopefully it'll mean Mr Muir will lose his seat.
364	Resident	No	Why do we need more councillors over such a small space? Won't this increase our council tax for little benefit?	No	Why do we need more councillors over such a small space? Won't this increase our council tax for little benefit?
369	Resident	No	Why do we need Extra	No	No I do not agree. Why do we need extra councillors. They money we pay though counsel tax , could be used to improve services for the taxpayer who pays. Cutting bin services etc
382	Resident	No		No	
389	Resident	No	It will cost increase council tax for residents and may not be as effective as the current position	No	I stated my reservations in 8 above
393	Resident	No		No	
394	Resident	No	Thought we were trying to reduce costs and bureaucracy	No	Thought we were trying to reduce costs and bureaucracy

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408	Resident	No	Should we not change anything if it already works and to whose cost?	No	We are already doing fine, why change the system, we don't want to pay extra or I certainly don't as we don't get much from anything really, considering businesses, roads, lighting, community, care of people in community settings
416	Resident	No		No	We already pay too much council tax and should not be expected to pay even more to have more layers of council
428	Resident	No	Council tax rises plus cost of living crisis we do not need more increases for more politician's. Change for change sake when it's not needed and the tax payer is paying the price.	No	I do not want yet more costs councils should be downsized like nhs England not increased.
469	Resident	No	I completely disagree with adding another layer of bureaucracy that will probably make the council even less efficient and increase my council tax which is already not good value for money	No	I completely disagree with adding another layer of bureaucracy that will probably make the council even less efficient and increase my council tax which is already not good value for money
489	Resident	No		No	I am strongly opposed to having a Baldock Town Council if it means an increase in council tax. Council tax is already punitively high thanks to the Tory Government underfunding local government over the last decade and more. I can't quite believe that it is being suggested that we need another reorganisation, that will leave the area still covered by the same number of councillors, and face a rise in council tax, possibly of more than £120 a year, for the privilege. Council tax is already too high and I don't see the need to increase it just to pay for yet another pointless local government reorganisation. This is an idiotic proposal which should be scrapped. North Herts council would be better spending its time looking to improve local services instead of carrying out costly navel gazing exercises like this.
521	Resident	No	Waste of taxpayer's money	No	Waste of taxpayer's money
529	Resident	No	Unnecessary extra cost for little reward at a time of financial stretch for everyone	No	Same as above
530	Resident	No		No	
531	Resident	No	Council tax is already extremely high - increases will not be sustainable for many	No	Council tax is already extremely high - increases will not be sustainable for many

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545	Resident	No	I do not see the benefit of what the Town Council would offer, particularly with the overall devolution and restructure of local government	No	I do not see the benefit of what the Town Council would offer, particularly with the overall devolution and restructure of local government
557	Resident	No	Bygrave and Clothall are tiny suburbs of Baldock. Surely the better approach would be to create 1 overarching Town Council to cover Baldock and All surrounding areas. Who in reality recognises clothall, Bygrave, Baldock east and west as distinct areas.. please survey them asking the question what people prefer rather than proposing something made up to serve the system. save us money on our council tax please rather than wasting money on sub division	No	As above
587	Resident	No	Do not know what the benefits are or what difference will it make	No	see answer to 7
596	Resident	No		No	
603	Resident	No	No new government structures please.	No	No new government structures please
620	Resident	No	Waste of money creating a new town council. More services and less overheads is what we want.	No	Waste of money creating a new town council. More services and less overheads is what we want.
647	Resident	No	I can see no advantage in doing this, and the leaflet advertising this change gives very little detail.	No	Suspect if I was given a reason why we needed in times of cutbacks to introduce another layer I might have voted differently, but with no actual statement as to why we needed a town council, the answer is no.
685	Resident	No	Do not want to pay between £22 - £121 additionally per household in council tax as a result of a new town council.	No	Do not want to pay between £22 - £121 additionally per household in council tax as a result of a new town council.
698	Resident	No	I have not seen anything strongly making a case for the proposed changes. My understanding is that there were very few responses on this point to the first consultation. Frankly this is tinkering with local arrangements for the sake of it and without any clear benefit, and at additional cost to council tax payers which many will be ill placed to afford in current circumstances.	No	

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699	Resident	No	Whilst the changes to the Parish boundaries of Bygrave and Clothall make perfect sense given the impending developments included in the District Plan, the creation of a Town Council seems unnecessary partly on the grounds of cost and also that North Herts District is likely to be wound up and the and placed within a new single tier authority. Would it not be prudent to consider this matter when the future of local government in Hertfordshire has been settled. Finally at the time of the last local government re-organisation the District Council established a system of area committees which provides a direct link between the local residents of an area and the Council. It seems that a town council would simply be replicating processes that already exist.	No	The relatively recent creation of a Town Council for Letchworth was a very costly mistake and ended a short time later when the Town Council was dissolved. I feel it un-necessary to list the expenditures required to set up a new town council or the continuing costs should one be created. All costs would, I feel, be disproportionate to any benefits that may arise. I have experience of areas where there is considerable and ongoing friction between Town Councils and the District in whose area they are situated.
738	Resident	No	There no benefit to splitting the parishes	No	No benefit
776	Resident	No		No	
778	Resident	No	Seems to have been drawn by someone who has not been to Baldock and based on old plans, like why does it not include all houses on South Road. No clear purpose or remit of the council. Are they all volunteers. paid?	No	Totally excessive to have so many people, with no clear remit.
802	Resident	No	There is no justifiable need to change the current position other than to elect more councillors at a greater tax burden to all residents	No	As answer above
818	Resident	No	JUST LEAVE IT AS IT IS.	No	AN INCREASE IN COUNCIL TAX . DOUBT THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL SEE ANY ACTUAL BENEFITS
819	Resident	No		No	
827	Resident	No	There isn't enough information provided to be able to agree to a change	No	You have not provided enough information. How many councillors are there now? What are the problems with the current system? What is better about the new system? Who asked for this change? What are the potential negative impacts of the change?
834	Resident	No		No	
838	Resident	No	Do not want to pay higher council tax as the cost is already crippling.	No	Do not want to pay higher council tax as it is already excessive and increasingly hard to pay.

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864	Resident	No	No change is required. Public already pay to much and council tax has already increased. These changes will increase tax's further and is the last thing residents require. Bearing in mind council tax prices have already been increased, this proposal looks more like a act of greed than necessity	No	No change is required. Public already pay to much and council tax has already increased. These changes will increase tax's further and is the last thing residents require. Bearing in mind council tax prices have already been increased, this proposal looks more like a act of greed than necessity
865	Resident	No	9 councillors are to much for the area	No	9 councillors are to much for the area
883	Resident	No	I'm not sufficiently convinced that a town council is beneficial for the added cost to council tax. Residents are struggling as it is, without further unnecessary costs. Baldock is a great place, and is great without a town council which would only really add another level of bureaucracy, further confuse the matrix of existing councillors (as someone who is politically aware, for the first time living somewhere, I haven't a clue what parish/ward/jurisdiction we're in nor who our councillors are), and add further middle-management. I appreciate a dedicated town council can apply for grants unavailable to larger jurisdictions, but really, the few improvements Baldock need can/should be addressed by existing councillors.	No	Adding three councillors based on the current population, and not the projected population after the completion of Urban & Civic's development doesn't make any sense. We'd only have to have a further consultation and add more councillors then which is needless and wasteful.
933	Resident	No	If it's not broke don't fix it - proposals reek of change for the sake of change	No	See previous
935	Resident	No	I see no real benefits in this proposal and in this time of financial hardship the cost to tax payers and the local authority canyo be justified.	No	I see no real benefits in this proposal and in this time of financial hardship the cost to tax payers and the local authority canyo be justified.
964	Resident	No	One I feel that many of councillors is extreme and not cost effective and money can be used on providing better services. However each councillor should be more engage and communication should be better with residents with follow ups. Residents should have more of a say with evidence provided that we have had engagement and what change we have made. I don't like the divide, I feel this will encourage the young generation to divide which leads to gang violence. The divide does not feel like a community spirt.	No	Reduce the number of council, but increase the representation of residents. However the residents need to be diverse.
973	Resident	No	It is unnecessary to add to the number of councillors	No	Added bureaucracy and added expense.

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994	Resident	No		No	
996	Resident	No		No	
1015	Resident	No		No	
1026	Resident	No	At this time of high financial pressure I do not see any benefit to these changes to warrant ANOTHER increase in council tax. I feel it will just be another costly layer of bureaucracy	No	As above another layer of bureaucracy at a higher cost on council tax. Nothing I have read leads me to believe I will benefit from this change. What you have to remember is that people are not only having to find more money for council tax but also water rates, gas & electric, internet/phone providers/ food....I could go on.
1048	Resident	No	Baldock used to have a Town Council. Baldock Urban District Council was abolished in about 1974 when Baldock became part of North Herts with Letchworth and Hitchin. NHDC seems to have worked satisfactorily since then. I think you need to explain why you want Baldock to have a Town Council and what benefits it would bring to council tax payers. From here it looks like an extra layer of officialdom that we would be paying for without much in the way of benefits.	No	Similar to No 7. You need first to list the benefits this would bring to the tax payer.
1049	Resident	No		No	
1056	Resident	No	I can't see benefits associated with with this proposal	No	I can't see benefits associated with with this proposal
1079	Resident	No	One taxes are going up to much lately, and second my children and other peoples families have no chance of getting any housing with others getting first refusal. My sister alone has been told she has to wait 5 to 7 years for any chance of getting a house, she works 2 jobs and she as born and bred here, it absolutely disgusting and outrageous.	No	
1105	Resident	No		No	
1112	Resident	No	The establishment of a new Town Council for Baldock could mean more bureaucracy. In addition, at a time when people are struggling to make ends meet with a high cost of living and ever increasing Council Tax payments, this proposal would incur further costs to residents. The proposal doesn't clearly explain the benefits to residents of this draft recommendation, it only states that the new boundaries will align with the district ward boundaries. I am against anything that causes more costs to residents.	No	As above.
1130	Resident	No	Don't get value for money now....so adding another council will just be a waste of time and resources.	No	

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1131	Resident	No		No	
1132	Resident	No		No	
1133	Resident	No		No	
1134	Resident	No		No	
1141	Resident	No	Im not in favour of anything that can possibly increase my council tax	No	I do not want any changes
1143	Resident	No	Baldock is one place. It's not a massive community, and it has taken 40 years for the Clothall estate to be considered as part of the town. We do not need to be divided even for administrative purposes	No	The last thing that Baldock needs is additional layers of administration, division between different areas and more councillors and staff taking funds from the already overstretched public purse
1144	Resident	No	More unnecessary cost.	No	
1153	Resident	No	See no need	No	Cost and unnecessary bureaucracy that will result
1172	Resident	No	Can't see a massive reason for this change	No	Think we are adequately represented as it is
1179	Resident	No		Yes	
1187	Resident	No	There do not appear to be any benefits to residents accruing from these changes	No	I do not believe that establishing a separate town council for Baldock will be of benefit to residents
1208	Resident	No		No	
1227	Resident	No	I believe that changing parish boundaries would lead to unnecessary costs for the council and increased bureaucracy, benefiting councillors more than the local community.	No	With nine councillors in place, there is a risk that time and energy will be spent on internal competition rather than on delivering real benefits for the community. A smaller, more focused team would be better suited to making effective decisions and driving positive change.
1269	Resident	No	The flyer states that establishing a town council will add between £22-£121 additionally per year to council tax. How on earth do residents benefit from this change if there is a direct financial charge for the endless time spent tinkering with something that only benefits the North Herts Council	No	The flyer states that establishing a town council will add between £22-£121 additionally per year to council tax. How on earth do residents benefit from this change if there is a direct financial charge for the endless time spent tinkering with something that only benefits the North Herts Council
1279	Resident	No	There are virtually no houses in large parts of the new boundaries; how will this be value for money?	No	The cost to add extra councillors will be an additional financial burden on the residents. We do not need so many councillors in such a small town; 3 is already too many.
1283	Resident	No	I do not believe a town council is necessary and is introducing new cost and spending that is not needed.	No	I do not believe a town council is necessary and is introducing new cost and spending that is not needed.

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1287	Resident	No	unable to see any benefits to the alterations so keep as it is.	No	unable to see any benefits to the proposed changes.
1293	Resident	No	why is a change needed just leave as is	No	I am not paying more money to a town council as its waste of time and resources
1300	Resident	No	Too expensive. Why are residents expected to pay more council tax for a lesser service, eg waste collection every three weeks instead of two. We don't need a town council costing more.	No	Too many councillors, too expensive, just more bureaucracy.
1301	Resident	No	What benefit is there to create another body? Existing bodies represent the community just fine. Why put additional costs onto people? How many representatives do I need? I feel like I have enough and haven't heard a good reason why the existing councillors can't represent Baldock under the existing arrangements.	No	What benefit is there to create another body? Existing bodies represent the community just fine. Why put additional costs onto people? How many representatives do I need? I feel like I have enough and haven't heard a good reason why the existing councillors can't represent Baldock under the existing arrangements.
1310	Resident	No	The government is bankrupt it is ridiculous to spend more money on things like this	No	Too expensive and unnecessary
1313	Resident	No	We don't need any additional calls on our council tax. The money should be spent on our services not additional bureaucracy.	No	
1343	Resident	No	I do not wish to pay more council tax to pay for a town council or more bureaucracy.	No	I do not wish to pay more council tax to pay for a town council or more bureaucracy.
1347	Resident	No	Additional cost for negligible personal benefit	No	Additional cost for negligible personal benefit
1372	Resident	No		No	We have a District Council and creating a Town Council is another layer of unnecessary bureaucracy that may result in additional costs without necessarily improving local services.
1384	Resident	No	I see no reason or justification to include yet another layer of bureaucracy/administration at additional cost to residents. I can also foresee the example given on your flyer of between £22 - £121 increase in Council Tax to be vastly underestimated and will increase substantially over the years. There should be a drive to reduce the size of bureaucracies and the costs involved not increase them. I'm	No	
1435	Resident	No		No	
1438	Resident	No	Additional costs are not affordable and additional governance is not required or welcome.	No	
1484	Resident	No	I do not consider Baldock needs a town council. Alter the boundaries if you must but in my view, the Town does not require an additional level of local government with all the extra costs and bureaucracy this would involve.	No	See 7 above. I'll just repeat, NO to a town council.

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1519	Resident	No	We need an independant Parish Council in Baldock. The addition of Clothall and Bygrave will cause overcrowding of public services such as GPs due to the new estate being constructed North of the railway bridge at Baldock Station.	No	I would wish to have a public consultation before deciding on any of this. Descriptions are too brief for such an important matter.
1526	Resident	No	Another completely unnecessary waste of time and money. There is no valid reason for this.	No	
1528	Resident	No		No	We waste enough money on local government.
1533	Resident	No	I don't think that this would be good value for money for residents	No	The costs are too high
1544	Resident	No	Extra cost to Council Tax payers is unjustified. Do not want the boundary changes to be used as justification for delaying democratic elections. Do not want boundaries changed for areas/developments where my formal consent/objection has yet to be given. Council services are getting worse & my taxes are being wasted on projects such as new 20mph limits, road closures, road narrowing, road restrictions and expensive new cycle routes despite poor road condition, reduced bin collections, increased litter, and grandiose schemes driven & imposed by central government.	No	Will add more expense with little extra benefit - more chat, less action.
1574	Resident	No	We don't need any more councillors	No	
1595	Resident	No		No	
1602	Resident	No	Don't want to pay more council tax to facilitate these changes.	No	-
1612	Resident	No	There is no need to mess with anything. Leave well alone.	No	Not necessary. Just adds unnecessary wages. Which we as residents should not have to pay.
1629	Resident	No	We do not need any changes to the existing system, many people are already struggling financially without any unnecessary and more expensive changes to the system.	No	As above.
1648	Resident	No	Why the extra expense and bureaucracy ? Just another crazy idea of jobs for the boys. All this unnecessary bureaucratic duplication	No	We need to cut costs not create more which are not required . I dont want to pay a penny more for council tax
1665	Resident	No		No	
1670	Resident	No	We have enough bureaucracy, the proposal doesn't state what the additional charge to residents is for and what benefit we would see if the proposals go ahead. I am therefore against it.	No	Already stated above
1671	Resident	No	See comment below	No	This is an unnecessary expense particularly given the Government policy potentially scrapping District Council

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1675	Resident	No	Do not want to see an increase in council Tax due to this proposal.	Yes	Do not want to see an increase in council Tax due to this proposal.
1689	Resident	No		No	
1704	Resident	No		No	Additional council tax costs
1715	Resident	No	The expense of yet another level of local government is totally unnecessary.	No	The proposed number of councillors is excessive.
1734	Resident	No	Unsure why 9 town councillors would be required for a town of 10k residents? The current councillors do very little for extra cost and I can imagine that the extra 9 would do very little but yet expect to be rewarded accordingly!	No	
1735	Resident	No	Unsure of need	No	I do not want to pay more council tax for this unnecessary change. We already have councillors to represent us.
1738	Resident	No	This will just create more bureaucracy and waste tax payers money without adding any significant value. The current system works, why break it.	No	This will just create more bureaucracy and waste tax payers money without adding any significant value. The current system works, why break it.

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1747	Resident	No	This proposal is being made only to facilitate the quite unnecessary expansion of Baldock from a small English market town into what will be, essentially, a London suburb.	No	<p>1) Local Government, as currently constituted in North Hertfordshire works as effectively as Local Government ever can. Yet another tier of Local Government, presumably constituted below the District Council will serve no practical purpose. It would be, quite simply, unnecessary, expensive and serve no effective purpose. I, for one, am NOT prepared to pay YET more Council Tax for what would be essentially an otiose talking shop.</p> <p>2) The proposal to split Baldock into two, very unequal, Wards would also make this proposed "Council" far less democratic. The East Ward would always have only a minority voice within Baldock. As such any concerns or issues pertaining specifically in the east of the Town (where "Rayner-grad is due to be foisted upon us) would always be over-ruled or ignored by the built-in majority that would pertain in the West.</p> <p>2B) To this day there is still a residual "Us and Them" cultural legacy noticeable in the Town following the development of Clothall Common over forty years ago. Although this has diminished in recent years, making a conscious decision to split the Town into two "factions" in this way will only bring that problem roaring right back.</p> <p>2C) Furthermore in Baldock East we get to vote for a Local Councillor only in one year in four, We do not need another layer of bureaucracy (funded by my council tax). If any more local representation is required, there are already councillors on NHDC representing the areas in question, and they could easily form an appropriate sub-committee or interest group without adding further layers of obfuscation.</p>
1755	Resident	No			<p>I agree with the points made by the councillor in the report we don't need more layers of democracy or to pay more council tax as I don't believe we will get any value from this. Possible just more bureaucracy</p>
1767	Resident	No	It's unclear if this is dependent on then creating a town council and I'm not in favour of that.	No	

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1777	Resident	No	I see n benefit in the changes	No	I see no benefit in another layer of local govenment
1785	Resident	No	Smaller gov not larger	No	As above
1788	Resident	No	This is typical political jobs for the boys. You should be reviewing how to make the current policy more efficient and for a change how to reduce costs to the rate payers. My opinion of most of the current councillors i have dealt with and council meetings i have attended, the standard of personell and organisation is very poor.	No	As my comments on Item 7.
1789	Resident	No	The leaflet delivered to residents and the website signposted on it provide no information as to why a town council is needed, what the benefit to residents would be and what difference we would see in the facilities provided. They assume prior knowledge that most residents do not have. The website merely explains what one is; nothing specific to us. There is also no information on what the difference would be to the services provided by North Herts; if there is a difference, I would expect the part of the council tax paid to North Herts would decrease. It said that there will be an increase to the council tax but no information on what the town council would spend it on.	No	See my previous answer; the information given is not enough to make an informed decision.
1797	Resident	No	We don't need that many councillors in a small town. It's unnecessary.	No	As above. We don't need 6 it waters down their responsibility.
1812	Resident	No	The council have just increased rates by 4.8%. These proposals will add a further level of beaurocracy and result in a further increse in Council tax. In your flyer you say this might be between £21 and £221 per anum. Anyone with any sense will know it will be much closer to the higher end of that. What world do you people live in? As if the general population have not got enough cost of living increases to deal with - you people want to increase it further! Seriously? Why don't you get a job in private practise - then you might just get some perspective on the pressures most people are enduring. ANYTHING that will add cost should be avoided!.	No	The council have just increased rates by 4.8%. These proposals will add a further level of beaurocracy and result in a further increse in Council tax. In your flyer you say this might be between £21 and £221 per anum. Anyone with any sense will know it will be much closer to the higher end of that. What world do you people live in? As if the general population have not got enough cost of living increases to deal with - you people want to increase it further! Seriously? Why don't you get a job in private practise - then you might just get some perspective on the pressures most people are enduring. ANYTHING that will add cost should be avoided!.
1832	Resident	No		No	

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1849	Resident	No	Further burden on residents when there's no demand, and the body will have no statutory responsibilities	No	More unnecessary bureaucracy .
1851	Resident	No		Yes	
1863	Resident	No	I don't really understand the benefit for the extra council tax	No	See above comment
1868	Resident	No		No	
1882	Resident	No	An extra & unnecessary level of bureaucracy and expense	No	The Councillors we have now are pretty worthless so adding more is unlikely to improve the situation.
1899	Resident	No		No	I do not believe the additional administration is required or efficient use of time and resources. So no town council.
1930	Resident	No		No	There is no need for a town council or need for an additional layer of bureaucracy or the additional cost and additional burden on residents
1964	Resident	No	It will cost more money, and a town council will be pointless following proposed local government reorganization to create unitary authorities in 2028	No	See comment above, get rid of multiple layers of governance and introduce unitary authorities
1976	Resident	No	There is nothing wrong with the way things have been run for the 30 years I've lived here. There is no need to break what isn't already broken especially when it comes at great cost. Leave Baldock alone....it runs perfectly well as it is.	No	There is no benefit to this and to cost a further £121 a year is unjustifiable.
2056	Resident	No	It's an unnecessary layer of local government, with very little influence. A sheer waste of time and money. It has been looked at and discussed before in great detail and rejected, by the local public.	No	A Baldock Town Council will have no real value or influence in decision making.
2058	Resident	No	I'm not convinced it's worth the cost.	No	There is no need for a Parish Council in my view.
2085	Resident	No	With respect, existing Councillors need to do everything in their power to reduce costs for residents - if existing councillors cannot cope with their job role then let them be replaced.	No	Not necessary and expensive!

Responses to the public consultation

2136	Resident	No	See comments below re Town Council proposal.	No	<p>What North Herts needs is clear partnership between its towns, in particular Baldock, Letchworth GC and Hitchin, recognising the differences and benefits of each. Not having a holistic approach will over time give a worse environment for those in North Herts as the towns attempt to compete with each other rather than working together to deliver a joined-up approach to services and facilities. A town council for Baldock is likely to enforce a narrow-minded approach to services which does not serve the people of the town or the wider area.</p> <p>Further, adding to the Council tax bill for something unnecessary is wrong at any time, but particularly so in times where many face financial hardship.</p>
2202	District Councillor	No	I think there maybe a case for a Town council in Baldock after the local council reorganisation but not until after that has been implemented	No	
2206	Resident	No	At a time when we are all suffering from the results of high inflation and a shortage of funds to pay for even the basic necessities in life I see no advantage in creating yet another level of administration which will just cost us all more. The district council already does a fine job of looking after the interests of Baldock residents.	No	<p>At a time when we are all suffering from the results of high inflation and a shortage of funds to pay for even the basic necessities in life I see no advantage in creating yet another level of administration which will just cost us all more. The district council already does a fine job of looking after the interests of Baldock residents.</p> <p>Town councils (ie Letchworth) were a costly failure and just another layer of bureaucracy, with little power. Residents expectations were high, but Town Councils are actually able to deliver little. Letchworth failed because of the above and i am certain Baldock would do likewise</p>
114	Resident	Yes		No	
9	Resident	Yes	Baldock has needed this local council for many years, as it is missing this level of representation.	Yes	
21	Resident	Yes		Yes	
34	Resident	Yes	None	No	As with Hitchin and Letchworth, a Baldock Town Council would be a waste of taxpayers' money.
35	Resident	Yes			Why is there such a large difference in the number of councillors between the two wards.
38	Resident	Yes		Yes	
52	Resident	Yes		Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

75	Resident	Yes		Yes	
103	Resident	Yes	Makes sense	Yes	
115	Resident	Yes		Yes	
174	Resident	Yes		Yes	I think that it has been something of an anomaly that smaller parishes such as Bygrave have hitherto had local representation through a parish council, but that Baldock, as a town has only had District councillors
225	Resident	Yes		Yes	
344	Resident	Yes	This is sensible	Yes	A town council for Baldock is essential. District & County councillors are too focussed on party political issues and blaming each other for doing or not doing things. A town council at grass roots level to tackle truly local issues and provide advice is a much better system
346	Resident	Yes	The parish boundaries should follow the ward boundaries now and accommodate any future changes, so the boundaries need to be flexible so they continue to follow the ward boundaries	No	Agree if this replaces the current town council, and is not as well as it. However 9 councillors is too many. The council needs to shift from being a talking shop with no powers, to an organisation with a clear constitution with a mandate and powers to take action and make changes. I do not agree to 9 councillors and want to see the terms of ref of the new council and way they will be accountable for
353	Resident	Yes	You've made these questions incredibly difficult to answer without showing them on the referenced map.	No	You've not given any reason why Baldock needs a town council.
361	Resident	Yes		No	We have enough layers of bureaucracy without adding more expensive talking shops with more councillors taking money from the public purse.
379	Resident	Yes	I have long thought that, being the smallest of the constituent towns of NE Herts district council, Baldock could be often overlooked in favour of the two largest towns. This may help to redress the balance.	Yes	
384	Resident	Yes	.	Yes	.
443	Resident	Yes	The lack of a town council for Baldock and other north Herts towns has been an anomaly in a political environment that should focus on local democracy. It's time the situation was rectified.	Yes	In the event of Growing Baldock actually happening, I trust the system will allow some increase in the number of councillors for Baldock east.
588	Resident	Yes		No	I'm not in favour of another layer of government and the extra tax for me to pay that would be required.

Responses to the public consultation

619	Resident	Yes	Yes	
650	Resident	Yes	Yes	
664	Resident	Yes	No	<p>I am highly concerned about the idea that we require another layer of bureaucracy by creating a town council. We already have a district and county council, this further level of representation seems unnecessary.</p> <p>The idea that you would then want to increase council tax further to pay for this is also highly inappropriate. We have just received a 5.8% increase in our council tax bill for the forthcoming year. Whilst paying this increase, we are also getting a large service decrease regarding the general waste collection going from fortnightly to three weekly. Service standards have declined massively since I first moved to Baldock: general waste collection is now going to be more infrequent, garden waste is now charged for, litter bins have been removed, the library is open less and there are many others. If there is to be any increase in council tax it should not be put towards creating more layers of administration and additional councillors. It should be put into actually improving the services that residents want, rather than councillors just sitting around</p>
707	Resident	Yes	Yes	
714	Resident	Yes	Yes	
717	Resident	Yes	Yes	
728	Resident	Yes	Yes	
867	Resident	Yes	No	Extra costs not needed.
876	Resident	Yes	No	Why the need for so many councillors for baldock west
910	Resident	Yes	No	Too many proposed councillors

Responses to the public consultation

917	Resident	Yes		No	This seems excessive for a town of our size, I understand that there are plans in place to grow Baldock but increasing the costs to current residents by putting in more councillors seems ridiculous. I would like to see the justification of why we need this increase in resource and what the roles & responsibilities are for these councillors. Spending money on parking wardens to stop people parking consistently on the double yellow lines at the junction of north road & bygrave road would be better spent.
927	Resident	Yes	Given the future expansion of Baldock, possibly into parts of these areas, this seems reasonable.	No	I'm not aware of what powers would be devolved from NHDC to the proposed town council and given the continuation of the district council I'm not sure why we need a town council. My answer would be different if NHDC was being abolished as I think Baldock is sufficiently represented on it.
931	Resident	Yes	Reduce the scope/boundary of parish councils as much as possible. Baldock is already well represented at district level	No	The additional cost required to implement further bureaucracy that is not needed and that we can't afford. Baldock is already well represented at district level
977	Resident	Yes	In view of the plans to create large unitary authorities for Hertfordshire a more local level of representation in the form of a parish council seems appropriate and this seems even more desirable when one considers the plans for large scale development in Baldock. However, in view of the fact that in recent years there has been a tendency for the cost of utilities etc to rise faster than earnings, the cost of a parish council would need to be considered carefully. I suggest that the establishment of the aforesaid council should definitely not increase council tax bills by more than 5%.	Yes	
1014	Resident	Yes	I hope it gives a good focus on the needs of that specific area.	Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

1095	Resident	Yes	Makes sense given Baldock is expanding into these areas.	Yes	<p>A more honest answer might be "It depends on what happens in the bigger local government review".</p> <p>If North Herts District Council is abolished and we're left as part of a big unitary authority, then I'm strongly in favour of having the town council to keep democracy local.</p> <p>If North Herts continues to exist then I'm not in favour of this proposal, I think there are better ways to spend the money.</p> <p>To be honest it seems a little strange to do this review now before the plan for Hertfordshire has been decided.</p>
1103	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1126	Resident	Yes	Why are they still called parishes when most people no longer identify as Christian?	No	More bureaucracy and slower response times to solving issues.
1186	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1204	Resident	Yes	In general, it seems illogical for Clothall and Bygrave parishes to be responsible for areas which most, if not all, residents of Baldock currently believe are within the boundary of Baldock. It seems an inefficient use of Bygrave & Clothall parish councillors' time attending to matters that impact on Baldock residents as opposed to their own constituents.	No	<p>I have lived in Baldock for over 50 years, and for much of that time at a local level, it has been under the jurisdiction of NHDC. To my mind, from a cost / benefit / efficiency perspective, this level of local government works well. Under this arrangement, on the rare occasion an issue has arisen, I have felt my voice has always been heard and I have never felt under-represented.</p> <p>Creating further sub-groups of NHDC, or disbanding NHDC in its entirety in favour of smaller bodies seems an inefficient use of taxpayers money which would no doubt result in higher costs, and unnecessary duplication of effort by those delivering local services. Indeed, NHDC was itself created by merging / disbanding the previous Urban District Councils (of which Baldock was one). One of the reasons for doing so at the time was that running a single District Council would be more efficient than having a number of small Urban District Councils. On this basis, the proposal seems to be a backwards step. As a result, I wholeheartedly object to the stated proposal</p>
1221	Resident	Yes	I feel they should be kept separate, as they can have more of a say in regards to their specific needs and enquiries.	Yes	This will help in focusing in on the particular areas they represent.

Responses to the public consultation

1298	Resident	Yes	It seems like a logical thing to do and is probably overdue.	Yes	I assume this has been calculated proportionality. It may need to change if the expansion ever goes ahead.
1302	Resident	Yes	Not too bothered about draft 1, it's draft 2 I have an issue with.	No	I do not want to see this. A county and district council is sufficient. A further town council is not worth the money and the rise in Council Tax, which is expensive enough as it is.
1303	Resident	Yes		No	I do not think there is a need to create a new town council. I believe this would increase bureaucracy and is not a good use of council tax.
1316	Resident	Yes		No	
1317	Resident	Yes		No	
1330	Resident	Yes		No	Cannot see any need for this. Also multi councillor wards are not democratic. We will most likely have 6 councillors from one party and either three more from the same or at best three from another. This won't represent residents views. We should either have 9 wards or a PR electoral system.
1335	Resident	Yes	I have no arguments against the re-writing of the parish boundaries. The change looks sensible.	No	There has not been any information regarding the positive or negative impacts of forming a town council aside from the warning that council tax is likely to increase. As council tax and their associated services are already expensive, I would not be happy at this time to vote in favour of a large town council without understanding the scope and value of that setup.
1344	Resident	Yes		No	I would support the idea of a town council of there were 9 wards. One for each councillor so we had a proper range of views represented.
1357	Resident	Yes	I am in favour of adjusting the boundaries given the expansion due to the town	No	
1439	Resident	Yes	It makes sense for all representatives for an area to share the same boundaries	Yes	It is not clear what power these reps will have. Can other bodies over rule the Baldock Parish councillors? If the new councillors are merely a representative body that do not have the final say what is the point of them?

Responses to the public consultation

1542	Resident	Yes	1. Another layer of cost to residents in these difficult times. 2. Prematurity as local government in Herts is being reorganised and NHerts should wait for the new organisation to look at its whole area. 3. It's increasingly difficult to find individuals to put themselves forward as town/parish councillors, why are we creating more.	No	1. Another layer of cost to residents in these difficult times. 2. Prematurity as local government in Herts is being reorganised and NHerts should wait for the new organisation to look at its whole area. 3. It's increasingly difficult to find individuals to put themselves forward as town/parish councillors, why are we creating more
1551	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1590	Resident	Yes		No	
1591	District Councillor	Yes	A logical adjustment to boundries	No	There is little or no appetite to increase the amount of representation in Baldock. Current arrangements provide democratic representation for the residents of the town without duplicating administration at additional cost to the council tax payers. There is no evidence of added value. Also, the forthcoming unitary changes need to be d
1683	Resident	Yes	North Herts. Gov. People, Parish lines? Nine councillors? Look, let's just privatise the whole thing. Baldock LLC. Subscription-based bins, premium potholes, and councillors replaced by AI running on a blockchain. Think of the shareholder value! My vote? A resounding "meh" followed by a bid to buy my street. Yours, Future Baldock Conglomerate CEO (Maybe).	Yes	So, you're shuffling Baldock around like it's a deck of particularly dull cards. Nine councillors? That's... a lot of opinions about roundabouts. Could we maybe just settle this with a town-wide game of rock-paper-scissors? Or, hear me out, a raffle? Winner gets to redraw the lines. "Are you in favour?" My enthusiasm is currently being outpaced by a snail attempting to climb a wall. Please, carry on. I'll be here, wondering if I can sell my vote on eBay. Yours, A Resident Who's Lost the Will to Draw Lines (Or Care).
1713	Resident	Yes		Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

1730	Resident	Yes	I don't particularly care about parish boundaries, but it seems to make sense to align them with district ward boundaries.	No	You have provided very little information on the justification for a new town council. The leaflet only mentioned it in passing with a one line comment that it may increase council tax by up to £121. The draft proposal pdf is not much help either. One line stands out: "it is very difficult for people to assess the options available to them without further information or context". Agreed. Please provide residents with further information and context. My (limited) understanding of the context is that Hertfordshire is looking to move to a unitary model. Until this is finalised, it makes little sense to add a further layer of bureaucracy.
1741	Resident	Yes		No	No need for a Town Council in Baldock
1773	Resident	Yes	Doesn't seem to be a problem	No	Do not want to pay more council tax - already paying a huge amount for the size of my property.

Responses to the public consultation

1774	District Councillor	Yes	I believe that the recommendation for the parish boundaries of Clothall and Bygrave Parishes being adjusted to be outside of the Baldock West and Baldock East District Wards is a positive step and in line with the boundary review.	No	<p>This is NOT THE RIGHT TIME to be considering this question while local government reorganisation is yet to be implemented - or even designed. The creation of a town council will undoubtedly have significant financial impact on our residents who have not been given all the facts about what a town council truly means for them and their household - specifically its remit or accountability.</p> <p>North Herts District Council already has SIGNIFICANT BURDENS on resources that should mean that to even look at implementation of these town councils is unworkable (while already undertaking work around the unitary reorganisation - this should take precedence, alongside BAU responsibilities). Can North Herts DC really afford this significant rise in costs, balanced against the savings that must be achieved each year?</p> <p>At a time of increasing costs of living - and in particular against a backdrop of yesterday's announcements regarding household bill increasing by 24% on average nationally - it is UNTHINKABLE TO ME THAT WE ARE EVEN CONSIDERING FURTHER FINANCIAL BURDEN on our residents every year, without good reason.</p> <p>THIS IS NOT DEMONSTRATING VALUE FOR MONEY. Town and parish councils have no statutory responsibilities, so they have no</p>
1790	Resident	Yes	Should have been done long ago as only historic logic that had the parish boundaries as they were. However, the opportunity needs to be taken to drop "clothall common" from postal and other look-up tables on internet etc for the SG7 postcode. It is unnecessary and tends to continue the separation of clothall common from Baldock	No	<p>We are told the establishment of a town council will increase our council tax, but no indication of the benefits that might arise are given. So it is difficult to be in favour at this stage. And if it does go ahead, the boundary line between east and west should be redrawn to give equal representation; just mirroring the current district wards seems to be evidence of a lack of forethought. No doubt Baldock east would be out-voted by Baldock West. Why not be radical and have Baldock north-west and Baldock south-east?</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1791	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1817	Resident	Yes	The changes will mean that the boundaries of Baldock will be better aligned with the housing in the town when the Local Plan is implemented.	Yes	Since Baldock Urban District Council was abolished in the 1970s it has been an anomaly that there has been no public body too speak specifically for Baldock, and the town has suffered as a result. Creating a Town Council should help to correct that.
1826	Resident	Yes		No	<p>I do not support this proposal. While I understand the intention behind giving local communities more representation, this feels like an unnecessary extra layer of governance with limited actual power.</p> <p>As a resident, I'm already paying significant council tax, yet many essential services seem under strain. Introducing a Town Council with additional costs, potentially £30 to £130 more per year feels like asking residents to pay more while receiving less from the main council.</p> <p>Unless a clear, tangible benefit can be demonstrated beyond meetings and symbolic decisions I don't see how this improves outcomes for the town. I would prefer existing councils focus on delivering better value and service with the structures we already have.</p>
1850	Resident	Yes		No	I do wish for an increase on my council tax
1878	Resident	Yes		No	

Responses to the public consultation

1893	District Councillor	Yes	It absolutely makes sense to remove rural parish ward boundaries from within the urban ward boundaries of Baldock West and East.	No	<p>This is not the right time, if indeed there will ever be a right time, to consider this question while local government reorganisation has yet to be implemented - or even designed. The creation of a town council will undoubtedly have a significant financial impact on our residents who have not been given all the facts about what a town council truly means for them and their household - specifically its remit, cost, or accountability.</p> <p>North Herts District Council already has significant financial and resource burdens which means that even looking at the implementation of town councils is unworkable (while already undertaking work around the unitary reorganisation - this should take precedence, alongside vital day-to-day responsibilities). North Herts Council can not afford a significant cost rise, balanced against the savings that must be achieved each year, or a drain on officer resources.</p> <p>At a time of increasing costs of living - and in particular against a backdrop of yesterday's announcements regarding household bills increasing by 24% on average nationally - it is unconscionable that there is even a consideration of further financial burden on our residents every year, without good reason.</p> <p>This demonstrates no value for money. Town and parish councils have no statutory</p>
1897	Resident	Yes		No	<p>Proposal is unequal on ground of potential population.</p>
1909	Resident	Yes	The boundaries are inconsequential to me. However, it makes sense to have parish, district and ward boundaries the same. Agreeing to this does not mean I agree with additional town councils. I believe a unitary authority solution is the best solution for all. All boundaries for national and local governance should align.	No	<p>This is ridiculous. At a time where the intention of Government is to have less layers, it makes no sense to add an extra layer. I also don't agree to having to pay extra for a town council to do things that should be done already by North Herts or Hertfordshire councils (and would be done by an upcoming unitary authority). We need less government, not more, and single points of contact for issue resolution.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1917	Resident	Yes		No	
1923	Resident	Yes		No	I do not agree with an increase in council tax to pay for a Town Council and nine new councillors.
1993	Resident	Yes	No strong feelings either way but makes sense to align	No	I can see no benefit this additional level of bureaucracy and cost will bring. Baldock functions well without one so all this does is create unnecessary cost to residents
2066	Another organisation (I'm representing myself as part of a proposal to parish all non metropolitan area in England) *	Yes	These areas mainly appear to be outside the ONS BUA.	Yes	I think all areas should have been parished in 1974 and as such Baldock should have been given a successor parish in 1974 just like places like Hertford and Bishop's Stortford were. I see no reason why Baldock, Hitchin and Letchworth Garden City should be treated differently than the rest of North Hertfordshire which is parished.
2103	Resident	Yes	Support transfer of the parts of Bygrave and Clothall parishes within Baldock East and Baldock West wards into the new Baldock parish, so that the new town council can act as a unifying focus for community activity and identity in light of proposed significant new developments.	Yes	Support creation of a parish of Baldock and associated town council, in order to create a focus for local community activity, particularly in light of anticipated local government reform of district / county levels into a unitary authority in near future.
2208	Resident	Yes		No	Since I have lived in Baldock, the median wage has doubled while council tax has more that quadrupled. We do not need more expensive local government. We need fewer tiers, not more.
2218	District Councillor	Yes	As I mentioned earlier town and parish councils are needed throughout North Herts as part of the restructuring of local govt. otherwise councils will be too far removed from local communities and residents needs and concerns. They are an important integral part of our democratic structure	Yes	

BARLEY

Election dates						N Cllrs					
ID	Capacity	Are you in favour of the draft recommendation?	Please provide further comments to your answer?	Are you in favour of the draft recommendation?	Please provide further comments to your answer?	ID	Capacity	Are you in favour of the draft recommendation?	Please provide further comments to your answer?	Are you in favour of the draft recommendation?	Please provide further comments to your answer?

Responses to the public consultation

2161	Parish or Town council (Barley Parish Council) ★	Yes	(No.1) Barley Parish Council has no objection to this proposal	No	(No.2) Barley Parish Council do not support the proposed increase from 6 to 7. Barley has 574 electorates, a ratio of Councillors to electorates of 1:95. Increasing the number of Parish Councillors to 7 would produce a ratio of 1:82. This is only a marginal increase. However, it would cause practicalities for the running of the Parish Council, for example, the difficulty of achieving a quorum and the reluctance of residents to put themselves forward to become Councillors. Barley Parish Council is of the view that the practical difficulties totally outweigh the very marginal increase in representation for villagers; the number of Councillors should remain at 6.
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BYGRAVE

Election dates				Boundaries	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
339	Resident	Yes		No	There is no benefit Not value for money Another layer of bureaucracy
114	Resident	Yes		Yes	
32	Resident	Yes	It makes sense	No	I see no reason to change any boundaries

CALDECOTE AND NEWNHAM

Election dates				N Cllrs	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
114	Resident	Yes		Yes	
16	Resident	Yes		No	I think that 6 should remain as modern life dictates that not all councilors can attend every meeting
1971	Parish or Town council (Caldecote and Newnham Parish Council)	Yes			I seek clarity that the proposed reduced number of Councillors is the minimum number and does not put a limit on the maximum number (reasonable number!). Are we okay to have 6 Councillors should we wish?

CLOTHALL**Boundaries**

ID	Capacity	Response	Reason
339	Resident	No	There is no benefit Not value for money Another layer of bureaucracy
49	Resident	No	
621	Resident	No	You are only changing boundaries to accommodate future new housing developments it has nothing to do with the current day requirements
918	Resident	No	
2240	Another organisation (Clothall Parish) *	Yes	

CODICOTE**Election dates****N Cllrs**

ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
22	Resident	No	Ineffective Council needs reviewing and changing. Need to be accountable. Too many people are doing absolutely nothing for years! Needs to be a shorter term so Councillors prove themselves to be effective and proactive in the role.	No	Codicote is increasing dramatically/ need more not less people.
24	Resident	No	Given the degree of responsibility expected of being an unpaid Parish Councillor, I think that the proposed one off 5 year term is excessive.	Yes	
55	Resident	Yes		Yes	
85	Resident	Yes		Yes	

GRAVELEY

ID	Capacity	Response	Reason
78	Resident	No	I believe we need to have more say in elections/agreements. Currently the electorate are being ignored!

Responses to the public consultation

1970	Resident	No	5 YEARS FAR TOO LONG
29	Resident	Yes	
1250	Resident	Yes	Agree with term but not to expand the number of parish councillors

GREAT ASHBY

Election dates				N Cllrs	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
78	Resident	No	Currently the electorate and Parish Councils are being ignored and not being given considerstion	No	I believe we the Electorate should be listentened to and action taken, in our opinions; this is not happening currently
1970	Resident	No	5 years too long	Yes	There are too many Parish Councillors
53	Resident	Yes		Yes	
558	Resident	Yes		No	I agree with aligning the elections, but I'm in favour of keeping 12 councillors.
2162	Parish/Town Councillor	Yes		No	The Community Council has received increased interest from residents recently and with Great Ashby an area due to expand, my personal view is that there is no merit in decreasing the size of the council at this time. GACC Councillors reside in NH Great Ashby and the Stevenage part of Great Ashby, and it seems likely that residents from new developments will view GACC as their parish council and their contributions as councillors would make for a representative viewpoint of our area

HEXTON

ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
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Responses to the public consultation

2103	Resident	No	Hexton presently only has a parish meeting, not a parish council. If we are moving to unitary authorities, parish meetings may not be an effective way for the voice of the community to be heard at the larger unitary authority level. It would be worth considering establishing a grouped parish council for Hexton and Lilley, such that there's a permanently established council to speak on behalf of the two parishes. (I would not support formally merging the two parishes, only creating a grouped parish council for them.)
80	Resident	Yes	We are small community often forgotten and no public transport.Recent water leak reported three weeks ago and still nothing done.Roads and drainage also low priority and education took our junior school away.

HINXWORTH

ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
114	Resident	Yes			
45	Resident	Yes	This is a minimal change		

HITCHIN

Boundaries				Town Council	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason

Responses to the public consultation

14	Resident	No	Hitchin does not need a town council and is currently well served by the existing BID, Hitchin Initiative, and district set up. Local government reorganisation plans currently indicate a future unitary will maintain existing representation. Moving St Ippolyts will damage the parish boundary in the event no Hitchin Town Council is established creating a democratic deficit for the village.	No	Hitchin does not need a town council. Town councils result in regulatory uncertainty under the current system as there are no statutory services and the precept is unregulated. During a prolonged cost of living crisis there is no justification increasing council tax costs to residents who will be forced to pay more, but get less. Residents outside the town centre will not be well served by the current proposal. Recent campaign literature on this duplicates the work of the BID and existing council, but is town centre focussed with no real offer for communities outside the town centre. There is nothing to require a town council maintain parks, play spaces and green areas, which risk being left unmanaged should this proposal go ahead. Unless the lowest tier of local government is reformed to require precepts be spent on specified service provision this proposal represents no value for money. It is based on existing representation levels, and while the district exists will add a further layer of local government adding to resident confusion about who is responsible for what. The future unitary set up currently likely will result in the same number of unitary councillors for each ward, while the BID and other community interest groups will continue. This means there is no demonstrable need for this proposal - residents will be forced to pay
27	Resident	No	Total waste of time as NHDC is being abolished so why are you wasting time and money.	No	As previous answer
36	Resident	No	We already have to many councillors. Why change things without giving clear and precise details of improvements or cost savings.	No	We already have to many councillors. Why change things without giving clear and precise details of improvements or cost savings.
48	Resident	No	Eliminate Parish Councils. Combine Hitchin, Letchworth and Baldock and parishes into one Area Council. Will cut costs and beaurocracy.	No	See 7 above.
67	Resident	No	Seems a disjointed match	No	I'm in favour of reducing the number of parishes and councillors overall but this isn't the best way I think
77	Another organisation (Squash Coach) *	No	Isn't this futile as the Government is planning to either merge District Councils or absorb them into Herts County Council?	No	

Responses to the public consultation

⁹³	Resident	No		Yes	
⁹⁸	Resident	No		Yes	More public consultation to drive positive change in Hitchin
¹⁰⁹	Resident	No	St Ippolyts is area clearly separate from Hitchin town	No	Village is a well-defined community
¹³⁹	Resident	No		No	
¹⁶²	Resident	No	I don't have a strong view on this	No	<p>We do not need another layer of local government. We do not need more councillors .</p> <p>We do not need increased council tax bills.</p> <p>On the contrary, we need to reduce spending on local government.</p> <p>This should be put to a local vote.</p>
¹⁶⁸	Resident	No	To obviate additional costs	No	Unnecessary
¹⁷⁹	Resident	No	Each town should be run by individual government party's like [REDACTED] so they can respond better to its own needs.	No	
¹⁹⁴	Resident	No	I do not agree with the proposal to form a town council.	No	It would involve and increase in Council Tax which residents cannot afford.
¹⁹⁶	Resident	No	I do not have enough information to say "Yes".	No	I do not want yet another layer of bureaucracy paid for by council tax payers.
²⁰⁸	Resident	No	It is waste of the tax payers money to introduce another layer of council representation to a local authority.	No	It is a waste of the taxpayers money.
²¹¹	Resident	No		No	What benefit would this even have.
²¹⁴	Resident	No	I do not see any benefit to having another layer of bureaucracy, my view is that the community forum gives enough power and decision making to local members and the community, which is the same for Letchworth, why should Hitchin be any different. The town also benefits from the work of the BID, so I don't see where there is a gap in managing the town. I also object to having my council tax bill increased, I do not want to fork out even more for a town council I don't want and see no benefit in	No	I am indifferent to whether St Ippolyts north is in or out of Hitchin, but I do object to the principle of a town council
²¹⁹	Resident	No	The current council tax is already too high Creating a parish adding to the council tax bill is unacceptable	No	<p>The current council tax is already too high</p> <p>Creating a parish adding to the council tax bill is unacceptable</p>
²²⁰	Resident	No	Rather than reducing Highbury alone, simply reduce to 10 councillors and set it to 2 across the board per ward. HTH	No	
²²⁷	Resident	No	I don't support a Hitchin council, so this falls away	No	Another expensive layer of unneeded bureaucracy; if it ain't broken, don't fix it.

Responses to the public consultation

231	Resident	No	First steps to merging the boundaries of Hitchin and St Ippolyts.	No	Adds an additional and unnecessary layer of administration bringing with it costs, confusion of accountability and potential expensive employment associated complications. Administrative structures should be kept 'simple' to ensure financial efficiency.
233	Resident	No		No	The town does not need any more money to be spent on bureaucrats. There is nothing wrong with the way it is run now. No more bureaucratic layers.
237	Resident	No	Too expensive. Too many councillors already, no need for extra layers of bureaucracy.	No	Too expensive. Too many councillors already, no need for extra layers of bureaucracy.
240	Resident	No		No	It felt as unnecessary and will not be of any benefit
246	Resident	No	It appears that creating more local authority administration changes and positions is the best possible way to serve the local community especially as we are in an extremely tough economic climate.	No	
252	Resident	No	We do not need a new level of bureaucracy (and cost) established in our public services	No	We do not need a new level of bureaucracy (and cost) established in our public services
269	Resident	No	As a former town councillor in another district of Herts that experience tells me that town councils have very limited powers and influence. North Herts DC is local enough and another tier is unnecessary. Also the government are moving to a unitary authority structure and we need to see their proposals for Herts before creating new structures.	No	See reply to questions 7
271	Resident	No		No	Council tax is already far too high. We don't need any more unneeded council jobs being created pushing this even higher
273	Resident	No	With the cost of things going up with council tax, I'm not in favour of increasing more revenue	No	With the cost of things going up with council tax, I'm not in favour of increasing more revenue
279	Resident	No		No	Council tax is already too high. No need to make a new council
280	Resident	No	None	No	A third layer of bureaucracy in Hertfordshire isn't needed and also it will increase the council tax residence pay.
287	Resident	No		No	
288	Resident	No	We do not need a town council	No	We do not need a town council
289	Resident	No	Too expensive	No	Too expensive
290	Resident	No	What is wrong with current representation and why should council tax go up with the changes. We need less governance not more.	No	See above

Responses to the public consultation

291	Resident	No		No	I am an old age pensioner and object to any change by self-serving local politicians which is designed to take even more council tax from my fixed income, in order to pay for the creation of more jobs for the boys and which will no doubt increase bureaucracy.
296	Resident	No		No	No wish to pay any more council tax than I am already paying
298	Resident	No		No	I do not wish to pay any more council tax than I am already paying for what I see as no benefit - the tax burden is already too high for the limited service we receive.
300	Resident	No	So you are asking people to vote for higher council tax? This year the council once again increased the council tax but announced it is cutting services and making a change from collecting the bin from 2 weeks to every 3 weeks. Now, you expect the residents to vote for increase of council tax by additional up to £120 or more per year. I think the expectation is totally outrageous as people are already struggling. I do not agree to this. Does Hitchin really need 13 councillors in addition to an MP? or is it just a gravy train for some?	No	So it seems there is only one recommendation, why consult at all if there seem to be only one option? It is not clear to me why, despite having the same number of councillors if St Ippolyts does not move, proposal 1 will cost each household up £120 more? Does it mean money is needed for another layer of bureaucracy? I do not approve or agree to this.
303	Resident	No	No rationale for the change is immediately obvious.	No	No rationale provided. Unclear as to what benefits this brings to residents. Particularly if there is an increased cost to residents over and above the near 5% rise in CT this year
307	Resident	No		No	Adding another layer of bureaucracy is unnecessary and costly. Resources and money should be diverted to areas that improve our community and infrastructure using existing bodies! Eg. National Highways and potholes. I absolutely reject any idea that we should pay more council tax to support new councillors. We already know where money should be spent
320	Resident	No	We don't want or need more layers of governance, more costs and unelected retired bureaucrats.	No	We don't want or need more layers of governance, more costs and unelected retired bureaucrats.

Responses to the public consultation

328	Resident	No		No	Given the unsatisfactory level, and quality, of service currently being provided I have zero interest in further stretching my already limited household budget to fund this change given the indication that council tax would have to rise to fund this vanity project. I appreciate that budgets are stretched and local government has to work within these confines but I'd much prefer you focused on getting the basic things right rather than this nonsense.
332	Resident	No	What's the point? Leave it alone!	No	I don't see any point in doing this. The council do, or appear to do, very little apart from cost the tax payer money, by doing this you will cost the tax payer even more money which we don't have.
341	Resident	No	The constant cuts and increase in prices is unacceptable and further changes resulting in increased council tax pose no benefit to me so I am against any further unnecessary changes.	No	I see no benefit for the change and only costs related to it. It's another example of a poorly managed council system. It would be much better to focus on this that actually benefit the community rather than send it into further decline.
350	Resident	No		No	No rationale has been given for establishing this body.
363	Resident	No		No	Further councillors not necessary and not in favour of increased cost. Current service poor as it is. Absolutely no justification given, bar aligning wards, for this increase in councillors and therefore assume is a job creation scheme that doesn't benefit residents. Request a detailed breakdown of the proposed benefits of the increase in councillors and the value for money residents will see
374	Resident	No		No	
377	Resident	No	In these tough economic times I do not want any actions taken that will increase the cost of the already expensive council tax. Residents simply can not afford it!	No	Why make a change to existing arrangements which have worked for years. This appears to be a stealth measure just to increase council tax and one that will not go unnoticed at election times for local and national elections. Councillors have a responsibility to protect the people they serves from financial impacts such as this
390	Resident	No	This will affect my council Tax, add more red tape,	No	
391	Resident	No	This will affect my council Tax, add more red tape,	No	

Responses to the public consultation

392	Resident	No	My concern is will this change add additional costs to Hitchin residents?	No	Absolutely not! This is a pointless exercise taking more money away from hard working residents. I and many others totally disagree with a new creation of a Town Council.
401	Resident	No	I don't understand from this information what the council does, and you indicate it will increase council tax bills. Can you explain that and then I can respond with the right information.	No	
406	Resident	No	We don't want a Town Council	No	Added expense on our council tax. This will take ours over £400 per month, which we can't afford
412	Resident	No	More bureaucracy, less efficient, more cost - NO, NO, No	No	More bureaucracy, less efficient, more cost - NO, NO, No
420	Resident	No	No cogent argument has been presented to justify the change.	No	In my experience, increasing the tiers of local governance causes confusion, duplication and needlessly increases costs to residents. The suggestion that such a move brings governance closer to communities invariably falls when one considers the number of members serving on all three tiers - the net result being decisions take longer and are more costly! Having worked with (or attempted to) three tier authorities over more than three decades I conclude the only sensible way forward is the establishment of unitary authorities.
421	Resident	No	It should remain as a village parish	No	I'm against my council tax increasing further
422	Resident	No	I am against another layer of bureaucracy that will cost even more money	No	I am against another layer of bureaucracy that will cost taxpayers more money
427	Resident	No	Unclear what benefit this provides	No	Unclear what benefit this provides at the cost of increased council tax bills as mentioned on leaflet sent by council
431	Resident	No	We don't need another layer of more costly bureaucracy. NHDC works fine.	No	We don't need another layer of more local bureaucracy that costs more. NHDC is fine.
436	Resident	No	I have not seen any perceived benefits to either St Ippolyts or Hitchin residents to justify the proposed changes and the likely increase in costs and disruption.	No	I do not believe any perceived benefits will justify another substantial increase in Council Tax, in my case potentially an annual increase of £140, at a time when the Government has imposed numerous increased taxes with the likelihood of further increases - I do not believe local accountability by elected representatives will improve local services to justify the increased costs.
442	Resident	No	I don't believe rearranging the deckchairs on the titanic will provide better services. We will just pay more.	No	I don't believe rearranging the deckchairs on the titanic will provide better services. We will just pay more.

Responses to the public consultation

447	Resident	No	I find the marketing of the proposed Hitchin town council and wording of the documentation received about it to be very sneaky and underhanded, things like "self funded" when in reality it's really being funded by an additional amount from our council tax.. Even the last one is worded in such a way that it appears we have ONLY two options; both of which are to have a town council of some sort.	No	I find the marketing of the proposed Hitchin town council and wording of the documentation received about it to be very sneaky and underhanded, things like "self funded" when in reality it's really being funded by an additional amount from our council tax.. Even the last one is worded in such a way that it appears we have ONLY two options; both of which are to have a town council of some sort.
452	Resident	No	Unclear why I want to accept something that will cost me more money. What is not happening to suggest this change is required? In which case should we be asking for a council tax reduction?	No	Same as above. Why accept a change that will cost me money and what is not happening to do this? In which case should we be asking for a council tax reduction,?
455	Resident	No	I do not think Hitchin needs a town council.	No	I do not believe Hitchin should have a town council
458	Resident	No		No	
463	Resident	No		No	It is too soon to set up a Town Council. It may be necessary if we use NHDC but not yet. I do not want to pay extra for an unnecessary layer why on earth would you do something that will cost residents more money in this time of austerity? this is absolutely ridiculous
471	Resident	No		No	
481	Resident	No		No	
482	Resident	No	I do not understand the reasons why this would benefit the residents or the council. How would this provide a safer more economical place for all residents. How will the improve education and opportunity for residents.	No	
485	Resident	No		No	Charging the hard pressed council tax payers of North Herts even more council tax, whilst cutting services is a joke and would not support this, there is no benefit to a single person within North Herts. With increasing costs and inflation you think its a good idea to charge people more money. you must be mad.
486	Resident	No		No	Object to further increase in Council Tax and more bureaucracy
487	Resident	No	We don't want a Town Council. Ever.	No	We don't want a Town Council. Ever.

Responses to the public consultation

488	Resident	No	What is the purpose??	No	This will be simply a duplication of what the district councillors are supposed to do now. You have provided no justification or explanation as to the purpose of the new level of councillors. Plus you propose to add yet more cost for this new council. I completely disagree with this it will achieve nothing other than a new talking shop. You have just increased my council tax by 5% for no further benefit other than to pay council employees and their expensive pensions. The bin collection is getting worse - what are we getting for these further costs??
490	Resident	No	It's not in Hitchin and as such should remain independent	No	I do not want to pay more money for the same or less service.
493	Resident	No	More Bureaucracy	No	More Bureaucracy
495	Resident	No	it will cost me more money	No	waste of money
499	Resident	No		No	Adds another unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and cost to run what is ultimately a small town. We already have NHDC and an active MP. Nothing in the town council proposal gives a good reason why it ought to exist. I am also unconvinced that enough qualified candidates would be found.
502	Resident	No		No	If creating a town council is going to increase my council tax still further I am not in favour of it. I cannot see the logic in another layer of meetings and beaurocracy.
507	Resident	No		No	
508	Resident	No	We've seen the leaflet and there is no information or explanation on why this is being proposed it just seems it's going to cost us more money with no justifiable reason.	No	See above comments
515	Resident	No	Very strongly opposed to any changes that create additional bureaucracy and additional costs to taxpayers.	No	Very strongly opposed to any changes that create additional bureaucracy and additional costs to taxpayers.
516	Resident	No		No	
517	Resident	No		No	
522	Resident	No	This is just wasting time with administration and bureaucracy	No	This is just wasting time with administration and bureaucracy
527	Resident	No		No	
528	Resident	No	I simply can't see the point of the Council spending our money and its time on an arcane reorganisation.	No	I simply can't see the point of the Council spending our money and its time on an arcane reorganisation

Responses to the public consultation

539	Resident	No		Yes	
540	Resident	No	Now is good.	No	No need
541	Resident	No		No	This is just a bureaucratic exercise that puts undue pressure when there is a cost of living crisis. Is the council out of touch with the working people?
544	Resident	No	What is the value - there are no published benefits on the literature provided. Just an added cost.	No	What is the value - there are no published benefits on the literature provided. Just an added cost.
549	Resident	No		No	Why are we changing what we have now, why would we give you a reason to put up our council tax by £121
550	Resident	No		No	
551	Resident	No		No	Waste of money
552	Resident	No	Don't understand what kind of benefit this will provide	No	Adding to the cost of resident's council tax bill when people are already struggling with the cost of living is ridiculous. The existing council should be able to manage.
562	Resident	No		No	
563	Resident	No	I don't want any more increases to my council tax.	No	
573	Resident	No		No	
576	Resident	No	I see no examples of the proposals improving council services but I can see a possible increase in council tax payment as suggested in the flyer that was posted to my house because of that reason I can not agree with the proposals.	No	I see no examples of the proposals improving council services but I can see a possible increase in council tax payment as suggested in the flyer that was posted to my house because of that reason I can not agree with the proposals.
578	Resident	No	We don't need a new Town Council	No	We don't need a new Town Council
579	Resident	No	No need for yet more layers of bureaucracy & even higher hikes in council tax. No thanks.	No	As above. No need for yet more layers of bureaucracy & even higher hikes in council tax. No thanks.
583	Resident	No	See no benefit in these changes	No	

Responses to the public consultation

589	Resident	No		No	I've just received a leaflet through the door telling me about the change and how to comment. There's just no information on exactly why this would be of any benefit to any resident, but noting that my council tax could go up as much as £121! That's a big strain on people and something that I personally would not want to pay when. It's so unclear as to what we'd actually be getting for the money. Before bringing this in, a proper consultation would need to be had with people explaining what the benefit is. As yet, I cannot see what any of the benefits could be. Many of us are turned off of local politics anyway. Please please please make a compelling case on why this would be of any benefit. If not, the whole notion needs to be dropped and our council tax money be saved. In its current form, I do not support the
590	Resident	No	I don't see any reason that St Ippolytes North would be better served by moving it to Hitchin ward. It seems to make far more sense that it is looked after by its own parish ward.	No	We don't need more people involved in anything. The council don't listen to the residents at the moment they won't listen to these additional people. Total waste of money.
592	Resident	No	This is unnecessary waste	No	This is unnecessary waste
593	Resident	No		No	I don't see the benefit of having an additional layer of bureaucracy without clear plans. The current proposal talks about things that "might be enabled" without any concrete proposals or things they would tackle for sure with the money the new council would collect.
597	Resident	No	These are two separate and unrelated areas	No	There would be no significant benefit to the community in instituting another council. Just more would-be-politician councillors with their associated expense claims and a further charge on local residents who already have significant rises in bills to contend with.
600	Resident	No	I don't feel there is a need for this and local government should protect my interests. I am unclear of any benefit to this proposal and it seems it will just cost the residents money with limited benefits.	No	I don't feel there is a need for this and local government should protect my interests. I am unclear of any benefit to this proposal and it seems it will just cost the residents money with limited benefits.
601	Resident	No		No	Reading the proposal it sounds like it would increase the cost of council tax rates in Hitchin without any significant benefit.

Responses to the public consultation

⁶⁰²	Resident	No	No idea of what are the pros and cons of this proposal	No	Only of North Herts council gets merged with Herts County Council. Otherwise we'd end up with too many layers of local government
⁶⁰⁹	Resident	No	It is likely to increase my council tax and I don't want that	No	Same as above
⁶¹¹	Resident	No	I would rather spend the additional money proposed on ensuring refuse collections continue on a 2 weekly rotation as opposed to spending it on an unnecessary bureaucratic change.	No	See previous answer
⁶¹²	Resident	No		No	
⁶²²	Resident	No	I have never seen any justification for this change, so why the change?	No	There's no plan on what this council would actually do. It's unlikely it will have any real impact on local services. I don't think there is any need for this, and I strongly oppose to this and any additional cost unless directly linked to an essential local service. People are struggling to afford to buy their first home, rent and council tax increases are bleeding us out, and you suggest an undefined hike in council tax for an undefined council with no plan whatsoever. I find this extremely tone deaf.
⁶²³	Resident	No	What is the need/value that represents an upside to people if their council tax is to increase?	No	Given the current economic backdrop I believe any central or local government proposal should centre around cost reduction and efficiency/efficiency savings. I note this proposal will result in an increase to council tax. What is the benefit and value for council tax payers of this initiative? Adding any additional cost to council tax payers should be rigorously challenged. Are 13 councillors really needed? Why not 11? What efficiencies and savings can be found elsewhere to fund these proposals that will not result in an increase to council tax bills? This feels like a fait accompli as there is no explanation of the upside to council tax payers. I would have thought the headline for such a proposal should be a reduction in council tax
⁶²⁴	Resident	No	What is the point? There is no information saying why this is a good thing. I do not want my council tax to go up again.	No	What is the point? There is no information saying why this is a good thing. I do not want my council tax to go up again.
⁶²⁶	Resident	No	Do not want additional Quang. Not needed if existing council does its job. Do not want extractors and confusion over who dies what	No	As above

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634	Resident	No	Having just sent out this coming year's increased Council Tax demand, surely now is not the time to be proposing changes which would increase Council Tax still further. Especially not a change that brings a rather pointless additional tier of governance whilst actual Council services to residents are being cut year on year. I, like many, cannot afford the existing new charge, never mind the hardship a further increase would bring. Read the room!	No	Having just sent out this coming year's increased Council Tax demand, surely now is not the time to be proposing changes which would increase Council Tax still further. Especially not a change that brings a rather pointless additional tier of governance whilst actual Council services to residents are being cut year on year. I, like many, cannot afford the existing new charge, never mind the hardship a further increase would bring. Read the room!
636	Resident	No	Added bureaucracy and increases to Council Tax to pay for it unnecessary and not in residents interest.	No	As above, in my experience new Councillors are often opinionated, and use their position to push through changes to suit themselves, family members and friends - to the detriment cost wise of the wider community..
641	Resident	No	I'm not aware of any benefit. Why spend they money?	No	Seems like no benefit but more cost - I would rather you focused on keeping council tax down. Not creating more jobs/roles with unclear benefit. I believe historically these town councils have been shown to increase council tax with very limited benefits, and are very difficult to get rid of - Letchworth managed it but with great difficulty.
644	Resident	No	I have no real opinion on this, not being a resident of St Ippolyts	No	We don't need yet another layer of local government
649	Resident	No	Sorry did not mean to respond to this question, have no opinion.	No	Another layer of local government resulting in duplication and extra cost. Further more the government have started the process of reducing and combining all levels of local government.
654	Resident	No		No	
656	Resident	No		No	
658	Resident	No		No	
660	Resident	No	The published information on these proposals does not seem to provide any details of cost benefits to Hitchin residents, and only increases charges at this time of ongoing austerity with large increases in local and general taxes, energy costs, inflation, etc due to arrive in the coming months. These unnecessary increases in Council Tax should definitely not be imposed at this very costly time for residents.	No	The published information on these proposals does not seem to provide any details of cost benefits to Hitchin residents, and only increases charges at this time of ongoing austerity with large increases in local and general taxes, energy costs, inflation, etc due to arrive in the coming months. These unnecessary increases in Council Tax should definitely not be imposed at this very costly time for residents.
661	Resident	No	Don't need another layer of burocracy and no more additional council tax	No	See above

Responses to the public consultation

663	Resident	No	<p>No information is provided as to the benefits for residents despite additional costs being incurred as a result of the implementation of this initiative.</p> <p>Residents and businesses already pay significantly increased council tax for reducing service provision.</p> <p>This initiative looks like a bureaucratic waste of time and money - things that no resident or business can afford, particularly where no tangible benefits are effectively communicated.</p>	No	<p>Again, more bureaucracy and additional expense for hard working taxpayers with no demonstrable benefit being effectively communicated.</p>
667	Resident	No	<p>You have not provided enough information in the form of easy to navigate 'what we have now and what we recommend' presentation to outline how local community governance is delivered, and what responsibilities will transfer or be created.</p>	No	<p>Again, you have not provided enough information in the form of easy to navigate 'what we have now and what we recommend' presentation to outline how local community governance is delivered, and what responsibilities will transfer or be created.</p> <p>You have though printed a glossy leaflet and used the Royal Mail to deliver a single A5 full colour sheet with an envelope to each household. This is both environmentally unsound, and a costly waste of resources, to send out incomplete information. You sent me my council tax recently with a load of flyers enclosed. Why didn't you just include this with that?</p> <p>This is what happens when the left hand and the right hand are not coordinated. Adding another layer of local governance & process will increase the risk of continued poor comms and slow bedraggled decision making.</p> <p>It may be a complex issue, and communicating simply and effectively is an art. You haven't done that yet, so it's impossible to support your recommendations without better quality</p>
669	Resident	No	<p>I don't see any benefit, and if it's St Ippolyts then it should be governed by St Ippolyts Parish Council, surely?</p>	No	<p>Parallel councils is inefficient. The district council should be sufficient along with local government, the cost of which has been rising by 5% per year. This proposal would add more cost, which cannot be opted out of.</p>
673	Resident	No	<p>Why the increase in council tax, what extra service are we going to get if no extra or improved service why change</p>	No	

Responses to the public consultation

674	Resident	No	No real position on this, but there hasn't been a clear outline of the benefits this would bring. That should be shared to consider this fully	No	<p>No clear communication on the benefits of this proposal, only details the what and not the why.</p> <p>Given the note around increased in costs, then without that articulation of improvements and rationale for the work then hard to see why it would be recommended or decided.</p>
675	Resident	No	Is this the best use of your time as councillors?? Stop finding ways to increase council tax....reduce it	No	This recommendation makes no sense as it does provide possible costs for doing nothing or for recommendation2
679	Resident	No		No	Little power and additional costs
682	Resident	No		No	No more politicians on the take
687	Resident	No	I think we need less layers of government, not more	No	
688	Resident	No	There's no benefit	No	<p>This is an abject waste of time and money. The District Council already has structures in place to address Hitchin matters. Another level of bureaucracy and overhead is not welcome or warranted.</p> <p>Given the need to focus on operational efficiency adding more funding burden on residents is poor form.</p> <p>There's not a single thing the local Town Council could do that can't be done already.</p>
700	Resident	No		No	<p>My preferred approach would be to create a council to represent the area of the old Hitchin Urban District with the power to carry out the functions that it had before. This would include all other areas to create their own councils. These councils could then form a co- operative to provide the services needed. This would allow each area to have the representation it requires with services tailored to its needs.</p>
712	Resident	No	Would prefer and 'Don't know' option for this one. I know nothing about St Ippolyts	No	<p>We do not need another level of bureaucracy, or to pay admin costs and expenses to 13 new councillors.</p>
718	Resident	No	I am not in favour of the proposal to create a new town council whatever the detailed arrangements - see below.	No	<p>We do not need another layer of bureaucracy at more cost to residents. Regardless of the detailed arrangements, a new town council will just lead to yet more unproductive spending, more councillors charging expenses and more delays in getting things done.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

721	Resident	No	Seems like a work creation / job creation scheme for the boys. Sy Ippolyts does not appear to suffer being out of the step with other parishes / councils. Do why make a pointless change just to make things look neat. Who cares?	No	<p>1. In order for the local council to demo it can add value with an additional layer of government, I want to see evidence that the council (and Herts CC) can 'cut the mustard' with regard to their existing duties. The roads are a mess (not just potholes but invisible road markings, dirty and hidden road signs and collapsing pavements, blocked road drains, despite asking CC councillor to help out, nothing gets done on pavements and not much on drains). Another example at NHDC level is dustbin service - cutting the purple bin service to once every three weeks will drive fly-tipping and I really do not yet another another full size bin thank you.</p> <p>2. I pay enough in council tax and do not want to pay any more. Actually, when I look at non-monopoly and non-price-regulated suppliers, e.g. insurance, I see prices going DOWN. When I look at councils, prices always go up. I already pay a lot of money for an indifferent service and until you learn to do the job, I am completely opposed to paying any more</p> <p>3. The councillors are all inept. E.g. the 20mph speed limit in Hitchin would be appropriate for narrow side roads (e.g. Outghonhead Way or Westmill), not main roads. The imposition of this speed limit is just so mind-numbingly stupid as to be embarrassing. So, no more councillors. I just want them to go away and leave me alone. Similarly, I do not think district councillors have a clue about how to push back on planning applications (the law is immaterial, Absolutely waste of money.</p>
723	Resident	No		No	<p>Self serving.</p> <p>Why do we need four layers of government.</p>
735	Resident	No	St Ippolyts is a good size for its current council area.	Yes	<p>Hitchin will be a small entity in the new unitary authority. It needs to have some clout to ensure money is allocated to Hitchin and detrimental action can be defending.</p>
736	Resident	No	This will cost hard-pressed households so much more in council tax! Nowhere does it tell me what the advantage of the proposal is.	No	<p>See above!</p>

Responses to the public consultation

737	Resident	No	How is this beneficial?	No	What purpose will this serve? Will it improve services, probably not. Just added civil servants funded by the squeezed tax payer. Your leaflet doesn't explain or highlight potential benefits
744	Resident	No	The council tax has gone up enough already!!	No	Stop fiddling with things that just don't need changing, it's a waste of time and money!!
745	Resident	No		No	
747	Resident	No		No	
748	Resident	No		No	What powers will this town council have that the district council don't already have? I don't want an additional layer of governance and the overhead of bureaucracy and the cost this will incur. What is demonstrably wrong with current governance arrangements?
749	Resident	No	St Ippolyts is St Ippolyts not Hitchin. They have there own Parish council	No	We do not need a town council for Hitchin at further expense to the taxpayer. More bureaucracy. We have already got councillors who are supposed to represent us. We do not need more for an organisation that will have little say on anything. We do not need a town council. The local council is already supposed to engage with the community why should we pay for another organisation to do the same
751	Resident	No	No strong feeling either way (was only responding to the other recommendation) but I oppose anything that implies a rise in council tax	No	Additional rises to the council tax are unacceptable currently unless unavoidable
755	Resident	No	I want the district council to remain the same I do t want it bigger or smaller or pay more	No	Same as before no amended council no extra payments
760	Resident	No		No	
766	Resident	No	I don't see any detail in the proposal as to how this would benefit either parish?	No	Again, where is the detail of the proposal for us to make an informed decision. What are the pros/cons and what are we getting for our money? The wide range of the proposed council tax increase (1 to 5.5% on a £2200 council tax bill) suggests there is no detailed and costed plan behind whatever the proposal is.
768	Resident	No		No	
769	Resident	No		No	
772	Resident	No		No	There has been no information given on any potential benefits from doing so, only that it will increase council tax at a time that people can afford it least.
779	Resident	No		No	Do not feel another layer of bureaucracy is good value for money

Responses to the public consultation

793	Resident	No	I am not interested in my council tax being raised for this.	No	I am not interested in my council tax being raised for this.
806	Resident	No	Fewer town councillors the better. There is absolutely no need for as many or increasing their numbers. Cost of living going through the roof. We should be doing everything possible to reduce costs. Cut number of councillors! Not increase	No	Cut number of councillors
810	Resident	No	Council tax its already to much stop asking people to pay more	No	Council tax its already to much stop asking people to pay more
815	Resident	No	Possible impact on School catchment increase to already oversubscribed Hitchin schools.	No	Increase costs to homeowners by introduction of further councillors. Already pay high council tax.
823	Resident	No		No	
825	Resident	No	See no advantage, only higher council tax	No	See no advantage, only higher council tax
839	Resident	No	More unnecessary expense.	No	
843	Resident	No		No	It not clear why this is being proposed. Further, since it will increase council tax it needs to be communicated why this being proposed + if any benefits. Per literature provided there are no listed benefits
845	Resident	No	Na	No	Pay already too much council tax and don't get value for money
846	Resident	No		No	I disagree to this proposal if it means a further increase in Council Tax. All you need is an unpaid voluntary community group for each area to liaise with the council if issues arise.
848	Resident	No		No	It seems in either option, saying yes is voting for the new Town Council. Happy with the ward changes but not the Town Council without seeing what difference it might make for the additional council tax
855	Resident	No	There is no information on what this means for me other than increased prices	No	There is no information on what this means for me other than increased prices
856	Resident	No	I'm against the formation of a council for Hitchin. I do not believe we require one.	No	I'm against the formation of a council for Hitchin. I do not believe we require one.
859	Resident	No	I do not see a need for a town council, and do not wish additional tax to be spent on it.	No	Do not see a need
860	Resident	No	What's the point of this beyond increasing our Council Tax? It doesn't serve any obvious purpose? All primary services will be controlled by either NHDC or HCC still.	No	Beyond making elections fall in line, what other purposes does it serve?
862	Resident	No	I cannot see how the anticipated benefits would justify the cost involved. Just looks like more money for fat cat councillor salaries	No	

Responses to the public consultation

863	Resident	No	If it costs more money to residence then NO	No	If it costs more money then no.
874	Resident	No	Don't see the need as I disagree fundamentally with the overall proposal	No	Unnecessary extra financial burden on local residents. If there is a transfer of responsibility to a town council I see there should be a concomitant reduction in council tax from NHDC and / or HCC. I think Hitchin has managed very well without one and so not need a town council that will be an extra burden of bureaucracy
878	Resident	No		No	We don't need another layer of beaucracy with yet another increase in Council Tax to pay for it.
879	Resident	No	The benefits do not come close to justifying the extra council tax	No	The benefits do not come close to justifying the extra council tax
880	Resident	No	At this time cost is a major factor. The emphasis should be to control and possibly reduce costs. Pensioners can not afford the increase (Are we to be exempt from the additional costs ?) Already we have to many add on costs ie disposal of Garden waste etc. Your actions drive up inflation. I'm sure we all would like better services BUT this is not the time. You try living on a pension!	No	Forget this idea. May be one for when times are better. But not now.
884	Resident	No		No	It is unacceptable to set up a small hitchin council which will increase an already expensive council tax.
889	Resident	No	I do not understand what benefits this would bring.	No	What benefit would I gain from paying increased council tax for extra councillors.
899	Resident	No		No	Further bureaucracy is not needed. If anything should be less layers of councils
900	Resident	No	We don't need increase in council tax	No	We don't need increase in council tax
905	Resident	No	Not in my area	No	Don't need more people talking and doing very little and adding increased cost to the council tax.
908	Resident	No	I do not wish to have my current fees raised	No	I do not wish to have my current fees raised
912	Resident	No		No	Do not want to pay more council tax
921	Resident	No	I don't see why it is necessary	Yes	I would like to see a town council for Hitchin but only - ONLY - if we have a unitary council for districts/boroughs and county. I also fee strongly that town councillors should not get any form of allowance or remuneration other than maybe small expenses.
929	Resident	No	You have provided no information as to the benefits or otherwise of this proposal, other than it will mean an Increase in council tax. Whereas normally consolidating something usually means a saving !!!	No	Se answer to previous question, also why does this survey start at question 6?
930	Resident	No	none	No	none

Responses to the public consultation

⁹³⁴	Resident	No	Insufficient knowledge of the implications means I do not feel able to support any changes.	No	I do not think we should add a further layer of bureaucracy to what we already have, especially if residents have to pay more for it.
⁹³⁹	Resident	No	This area doesn't affect me but as per below the benefits / drawbacks are not clear.	No	In the flyer sent to me other than telling me that a new town council would cost £22-£121 additionally on council tax there is no explanation of what the town councillors would do or of the benefits to Hitchin residents. Can you please make this clear as it feels like at the moment just a level of bureaucracy that we will pay for is voted in.
⁹⁵⁷	Resident	No	Totally unnecessary move that makes no difference to either Hitchin town or St. Ippolyts.	No	If this proposal is to replace north herts council with local councils, then i can understand it. But that doesnt appear to be the case. So under this proposal we will have North herts council existing with multiple councillors representing Hitchin and Hertfordshire county council existing with multiple councillors representing Hitchin. No evidence has been provided that these councillors aren't working in the best interests of Hitchin and getting a good deal for Hitchin. The town is thriving compared to many other similar sized towns, despite 14 years of Tory destruction. I have not been provided any compelling reason why we need a 3rd layer of local representation, nor have I been provided with any clear evidence of what they will be accountable for and able to influence. This proposal will only serve the interests of a few noisy people who think they have something to gain by being part of a town council. If formed I would find it almost impossible to vote for any candidate (and please note, I've voted in every local and national election since age 18) and I would feel compelled to spoil my paper. As a final note I need to mention the cost. A range is provided but I'm sure it will inevitably end up on the higher end of that. Affordability isn't a problem for me right now, but it will be for many other people in Hitchin and with no direct benefit to them. Overall this is a terrible idea and should be kept the councillors that we already have
⁹⁶⁰	Resident	No	Move them into St Ippolyts ward	No	

Responses to the public consultation

⁹⁷⁰	Resident	No	I am positively against paying anymore council tax.	No	If it costs more money on my council tax bill I'm against it.
⁹⁷⁶	Resident	No		No	I can't see what difference it'll make to me other than potentially costing more money in Council tax.
⁹⁸¹	Resident	No		Yes	
⁹⁸⁴	Resident	No	Another exercise in bureaucracy	No	Another pointless exercise wasting my money
⁹⁸⁷	Resident	No	What benefit does this provide to me as a council tax payer who is not in St Ippolyts? What benefit does this provide Hitchin council tax payers?	No	There is no explanation of why this would be an improvement over the fairly dire services already provided for a as yet to be defined increase in the council tax. It's my view that you should express this proposal in cost / benefit terms and represent the case.
⁹⁸⁸	Resident	No	We need more consolidate government not more of it. It's expensive to run and ineffective at this level. There will be more costs in running it than in what it can deliver	No	Above
¹⁰⁰⁰	Resident	No		No	This would be a waste of money on yet more bureaucracy which would have no obvious benefit to anyone.
¹⁰⁰¹	Resident	No	why do we need town councilor's when we are adequately covered by North herts district councilors. All this will lead to is totally unnecessary duplication and cost for the resident.	No	as above totally unnecessary duplication and cost to residents what an utter load of beaurocratic nonsense typical of government organizations just costing the public yet more money at a time a great financial problems you should be ashamed of yourselves
¹⁰⁰²	Resident	No	The interests of the residents of both si ippolyts and Hitchin are not necessarily the same. This change doesn't help either town.	No	A new town council is adding another level of bureaucracy. Hitchin will have to pay for this.
¹⁰⁰⁴	Resident	No		No	Cost!

Responses to the public consultation

1010	Resident	No	No details have been provided as to how this proposal would improve the representation of the interests of the residents and businesses in at st ippolyts.	No	The benefits of a town council have not been adequately explained, and there is an attendant cost for council tax payers associated with the change. I contend that proper interaction of the existing councillors could perform the intended function. I also contend that it is almost inevitable that such a body will introduce measures or spending that represents a perceived rather than a real benefit. In the current era, there is a lack of central funding and I am not on favour of creating additional bureaucracies to slice an ever thinner cake.
1023	Resident	No		No	We do not wish for our council tax to be raised. We have recently moved from a flat in hitchin to an house in hitchin, and raising the cost of council tax would increase our outgoing payments to above our budget.
1035	Resident	No		No	We do not need a Town Council. We are already served by a District and a County Council. That is more than enough hot air.
1041	Resident	No	I do not believe this extra layer of government is necessary for Hitchin	No	Again not necessary - more admin and bureaucracy
1043	Resident	No	I don't see what benefit this would bring.	No	I see no need or requirement for a town council. This will simply bring more cost (when people are all ready too stretched as it is) and more bureaucracy (when there is already far too much in this country). Hitchin is a bright and beautiful town as it is. Let's keep it this way. I would like to see less councils, not more. I think this would be an absolute waste of residents hard earned money. Money they could instead be spending in local shops and supporting local businesses.
1047	Resident	No	No supporting information has been provided to justify this change	No	It sounds like yet more administration is being added at a time when numbers should be streamlined/ reduced to save money
1053	Resident	No	I am unsure of the benefits of town council and therefore change of parish.	No	As response to 7
1057	Resident	No	Residents do not need a further council tax increase to cover the cost of this.	No	Residents do not need a further council tax increase to cover the cost of this.
1064	Resident	No	Will put up my council tax that I already can't afford	No	Will put up my council tax that I already can't afford
			What will these extra charges be for? Extra free lunches for useless councillors		What will these extra charges be for? Extra free lunches for useless councillors

Responses to the public consultation

1073	Resident	No	Why would I vote to pay more council taxes? We have enough people running the country ripping the tax payers off. You should be talking about streamlining and cutting back council positions.	No	What is the benefit in changing this is not explained
1074	Resident	No	No opinion	No	There is no need for another layer of local government bureaucracy. There are already many local bodies in addition to the district and county councils that can be consulted on policies or decisions. No tangible benefits of a town council have been described in the plans, and the council tax rise would be another unnecessary cost for households at a time when the cost of living (including local and national taxes) is constantly rising - especially when it will not contribute to more or better public services.
1076	Resident	No	I serve St Ippolyts as a curate in the church of England and understand the community there well. The people have a strong identity as a village and the surrounds and those people who live in St Ippolyts North especially those on the Broadmeadow estate form part of the active community there. I would be concerned that the St Ippolyts community would in some way be depleted. I can see an advantage though, in that the community would have representation in a number of wards so if an issue came up about which they felt strongly there is potential for greater influence.	Yes	My caveat would be that this enhances the work of the Hitchin Bid team. I suspect that they are better able to get government support without the existence of a town council, and so if that were the case, it would be detrimental to have a town council.
1090	Resident	No	Hitchin (and Letchworth) already have the highest ratio of population to councillors in NHDC. Increasing the size of Hitchin without additional an additional Councillor will make this imbalance worse.	No	Creates an additional layer of bureaucracy, duplication and red tape when central government is trying to streamline council services, reducing duplication and red tape. Adds extra charge to council tax to be wasted on the additional administration and expenses costs when many are already struggling to pay the existing charges.
1092	Resident	No		No	We do not want to pay extra tax, it has not been explained how the money would be spent. Regardless, no thank you to a Hitchin Town Council.

Responses to the public consultation

1118	Resident	No		No	The cost will outweigh the perceived benefit. From my experience in a different town the added layer of bureaucracy will cost much more to to operate than is envisaged. The council tax is high enough now without even more being added. Estimates are notoriously inaccurate and this extra cost will not be recouped by benefits for the town. and will only increase year on year.
1119	Resident	No		Yes	
1128	Resident	No	This doesn't seem to affect me, but there is no real explanation as to why this move is necessary	No	Again there is nothing in the proposal as to why the formation of a town council is necessary, especially considering the extra cost being added the council tax which is already prohibitive, and doesn't seem value for money. I don't want more councillors claiming expenses and doing nothing, when we have a district and count council already. This proposal serves no purpose.
1138	Resident	No	You do not specify any reason to make this change. It would obviously decrease the size of St Ippolyts area for no obvious benefit.	Yes	
1142	Resident	No	These are two different areas with different characteristics and requirements. One size does not fit all.	No	We need less administration, not more and certainly in the current economic climate, we do not need the additional cost. Can see no advantage to the residents of Hitchin by duplicating and adding more layers of administration. Less is more and certainly more is achieved, with more efficiency and less cost.
1145	Resident	No	I am not paying more council tax it's already overpriced for a poor service	No	I'm not in favour for anything that means paying more council tax
1146	Resident	No		No	
1147	Resident	No	Increasing cost which can be avoided, Not enough schools to serve community. Hitchin and Ickleford children already get school places in Letchworth.	No	The same as above.
1149	Resident	No	You have not explained what the purpose of a new town council will be and how it will benefit residents. You have only communicated that it will cost residents more each year. And with another layer of bureaucracy, this idea has been very poorly communicated and I cannot see what benefit there will be.	No	as above.

Responses to the public consultation

1152	Resident	No	You have said on the leaflet that these changes will mean additional council tax payments, this is unfair and many people can probably not afford additional cost. You also have not made it clear even the benefit of this change.	No	You have said on the leaflet that these changes will mean additional council tax payments, this is unfair and many people can probably not afford additional cost. You also have not made it clear even the benefit of this change.
1154	Resident	No		No	Ridiculous increase in council tax
1156	Resident	No	St Ippolyts is a distinct settlement to Hitchin and all efforts should be made to maintain that	No	the cost in terms of council tax increases are clear, but any benefits of such a change are not made clear.
1159	Resident	No	No information has been provided on what additional council tax increases this would create	No	Increase in council tax is undesirable
1168	Resident	No	I fail to see the advantage of this proposal.	No	This will just add another layer of bureacracy to an already top-heavy system which will increase our taxes unnecessarily. My preference is to have a direct line of communication with the District Council rather than having an intermediary organisation which will only serve to complicate matters. I can see no advantage to this proposal
1170	Resident	No		No	
1177	Resident	No		No	
1182	Resident	No	A increase in Council tax is not acceptable	No	Not in favour in any proposal that will increase council tax
1183	Resident	No	We don't need move government bodies and the expense in these times of austerity.	No	We don't need move government bodies and the expense in these times of austerity.
1188	Resident	No		No	don't want to pay money
1189	Resident	No	The village interests should be kept separate with their parish council	No	It makes another layer of bureaucracy at extra costs
1193	Resident	No		No	I do not wish to pay for any additional beurocracy.
1194	Resident	No	As my comments on the Letchworth proposal!	No	As my comments on the Letchworth proposal
1195	Resident	No		No	I do not want to pay for extra costs of a new Council. My finances are tight already.
1196	Resident	No	I don't see a need for change	No	I don't se the need for change
1198	Resident	No		No	I will not be able to afford paying an additional charge, council tax is expensive as it is let alone paying more to be one a Town Council
1201	Resident	No		No	
1205	Resident	No	No practical benefit to be had. Will cause St Ippolyts to lose identity and be swallowed up by Hitchin.	No	No practical bemefit. Too beurocratic and will cost more
1206	Resident	No	Stop stealing my money you charlatans	No	Stop stealing my money you charlatans
1207	Resident	No		No	Waste of time and money

Responses to the public consultation

1213	Resident	No	Moving St Ippolyts North parish ward to Hitchin pre-supposes that Hitchin will have a town council. To move the North parish ward without a new Town Council and without a reduction in their council tax [parish precept] would be indefensible as they would be paying for a service they did not receive.	No	<p>Parish/Town Councils charge a precept which would be additional taxation.</p> <p>Parish/Town councils have limited powers, limited powers to raise funds for projects and would replicate powers currently held by the District Council.</p> <p>The number of voters for District council election is low, sometimes less than 30% of electors and for Parish/Town Councils even lower. This low turn out indicates voters are not interested in additional bureaucracy.</p> <p>Parish/Town Councils are an unnecessary additional tier of government the bureaucracy and cost of which would grow over time.</p> <p>The history of Letchworth Town Council, and its subsequent abolition, is indicative of an expensive experiment in local governance.</p> <p>The Parish/Town Council would be dominated by the usual party groupings, Conservative, Labour, Liberal and would not produce wider democratic participation.</p> <p>This consultation is faulty as it does not include holding Parish/Town Council elections at the same time as District Council election. They should held at different times so residents could express their opinions of the ruling party through the ballot box once every two years rather than four at present.</p> <p>Holding elections at the same time would lead to a majority for one party or another at both District and Parish/Town level leading to the effective silencing of debate and opposition to</p>
1219	Resident	No	This is diabolical ! Council tax is paid for services we don't fully utilise already I.e schools, churches, libraries etc therefore why would I pay in addition to a service not utilised. I do not agree with this at all !! Local residents bills are already high, so why should we pay extra in council tax.	No	No
1220	Resident	No	No preference	No	What's the benefit? You can't expect us to vote on this when you have provided no information! I can see it only costing more money for the administration of the council but just adding another tier of bureaucracy.
1222	Resident	No	no info provided in support	No	

Responses to the public consultation

1224	Resident	No		No	I am totally in favour of creating a town council within a unitary system but totally against creating this extra layer before unitary government has been created. This proposal will probably fail as many people will just see this as an unnecessary additional layer of bureaucracy. This consultation as such is premature .
1225	Resident	No	They are very different areas with different characteristics and different needs.	No	This is duplication of administration imposing unnecessary additional cost on the council tax payer. We already have accessible councillors for these wards via North Herts District Council AND Herts County Council. This should be adequate to represent the needs of each parish without creating ANOTHER layer of bureaucracy at significant additional cost. This would inevitably fall into the pattern of Party Political representation. The costs mentioned would be just the starting point and would build and build - as with the Police Commissioner's Office and costs. WE CANNOT AFFORD THIS ON TOP OF THE COUNCIL TAX
1228	Resident	No	At no point have you stated what the benefits will be from the proposed changes. For example, more representation means what exactly? More meetings, quicker decisions, more actions? And why is this necessary? Is there currently too much work for the existing councillors to do?! If so then surely the change should be in efficiency and not manpower?	No	What are the benefits of the proposed changes?
1231	Resident	No		No	
1233	Resident	No		No	
1238	Resident	No	Don't want an increase in council tax given cost of living crisis!	No	Don't want an increase in council tax given cost of living crisis!
1240	Resident	No		No	
1241	Resident	No	I think St Ippolyts North parishioners should decide this. They may identify more with the St Ippolyts parish and therefore may prefer to remain in it. It makes very little difference to Hitchin (if it is to have a town council), whereas it may make a lot of difference to those residents of St Ippolyts North.	Yes	But only if Hertfordshire moves to unitary governance, which as I understand it, is not yet a certainty. If that doesn't happen & the District Council remains in existence, I see little point in a third layer of bureaucracy.

Responses to the public consultation

1244	Resident	No	I cannot see why St Ippolyts should be split. Surely the whole of St Ippolyrs should be a single community, either inside or outside the Hitchin Parish.	Yes	Approval is on the basis that NHC will be lost to some form of Unitary council which is likely to ignore local needs. However, I note that the website about this suggests a precept fee of around £50 per annum. My latest Council Tax bill says that in the event of a town council being created the increase to the council tax would be in the region of £120 per annum, which is more than double that advertised in your publicity. This suggests that the website is grossly misleading. Accurate facts are important as these will influence the feedback you receive. Responses given on the basis of inaccurate facts will lead to dissent and dissatisfaction on the part of the residents you
1245	Resident	No		No	
1253	Resident	No		No	
1255	Resident	No		No	
1257	Resident	No		No	
1258	Resident	No		No	
1259	Resident	No		No	
1260	Resident	No		No	
1264	Resident	No	Not sure if in favour as want to understand why it will cost more and the benefits. Your flyer tells us of the change but not why or any potential benefits. Our starting point is that we are not in favour of a change that increases council tax, unless there is a clear benefit.	No	Not sure if in favour as want to understand why it will cost more and the benefits. Your flyer tells us of the change but not why or any potential benefits. Our starting point is that we are not in favour of a change that increases council tax, unless there is a clear benefit.
1267	Resident	No		No	There doesn't appear to be any benefit of doing this and the council tax will increase. What a waste of time and money.
1270	Resident	No	I feel adequately represented by councillors at NHDC. We should be looking for less government, not more. It is a strange proposal which says it will cost more without definite benefits being described.	No	I feel adequately represented by councillors at NHDC. We should be looking for less government, not more. It is a strange proposal which says it will cost more without definite benefits being described.
1284	Resident	No	I haven't been provided with a valid argument for the change so I don't care and I don't think wasting the money would be appropriate.	No	Nobody asked for it and I'd rather use the money for something else than subsidizing 13 people for doing things that wouldn't directly impact essential services.

Responses to the public consultation

1290	Resident	No	The needs and issues associated with the St Ippolyts North and Priory wards are very different and the proposed change will potentially dilute the influence of one or both wards depending upon the origin of the elected councillors.	No	The council budget is high and already overstretched. The proposals will increase the overall council cost and the additional bureaucracy will will require yet more permanent staff who will need to be paid and pensioned for a long time into the future. The council cannot afford its current pay and pension costs and needs to reduce overall staff to remain solvent in the future. Unless there are are reductions elsewhere in the overall council costs sufficient to make this a zero cost option the proposal should be thrown out. Hitchin residents will be justifiably angry to see their council taxes increase with no demonstrable benefit amid the ongoing
1295	Resident	No	More money, & as I live in Westmill this area always comes bottom of the list for spending & improvements. I don't see that changing & can ill afford the council tax rise.	No	As above
1297	Resident	No	We need to understand how this decision will be made. It is not clear from your documentation what the threshold of feedback and participation is required to actively make a change that will incur additional cost to all residents.	No	
1319	Resident	No		No	
1322	Resident	No		No	The National Government is moving to unitary authorities (presumably to take advantage of economies of scale), so why then introduce a further tier of local government, especially when it will result in a cost to the residents. What exactly are the benefits?
1327	Resident	No	We do not need a new town council; or any town council	No	We do not need a new town council; or any town council
1332	Resident	No	N/A	No	It's not needed and increases council tax.
1337	Resident	No	I am struggling to see what actual benefit this would have. All its going to do is create more councillor jobs that don't need to exist. If this involves an increase in council tax then I am not interested at all. We already get nothing for our money and this year it has gone up another 5% and in exchange our bin collections have become even more infrequent.	No	I am struggling to see what actual benefit this would have. All its going to do is create more councillor jobs that don't need to exist. If this involves an increase in council tax then I am not interested at all. We already get nothing for our money and this year it has gone up another 5% and in exchange our bin collections have become even more infrequent.
1339	Resident	No	I don't see the benefit big I do see expense for the residents	No	

Responses to the public consultation

1340	Resident	No	This is pointless	No	Waste of money, hitchin rents are already too high, don't make it even more expensive to live here
1341	Resident	No		No	
1342	Resident	No	St Ippolyts is not part of Hitchin. Leave as is.	No	Yet another drain on council tax funds and an additional level of bureaucracy that Hitchin doesn't need.
1349	Resident	No		No	There is little to no information available regarding what this would mean for residents, nor the benefits and downsides. This is also not a time to be adding more costs for residents
1351	Resident	No	I have a neutral view on this as it is more a matter for St Ippolyts residents. Expressing a neutral view is not an option, so the only sensible alternative was to select 'no'.	No	<p>Creating another tier of local government just adds another layer of unnecessary bureaucracy. Will result in delay in decisive decision making. It will also increase the Council Tax rate for already cash-strapped local households.</p> <p>Pending the outcome of the wider review of local governance in Hertfordshire to create unitary authorities, this exercise should be paused. One of the overriding objectives of that is surely saving money through streamlining existing service provision. Creating a Town Council for Hitchin will only increase spending and costs. This will include personnel as there will need to be a Town Clerk and other officers to run the organisation and support the elected</p>
1355	Resident	No		No	<p>It is unnecessary and would add substantially to council tax.</p> <p>I am strongly against this.</p>
1356	Resident	No		No	I am strongly against this. It is unnecessary and would add substantially to council tax.
1359	Resident	No	Parish councils serve their communities better than bigger councils.	No	Stop wasting time and tax payers on projects like this. Use the councils time and money on fixing the real issues affecting the residents of Hitchin.
1360	Resident	No		No	

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1361	Resident	No	I assume this only happens if the other recommendation is agreed. If not, and it is more efficient then I would agree.	No	The government is encouraging 15% savings for the civil service admin costs, encouraging efficiencies and less red tape. What the council is suggesting is the complete opposite of efficiency, to employ more people. 13 people for 1 fairly small town seems unnecessary additional admin and terrible value for money for the residents
1363	Resident	No	The extra layer of bureaucracy and cost is not needed	No	The additional cost and bureaucracy is not needed or wanted
1382	Resident	No	Why change a system that isnt broken and further change it to one that costs more! Please do not change the current system.	No	As above. Why change a system that isnt broken and further change it to one that costs more! Please do not change the current system.
1385	Resident	No		No	
1389	Resident	No	I have no strong opinions about St Ippolyts. But I suspect they would receive a lot more from being part of this arrangement than their small number of residents generate in revenue.	No	At a time when council budgets are squeezed very tightly, service provision is continuing to deteriorate from the council (eg bins moving to three weekly collections) and households are struggling with the ongoing cost of living crisis/stagflation, I cannot support another pointless initiative like this. It seems like it will costs households another £100 a year but with absolutely no discernible benefit. I have seen absolutely no evidence that the new councillors would have any power or that any service improvement would be provided. I'm all for democracy but this just seems like yet another waste of taxpayer money. I'd rather you sorted out some other local services with this cash.
1393	Resident	No	As a resident in Highbury this appears to diminish representation for my immediate area	Yes	Would increase visibility of local level issues, potential to implement shared solutions for common issues across the town or unique approaches for individual wards
1395	Resident	No		No	
1396	Resident	No		No	
1399	Resident	No	Not necessary.	No	Why on earth would anyone vote for another layer of bureaucracy which increases the Council Tax and no benefits in return. Letchworth have just spent years and thousands of pounds to get rid of their Town Council. What buffoon allowed it to get this far, it stinks of nepotism and empire building to stroke someone's ego. If this goes through it's a total miscarriage of justice

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1406	Resident	No	I disagree with the larger Town Council proposal	No	I think this is a poor idea that will not serve residents or provide tangible benefits for the town.
1414	Resident	No	Unnecessary if the Hitchin Town Council proposal fails, which it should do.	No	I see no benefit of any sort to the creation of this body. Any duties it might undertake are already the responsibility of other bodies. While I appreciate that Hitchin Initiative may feel it has been successful with its past projects, this smacks of overreach. It is a business organisation and should stick to business issues - if it feels its work in this field is complete, it may perhaps be time for it to disband rather than attempt a larger power grab. I also do not accept the argument for Hitchin needing its own voice. Its history and geography binds it to its neighbouring towns in North Hertfordshire, and the District Council represents the best way to reflect this. A town council might attempt to take on this role, but the attempt would fail. It would simply be a question of who would be quickest to ignore it - other tiers of government, or the residents of Hitchin.
1418	Resident	No	The extra cost and second layer won't be beneficial to residents	No	I don't believe this will be beneficial for residents
1419	Resident	No	In the absence of pros and cons I'm saying no change.	No	Do we need to pay more people to decide how we spend money? It's in short supply. If you have any money kicking around let's not spend it on a council - spend it on the disadvantaged or improving goods and services. Before we know it we will have 8 bins.
1420	Resident	No	If your leaflet selling this can't come up with one good reason why it would be better and my council tax is going up its a no brainer.	No	As above
1424	Resident	No		No	
1431	Resident	No	I am strongly against St Ippolyts being included with Hitchin.	No	There is no need to amalgamate. Leave things as they are currently.
1432	Resident	No	I wish to avoid an increase in council tax.	No	I wish to avoid an increase in council tax.
1436	Resident	No		No	I do not see why we need a new town council and will not pay any more council tax. I pay enough for only me in a house, you cut services and increase council tax
1444	Resident	No	No evidence provided as to why this would benefit any residents.	No	No evidence provided as to why this would benefit any residents.
1446	Resident	No		Yes	I believe a Hitchin council will serve the residents of Hitchin better than has NHDC.

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1454	Resident	No	Residents in that area tend to use village school and amenities	Yes	
1460	Resident	No	Do not see St Ippolyts as part of Hitchin	No	Additional cost to residents at a time of high living costs, wrong time when wider reorganisation of local government underway.
1477	Resident	No		No	
1480	Resident	No		No	
1485	Resident	No		No	I consider that a Town Council is unnecessary and that the resulting additional cost to residents is unacceptable at a time when many residents are struggling financially.
1488	Resident	No	I'm not in favour of moving St Ippolyts North parish ward from St Ippolyts to Hitchin as I believe there should be neither a Hitchin parish nor a Hitchin town council.	No	The creation of a Hitchin parish and town council will add yet another line item to, and accompanying increase in, the council tax. I, as a beleaguered tax-paying resident, simply cannot afford yet more increase in taxes in order to fund a ridiculous third tier of local government, especially as I already pay an astonishing (and annually increasing) amount of council tax for astonishingly little in return. I see no reason to throw good, hard-earned money after bad.
1502	Resident	No	St Ippolyts residents chose to live separately from Hitchin, so should remain so.	No	Don't understand what this will offer from their proposition. Everything that they have said that they will do SHOULD already being done by HDCC, so we would end up paying more for a lot less value of service and community benefits.
1505	Resident	No	Don't see benefits	No	Don't see benefits
1507	Resident	No	Cannot see a reason for doing it.	No	Less control over overall planning, decision making and action for residents. Cannot see the point of doing it, other than to raise more money out of it from residents. What will residents gain from being carved into smaller parishes?
1508	Resident	No	We don't seem to cope with keeping other parts of NHDC clean of street rubbish and overfilled bins currently why add more ?	No	See my comments in 7

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1516	Resident	No	I do not understand the benefit of this change as no justification has been provided to voters by North Herts Council.	No	I am strongly against a new Town Council for Hitchin. I don't think anyone has put forward the arguments as to why this would be an improvement on the current arrangement - especially when this would involve an increase in council tax for residents. There needs to be more debate with residents, setting out the cost/benefit analysis and whether this would improve local democracy. I am also very strongly against another tier of local government - we already have the North Herts Council and Herts County Council who are both largely having to meet their statutory requirements around education/adult social care/roads/housing/etc and have very limited powers to change things at a local level. So we need more information and a dedicated website/webpage clearly setting out the case
1517	Resident	No		No	An extra layer of governance means more costs, increased council tax with no obvious benefit to residents
1522	Resident	No		No	We do not need this.
1539	Resident	No	We already pay enough council tax	No	
1543	Resident	No	Benefits not clear.	No	Additional costs to each resident with no additional benefits outlined.
1550	Resident	No		No	
1575	Resident	No	No reason has been given for this change, that I can see.	No	Why is this change being proposed? What will this achieve? I don't see any gain but it will add a layer of bureaucracy and cost.
1583	Resident	No	I don't understand why you want to do this.	No	I can't afford more council tax and don't see the benefit of this.
1584	Resident	No		No	
1587	Resident	No	Clearer local ownership in current proposal rather than being subsumed into Hitchin	No	The benefits aren't clear and will add costs to residents.
1592	Resident	No		Yes	Hitchin is large enough to need a town council to organise activities in the area. It makes sense to devolve these activities into a dedicated council.
1604	Resident	No	Whats the point!	No	My council tax is already to high without creating another 13 free loading councillors and expecting me to pay for their free loading. If these dead beats want to play politics they should pay for it themselves.

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1605	Resident	No		No	This is a redundant level of local government being formed as a golden parachute for councillors who will be lost in the formation of a unitary authority. Letchworth GC went through this ridiculous approach some years back and are a case study in how little Town Councils add
1606	Resident	No	Not enough information has been supplied to justify the change and all the cost implications as a result	No	This will be a costly endeavour and has no clear rationale as to any benefit for residents in the information that I can find associated with this online consultation. I already pay a lot of tax, only getting a 25% single person discount. Judging by the spending review yesterday the financial climate is not improving. Paying more money to increase bureaucracy at this time doesn't feel proportional or sensible.
1610	Resident	No	Just another level of bureaucracy that will cost more money and have no effect.	No	In the current financial climate residents can not afford another rise in council tax to fund councillors. Additionally, we can do without another level of bureaucracy (a Town Council) that would only benefit business owners of Hitchin.
1617	Resident	No	St Ippolyts is, and always has been, a village on its own and I feel should remain the same.	No	It seems that the only change would be that NHDC Councillors would simply move over to the new Town Council and continue business as usual. I am also extremely worried about the possibility of a hike in the Council Tax, especially as we are struggling in the current political climate as it is.
1618	Resident	No	If it isn't broke don't fix it	No	As before
1619	Resident	No	We were told that this change would increase our council tax but no reasons or benefits given.	No	See above
1620	Resident	No	Why split the parish of St Ippolyts?	No	Absolutely against another tier of local government which will cost us more council tax which is already too high. We already have district councillors representing Hitchin so why not use them to vote on and discuss matters that relate to Hitchin. Surely it can't be difficult to set up a Hitchin committee? Also presumably a Hitchin town council would not have the necessary powers to act that the District council has so would probably be pointless anyway.

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1622	Resident	No	I can't see any benefit in making Hitchin even bigger	No	A New Town Council will cost us the taxpayers more and by encouraging tourists make the town centre even busier and more expensive, pricing out the local residents.
1623	Resident	No	Unnecessary, more expensive, cannot see any benefits listed in the recommendations	No	Unnecessary, more expensive, cannot see any benefits listed in the recommendations
1625	Resident	No	It should be down to the St Ippolyts wards residents to decide what they think would work best for them.	No	This would be a huge waste of money! We already have a district council and county council to run services for the area. The real big issue we have currently is potholes which are haphazardly filled (if at all) and then break again. If these can't even be fixed, what would adding an extra layer of bureaucracy do for me. Council tax is already extortionately high so adding to this will make it even harder for those already struggling thanks to the poor welfare system we have in this country. A complete waste of resources if this goes ahead.
1646	Resident	No	I do not want increased council tax bill	No	Happy as is
1653	Resident	No		No	
1663	Resident	No		No	
1664	Resident	No	Retain the historic identity of a 'typical English village' that St. Ippolyts represent Reduce the possibility of the expansion of Hitchin and save the countryside.	No	North Hertfordshire, as is currently organised, is a manageable entity without the need to break it up and add unnecessary administrative expense. I still feel fully democratically represented in the local council as it currently is. We need a recycling centre in Hitchin.
1679	Resident	No		No	
1682	Resident	No	Keep as is and reduce costs for residents.	No	Reduce costs for residents
1695	Resident	No	Anything that adds that amount to the council tax is not something I will agree with	No	Same as above, I don't want anything making council tax even costlier
1700	Resident	No		Yes	
1706	Resident	No	No reason given or benefits provided. Therefore no justification for change. Doesn't make sense for part of St Ippolyts to be governed from Hitchin and not St Ippolyts Parish.	No	This new body seems to have no terms of reference, but stated aims overlap with what NHDC councillors are elected for and the great work that Hitchin BID do (without adding £100+ to Council Tax and this tough time for cost of living)

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1712	Resident	No	Benefits have not been established.	No	No Town Councils should be established: 1) Whatever benefits are perceived, new bodies and cost centres are not a spending priority for householders. 2) Recent bad experience in Letchworth tells us that Town Councils do not function well or win public approval in our district. 3) Town Committees consisting of the currently elected District (or any future Unitary) Councillors can effectively represent Town interests to the District (or Unitary) Council at little or no new cost.
1714	Resident	No	It has been admitted that Council taxes will rise as a result of the proposals and I cannot see how residents of Hitchin will benefit.	No	Again how will I benefit?
1717	Resident	No	We lost £300 winter allowance. Another £121 cost is unacceptable.	No	We lost £300 winter allowance. Another £121 cost is unacceptable.
1719	Resident	No	I think the needs of those who live in St Ippolyts North are different to those who live in Hitchin Priory - rural vs. urban - and therefore the two wards should not be combined.	No	I see no reason in creating another layer of local government bureaucracy which I will have to fund through an increase in my council tax. An extra layer will only serve to complicate and lengthen any decision making process and is a waste of council tax payers money in my opinion.
1727	Resident	No	We are not prepared to pay any additional fees on our council tax for something that is absolutely not required.	No	
1731	Resident	No		No	I do not wish the establishment of a new Town Council as things work fairly well and I would not like to see an increase in my council tax to pay for the establishment and upkeep of a new Town Council.
1737	Resident	No	We do not think there is any need to change the current system. Also, we do not agree with any increase in the Council Tax to pay for these proposals.	No	We do not think there is any need to change the current system. Also, we do not agree with any increase in the Council Tax to pay for these proposals.
1743	Resident	No	No cap on rate rises each year. Would district council rates go down as district will not be providing some of the services devolved to town council.	No	No cap on rate rises each year. Would district council rates go down as district will not be providing some of the services devolved to town council.
1744	Resident	No		No	
1754	Resident	No		No	
1765	Resident	No	If this is going to cost more money in council tax then as a retired person I'm not in favour	No	See above
1768	Resident	No		No	

Responses to the public consultation

1772	Resident	No	.	No	.
1782	Resident	No		Yes	I am in favour of a Town council for Hitchin provided its representative are not chosen specifically by the political Parties. Men or women of independence should be chosen
1787	Resident	No		No	
1798	Resident	No	Why would I vote for something that would increase my council tax. We are pensioners and have already been hit hard by the government. What important would I see?	No	What is wrong with our current situation
1799	Resident	No	I do not see any reason for it, and none is given in the leaflet	No	This will be an extra unnecessary expense for the householder. I do not agree to or accept the need for an extra level of councillors
1803	Resident	No		No	
1808	Resident	No		No	
1815	Resident	No	Unless St Ippolyts want this to happen. We do not need more bills or increased council tax. These new positions maybe unpaid, but they will all receive expenses which tend to be exploited by many. In these difficult financial times, now is definitely not the time to increase the burden on residents.	No	We do not need more bills or increased council tax. These new positions maybe unpaid, but they will all receive expenses which tend to be exploited by many. In these difficult financial times, now is definitely not the time to increase the burden on residents.
1816	Resident	No	A small change now may prove to have disadvantages, requiring further subsequent proposals, approvals and changes later on.	Yes	This option points to a single, clean start incorporating the proposal above.
1822	Resident	No		No	Based on the conversation I had yesterday at the Hitchin town council stand in market square , there was very little understanding of the roles and responsibilities of current local government authorities and not enough clarity of the role of a town council. Apart from giving Hitchin a voice. I find this current process unnecessary use of funds under the current financial challenges especially as the upcoming move to local government devolution which has several options to choose from.
1827	Resident	No	Yet more administrative burden paid for by the residents!	No	As above
1834	Resident	No		No	Having looked at the proposals, I do not see any good reason for this change. The system as it is, is working perfectly adequately.
1844	Resident	No		Yes	

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1845	Resident	No	Why change something that is not broken	No	So if it doesn't happen we still get 13 councilors without being charged extra . It's just about getting more money from us . Stop coming up with stupid ideas and do your job for the people of north herts .
1846	Resident	No	I cannot see the justification	No	The cost
1847	Resident	No	I do not agree	No	The additional cost on Council Tax
1848	Resident	No	I do not believe this move is necessary.	No	I do not believe that the addition of a town council will provide enough benefits to justify the extra costs levied on the council tax.
1864	Resident	No	I regard this as totally unnecessary	No	Again it is totally unnecessary
1872	Resident	No	this introduces additional council tax charges that are not regulated by the 5% maximum increase as implemented by HMG.	No	We dont need yet another layer of local government. We need councils to focus on core services & implement cost reductions particularly in pension funding & care home funding.

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1875	Resident	No	No arguments for or against have been put forward by those affected by the change proposed. On that basis I think that the current arrangement should continue.	No	<p>No I do not want to pay extra on my Council Tax to be spent annually to support the Town Council or to be spent by the new Town Council. Being asked to vote without any substantial outline of the advantages, or disadvantages, is undemocratic.</p> <p>I would like to know answers to several questions before I would support the change proposed.</p> <p>I would also like to know which groups in Hitchin are in favour of this proposal and how it was put forward.</p> <p>Why is there no public dialogue, can someone explain.</p> <p>The Hitchin Forum website appears not to be commenting on this proposal. I imagine that they have a view and I would have expected them to share it given their focus on the town. I expected to see this via local media as well as their own website.</p> <p>North Herts Council as meeting it's obligation of putting this proposal forward but I can't see any advantage to the town, other than creating a pot of money to be spent on the town lifted from its tax payers.</p> <p>I know how my council tax is being spent, I don't want an extra bit added on with no clear idea of the objective. More flower baskets or food banks, how can we tell.</p>
1886	Resident	No		No	Current set-up is okay, no change is required.
1887	Resident	No	This is a prelude to creating a new Town Council for Hitchin and my reasons for objecting to that are set out below.	No	<p>A new Town Council for Hitchin will create another layer of bureaucracy that will impede and delay public decision making for the town and will also delay and increase the cost of the determination of private planning applications.</p> <p>I also strongly object to any proposals that will have the effect of increasing council tax for Hitchin without any corresponding increase in the provision of public services.</p>
1900	Resident	No	No advantage and don't want to pay any more council tax	No	same as above

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1911	Resident	No	There's no clear justification of what the benefits are for residents in making this change, weighed up against the additional cost that will be levied to residents. Until this is evidenced I cannot see what grounds there are for taking this forward.	No	As above.
1913	Resident	No	It s seems not logical to split part of existing parish to Hitchin.	No	There is no indication what benefits it will add to people living in Hitchin by creating new town council. It also seems excessive to have 13 people in council for the size of Hitchin. All that money could be put at better use of making sure streets are safe for children, and ensuring not holes are fixed.
1925	Resident	No		No	Ineffective answer to improving local governance.
1945	Resident	No	It's a completely unnecessary additional layer of bureaucracy at a ridiculous extra cost. There should be an external review of how this idea ever reached the stage of being made public.	No	As the proposals are linked my feedback is the same. It's a completely unnecessary additional layer of bureaucracy at a ridiculous extra cost. There should be an external review of how this idea ever reached the stage of being made public
1947	Resident	No	Extra layer of administration controlled by well meaning but amateur representation will add extra costs and achieve no improvements. The administrative process can not currently run our libraries, bin services, dumps, lighting etc; adding lavers will not improve matters.	No	Extra layer of administration controlled by well meaning but amateur representation will add extra costs and achieve no improvements. The administrative process can not currently run our libraries, bin services, dumps, lighting etc; adding lavers will not improve matters.

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1978	Resident	No	<p>After reviewing the material delivered, as well as the content at the URL https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/community-governance-review, I note that it does not clearly outline the tangible benefits of the draft recommendations. Additionally, the material fails to provide an indicative cost impact on my council tax.</p> <p>For clarity, I am not opposed to a Community Governance Review (CGR) or any reassessment of council tax. However, the material supplied offers no clear guidance on either the benefits or the associated costs. In doing so, it presents itself merely as a potential increase in bureaucracy at the expense of local taxpayers.</p> <p>More education and effort are needed to demonstrate the value that town councils and councillors provide to the area. Until a far more accurate and transparent set of costs and benefits is presented, I would strongly reject both recommendations.</p>	No	As above.
1980	Resident	No		Yes	
1984	Resident	No	not required	Yes	Hitchin deserves its own town council to deal with things that North Herts neglects.
1986	Resident	No		No	
1987	Resident	No	<p>I am in favour of Hitchin having a Town Council but it does not have to include St Ippolyts North ward that should remain in St Ippolyts Parish.</p> <p>St Ippolyts North ward is already in Hitchin Priory ward and has been for many years.</p>	No	<p>As before I am in favour of Hitchin having a Town Council but it does not have to include St Ippolyts North ward that should remain in St Ippolyts Parish.</p>
1989	Resident	No		No	Do not want to pay more
1991	Resident	No	Villages deserve their own representatives	No	<p>Hitchin already has three levels of representation. MP, Herts County council and North Herts council. It is already hard to find which one is responsible for what services. Adding another layer would add to complication in finding representatives and also add to resident costs (council tax). It is not at all clear what a town council would give residents for important issues - E.g. pot hole reparation and bin collections. There is a fear there would be an increase in implementing policies that are not important E.g. 20 mph limits on roads where there have been no injury accidents any</p>

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2086	Resident	No		No	
2092	Resident	No	I have voted NO, but I would rather have had the option to abstain. I live in Bearton Road in Hitchin, and I feel that this decision should be decided by the residents of St Ippolyts and Hitchin Priory.	Yes	I feel sure that after the NHDS is dissolved, the County Councillors will do their best to serve the communities that they represent. However, I believe it will be better if a Town Council is formed in Hitchin with local powers and local accountability.
2094	Resident	No	But shouldn't this be left to those living in St Ippolyts and the affected part of Hitchin?	Yes	A Town Council in Hitchin will be better placed to decide and act upon local problems, rather than leaving these matters to just the County Council in two years time.
2108	Resident	No	<p>The current governance works well with North-Herts Council and Hertfordshire County Council. There is no need for an additional layer of bureaucracy and additional cost to our council charge. There is no "business case" of the benefits/advantages of having a town council. There are certainly disadvantages: above all is additional cost. And (for example) a potential disadvantage of confusion about who is responsible for what and the risk of grey areas where no-one is responsible or more than one body is responsible. If it comes about, will the town councillors be paid any kind of fee or expenses? If so, why should we be asked to pay for an entirely unnecessary organisation.</p> <p>If the governance model for Hertfordshire changes whereby North-Herts Council is no longer part of the governance, then there is still no need for a town council. Part of the design of any new governance model will ensure that elected representatives at the county level will be representation for all areas in the current north-herts area.</p> <p>A town council has no beneficial purpose and is a complete waste of money.</p>	No	Please see my answer to question 7.
2109	Resident	No	This is part of the process of having a Town Council. I do not want a Town Council	No	I do not want a town council
2114	Resident	No		No	I don't agree with asking people to pay more council tax at this challenging economic time. I also don't understand how these proposals will benefit us as residents, and how this money will be used.
2147	Resident	No	I cannot see any benefit to either community in removing part of one Council to enlarge a new and untried entity.	No	Hitchin and St Ippolyts are two quite distinct communities and these proposals ignore the realities of community coherence.

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2177	Resident	No	Please see 9 below for reasons	No	We have a county councillors and NHDC councillors who do not represent well the interests of their constituents. How will another tier of councillors help? It seems to me the proposed change is simply a cover to increase council tax. I live in Hitchin Walsworth. I have seen little if any action from councillors aimed at reducing the risk of flooding of local homes and businesses since the river Purwell flooded in September 2024. They also allowed a large 'local' Sainsbury's on Cambridge Road which once open will only add to the traffic congestion on Cambridge Road and lessen further air
2184	Resident	No	This would affect communities	No	This would affect the integrity of the community
2185	Resident	No		No	
2207	Resident	No		No	i do not believe we need a Town council, another layer of unrequired management.
2214	Resident	No		No	I think this is going to be the same old faces wasting yet more taxpayer money on expenses and not agreeing anything useful for 'paying residents'. I already pay some £2,000. for time wasters like [REDACTED] to come up with useless ideas like 20 mph limits, bus lanes, riverside walks, unprofitable shopping centres and pointless relief roads through industrial areas and adjoining railway lines. As a pensioner I have limited funds and the thought of paying out more for yet another old boys club makes me sick.
2221	Resident	No		No	I think it is unacceptable to make changes and put up our council tax again - the constant rises are totally unsustainable and are putting a huge amount of financial pressure on residents. You should be streamlining services, not making things more expensive.
2222	Resident	No	Council tax is already high enough - I do not want it to increase. I don't see how this change would benefit me and it's not something I want to pay for	No	Council tax is already high enough - I do not want it to increase. I don't see how this change would benefit me and it's not something I want to pay for

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2103	Resident	Yes	Yes - but also adjust its border while you're at it. The current parish and district ward boundary goes through the middle of a couple of houses on Gosmore Gate, and adopting this boundary as the new parish would split that fairly small street between Hitchin and St Ippolyts parishes. Would suggest the boundary in that area is realigned to match the green belt boundary, which places Gosmore Gate entirely within the Hitchin urban area. Would also suggest including housing allocation HT2 from the Local Plan within Hitchin rather than St Ippolyts. I am aware there are rules about how parishes and district wards need to align, but I also understand that the Local Government Boundary Commission regularly does minor adjusting reviews to match district wards to parish boundaries following a Community Governance Review. Therefore, please don't feel that the only option to you here is to rigidly stick to the existing parish and district ward boundary - draw a sensible boundary and notify the boundary commission that you'd like them to tweak the ward boundaries to match.	Yes	Support creation of town council, particularly in light of anticipated change to unitary authorities.
34	Resident	Yes	The northern end of St Ippollitts parish is simply part of Hitchin	No	Why provide an additional - and costly - layer of bureaucracy with no real powers when the government's thrust is to reduce two-tier council systems to Unitary authorities? I remember the fiasco that was Letchworth Town Council, despised by all but those who petitioned to have it set up, and which lasted just a few years. the same would happen with Hitchin
1791	Resident	Yes	This is effectively now a suburb of Hitchin and should be treated as such; it has clearly detached from St Ippolyts village itself.	Yes	
2066	Another organisation (I'm representing myself as part of a proposal to parish all non metropolitan area in England) *	Yes	Its in the ONS BUA.	Yes	I think all areas in England should be parished and making Letchworth unparished again was a big mistake. This will only become more important when larger districts are formed in the next few years.
1	Resident	Yes		Yes	\

Responses to the public consultation

³ Resident	Yes	It makes more sense geographically	Yes	Hitchin needs its own council with the ability to raise a precept for particular Hitchin issues. It will be important for there to be local input to deal with day-to-day issues without reference to a more remote layer of government once national government reorganises areas into Unitary Authorities.
⁵ Resident	Yes	Seems to border the main Hitchin town more than St Ippolyts	Yes	Hitchin has been badly served in the past because it hasn't had a town council. Also with the proposed reorganisation of Hertfordshire into unitary authorities a town council will be required
¹⁵ Resident	Yes		Yes	
¹⁹ Resident	Yes		Yes	
²⁸ Resident	Yes	Centralised governance cuts down on waste	Yes	Centralised governance cuts down on waste
³⁷ Resident	Yes	I think that moving St Ippolyts North into a new Hitchin Town authority is a matter for the residents of St Ippolyts especially as they already have a parish council so I would have preferred to be able to make no comment on that proposal rather than be given just Yes/No However if the move is necessary to make a Hitchin Town Council viable and efficient I would support it	Yes	A Town Council for Hitchin is long overdue and would create a much better forum for residents and improve accountability (and would probably save money if as I assume it is alongside the abolition of District Councils)
³⁹ Resident	Yes		Yes	
⁴¹ Resident	Yes	Having lived off Newlands Lane for almost 45 years I've never, ever been in St Ippolyts village shop, so a switch from St I to Hitchin seems inevitable.	Yes	
⁴⁶ Resident	Yes		No	I'd want to see a clear and concise plan for how this council will provide value. Any inefficient governing body would be a drag on the town and it's residents. With rises to Council taxes in question, a high amount of disclosure and justification must be met before any implementation.
⁵⁰ Resident	Yes		Yes	
⁵⁴ Resident	Yes	St Ippolyts north fits naturally into the compass of Hitchin	Yes	Hitchin residents should have a greater say in matters relating to Hitchin as a community
⁶⁸ Resident	Yes	It appears only the A602 creates a boundary	Yes	Working in partnership, rather than contrafiction

Responses to the public consultation

71	Resident	Yes	I have no objection to this proposal	No	I do not believe we need another tier of local government at town council level. I was a public sector audit manager for many years and my work included the audit of Town Councils. I do not think that the additional council tax levied if reflected in additional benefits. The operation of local committees within existing local government tiers is sufficient.
81	Resident	Yes	Logically makes sense.	Yes	Need a Town Council desperately.
88	Resident	Yes		Yes	
89	Resident	Yes	It makes sense to include the elite North Parish as it's still part of Hitchin	Yes	I feel hitching is under represented in North hearts and the people of Hitchin will have more control over its community whilst at the same time supporting the wider district creating a better community for not just Hitchin but all of North hearts
91	Resident	Yes		No	Hitchin should only have a new town council if it doesn't cost any additional money to residents because it sounds as if it is creating a third tier of local government. How does this fit in with the government proposal to get rid of District Councils?
96	Resident	Yes		Yes	
101	Resident	Yes		Yes	
104	Resident	Yes		Yes	
113	Resident	Yes	x	Yes	
120	Resident	Yes	Logically these properties are more affixed to Hitchin than St Ippolyts	Yes	We need local representation if the district council is abolished
121	Resident	Yes		Yes	
122	District Councillor	Yes		Yes	
128	Resident	Yes		Yes	
146	Resident	Yes		Yes	
157	Resident	Yes		No	Town Council would have unnecessary local control, and would cost us more.
178	Resident	Yes		Yes	
193	Resident	Yes	No strong view	No	Understand this would increase council tax so no, don't do it
210	Resident	Yes		Yes	
212	Resident	Yes		No	I'm happy with current structure and see no reason to add extra layers of bureaucracy

Responses to the public consultation

213	Resident	Yes		No	Increase in council tax is not acceptable. More bureaucracy does not mean better services. Just fix the potholes!
223	Resident	Yes		No	The last thing any resident needs is a further layer of bureaucracy together with further cost. The only people to benefit would be those who have a burning desire to control the lives of others, those that want to stand for election - those who think the state (the town council) knows best. Please, please, please don't introduce a "town council"
243	Resident	Yes		No	I pay for allotment to nhc. Why should I also pay the new authority as well. The information I have seen so suggests an increase in the cost to me.
283	Resident	Yes		Yes	Hitchin is a distinct area with its own character, and is an easy geographical area for people to relate to. Changes and events in one part of the town impact on the whole, so it makes sense for it to be governed as one unit. I hope this might also prevent our local community being subsumed under the umbrella of a Hertfordshire wide council. Local areas should be locally managed
286	Resident	Yes	We need smaller less expensive government, not larger. I am in favour if this achieves lower overall cost	No	We need smaller, lower cost government not larger and more expensive. I do not wish to see my council tax rise to pay for more local government administrators
292	Resident	Yes		No	
297	Resident	Yes	whatevs	No	unnecessary additional layer of local government
301	Resident	Yes		Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

304	Resident	Yes	The area is contiguous to the urban areas currently within the Hitchin parish, whilst there is open fields to the south between this area and the village of St. Ippolyts.	No	I don't think it's been explained - for the additional council tax precept I would pay, it's unclear what we expect the total sum raised would be and what budget the town council would have, compared to it's responsibility. For example, the district council are currently responsible, for the cemetery and the perimeter wall and fencing is falling apart - how is this job going to be any better done via a town council? How has the parish council model been used elsewhere in North Herts District to deliver services more efficiently in VfM terms, and more effectively (i.e. what is the return on this additional revenue being raised)?
305	Resident	Yes		No	<p>Council tax is already eyewateringly high and with wider cost of living pressures, absolutely no work should be under development for schemes that increase it further.</p> <p>A leaflet with a vague indicative range of £22-121 expected increase for one example band is not good enough to show people what is being asked for, and I can see no mention of what the benefits are?</p> <p>There may well be a compelling case, but in that event the proposal should be to fund it from reductions to less compelling existing council tax.</p>
309	Resident	Yes	Makes absolute sense. St Ippolyts is part of Hitchin.	Yes	Hitchin is in need of more representative governance. Especially if and when unitary authorities are introduced. At present voluntary groups, businesses, sports and other clubs and associations have no representative focus or means to solve mutual problems and create synergies between themselves (e.g. town twinning is almost dormant and offers no opportunities to young people, creative and sports people) . The commercial Hitchin bid fills some of this space but we need a representative body.

Responses to the public consultation

310	Resident	Yes		No	This is completely unnecessary - there is enough bureaucracy and cost already without adding another layer of governance - the Government has been clear on clearing out unnecessary duplicative processes and here you are looking to do exactly the opposite - I think residents will strongly object to a higher council tax bill for no additional purpose
316	Resident	Yes		No	Additional council tax is unwelcome and unacceptable. The point of removing north herts district council was to reduce duplication, unnecessary cost and confusion over governance. How would creating new town councils not just be replacing one expensive and inefficient with another?
321	Resident	Yes	I do not oppose it	No	<p>I just question if now is the time, given potential local govt reorganisation (Herts as one council, losing North Herts) and cost of living pressures and rising taxes.</p> <p>Also, Hitchin town centre seems to be a pretty vibrant place with the town centre manager's leadership and I am not sure that a town council would really help.</p> <p>I would prefer for district or other rep councillors to be involved/influential</p>
337	Resident	Yes	This makes perfect sense given the geography and demographics of the area. The community in the proposed area are aligned naturally with the CBD of Hitchin and historical expansion has meant the boundary between Hitchin and St Ippolyts is arbitrary and should definitely be moved.	Yes	This would give another level of governance for our town. I can understand the concern of increased bureaucracy but this is a welcome addition to enable local people to be more involved in local decisions and to see the town flourish.
367	Resident	Yes	This makes sense given how Hitchin has developed over time.	No	Unless this can be made cost neutral or even a saving by removing other layers of governance, I am opposed to adding another layer of governance.
373	Resident	Yes		No	The proposal means yet another layer of councillors, another layer of officials, more expense for residents - all for no discernable benefit. It is additional "governance" for the sake of it.
378	Resident	Yes		No	Reviewing the cost that it would incur to implement the changes, I don't see the proposed changes having enough benefit to each area to justify the cost

Responses to the public consultation

380	Resident	Yes		No	Extra cost without the benefits being clearly explained
381	Resident	Yes		Yes	
383	Resident	Yes		Yes	
395	Resident	Yes		No	I cannot believe that, at a time when people are struggling with costs and governments are looking to reduce costs, you are considering adding extra cost with a completely pointless town council which in reality will make virtually no difference to the everyday lives of the residents. The survey has been sent out with virtually no supporting information that will allow people to make an informed decision, particularly around what would be the actual scope of any new Town Council
400	Resident	Yes		No	I fail to see the need for yet more local governance. We have NHDC councillors so do not need any more. It seems to work well enough as is. I also dislike the prospect of my council tax going up to pay for something which has no material value to me.
403	Resident	Yes		No	Council tax already too expensive without another layer of bureaucracy to fund
404	Resident	Yes	It makes sense not to have St Ippys split.	No	I don't believe an additional layer of government is in the best interest of residents.
410	Resident	Yes		Yes	
424	Resident	Yes		No	Another layer of local government is abhorrent to me. The two tiers that we already have do not seem able to deliver local services effectively (eg roads without potholes to name but one thing) and I do not see how another layer will do anything else apart from take up even more of our council tax in bureaucratic expense. The pure administrative expenditure will increase bills from day one and I foresee yet more opportunities for matters to fall between the three tiers of management. I have already experienced a significant rise in council tax this year without any evidence at all of benefits and I strongly object to the principle of paying more for another layer of Kafkaesque bureaucracy.
433	Resident	Yes	This is a long overdue simplification	Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

457	Resident	Yes	Incorporating St. Ippolyts North into Hitchin Priory only if it will saves money by cutting down on the number of employed councillors. I don't believe 13 councillors is sustainable.	Yes	However, does this amalgamation result in a larger area under one voting system?
459	Resident	Yes		No	Unnecessary bureaucracy with no clear tangible benefit which couldn't be delivered through other means.
460	Resident	Yes	N/A	No	I can't see how adding another layer to decision making will add any benefit to Hitchin, whilst increasing residents council tax bills to pay for it. Seems completely unnecessary.
465	Resident	Yes		Yes	
466	Resident	Yes		Yes	
467	Resident	Yes		Yes	
477	Resident	Yes	Hitchin is an evergrowing town with a high population and many shops that are very selective in where they operate. Hitchin is a very large place and a central trading place. Although we are already governed we need more to let this great place be greater.	Yes	Hitchin is a trade centre and must be superiority governed
478	Resident	Yes		No	
484	Resident	Yes		Yes	
494	Resident	Yes	I look forward to having a Hitchin Town Council	Yes	I look forward to having a Hitchin Town Council
500	Resident	Yes		Yes	
506	Resident	Yes		Yes	
526	Resident	Yes		No	I don't believe adding another layer of beurocracy, the cost of which is paid for by the residents is in our best interest
535	Resident	Yes		No	I have lived in Hitchin for 14yrs without a town council and do not see the need for one now, just another level of unnecessary bureaucracy
536	Resident	Yes		No	Why change what's not broken
542	Resident	Yes		No	Unnecessary.
555	Resident	Yes		No	Want more info on the benefits of creating a town council before I can be happy this is a good solution
560	Resident	Yes		No	I do not see the benefit of introducing a parish council that will result in an increase in council tax.
561	Resident	Yes		No	Ridiculous idea

Responses to the public consultation

565	Resident	Yes		No	Smells like another layer of bureaucracy that would cost an increased level of council tax. The taxpayer wouldn't see a tangible benefit.
577	Resident	Yes		No	
580	Resident	Yes		No	The government is trying to reduce costs and bureaucracy by merging council entities and reducing waste. This appears to be trying to circumnavigate this. I don't think we need another cost on our tax bills especially for the limited benefits the town council might be focused on.
581	Resident	Yes		No	
584	Resident	Yes		No	A town council would be expensive and unnecessary.
585	Resident	Yes		No	
591	Resident	Yes		Yes	More local representation for the town can only be a good thing. Cost is modest if we see improvements.
594	Resident	Yes		Yes	At the moment the advantages would probably be marginal. However, rumours of removing District Councils would change this and make a town council even more necessary.
595	Resident	Yes	The area touches Hitchin but not the rest of St Ippolyts. The boundary is odd — why not expand it slightly more in the south-west to include a few additional houses?	Yes	NHDC covers too big and disparate an area for any town's interests to be considered properly. My recent discovery that there is no Emergency Plan for Hitchin strengthens my view that more devolution is necessary. I'm aware that this is directly at odds with the current rumours that all counties will effectively become unitary authorities — I think that proposal is absurd.
598	Resident	Yes		No	
604	Resident	Yes		No	
613	Resident	Yes	I'm actually agnostic on this point but if there are efficiencies and cost savings to be made then I am in favour of including St Ippolyts North within Hitchin	No	Am strongly opposed to more government. Same reason I voted for Brexit. The state is already bloated with bureaucracy and is inefficient. We should have less layers of governance not more. We should be doing more with less resource not adding more resource and cost for no tangible benefit other than job creation for the state. How does anyone think this is a good idea when we are in a cost of living crisis. About as sensible as reducing the frequency of bin collection and adding another bin.

Responses to the public consultation

⁶¹⁵	Resident	Yes		No	I do not believe the benefits (if any) of a new Town Council for Hitchin will be worth any increase in council tax.
⁶¹⁷	Resident	Yes		Yes	
⁶²⁸	Resident	Yes	The area is geographically part of Hitchin so the change makes sense	No	Introducing another level (4th!) of elected officials will increase bureaucracy, slow decision making and not increase accountability. North Herts Council already covers a relatively small population of very similar towns and it is totally unnecessary to complicate local management further. The proposed increase in taxes would be far better spent on delivering front line services or funding the implementation of the small town projects that these officials would be debating.
⁶³¹	Resident	Yes	Seems to make sense given the way the town is growing.	No	Additional taxation for no benefit. That's not welcomed, wanted or needed.
⁶³³	Resident	Yes	Seems sensible but I don't live in the area	No	It's unclear what value this would bring over and above what our councillors are already doing. Given the demands on our already stretched finances, adding an extra layer of bureaucracy at a significant cost does not seem like the right thing to do

Responses to the public consultation

⁶³⁵	Resident	Yes	Might as well. They are practically joined up now, geographically speaking, with all the housing estates.	Yes	<p>I support the proposal to establish a Town Council for Hitchin. Hitchin has grown significantly in recent years, driven by rising housing demand from London and the town's strong schools, and it now requires more direct local governance to ensure that development is managed responsibly and in the best interests of residents.</p> <p>A Town Council would provide greater local control over planning and transport, two key areas where Hitchin needs more strategic oversight. With increasing pressure from housing development, it is essential that decisions about new builds, infrastructure, and conservation are made with Hitchin's unique character in mind. A Town Council would be better positioned to advocate for sustainable growth, ensuring that new developments are properly integrated with existing services, school places, and transport links.</p> <p>Additionally, transport and parking issues require local solutions. Hitchin's commuter population continues to grow, and the town needs a council that can push for improved public transport, better parking strategies, and enhanced pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. More control over these issues would allow Hitchin to develop policies that support both residents and businesses while managing congestion more effectively.</p>
⁶⁴⁶	Resident	Yes		Yes	
⁶⁵⁵	Resident	Yes	reducing costs	No	this would increase costs, and there is no tangible benefit for the change
⁶⁶⁵	Resident	Yes		No	
⁶⁸³	Resident	Yes		No	Don't want an increase in council tax. This change feels unnecessary.

Responses to the public consultation

686	Resident	Yes	There are no pros and cons as to why we should or shouldn't do this and it just seems like it'd just add more bureaucracy and make it more expensive to get anything agreed as well as being an additional unnecessary cost for staff, offices etc which have to be borne by residents	No	There are no pros and cons as to why we should or shouldn't do this and it just seems like it'd just add more bureaucracy and make it more expensive to get anything agreed as well as being an additional unnecessary cost for staff, offices etc which have to be borne by residents
694	Resident	Yes		No	
710	Resident	Yes		Yes	
715	Resident	Yes	Sounds like a good way of saving money. St Ippolyts is part of Hitchin geographically, so why carry the overhead and additional unnecessary complexity of having a separate council. The less people, complexity and cost in the local government infrastructure the better	No	You have not explained the financial implications of the proposal, but it sounds like unnecessary additional infrastructure and therefore cost. Why do any of those district wards need more than 1 councillor? As per previous response, the less complexity, people and cost the better
730	Resident	Yes	I am neither in favour of or against this recommendation	Yes	BUT while in this questionnaire it's an abstract proposal, there is no clear definition of what is involved, where such a proposal sits and what the alternatives are. There should be better supporting information on the flyer that came through the door so people can get some idea of what this part of the consultation is about. Furthermore, some justification should be given for the increase in council tax. And yes, I have spoken to the council offices in Letchworth about it.
731	Resident	Yes		Yes	Regards, Geoff Lock
740	Resident	Yes		Yes	
743	Resident	Yes	Makes sense to combine with hitchin	Yes	Will give residents greater say in their local area
750	Resident	Yes		Yes	
759	Resident	Yes	Dont mind as does not affect me i think	No	Cannot pay more council tax! Absolutely cannot.
775	Resident	Yes	But not if it increases council tax. Hitchin need a level of representation that it does not get from Letchworth nor Hertford CC But not at the cost of increasing Council tax - transfer of funds is fine but not a back door CT increase.		But not if it increases council tax. Hitchin need a level of representation that it does not get from Letchworth nor Hertford CC But not at the cost of increasing Council tax - transfer of funds is fine but not a back door CT increase.
780	Resident	Yes		Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

786	Resident	Yes		Yes	While there was already a good case for a town council, this has greatly strengthened in the light of proposed Unitary Authorities. We need a council with a specific responsibility for the town.
797	Resident	Yes		No	Absolute waste of money and resources to have a town council. They add no benefit.
798	Resident	Yes		No	Complete waste of money. People making noise and doing nothing about anything. Yet another way to rinse money out of those that don't have enough to live off as it is. People won't read as to the extra costs
801	Resident	Yes		Yes	
824	Resident	Yes	This move is a sensible adjustment, especially given that St Ippes is really part of Hitchin and has little infrastructure of its own.	Yes	Each area is discretely different and warrants separate councillors. Hitchin will donwellmtonhave a town council.
841	Resident	Yes		Yes	
857	Resident	Yes	The housing developments in this ward are better aligned to the urban community of Hitchin	Yes	Although there is a general trend to reduce layers of government it is important that all significant communities have a voice. Hitchin is a vibrant and growing community that needs a strong voice in its development that speaks only for Hitchin. Better representation
877	Resident	Yes		Yes	
882	Resident	Yes		No	Not for a raise in council tax? Wouldn't we be paying the current tax to hitchin council instead of where it is currently paid? Why would it increase?
885	Resident	Yes	I have no strong feelings as either way	No	I see no benefit to it. I think a new town council will add an extra, unnecessary layer of bureaucracy, more confusion for residents around who is responsible for what, and at more cost to the council tax payer. I received a flyer promoting the new town council, and some suggestions appeared not to be very 'green'- I don't understand how this would fit with NHDCs climate change policy

Responses to the public consultation

886	Resident	Yes		No	I am not happy with the increase this would cause for council tax, given the state of the economy and people's finances, this is not a burden that should be placed on residents. Additionally, sufficient information has not been provided on how this council would actually benefit all residents and be value for money. Whilst I understand the reasoning I do not see the benefit. There are already a number of initiatives and people who successfully work together to serve the common cause of Hitchin and adding an extra layer of bureaucracy is not necessary and could hinder people and/or wards working together.
888	Resident	Yes	Happy either way if honest	No	Doesn't seem like a necessary extra expense to residents. NHDC are already financially stretched, so adding another team to do things that are already being done seems pointless. I'm sure there are arguments for this idea, but the whole thing smacks of 'busybodyness'.
890	Resident	Yes	I am in favour of this Town Council proposal for Hitchin as residents will be given much more of an opportunity to have their say about Hitchin and to speak about any issues etc and to get more swift action to resolve.	Yes	As per my above answer to question 7.
906	Resident	Yes		No	
911	Resident	Yes		No	In the cost of living crisis, thank you so very much for proposing to add extra charge to council tax on a top of already huge increase but most importantly, let add more bureaucracy! Instead of making structure more simpler and more effective. It's great proposal in addition to bus lanes for buses that are run once per hour and reduction of household waste collection
916	Resident	Yes	A more local council would be an advantage to residents. An increase in council tax might be enough to discourage some.	Yes	A good move.
919	Resident	Yes		Yes	Not keen on the increase in council tax though!
920	Resident	Yes		Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

925	Resident	Yes		Yes	The importance of local representation once the unitary authority is decided upon will be even more important. I'm fed up with not knowing who to talk to about local issues with the present arrangement
928	Resident	Yes	Hitchin needs better management	Yes	St Ippolyts North is hitchin reealy
937	Resident	Yes		No	
938	Resident	Yes	I would like Hitychin to be more independen t.	Yes	
941	Resident	Yes	Anonymous. Anything that keeps Hitchin and surrounding areas together is a good thing certainly.	Yes	As above
958	Resident	Yes		Yes	
959	Resident	Yes	We would love to have a Hitchin Town Council. Please can one be created.	Yes	We would love to have a Hitchin Town Council. Please can one be created.
983	Resident	Yes	.	No	Cannot see point of new town council.
997	Resident	Yes	This ward is clearly part of the urban area of Hitchin	Yes	
999	Resident	Yes		No	No need to add additional layer of bureaucracy that comes with an additional cost
1016	Resident	Yes	If that is what St Ippolyts North residents want. If they don't then I'm in favour of Highbury having three councillors, since I live in Highbury.	Yes	Hitchin should have its own council. I've lived here since 1968 and I have always thought so.
1024	Resident	Yes		No	Increase on council tax
1032	Resident	Yes	No view here. I have not received any information to describe why the change has been proposed and what the true positives/negatives are. Hence I am not informed enough to make a judgement	No	Council tax is high enough and we do not need a town council. Why ask people to pay more for a town council? Communication has been none existent on what this is, what the town council will achieve, what their goals are and how you can justify up to £120 per year extra tax to pay for it. I lived in Letchworth 13 years ago and they had a form of town council which was expensive to set up, took an age to disband and from what I could see there was very little benefit to anyone other than giving some councillors something to keep them busy! I would rather not have the extra tax burden and would rather donate £120 to charity than to a town council!
1065	Resident	Yes		No	It another level of bureaucracy
1067	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1071	Resident	Yes		No	I don't want higher taxes

Responses to the public consultation

1107	Resident	Yes		No	Another level of bureaucracy, thought we were supposed to be stream lining councils, not making more levels. Pay high council tax now, do not wish for it to be any higher. Money being spent on this review could be better spent on our existing services.
1125	Resident	Yes	It makes sense, but due to the increased housing development in Oughton Ward, representation with 3 councillors should be considered	Yes	A Hitchin Town Council would be a step towards addressing the current democratic deficit compared to other localities within the district and essential when considering its voice in future potential changes to the unitary authority of Hertfordshire. Hitchin currently suffers from being a geographic road intersection, but suffers from lack of public transport and major road links serving already heavy and increasing East/West transport demands. I would hope that with a Town Council, this aspect can be better addressed in the future.
1129	Resident	Yes		No	The additional cost to residents is not justified. We do not need more elected officials
1151	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1155	Resident	Yes	On the grounds that physically it is indistinguishable from Hitchin	Yes	
1161	Resident	Yes	Makes sense	Yes	Seems a fair allocation
1162	Resident	Yes	Seems broadly integrated into Hitchin anyway, so providing the people that actually live there are happy, why not?	No	I'm not clear on what the benefits of having a TC will be beyond having a cost to residents. There has been no clear statement of what the TC will provide for the additional cost (which will surely only increase each year). At a time where many are struggling to pay essential bills, why would we create more cost? Perhaps there are clear benefits, but they certainly haven't been communicated clearly, or widely.
1166	Resident	Yes		No	I don't see the need for another layer of local government especially if it adds cost to local residents. Depending on what happens with the devolution agenda in Herts, then there may be advantages to this kind of local body but while the structure of our new county council is unknown. I am unsure on this point
1167	Resident	Yes		Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

1173	Resident	Yes	It is basically part of Hitchin really and most people living there will do more and be more interested in Hitchin	No	I don't want to pay more money for another level of councillor, we have enough as it is and we should spend the money on current services and councillors rather than make more
1176	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1178	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1181	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1200	Resident	Yes		No	We do not need another layer of government, particularly if this is going to cost us more money. There has been no information about how this may be of any benefit.
1232	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1252	Resident	Yes	I don't care how you do it, as long as you don't create more jobs, that we have to pay for. If you can create a new council for Hitchin without increasing already high council tax, then it may be a good idea, but I don't agree to proposing this council tax increase do you can pay for a newly created jobs.	No	If you can do it without residents paying for your jobs, then maybe, but issues must be already being dealt with someone, so NO, I don't want more councillors.
1256	Resident	Yes		No	
1266	Resident	Yes		No	If this results in increased costs and hence increased council tax the I am firmly apposed to the proposal. Over the past few years council tax has continued to rise while council services have degraded. The council needs to wake up, recognise they are supposed to be a service provider, concentrate on improving efficiency, reducing costs and improving services
1272	Resident	Yes	Not qualified to give meaningful comment	Yes	As above
1273	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1288	Resident	Yes	It makes a lot of sense.	Yes	The new Town Council should be based in Hitchin, so that residents can be more involved and participate in decision making. Rather than having assigned Councillors per ward, all 13 Councillors should be elected by Proportional Representation using a single Transferable vote system, so that every vote counts more equally, and residents feel it is worth their while coming out to vote, instead of the ever decreasing voters participation seen in for a long while in local elections. I would like to see true representative democracy flourish in Hitchin

Responses to the public consultation

1291	Resident	Yes		No	
1323	Resident	Yes	Seems reasonable given the nature of the area	Yes	A Hitchin focused town council may provide better direction of public funds within the area.
1326	Resident	Yes		No	Does it really need 3 councillors in a ward surely 2. would be adequate.
1336	Resident	Yes	I think having a Hitchin town council is a really good idea	Yes	Bringing St Ippolyts into Hitchin makes sense
1352	Resident	Yes		No	What's the benefit for the cost to residents?
1370	Resident	Yes		No	Council tax is already sky high, supporting something that increases that makes no sense.
1376	Resident	Yes	Logical given the geography.	No	Unnecessary. Don't need more local councillors who won't have any real powers. Given the big increase in council tax for 2025/6 residents certainly don't need to be paying any more for a town council.
1380	Resident	Yes		No	Don't see the value. Already have too much bureaucracy.
1401	Resident	Yes		No	<p>The area of Hitchin Priory south of the Stevenage Road (polling area H-HPR-3) and the St Ippolyts North ward should both be moved to Hitchin Highbury, and Hitchin Highbury should have 3 councillors.</p> <p>In my opinion this would be a more natural area of community, rather than including them with the rest of Hitchin Priory.</p> <p>However, the movement of St Ippolyts North should principally be the decision of the residents in the ward.</p>
1426	Residents/community association (We would prefer not to say) *	Yes	As a group we are more interested in the formation of a Hitchin Town Council. We hope NHDC will not stop this from happening.	Yes	Again, as a group we are more interested in the formation of a Hitchin Town Council. We hope NHDC will not stop this from happening.
1434	Resident	Yes	This seems sensible as the area is contiguous to Southern Hitchin and is not attached to the village of St Ippolyts.	No	We already have a County Council, a District Council, A Police and Crime Commissioner and a Town Centre Manager and Business Improvement District. In the current financial climate I have no interest in paying yet more for additional publicly elected officials who I rarely see anything from.
1443	Resident	Yes		Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

1445	Resident	Yes		No	There have been no stated benefits from having a town council, only greater household expense.
1447	Resident	Yes	Seems logical	No	Most definitely not in favour. It just creates another layer of bureaucracy and wastes even more public money which should all be used to improve services rather than pay more an more pen pushers. Action rather than talk.
1452	Resident	Yes		No	I see no reason for the creation of another layer of paid bureaucracy. Living in Hitchin for 45+ years, there have been times when I have been far from happy with NHDC and the performance of its statutory and discretionary functions but I cannot see how this might be improved by more representation at more cost to council tax payers. I do oppose the idea of a single unitary authority for Hertfordshire but equally I am not in favour of further downwards devolution to a town council unless it can be shown to be of particular benefit to Hitchin.
1467	Resident	Yes	We need a united group.	Yes	This should gives us more control over local issues
1471	Resident	Yes		No	I do not see a need for this service and definitely do not want to pay more council tax than I already am paying
1472	Resident	Yes		No	
1483	Resident	Yes	Makes sense as contiguous with Hitchin	Yes	Strongly support. As we move to a unitary council structure, local representation will be more important than ever.
1487	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1499	Resident	Yes		No	Based on experience of other town councils this will be simply another layer of bureaucracy, and an increase in council tax spent on projects of value to the councillors not residents.
1501	Resident	Yes		No	I do not think the proposal will provide me with enough benefit to justify an increase in my council tax
1503	Resident	Yes	This is a logical addition	No	There is no need for a town council in Hitchin. The existing district councillors do a great job. Council Tax is already extremely expensive in this area with many people finding it hard to afford already, I shouldn't think many residents will look favourably upon this rising.

Responses to the public consultation

1518	Resident	Yes	It will make little difference to me either way	No	It seems to me that this will just provide another layer of bureaucracy, and will cost more money to every Council Tax payer. There don't seem to be any positive reasons behind this.
1524	Resident	Yes	If that is the wish of the residents of St Ippolyts North parish.	No	Why add another level of bureaucracy? I think North Herts Council has done a good job overall with managing Hitchin. It is a thriving town with a pleasant and busy town centre. Just brighten up Churchgate without destroying its 60's vibe (which will come back into fashion).
1532	Resident	Yes	No strong feelings about this.	Yes	Hitchin Town is a thriving community which would make good use of stronger community self-governance.
1536	Resident	Yes	Makes sense as this area is functionally part of Hitchin and expect residents of this area use services/facilities in Hitchin more than in St Ippolyts village	Yes	Only if lessons are learnt from the Letchworth Town Council fiasco and the precept for Hitchin residents provides genuine additionality that will benefit Hitchin residents and not backfill funding cuts from services currently provided.
1537	Resident	Yes	Hitchin really needs a Town Council to provide dedicated focus on meeting community needs and improving and developing town features, facilities, services and environment	Yes	
1549	Resident	Yes	No concerns	No	I'm against a new town council at this stage, i feel it will great more wasted costs and not deliver value for the tax payer.
1557	Resident	Yes	The cost of the council tax is too high. There is no need for additional costs.	No	All needs can still be met.
			The needs of towns people can still be found with Option 1.		
1571	Resident	Yes	It makes sense as it's near Hitchin.	Yes	Before deciding I do hope residents of said St Ippolyts North have been consulted on their views regarding this matter
1579	Resident	Yes	should provide broader representation for local residents	Yes	should provide broader representation for local residents
1586	Resident	Yes		No	It is not necessary and would add further to the Council Tax bill
1598	Resident	Yes		No	I don't want to pay more council tax
1616	Resident	Yes	I think we are already part of hitchin and would like that clarified by the local council. Also a local town council would represent our town needs better	Yes	More accurate representation by people who live locally and taking more local decisions

Responses to the public consultation

1627	Resident	Yes		No	Work is already in place for the changes in the County and District Councils to reduce costs and increase accountability, while this proposal simply adds another layer of costs and administration to the taxpayer.
1656	Resident	Yes	No objection.	No	Proposal fails to make a case for change apart from the change itself. Councillors need to provide a business case and draft proposals on how the money raised will be spent and outline the benefits of those investments. There will also be a significant rise in Council tax without establishing purpose.
1657	Resident	Yes	More uniformity	Yes	Residents of Hitchin currently have little say in what happens locally.
1658	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1660	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1666	Resident	Yes	It would be very helpful were your leaflet to set out the responsibilities of the proposed Hitchin Town Council.	Yes	
1668	Resident	Yes		No	I don't think there is any need for a town council in Hitchin. Local services are run well and it would only increase costs
1672	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1674	Resident	Yes		Yes	A Town Council for Hitchin is long overdue
1681	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1684	Resident	Yes	To be honest with you i dont understand this or why its even necessary - however i really object to the finer print that you would add £22-£121 to our council tax bill for the privelage of something that doesnt appear to be not needed. It seems that the council are doing everything to penalise the public for just living here and this seems like a tax grab at the most incovenient time. We are already paying a huge amount - for very little service - so i am not exactly sure why this is even needed - especially when the cost of living is so high. It seems very optunistic of the council to do this at such a time and it isnt very fair for something that doesnt seem as important and could leave people financially vunlerable - pehaps you could explain why you feel that this is necessary to do this now, why it wasnt done before and how are you expecting people to pay.. just my opinion which probably wont be listened	No	cant afford to pay further council tax!

Responses to the public consultation

1687	Resident	Yes	No	<p>From the background information you appear to be proposing this based on a request in only ten responses to (requests in) a previous consultation. Ten out of an electorate quoted as 27,088. Those ten responses were out of a total of only 16 responses. So, while a majority of the responses at that time, explicit support of less than 0.04% of the electorate.</p> <p>The proposal also, to me, provides no information on benefits of the move, only the significant cost to households, at a time of rising cost of food, energy, and general living, by way of increased council tax.</p> <p>I see no reason presented to support the creation of a town council from the information provided and would suggest that this information is developed, distributed, and the CGR or other appropriate consultation is held</p>	
1697	Resident	Yes	Seems fine, if they want it. Not really my business.	No	<p>This seems an entirely unnecessary governance structure which would have jurisdiction over things that are already handled perfectly well. It's an additional cost to residents at a time of a cost of living crisis. The activities it offers seem like something that could be organised through collaboration without needing an additional structure. It feels like self aggrandisement from people who want a fancy job title and position, rather than something that would actually return on the spend.</p>
1710	Resident	Yes	No	Cost	
1721	Resident	Yes	Yes		
1733	Resident	Yes	Yes		
1746	Resident	Yes	No		
1753	Resident	Yes	Anything to assist local decision making and ease of councillors. Not sure of impact to Highbury with less councillors.	Yes	
1764	Resident	Yes	I comment as a business owner in Hitchin. Hitchin would benefit from the additional layer of governance especially as we move towards unitary authorities.	Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

1769	Resident	Yes		No	NO while a two tier council situation YES if we have a Unitary Authority covering Hitchin. Three tiers is not acceptable.
1776	Resident	Yes	Hitchin is a large & diverse community that should have it's own local Council.This should include a village so close to Hitchin boundary.	Yes	The number of Councillors per ward seems fair with density of population.
1781	Resident	Yes		No	
1800	Resident	Yes		No	
1801	Resident	Yes		Yes	Rubbish leaflet drop, very confusing. Noone answered the phone line as well.
1802	Resident	Yes	I pay council tax for Hitchin and not for any other town	Yes	Poor leaflet job and very confusing
1807	Resident	Yes	This community looks more connected to Hitchin than St Ippolyts	No	There is no reason provided to introduce a further council, with the extra costs to residents that would be incurred. How can residents be expected to approve such an idea without a much better understanding of what would be gained from this?
1811	Resident	Yes	I have no particular view on this, although the St Ippolyts north ward does appear to be part of south Hitchin?	Yes	We need a Council that is focussed on the needs and requirements locally within Hitchin.
1813	Resident	Yes	This area is clearly part of Hitchin town rather than a separate village.	Yes	I believe it is important to have a democratic local voice for Hitchin, particularly in the light of the forthcoming move to unitary local authorities, which seems likely to make local government more distant from residents. For this to be fully democratic, we need elections to be conducted on a proportional representation system such as STV rather than first-past-the-post which leads councils to be dominated by a small number of large parties instead of a more representative set of local residents.
1821	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1823	Resident	Yes	Leaflet drop was rubbish	Yes	
1824	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1828	Resident	Yes	Not fussed to be honest, but you provide no option to say this	No	Strongly disagree with a town council- 1. With local government reorganisation and devolution commencing now is not the right time to create additional councils 2. The case is not sufficiently made in any event for a town council 3. Many areas including locally have removed town councils after their creation

Responses to the public consultation

1829	Resident	Yes	This makes sense to me as the St Ippolyts north is very close to Hitchin	No	It's too much added cost for residents, and adds further bureaucracy where it's not needed.
1855	Resident	Yes		Yes	Hitchin deserves it own council, as it was historically.
1876	Resident	Yes		No	
1879	Resident	Yes	This area the St Ippollitts North used to be part of Hitchin ward.	Yes	The town of Hitchin needs a council of it's own to be able to represent the views and the need of the residents particularly with traffic, infrastructure, planning proposals and the forth coming proposed expansion of Luton Airport, which will undoubtedly bring more through traffic on the A602 and residential areas. These and many other important issues need to addressed at source with a town council.
1880	Resident	Yes		Yes	assuming a new north and east herts authority, a Hitchin town council would be good way to support and maintain the special nature of our wonderful Hitchin community
1883	Resident	Yes	I am strongly in favour of establishing a Town Council for Hitchin. My starting point would be the former (to 1974) Hitchin Urban District Council area. But with regard to this proposed transfer from St Ippolyts to Hitchin I agree it makes logical sense given the pattern of extra suburban expansion that has occurred since 1974.	Yes	My reasoning for supporting the transfer from St Ippolyts is given above. Even if this transfer does not take place it is still essential that a Town Council be formed for Hitchin. This body will be vital in representing Hitchin interests if, as seems likely, we move to a unitary structure within Hertfordshire which will enable the (to me welcome) abolition of the current North Hertfordshire District Council
1890	Resident	Yes	It is a logical adjustment. I believe it reverts to prior boundaries.	Yes	The Town needs local representation. the proposals will help improve Hitchin and its rural areas.
1902	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1904	Resident	Yes		Yes	Hitchin needs a town council to better manage it
1918	Resident	Yes	St Ippolyts is small in comparison to Hitchin	Yes	Hopefully this will give more independence to Hitchin to decide local matters for itself.
1924	Resident	Yes		No	Please can you define the impact that this will have on planning control for Hitchin. My concerns are that this will make the current local government body smaller, and less powerful when looking at planning proposals for Hitchin and new housing developments. The other concern is that this is just a way to increase council tax above and beyond the limits already in place

Responses to the public consultation

1939	Resident	Yes		No	Seems a waste of money No idea what value this will bring Complete waste of time and money Seems poorly thought out with no view of why it's being established
1940	Resident	Yes		No	
1943	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1944	Resident	Yes		Yes	We need to have our own Town Council, particularly in the light of possible changes creating Unitary Authorities in Hertfordshire,
1949	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1952	Resident	Yes		No	
1956	Resident	Yes		No	I strongly oppose the creation of any new town council requiring additional funding. Any changes to governance should be paid for by savings in other areas of governance, not by savings in services or additional council tax.
1965	Resident	Yes		No	I don't see the need for an additional layer of local government and I do not wish to pay any more council tax.
1977	Resident	Yes	No strong feeling either way	No	Given the governments White Paper on local government reform and devolution, any changes to council structures should happen first before making decisions on creating new councils. So, whether it's right or wrong, the timing is now not right
1981	Resident	Yes	There is a closer geographical affinity with Hitchin than St Ippolyts village.	Yes	As the government plan is for unitary authorities, this is a practical means of maintaining local democracy and control.
1985	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1988	Resident	Yes	Hitchin is well overdue to have a Town Council. This would give the community of Hitchin a voice in the future of the town	Yes	A very well thought out plan for each ward in Hitchin
2025	Resident	Yes		No	
2062	Resident	Yes	BUT: elected representative councillors should be chosen using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) electoral system or the 'closed proportional list system' chosen for the Welch Senedd.	Yes	BUT: elected representative councillors should be chosen using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) electoral system or the 'closed proportional list system' chosen for the Welch Senedd.
2075	Resident	Yes		Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

2095	Resident	Yes	No	<p>It'll cost more, but at the same time the Labour government is cutting uniform requirements for school to save people money etc . This just seems like muddled thinking - why set up extra councils that will cost people more. Should only happen if it'll reduce council tax</p>
2096	Resident	Yes	No	<p>It will just be another layer of bureaucracy and administration that we would have to pay for. Council taxes are going up as it is, so I favour a lean and mean system of government at local level. not another cluttered talking shop.</p>
2139	Resident	Yes	Yes	<p>This is an appropriate reflection of what is now the built-up area of Hitchin.</p> <p>It is highly desirable to have a town council for Hitchin as Hitchin has been under-represented compared with other areas with parish councils. Although the statutory powers of parish councils (and town or community councils) are quite restricted, it is to be hoped that the District Council will cede specific responsibilities to the town council so that it can operate effectively on behalf of the local community, as we see in town councils in comparable settlements such as Harpenden and Biggleswade. Although there are currently no plans to create a single-tier unitary authority structure for Hertfordshire, it seems highly likely that this is the direction of travel, and should a unitary authority be formed for this part of Hertfordshire, it would be essential to have an effective town council for Hitchin. Establishing a town council now would be a realistic preparation for a unitary authority environment.</p> <p>A minor point about the consultation leaflet. The Council paper says the leaflet should be neutral but concerning a town council for Hitchin, it only indicates the likely cost range without stating any benefits. This might be factual, but it is hardly neutral. I trust this will be taken into account in assessing objections on</p>

Responses to the public consultation

2140	Resident	Yes	These houses adjoin Hitchin. It makes sense for them to be treated as part of the town of Hitchin, not of the village of St Ippolyts.	Yes	Now that NHC and HCC will be replaced by a unitary authority, I think it is best that Hitchin has a town council (I would marginally not support it if we were to continue with NHC and HCC). However, I would prefer there to be a delay in its formation so that it only comes into being within a year (either side) of the unitary authority, just in case the move to a unitary is abandoned. Financially, it would be efficient to schedule the town council elections to take place at the same time as the unitary elections. Also, while the boundaries suggested are reasonable at the moment (and I have no objection per se), I think that it would be best to wait to see what the unitary division boundaries will be before taking a decision; in some circumstances it might be better to align to the unitary boundaries if they neatly cover the whole town. It will be important that the town council precept does not start off as being too high at least without an election so that the candidates can put forward their vision for what the town council will do and how much it will cost. Something like £60 pa would seem reasonable as a starting level if it is to be determined by NHC (instead of by the first
2148	Resident	Yes	Not that relevant	No	<p>We don't need a Town Council right now before we know what is happening at Unitary level.</p> <p>It seems backward to bring another tier just as we're eliminating a tier to make local government more efficient and closer to local population.</p>
2170	Resident	Yes		Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

2186	Resident	Yes	At this stage it is impossible to know how to decide. It all depends on what happens with the re-organisation of local government and the establishment of unitary authorities. If Hertfordshire becomes one unitary authority for the whole country then a parish council for Hitchin will be essential. To have a councillor in Watford making a planning / schools / welfare decision involving, say, Royston would be a nonsense. In this case a new Town Council for Hitchin would be essential. If Hertfordshire is spilt into two unitary authorities - one for the south and west and another for the north and east then a Town Council for Hitchin should not be necessary.	Yes	See answer 7 above
2192	Resident	Yes		Yes	
2211	Resident	Yes	There is a natural geographic linkage.	No	I do not think that the financial commitment has been fully detailed. The leaflet mentions a figure of £22-£121 for a band D. As a band F council taxpayer on a pension I have no idea what we will be expected to pay for the initial year and subsequent years. This is on top of a substantial increase for this year. Also, I would also like to know what is going to be provided that is not covered by the council tax or through the Hitchin BID process.
2213	Resident	Yes	Being simple, I can't see any issue with the proposal	Yes	Same as my response to question 8; I can't see any issue with the proposal
2228	Resident	Yes		Yes	No good reason given for change - since 1974? NHDC has served area adequately and another tier of Local Government not neessar as far as I can see - trend it to unite areas (Government policy) not fragment them - economies of scale better with NHDC ratehr than Hitchin Town Council.
2231	Resident	Yes		No	Hitchin ward I am in has 3 councillors at present for NHDC - this appears to be changed to only 2 if town council set up.
P/001	Resident			No	Implication that Council Tax will go up - I pay highest rate already!

Responses to the public consultation

E/001	Resident	No	<p>I recently received a leaflet regarding a possible Town Council. Personally it is not an April Fool joke.</p> <p>1) Who is pushing for a Town Council? 2) What are the claimed advantages? 3) Why is the suggested cost between £22 and £121 ?</p> <p>I already have to pay extra to have my garden refuse collected. Why would I want to pay even more for this Town Council?</p> <p>This idea seems half baked</p>
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HOLWELL

Election dates

ID	Capacity	Response	Reason
246	Resident	No	This is not the best use of public funds.
487	Resident	No	There are term limits for a reason.
766	Resident	No	I want to be able to exercise my vote on time, I would shorten it if I had the choice so I can exercise my democratic rights on poorly performing elected officials.
1010	Resident	No	Extending the duration of office does not benefit the people, only those who are elected. Extending the term has the potential to lead to abuse of power.
1128	Resident	No	Adding or removing another year again seems unnecessary. Why is another year needed. This survey cannot provide enough accurate responses as the questions are baseless in context.
1431	Resident	No	
1583	Resident	No	
500	Resident	No	
1252	Resident	No	Why do you want to change it. Again, no explanation. Do it every 4 years, to uphold democratic values.
1571	Resident	No	I feel the term is too long. I despair of trying to contact councillors at times, so shorter terms, I feel are better

Responses to the public consultation

76	Resident	No	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Hiring out an unsafe building should be investigated before children are seriously injured.</p> <p>Mis use of public funds should also be investigated as Parish percentage has just increased by 23% to cover building a community pavilion to domestic standards instead of commercial - no fire doors is the biggest issue that needs urgent investigation.</p> <p>[REDACTED] t</p> <p>One third of the Parish precept is paid to Clark as</p>
1073	Resident	Yes	
1119	Resident	Yes	
1706	Resident	Yes	Happy for terms to be aligned. Presumably this has cost savings and enables schools not to have to shut for elections as frequently.
1744	Resident	Yes	
655	Resident	Yes	potential cost savings
715	Resident	Yes	It's just common sense and reduces unnecessary complexity and gives the opportunity to remove inefficient resource in local government
911	Resident	Yes	
999	Resident	Yes	
1272	Resident	Yes	Whatever council arrangements are made the council must engage vigorously with the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding his/her collusion with Lister hospital management over the abuse of vulnerable elderly people. This is a dreadful scandal, covered up by Lister and the police.
1557	Resident	Yes	
1263	Parish/Town Councillor (Holwell Parish Council)	Yes	
2199	Parish or Town council (Holwell Parish Council) *	Yes	<p>We have no objection to this change.</p> <p>Holwell Parish Council wanted to confirm that agree to the proposal to be represented by 5 parish councillors.</p>

ICKLEFORD

		Election dates		N Cllrs		Grange ward	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
¹⁹⁷⁶	Resident	No	Nothing wrong with what Ickleford has already. Leave it as it is.	No	Change for the sake of change is not progress. Change always comes at a cost and is usually at the suggestion of people who haven't or don't live in the village. In this case, no change is good.	No	No need for it.
⁴⁰	Resident	No	As it's Bedfordshire let them Stondon/Shefford parish.	Yes	No answer	No	See Q 7.
¹⁴⁶⁸	Resident	No	The proposal does not add any advantages and a robust argument that it does has not been presented.	No	8 required due to workload and projected growth.	No	Insufficient numbers.
¹	Resident	Yes		Yes		Yes	
¹²²	District Councillor	Yes		Yes		Yes	
¹⁸⁹⁰	Resident	Yes	Makes sense to align the elections	No	No logical reason to do it.	No	The Lavender Grange community is clearly part of Lower Stondon. It is too far from Ickleford for it to be considered part of Ickleford. It is a land-grab of no merit.
²	Resident	Yes		Yes		Yes	As a resident of Lavender Grange I feel this does a lot to improve our representation as an often forgotten about corner of the parish, however I think a better long term solution would be to transfer the area to a combined parish with Lower Stondon and the southern end of Henlow parish within Central Beds so that local governance actually reflects the local settled area not archaic boundaries
¹²	Resident	Yes	Makes sense to align with district elections	Yes	Not sure about this, I don't have a strong opinion either way	Yes	The lavender grange area has a few very specific issue (the mismatched post code / official address, with its impacts on access to NHS services, schools, etc) that need dedicated attention. It's also well separated from the main residential areas in Ickleford, and it's instead much closer to Lower Stondon.
⁶⁴	Resident	Yes		No	All the Ickleford responsibilities merit 8 councillors.	No	Lavender Grange is 2¼ miles from Ickleford and ¼ mile from Lower Stondon. Therefore Lavender Grange should have representation on Stondon Parish Council.
¹⁰⁵	Resident	Yes	Logical action	Yes	I will not have a significant impact	Yes	Ickleford is growing in size and will continue to do so
²⁴⁴	Resident	Yes	It makes sense to align	Yes	There is no need for 8	Yes	Although proud to be part of Ickleford, there is enough distance between Ickleford village and ourselves that what suits one area won't necessarily suit the other, so our views would be better represented by our own councillors

Responses to the public consultation

936	Resident	Yes		No	8 Councillors since 1896, why change something that is not broken. From a retired parish councillor of 47 years service.	No	I answered this question to item 10
1251	Resident	Yes		Yes		Yes	
1565	Resident	Yes		Yes		No	
1742	Parish or Town council (Ickleford Parish Council) ★	Yes	It makes sense to align parish council elections with NHC elections.	No	There hasn't been an explanation provided as to why this recommendation has been made. Please see further comments regarding question 13 for a more comprehensive reason.	No	<p>The response to Q13 is 'partly' but there is no option to choose it. Ickleford Parish Council agrees with the proposal to create a new ward for the Lavender Grange community.</p> <p>However, the parish council does not consider it a reasonable proposal to split the councillor numbers as suggested for the following reasons:</p> <p>1. In the three years or so that Lavender Grange has been occupied, only one resident from the development has ever expressed an interest in joining the parish council, despite ongoing and targeted recruitment efforts from Lavender Grange - and the one resident who was initially interested changed his mind just before applying.</p> <p>2. It has been impossible to get any engagement from the residents there – even when the parish council has expressed a wish to assist with issues and has reported issues on their behalf such as mould, lack of bins, lack of signs, the postcode problems, etc. residents there have been extremely reluctant to engage, even becoming openly hostile towards the parish council.</p> <p>3. Given that the number of residents at Lavender Grange represents around 14% of the total number of Ickleford residents, perhaps 14% of the total number of parish councillors should come from the new ward - this would mean 1 parish councillor from the Lavender Grange ward with 7 from the rest of Ickleford. Otherwise the parish council foresees that it</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1919	District Councillor	Yes	This may need amendment depending on proposed changes to local government.	No	There are currently eight parish councillors for the existing Ickleford ward. Given that two of the seven proposed councillors are to represent a proposed Lavender Grange ward, the work currently undertaken by these eight parish councillors would effectively be carried out by only five parish councillors under the new proposals. Given that local plan sites IC1 and IC3 with ca 160 homes have still to come forward in Ickleford, the parish requires more than seven parish councillors.	No	I am in favour of creation of the Lavender Grange ward (subject to engagement and a positive response from residents). However the the proposed 5:2 ratio of councillors does not reflect the population split between the areas within Ickleford. Both parts of the parish are likely to see future development of the order of 150 - 200 homes in the future. If the minimum number of councillors is two, then a better split would be 6:2 or 7:2. Five parish councillors for Ickleford parish ward is not enough. I think the views of Ickleford parish councillors should be given great weight in this matter as they are best placed to judge the number of parish councillors required in each part of the parish.
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KIMPTON

Election dates				N Cllrs	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
190	Parish/Town Councillor (Kimpton Parish Council)	Yes		Yes	
1609	Resident	Yes	On balance this is a bad idea. Kimpton does not usually need a ballot to elect Parish Councillors. Changing both District and Parish councillors at the same time would create a greater change at one time.	No	No explanation given by NHC to make such a change. With only 7 councillors there is greater risk of meetings not being quorum.
1795	Resident	Yes		Yes	

1860	Parish or Town council (Kimpton Parish Council) *	Yes	No	<p>Kimpton Parish Council (KPC) considered the Community Governance Review recommendations for Kimpton at the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 26th March 2025. Councillors agreed that they are strongly in favour of keeping the status quo i.e. to retain 8 seats and not reduce the number to 7 seats.</p> <p>The main considerations in coming to this decision are:</p> <p>1.Representation of the Community: With 8 seats, the parish council can offer broader representation of the community. A higher number of councillors means that more viewpoints and perspectives can be brought into discussions.</p> <p>2.Historical Precedent: KPC has operated with 8 seats since its conception in December 1894. In the census 1891 there was a population in Kimpton of 991 of which 174 were scholars (children). It is unknown how many were adult males as this formed the electorate for the parish. In 2021 census, the population in Kimpton was 2,259. KPC can see no justified reason for reducing the number of parish council seats due to representation ratios. Reducing the number of councillors will disrupt established procedures generated over many years of successful operation.</p> <p>3.Workload: More councillors can help spread the workload. KPC has monthly full council meetings, 1 committee and 9 working parties.</p>
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KINGS WALDEN

Election dates				N Clrs	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
1972	Resident	Yes		No	

Responses to the public consultation

2234	Parish or Town council (Kings Walden Parish Council) *	Yes	No	<p>It is more likely that meetings won't be quorate if some Parish Councillors send their apologies. This could result in delays in key decisions on Parish Council business.</p> <p>Eight Parish Councillors mean that individual tasks can be shared more widely and equitably to balance the workload.</p> <p>Eight Parish Councillors enables a wider representation from our growing, diverse community, allowing a broader range of views, backgrounds and experiences to be aired and heard.</p> <p>The parish covers a large area with many smaller hamlets and villages. Eight councillors enables a better wide range of councillors from</p>
2236	Resident	Yes	No	<p>The parish covers a large area with many villages / hamlets etc. Eight councillors enables these areas to be covered more fairly.</p>

KNEBWORTH

Election dates				N Cllrs	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
614	Resident	No	We do not need another council, just another expensive waste of time and money	Yes	
2011	Resident	No	By keeping the Parish Council elections and the District Council elections separate by two years, it helps residents focus on the issues that are relevant to each body. For example, local Parish Council are not responsible for planning policies (which are the responsibility of District Councils) but residents often think that they are a parish issue. It helps to make clear the responsibilities of each body and who to contact with queries.	No	Parish Councillors may be elected, but they are volunteers and therefore unpaid . They do a lot of work locally and are very knowledgeable about their own parishes. They understand and help promote local views which may go unnoticed by District Councillors. However, there is a lot of time involved and reducing the number of Councillors would make much more work for the other volunteer Councillors.
2224	Resident	No	I see no benefit or rationale	No	<p>Unreasonable</p> <p>Less voices and views can't be a benefit!</p> <p>Diversity of opinion is key to good governance and decision.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

2225	Resident	No	There's no benefit to our local community in these proposals.	No	There's no benefit to the community in reducing the number of unpaid councillors by 25%. It will reduce diversity and will place more pressure on the fewer councillors. In a democracy, it is fundamental to have as many representatives as possible to be a voice for the people; the proposal is anti-democratic. It will adversely affect the governance of the PC. It is a parish council which serves the locality and, frankly, NHDC should stop meddling in village affairs, whereby they negatively affect local people whilst ever-increasing our community charges.
63	Resident	Yes		Yes	
637	Resident	Yes		Yes	
955	Resident	Yes	More elections gives residents more say in local governance. This is good.	No	Less councillors may lead to less diverse representation, which will result in less representative governance. This is bad.
1328	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1597	Resident	Yes		No	Job and responsibilities need to be shared among councillors. As a councillor responsible for play areas and recreation grounds, jobs have to be shared.
1661	Resident	Yes	If this reduces administration costs and helps to streamline planning then I am in favour	No	Whilst in principle I have no objections to reducing the number of Councillors, I do not see how a smaller number can manage the level of work that is required, given that most Councillors are also employed and their NHC role is unpaid and additional to their day jobs.
1932	Resident	Yes	It makes sense to bring things into line.	No	The current parish councillors do a lot of work, fewer councillors would mean less people to work together for the benefit of the community.
1933	Resident	Yes	This will be more efficient and cost effective	No	I do not see any need to reduce the number of parish councillors. They do a good job and having more spreads out the work they do, all on a voluntary basis. There are various locations to be checked and looked after, as well as the committee work and all 12 can be used for this.
1937	Resident	Yes	It is easier to vote for parish at the same time as district. More people may vote	No	Less people is more workload for those who do this work. It may discourage people from standing. Less people may lead to less diversity.

Responses to the public consultation

1950	Resident	Yes	I have no objection to recommendation number 1 but do object to recommendation number 2.	No	Reducing the number of parish Councillors for Knebworth would put undo strain on those remaining as councillors in view of the work load in Knebworth in particular, Knebworth parish Council has peculiar extra responsibilities such as the Station Pub. Also, the proposed extensive housing developments in Knebworth will be very demanding of Councillors' time. It is proving difficult enough to attract members of the public to fill these positions and it would be unreasonable in these circumstances to expect fewer Councillors to manage an increasing burden of work.
1953	Resident	Yes		No	Knebworth Parish Councillors have added responsibilities such as The Station Pub and the allotments which require extra time. Nine members are not enough for all the duties.
1957	Resident	Yes		No	There is a lot going on as group oversee Village pub, parks and a reduction of 2 will increase workload & reduce level of expertise within the group, therefore retain 12 people
1961	Resident	Yes		No	Knebworth Parish Council is supposed to have 12 councillors. At present there are 10 with two vacancies. As I understand it, the council has difficulty in recruiting two more councillors. However, the workload is already high and the Councillors have difficulty in completing the tasks. To reduce the number of councillors to 9 would make it even more difficult to complete the necessary tasks expected of them.
1962	Resident	Yes		No	I think that reducing the number of councillors to 9 would be counterproductive. The present team of ten is finding it difficult to cover the many and varied aspects that Knebworth needs. Reducing it to nine would make even more work for fewer Councillors and make recruiting new ones more difficult too. They really need the twelve that they have had in the past.

Responses to the public consultation

1963	Parish or Town council (Knebworth Parish Council) ★	Yes	No	<p>The Parish Council met on April 16th to discuss the Community Governance review. They were not in approval of the reduction in the number of Councillors to be on the Parish Council. This is due to the following reasons:-</p> <p>1. There will be greater onus on individuals to 'do things' i.e. and increase in workload 2. There will be a reduction in diversity and experience 3. There will be a reduced quorum for every meeting. 4. There will be the same cross-section of Councillors present for nearly every committee. 5. The Parish Council viewed that the review should be based on workload and asset rather than population. 6. The Parish Council wished to express the view that it will be harder to recruit and retain unpaid volunteers with the amount of work that will be needed by fewer Councillors. 7. There will be less time to commit to aspirations of the Parish Council 8. There is an expected 25% increase in the population of the Parish in the next 5 years 9. Town and Parish Councils could become more important in devolution</p>	
1973	Resident	Yes	Yes	<p>With a parish council of 12, there are rarely elections which results in an "old boys club" of long-standing councillors who have not justified their position for many years and do not represent the demographic of the village.</p>	
1992	Resident	Yes	Makes sense for the Parish Council elections mirror the District Council elections	No	<p>We feel that to reduce the number of Councillors to just nine would increase the workload and make it more difficult to fill the vacancies. It would also deplete the diversity of experience and skills that Councillors bring to the table</p>

Responses to the public consultation

2223	Resident	Yes	I am in favour of this as it is an efficiency saving in terms of running elections that does not affect the overall set up of the Parish Council.	No	As a volunteer in a separate organisation, I know how difficult it is to find willing volunteers to give up their time and the Parish Council is no different. However I do not believe reducing the number of councillors is the solution- that will overburden those councillors, reducing further the likelihood of willing volunteers to take on the role and reduces the expertise and diversity of thought available around the 'table'. With the proposed increase in houses in Knebworth, the workload of councillors is likely to increase in the mid to long term and with an increased village population there will be more residents who may be willing to take on a councillor position. I am strongly against the reduction in councillors.
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LANGLEY

ID	Capacity	Are you in favour of the draft recommendation?	Please provide further comments to your answer
319	Resident	No	I'd like to see Langle being incorporated into Preston or St.Paul's Walden. There is no democracy or contact, the meeting named person is unknown and non existent. Existing Parish would gain the Precept. <u>Currently higher than Parish Councils.</u>

LETCHWORTH

Town Council			
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason
319	Resident	No	Do not need to create more democracy when unitary authorities will be implemented.
179	Resident	No	I would still like individual party's for example Reform UK to run my local council
269	Resident	No	See respond to question 7

Responses to the public consultation

1194	Resident	No	<p>What you're proposing is to add yet another level of beaurocracy at the council tax payers expense (of course) I think the council tax has increased enough this year adding unbearable pressure to already stretched household budgets, we are already constrained by the whims of the LGCHF and as far as I can see the NHDC is an unapproachable and uncontactable private club for the "Boys".</p> <p>I will shortly be moving to Hitchin where at least I'll be beyond the clutches of the LGCHF</p>
1539	Resident	No	<p>We already pay enough council tax and the council already provides services</p>
34	Resident	No	<p>Letchworth suffered from a Town Council 15 years or so ago. It served no-one, was universally derided and ended up collapsing.</p>
1764	Resident	No	<p>Letchworth has enough bureaucracy with the Heritage Foundation without the Town Council. A better approach would be to merge the Foundation into a Town Council that offered both functions.</p>
931	Resident	No	<p>The additional cost required to implement further bureaucracy that is not needed and that we can't afford. Letchworth is already well represented at district level.</p>
1774	District Councillor	No	<p>There is no appetite for the creation of a Town Council in Letchworth, not least because of unsuccessful previous incarnations of a town council. Without a proper outline of the exact remit of "town council 2.0", accountability and how much it will cost each household (and what the benefits will be - if any), it is impossible to welcome this concept as being in the interest of the residents of Letchworth (and beyond).</p>
1893	District Councillor	No	<p>The same reasoning as that of my submission for Baldock plus:</p> <p>There is no appetite for the creation of a Town Council in Letchworth, not least because of unsuccessful previous incarnations of a town council. Without a proper outline of the exact remit of "town council 2.0", accountability and how much it will cost each household (and what the benefits will be - if any), it is impossible to welcome this concept as being in the interest of the residents of Letchworth (and beyond).</p>

Responses to the public consultation

10	Resident	No	We had a town council. It was a disaster. Not to be repeated. Additionally, given the Government's plans to abolish current local authorities and replace with massive unitary councils and even more massive strategic authorities (which should be strongly opposed) it seems odd timing to have this consultation on parishes and town councils.
44	Resident	No	
57	Resident	No	We had a town council a few years ago. It provided no apparent benefit to tax paying residents, so why waste tax payers money setting up another?
60	Resident	No	
65	Resident	No	A Letchworth Parish Council was created some years ago. It was a waste of time and money and a campaign was launched that successfully removed it. I do not want it back to avoid the need to go through all that again. See http://www.helpleetchworth.co.uk/
66	Resident	No	We had a town council a few years ago that served no useful purpose other than to be more "democratic" than the Letchworth Garden Heritage Foundation. It was abolished by means of a public vote. The only reason I might approve if Hertfordshire were to be split into a number of unitary authorities that would be more removed from the locality. But that would deny the HMG agenda of reducing the number of levels of local government!
73	Resident	No	Too much beurocracy.
74	Resident	No	
79	Resident	No	I don't understand what this would improve?
84	Resident	No	Why on earth does Letchworth need a Town Council as well as The Heritage Foundation.
92	Resident	No	There is already too many layers of government which simply waste money
95	Resident	No	The last time a Letchworth council was instigated it was a complete disaster and was dissolved after only about 2 years. We don't need yet another layer of bureaucracy. We already have NHDC, Herts County Council and the Heritage Foundation.
102	Resident	No	
106	Resident	No	The Town Council was abolished in 2013. Letchworth Heritage Foundation is very active in taking care of the town. A new town council would create an unnecessary additional layer of bureaucracy with associated costs to residents.

Responses to the public consultation

123	Resident	No	
124	Resident	No	Extra cost with no measurable benefit
125	Resident	No	Councils are already inefficient, filled with red tape and bureaucratic beyond belief. Adding another layer to this does not help residents or the town. Additionally increasing the financial burden does not help residents. Councils should be looking to make the most of the money they receive whilst improving the services provided to residents NOT forming a new council to take more money to debate on services whilst achieving nothing
126	Resident	No	The previous town council's demise showed it to be an expensive, unnecessary and unpopular vanity project. We already have too many layers of "local government" as well as the overlapping interests of LGCHF
129	Resident	No	Hell no. It took years to get shot of the last one!! Learn to be efficient instead of always trying to do less work for ever more money. The council wastes money hand over fist while the roads fall apart. Sort yourselves out and stop asking for more.
130	Resident	No	I see no reason to burden residents with the cost of another layer of administration. A waste of time and money
131	Resident	No	Was disbanded previously - don't want it
132	Resident	No	We should be further streamlining local representation to reduce duplication and control the ever increasing costs to local council tax payers. We already have the local North Herts Council and the Unelected Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation. We do not need another local quango. I would rather see us consolidate into a single or dual council model for the entire county
133	Resident	No	It's a complete waste of money... we have 2 layers of government already
134	Resident	No	I do not wish to pay more council for these changes you propose. I already pay too much council tax and it would be unaffordable for me.
135	Resident	No	It will add an extra layer of beurocracy with the associated costs. We should be looking to reduce this and consolidate resources. The council tax is already high, the council should be concerned with keeping this as low as possible.
136	Resident	No	An unnecessary extra layer of bureaucracy
138	Resident	No	More bureaucracy and more cost

Responses to the public consultation

140	Resident	No	It is an additional layer of local government that is not needed and will cost extra money that no one has to spare
141	Resident	No	We had a town council before which was a disaster
142	Resident	No	The Town Council which was setup a few years ago was abolished because it provided another level of bureaucracy for no advantage to the residents.
143	Resident	No	I do not want to pay any more money towards my council tax . What we have already is poor and I don't see any advantages .
144	Resident	No	Needless extra bureaucracy.
145	Resident	No	Letchworth Town Council was abolished why another one. More bureaucracy more money. We should be spending on more important things rather than millions setting up and running yet more meetings.
148	Resident	No	Complete waste of my taxes. too many layers of government which is already inefficient without adding to those inefficiencies.
149	Resident	No	I do not support any of these localised initiatives and would prefer to see all services delivered by the County who can easily establish local offices where appropriate
150	Resident	No	We had a town council many years ago. What else can you think of to waste our money on. Was the previous vote to abolish town councils not a good enough indication. Too much beurocracy already without adding to it.
151	Resident	No	I am a pensioner and having a town council means incurring costs which will reflect on my already expensive council tax is unacceptable.
152	Resident	No	I see no need for another layer of bureaucracy
153	Resident	No	This (if it is carried out) must be funded by cuts elsewhere otherwise it's just jobs for the boys.
154	Resident	No	If it costs more it means there is yet more burocracy.
156	Resident	No	Council tax will increase
158	Resident	No	I strongly oppose the proposal to create a a Town Council on the grounds of the additional cost placed on residents and additional layer of bureaucracy. The idea was tried a few years ago and was a total failure ending in a divided council of independent councillors with no common policies or strategies for the town. It was an expensive mistake which should not be repeated. I am perfectly satisfied with the current district council arrangements and see no reason to change

Responses to the public consultation

159	Resident	No	Another layer of bureaucracy is not required in Letchworth. The previous Town Council was a disaster and eventually abolished. There is also the additional cost to Council Tax at a time when a large number of residents are struggling to pay bills.
160	Resident	No	On 31st January 2013 North Herts District Council abolished the previous Letchworth Town Council and Parish arrangement with effect from 31st March 2013. This was the result of 5 years of campaigning and hard work on behalf of the HELP Eliminate Letchworth Parish Council group. For all the same reasons which led to the abolishment in 2013, I strongly object to the creation of yet another Town/Parish Council in Letchworth Garden City. It serves only to significantly increase Council Tax for residents without providing comensurate benefits in return for the local community. It has also proven to serve as a hindrance to proper local council governance.
161	Resident	No	
163	Resident	No	This is absolutely absurd and will add another layer of beaurocracy and cost for Letchworth residents. It took us long enough to rid ourselves of the Letchworth Mayor some years back!
164	Resident	No	Why do we need another layer of governance which in effect will cost us more council tax? Absolutely not. We don't get value for money as it is, so another tranche of councillors will not add anything.
165	Resident	No	There appears to be no information about what benefits there are to me as a resident from these changes - so not enough info for me to make a useful comment. However the changes do appear to come with an increase in council tax, so I am being asked to comment on some administrative changes which will cost me money but without knowing how I will benefit. This is not a good proposition. I cannot support the changes without useful information.
167	Resident	No	This creates more cost (and probably bureaucracy) for residents. Why do we need another council?
169	Resident	No	It's been done before and scrapped and yet more money on our bills
170	Resident	No	

Responses to the public consultation

171	Resident	No	This has already need done and scrapped, would be a total waste of money. Seems irresponsible of the LA to even consider it.
172	Resident	No	why spend more money on governance I don't think it is needed
173	Resident	No	<p>It was a bad idea to create a Letchworth Town Council just over 20 years ago (with 10% of the town voting for it) and nothing has changed. They cost the people of Letchworth and achieved nothing. Fortunately HELP organised a campaign against the council, got themselves elected as town councillors and then voted to disband it.</p> <p>Extract from HELP leaflet. Abolition will clearly be an excellent outcome for the people of Letchworth. In the four years that HELP councillors have managed and wound down the Town Council, no Parish Council Tax has been levied on the people of Letchworth, representing a £2million saving, so far, when contrasted with the £0.5million annual bills imposed on the Letchworth tax-payers by the previous councillors. Abolition of the Town Council will secure this annual £0.5million tax saving for every year from</p>
175	Resident	No	<p>http://www.helpleetchworth.co.uk/ - It is only 12 years since we voted to get rid of the last town council. What has changed to make it a good idea now? We still have the Heritage Foundation.</p> <p>It seems Parish Councils often have a high level of car dependence as they can derive income from parking. This works against Active Transport and Net Zero plans.</p> <p>IF, and I don't think this is legally possible, LGCHF became the town council and improved democratic representation, then, and only then, can I see a justification for a change to the current arrangement</p>
177	Resident	No	
183	Resident	No	I don't see a need for a fourth layer of administration, on top of NHDC and LGCHF and Herts CC. I do not want more costs on my council tax, without any benefit.

Responses to the public consultation

¹⁸⁶ Resident	No	In light of the current cost of living crisis, alongside e.g. withdrawal of the universal Winter Fuel Payment Allowance, the resulting increase to Council Tax appears inappropriate. Baking this increase into the future bills. Was LTC not abolished back in 2013? Adding more layers of local governance now seems at odds with the national move to challenge existing layers of governance, e.g. most recently the dishandment of NHS England?
¹⁸⁷ Resident	No	Already voted to abolish the previous 'parish' council. Further, I would not want to increase my Council tax
¹⁸⁸ Resident	No	
¹⁸⁹ Resident	No	There has been no communication on what benefit this would bring except the additional cost. There is no information on what is felt is missing and what the purpose is to add another layer of opinions.
¹⁹² Resident	No	
¹⁹⁵ Resident	No	Letchworth is well served already by NHDC and The Letchworth Heritage Foundation and does not need another layer of beurocracy. There was a similar proposal to create a Town Council which failed to gain support in 2013 and which cost the residents a lot of money to get it defeated
¹⁹⁷ Resident	No	I have no idea why this is needed.
¹⁹⁸ Resident	No	I am totally opposed to this; we've had similar to this previously. It is an absolute waste of money, we do not need any further layers of local government.
¹⁹⁹ Resident	No	A town council was set up many years ago and was then dissolved. In the time it was in existence it cost the people of Letchworth a lot of money and did not appear to do anything. We already have the Heritage Foundation and NHDC who look after the town adequately. There are very few things that a town or parish council can do by law. This must be a waste of public money as there is an ongoing review of district and county councils. Residents should be able to engage with district councillors on things that matter to them. If you add a town council it is another layer of bureaucracy unless of course you plan to get rid of the district councillors in Letchworth
²⁰⁰ Resident	No	Totally unnecessary and would cost residents an increase in council tax which many cannot afford.

Responses to the public consultation

201	Resident	No	Total waste of time and more important a most unnecessary extra expense leading to higher Councils Tax. This must not be allowed to go ahead. We used to have a Letchworth Town Council and it was disbanded. Why try to resurrect it ?
202	Resident	No	I do understand why we are making this change. I do not know what the difference would be aside from an increase in council tax.
203	Resident	No	When Letchworth last had a Town (Parish) it was not particularly successful & it was a waste of council taxpayers' money. Letchworth IS unique & the Heritage Foundation does an excellent job supporting our community. We had a referendum on the last change we had so I DO think there should be another referendum is a change is proposed.
204	Resident	No	This is an expensive extra layer of beurocracy. We already have N Herts district council and the LGCHF.
205	Resident	No	Increased costs, increased bureaucracy
206	Resident	No	We already pay a ridiculous amount of council tax. With the cost of living crisis and many people struggling as it is. People can't afford to pay anymore. My council tax reads, % change from last year, Herts county Council 5.0, North Herts D C 3.0, Herts police authority 5.6. I'd like to know what the public have received in return for the ridiculous increase. I can only think that the fat cats are just getting fatter and more greedy.
207	Resident	No	As a pensioner I do not want to have to pay more council tax.
209	Resident	No	
216	Resident	No	We've been through all this before and it didn't work then.
217	Resident	No	I don't think increasing the bureaucracy is the correct solution. I am in favour of local government rationalisation, that is to say a reduction in local government & a reduction in our taxes - not an increase.
218	Resident	No	We had a disastrous experience around 15 years ago with a town council in Letchworth. We should not go there again. There was no observable benefit for fees we paid to fund the council.
222	Resident	No	I see no justification for this which will increase costs yet again for residents. Present system works, why change it?

Responses to the public consultation

224	Resident	No	We don't need another costly bureaucratic level of local government. Please stop this WASTE of tax payers money, we are in a cost of living crisis - the answer isn't more local government.
226	Resident	No	We voted against a similar Letchworth Town Council a few years ago. I do not agree to additional councilors and additional costs. The government wants councils to merge not to add additional staff and cost. Strongly object.
228	Resident	No	An unnecessary level of bureaucracy, that will mean higher Council Tax. NHDC and Hertc CC already charge far too much for providing a poor service, ie poor road surfaces and untidy grass verges in LGC and elsewhere. Bin collection service is poor. Very happy to pay for planning regulation.
234	Resident	No	With a limited size and budget I do not believe a new council would be sufficiently effective to represent value for money. I would prefer a more streamlined local government at district or county council level.
235	Resident	No	We do not need another body in addition to county and district level. This will create further layers and confusion for residents. And we certainly do not need an increase in council tax for residents.
236	Resident	No	I voted for a parish council prior to its formation in 2008, but, for one reason or another, it became a useless (and expensive) body. It only lasted for 5 years and was abolished by a campaign (HELP) organised, it was generally thought, by Letchworth members of NHDC who were jealous of the potential powers of a parish council. There is no reason why the same would not happen again -- at great cost to rate payers. Forget it
238	Resident	No	We had a town council about 12 years ago and residents voted to abolish it. It only existed for 19 years. It was a waste of money, only about 10% of people engaged in elections and as far as I can recall it achieved nothing. Don't repeat the mistake!
242	Resident	No	Something similar failed to work a few years ago. This will create more bureaucracy, more layers of decision making causing more delays and more expense. Just make what we have work more efficiently.

Responses to the public consultation

245	Resident	No	I have lived in Letchworth since 1982. At some point, and I can't remember the date, we did have a parish council for Letchworth, which did very little and eventually voted itself out of existence. I understand that their largest item of expenditure was for the chair's ceremonial chain or office. Why would we want to repeat the exercise?
249	Resident	No	We have tried this in the past and it wasn't successful. We also have the Heritage Foundation which makes Letchworth different from other areas. However, if Hertfordshire is forced into 'unitary' government in the future there may be more argument then for a Parish Council.
250	Resident	No	I don't want the extra cost unless the benefits outweigh that cost clearly
251	Resident	No	This will be a useless and powerless talking shop with no meaningful purpose. The previous town council was voted out by referendum because it achieved nothing other than spending £ thousands on a fancy gold chain for the "mayor" of Letchworth. I challenge North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) to put this proposal to a local referendum. This proposal makes little sense considering the national government's plan to eliminate the district council layer and establish a unitary council. Local government is wasteful, inefficient and commands little local interest or support - hence the low turn-outs in elections.
253	Resident	No	There's zero justification provided for the proposed change. No thank you.
255	Resident	No	We have been through this before, and it was not popular. It is just another layer of bureaucracy, costing more money.
256	Resident	No	I believe that Hertfordshire should have a single unified authority and this would be a move against that goal
257	Resident	No	A town council for Letchworth would be an unwanted and unnecessary layer of additional management at significant cost. Our local representational needs are already adequately supplied by North Herts District Council. We already have the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, NHDC and the County Council, we don't need anything else. A Letchworth Town Council was imposed on us some years ago and was eventually disbanded as the local residents didn't want it

Responses to the public consultation

258	Resident	No	We do not need any additional costly councillors!
262	Resident	No	Unnecessary extra council, increased cost to residents. Didn't Letchworth have a town council for a brief period some years back? NHDC can look after the towns in the area without extra town councils
264	Resident	No	I am Opposed to the creation of a Town Council for Letchworth, A town council was formed in 2003 on the promise this would cost virtually nothing, 24 councillors were elected by less than 10% of the population. Nothing was achieved by the new town council and costs escalated from £185.000 to £600.000 in three years.(and there is no limit to how much can be charged) In 2008 Following an official Parish Poll 76% of the voters polled said Yes to dissolve the Town Council Corruption and mismanagement lead to its disbandment in 2011 following a Community Governance Review . So NO we do not need another level of bureaucracy, there is enough statutory power within the Heritage Foundation and North Hers Council to meet the needs of the community.
265	Resident	No	A proposal for a Town Council in Letchworth was defeated only a short time ago. The case for a new one is even less appropriate or convincing now. Are the proponents of this proposal living in the real world? The country is effectively bankrupt and local council finances are in a dire state, witness the recent increase in Council Tax, well above the inflation rate. What on earth will a new town council bring to our area apart from increased expenditure and costs which are entirely unnecessary? The duty of NHDC is to provide cost effective and efficient local services. Spending tax payers cash on a worthless new layer of local government must be strenuously resisted. This proposal must be declared dead on arrival. NO TO A NEW TOWN COUNCIL
266	Resident	No	I am satisfied with current representation. All change costs money and causes short term inefficiency. I have seen no evidence of benefits to the community of the proposal. Surely this is a rerun of the ill fated efforts of one family many years ago.

Responses to the public consultation

268	Resident	No	<p>We had a town/parish Council. It was a disaster. It spent all the time either enriching its members or fighting the Heritage Foundation. Letchworth has been far better without it.</p> <p>There is not one single thing that a parish council could provide that would benefit the town. The Heritage Foundation does a great job. We do not need anything that will just compete with it.</p>
272	Resident	No	<p>Not again. Once bitten twice shy.</p> <p>In 2012 after a 4 year campaign the existing town council was wound up. This was achieved after the NHDC commissioned 2 seperate polls which showed that over 70% Of the residents wanted to abolish the town council. There have been no significant governance changes since the last poll so why waste time and money on a further poll.</p>
274	Resident	No	<p>We already have a district council and a heritage foundation, the last thing we need is to squander money on more political bureaucracy.</p>
275	Resident	No	<p>I already pay a great deal and see no need for another level of bureaucracy. We have local councillors to represent our interests.</p>
276	Resident	No	<p>Too much bureaucracy and additional expense.</p>
277	Resident	No	<p>Willian would be part of a larger area so no progress there and we voted to abolish Letchworth town council about 10 years ago. It was dissolved and it has not been missed. The expense is unjustified.</p>
278	Resident	No	<p>We had a town council a while ago and it didn't last very long. It seems a waste of money as we already have the Heritage Foundation as an extra layer of government</p>
281	Resident	No	<p>This has already been tried once and was an expensive disaster. Why put us all through it again?</p>
282	Resident	No	<p>There is no explanation of the point of another council - nothing here to say what benefits the extra cost would bring - surely there is already local representation through the local councilors elected on the district council. If someone is making a recommendation then I expect them to say why they are recommending it.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

284	Resident	No	<p>I have no understanding of what a Town Council would do, what it's powers would be, how responsibilities would be defined, how it's activities would be coordinated with NHDC, etc.</p> <p>Also it is totally unclear from the leaflet we received what the draft proposals are on any of these matters; it was only after crawling through council meeting agendas, reports, amendments and minutes, that it becomes clear that there no proposals on any of these points. More general websites only give possible examples of activities, and nothing on the limits on a Town Council's powers.</p> <p>In these circumstances, and given the unfortunate history in this area, I cannot support the proposal at present. With more information I might reconsider.</p>
285	Resident	No	<p>Letchworth is already too heavy in representation</p>
293	Resident	No	<p>A new parish council for Letchworth will mean more bureaucracy and more cost. More layers of government means reduced efficiency. I am firmly AGAINST this draft recommendation.</p>
294	Resident	No	<p>Do not want to pay additional council tax for more layers of government</p>
295	Resident	No	<p>Letchworth is too diverse with different neighbourhoods/communities each with its own needs for a town council to represent effectively and having wards does not change this. In fact having wards emphasises the shortcomings of a town council.</p> <p>Between 2003 and 2012 Letchworth had a Town Council that failed dismally. Let's not repeat the farce.</p>
306	Resident	No	<p>I have lived in Letchworth for 85 years and feel previous town councils to be a waste of money, another layer of bureaucracy. At this time creating more red tape should not be a priority. Also no increase on council tax</p>
308	Resident	No	<p>I have absolutely no idea of the added benefit of a town council because this is not set out anywhere in the proposals. Moreover there is no clear rationale provided for an increase in council tax to pay for this. In the absence of any information to the contrary, this proposal appears to involve adding an additional layer of cost and bureaucracy but without any obvious benefit to residents.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

312	Resident	No	We had a town council. It was pointless and cost us money. It cost us even more money to get rid of it - and we voted to get rid of it. District and County council is fine as is. Adding to householders council tax in the current economic situation just to add another layer of politics is deeply disconcerting.
314	Resident	No	From what I have read, the town council would be in addition to NHDC. I feel adequately represented by NHDC at present and do not believe an extra layer of meetings and bureaucracy is likely to improve anything. It will also cost extra money and this is at present in very short supply. My recollection is also that a Letchworth town council was previously abolished - another reason for not revisiting the matter.
317	Resident	No	I can't see any benefit to this proposed action. The wards referenced don't feel like they actually cover all of Letchworth either. Though they might just be poorly named. My council tax is far too expensive as it is and essential services continue to be reduced, such as general waste collections. A town council is clearly not going to offer any improvement in such areas and is simply going to be an unnecessary additional drain on resources.
323	Resident	No	
324	Resident	No	Increase in council tax.
327	Resident	No	We had a parish council previously and it took years to get rid of it. It was ineffective and bad value for money.
329	Resident	No	At a time when there is a desire nationally to reduce costs, increase accountability and be less bureaucratic I cannot see the benefits to residents that would justify the new structure and increased council tax. The proposal also gives no other clear benefits to the changes that couldn't be achieved through amendment to the current structure.

Responses to the public consultation

330	Resident	No	This is another layer of expensive bureaucracy, with no tangible benefit for Letchworth. We already have the Heritage Foundation. We had a Town Council in the past, who spent money frivolously and fought continuously with the Heritage Foundation. I'm totally against going down this road again. We don't need more unqualified councillors who are more interested in the power than local issues. We also cannot afford the additional cost to already astronomical council tax
331	Resident	No	We had a town council before it just increased cost, division and was eventually disbanded. Stop meddling and start delivering on the services in your remit.
333	Resident	No	I have not been able to find any information on North Herts Council's website about what benefits a Letchworth Town Council would bring, just the cost in council tax increases, therefore I cannot see any good reason for a Letchworth Town Council. Furthermore, there is already the Letchworth Heritage Foundation which has to be consulted on any planning matters (or if a homeowner wants to make any changes to the exterior of their property), adding an additional layer of red tape. A town council would just further increase bureaucracy for no benefit of the town.
334	Resident	No	I don't see the need or benefit
335	Resident	No	Not required
336	Resident	No	In a time when money is hard, why would you want to increase the council tax in any way.
338	Resident	No	Town council was created and abolished by public vote. No need to recreate. Have a Letchworth Panel instead. It's complicated enough having Heritage Foundation and District,,don't need a third layer.
343	Resident	No	I have no idea why you would need 13 people to do this.
347	Resident	No	To pay more council tax is a luxury many people can't afford
352	Resident	No	The last PC was a complete waste of money. They spent it on expensive Scandinavian furniture & overpaid staff & benefits. Do we really have to bring back HELP (Help Eliminate Letchworth Parish) and fight this battle all over again.

Responses to the public consultation

354	Resident	No	Why do we need an extra level of local government that needs to be paid for by residents? The last Letchworth Town Council lasted less than 3 years and was dissolved as the electorate thought that it served no purpose.
355	Resident	No	Can't afford a rise in council tax AGAIN
356	Resident	No	Unnecessary layer of bureaucracy. We already have the Heritage Foundation looking after Letchworth.
358	Resident	No	Waste of money, last one was voted out by 90% respondents
359	Resident	No	we have sufficient admin and costs now
360	Resident	No	We don't get value for money now with our council tax. If you reach out to your local councillor to raise concerns, like I have with the untold damage to grass verges where I live, they don't even have the decency to respond. I won't pay any additional money for something that I see no benefit from
362	Resident	No	We need less Government not more, there is too many layers of bureaucracy that add no value. We need a root and branch review of local and national government who intervene far too often in the daily lives of the citizens.
365	Resident	No	There was one 12-15 years ago it was a complete joke and one of the members brought a gold mayor chain for an estimated £5000 it was rumoured and last a short while.
366	Resident	No	Since Letchworth Council was disbanded in 2013 with 75% believing it should go, I don't see a good reason for a new one. When people are already struggling financially the extra cost of the council is hard to justify.
368	Resident	No	A camel is a horse designed by a committee. Each area only needs 1 town councillor maximum, why am I spending money for something that will negatively affect me.
370	Resident	No	We had one from 2009 to 2013, achieved little but cost a fortune. Why start this again? We need to restart HELP.

Responses to the public consultation

371	Resident	No	<p>We have County Councillors and District Councillors. Increasing bureaucracy (and cost) is, in my view, not productive. Engagement with local elections is generally abysmal and I am therefore not convinced adding more councillors to the pool, albeit Town Councillors, will be beneficial. Not to mention more elections! Residents are already able to contact one of their ward councillors, who sit on the District Council, so a Town Council is simply not needed</p>
372	Resident	No	<p>Please not again. The council circular just received in the post mentions the additional costs involved as a supplement to council tax. We've just had a hefty increase. We don't want, or need, more costs piled on to us. When Letchworth had a town council it was awful -- but expensive. A local referendum succeeded in getting rid of it. An excellent result. Please don't resurrect the wretched thing</p>
375	Resident	No	<p>this was tried about a decade ago, the only thing that appeared to happen was the purchase of an expensive chain of office</p>
376	Resident	No	<p>I think we should reduce the levels of bureaucracy not add new ones.</p>
385	Resident	No	<p>Work is going on with national looking at District councils and county councils in order to unitary authorities. The district and the county Council currently don't want to do this. Establishing a town council as you've put please note costs between 22 and £121 additionally per year per household as a part of the council tax. As a single person that wages has not increased in line with cost of living for a number of years, I can't afford that. many households are struggling like local authorities with budget deficits. This is not fair to create something in the cost for money What further work is going on to establish the position?</p>

Responses to the public consultation

³⁸⁸	Resident	No	<p>There has been two previous attempts at creating a Town Council for Letchworth. The second attempt saw the creation of a Town Council which lasted for a couple of years and subsequently was dissolved. There was considerable cost involved in both the creation and in dissolving of the organisation. During its time as another tear of local government, I failed to see the relevance, purpose or benefit to the town at all, except for an additional precept on the council tax. Since the ending of Letchworth Urban District Council in 1974, there have been grumbles of Letchworth Town being under represented in the affairs of the wider North Herts District, but generally, I think that District and County Councillors have done their best to represent the town and its problems.</p> <p>If a Town Council is deemed to be established, what functions would they be better able to perform than the current system. Additionally what budgets would be transferred to the organisation from the District Council to enable it to function and what pro rata reduction would be made in North Herts precept.</p> <p>There are going to be extra costs involved for providing Office Accommodation, Salary of a Town Clerk together with administrative staff and other infrastructure for the running of the organisation.</p> <p>Other bits in terms of direct costs would be things like Employer National Insurance, Employer Superannuation contributions, liability insurance and the like. These costs would have to be funded by a new precept and funded by the Council Tax Payers.</p>
³⁹⁶	Resident	No	More expense for residents
³⁹⁹	Resident	No	I don't want to pay and more council tax and there is no need for even more councillors and layers of bureaucracy.

Responses to the public consultation

402	Resident	No	Nowhere in your information do you state what the purpose of this extra layer of bureaucracy is for. What powers would the town council have? What about its relationship to the existing wards and the Heritage Foundation? It would create yet more confusion and slow down anything that needs to be done. The inefficiency of the NHS with all its bureaucratic mayhem should warn us against creating more and more talking shops and "speed bumps" in getting anything done. As a final straw, we have to pay more council tax to fund it.
405	Resident	No	I do not see the reason for any additional town Council whatsoever; in addition to the local authorities Letchworth Garden City already has the Heritage Foundation; other towns may well benefit from town councils but that is not needed here. Yet another layer of governance is over the top and expensive and just not required.
407	Resident	No	Just another tier of bureaucracy we don't need or can afford .
411	Resident	No	I don't think we need another tier of councillors on top of what we have already. We already have the council and North Herts Heritage. Why would we need to pay for 13 more people that most probably won't be able to achieve anything more than what we have now.
413	Resident	No	Letchworth has previously had a town council which did nothing to make the town better. It was voted out. Why on earth would we want to try it again. It was just an added expense which we cannot afford.
414	Resident	No	I think it's a waste of time money and resources to have another authority do something wrong they're already taking away stuff and sorting s*** out wrong I do not need to be paying for anything more.
415	Resident	No	Waste of money
417	Resident	No	Feel it would be an unnecessary additional cost
418	Resident	No	I don't feel we need a town council, why add another layer of bureaucracy and cost to tax payers, when services are already being cut?
419	Resident	No	
423	Resident	No	Last time we had a town council, they did nothing but increase their own remuneration. They added no value at all. Why waste more taxpayers money?

Responses to the public consultation

425	Resident	No	I don't consider it necessary to have another layer of bureaucracy, needing an extra financial burden on this community. We have Herts county Council, North Herts district Council and the governance under Heritage Foundation. Using g what i guess are unqualified people needing recompense, accommodation and equipment To do their job
426	Resident	No	Yet another layer of government if superfluous. Its powers would be limited.
429	Resident	No	Letchworth has the Heritage Foundation that carries out the role that a town Council would. The role of a Town Council in Letchworth would be very limited (wind the town clock, look after the allotments) as all decisions on planning waste collection etc are dealt with by NHDC. So a cost and time waste of money and effort.
432	Resident	No	
434	Resident	No	More unnecessary bureaucracy and extra cost
435	Resident	No	Letchworth has already been dragged through having a town council which cost the rate payers of Letchworth half a million pounds each year. The Letchworth Town Council and the Parish arrangement was abolished on 31st March 2013. I therefore question why you are trying to start one again so quickly as the motion was carried without opposition and only one abstention
437	Resident	No	WE do not need another layer of council control
439	Resident	No	This is an unnecessary addition to running the town. It will increase our council tax payment with no obvious benefit
440	Resident	No	NO-NO-NO! Another level of bureaucracy with what controls / brief / finance? Who controls finance and who will oversee this self funding committee? We already have county / district / Heritage - why another body?
444	Resident	No	Letchworth Town Council was abolished 12 years ago saving ratepayers millions. There are no compelling reasons to reinstate it
445	Resident	No	No more money, as an 80 year old pensioner I can hardly afford the standing council tax. I have no more money.
446	Resident	No	We don't need extra councillors. Council tax costs too much already for a reduced service provided. I will NOT be paying extra for a un needed service

Responses to the public consultation

448	Another organisation (HCC)	No	More money to be spent with absolutely no gains for residents
449	Resident	No	Answer based on the disastrous performance of the previous Letchworth town council.
450	Resident	No	There was previously a town council that was abolished after consultations showed the vast majority of Letchworth residents wanted it to go.
451	Resident	No	People can't afford the increase in money
453	Resident	No	
454	Resident	No	<p>1. We had a town council before and it failed miserably because all it did was form an extra layer of bureaucracy and cost a lot of money. They even bought a chain of office but it delivered very little.</p> <p>2. We are potentially going to have a unitary authority. We should wait until this is decided before we decide on a town council. There councils is almost certainly at least one too many.</p> <p>3. Its already a challenge to find out who is responsible for what in the town without another layer.</p> <p>4. In this era of Government financial cut backs, why would we want another layer of bureaucracy which will cost a lot of money to set up and manage. Spend the money of something useful like improving local .</p>
456	Resident	No	This a pointless additional layer of costly bureaucracy
461	Resident	No	Over complicates town management. Adds to council tax. Adds further layers of bureaucracy. Decisions will take longer and accountability will decrease. I am not in favour of a town council.
464	Resident	No	Absolute waste of money. I pay far too much council tax for an appalling low standard of service already. Why should residents pay more
468	Resident	No	We only got just rid of the Letchworth town council not long ago. Definitely want another one!
470	Resident	No	
472	Resident	No	We tried this a few years ago and it was a total waste of time and money, and took years to get it scrapped. Why is it even being considered again?
474	Resident	No	It is my view that we does not need further expensive layers of governance. This view was shared by at least 5,357 other people, when the last Governance review was held, and the last Letchworth Town Council was abolished only 8 years ago by 75% of votes cast.

Responses to the public consultation

475	Resident	No	We do not need it - a complete waste of money & governance
476	Resident	No	Last thing we need is yet another layer of governance. This issue was tried before and rejected after years of effort - it is incredible that it should even be raised again.
479	Resident	No	
480	Resident	No	I see no advantage of a new additional layer of elected bodies with the extra cost that results. The present arrangement has worked satisfactorily. My comment applies to all the recommended areas the subject of this consultation. No benefits have been provided in the proposed changes to justify an increase in the council tax that would result.
483	Resident	No	There is no information contained within your documents that actually helps make this judgment. It's a proposed solution to a problem which has not been clearly set out. The quality of this consultation is shocking, so why would we support a proposal to increase our council tax without understanding the benefits?
491	Resident	No	
492	Resident	No	Our post code is closer to Willian which has its own Parish council?
497	Resident	No	I strongly disagree with the proposal to form a town council for Letchworth for the following reasons. 1) It will be an additional financial burden on hard pressed council tax payers. 2) Letchworth is already fully represented by Hertfordshire County Council, North Herts Council and the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation. An additional; council would be more bureaucracy for little or no benefit. 3) Letchworth previously had a Town Council that did little of value, cost the residents a good deal and was so unpopular with residents that a referendum was held to abolish it. This was achieved with a large majority. It would be a great mistake to repeat this.
498	Resident	No	Residents are already adequately represented by North Herts District Council. It is difficult to see how a further layer of bureaucracy would enhance local governance and the additional costs involved would outweigh any perceived advantages in these straitened times.

Responses to the public consultation

503	Resident	No	Sounds like a further level of (expensive) bureaucracy, a further obfuscation and dilution of transparency and accountability, more squabbling between it and existing agencies.
504	Resident	No	Too much government
505	Resident	No	The government id seeking to streamline local government by devolving more power to larger unitary authorities. We should be moving away from multi-tier local authority and toward single tier, not adding unnecessary additional tiers.
509	Resident	No	A town council was set up a few years ago and became a pariah in the town. Just one example will suffice - it spent £11,000 to have a coat of arms created by the College of Arms for the self-styled 'mayor. A group of us got together with the express aim of abolishing the council, which was finally achieved. I can't believe that this has been suggested again and I cannot stress how absolutely against it I am
510	Resident	No	We do not need yet another layer of local government at an additional charge on council tax.
511	Resident	No	<p>This is actually proof of the incompetence of the council and the MP. Why would Letchworth need 13 councillors what an absolut waste of our money.</p> <p>For a long time now it's been pretty obvious that the council's are just out to line there own pockets.</p> <p>You will do whatvis best for you anyway so why bother with this consultation. If you don't get the answers you want you won't listen.</p>
512	Resident	No	
513	Resident	No	<p>I don't see the need for three layers of local government. If town councils are necessary that implies district councils are not from my point of view.</p> <p>As such I cannot approve of a proposal that only considers town councils rather than a more comprehensive reform of local government.</p>
514	Resident	No	We do not need another layer of council control

Responses to the public consultation

518	Resident	No	We do NOT need yet another level of bureaucracy. We already have three levels of governance, all competing against each other, blocking progress and costing money. This extra level of unnecessary management adds nothing, duplicates what is already there and increases costs. It has been tried before and was rejected by local residents.
520	Resident	No	I do not wish for further layers of administration and higher council tax
524	Resident	No	I don't want to pay extra council tax especially when it's already increased
525	Resident	No	Not if it raises council tax
532	Resident	No	
533	Resident	No	
538	Resident	No	We've already tried this idiotic idea some years ago and had a battle to get rid of it. Please don't insult our intelligence by going back down this expensive pointless road again
543	Resident	No	Has any local authority in history ever come up with a more stupid pointless proposal than more councils, more layers of nonsense, more expensive waste of time and money. Many fought hard to get rid of the last experiment with a Town Council - mistakes are meant for learning, not repeating.
546	Resident	No	-objections to more money for council tax spend - no obvious benefits outlined for this proposal for residents -increase in bureaucracy
554	Resident	No	It would be more expensive for residents in a time that the cost of living has increased
556	Resident	No	
559	Resident	No	I strongly oppose this proposal on the basis that council tax will rise. Council tax is already high enough in these economically challenging times. A parish council for Letchworth was created a few years ago and abandoned following local public opinion. Do we really have to go through this again? I strongly believe the councillors who govern us need to be frugal and keep costs to an absolute minimum
566	Resident	No	We don't need any more government, costing us yet more money.

Responses to the public consultation

567	Resident	No	<p>A town council was set up some years ago for Letchworth Garden City.</p> <p>It cost taxpayers money and achieved nothing of benefit for the community.</p> <p>A popular campaign to abolish this council grew to the point of having a local election/referendum for the community to vote Yes or No for the abolition of the Town Council. The vote was overwhelmingly in favour of abolishing the Town Council.</p> <p>Whoever is proposing to reinstate a Town Council needs to answer some simple questions:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What problem or deficiency of service is the Town Council supposed to solve? 2) How much will the new Council cost the local taxpayers? 3) How will the performance of the new Council be measured? <p>Any proposed change to local governance must achieve either:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) a reduction in local tax for the same level of service. b) a better service in terms of value-for-money if the local tax is increased. <p>I cannot see how fiddling with the number of councillors will achieve any improvement in the level of service, whether it be for social care, fixing potholes, education or waste removal.</p>
568	Resident	No	<p>Not necessary. Current council arrangements work correctly in my opinion.</p>
570	Resident	No	<p>Council tax is too high, and we see nothing in return. This should be alot lower families are struggling with money.</p>
572	Resident	No	<p>I see no reason why this should happen as it does not appear to provide any additional value. It will incur more costs for residents and more needless bureaucracy. I agree that the community needs its voice heard, but I have not been presented with any information with how this will be achieved. As far as I can tell, there already was a Letchworth Town Council and Parish which was abolished in 2013. How would this be any different from last time? This needs a drastic rethink with some solid explanations as to what positive impacts it would have for residents</p>

Responses to the public consultation

575	Resident	No	I can't afford it.
582	Resident	No	I do not wish to see another layer of bureaucracy and an increase in my council tax.
605	Resident	No	I don't understand the benefits and don't want additional cost on top of current council tax rises
606	Resident	No	<p>It's a complete waste of time and money. Adding another tier of local government is not necessary and won't in my view improve local democracy. I'd rather money went to service delivery such as social care and children's services, not setting up more unnecessary structures.</p> <p>I don't feel councillors have any impact on my life or are representative of the communities those serve so I'm strongly opposed to adding any more</p>
608	Resident	No	
616	Resident	No	The proposed Town council will be an increase in our council tax which I already like many others struggle to pay. What service will the Town Council provide and how will I benefit.
618	Resident	No	<p>I don't want to pay more money for more levels of bureaucracy. These cost would be yet another burden on the tax payers wallet, and would undoubtedly spiral out of control over the coming years. If anything, local government officers should be looking to reduce the current tax bill not increase it.</p> <p>As they say "Actions speak louder than words". We don't need more people talking about it at endless meetings (costing a small fortune), we need people that are actually on the ground doing the real work that benefits all of us in our daily life.</p>


Responses to the public consultation

625	Resident	No	I am in strong opposition to the creation of a new Town Council. With public spending spiraling and services provided by the County which are not only waning, but also providing an increasingly poorer services to the tax paying residents whose basic needs remain unmet more often than not, adding an additional layer of bureaucracy will be greatly detrimental. And costly. As it happened with the NHS, adding increasing layers of management in public sectors will shift budget from the services to the decision (un)making, creating bureaucratic procedures which will bounce off from one executive committee to another, losing sight of the common goods and common needs as perceived by the taxpayers and not by wards, councilors, governors, MPs and whatnot. The creation of the Town Council will therefore go against the trend of simplifying and not complicating. I am also convinced that the new Councils will have limited decisional authority if in disagreement with the power-to-be above them. I have no doubt this exercise will results in increasing costs and reduced services, with the ongoing process already shifting budgets away from the on-the-ground activities.
627	Resident	No	Letchworth is already governed by Herts County Council, North Herts District Council and the Letchworth Heritage Foundation . Residents do not need another level of bureaucracy to deal with for local matters; nor would residents welcome the additional burden of an increase in taxes to pay for a town council.
629	Resident	No	I see no purpose for an extra layer of governance. We already have adequate representation through district and county councillors.
630	Resident	No	Costs need to be reduced to residents not increased
638	Resident	No	North Herts Council is sufficient
639	Resident	No	We already have enough councillors/persons who appear to nothing already, why pay for more
640	Resident	No	
642	Resident	No	Another layer of bureaucracy not needed. We had a town council previously and proved totally worthless. Don't wish to pay increase in council tax to fund Town Council.

Responses to the public consultation

643	Resident	No	another layer of expensive bureaucracy will greatly complicate decision-making process (timescales and petty internal squabbling) a retrograde step
645	Resident	No	I feel this will just create an extra level of bureaucracy!!
648	Resident	No	The creation of a Town Council represents an unjustified further layer of bureaucracy and more expense for council tax payers in Letchworth when they are already served by the County Council, District Council and also have LGC Heritage Foundation. At a time when council tax budgets are particularly challenging it seems that the priority should be to economise rather than increasing costs by introducing a non-essential tier of democracy and imposing a further financial burden on residents. I, therefore, see no good reason for having a Letchworth Town Council which would be of little, if any, benefits to the town.
651	Resident	No	There is a previous (and highly ineffective) history of a Town Council in Letchworth. It was very difficult at the time to understand what benefit the council provided to the town other than adding another level of bureaucracy to an already well established planning system. More importantly the TC used its powers (which are not subject to capping procedures) to increase its precept out of all proportion to the benefits it brought to residents. Whilst I understand that the current government is proposing to rationalise local government, as I understand it these proposals are not being introduced with this in mind. At the present time the powers of PCs are extremely limited. Thus I would not favour any change in the current system with the almost certain increase in cost with no resulting improvement in service levels. Depending on the final shape of the government proposals and what additional, if any, powers would be vested in PCs this view might change. In any event what is the purpose of this proposal whilst the whole nature of local government structures
652	Resident	No	I am unsure what they will actually do.

Responses to the public consultation

662	Resident	No	It is an unnecessary extra layer of governance for LGC. (Residents are already confused about the boundaries between HCC/NHDC/LGCHF responsibilities.) I believe that there was a campaign several decades ago to remove LGC Town Council because it was thought to be superfluous and costly for no gain.
668	Resident	No	Had one before and complete waste of money 
671	Resident	No	Not necessary
672	Resident	No	Any additional rate cost is unacceptable
677	Resident	No	How many layers of government will this create? We already have Herts CC, North Herts council and Letchworth Heritage Foundation. That's three. Please do not add another!
678	Resident	No	I believe we have a sufficiency.
681	Resident	No	We do not need another layer of bureaucracy. The only way I would support this would be if it led to the abolition of Letchworth Heritage Foundation.
684	Resident	No	I don't see what this is going to provide and you are demonstrating no benefits to this recommendation beyond costing additional council tax. This already increases year on year with no visible increase to the benefits we receive (in fact a decrease in benefits specifically re: refuse and recycling). Cost of living is already impacting enough without having to pay for additional "services" which overall just feel like creating jobs and roles for no reason.
689	Resident	No	I do not feel that creating 5 wards with with 3 councillors will improve the town also this is yet another additional cost to struggling families and pensioners
690	Resident	No	Don't need it if we have to pay even more council tax
692	Resident	No	What tangible improvements to public services would this bring? The leaflet has no information about what you hope to gain out of this decision? All I see is a higher council tax bill with an extra layer of bureaucracy.
693	Resident	No	I believe that the old town council was abolished several years ago. I don't think that re-creating it again will add much value, rather it will push up council tax.
695	Resident	No	We have previously had a Town Council which pushed up Council Tax and just gave Taxpayers money away, it was voted out and should stay out

Responses to the public consultation

⁶⁹⁶	Resident	No	<p>I already feel that there is too much bureaucracy at most levels of government - particularly local government. Too much time is taken up discussing things (sometimes of a trivial nature) - and there is not enough action. In my experience in life, the more committees you have (or the more people you have on the committee) the more it costs everyone and the more it slows down any decision process. I would be opposed to the move even if it costs nothing; but I would be even less happy if all our council taxes increase. The 13 people on the town council should have to prove - in advance - that their participation would somehow lead to a much more efficient council and better public services for the town. Can they</p>
⁶⁹⁷	Resident	No	<p>Firstly, I am not in favour of a new parish council for Letchworth Garden City. With specific regards to the number of proposed councillors, I do not understand how a Council can be created on the same boundaries as the District Wards, with the increase of one Councillor in the Grange Ward. This to me appears to be blatant gerrymandering, because there is no justification for the increase in one councillor in one ward. As a previous Councillor for the old Letchworth Grange Ward, which was previously a three member ward, when it contained the areas of Norton Road and Wilbury Road, I could understand the need for three councillors. However the Grange Estate alone does not require three councillors, and one could argue that the sole reason behind adding an additional member here is solely political, providing an additional Labour Councillor.</p> <p>Letchworth Garden City has a troubled past with our previous Town Council, which was a waste of tax payers money and a additional needless layer of bureaucracy, which was thankfully removed several years ago. I think the Council and the Letchworth Area Committee, would be better spent focusing on tackling the Heritage Foundation and not adding more layers</p>
⁷⁰¹	Resident	No	<p>Previously had a Letchworth town council which was disbanded due a lack of need and deliverables, also including unnecessary costs.</p>
⁷⁰³	Resident	No	<p>Ok in principle, but not ok for even more council tax increases. No thanks</p>

Responses to the public consultation

704	Resident	No	will affect my council tax.
705	Resident	No	We had a similar town/parish council several years ago that was not very effective, given that we also have the Heritage Foundation in Letchworth, I doubt this proposal would be effective either from a cost or added unnecessary bureaucracy stand point.
706	Resident	No	<p>Another level of bureaucracy, more public money being spent on something that IS NOT providing any additional service to residents. Yes I might be better represented, but I think the majority of people would prefer the money to go on putting the public bins back across Letchworth (or a similar, real, value adding, job creating activity), rather than covering expenses and time from low level politicians.</p> <p>At no point in the details I've received does it state any tangible benefit to me or my family, but only that it could cost me £100+ in council tax.</p>
708	Resident	No	I strongly oppose this initiative as it will create an extra layer of bureaucracy, which will serve no purpose. the current structure works well.
709	Resident	No	
711	Resident	No	We had a town council a few years ago and it acheived nothing, just an increase in the council tax. Also in Letchworth we already have the Heritage Foundation so we do not need a further layer of bureaucracy.
713	Resident	No	The last town council was useless
716	Resident	No	
719	Resident	No	Too many councillors will cost public funds. Not necessary to have 13 councillors, 5 councillors for 5 wards is suffice. The less people we pay the better.
720	Resident	No	No further bureaucracy needed. Make NHC work.
724	Resident	No	Too expensive.
725	Resident	No	Waste of money, time, and resources. No need for an additional tier of local governance - we already have the Heritage Foundation as well as NHDC

Responses to the public consultation

726	Resident	No	We don't need an extra layer of administration/management. Particularly if, in the middle of a cost of living crisis, it increases council tax by up to £10 per month. If I had to pay an extra £10 per month I'd prefer that to go on enhanced local services. not more councillor wages.
729	Resident	No	I pay enough for very little
732	Resident	No	I feel that there would not be any benefit for a new parish.All it would add is complexity, extra expense and bureaucracy.
733	Resident	No	Would add an additional layer of bureaucracy to the administration with no immediate benefits to residents
734	Resident	No	Due to council tax rises.
739	Resident	No	The last attempt to create and run a town council was a massive failure, causing no end of aggravation, bad tempered public and media exchanges and very bad publicity for the town. Absolutely not.
741	Resident	No	The last time Letchworth had a town council it was an expensive disaster. Luckily residents took it over with the sole objective of disbanding it.
742	Resident	No	We've had a town council before which was disbanded. Rather than have more admin we should be concentrating on bringing Letchworth back to the state and condition it used to be. I cannot see it will be of any benefit.
746	Resident	No	

Responses to the public consultation

752	Resident	No	<p>Most people I know in this whole area will be struggling to keep a car on the road this year, myself included. To keep money aside for a one week holiday this year. Will struggle to send thier child on a school trip this year. Will struggle to pay the already rising council tax. Will not be putting money into a personal pension for yet another year, hoping we will not get a debilitating health condition that will take months of emails/ phone calls/ Drs letters before any financial help arrives. So personally, I can't pay extra towards the town council. This month the inflation rate is very low, so if I do receive a pay rise, it will be reflected on that rate. Not taking into account that we have had rises in car insurance, rises in food, transport, gas electric, everything has risen, which does not equate to the very low rate being given out by Bank of England. My wife car insurance has gone up from £300-£700 in 13 months. This is just one example of ignorant price increases. My solar panels pay me 5p per kilowatt, but I pay over 20p per kilowatt. I am with the cheapest supplier and my solar energy is government run. I don't know who you are aiming this price rise at, but it won't help me or most of the people in my situation. My brother who is in one of these wards is unable to have his heating on and so this is causing damp and mold throughout his rented property, which is why his landlord won't sort out the property. Sand as you know there are thousands in</p>
753	Resident	No	<p>We already have enough idiots on the council, who get paid by us, in my opinion for very little work. We have North Herts council, and have to pay extra for The heritage Foundation which is also a waste of our council tax. People are struggling due to the cost of living without this extra cost. This is a complete waste of money.</p>
756	Resident	No	<p>It makes no sense to add a filter layer of government and cost which will add little to nothing except more bureaucracy. If anything the opposite should be occuring with a reduction in roles.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

758	Resident	No	This is completely unnecessary. 1) Letchworth is already adequately represented in local government through the district council. 2) Letchworth additionally has the heritage Foundation so this adds a 4th layer of local governance. 3) Letchworth previously overwhelmingly voted to remove its parish council - reversing that ignores, rather than strengthens, local democracy 4) This is not the time to add further council tax. The council is having to make tough decisions on e.g. bins - adding tax to pay for more councillors while removing services is a very bad look 5) This is against the direction of travel set out by the national government
761	Resident	No	I think we need to see what comes from the unitary authorities review and keep cost of local government to a minimum. We cannot afford the cost of estate and staffing levels of NHDC never mind another layer of pointless representation. I'd rather invest money in neighbourhood policing rather than a parish at least they could try to control motorbikes speeding around Jackmans Estate.
762	Resident	No	I do not see any added value to having a new town council apart from increased council tax which is quite high as it is.
763	Resident	No	Letchworth has previously tried to have a town council and it was overwhelmingly voted to shut down as it costs too much and did not achieve anything of note. It seems silly to create one again given the history.
764	Resident	No	We've been down this route before. It adds no value in my view. We have enough governance and bureaucracy already.
765	Resident	No	We already have a North Herts District Council and a Herts County Council. I don't believe we need a Town Council. I am also concerned that the creation of a Town Council will result in an increase to my Council Tax bill. I already pay over £200 a month, I don't want this additional cost.
767	Resident	No	It appears that residents voted by a large majority to abolish the previous town council in 2013. I can't find any information to say what the benefits would be to restarting this arrangement. Pros and cons should be made clearly available for everyone to see. I would be happy to reconsider my response if I had more information.
770	Resident	No	

Responses to the public consultation

771	Resident	No	
773	Resident	No	We previously elected to abolish the town council so why is it being proposed again?
774	Resident	No	The last Town Council was abolished after public protests in 2013, having contributed nothing of consequence to the town, yet at enormous cost. It was a small but expensive 'talking shop', led by self interested individuals, and caused much difficulty and I cannot believe that after all that, the subject is being raised again. And at a time when the nation faces some of the toughest challenges, across the board, that we have faced since the end of the Cold War.
777	Resident	No	As a very long term resident of LGC, I object forcefully to any suggestion of such a waste of money. The proposal is adding further disconnect and admin layers with more added cost at the expense of less efficiency, at a time when streamlining and making things more connected and efficient is what is required. Please don't add more bureaucracy, and instead make the existing council setup more communicative to its various constituents.
782	Resident	No	The Heritage Foundation fulfils many of the functions of a town council. The establishment of a town council would duplicate many of the functions of existing bodies whilst also resulting in increased cost to residents. Previous attempts at establishing and maintaining a town council have been unpopular and have failed. The proposal is itself unnecessary.
784	Resident	No	Council tax has already increased too much. This new town council is not needed.
785	Resident	No	The previous Letchworth town council achieved very little during its lifetime apart from significant annual budget increases. It was successfully abolished by public vote. I have no reason to believe that the reintroduction of this wholly unnecessary additional tier of local government will be any more successful.
787	Resident	No	We can't take any further increases in our out going costs....
788	Resident	No	There's no need for a Town Council. We are well enough served by District and County councillors. Another layer of bureaucracy is only a burden and expense.

Responses to the public consultation

790	Resident	No	<p>There is already an incredible excessive amount of beaurococy within Letchworth across both the council and heritage foundation.</p> <p>Residents are clearly are not satisfied with the service they receive from either party, with many community groups regularly commenting on inefficiencies and wasteful process from the council, and a lack of communication, large amounts of red tape and a lack of willingness to modernise from the heritage.</p> <p>This combined with the creation of additional Parish's will not only ensure residents will be required to once again bare additional costs for something which is completely useless, but it will be yet another layer of pointless beaurococy we will be required to jump through to create any form of progression within the community.</p> <p>We are seeing more and more people move to Letchworth from cities like London. These are often young, professional couples who are looking to start families, open businesses and invest in the local area. We should be creating environments reflective of the fast paced of modern life, and not setting up more councils, and committees which will ultimately halt progress and stop Letchworth from reaching it's full</p>
791	Resident	No	<p>We currently have so much Anti-social behaviour on the Jackman's estate.</p> <p>Constant motorbikes riding along public footpaths, littering, drug dealing etc</p> <p>Maybe you should be investing more money on making Letchworth a nice place to move to and live, rather than on creating something as pointless as a <u>Parish Council</u>.</p>
794	Resident	No	<p>A further layer of bureaucracy along with the financial implications is completely unnecessary.</p>
795	Resident	No	
796	Resident	No	<p>We had a Town Council, but it was disbanded</p>
799	Resident	No	<p>Creating another layer of administration & expense</p>

Responses to the public consultation

803	Resident	No	<p>Letchworth residents and tax payers have consistently shown they believe that the creation of a parish council was unnecessary since 2005, since then it proved itself unnecessary and an expensive waste of tax money taken from residents without limit.</p> <p>The parish council had cost Letchworth residents over 2 million by the end of its first term (2009) with virtually nothing to show for it. North Herts wastes enough money as it is through bureaucracy as it is, waste in legal fees, paying huge sums of money for people who have left North Herts, nepotism and questionably favourable contracts (which can be demonstrated through searching contracts on the UK Government public database) which year on year is then used as the age old corporate scam of "Spend the budget so we get more budget next year" to justify increases in tax (some of which is spent outside of the county).</p> <p>Another council will only further double down on waste in my personal view, which is why I am not in</p>
804	Resident	No	<p>What is the clear benefit to do this in Letchworth?</p> <p>There hasn't been any links to documents supporting the measure. We went through this some years ago because a couple who were local architects and their friend, who appeared to be on a ego trip, registered a town council with very little input from the local community, then proceeded to take ~£50 precept from every house that mostly went on ceremonial chains and bugger all for the local community. It took us years as a town to get rid of it and in that time costs us hundreds of thousands of pounds! Unless you can show a clear benefit to the town, this just feels like corruption</p>
805	Resident	No	<p>There is no justification laid down / put forward to the benefits of an extra layer of governance in Letchworth</p> <p>We already have odds with NHDC and Heritage Foundation in planning rules and a further group would add to the concern.</p> <p>What would funding be used for? It is not clear.</p> <p>This doesn't feel transparent.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

808	Resident	No	We had one before and it was a huge waste of money, time and effort
809	Resident	No	Further increased costs without any clarity on how increased governance will improve any areas or deliver material benefits. After several tax increases in recent years, value for the council tax is not perceived. Waste collection, traffic management, upkeep of public spaces, crime and anti-social behavior are all areas to be improved considerably. All areas are considerably worse off than 5 years ago
811	Resident	No	We have the heritage foundation in Letchworth which causes a lot of problems I do not think having an extra layer on the town council would be beneficial to the town
812	Resident	No	I strongly object as it would increase the already high council tax. An extra £22 to £121 is excessive - there should be cuts to the number of councillors, not additional ones
813	Resident	No	This would add an additional layer of bureaucracy for no clear purpose
814	Resident	No	Adding an extra layer of local bureaucracy would result in higher costs for local taxpayers, without bringing any significant benefits.
816	Resident	No	Another talking shop not required
817	Resident	No	This is just another layer of bureaucracy in addition to the Heritage Foundation and comes with additional cost. Don't see any value as a resident
820	Resident	No	An extra level of expensive councillors on top of the Heritage is not required. There are already too many conflicts. Spend the money on fixing the roads instead
821	Resident	No	We pay far too much tax as it is, only for most of it to be wasted. This questionnaire is completely pointless as I'm sure, even if 100% of residents voted against it, it would still go ahead. People like to pretend we live in a democracy.
822	Resident	No	Too many councillors for the area and too expensive
826	Resident	No	If the proposal is to replace the Heritage foundation with an elected body, then I'm all for it, because they're nothing but a pain in the [REDACTED] for residents. If you're proposing just adding another layer of powerless bureaucracy, then this would be a complete waste of money.
828	Resident	No	This is a waste of money. It was tried before and was useless. I am not prepared to pay for something so unnecessary.

Responses to the public consultation

830	Resident	No	I can see absolutely no reason to install another level of bureaucracy in the already complicated structure of local government. This serves only to inflict more burden on already hard pressed tax payers, and would also point out, that this comes at a time when central government is looking to introduce local government re-organisation, that will likely mean the introduction of unitary county wide authorities. At what point would the creation of a town council for Letchworth be deemed a good idea, and what would its likely life span be?
831	Resident	No	There is no detailed benefit of having a new town council but additional strain on the resources of residents. A document detailing the pros and cons would be beneficial. So far only 'con' has been detailed and hence, I am not in favour of a new town council.
832	Resident	No	
833	Resident	No	we have HCC / NHDC / Heritage Foundation which is confusing and costly enough. Another layer of local government would increase confusion and cost to residents and add further delays in getting answers to problems and things done.
835	Resident	No	We already have too many layers of governance in Letchworth
837	Resident	No	I work full time and can barely meet my bills, I don't need another increase in CT
840	Resident	No	This was done a few years ago which turned out to be a complete waste of resources and ineffective. It was in fact democratically 'unelected' by the people of Letchworth who voted people onto the Letchworth Parish Council with the specific remit of disbanding it. One hopes this democratic decision by the people of Letchworth is fully respected, by not trying to impose another Letchworth Parish Council on us.
844	Resident	No	Any proposal resulting in increased contribution and governance should not be considered. Despite ever increasing council tax charges, services are reduced, often under the guise of "CO2 reduction" etc. Focus should be to work more efficiently, bring on-board technology and review existing processes to reduce overly complex bureaucracy and accountability. Creating additional governance layers is not the answer. Every initiative should be assessed on value for money and adherence to core, front-line support. Fix the house before thinking about expanding it.

Responses to the public consultation

847	Resident	No	Heritage foundation are bad enough already
850	Resident	No	The purposed changes will add additional financial strains on the house owners to pay for the 13 town councillors
851	Resident	No	The last town council established for Letchworth was a disaster, we don't need any more bureaucracy with the added financial burden on local residents at a time when many people are struggling with the cost of living. This is a very surprising proposal given the government is encouraging the rationalisation of local government to save money. The district council is the most appropriate body to manage local services.
852	Resident	No	
853	Resident	No	We are already sufficiently represented by North Herts Council so a new Town Council would be superfluous, a costly conceit.
854	Resident	No	
858	Resident	No	Are these extra to what we have now? Or they replacing what we have now.
869	Resident	No	simply not needed
870	Resident	No	Inevitable increase in council unacceptable. Previous town council which was abolished by public vote, was ineffective. Achieved nothing, but increased their budget every year.
871	Resident	No	
872	Resident	No	
873	Resident	No	We had one before spent loads of money on a chain of office did nothing useful and took 5 years to get rid of them. Completely unnecessary.
875	Resident	No	Did we not vote to remove this unnecessary extra layer of government just a few years ago when the old town council was disbanded? This country is broke and we can't afford it.
881	Resident	No	We don't need a town council as proven previously!
887	Resident	No	We don't need a third administrative body in Letchworth, we pay more than enough council tax and brown bin fees without further costs to the public. The previous Town Council was voted out in 2013 by residents.
891	Resident	No	We don't need it. It's was abolished for a reason. Waste of time and money. Letchworth council seem to just ignore their residents views anyway.

Responses to the public consultation

892	Resident	No	We do not need a further layer of expensive bureaucracy in the form of a town council. When one was set up a few years ago it achieved nothing and cost residents increased council tax.
894	Resident	No	No information is readily available on the matter- I searched for 1 hour online and found nothing. I have only found a negative which is a council tax increase (on top of the regular annual increases) but no positives. More information needs to be made available for this to be a democratic and transparent process.
895	Resident	No	
896	Resident	No	This is an appalling idea. We used to have a Town Council and this was abandoned after a referendum because residents simply were not engaged with yet another level of bureaucracy. Elections for Town Councillors always received ridiculously low turnouts which clearly demonstrated a complete lack of engagement. How the Council can be even considering increasing the Council Tax for residents at such an economically difficult time simply to reintroduce a pointless and ineffective body is beyond comprehension. PLEASE ABANDON THIS STUPID IDEA AND STOP WASTING RESIDENTS TIME AND MONEY
897	Resident	No	We had a Town council set up some years ago .This was deemed a failure and wound up after a few years .I don't consider that anything has changed and cannot see a reason to recommence a town council.
898	Resident	No	We don't need another tier of governance
902	Resident	No	Another layer of misgovernment is completely unnecessary. We have done without it for a century. The problem is that if people are appointed they will find things to do, required or not, and will use my money to do so. No thank you.
903	Resident	No	We do not require an increase in council tax payment and more bureaucracy in times of increased cost of living. The last Letchworth TC was abolished not that long ago after consultation with people if LGC. Therefore this exercise appears to be repetitive and a waste of time and money. As a labour led council this proposal is contrary to your own party's rationalisation of local govt
904	Resident	No	Waste of money

Responses to the public consultation

907	Resident	No	There is no requirement for another level of governance. The last time Letchworth had a town council it proved to be ineffective, expensive and unnecessary and was abolished!
909	Resident	No	Just another layer of bureaucracy and it was only abolished recently!
913	Resident	No	Not necessary for another layer of governance.
914	Resident	No	My council tax is high enough as it is without an additional charge.
915	Resident	No	I don't want to pay more council tax.
922	Resident	No	Yet more councillors costs and expenses to be met by hard pressed residents, no explanation as to what benefit will accrue other than aligning the dates of elections.
923	Resident	No	I believe I pay enough for the current council charges. We have enough, people, departments, councillors to manage the current workload. More bureaucracy is not needed.
924	Resident	No	It is another, unnecessary level of government. It will cost council tax payers more which is unacceptable and is likely to slow things down. Aligning wards with existing parish boundaries where parish councils exist does sound sensible.
926	Resident	No	The previous Town Council failed miserably in Letchworth around 12 years ago because it becomes ineffectual by being sidelined by the local council and Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation controls and management. It becomes a useless quango that costs additional money for no return. I do not wish to finance this. The council tax is already increasing year after year with above inflation rises but with a decreasing level of public services. Forget it.
932	Resident	No	
940	Resident	No	To many wards.

Responses to the public consultation

942	Resident	No	We used to have a Town Council. It was abolished after a resident driven referendum because very few residents engaged with or supported it. At the very least you should hold another referendum (not just this feeble consultation) if you want to try and reintroduce such a pointless and unnecessary function. I suspect it is an underhand and somewhat devious revenue generating attempt. You're unable to raise the Council Tax more than the legal maximum so why not offload some of the existing tasks which you are currently required to perform to the new Town Council. Then raise the Council Tax further in order to fund this ridiculous new tier of local government. This attempt to squeeze more money out of local residents at such an economically difficult time for all of us should be soundly rejected. If you do go ahead with this ridiculous and cynical waste of money then I suspect you may well all be held to
943	Resident	No	
945	Resident	No	Unnecessary expense
946	Resident	No	
947	Resident	No	A Town Council was created for Letchworth Garden City some years ago at great expense and little benefit. The move was reversed when residents realized the lack of value and I see no benefit in reestablishing a further layer of bureaucracy.
948	Resident	No	A new town council would affect my council tax. Letchworth vigorously resisted a new town council some years ago. There is already an extra 'layer' in Letchworth - The Heritage Foundation. We neither need nor want another 'layer'.
949	Resident	No	We had a town council in Letchworth before. It was closed down in 2012 after local people realised it was costing more than £600,000 a year at that time - with no obvious positive actions by the council. There were several referendums when people of Letchworth voted overwhelmingly to have it closed down. Once one is set up it is very hard to close a town council down. We don't want to go through all this once again!
950	Resident	No	We had a Town Council in the past and it was ineffective and costly - it added an extra tier of bureaucracy. We need less tiers not more.

Responses to the public consultation

952	Resident	No	I see little value in adding another level of council to what we currently have - even considering the future prospect of larger unitary authorities replacing district and borough councils. Having another layer will only increase duplication and management costs, which will lead to an increase in council tax.
953	Resident	No	We don't want even more tiers of governance. We had a town council before and it was costly and added no value to the town.
954	Another organisation (Walkwel Ltd) *	No	We have HCC; NHDC; LGCHF; and Letchworth BID and only one is effective (the BID). We don't want or need another layer of bureaucracy, we need less. We had a Town Council that was costly; ineffective; and added no value at all to the local area. Learn lessons from the past - please.
956	Resident	No	We had a town council previously that was expensive and just a useless extra level of bureaucracy
961	Resident	No	An unnecessary waste of money. The previous town council, which was recently abolished, achieved nothing and wasted taxpayers money.
962	Resident	No	Town councils add little or no value and have very restricted powers we voted down the last town council for those very reasons and to stop the waste of money on the running costs of the council. We do not want even higher council tax.
963	Resident	No	I don't want to pay an additional precept on my Council tax which is already very expensive.
965	Resident	No	Unless the town council replaces the heritage foundation. In which case I would support it.
967	Resident	No	I don't want to pay more council tax to get a Town Council. Previous Town Council was charging almost £1M per year (in today's prices) and delivering very little value. The previous town council was abolished due to local residents being very against it and campaigning to get it removed
968	Resident	No	I cannot afford to pay for more bureaucracy
969	Resident	No	We have the Heritage Foundation and there is no need for a Town Council tier.
971	Resident	No	completely unnecessary. Money and time is better spent elsewhere as opposed to more bureaucracy by the council.
972	Resident	No	Why do we need further bureaucracy?

Responses to the public consultation

974	Resident	No	I think we should wait until reorganisation required by central govt. is decided and then see what might be necessary eg if no longer any district councillors.
978	Resident	No	To much money added on council tax, we can't afford
979	Resident	No	We do not need another layer of government. Especially when it means someone being on some local parish council whom only receives a couple of dozen votes.
980	Resident	No	Why waste our money on this when nothing is ever actioned from residents?
982	Resident	No	We don't need more councillors wasting our council tax money adding more bureaucracy and getting nothing done
986	Resident	No	The last time Letchworth had a Town Council it was a disaster and was "disbanded." Therefore I am very much against this subject being revisited again. Especially if it is going to increase my Council Tax. Indeed I was one of the people canvassing to have the previous Town Council removed.
991	Resident	No	The existing arrangements work well enough.
992	Resident	No	We already have the Heritage Foundation separate to the Council so don't think we need another layer of bureaucracy especially if it is going to increase council tax
998	Resident	No	This is just adding another layer of bureaucracy that is not needed. It is a waste of money that could be better spent elsewhere.
1003	Resident	No	I think I'm very poorly served at the moment by North Hertfordshire counsellor's and I can't see this being improved by creating a town parish. I've raise issues of parking, antisocial behaviour and given some suggestions about how the town could be improved but nothing has been acted upon. I've also highlighted this to the counsellor in the form of a letter and I've had no response. I would not vote for more bureaucracy when the current state of the bureaucracy is in such poor condition. It's already difficult to pay all the bills that are coming through on top of paying for further bureaucrats to
1006	Resident	No	More costs why rejiggle the system make it work

Responses to the public consultation

1007	Resident	No	<p>We have tried a town council before and a referendum voted to abolish it.</p> <p>I fear this new proposal is only a means to circumvent the decision to abolish all local councils. If the idea is to save money then creating exactly the same number of councillors in the new town council seems like a way of keeping the existing councillors in situ.</p> <p>I can't recall the last time I saw a district councillor so if abolishing NHDC is a means to save money I am fully behind it.</p>
1008	Resident	No	<p>I feel that we have enough beaurocracy in Letchworth with the council and the Heritage Foundation. What purpose would a Town Council have. My Mother lives in an area with a Town council and it does nothing except cost her more council tax</p>
1009	Resident	No	<p>I think it is incredibly poor decision-making to put forward this proposal, and the associated cost, during a cost of living crisis. I wonder what the salaries are of the people who put this forward? If a council tax increase was required in order to provide better/additional services, then I would likely be in favour, but adding (what is effectively) an extra level of administration serves only those who fancy the Councillor job title, and will not provide value for money.</p>
1011	Resident	No	<p>If I understand it correctly this will increase council tax. Why would anyone think in the current climate this is a good idea. Nothing will change within the council but our bills going up.</p>
1012	Resident	No	<p>A Town Council is a waste of time and money. local government reform is reducing the number of councils, why would we want to fund these??</p>
1013	Resident	No	<p>The last time we had a Town Council it was a disaster with a self-interested one policy group becoming the council and pretty ignoring any sensible debate or reasonable approach. They were voted into non-existence at the first opportunity - it must have been the shortest Town Council in existence. Any repeat of that debacle would be sheer folly.</p>
1017	Resident	No	<p>Not sure what the benefits are other than adding another layer of 'management' which will likely cost more. If the extra costs will directly benefit Letchworth then it might be acceptable but without knowing key responsibilities and budget then my answer is No.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1018	Resident	No	I cannot see how such a small geographical area has the population to afford better services than those we presently receive.
1019	Resident	No	We don't need another civic body in Letchworth. The Heritage foundation and the herts district counsel are already enough - in fact if we could do away with the heritage foundation that would be amazing. Adding another level of civic red tape is a total no. We've had it before and it cost the residents of Letchworth millions for absolutely nothing in return. I am not ius saving no. I am saving no way. no how
1020	Resident	No	I don't think we need a further level of bureaucracy and its associated costs. The councillors who represent Letchworth wards on NHC do an excellent job as is.
1021	Resident	No	Waste of money, just like the previous Town Council.
1025	Resident	No	This would be a complete a waste of money. Even the consultation is a waste of money. In the current climate to even suggest it is ridiculous. Are you not aware there is a cost of living crisis? Have you any idea what it's like for most people at the moment? This is a disgraceful suggestion.
1027	Resident	No	Many of us remember the last time a Town Council was tried - and failed at a great cost
1028	Resident	No	There is no administrative reason offered for the proposal.
1029	Resident	No	It is not clear what quantified tangible benefit this change would bring. We should expect to see a drive to improved efficiency and utilisation of current levels of council tax, not an increase in multiple levels of bureaucracy at additional cost to local tax payers.
1030	Resident	No	Much of the benefit/services of a parish council are already served by the Heritage Foundation at no extra direct cost to residents. Previous attempt at a local parish/town council resulted in extra costs with no discernible benefit for residents.
1031	Resident	No	I don't understand the need for the extra red tape when Letchworth already has the Heritage Foundation, which seems to do the same thing.

Responses to the public consultation

1033	Resident	No	<p>I'll be honest, I don't really want to pay more council tax for a "Town Council" to which I have no idea of any tangible benefits. It would have been useful to understand what difference this would make to the average resident of Letchworth in the leaflet that has been put through my door. While we're on the subject of councils, I'm not overly impressed at the proposal that my general waste bins being collected once every three weeks. I look forward to the experience of 3 week old nappies baking in the August sun. But hey, at least I'm getting another wheelie bin for my paper recycling money well spent.</p>
1034	Resident	No	<p>No(t yet), on account that I do not understand the scope of the proposal or how the current system works.</p> <p>To agree, I must be convinced that proposed powers and influence of any newly established council, and subsequent improvements for residents will be commensurate with any associated increased cost in council tax and represent value for money relative to not changing the system.</p>
1036	Resident	No	<p>I can see no benefit to adding another council to Letchworth when we already have the district council and the heritage Foundation. It already feels as if neither of these organisation act well together or on behalf of the residents, so I cannot see how another body would fit in well to this.</p> <p>The only information given is that this will incur additional charges. At a time when everyone is struggling to make ends meet, I feel it is wrong to add further financial pressures to residents.</p> <p>Furthermore the previous town council took 5 years to dissolve, it clearly wasn't fit for purpose.</p> <p>It is clear the consensus in Letchworth is that this is not wanted as 11 out of 12 responses previously given where against the idea.</p> <p>I feel any additional budget would be better spend making the district council work better for the</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1037	Resident	No	<p>I did not understand how anyone could think that Letchworth residents would be receptive to a town council considering the fiasco of the one that had been foisted on the town in the past and how long it took to get it removed, so I did some investigating. It seems that almost all the responses to the first consultation were negative but an amendment went forward to give us a say again.</p> <p>I understand that with the threat of the unitary authority there could be a situation where we might be left out - however - until then there is no need for a town council. When the issue is resolved I would suggest the residents of this very special town be asked again and a solution which includes the Heritage Foundation be sought but until then</p> <p>LETCWORTH DOES NOT NEED A TOWN COUNCIL</p>
1038	Resident	No	
1039	Resident	No	<p>An unnecessary expense: ridiculous to put forward a proposal which entails an additional charge to council tax when people are so short of money and prices such as energy are so high</p>
1040	Resident	No	Waste of money
1042	Resident	No	I do not see what improvement having a new council would make for residents
1045	Resident	No	
1046	Resident	No	<p>Before agreeing something like this would be good to understand the powers and budget they'd have.</p> <p>Potentially creating an extra layer of bureaucracy without much ability to do much. I'd welcome residents involvement but there needs to be clarity as to what would be the purpose. Would the district and/or county council devolve some responsibilities? If so which?</p>
1050	Resident	No	<p>Another level of bureaucracy and expense. Already been tried before and that was a disaster.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1052	Resident	No	<p>This is not the time.</p> <p>It will increase bills during a stagnant economic period where we are all financially struggling.</p> <p>This will be complex and a time-consuming process that can place a significant administrative burden on all authorities when you should be focused on the things we care a out.</p> <p>The overall value proposition of this is not strong enough.</p>
1055	Resident	No	
1058	Resident	No	<p>Previous experience showed little/nothing was successfully achieved by such a structure. Very expensive and we can't afford it.</p>
1061	Resident	No	<p>We pay enough council tax as it is, and lose services anyway, I do not agree with paying for a town council that continues to reduce our services</p>
1068	Resident	No	<p>The current system works perfectly well as it is.</p>
1069	Resident	No	<p>We've had a town council before and it was of no benefit to us, it was eventually disbanded.</p>
1070	Resident	No	
1072	Resident	No	<p>We dont need another layer of governance or bearocracy</p>
1075	Resident	No	<p>There is no obvious requirement for an additional level of governance in addition to the current county and district councils, and, in the case of Letchworth, the trust which oversees the town. The fact that this additional level of governance will be accompanied by a council tax rise to pay for an unclear requirement is also a material issue that cannot be ignored.</p>
1077	Resident	No	<p>Much more information is needed to respond - what is the rationale for introducing a parish council structure? Is this linked to potential devolution proposals for Herts? What services will the parish be responsible for? This must be made clear to be able to make an informed choice</p>
1080	Resident	No	<p>As Letchworth already has the Heritage Foundation as well as North Herts council, I see no additional benefit to creation of a town council. I particularly see no case for imposing additional costs on residents.</p> <p>It seems most likely that this proposal will create a further layer of bureaucracy which is more likely to delay than promote improvements to services in Letchworth</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1081	Resident	No	No parish council needed
1082	Resident	No	parish council does not add value
1083	Resident	No	
1085	Resident	No	I cannot afford the rise in cost in council tax, I am already on the breadline and not sleeping. I do not put the heating on, and cannot take any further pressure.
1086	Resident	No	As we already have a county council, district council and a trust, I don't see the benefit of a 4th level
1087	Resident	No	It's not clear what benefit this bring while also increasing cost in an economic environment where everyone's finances are being stressed
1089	Resident	No	More layers of bureaucracy and more cost to residents
1091	Resident	No	Added layer of bureaucracy. Additional cost to Council Tax . Not necessary .
1093	Resident	No	The estimated additional cost is too excessive, given the 5% council tax rise this year.
1094	Resident	No	<p>There is no indication in this proposal of how life for people in Letchworth will improve in the event of a new town council being created, in return for a further increase in the already high and poor value-for-money council tax. What would a new town council do that the existing district council is not doing, or should be doing but isn't?</p> <p>At a time when council tax is increasing and service to residents is deteriorating, the last thing we need is MORE councils and more councillors with an unclear purpose.</p> <p>Please spend our money more wisely than this.</p> <p>I am opposed to these proposals. Please throw them in the bin and get on with improving services and reducing council tax</p>
1097	Resident	No	Struggle to see the benefits of this change.
1098	Resident	No	<p>I'm astounded this is even being proposed. Are you completely disconnected to the difficulties working people are facing? The cost of everything has risen by such an amount people are struggling to buy food and you want to create a town council that took years to get rid of?!? Utterly ridiculous, you should be ashamed of even suggesting this at such a time. We don't need a town council, we need to get rid of jobs like yours and then maybe our already too high council tax could be reduced.</p>
1099	Resident	No	No need for it and it adds expense onto households

Responses to the public consultation

1100	Resident	No	I think we pay enough council tax without having it increased anymore
1101	Resident	No	<p>Letchworth already has a Heritage Foundation and District Council. The Heritage Foundation has elected community Governors very similar to Councillors, and is run under a Government Act. There is no obvious advantage to another tier of Government, indeed residents voted to abolish the previous Town Council after a short period of operation.</p> <p>If NHC wish to devolve services to a Town Council I would suggest a formal SLA be set up with LGCHF instead, and include requirements for more meetings in public.</p>
1102	Resident	No	
1104	Resident	No	<p>Unnecessary layer of town council that was defeated historically.</p> <p>Unnecessary expense to the taxpayers.</p>
1108	Resident	No	We tried so long to abolish previous parish not to replace it with another one. Also I don't see any benefits with the new proposed structure that will increase my council tax.
1109	Resident	No	Why do we need a town council when all there is nothing in Letchworth but coffee shops and no decent shops
1111	Resident	No	<p>No need for another layer of governance in Letchworth</p> <p>Not cost effective</p>
1113	Resident	No	Why do we need further councillors and pay for the privilege for something we don't want or need. We pay enough in council tax as it is.
1114	Resident	No	We already have NHDC, HCC and the Letchworth Foundation. Adding yet another body will complicate things even more and cost us more.
1115	Resident	No	I personally do not believe that the reorganisation of Letchworth's town council will provide any significant benefits, especially considering the additional cost it would add to council tax bills. The town already has several bureaucratic bodies managing its affairs, and this change would likely slow down decision-making and action across important areas within the town.
1116	Resident	No	Expense

Responses to the public consultation

1120	Resident	No	I am against this as it is adding more bureaucracy and more cost to the residents. It is unclear what the point of a new town council is. What is their function that the council, district council and Heritage foundation are not doing?
1122	Resident	No	we do not need a Town Council in Letchworth
1123	Resident	No	I don't feel we need a town council. We already have NHDC, HCC and LGCHF. With the upcoming devolution of 2 tier authorities, now is not the right time to set up a new town council. How can we say what we need/want when NHDC and HCC will cease to exist and be replaced with 1-4 new unitary councils. This is really bad timing on your part NHDC.
1124	Resident	No	It's just another layer of expensive government that rate payers would have to subsidise
1127	Resident	No	It's fine as it is.
1136	Resident	No	Letchworth Garden City has previously had a Town Council, it cost taxpayers money, it did not enhance local democracy and fell into disrepute because it was filled with self-opinated, self- serving individuals.
1139	Resident	No	A Town Council was previously created with no material benefit to Letchworth and the residents elected to close the council. This will lead to a cost increase to Residents at a time of a cost of living crisis.
1140	Resident	No	I have found that the current Local Government organisation works very well. I cannot see any advantage in adding another level of burocracy. I presume that the new arrangment will require extra finance which iconsider is yet another burden we tax pvers do not need.
1148	Resident	No	I am not in favour of anything that increases my council rates and the establishment of another layer of administration by creating a letchworth town council inevitably will. Where is the financial benefit analysis behind this proposal?
1150	Resident	No	With other departments and businesses streamlining structural strategic roles with the aim to save residents from extra financial burdens your proposal would increase council tax for band d residents (which would be the majority of residents in that middle/working class sector) which would be an approximate proposed increase of +10%.
1157	Resident	No	There is no explanation as to what advantages or disadvantages there are to implementing this. The only information is this would increase the annual council tax rate for residents.

Responses to the public consultation

1158	Resident	No	<p>We need less government, not more. Town and parish councils convolute decision making and accountability. Having grown up under a unitary authority, since moving to Hertfordshire I find it frustrating that the buck is always passed between different levels of government. One authority makes it clear who is responsible and who to hold to account.</p> <p>I am simply not willing to pay more so one council can blame another.</p>
1163	Resident	No	<p>No benefit recognised for this change. Also, Letchworth already has a management company so we would see likely duplication. Adding more layers of governance only makes things more complex.</p>
1164	Resident	No	<p>No rationale provided, including what it would do.</p>
1171	Resident	No	<p>LGC has the Hertitage Foundation. We do not need another layer of red tape incurring an additional cost to our Council Tax.</p>
1174	Resident	No	<p>This seems completely unnecessary. There was a town council in Letchworth which was disbanded in 2013. This would be another layer of administration. We already have the County Council and North Herts District Council.</p>
1185	Resident	No	<p>Additional layer of bureaucracy that is not necessary as we already have NHDC and LGCHF.</p> <p>Also extra costs when everyone is already under pressure in terms of rising prices.</p>
1190	Resident	No	<p>I do not feel I have enough information as to why we would need another level of government.</p>
1191	Resident	No	<p>A complete waste of money as the previous town council just wasted money on unnecessary items when the District Council could spend it more effectively</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1192	Resident	No	<p>We introduced a Letchworth Town Council a few years ago and then abolished it because it was useless and a waste of money, so I don't want to introduce another one now. Two tiers of local government here are necessary and sufficient.</p> <p>If the County Council and the District Councils were to be combined in a single new Unitary Authority I would then be in favour of creating a new Letchworth Town Council at the same time because a Unitary Hertfordshire Council would be incapable of satisfactorily dealing with the many local matters that affect our daily lives.</p>
1197	Resident	No	<p>I expect the already elected representatives for Letchworth Wards on the N.H.D.C. to have the interests of both their own ward's constituents as well as for Letchworth town as a whole, foremost in their endeavours. If that is the case, as it should be, why do we need another layer of bureaucracy ?</p> <p>A town council will have little affect on the already unwieldy decision making processes of the N.H.D.C. to say nothing of adding to the existing burden of costs levied through the Council Tax system</p>
1199	Resident	No	
1202	Resident	No	<p>With the cost of living in North Herts so high, I don't think the council should be making changes that increase council tax.</p>
1209	Resident	No	
1210	Resident	No	<p>This will have no noticeable benefit to the day to day lives of residents. And yet it WILL have a noticeable effect to our wallets. There is no need for further expense. We should be looking for ways to reduce the council tax.</p>
1211	Resident	No	<p>There does not seem to be any benefits as a resident by creating a new parish council for Letchworth. I especially do not like that my council tax bill would increase.</p>
1212	Resident	No	<p>Not interested in having higher council tax.</p>
1214	Resident	No	<p>Given the history of Letchworth and local government and I'm sure what this new attempt would do differently to past efforts.</p> <p>No information is provided how the proposed town council will work with the Heritage Foundation, in essence a too many cooks situation could develop.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1215	Resident	No	It was a waste of money the last time serving no useful purpose. At present I see no reason it would be needed or would be any different
1216	Resident	No	Not willing to pay the higher council tax
1217	Resident	No	
1218	Resident	No	We do not need another level of pointless, costly bureaucracy. How about you just do your jobs properly on a council level? Council tax has gone up and the service provided has declined. The move the 3-weekly bin collections and an extra bin is utter madness.
1223	Resident	No	I haven't seen what services will be transferred to this council, neither have I seen how such a change will be funded, neither have I seen how this will impact either services or how it affects council tax. So to say yes to such a proposal is impossible at this stage.
1226	Resident	No	We have just abolished a town council that was inefficient. Why would we create something that has recently been abolished.
1229	Resident	No	I am concerned that this will mean an increase in my council tax
1230	Resident	No	
1234	Resident	No	Better resources need to be supplied to current staff to be able to achieve smooth running of the current council and spread evenly throughout Letchworth. Not to make 5 wards
1236	Resident	No	It is unclear about how this change will improve anything for residents other than costing more in council tax
1237	Resident	No	Everything is getting more expensive and I don't see the benefit of paying even more council tax for this.
1242	Resident	No	This appears to be unnecessary additional local government. This does not justify a significant increase in Council Tax for what I feel is little added value.
1243	Resident	No	You should be reducing the councillors. After all, you have been out sourcing or reducing services anyway.
1246	Resident	No	What a really stupid idea that cost working people more money.
1249	Resident	No	The community rejected the last town council and we can't afford financial to support this initiative. Services are deteriorating and budgets are tight so the last think we want it to see increase in our council tax to cover this initiative. Please do not do this.

Responses to the public consultation

1254	Resident	No	Lots of work was done 12 years ago to abolish the parish council saving residents huge sums of money since. Why are we betraying the democratic will of the residents just 12 years later? I've seen no compelling argument for a change in the status quo.
1261	Resident	No	We already have a management company in Letchworth, we do not need a other layer of bureaucracy.
1265	Resident	No	The town council was abolished a few years back due to overwhelming lack of support for it. Very surprised to see it being proposed again. The feedback you've received so far is again aligned with this view!!
1271	Resident	No	Warning that it may cost £22-£121 extra on council tax inclines me to refuse.
1274	Resident	No	I don't see a benefit and I don't want an increase in council tax
1275	Resident	No	The last attempt to establish a Town Council was an utter failure and did not provide any notable benefits for residents and was an unnecessary cost. We do not need to increase the cost of services for no return yet again.
1277	Resident	No	Letchworth had a Town Council in 2008 and finally was disbanded in 2013. All it did was cost the taxpayer money and id nothing for Letchworth. In fact the very expensive mayoral chain is in the 1st Garden City Museum as a reminder to how the Town Council wasted money.
1278	Resident	No	I do not feel it is needed. We already have NHDC. I cannot see how it would be worth the increase in council tax. There used to be a town council and I believe it was shown to be a waste of money.
1280	Resident	No	I do not want my Council Tax to be increased
1281	Resident	No	
1282	Resident	No	
1285	Resident	No	I have no idea of what it will do. Not been specified. Didn't work last time. I believe it to be a waste of money. We don't need another level of burocrats.
1286	Resident	No	Already been through this and it failed. Why add another level of costly managemen. Never see nhdc councilors as it is.
1289	Resident	No	The Town Council was a disaster when it was in place many years ago, and was complex to disband. It will not add any benefits to our community services, and will cost us all additional money which most of us can I'll afford

Responses to the public consultation

1292	Resident	No	I don't want any further increase in council tax. I do not want more talking shops. The council have enough people already to complete whatever new tasks are proposed for this new layer of administration.
1294	Resident	No	
1296	Resident	No	We don't need another tier of government
1299	Resident	No	It is a layer of bureaucracy that we don't need. We have a Heritage Foundation as well who exercise powers over residents for planning, town centre development etc, maintaining the ethos of the Garden City for it's residents. It will add to council tax, provide wages for counsellors and will not return real value because of the size and authority of it's voice.
1304	Resident	No	Absolutely not! Waste of money on stamps and leaflets
1305	Resident	No	
1306	Resident	No	
1307	Resident	No	Too many layers of governance and no indication of any benefit for increased cost to residents
1308	Resident	No	The proposal puts forward no rationale for creating a token council! Even if it did, there are enough layers of local government as it is and I would be extremely concerned about additional costs to council tax
1311	Resident	No	I feel the existing council seems to work ok at moment
1312	Resident	No	Too costly, you should consider changes that will reduce council tax not increase it
1314	Resident	No	I recall that Letchworth formerly had a Town Council. It proved to be ineffectual and amounted to nothing more than an additional tax on residents. The residents therefore chose to have the Town Council dissolved, which was a long and costly process. I see no possible benefit to repeating the failed experiment.
1318	Resident	No	A town council may be needed if a unitary authority is established otherwise, it's totally unnecessary in Letchworth.
1320	Resident	No	Who wants to pay any more of our limited incomes out for no gain. When this so called working class government taxes us enough & has caused our employers massive national insurance hikes, leading to a pittance for a pay rise. While I pay for Joe blogs who doesn't work to live here.

Responses to the public consultation

1321	Resident	No	I am aware there used to be a Town Council which was then disbanded. I understand this was due to the Council being expensive and not doing anything useful for residents. Why would we want to pay extra council tax for that?
1324	Resident	No	waste of tax payers money for even more councilers that will be overpaid and as ineffective as coucilers already inplace
1325	Resident	No	This would be just another tier we can well do without.
1329	Resident	No	There was a Town Council appointed some years ago, all it did was to provide a further tier of bureaucracy and increase the cost of Council Tax
1331	Resident	No	
1333	Resident	No	The previous town council was not wanted and abolished in 2012. The last thing we need is additional bureacracy, we already have hcc, nhdc and the lgc heritage foundation. Extra councillors with extra costs to be added to council tax are absolutely NOT required, the draft recommendation should be refused/withdrawn.
1334	Resident	No	I don't agree with additional costs when council tax is rising substantially and services are being cut already. To increase administration costs when bin collection services and quantity of public bins within Letchworth have been reduced seems counter intuitive especially having recently abolished a town council to contain costs.
1338	Resident	No	We had an unsatisfactory Town Council in Letchworth, abolition of which took us a great deal of effort. It was able to increase our Council Tax by an unacceptable amount despite having nothing useful to spend the money on. Please do not make it necessary for us to have another Town Council
1345	Resident	No	We have already had a town council in Letchworth before and it was a disaster. This is just an unnecessary layer of governance that will cost residents money and make area committees even more redundant.
1346	Resident	No	
1350	Resident	No	It seems to me that this will be an extra layer of red tape for very little gain to residents.
1353	Resident	No	Why create another layer of bureaucracy that will cost me more in council tax - what we have is ineffective enough

Responses to the public consultation

1354	Resident	No	
1358	Resident	No	There is no clear information as to the benefits this would produce.
1362	Resident	No	It's another layer of bureaucracy. We have a district and county council, we don't want more. We want to pay less for our council tax. Yer we are paying more and more and getting less and less.
1364	Resident	No	
1365	Resident	No	
1367	Resident	No	The previous town council cost us money and was not fit for purpose I do not want that situation again
1368	Resident	No	This was disbanded several years ago as it was not required.
1369	Resident	No	Do not want extra expense and beurocracy
1373	Resident	No	Letchworth already has the heritage foundation which does a good job looking after the town. I don't think adding another layer of government will help.
1374	Resident	No	The creation of this new town council would result in increases to council tax - these are increases that many will find hard to bear.
1377	Resident	No	Just another costly layer of bureaucracy
1381	Resident	No	"History repeats itself, first as a tragedy, second as a farce" Karl Marx. Why are you trying to revive a town council after the pantomime of the last time. Duplication, people being elected on a platform to dissolve the town council, a court case, nepotism, a referendum and an appalling waste of money. All at a time when we have a cost of living crisis. I presume this proposal is because of the forthcoming local government re-organisation. Most of the current local councillors will lose their sinecures and this is an attempt for them to retain their titles and entitlements. My late wife was a senior LGO, so I am well aware of the self-importance and superciliousness of many local councillors, and their determination not to lose their positions. "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others." Winston Churchill; in this case the latter part

Responses to the public consultation

1383	Resident	No	Like most people, I don't believe the current arrangements represent good and effective value for money. Suggesting we pay for another 13 councillors with their excessive benefits packages against a backcloth of significant increases in council tax bills is insensitive to say the least. It is interesting and significant that there is no mention of the benefits that an additional 13 expensive resources will bring to residents. An extra 13 expensive resources can only take money away from frontline service delivery which is average at best.
1386	Resident	No	We already have other organisations who are active in the town such as the BID and the Heritage Foundation. We don't need an extra layer of government (this may change when we get a unitary authority) or the costs associated with it.
1387	Resident	No	I don't believe the proposed additional council will provide any additional value to residents in return for the likely increase in council tax. The focus should be on the more effective and efficient running of the existing council organisation to deliver better services more cost effectively. The addition of yet more bureaucratic structures is not going to do this.
1388	Resident	No	More money and more tiers of local governance
1391	Resident	No	
1392	Resident	No	We do not need another ineffective layer of bureaucracy at additional cost. The last council was disbanded not too long ago as it was so ineffective and a total waste of time and money and nobody wanted it. What has changed and what is the possible justification for raising this issue again. It is a complete nonsense.
1397	Resident	No	
1398	Resident	No	We already have a small district council and the Heritage Foundation overseeing the town. We do not need another layer of bureaucracy and the costs that go with it.
1400	Resident	No	
1402	Resident	No	We don't need an additional layer of local governance and I can't afford extra tax
1403	Resident	No	This is of no benefit to me and not something I wish to pay for.

Responses to the public consultation

1404	Resident	No	<p>We have had a previous Town Council which was disbanded and did not prove effect for the community. Also this would be another layer of bureaucracy and red tape that residents would have to endure for no doubt planning applications etc.</p> <p>I believe that it is the responsibility of the elected councillors to provide the support and help for their particular ward.</p>
1405	Resident	No	<p>We have been here before, the previous Town Council was a waste of time and money and was disbanded. We already have 3 layers of local council - HCC, NHDC and Heritage Foundation, we really do not need anything else. Especially at this time when all costs are rising, we do not need our council tax payers to be funding another layer of bureaucracy and increasing our already high council tax. Leave well alone!</p>
1408	Resident	No	<p>Additional increases in council tax, at a time of severe financial challenge for so many, seems inappropriate and unnecessary.</p>
1409	Resident	No	<p>Not in favour of reforming the council. We had one disbanded in 2013 which had achieved nothing, cost residents dearly to pay extortionate wages to councillors sitting on the council. We have a heritage foundation and a north Herts council which more than copes with our requirements</p>
1412	Resident	No	<p>I do not understand what benefit there would be. In addition I note that there would be an increase in council tax. I already feel council tax is too high- rising substantially each year while service decrease substantially.</p>
1413	Resident	No	<p>We already have suitable tiers of local government in Letchworth.</p>
1415	Resident	No	<p>Unnecessary extra level of administration, involving unnecessary extra expenses</p>
1416	Resident	No	<p>We don't need another level of administration; people are disengaged from politics enough! Just make NH council work better.</p>
1417	Resident	No	<p>I cannot see the need for it. It creates layers of unnecessary bureaucracy and needless expense.</p>
1421	Resident	No	<p>There is simply no need</p>
1422	Resident	No	<p>The previous one was a disaster!</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1425	Resident	No	I am strongly against the creation, once again, of a Town Council for Letchworth. This is another layer of community authority that never worked last time it was introduced and will certainly not work this time. We need a streamlined system that is efficient and works for the community at minimum cost. This is another layer of bureaucracy that will add further costs to residents monthly bills, which are already overstretched, with absolutely no improvement in services
1428	Resident	No	It is unnecessary as we already have 3 District councillors for the ward and they should be capable of representing the residents. It also seems poor value for money and duplicative
1429	Resident	No	There is enough representation and I do not feel the additional cost and bureaucracy warrants it.
1430	Resident	No	I do not believe there is any need for it. It costs money with no real benefit.
1433	Resident	No	This will cause an increase in council tax and is not required
1437	Resident	No	People don't need the extra cost for something that seems unnecessary. The potential uplift in costs stated on the leaflet were so broad that during a time when many local households will be struggling with cost of living I think it's unreasonable. The leaflet stated costs that at the high end were five or six times more than the low end. How can such a range be given? You can't expect residents to consider something with that amount of variance built in, especially when it's in addition to existing council tax. This is clearly an ill thought out plan financially - and that's very worrying. It should be scrapped.
1448	Resident	No	With NHDC and the heritage it's already complicated enough, I don't see a benefit to adding a further layer of bureaucracy
1449	District Councillor	No	Letchworth once had a Town Council. It served no purpose for the residents. It provided no services that were not already available and was a total waste of money. It was abandoned after a public vote in which 75% of the Letchworth residents supported its abandonment. So what has changed - nothing. There are enough financial pressures on residents with out inflicting another wasteful organ
1450	Resident	No	Sorry not exactly understand

Responses to the public consultation

1451	Resident	No	There is no explanation as to how this will provide any benefit, only my council tax will go up to pay for additional councillors. If there is any money available for anything additional, please put the bins back that were removed. We already have an additional layer of administrative body in the Letchworth Heritage Foundation. We don't need another one.
1453	Resident	No	I don't want my council tax to go up, also this seems to just be adding another level of bureaucracy
1455	Resident	No	I do not think we need a town or parish council it's just another level of bureaucracy that we have to pay for in our council tax
1456	Resident	No	Adding another layer of bureaucracy to local governance is counter productive, this will also increase costs for households at a time many people already struggle with cost of living and already high council tax rises year-year
1458	Resident	No	I can so no benefit to having a town council and do not want to pay extra in my council tax which is already extortionate
1459	Resident	No	We do not need another level of beaurocracy in Letchworth. The Letchworth Parish council was disbanded through public opinion and is not missed. Why is a new town council needed when existing district councillors carry the respnsibility for the wellbeing of their constituents.
1461	Resident	No	We do not want to pay anymore council tax than we already do. Secondly it will make no difference to our part of the town and is therefore a waste of money.
1464	Resident	No	We had a Parish/Town Council in Letchworth and it was an expensive disaster, full of self-serving idiots who spent most of their time attacking the Heritage Foundation, invariably for personal reasons.
1469	Resident	No	We had a parish council before and it was a disaster
1473	Resident	No	Not in favour of anything that will increase council tax other than cancelling the 3 weekly bin collections and going back to 2 weekly.
1474	Resident	No	More unnecessary beaurocracy, less accountability because there will be more 'blame' placed on organisations outside of the parish council (eg Herts Council). More cost - what is the point of this? What objective do you wish to serve by doing this?
1475	Resident	No	

Responses to the public consultation

1479	Resident	No	Extra expense of no use. This is a job creation scheme for people seeking unwarranted influence This proposal was rejected a few years ago
1481	Resident	No	The draft recommendation is an unwanted layer of bureaucracy and expense. It is particularly bad timing in the current economic climate putting this proposal forward. A town council has been tried before and didn't work.
1482	Resident	No	we had a town council a few years ago they did nothing spent a lot of money on what? we had to have an election to get rid of them. Why do we need another layer of bureaucracy we already have the heritage foundation who make life difficult enough we do not need another layer and I don't think at this time when people are struggling with finances this is an extra burden on their hard earned money to pay bureaucrats rather than feed their family
1486	Resident	No	
1493	Resident	No	There was a Letchworth Town Council before and this was dissolved and merged into NHDC .. not sure we need another layer of local government, especially if Hertfordshire might become a unitary authority, elected Mayor or split into West / Eastern Herts, if NHDC doesn't exist.
1494	Resident	No	Letchworth once had a Town Council. It served no purpose for the residents. It provided no services that were not already available and was a total waste of money. It was abandoned after a public vote in which 75% of the Letchworth residents supported its abandonment. So what has changed - nothing. There are enough financial pressures on residents without inflicting another wasteful organisation .
1495	Resident	No	The direct benefits of Letchworth becoming a parish are currently unclear to me, while it is certain there would be an additional cost to council tax bills.
1497	Resident	No	
1498	Resident	No	Results in extra charges to residents
1500	Resident	No	We do not need further layers of costly governance

Responses to the public consultation

1504	Resident	No	<p>There is no need to another layer of governance and bureaucracy in Letchworth. The city works extremely well and I cannot foresee that adding additional bureaucracy will add any value to that which residents enjoy now. The city is a beautiful place to live; what value would a new town council add? And how would it justify its' additional cost to council tax payers? For the avoidance of doubt - any argument that additional cost is justified for "democratic dividend" is not valid. The city works well.</p> <p>In addition, the city had a brief foray into a town council some 10 or so years ago? It was an unmitigated disaster. The new council started its tenure with unjustifiable and wasteful spending on vanity. They achieved nothing (literally nothing). All was predicted before its inception and thankfully, the thing was disbanded, hopefully never to rise again.</p> <p>It seems to me that responsible organisations (public and private) should be mindful to learn lessons. This is one such example. I am surprised that, notwithstanding best practice to learn lessons, this dreadful idea is being reheated.</p> <p>Please. Learn. It is unwelcome. Adds no value to existing arrangements and adds costs for nothing in return other than addressing a political agenda for its own dogmatic sake.</p>
1506	Resident	No	<p>We had a Town Council in the past which cost money, did little of use and took several years to get rid of. I see attempting to reinstate it as a retrograde step.</p>
1511	Resident	No	
1512	Resident	No	<p>We had a town council recently. It cost a very large amount of money on the Council Tax with no obvious benefit. It did not consult with the people of the town and the only service it provided was cheap coach trips for the elderly. It did not get involved with either of the local councils in providing any service. I cannot see what benefit a town council would bring to Letchworth, and certainly nothing commensurate with the cost</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1513	Resident	No	A Town Council is completely unnecessary - we already have 3 levels of governance, with County, District and the Heritage Foundation. A previous TC was irrelevant - it was largely inactive and very expensive. Any possible activities were already undertaken by the aforementioned organisations and the many voluntary organisations which exist in the district.
1514	Resident	No	I see no benefit. NGHD serves the community well and Letchworth also benefits from the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation. There is no obvious benefit, and is more likely to increase confusion regarding which council is responsible for each service. The previous attempt to have a local council in Letchworth proved unproductive.
1520	Resident	No	Already have enough layers of local government
1523	Resident	No	I can see no benefit for this. This seems a pointless exercise and a waste of money. There is already a Heritage Authority and the Local / District council. Why do you need another layer here? Even the the proposal is pointless.
1525	Resident	No	If this means the Heritage Foundation are abolished then I agree. Otherwise this would mean yet another layer of bureaucracy in a town already swimming in it.
1527	Resident	No	Not willing to pay any more council tax. Establishing a Town Council for Letchworth is a waste of money. NHDC should be looking to reduce costs for residents and not increase them by establishing another quango. It's bad enough trying to get planning permission for changes to properties with NHBC and LGC Heritage Foundation without adding a Town Council into the mix. I'd prefer that NHDC spend some time and money trimming the powers of The Heritage Foundation who are accountable to no one.
1529	Resident	No	I'm totally opposed to a new layer of bureaucracy especially one with financial implications for individual residents. A few years back there WAS just such an organisation but after it progressively (inevitably!?) began to increase the amount residents were required to pay, residents decided to get rid of it. Do not go down this road again. The many organisations that currently operate in and on behalf of Letchworth are enough.

Responses to the public consultation

1531	Resident	No	We had a Town Council for Letchworth some years ago, which cost extra money, and seemed to provide little in return. We had to fight to get rid of it, in which we were successful. I can NOT see the point of another layer of governance over what we already have.
1535	Resident	No	I am not in agreement to this recommendation
1541	Resident	No	
1545	Resident	No	I do not see the point in having another layer of government funded by residents, particularly in these difficult times financially. We already have three layers of government, Westminster, county and local. This is sufficient if not excessive.
1546	Resident	No	We had a town council before. It was a waste of money and took quite a while to get rid of it. Residents did not want it and overwhelmingly voted for it to be abolished.
1547	Resident	No	I do not think we need another layer of government to be paid for by residents.
1548	Resident	No	I object to any decision which increases the amount I have to pay in council tax. It's already far too high; you should be taking all steps necessary to reduce this burden, NOT INCREASING IT!
1552	Resident	No	No issues with current arrangements so why change. Will create another layer of bureaucracy Extra costs on residents What a waste of money. this is typical of local authority not spending money wisely.
1553	Resident	No	I don't understand the benefits to me as a resident - the flyer I received said that I would likely pay more council tax as a result of a town council being formed, but as the benefits have not been explained, I don't feel I can support it as a proposal until I understand the rationale and benefits
1554	Resident	No	I do not understand the need for further governance in Letchworth. I don't believe that yet another layer of governance will add any value, particularly in Letchworth where we already have the Heritage Foundation in addition to the District Council, and I don't think residents should be asked to pay yet more money with dubious benefit.
1555	Resident	No	We have sufficient oversight with the district council and Heritage foundation and do NOT need to add to the taxes we already pay,

Responses to the public consultation

1556	Resident	No	We have the Heritage Foundation and N H District Council looking after our interests an£ do not require an additional layer of bureaucracy.
1558	Resident	No	We have had a council in the past and it was a catastrophe, creating a lot of polemics and adding to the council tax. People voted to get rid of the council.
1559	Resident	No	
1562	Resident	No	
1563	Resident	No	
1564	Resident	No	We have enough representation now I feel this will only complicate things , and make it harder to get things done more than it is now,plus the fact we pay enough now, and servic3s being cut back
1566	Resident	No	Needless cost. Extra bureaucracy. Letchworth already has the needless heritage society. This will not help anyone.
1567	Resident	No	Letchworth does not need an expensive parish council when we already have the Heritage Foundation. The North Herts Council is perfectly capable of running the town and surrounding area in this digital age without reverting back to a system that failed spectacularly just a few years ago. In this time of hardship for many the extra expenditure is unwelcome.
1568	Resident	No	Just another expense residents!!
1569	Resident	No	More spending by the council needlessly
1570	Resident	No	Letchworth Garden City has already done this, realised it is of little use and expensive to run, and extinguished its parish council. Why are you asking again? We are already represented by NHDC councillors, County councillors, and also have the Heritage Foundation performing its own distinctly different role, and I feel that those bodies already represent us fully. In my opinion as a local resident, we do not need an expensive Parish Council
1572	Resident	No	

Responses to the public consultation

1573	Resident	No	We have already had a Town Council in Letchworth and my late husband, Peter Groves, stood as a councillor in order to abolish the town council, which was granted in January 2013. Since we already have two governing layers , the NHDC and the Heritage foundation, the town council was a complete waste of time and money. The mayor's medallion, costing hundreds of £s, is in the Letchworth Museum !!
1576	Resident	No	No requirement for extra Bureaucracy
1577	Resident	No	We had a town council once before but was abolished in 2013 as it served no useful purpose. I can't understand why we would repeat this mistake at the cost of council tax payers.
1580	Resident	No	There is no need to increase the number of people in local government. There is enough if not to much representation. We need to focus on core activities and reduce unnecessary expenditure
1581	Resident	No	I do not want to pay more council tax.
1582	Resident	No	I do not want a rise in my council tax.
1585	Resident	No	I'm not aware of any benefits and do not want an increase in council tax
1588	Resident	No	We already have MPs and Councillors to address our needs/concerns. Do not need more especially not at the extra cost for the tax payer.
1589	Resident	No	This is a totally unnecessary addition of a non-productive administrative layer of governance at a time of clearly and probably permanently declining national prosperity generated by both internal and external factors. [I should add the judicial curiosity that I am currently in limbo, as probate of my wife, who owns/ed property in the catchment has not been completed and so I write as a second home owner-to-be but payer of Council Tax]
1593	Resident	No	Too much bureaucracy and I believe the town council previously got disbanded?

Responses to the public consultation

1594	Resident	No	With the devolution white paper looking to proceed the creation of a previously dissolved town council appears to be wasteful of time and resources. If however the devolution is looking for town councils to be retained to allow smaller localities to retain some individual character that I would support. Our towns and villages all have unique characters across the county and what may work for larger towns, Watford for example is unlikely to work here due to location and town history.
1596	Resident	No	We already have the district council and the heritage . We don't need another expensive layer of bureaucracy
1599	Resident	No	There's enough bureaucracy already in NHDC - why add yet another layer, with more councillors on generous expenses billed to taxpayers
1600	Resident	No	Honestly I don't understand what a Parish Council or Town Council does, and the leaflet I received and the website information does not help me understand either. Perhaps some explanation around this first would educate me first before having to cast a vote. Also with the proposed merge to mayoral councils, is this level needed. And anything that might increase my already high council tax, especially if I don't understand the purpose, is not welcome
1601	Resident	No	What purpose does this serve other than adding in another layer of bureaucracy and costing more money. Need to look at getting rid of Heritage Foundation, what value do they add?
1603	Resident	No	With the Heritage foundation messing all up...do we need another
1608	Resident	No	When the economy is in a mess and council tax is rising, to add another layer of bureaucracy and cost on the residents is nonsensical.
1611	Resident	No	I struggle to see what affect a town council can have in Letchworth with the stranglehold the Heritage Foundation has on so many aspects that would usually be the purview of publicly elected bodies
1614	Resident	No	Looks like another unneeded level of beaurocracy
1615	Resident	No	Do not need another level - a waste of money
1621	Resident	No	

Responses to the public consultation

1624	Resident	No	We are already well represented and I can't see the point of yet another body of people which is going to cost yet more money to us residents most of which will not be able to afford! With the rise in cost of living I think it's very insensitive to even propose something that will cost more and probably be as ineffective as other bodies that are supposed to represent residents.
1626	Resident	No	Not needed
1628	Resident	No	Our council taxes are already high, unwilling to pay more for a restructure which shows no clear benefit to me as a resident.
1630	Resident	No	<p>Reviewing the work undertaken by Town & Parish Councils, these local councils do valuable work, and I applaud the efforts of the unpaid councillors to make such a difference to their communities. I have answered "no" above because it isn't clear (to me, at least) how the proposed unitary authorities will affect Town & Parish Councils. When District / Borough Councils are abolished, their functions will be taken up by the unitary authority (or authorities) - but perhaps also by the Town & Parish Councils - I don't know. Is it correct that council tax under Shire versus Unitary administrations is broadly the same (research on Band D tax in England) - so NHDC residents' council tax will not benefit from the change to a unitary authority? And yet there is a precept payable for Town and Parish Councils. So, under a unitary authority, Letchworth residents will experience a reduced local service (since NHDC will no longer exist) unless they pay extra for a Letchworth Town Council instead. Perhaps I'm wrong about that - I'm just asking for clarification. To summarise, it doesn't seem sensible to be asking views on a proposed Letchworth Town Council without spelling out how the proposed unitary authority may affect residents. Perhaps if this issue was more clearly explained to me, I might very well have answered "yes".</p> <p>Thank you for asking for our views. Will there be a</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1631	Resident	No	The last thing residents need during the cost of living crisis is additional cost on top of the 5% increase to council tax already. Given the upcoming cuts to local government funding it comes across as naive and counter intuitive to be adding additional layers and complexity to local government. Things work perfectly well as they stand.
1632	Resident	No	This just increases the bureaucracy of the council, increasing complication, paperwork and cost
1634	Resident	No	You have not provided any guidance or clarity on what this new town council will do
1636	Resident	No	I can't see the sense in this 1) its a small area so NHDC councillors are fine 2) LGCHF covers a lot of stuff relevant to the town 3) there was a town council and it was abolished very recently
1637	Resident	No	We didn't need another level of government
1638	Resident	No	
1639	Resident	No	The cost of council tax would rise, and would services improve?
1640	Resident	No	I feel it would be of no benefit to the residents. The cost of setting this up and maintaining its running would be prohibitively expensive. It's just an additional layer of bureaucracy. What would it achieve. As there is no upper limit as what could be charged by the town council it's just another council tax. The residents should be allowed to vote on such a far reaching change in local government
1641	Resident	No	Current system works fine, no need to add extra layers and costs
1642	Resident	No	Town council is the worst thing that can happen to Letchworth.
1643	Resident	No	We just disbanded one bunch of idiots from the letchworth town council in what mad world do you think we require another bunch. Stop wasting our money on idiotic ideas.
1644	Resident	No	We already have Herts County Council, North herts District Council and Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation. We don't need another layer of bureaucracy. Letchworth had a town council for a few years that was voted out of existence by the residents of Letchworth. It was not needed then, it is not needed now.

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1645	Resident	No	Letchworth used to have a town council and it was abolished just over 10 years ago and everything has been fine. Why do we need to bring it back again now? It was a waste of money before and there is no reason to assume it will not be again
1647	Resident	No	Don't need another layer of bureaucracy
1649	Resident	No	Totally unnecessary. We have the Heritage Foundation. We do not want another layer of governance. This was reviewed previously and thought to be of the same view.
1650	Resident	No	ABSOLUTELY NOT. NO FURTHER FORM OF GOVERNANCE IS REQUIRED. I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF LETCHWORTH OF NEARLY 50 YEARS. THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION HAS SERVED ALL RESIDENTS VERY WELL INDEED.
1651	Resident	No	We had a Town Council before and it was abolished as it was just a waste of money
1652	Resident	No	Will likely increase already increasing council tax. Already pay enough and probably won't have real term benefits for residents, who are the ones affected.
1667	Resident	No	The Letchworth town council was abolished in 2013. I don't see any benefit to ourselves as residents. We don't need a town council or the extra cost.
1669	Resident	No	We cannot support yet more increases to our council tax
1673	Resident	No	It's been tried before and failed, it only succeeded in wasting money.
1676	Resident	No	I do not support an additional (and more expensive) layer of bureaucracy. One or two unitary authorities for Hertfordshire will be more than sufficient.
1677	Resident	No	Anything that entails more cost to the residents forget it Letcheorth has been dictated too long by the heritage foundation who have destroyed veneer Howard's vision for our garden city and have sold off and gained profit from their selling of properties and farmland
1678	Resident	No	The extra money needed would put too large a burden on my finances and it remains to be seen what if any extra benefit there will actually be.
1680	Resident	No	We don't need another layer of bureaucracy. Letchworth got rid of the town council previously because it wasn't needed

Responses to the public consultation

1685	Resident	No	I am generally in favour of devolving local democracy to the lowest feasible level but not if it involves an additional layer of bureaucracy with no obvious benefit. The leaflet indicates an increased cost per household of between £22 and £121 per year, which is a staggering variation. but nowhere does it indicate what powers a town council would have and what it would actually do. I recall that, a few years ago, a Letchworth Town Council was set up and later abolished. As far as I can remember, all it achieved was purchasing a chain of office for the mayor! An additional issue concerns the proposed Council's relationship with Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation and any duplication of planning requirements and enforcement.
1686	Resident	No	Any proposal that seeks to increase council tax does not serve as a benefit for any resident. We're currently living through a time of adversity, where people are struggling to make salaries last a month.
1688	Resident	No	Didn't work last time and had a detrimental impact on Letchworth.
1690	Resident	No	There is no need for this. I do not want to pay more council tax
1691	Resident	No	Too much Government already. No need for more administrators.
1692	Resident	No	If North Herts Council continues, we have wards and councillors already for local admin. We also have the Heritage Foundation which carries out some functions. Much more remotely, there is the County Council, which can be arrogant at times. If N Herts Council is to remain, and this is not clear from the documents I have seen, we do not need another layer of politicians, amateur or professional, paid or unpaid in local government. A parish(town) council is the weakest form of representation
1693	Resident	No	Council tax is already high

Responses to the public consultation

1696	Resident	No	<p>Can't see what additional value another layer of government would bring to local residents. I work in local government and don't see the benefit that town and parish councils bring. In most instances ward councillors are town councillors.</p> <p>Appreciate the district council may wish to pass on some of the services provided to a more local point of delivery but does that achieve best value across the district?</p> <p>How will a Letchworth Town Council work with the Heritage Foundation?</p>
1698	Resident	No	<p>New town council why is this needed when the present system is just as worse as crime has risen in our area 3 weekly bin collections and high council tax and increases so to have another town council council who will end making further increases with less services.</p>
1699	Resident	No	<p>We have enough bureaucracy already - another layer is unlikely to be useful and will just cost residents more on the council tax.</p> <p>When you write to councillors you're lucky if you get a reply. I don't even know what they achieve so why have more of the same?!</p>
1701	Resident	No	
1702	Resident	No	<p>More layers of administration are not needed and would add to costs.</p>
1707	Resident	No	<p>The town already has the Foundation to look after some local interests. Having a town council would cause more confusion than already exists</p>
1708	Resident	No	<p>Don't see a need for 3 town councillors for the grange. Our council tax is expensive now we do need any further increase.</p> <p>I moved from a village where I had to pay council tax at a higher rate for the parish council. In my opinion this is just another way of increasing council tax.</p>
1709	Resident	No	<p>I don't think enough has been done to explain why we need another tier of local government. Is this to replace North Herts when it is combined with something else? I can't be in favour of something you have not explained. The only information online is about this survey. Your proposal in the point above does not explain the benefits and costs.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1718	Resident	No	we tried this and voted to abolish the last town council in 2012 , it was a disaster and a total waste of money . we dont need another quango.i am not prepared to pay for this
1722	Resident	No	I cannot see the point of adding another layer of bureaucracy to the already existing one especially at the cost of increased Council Tax . Surely the best avenue would be to improve the efficiency of the existing system and not burden the rate payer with further cost at a difficult time for us all
1723	Resident	No	
1724	Resident	No	I'd rather you spent money on better services, such as making sure pathways are walkable rather than overgrown by weeds & leaves.
1725	Resident	No	I haven't understood exactly what this means other than an increase in council tax!
1729	Resident	No	
1732	Resident	No	We tried it before no good
1736	Resident	No	I have not seen any rationale behind increasing the number of councillors, and do not want my council tax to go up because of this.
1739	Resident	No	We are adequately served at present, with the County Council, District Council and Heritage Foundation actively influencing the area. Previous attempts to establish a town council were unpopular and disastrous. Also, now is not the time to introduce any additional expense to burden local residents.
1740	Resident	No	
1748	Resident	No	I am already subject to Central Government, Hertfordshire County Council, North Herts District Council & the Letchworth Heritage Foundation and as such don't need a further administrative body. Furthermore, it has been tried before and cost a large sum of money to hold a local referendum that voted against it. What did happen to the Mavoral Chain?
1749	Resident	No	There existed a town council previously and was disastrous and thank goodness was ousted and only lasted for some months. What with the added expense to residents and no benefit, why do we not learn from our experience, and I am absolutely against it. NHDC and The Heritage are sufficient to serve the residents of Letchworth Garden City.

Responses to the public consultation

1750	Resident	No	The area of Letchworth was to have a town council and that folded very quickly and turned out to be a total waste of money and an additional cost to residents without any discernable benefit, the one thing we do not need is another layer of bureaucracy.
1751	Resident	No	Letchworth has already had a Town Council and it was a disaster and complete waste of money. The town does not need another layer of bureaucracy to add to NHDC and the Heritage Foundation.
1756	Resident	No	
1757	Resident	No	Last time Letchworth had a town council the residents of Letchworth voted for it to be abolished. I am not prepared to pay extra for the limited services that the Town Council will provide when the District Council already provides those services already.
1763	Resident	No	I don't see the need for this, and the fact that it will increase the cost to residents is absurd at this time of Council Tax rising to unprecedented heights, and benefit cuts. I have no wish whatsoever to pay more for town councillors and i see no way in which they would improve my lifestyle in Letchworth that would iustify this additional expense. No. no and no!
1770	Resident	No	We voted to get rid of the previous Letchworth town council. No need to create it again.
1779	Resident	No	Another example of wasting money with no control over future increases when there is an ongoing cost of living crisis.
1780	Resident	No	more expense, dont see the need for another layer of local council
1783	Resident	No	
1784	Resident	No	Because it'll raise the Council Tax bill.
1786	Resident	No	There are enough governing bodies to run the town. I don `t want to pay more council tax to subsidise more layers of bureaucracy.
1793	Resident	No	I don't want to pay extra council tax for an organisation that will be of nobenefit
1794	Resident	No	I'm not sure what adding an additional layer of bureaucracy will achieve apart from higher costs for residents at a time when many are already struggling with bills
1804	Resident	No	I do not believe that the creation of this necessary and is just another cost at a time of great hardship. Please convince me otherwise as I see no actual benefit for the area.
1805	Resident	No	

Responses to the public consultation

1814	Resident	No	Parish councils are wildly inconsistent in quality with too many stories of scandal and infighting. They are not worth the additional funding cost to the council tax payer, and most of their responsibilities should be picked up by the local district council (and future unitaries).
1818	Resident	No	Council tax is expensive enough without paying for something else. Also, we are served by the heritage foundation and local NHDC. Having a third entity doesn't feel as if it is needed. It would be good for the public to know exactly what the town council will do. What the members will be like and will there be enough diversity? Not just race but also enough relatable people for those who are working class and to those who are more affluent. Good representation is needed for a diverse town such as Letchworth. People are having to tighten their budgets and paying for something like this right now, is not well timed and possibly not needed.
1819	Resident	No	It is not within my interest to have a district council when we already have the heritage foundation and I am against anything that may increase council tax even if that rise is only potentially a possibility.
1820	Resident	No	
1825	Resident	No	Between North Herts and the Heritage foundation we're already well served. I do not wish to pay for this needless additional admin.

Responses to the public consultation

1830	Resident	No	In 2012, a majority of Letchworth residents voted to abolish the Letchworth Town Council which had existed for some years though many residents were left uninformed as to its purpose and achievements except that they had to fund it by increased Council Tax. Letchworth already has excessive layers of administration including elected Councillors at County and District levels, and the unelected Heritage Foundation. Too many layers risk duplication and confusion, and increase costs. Despite regular Council Tax rises, residents receive poor or deteriorating services (e.g. the infrequent town bus service which causes increased private car use), and Councillor-approved budgetary cuts (e.g. fewer refuse collections, and withdrawal of popular reference material from public libraries). A case for the proposed new Town Council has not been satisfactorily and succinctly explained. Unless the proposal entails removal of administrative layers elsewhere, real benefits as yet unexplained, all at no extra and preferably lower costs to residents, the two
1831	Resident	No	I am concerned about rises in council tax and would like to know if levels are regulated, as they are with local authorities.
1833	Resident	No	I believe the Letchworth Heritage Foundation is better placed to provide the roles and function of the proposed parish Council, if empowered to do so. Suitable forums between the proposed councillors and the Foundations could resolve and manage the risks, issues and opportunities such a parish council would consider. I believe this approach would work better for Letchworth and would be more effective and more cost effective than establishing a new parish council.
1835	Resident	No	
1836	Resident	No	As a Council Tax payer I cannot support something that is going to cause me additional expense for no benefit. Our council tax already rises and services are being reduced (bin collection)!
1838	Resident	No	We went through this several years ago ... and it was rejected!

Responses to the public consultation

1839	Resident	No	A simple yes or no option is not sufficient here. The proposal for a new town council for Letchworth seems to be a response to the possibility North Herts District Council will be wound up in the coming local government reorganisation, and Letchworth will need a new tier of local government below Hertfordshire County Council. (The minutes of the Community Governance Review section of the minutes of the NHDC meeting of 27 Feb. 2025 contain this comment: "Due to the uncertainty in the future of the Council following the English Devolution White Paper it was important to ensure that Letchworth was not left without a town council.") If NHDC remains and the new town council is also created, we will end up with an unnecessary tier of local government which will cost local council tax payers, for no real benefit. My view is that it is fine to make contingency plans for the creation of a new town council, but any such plans should not be progressed past a point where they can be easily reversed unless and until it is certain that
1840	Resident	No	
1841	Resident	No	These are not the times to be increasing taxes on households.
1842	Resident	No	There is no clear justification for a town council in Letchworth on top of the other representatives already in place.
1843	Resident	No	More layers of management and control are proven to be problematic and delay any suitable solutions. In addition, the costs to residents cannot be justified.
1852	Resident	No	We already have Herts council, North Herts council and the Heritage dealing with the arrangements for our town. I really cannot see the point in spending more money on yet another council in addition to the ones we already have. It is already confusing to know which council deals with which activity one wants to enquire about. Having a further one makes it even more complicated to understand who is responsible for what and increases the difficulty for liaising on matters important to a resident.
1853	Resident	No	The local council should be dealing already with any issues & matters. Another layer of authority is not necessary

Responses to the public consultation

1857	Resident	No	<p>Thank you for seeking the views of residents on the proposal to establish a new town council for Letchworth Garden City.</p> <p>We strongly oppose this proposal for the following reasons:</p> <p>1.Letchworth residents already have to navigate three layers of governance: the Heritage Foundation, North Herts Council and the County Council. Another level in the form of a town council would be excessive, expensive and unnecessary.</p> <p>2.Residents' Council Tax would increase to fund any new Council. Those who pay Council Tax (and not all residents pay in full) are already paying large amounts for little return.</p> <p>3.Perhaps the most compelling reason not to establish a town council is the fact that it has been done before and failed. A town council was set up around 2005. It soon became clear that it was an expensive exercise in futility, had no proper function, the councillors had no job to do and, thanks to concerned local residents, was abolished in 2013. It is very discouraging that, less than 15 years after its well-deserved abolition, the notion of a town council is being revived.</p> <p>Please, therefore, do not proceed with proposals for a town council for Letchworth Garden City.</p>
1858	Resident	No	<p>We need less bureaucracy, not more. This is particularly true when the media is full of complaints about cost of living pressures and the fact that council tax is already increasing more than inflation. The proposal is to make both these issues worse through the establishment of a Town Council.</p>
1861	Resident	No	<p>1. COST of another layer in a tough economic environment.</p> <p>2. Our District councillors are doing a good job.</p> <p>3. Role overlap.</p> <p>4. I would like to see a different proposal such as direct citizen assemblies without an extra layer of councillors.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1862	Resident	No	This has been tried before and failed. In the current financial climate to look to increase council tax on a new level of governance is irresponsible and totally unnecessary.
1865	Resident	No	We will end up paying more council taxes.even if not straight away we will in the future. It always happened.
1869	Resident	No	The increase in council tax will be difficult to bear. It is unclear if the benefits will outweigh the cost. It feels like an unnecessary additional layer of bureaucracy. Will the town councillors have any new powers to actually do anything to improve Letchworth? Will they increase delays in the consultation and decision making process for Letchworth? It seems unlikely.
1871	Resident	No	No need, wasteful. Town Council was disbanded some years ago after extensive campaign. Its wrong now to reinstate it in this way.
1873	Resident	No	We do not need another layer of government to pay for, this has been tried before and rejected. Extra costs for ratepayers isn't needed ...
1874	Resident	No	We already have district and county councils, plus a heritage foundation, we don't need another layer of bureaucracy (particularly if it will cost more in council tax bills)
1881	Resident	No	I think it is a waster of money and everything works well as it is
1884	Resident	No	I do not see the benefit that a new Town Council would bring. The Wards are represented already by District Councillors. I do not see anywhere on your website a case for the new Town Council. On top of that it is going to increase the Council Tax. This idea was tried some years ago and it was eventually disbanded.
1889	Resident	No	I thought the idea of the reorganisation was to slim down the councils
1891	Resident	No	A town council is not appropriate for Letchworth because the duties usually undertaken by such a body are mostly carried out by the Letchworth heritage foundation owing to Letchworth being a conservation area. Not many years ago, at great effort, Letchworth finally got rid of an expensive town council in a proper full vote to all residents so this has already been shown to be a majority view. I am not in favour of increased council tax to support a body where its role is already undertaken by others. Local representation should continue as present without increase to my council tax

Responses to the public consultation

1894	Resident	No	Total waste of money on more talking heads, Given the financial climate, REDUCING COST should be the priority not increasing the size of government bureaucracy
1896	Resident	No	absolutely against this- I remember the last time we had a mayor of Letchworth, it took ages to get rid of him! Council tax is quite high enough anyway.
1905	Resident	No	At this moment in time we have the Hub, the Bid, the Heritage and local council. Why do we need to pay more for some one to sit in an office talking about things they want to do, and not giving the people the things they need. If the people in the council are not up to the job, replace them with someone who is. We do not need to pay more for less.
1910	Resident	No	There was a Letchworth town council several years ago and it was a disaster with self serving people arguing about such things as whether they could use the old LUDC chain of office. Fortunately there was a 'referendum' and residents voted to disband that council. In addition I object to paying extra for a council which I believe shouldn't exist, particularly when the government is reviewing the existence of both District and County Councils.
1912	Resident	No	We have enough with Heritage Foundation, District Council another layer just increases loops people need to jump through to get anything done and the cost to residents
1916	Resident	No	Simply no need to over complicate systems, increase spending on additional councillors that will over complicate any decisions to be made. One council for North Hertfordshire and review of current systems and working practises would be more beneficial exercise to complete. Adding 13 councillors and increasing council tax on its residents during a period in which the country is struggling economically is a strange proposal. Money would be better spent on staff servicing North Hertfordshire
1920	Resident	No	I cannot afford to pay even more council tax!
1921	Resident	No	Cost and this is unnecessary. It has failed once before.
1922	Resident	No	I'm worried about transparency, that if will be expensive for the residents and also no one will be able to question them.

Responses to the public consultation

1926	Resident	No	Having spent most of my working life working for a local Council, I know from bitter experience that the more layers there are, the more it costs and the less gets done. What is so wrong about the present system? It doesn't need even more local Councillors, it needs dedicated Councillors who are prepared to do a good job for their constituents. It smacks to me of 'jobs for the boys' and I am totally against any changes being made. We pay quite enough Council tax as it is. I would hate to have to pay more for yet another layer.
1929	Resident	No	Extra cost to residents. Unnecessary governance. Too many councils/heritage foundations etc!! We need stream lining not the opposite!
1931	Resident	No	I feel it's unnecessary and won't give value for money for all residents
1938	Resident	No	I don't expect that an additional council for Letchworth would provide value for money. It's responsibilities would overlap with the Letchworth Heritage Foundation. Adding one would also seem to ignore the fact that Letchworth previously had a parish council that was abolished after a process that demonstrated that it was not generally perceived as useful
1946	Resident	No	We do not need another layer of local government. The costs incurred in another level of bureaucracy will be another financial burden on households already struggling to cope with current community charge increases and high energy bills.
1951	Resident	No	<p>It appears that the initial plan under CGR was to establish separate Town Councils for Royston and Hitchin, with Letchworth not originally considered by NHDC.</p> <p>This omission seems rather unusual, but given that NHDC is based in Letchworth, perhaps residents of Royston and Hitchin feel underrepresented at the local level and therefore seek a council dedicated to their communities.</p> <p>If they strongly wish to have their own Town Council, it should not affect the situation in Letchworth, as we have already made our stance clear at the ballot box regarding such a body.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1954	Resident	No	We don't need an additional layer of governance, on top of the Heritage foundation. I'm not prepared to cover the additional cost required.
1958	Resident	No	I am fundamentally against any new proposal which will increase my council tax bill. This is a time in which household budgets are already stretched. I cannot understand what possible benefit this proposal would bring, it will not make a positive difference in day to day life yet I will be made to foot the bill. We do not need more councils, we need the councils we already have established to be effective
1959	Resident	No	Letchworth already has adequate if not excessive governance from Council bodies specifically North Herts Council, Letchworth Heritage Foundation and Hertfordshire County Council. There are no reasons that these bodies should not be capable of collaborating and managing the needs of the local area, listening and responding to views of residents. I consider regulations applied and costs of Council bodies are already excessive and further costs, bodies to consult, needs to collaborate are unnecessary and unwelcome
1960	Resident	No	
1975	Resident	No	Having had a town council previously that was abolished I don't believe there is a benefit for reinstating one at the residents (our) expense.
1982	Resident	No	It would be ridiculous to have another body in Letchworth Garden City given that there is already the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation and North Herts Council.
1983	Resident	No	Why would we want to pay for yet another layer of unwanted bureaucracy.
2001	Resident	No	A rise in council tax is unacceptable.
2009	Resident	No	Too many candidate, wasting our tax and more outcome from us is not relevant. Find more volunteer base candidate from area to improve our community.
2017	Resident	No	We already have enough representation another layer adds more cost and unnecessary duplication
2033	Resident	No	Adding an extra level of democratic structure will cost more money, will need more people to become local politicians whilst not having more budget to do more things locally. I'm not sure what the case is for really needing another level of structure.

Responses to the public consultation

2034	Resident	No	Council Tax is already significantly higher than I would anticipate, increasing it to add more bureaucracy is counterintuitive to good management
2043	Resident	No	Don't understand what a parish would do that is different to what the existing local government does. Certainly doesn't feel like an appropriate time to be introducing something that would increase cost of living for residents either.
2047	Resident	No	There is no need for an additional, costly layer of government in Letchworth. We are already represented well by councillors and an MP. Local people, my friends and neighbours, already feel they pay too much council tax. A whole new parish is wasteful.
2070	Resident	No	I was a member of Letchworth Town Council in 2009, and was proud to be part of the HELP organisation which eradicated the existing Town Council. It was a costly waste of money ... It is vital that we do not become inward in our thinking in this area, and, unfortunately, a Town Council would return us to this state.
2074	Resident	No	A Town Council for Letchworth has already been tried. It resulted in extra expense for residents, with no benefits whatsoever. The previous Town Council was swiftly abolished. Please do not revisit an experiment which results in effectively a second council tax for residents and which has already been found to be a failure.
2088	Resident	No	The Foundation seems to be managing Letchworth pretty well and this would add a layer or extra dimension
2090	Resident	No	We have enough bureaucracy without adding more layers to it.
2091	Resident	No	Letchworth is a well-managed town, and does not need any more layers of bureaucracy.
2093	Resident	No	I think Letchworth is well governed and there is no need for a further bureaucratic body.
2107	Resident	No	In this time of a cost of living crisis, with additional financial burdens on individuals and the council, I can see no additional value stemming from this proposal.

Responses to the public consultation

2111	Resident	No	I strongly object to the proposed establishment of a new town council for Letchworth. Our community is already facing significant financial pressures with the current council tax rates being increasingly difficult to manage for many households. Adding another layer of local government would inevitably increase our council tax bills at a time when living costs continue to rise
2112	Resident	No	Another layer of bureaucracy and additional cost with no tangible benefit to residents as evidenced by the last Letchworth Town Council.
2117	Resident	No	We are currently in the midst of a cost of living crisis. We have just been hit with yet another increase in our Council Tax. The last thing we need is a demand for more money to fund another layer of (unnecessary) bureaucracy.
2118	Resident	No	The previous Letchworth Town Council was a waste of money. They proved before that nothing good comes out of it. Do not want to pay more council tax when every one is struggling.
2120	Resident	No	The residents of Letchworth Garden City tried having a Town Council not very long ago, and they overwhelmingly rejected it in repeated public polls over a period of several years, and eventually their voice was listened to and it was abolished. It is very quick and easy to set up a parish and its council, but the odds are stacked heavily against removing it. It would do a great disservice to the people of Letchworth to go against their clear rejection of a Town council and all the hard work they did getting rid of the last one, only to have one foisted on them again at this time. Frankly, it beggers belief that a current NHDC councillor would propose setting one up at this time.
2130	Resident	No	There is no indication of what the Town Council would do apart from an increase in council tax (see leaflet V0869_6 LETCHWORTH). Something similar was introduced a few years ago and was rejected by democratic vote.
2131	Resident	No	

Responses to the public consultation

2141	Resident	No	I have not been given any reason whatsoever as to why or how a town council will benefit myself nor my family. I therefore feel that as families are already struggling to pay council tax bills that an additional fee for a town council would be an unnecessary extra burden. I also note that you only give an estimated increase for Band D. I dread to think what the increase would be for higher bands. We already have local councillors who do a good job for NHDC plus HCC and also the Heritage Foundation, we do not need more. Also given that the last Town Council was ill received and disbanded after the people of Letchworth voted unanimously that they didn't want it, why would good money be wasted now in trying to set up a new one!
2142	Resident	No	I don't think another layer of administration costing more money is needed.
2169	Resident	No	The last Town Council provided a very good reason for not embarking on another. There was considerable opposition to the previous Town Council and a vote took place to have it annulled. The money spent on the establishment of the Town Council would have been better spent on providing better conditions for many disadvantaged residents of Letchworth and not say, on providing chains of office for parading officials who seemed to achieve very little for the residents of Letchworth. I do not want to see this repeated. I have no wish to pay more council tax unnecessarily and remain strongly against the formation of another Town Council.
2175	Resident	No	I do not want my Council Tax bill to go up even more than it has in the past few years. It is becoming unsustainable - and I do not feel I get adequate benefits from it in the first place (particularly the disgraceful state of the roads, particularly the dangerous potholes on the roundabout on Baldock Rd that links to the A1M road.

Responses to the public consultation

2181	Resident	No	<p>We already tried this, with [Letchworth Garden City Council] in 2005, that proved a complete failure and costed LGC residents far too much, for zero benefits (we have Hertfordshire County Council and North Hertfordshire District Council to provide All of the services that LGC residents need.</p> <p>Please see http://www.helpleetchworth.co.uk/ for details of the successful petition in 2008 to "dissolve the town council" - this was eventually formally closed-down in 2013.</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN - LGC RESIDENTS DO NOT NEED A TOWN COUNCIL - NOTHING HAS SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED IN LOCAL DEMOCRACY SINCE 2008-2013</p>
2182	Resident	No	<p>I do not agree with this. I dont see the benefit of a town council and can't afford to pay out any more council tax.</p>
2194	Resident	No	<p>Never want a town council again let alone pay for one since the last time we managed to get rid of them</p>
2195	Resident	No	
2204	Resident	No	<p>Not an effective representative process to control or plan the future of the area. An unnecessary addition to existing representation.</p>
2210	Resident	No	<p>No because it would mean more money going out and more levels of people to go through for a communication. It would be better to go directly.</p>
2216	Resident	No	<p>We have a county council and a district council. Opinions vary about the value for money we receive from these councils but there is no escaping that ever year our council tax rises whilst services get cut. A parish council would be funded through YET ANOTHER increase in our council tax. After Aprils increases in energy costs, landline / broadband costs, mobile phone costs, etc. people are struggling to meet their current outgoings as it is. We do not need yet another council to offer very little (if any) value for money to add to the two we have to tolerate at the moment</p>
2230	Resident	No	<p>paying too much tax already. we do not need a town council</p>
2232	Resident	No	
2241	Resident	No	<p>It has not been clearly communicated how this is beneficial to create. This is the first I have heard about this. I would have appreciated a summary of why the council felt this was important or beneficial before this survey was distributed.</p>

Responses to the public consultation

2103	Resident	Yes	<p>Support creation of a parish of Letchworth if it is certain that creation of unitary authorities is going ahead. Would not want Letchworth to be left only represented by a larger unitary authority in the event that North Herts is abolished. If a parish of Letchworth is created, the outgoing district council should also use its representation on and influence with the Heritage Foundation and new town council to encourage them to work together towards the best interests of the town. Unfortunately, the previous incarnation of the town council here was too much a product of its origins as a protest against the Heritage Foundation. However, the Heritage Foundation's scheme of management does not cover the whole town (the sizeable Grange and Jackmans estates being excluded along with a few other pockets) and there would be value in having a body democratically representing the whole town. The Heritage Foundation shouldn't be expected to double up as a de facto voice for the community when it has its statutorily defined functions requiring to look after particular interests only.</p> <p>Also, please make the name for the new parish just "Letchworth" rather than the cumbersome "Letchworth Garden City". The former is elegantly simple and historic, the latter doesn't even fit on some forms with automated character limits. We can rightly celebrate the town's important contribution to the history of the garden city movement and town planning more generally without saddling it with such an unwieldy name. Unlike Welwyn / Welwyn Garden City, the old village of Letchworth was completely</p>
1791	Resident	Yes	<p>With local government reorganisation set to merge existing district councils (Hertfordshire has no unitary authorities at present), Letchworth Town Council needs to be restored, as do Hitchin and Baldock Town Councils in effect (they have remained unparished since their respective Urban District Councils were abolished in 1974), especially given Letchworth's special garden city status and the need for decision-making to be at the grassroots level in order to adequately protect its heritage</p>

Responses to the public consultation

2066	Another organisation (I'm representing myself as part of a proposal to parish all non metropolitan area in England) *	Yes	I think all areas should be parished in England especially with the reformes proposed in the next few years, Not giving Letchworth a successor parish in 1974 and abolishing the parish in 2013 was a big mistake.
997	Resident	Yes	
2218	District Councillor	Yes	With the proposed reorganization of local government wit the formation of a unitary government there will be a need for a town council for Letchworth to ensure that local concerns are heard and enacted upon. Town and parish councils play an important role in our local government structure and without one one in Letchworth there is already a noticeable democratic deficit which is raised by many local residents. Town councils feel very much. In touch with local residents and ensure that they have a say on important local matters. Even a District Council is too remote and does not meet frequently enough . The actual remit of town and parish councils will need to be looked at in the light of the local government restructuring but Letchworth as with the other towns and parishes in North Herts needs one . It helps to foster a pride in the place we live and a sense of community. I was for 7 years a parish and town councillor in North Devon - and Mayor of Northam during the COVID pandemic when the town council was most in contact with local people.
6	Resident	Yes	Seek a long term aim to abolish the Hertage foundation and pass its role to an elected body
18	Resident	Yes	
42	Resident	Yes	
43	Resident	Yes	
56	Resident	Yes	I would like the town council to take over running the Scheme of Management from the Heritage Foundation. This Scheme should be managed by a democratically elected body and democracy has slowly been eroded from the Heritage Foundation.
58	Resident	Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

69	Resident	Yes	<p>I think the campaign to abolish the old Town Council focussed on many high profile issues and overlooked the loss of effective representation.</p> <p>The Heritage Foundation's governance fails to deliver to me accountable, engaged, democratically-elected representation. I find its representatives far too aligned with the Executive's policy and observing complete confidentiality. The latest Board Minutes for public release are currently May 2024.</p> <p>In my experience, very few governors make an effort to engage with the community. I am not sure what governors actually do, because the public do not even see AGM minutes. The common response@ address makes it very difficult to contact a governor or trustee.</p> <p>There is no public register of trustee or governor interests, because the Foundation says it sees itself as a private organisation. As an example of the Foundation's reluctance to disclose information, the identities of "community representatives" on one committee are blacked out and when they visit they do not give any names.</p> <p>So a Town Council would meet the need for representatives to fearlessly raise local issues, and report back to residents, much as District Councillors do. Elections, rather than private appointments, are a good for democracy and engagement.</p>
70	Resident	Yes	<p>There needs to be more joined up thinking with the Heritage Foundation which makes decisions that a parish council should, and isn't democratic.</p>
110	Resident	Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

111	Resident	Yes	My yes answer is consequent upon any new Letchworth Town Council actually providing services to the residents of the town. The ill-fated previous Letchworth Town Council failed to do this - they precepted residents, gave out grants, but did not take on the provision of any services (even taking over some from the District Council). There is already a Royston Town Council (which I believe provides some services to the residents of Royston), and so that should be used as the blueprint for the establishment of a Town Council in Letchworth, as well as for Hitchin and Baldock. I do not wish to be paying a an additional annual precept on my Council Tax for a body that actually does nothing (which is effectively what happened during the previous short-lived Letchworth Town Council).
127	Resident	Yes	
176	Resident	Yes	I agree people should have more representation, but I am not clear about the purpose of this new council and the powers it would have, and how it would relate to LGCHF and Letchworth BID. LGCHF has too much power and not enough representation, and risks turning Letchworth into an undesirable area with its current approach to solar panels, external insulation etc.
182	Resident	Yes	I presume this will cut costs
185	Resident	Yes	Seems sensible, but I could not see it would affect me personally. Therefore uncertain why I was being surveyed?
260	Resident	Yes	Democracy is best served by local representatives
386	Resident	Yes	More local democracy is a good thing! If the government ever decide to merge District and County Councils too, it will be good to keep more local representation in place.
397	Resident	Yes	
430	Resident	Yes	
462	Resident	Yes	I remember the last time there was a revival of the town council idea. I hope this scheme lasts a bit longer than last time, without the dissension of that period. Dividing the North Herts area into areas where decisions are made more locally seems a sensible idea.
537	Resident	Yes	
553	Resident	Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

571	Resident	Yes	
599	Resident	Yes	I would like to know what the terms of reference are for the Town Council, what responsibilities the Town Councillor's will have and what the costs to residents will be.
632	Resident	Yes	
653	Resident	Yes	I think this is a good idea. However I am not sure how Letchworth Heritage foundation will view this as they took steps to shut down the "Parish Council organisation " that was voted for some years ago. If we are going to have rethink on the way local government is organised in Letchworth then I would suggest that Letchworth Heritage Foundation should be wound down and assets transferred to the proposed new Town Council along with the Planning Department so that we have one "ELECTED" Planning department rather than the current situation of having to submit plans to two different organisations in Letchworth. Im not so sure that the "heritage " aspects in the best interests of the town.
676	Resident	Yes	The Labour government are bent on removing local democracy by turning Hertfordshire into a unitary authority. A town council will be our last hope of local democracy.
680	Resident	Yes	I am in favour in local democracy, ie. giving responsibility for the governance of an area down to the lowest reasonable level where people most affected are in charge of their own affairs. The problems facing Letchworth are very different from those facing, say, Royston or Hitchin, and the idea of lumping these three towns together under district governance, as at present, for the sake of convenience is wrong. Therefore the idea of a Letchworth Town Council, with its own statutory responsibilities and budget setting seems sound. HOWEVER, the obvious complication is the existence of the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, which already has town-wide interests and powers in terms of environmental responsibilities (including control over design and build of private dwellings), education, leisure, etc. There is an obvious potential clash of responsibilities and interests between this (largely unelected, as most people understand the term) body and a new Town Council; and this potential clash must

Responses to the public consultation

691	Resident	Yes	I am but only if the preposed devolution of District and County Council goes ahead by the government.
722	Resident	Yes	
792	Resident	Yes	With the likelihood of NHC being abolished and a Unitary Council covering a much wider area, this will be the only way to retain genuinely local government
807	Resident	Yes	
829	Resident	Yes	I've said yes because we need changes, but don't see the point because you will always do what you want
836	Resident	Yes	
842	Resident	Yes	
866	Resident	Yes	Letchworth needs to be controlled democratically not by an unelected foundation
868	Resident	Yes	
951	Resident	Yes	Sadly this is only returning to what we had a while ago when the wealthiest in the town decided that it was too expensive and was abolished. This was partly because factions within the town council that made it less then democratic. Prior to that it was doing considerable good for those in Letchworth who were unable to visit attractions etc due to the expense. Whilst I would like it to come back I very much doubt if the powers that be in Central Government will be prepared to let it happen
975	Resident	Yes	
985	Resident	Yes	Need more info: what will the council members do? Will they be aligned to political parties? Will they be paid and if so, how much?
989	Resident	Yes	Hopefully the proposed council could hold the Heritage Foundation in check.
1005	Resident	Yes	I have already completed one survey form with a 'no' answer and now I have just read the draft proposals for the review of Hertfordshire councils. I guess there will be more of a need for a Letchworth town council on the 'demise' of North Herts Council. So I have changed my decision to a 'YES' hoping it will not impact on a rise in overall council tax.

Responses to the public consultation

1059	Another organisation (Syed Ali Lettings Ltd) *	Yes	<p>If the town council can provide more joined up dealing of issues that are currently split between different groups such NHC, the Heritage Foundation, the County Council, and the BID then it could add value.</p> <p>I would be concerned though as that it doesn't increase the council tax needlessly which would put people off living here due to already very high living costs due to a lack of available accommodation.</p>
1060	Resident	Yes	Letchworth requires coordination at a town level.
1062	Resident	Yes	A town council would allow greater focus on issues specific to Letchworth especially around investment in the local economy and supporting the vulnerable.
1063	Resident	Yes	Governance of Letchworth isn't democratic enough. There needs to be more democratic accountability and control of local concerns specific to the town.
1078	Resident	Yes	I feel Letchworth has suffered since the Urban District Council was dissolved, services have suffered and I think that the special circumstances due to the Fiscal advantages of the Heritage Foundation have had a detrimental effect on the level of funding applied by NHDC when compared to over local towns.
1117	Resident	Yes	<p>Local people</p> <p>Deciding On local</p> <p>Issues is what will get Letchworth moving re</p> <p>Focussed on what will make it a better place to live, work and prosper</p>
1121	Resident	Yes	<p>It will need to work better than the previous Town Council, which concentrated its efforts to opposing existence of LGCHF. Opposition to LGCHF is needed in respect of how they operate Scheme of Management, but must be done in cooperation with other local bodies, such as Decarbonise Letchworth. There are many other concerns with which Town Council needs to engage, particularly if Hertfordshire becomes a number of Unitary authorities.</p> <p>Seems reasonable</p>
1160	Resident	Yes	
1180	Resident	Yes	To gather the grass root thoughts and concerns of the residents interested and affected by local issues.
1184	Resident	Yes	I'm not sure that we need quite that many but a town council YES
1239	Resident	Yes	I have answered 'yes' with the proviso lived in Letchworth otherwise ! would not be in favour

Responses to the public consultation

1247	Resident	Yes	As an urban area/town Letchworth's voice can be lost at a district and county level. Having a town council would give Letchworth its own voice on subjects that affect it.
1276	Resident	Yes	
1315	Resident	Yes	Anything that displaces the Heritage foundations woeful attempts at rejuvenation is welcome. Letchworth needs a clear sighted policy to focus on - i.e. homes for working people and a better retail and leisure offer in the centre. The Heritage foundation is drifting too far from the cultural aspect - a town council might rein them in.
1366	Resident	Yes	I think having smaller wards would be better, instead of say 3 councillors per ward have 1 per ward
1407	Resident	Yes	With the move to a nationwide unitary model, there is a clear risk that local democracy and accountability will be lost. Reviving this tier of government will offset what are likely to be much larger wards in a new unitary and a larger and more remote local authority than we currently have in NHDC.
1410	Resident	Yes	
1411	Resident	Yes	
1423	Resident	Yes	
1440	Resident	Yes	With the new government's proposed Local Authority reforms, I think it is imperative that the residents of Letchworth Garden City are represented by a Town Council to ensure that local matters/issues and consultations are dealt with and reviewed by the local community and elected Councillors who work on behalf of the residents.
1441	Resident	Yes	With the new government's proposed Local Authority reforms, I think it is imperative that the residents of Letchworth Garden City are represented by a Town Council to ensure that local matters/issues and consultations are dealt with and reviewed by the local community and elected Councillors who work on behalf of the residents.
1457	Resident	Yes	Would this be removing authority from the heritage foundation for approval or rejection of planning applications around house styling etc?
1462	Resident	Yes	
1463	Resident	Yes	New Town Council would benefit Letchworth.

Responses to the public consultation

1476	Resident	Yes	I think the current heritage council need someone else to be overseeing their business activities, business dealings regarding heritage buildings and green belt planning.
1478	Resident	Yes	
1490	Resident	Yes	
1492	Resident	Yes	A Letchworth town council and civil parish was previously created in 2005. The arrangement was not successful and for the following 3 years no activities were carried out by the town councillors. The councillors could find no role to fill in Letchworth. 6 councillors resigned through the futility of the whole thing. 6 new councillors were appointed by the Town Council without elections. It took many years of campaigning and consultations to abolish the town council, which was eventually achieved in March 2013. I do not understand why NHC would wish to repeat the failures of the past, where 75% of Letchworth voters supported the abolition of the then town council in 2012. I strongly disagree that a Letchworth Town council is required today, as further layers of bureaucratic governance, with their associated costs,
1560	Resident	Yes	
1578	Resident	Yes	Make it a fairer system
1633	Resident	Yes	Central Government plan on making HCC a unitary authority which means that NHDC will go - there must be a Body representing LGC which is not the current property management company masquerading as a protector of 'heritage' The voice of the people of the tow needs representation
1635	Resident	Yes	
1703	Resident	Yes	A great number of locals will make overly simplistic comments shooting down this proposal due to the increase in costs to their council tax, which is a disappointing response to an opportunity to increase democratic representation, and when a merged local authority is highly likely in the coming years. I'd be happy to pay an additional pound or so a week for the opportunity for greater accountability, the opportunity to enhance local services and to increase the community representation for our area. I hope the folks that respond no provide additional justification other than an increase in costs - we need more democracy these days, not less.

Responses to the public consultation

1720	Resident	Yes	I am saying yes with the proviso that the Counsellors live in Letchworth
1745	Resident	Yes	I am new to the area and would like to be informed about local affairs.
1761	Resident	Yes	It sounds like a good plan
1775	Resident	Yes	
1837	Resident	Yes	I want guarantees that decisions are made specifically for Letchworth and the immediate area, not subject to decisions made for example regarding Stevenage or Hatfield which have quite different demographics, needs and issues.
1877	Resident	Yes	I think it would be good to get decisions made locally closed to the area they effect
1968	Resident	Yes	With local towns all getting Parish Councils I feel it would be detrimental to Letchworth not to follow suit.
2166	Resident	Yes	The number of representatives reflects the growing population and is necessary due to the abolition of the District Council and the move to a larger unitary authority. I fear local accountability will be more remote and less able to understand and respond to the needs of the town without a Town Council.
2227	Resident	Yes	A Town Council would be good for the people of Letchworth, but it would need for the Heritage Foundation to be brought into the 21st. century and be wholly democratically elected, as with only 20% the governors elected by Letchworth residents it is basically a quango. History has shown that a Town Council would be short lived when up against a body with superior power and finances, especially concerning some issues where there is an overlap of governance
E/002	Resident	No	<p>In Letchworth GC we have national government, Herts County Council, North Herts Council and of course the Heritage Foundation which is enough. Indeed the Heritage foundation seems to me to be at odds with the elected authorities.</p> <p>However, to add another tier of elected councillors and further increase the rates appears to exacerbate the rising costs of living. To evaluate the proposal properly we should be appraised of the services these new "councils" will provide to justify the proposed increase in rates, and give details of the amount of revenue that this will accrue to the NHFC</p>

Responses to the public consultation

E/003	Resident	No	<p>You have asked for comments on whether or not residents would like to have a new Town Council in Letchworth. My response is that any proposal that increases the Council Tax at the present time is not a good idea. The leaflet I have mentions 13 Town Councillors. Even if these are volunteers presumably, they would be entitled to claim expenses – times 13.</p> <p>I also recall that we did have a Town Council for a short period within the last 20 years. Certain parties felt so strongly about the cost of it to the tax payers that they mounted a successful campaign to abolish it. So why do we need to go down that road again?</p>
E/004	Resident	No	<p>From the above you will conclude that I am personally Regarding the suggested Town Council for Letchworth I can only say that I consider it a totally lunatic idea.</p> <p>We live in increasingly straitened circumstances, and I doubt whether things will ever improve in view of both local and global considerations; to suggest an extra layer of non-productive governance would be plausible in times of milk and honey, but now???</p>
E/005	Resident	No	<p>No new Town Council for Letchworth</p> <p>1) We had Letchworth Town Council that was disbanded 2) The Council Tax is increasing year by year 3) Currently we are paying over £2800 per year on Band E 4) Electricity bill up 5) gas x electricity gone up 6) Car Tax Up 7) Income Tax up</p>

LILLEY

Election dates				N Cllrs	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason

Responses to the public consultation

167	Resident	No	We don't need any more cost! The cost of the leaflets, the completion of the review, (and I KNOW how long it takes to craft questions - and surveys such as this), and then the cost of implementing subsequent changes, should they go through are completely unnecessary. Current councillors need to concentrate on their task in hand.	Yes	Numbers of councillors are too high anyway. We never see ours either! PS question 15 has been repeated further above in the survey, at least twice. That must have taken ages to create.
277	Resident	No	This exercise is costing money when other areas are experiencing cuts - believe us when we said no 10 or so years ago.	No	
365	Resident	No	NO.	Yes	I would be in favour of doing away with all the other councils (parish and town) apart from the main council. Then there is one place for customer to get everything resolved.
414	Resident	No	I don't see why things need to change in this area it just seems to be changed for change sake it's just gonna cost money.	Yes	Songs it's an odd number so they can make a decision I don't care they students seem to be making decisions about things are that great I don't know who makes a decisions to remove bins for example.
503	Resident	No		No	
914	Resident	No		Yes	
915	Resident	No		Yes	
968	Resident	No	The additional costs will provide no additional service	Yes	
1006	Resident	No	I want the right to reelect or change every 4 years	No	Local views should be encouraged
1223	Resident	No	Again, I have seen no projection on how this will affect local services or their funding.	No	Again, I have seen no projection on how this will affect local services or their funding.
1631	Resident	No		Yes	
1691	Resident	No		No	
822	Resident	Yes		Yes	
826	Resident	Yes	I feel that recent developments in the ethics of modern politicians, or lack thereof, have highlighted the total lack of accountability in british politics. Having but one vote every 5 years to send a message to elected officials is pointless. One vote every four years is equally pointless, but it's a step in the right direction.	No	More people, more diversity of opinion. More councillors gives the people more chances to overcome a dishonest or biased council.
894	Resident	Yes	not bothered either way	Yes	
962	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1150	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1362	Resident	Yes	Have less elections, making it simpler and more cost effective	Yes	To reduce costs
1637	Resident	Yes		No	

Responses to the public consultation

1732	Resident	Yes		Yes	
553	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1059	Another organisation (Syed Ali Lettings Ltd) *	Yes	Having the electoral cycle fall in line with NH District elections would encourage greater participation since people would be voting already.	Yes	It would reduce overheads and improve focus.
1060	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1703	Resident	Yes		Yes	
E/006	Resident	Yes	1. To change election dates to be in line with NHC elections – agree 2. To reduce the number of parish councillors to 5 – disagree for the reasons below: The Parish Council should remain with 7 Councillors to prevent the higher risk of inquorate meetings should the number be reduced to 5 and also to prevent more pressure being put on fewer Councillors in respect of projects they may carry out.	No	1. To change election dates to be in line with NHC elections – agree 2. To reduce the number of parish councillors to 5 – disagree for the reasons below: The Parish Council should remain with 7 Councillors to prevent the higher risk of inquorate meetings should the number be reduced to 5 and also to prevent more pressure being put on fewer Councillors in respect of projects they may carry out.

NUTHAMPSTEAD

ID	Capacity	Response	Reason
2104	Resident	No	Nuthampstead presently only has a parish meeting, not a parish council. If we are moving to unitary authorities, parish meetings may not be an effective way for the voice of the community to be heard at the larger unitary authority level. I would suggest either creating a grouped parish council for Barkway and Nuthampstead, or formally merging Nuthampstead back into Barkway parish. Barkway Parish Council and Nuthampstead Parish Meeting have worked together for some time, notably on the creation of the Barkway and Nuthampstead Neighbourhood Plan. Nuthampstead was also historically part of the parish of Barkway, and remains so for ecclesiastical purposes. It only became a civil parish in 1866 because it was a hamlet which had its own overseer of the poor - the legal definition of civil parish was changed in 1866 to be the areas used for the

OFFLEY

		Election dates		N Cllrs	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
13	Parish/Town Councillor (Offley Parish)	No	Reduction would hamper good representation in the PC, there appears to be no fiscal reason for reduction as Parish Councillors are not paid	No	As above
17	Resident	No	Parish councils are very important to us residents they are critical to the local infrastructure and indeed they could do with having more powers over affairs that affect their local residents as I feel county councillors do not do much a bit like central government.	No	
83	Parish/Town Councillor (Offley Parish Council)	No	We have a healthy PC all are volunteers there is no financial gain in reducing the number of councillors.	No	The current number of councillors allows a spread of the workload.
87	Parish/Town Councillor (Offley Parish Council)	No	Whilst I understand cost cutting measures, this idea has no relevance as we are all volunteers! Wether there are 7 or 9 makes no difference at all, just a stronger team looking after our parish.	No	See above
94	Resident	No		No	
1906	Resident	No	I think 5 years is too long, even if it only happens once	Yes	If they cannot fight for their constituents like ours was regarding an issue that will devastate the area forever. was he could not speak on our behalf. So is there any point
11	Parish or Town council (Offley Parish Council)	Yes	It all makes sense	No	All councillors are volunteers and unpaid. Cannot see what the changes will gain for a Parish Council
20	Resident	Yes		Yes	
72	Resident	Yes		No	It would be helpful to understand the rationale for this
116	Parish/Town Councillor (Offley Parish Council)	Yes		No	We function very well as a Parish Council, we are all volunteers so it costs nothing to have the number we currently have and we are one of the few PCs which are always Quorate and do not have a problem recruiting. Why break something which does not need fixing? Also please note that as volunteers many of us are employed full time so having the number of Parish Councillors we have means we can always have somebody available for committee meetings, projects, and liaising with the local residents

Responses to the public consultation

1175	Resident	Yes	Makes sense to run the two together but will there be North Herts District elections in 2032?	No	Cannot see an explanation/reasoning for reducing the number from 9 to 7. Those representing the Parish do it on a voluntary unpaid basis. Spend their own time dealing with queries, plans, etc. etc.
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PIRTON

Election dates				N Cllrs	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
83	Parish/Town Councillor (Offley Parish Council)	No	It's not necessary, we are a busy PC and have a lot of work with the Developers, around Cockernhoe.	No	
122	District Councillor	Yes		Yes	
59	Resident	Yes		No	
155	Parish/Town Councillor (Pirton Parish Council)	Yes		No	We currently have 7 councillors and really need more to cover all the areas of work we are responsible for. We are very active and want to recruit new councillors, especially younger residents from the new estates and reducing the number of councillors to 7 would prevent this. Current councillors all have many areas of responsibility. For example, I am a councillor, a trustee of the Bury Trust and a representative on the Pirton Village Hall committee. We need more councillors, not less, and we do all this work voluntarily for the village at no cost. It makes no sense what so ever to reduce the number of councillors.
1466	Resident	Yes	This could encourage people to vote in Parish Council Elections if it is couple with the district elections. Currently it is difficult to get people to vote in parish council elections.	No	I can't see any need for this. In reality a number of councils operate at below the 'required' level and I fear if that if it is reduced it will end up with less people coming forward. In addition there are increasing duties and responsibilities for Parish Councils so more councilors helps spread the considerable workload.

Responses to the public consultation

1716	Parish/Town Councillor (Pirton Parish Council)	Yes	No	We are a very active Parish and as such have many things/tasks which we Councillors do. As volunteers we don't all have time to do everything and so reducing the number of Parish Councillors from 9 to 7 will squeeze those tasks and mean that we can't provide the same level of service as our Parishioners have come to expect. As the council is not paying for our services, it seems illogical as to why you would wish to reduce our numbers - even though we only currently have filled 7 or our places in the past we have had a full quota
1796	Resident	Yes	Yes	
1888	Resident	Yes	It seems sensible to align the elections.	Yes
				Pirton PC has struggled to find councillors for a number of years, resulting in uncontested elections, which are not ideal.

Responses to the public consultation

1969	Parish or Town council (The Pirton Parish Council) *	Yes	No	<p>Pirton Parish Council indicated in the first consultation on NHDC's Community Governance Review that we wished to retain 9 Council seats that we have now. The NHDC has responded with proposals to reduce the number of elected Councillors to 7.</p> <p>We wish nonetheless to retain 9 places, for the reasons we give below.</p> <p>We have considered the paper that constitutes the consultation paper, particularly paragraphs 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.10, and 8.10. So, we will address the approach to be taken under the Local Government and Public Health Involvement Act 2007, and the government guideline/ advice on these matters.</p> <p>First of all, we note that there should be regard "to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and is effective and convenient." (LG Act 2007).</p> <p>The Government Guidance notes that the identities and interests of communities should be identified before the governance arrangements are considered. We will endeavour to assist NHDC on this.</p> <p>Finally, the aim of a Community Governance Review is to ensure that communities' governance arrangements are appropriate at a local level, recognising the different situations within each area and then assess the appropriate number of councillors, ensuring comparability between areas, though not</p>
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PRESTON

Election dates				N Cllrs	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
2176	Resident	No	Fine as is	Yes	5 should be Sufficient for a small area like this

Responses to the public consultation

2045	Resident	Yes		No	As the village population increases so does the need to fully represent the diversity of community - as well as divide the increased work load on councillors. 7 councillors mean meeting quorates are easier to obtain which reduce rescheduling meetings.
2149	Resident	Yes		No	For a small committee of 5 this would mean if anyone is on holiday/ill, it would be a struggle to be chorate and important decisions would need to be deferred
2150	Resident	Yes		No	5 does not give enough people to share out roles to and it also means that if people have to give apologies and not be able to make a meeting then due to not sufficient meeting numbers meetings / decisions may then be delayed. 5 councillors does not allow for enough flexibility or contingency or sufficient cross section of views
2151	Resident	Yes		No	
2152	Resident	Yes	I am supporting of reverting to a 4 yearly term	No	The roles of Parish Councillor is a demand on the time of those who kindly volunteer to perform this role for and on behalf of their communities. With only 5 Councillors, that is a significant increase in workload from 7 to 5 hands to help. It will also challenge the ability to ensure quorum for meetings - things come up! I don't understand the rationale for a reduction in a non-paid position and am not supportive of this proposed change
2153	Resident	Yes	I am supportive of this proposal	No	The roles of Parish Councillor is a demand on the time of those who kindly volunteer to perform this role for their communities. With only 5 Councillors, that is a significant increase in workload from 7 to 5 hands to help. It will also challenge the ability for Quorum meetings - things come up! I am not supportive of this proposed change

Responses to the public consultation

2154	Resident	Yes	No objections as a 'one-off'.	No	It is more likely that meetings won't be quorate if some Parish Councillors send their apologies. This could result in delays in key decisions. Seven Parish Councillors mean that individual tasks can be shared more widely and equitably to balance the workload. Seven Parish Councillors enables a wider representation from our growing, diverse community, allowing a broader range of views, backgrounds and experiences to be aired and heard. The PHC development will increase the number of residents in the parish.
2156	Resident	Yes		No	
2158	Resident	Yes		No	Every councillor may not be able to attend every meeting so limiting the number to 5 only could jeopardise a quorum.
2159	Resident	Yes		No	Prefer breadth of representation
2167	Resident	Yes		No	
2168	Resident	Yes		No	The work of the parish councillors can be shared among more people and gives greater diversity.
2171	Resident	Yes	Simplify admin.	Yes	Given the number of residents 5 councillors seems sufficient.
2172	Resident	Yes		No	More Councillors help spread the workload and easy to form a quorum
2174	Resident	Yes		Yes	Reducing the number of parish Councillors will make the running, governance and decision making of the Council more efficient and less of a talking shop. The quality of each Parish Councillor is vitally important to deliver successful outcomes.
2183	Resident	Yes		No	
2191	Resident	Yes		No	A greater number of Councillors will avoid delayed meetings, spread the workload more efficiently, and maintain a diverse representation. I have not seen any argument in favour of a reduction in the number of Councillors.
2200	Resident	Yes	Logical	No	Better representation with seven and less chance of a low turnout
2205	Resident	Yes		No	

Responses to the public consultation

2233	Parish or Town council (Preston Parish Council) *	Yes	No	<p>It is more likely that meetings won't be quorate if some Parish Councillors send their apologies. This could result in delays in key decisions on Parish Council business.</p> <p>Seven Parish Councillors mean that individual tasks can be shared more widely and equitably to balance the workload.</p> <p>Seven Parish Councillors enables a wider representation from our growing, diverse community, allowing a broader range of views, backgrounds and experiences to be aired and heard.</p> <p>The PHC development will increase the number of residents in the parish, therefore there is likely to be more work for Parish Councillors.</p>
2237	Resident	Yes	No	<p>•It is more likely that meetings won't be quorate if some Parish Councillors send their apologies. This could result in delays in key decisions on Parish Council business.</p> <p>•Seven Parish Councillors mean that individual tasks can be shared more widely and equitably to balance the workload.</p> <p>•A new development of 69 dwellings in Preston will increase the number of residents in the parish, therefore there is likely to be more work for Parish Councillors.</p>

RADWELL

ID	Capacity	Response	Reason
734	Resident	No	Theres is a lot of fly-tipping in Radwell. He believes it will encourage further fly -tipping.

REED

Election dates			
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason
99	Resident	Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

1394	Resident	Yes	It makes sense to move things in line with NHDC elections and is less confusing for residents.
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ROYSTON							
Warding				N Cllrs		Election dates	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
100	Resident	No		No		No	
993	Resident	No	To have one ward as opposed to several, would mean matters would not be addressed quickly enough. Two years waiting until 2026 and 2028 and thereafter is denying the public of their democratic vote. Urgent matters could be missed and bureaucracy could occur.	No	Adequate numbers of councillors need to be available to cover the work adequately.	No	No I am not in favour of elections being moved as residents are not being given their democratic right to vote every year.
1084	Parish/Town Councillor (Royston town council) *	No	Being a town councillor for 3 years I believe this should stay the same. 15 councilors are needed as sometimes they can't make it and you need 5 to go ahead with a meeting 🗳️	No	As above these have worked for many years why change and confuse locals?	Yes	This makes sense to go inline with the general elections but again could get confusing for the older generation!
1088	Parish/Town Councillor (Town Council)	No	Our Royston Town is growing with more residential developments so we needs more councillors to voice out the concerns about the town .	No	Councillor will find it easier to reach to the people.	No	
1137	Resident	No	We need representatives that understand the local area, in keeping with the scales and demographics of that area.	No	We need diversity of representation, reducing the number of councillors is a barrier to that diversity.	Yes	
1465	Resident	No		No		Yes	
1613	Resident	No	As a Royston resident this change really could affect the councillor decision 15 is needed I believe.	No	Going short on councillors, 15 better number for decisions.	Yes	This makes sense!
4	Parish/Town Councillor (Royston Town Council)	Yes	Yes. Currently Heath ward has been split at town level but there seems to have been little benefit from this. There had been a proposal to change the boundaries and have some one member wards which seemed inappropriate.	Yes	Whilst the council largely seems to manage to fill 15 seats the level of engagement of those councillors varies significantly. I don't believe having several councillors who turn up to meetings every few months benefits the community. Also for the 2022 elections Meridian ward was uncontested. Other wards had no more than 2 candidates who weren't elected. For 15 seats there were only 21 candidates. Furthermore in recent months there have been a number of meetings which have been inquorate. Reducing the number to 12 should address some of these issues.	Yes	Elections are expensive to hold and residents often have less awareness of when local elections take place. Aligning the election cycles would mitigate both of these points somewhat. If unitary authorities are introduced this should be reviewed.

Responses to the public consultation

⁷ Resident	Yes	This makes sense and provides some continuity to the varying levels of local government.		It's not clear why this recommendation is necessary. If it is a result of the ward realignment and a desire to make the number of town councillors in wards aligned with ward population, then I am in favour of this.	Yes	This feels like a sensible 'bridging' proposal to get to the desired full alignment between town and district council election cycles.
²³ Parish/Town Councillor (Royston Town Council)	Yes	This is simpler for residents to understand and makes elections more straightforward to organise. In practice Town Councillors represent the whole town rather than a particular area.	Yes	For the last 2 years there have been 2 Councillors that attend one meeting every 6 months and several more that attend only 3-4 times per year. In practice most of the work is undertaken by 6-8 Councillors. All parties have difficulty attracting candidates and in 2022 the Meridian Ward was uncontested. There have also been several committee meetings in the last 2 years which have been inquorate. Reducing the numbers to fewer Councillors who are committed to undertake the role would lead to better attendance. Too many Councillors leads to a democratic deficit and I think in practice Royston Town Council would work well with 10-12 Councillors	Yes	More cost effective and likely to lead to a better turnout if Town & District elections are held at the same time.
²⁶ Resident	Yes	Fewer the better	Yes	Few the better	Yes	Fewer the better
³³ Resident	Yes	It seems like a logical change	Yes		Yes	
⁶² Resident	Yes	Cuts out more council needless spend.	Yes		Yes	
⁸² Resident	Yes		Yes		Yes	
¹⁰⁷ Parish/Town Councillor (Royston Town Council)	Yes	Too many wards with names the electorate don't identify with. Using same wards as district makes more sense.	Yes	All parties struggle to find 15 candidates at election time and we end up with people elected who don't really want to be councillors, resulting in all the work being done by a small number of dedicated members.	Yes	This would result in huge savings in manpower and resources. More likely to be a higher turnout of electors.
¹⁰⁸ Resident	Yes		Yes		Yes	
¹¹⁸ Resident	Yes	The recommendation avoids future confusion	Yes	Ideally I would suggest reducing the number of town councillors further from 15 to 10 Heath 3 Meridian 4 Palace 3	Yes	
¹¹⁹ Resident	Yes		Yes		Yes	
⁹⁰¹ Resident	Yes	The current situation is confusing to everyone	No	As an ex town cllr - sadly many of those elected to this position do not actually do very much. Its very hard to communicate this with the public - it's not really a political issue just a people one. We need more people elected who are able and willing to do things. Reducing numbers of cllrs will not aid in this.	Yes	Simpler and cheaper all round. Town Council election turnout is low anyway.
¹⁰⁵¹ Resident	Yes		Yes		Yes	

Responses to the public consultation

1165	Resident	Yes	Easier for people to understand if same as District Council wards	Yes	Thirteen should be maximum, 10-12 better for a town size of Royston. (Hitchin much bigger and proposal is 13). Two councillors in Royston turn up once every six months, most of the work is done by a minority of councillors and a number of meetings have been inquorate because RTP members don't turn up. Let's have a smaller number of councillors who actually want to serve on the Town Council	Yes	Saves money and more people might actually vote
1248	Resident	Yes	Such an arrangement would mean that there was an elected team focussed on a particular section of the town and therefore responsible. In the current system, residents are confused about who to approach.	Yes	There are too many councillors on the town council. Also, it is possible for the people elected not to grasp their responsibilities. Fewer members would mean fewer chances to hide and just parade the badge, because with election comes duty.	Yes	Two reasons: Economy-elections can be expensive and it would be more efficient to run them alongside each other. Democracy- residents are in danger of election fatigue and so it is more democratic to encourage as many people to vote as possible to ensure true representation by having fewer, more meaningful elections
1898	Resident	Yes		Yes		Yes	
2155	District Councillor	Yes	It is sensible to align the boundaries with district boundaries. It is simpler for residents and easier to administrate. The previously proposed single member wards would create a situation where less than 2% of the town elected 15% of its councillors.	Yes	13 councillors is plenty to run an effective council for a town of this size, and the 4/5/4 division across wards is the most even on a per voter basis. Fewer vacancies also increases the chance of competitive elections in each ward which (within reason) is better for local democracy and accountability	Yes	It is important to get this done for 2026 so that the election can be held on the new boundaries rather than the old ones. 2028 should be reviewed once the timelines for local government reorganisation are known (e.g. if a shadow unitary election is held in 2027, there may not be an NHDC election in 2028)

RUSHDEN AND WALLINGTON

Boundaries				Election dates	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason

Responses to the public consultation

1671	Resident	No	<p>We have lived in Redhill for nearly 30 years and are fully integrated into Sandon Parish and feel they represent our interests fully in all appropriate matters. Wallington has not shown any interest in Redhill, including those already in their Parish. (Eg exclusion from the Wallington Plan)The current arrangement works well. Sandon PC has openly welcomed Redhill residents to events such as Golden Jubilee, Coronation and the upcoming VE celebrations.</p> <p>Concerns we have are:</p> <p>Whose idea was this? Residents were never consulted and are happy with the status quo and enjoy the quirkiness of a small hamlet being in 3 different Parishes.</p> <p>How will we be represented on the Wallington PC, as there will continue to be only 2 Councillors for Wallington? Redhill residents have been Councillors on Sandon PC, none have sat on Rushden & Wallington PC. Sandon has always protected the interest of our hamlet and ensured inappropriate developments don't happen, what are Wallington's plan to continue to protect Redhill?</p> <p>If there has to be change, and I don't believe there does, why is Redhill not moving into Sandon parish, where the majority of the village already sit? Was this option ever considered? If not why not? And if so, why was it rejected?</p> <p>What are the financial implications for Redhill residents re different precept/ council tax charges?</p>	Yes	
51	Resident	No	<p>Not to move the boundary.</p> <p>No splitting up.</p>	Yes	<p>Request electronic email elections.</p> <p>Paperless</p>

Responses to the public consultation

1711	Resident	No	Up until this survey there has been no consultancy about the proposed changes with any Redhill residents. The change seems completely unnecessary, and there are no obvious benefits to residents of Redhill. At the very least the council needs to provide a detailed review of the benefits and the negatives. Redhill is currently very well supported by Sandon council, and it does not seem to make sense to move to Wallington when the parish council is smaller, thus reducing the time that can be spent supporting Redhill residents. There are a number of questions that need to be addressed including: 1) How will this impact council tax levels and the parish council precepts? 2) Will Redhill be added to the Wallington Plan? 3) What are the benefits to residents of Redhill? 4) Why is this being proposed when the current split between Sandon and Wallington works perfectly well? 5) How much will this change cost the parish council eg printing of the draft	No	
1728	Resident	No	It works as it is and makes us unique. The boundary is down the middle of the road.	Yes	
659	Resident	Yes	it makes sense but i do not know the rationale for it. what do RW and SW refer to and the map does not appear to represent the whole of redhill, possibly inaccurate. there should be more representatives as more people to represent.	Yes	providing only this once
995	Resident	Yes	We are on the side of the road that is in Wallington parish already. I relate to Wallington closely not Sandon	Yes	

SANDON

Boundaries				N Cllrs		Election dates	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
247	Resident	No	at present there are only a few houses in the Wallington Parish from Redhill and far more within Sandon Parish, why move them to Wallington instead of Sandon?	No	Although it is a small community, having the availability for 6 councillors, allows the opportunity for future parishioners to stand rather than be limited. It may not be well manned at present but I am hopeful for the future	Yes	
1758	Parish/Town Councillor (Sandon Parish Council)	No	A vote by Redhill residents was made and they wanted to remain with Sandon	No	We are happy to retain the current 6 available places	Yes	Makes sense for elections to mirror NHDC elections

Responses to the public consultation

1762	Resident	No		No	Yes	It works well at the moment
1927	Resident	No	I cannot see any reason for the change. Surely this would create work and unnecessary costs.	No	Yes	It make sense to align the elections.
2122	Resident	No	I live in Redhill and our house is currently in the Sandon parish. We have lived here over 25 years and from the very start were warmly welcomed by Sandon and its parishioners. I have also served on Sandon Parish Council and again was welcomed into that position and for the duration of my tenure I felt I represented the whole of Redhill in part because those in Walliington parish (on the other side of the road) had little / no communication from that parish and I think that situation still persists today. Given this , I do not wish to 'move' into Wallington Parish but remain where we are. Sandon parishioners invite us to all parish celebrations and events and consult with us on all planning issues especially those pertaining to the old 'chicken farm' - we have never felt forgotten. Personally I like the quirkiness and history of this situation and do not believe it adds any extra expense to anyone. I would be very disappointed if we moved to Wallington and see no reason to change the current	No	Yes	I cannot see any reason for the change. I could understand if there was a financial saving, however, Sandon Parish Councillors do not get paid. I would like it to stay at 6 and give an opportunity for Redhill to be represented as is currently the case.

ST IPPOLYTS

Boundaries				N Cllrs	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
1446	Resident	No	St. Ippolyts parish council has served us well and I choose to let that continue	No	Keep the number of parish councillors at 8 with St. Ippolyts North and South represented by an equal number.
1782	Resident	No	Our parish council is effective as it stands. Being on the edge of Hitchin, we are semi rural and enjoy the link to St Ippolyts. It may that if NHDC are determined to adjust the boundary then property to the north of Blackhorse Lane and Newlands Lane should become part of Hitchin but not south thereof.	Yes	
1984	Resident	No	not needed	No	keep the balance

Responses to the public consultation

1987	Resident	No	<p>St Ippolyts North is already in Hitchin Priory Ward and has been for many years. North ward would no longer be part of the St Ippolyts community and residents would not have any voice on local matters, concerns with school places etc. Parish Council owns 2 small open spaces in North ward.</p> <p>If Hitchin Town Council formed North ward residents would pay precept to that. South ward precept would have to be increased to cover the loss of North ward.</p> <p>The parish should be kept intact</p>	No	<p>Seems most odd to reduce the number of willing elected volunteers. Not good for the community.</p>
2147	Resident	No	<p>These proposals would have an adverse impact on the residents of St Ippolyts South ward, who would have to bear the whole cost of the leisure and green space facilities owned and operated by the Parish Council.</p> <p>The residents of St Ippolyts North Ward do not identify as Hitchin residents, but consider themselves to be an integral part of the Gosmore and St Ippolyts community and Parish.</p> <p>There is no effective democratic cost saving in the proposals as Parish Councillors are unpaid and volunteer their services to the community</p>	No	<p>There is no benefit in cost savings or efficiency in either of these proposals.</p> <p>Parish Councillors are unpaid. By reducing the numbers available to serve, the workload on members can only increase as fewer to share the burden. It is unnecessary and will not enhance competition for a seat</p>
31	Resident	No		Yes	
112	Resident	No	<p>I am not sure why we are being asked about this boundary before the consultation on Hitchin Town Council is resolved. Which boundary line is being used, is the New Pound Farm development included in the move, it is not at all clear on the small map provided</p> <p>I don't see what benefit is derived from reducing the number of volunteer spaces available on the current St Ippolyts Parish Council.</p> <p>Can you please provide the logic for numbers of Parish Councillors, is this based on Household and so how many households are in each ward?</p>	No	<p>There is not enough information about why this change is being made, the detail of the boundary line, the number of households involved and the benefits for residents, if I understood the detail I might have a different view,</p> <p>the proposed change has been very poorly communicated with no presentations to the St Ippolyts residents of the logic for the change</p>
166	Parish/Town Councillor (St. Ippolyts)	No	<p>The residents in North ward are proud to be part of St. Ippolyts. For some, it also gives them the opportunity for them, or their children to move further into the village</p>	No	<p>This makes no sense at all. Nearly half the ward but reduce to 7 councillors, or keep it the same but do the same. It works very well with 8 councillors and allows each of us to be able to contribute without becoming overwhelmed.</p> <p>Why reduce the number of unpaid volunteers who want to assist their parish?</p>
229	Resident	No		No	

Responses to the public consultation

241	Resident	No	Ignore the answer above. I am neither for nor against. How do you expect anyone to make an informed choice when the only consequence you mention is reducing councilors from 8-7 in BOTH cases, which is completely irrelevant to me anyway. What are the real implications??? I only wanted to complete this survey to express my frustration at the useless info provided!	No	?????
248	Resident	No	I'm happy with the support & services from St Ippolyts parish council & the community feel it engenders.	Yes	Reduce the number of Parish Councillors if the move to Hitchin does NOT go ahead.
261	Resident	No		No	
263	Resident	No		No	
348	Resident	No		No	
349	Resident	No	The St Ippolyts ward in its current form operates perfectly well, so why change it?	No	What is the rationale for reducing parish Councillors?
534	Resident	No	St Ippolyts is not Hitchin. I know we are close geographically, but the needs and wants of the village are its own, and shouldn't be lumped in with the closest Town.	No	A yes / no answer here isn't really sufficient - I don't know what's driving the requirement to reduce the number of parish councillors (especially since they're voluntary and not paid?). However, since less people would mean less representation of the village's interests, then no - I'd rather there were more and the number stayed at 8
547	Resident	No	St Ippolyts North ward has been part of St Ippolyts as long as I have lived here (over 30 years), like many local residents I regard myself as a village person and have chosen to live as part of a village and not part of a town. I value the chance to have my voice heard in all matters that pertain to my village, if I was represented by a town council (or just the county) I do not feel that my voice would have such impact I would be a much smaller piece in a very much larger entity. I also feel that to remove the north ward from St Ippolyts Parish would be a disaster for St Ippolyts, by reducing it's size, and therefore it's precept it would be next to impossible for the Parish Council to achieve anything other than bin emptying and grass cutting .	No	I believe that 8 councillors gives a greater opportunity for a range of ideas to be expressed. If this was reduced the burden on each councillor would be greater and the chances of meetings not being quorate would increase.
569	Resident	No	I prefer to have a dedicated ward for St Ippolyts	No	Would like to maintain the number of councillors as is.
727	Resident	No		No	

Responses to the public consultation

781	Resident	No	I don't think this would be the best way to allow the views of the local community to be represented.	No	Unless there is a struggle to fill the roles, I think the more people we have the better
783	Resident	No		No	
1054	Resident	No	Don't reduce the number of councillors if you don't move the area to another ward. Simply, don't reduce the number of councillors since there are more houses built in the area and the number of residents taken away from St Ippolyts North will be replaced by the new ones anyway.	No	Don't reduce the number of councillors if you don't move the area to another ward. Simply, don't reduce the number of councillors since there are more houses built in the area and the number of residents taken away from St Ippolyts North will be replaced by the new ones anyway.
1096	Resident	No		No	
1135	Resident	No	Having lived in the area for over 30 years, I do not wish this proposal to go ahead. I prefer to be aligned with St Ippolytt's parish council and feel that they have more vested interest in the area and are able to respond more quickly to issues local to this area.	No	I do not support these changes as I have not seen sufficient evidence to justify the change.
1235	Resident	No	We require a more localised approach	No	We require a more localised approach
1427	Resident	No	I do not agree with having a town council - just another layer of bureaucracy and cost. I live in St Ippolyts and do not wish to be moved to Hitchin just so that a pointless town council can be established	No	
1470	Resident	No		No	
1530	Resident	No	I feel very much part of the St Ippolyts village community and I'm happy with the status quo. I want to remain being part of a lovely village that I have lived in for 30 years, I'm a Governor at St Ippolyts School and want to remain within the village politically. I don't want our Community to be subsumed within Hitchin and can see no benefit to the village from the change.	No	Why change what isn't broken? Our parish councillors work hard for our village and represent all of us well
1561	Resident	No	It's a question primarily of identity: people in the area south of Blackhorse Lane/Newlands Lane, including the Broadmeadow estate, identify strongly with St Ippolyts, participate in and support village activities, and often moved to this area precisely because it is part of St Ippolyts, rather than Hitchin. There would also probably be some practical losses, such as reduced rates for using the village hall, etc. We are proud to be part of the historic village of St Ippolyts and would be sorry to see this change	Yes	This does seem to follow logically from the proposed change, though as noted above, I would be very sad to see the change go ahead.
1607	Resident	No	It's a village and parish and not part of Hitchin. This will also negatively affect the catchment of st Ippolyts school	Yes	
1654	Resident	No	St Ippolyts should remain as an independent parish and not be swallowed into Hitchin	Yes	N/A

Responses to the public consultation

1659	Resident	No	The parish council here is independently run and done with pride in and care for the small community of st ippes and Gosmore. I feel merging with the larger community of hitchin would be detrimental for the residents of our villages. With the smaller matters getting lost in a much larger 'space'	No	Why do we need to reduce the number of councillors? I don't understand the need to change this.
1792	Resident	No	We are a separate village with very different needs to a large town like Hitchin. We are a rural area whose parish councillors have served us very well over the years and who have made good decisions for their local village area	No	We need diversity in representation and parish councillors give us that
1854	Resident	No	Local rural community needs rural based representation. Issues will be subsumed into a Town based community. Important to recognise differences in communities.	Yes	
1859	Resident	No	The parish of St Ippolyts Should remain intact and not split	No	There should be no reduction in Councillors if St Ippolyts is not divided
1866	Resident	No	Prefer to stay as whole Parish of St. Ippolyts which is much better for keeping community together	No	There would seem to be plenty of work for all of them and it is good to have a number of views
1867	Resident	No	I think it important to keep St Ippolyts Village communicating together within the Parish.	Yes	More likely to reach decisions
1892	Resident	No		No	
1895	Resident	No	Keep the parish of St Ippolyts as a rural parish do not take half and include it in Hltchin	No	Keep the parish council volunteers the same as before
1901	Resident	No	I feel our needs are well catered for by the Parish council, I believe becoming part of a larger organisation will dilute my ability to get the small things done and I do not believe that the services that we receive from the parish council would be a priority for a Town council. Local government review will most likely abolish a Hitchin Town council so any move would be pointless and a waste of resources.	No	The Parish council functions perfectly well as it is
1903	Resident	No	If this move takes place the only benefits will be to people living in hitchin not st, ippolyts	No	No comment
1907	Resident	No	This would split the parish in two and leave St Ippolyts South financially unsustainable. It makes no sense whatsoever and is fundamentally undemocratic as no residents want this.	No	Why? It is an outrageous waste of public money to launch these consultations for proposals which you don't even bother to explain the rationale for!
1908	Resident	No		No	
1914	Resident	No		No	
1915	Resident	No		No	

Responses to the public consultation

1928	Resident	No	This feels a little divisive for the more rural parts of St Ippolyts. The concern being that St Ippolyts benefits from a joined up approach with Hitchin, and that's less likely to occur if the remaining area is less a part of the residential Hitchin community.	No	This feels a little divisive for the more rural parts of St Ippolyts. The concern being that St Ippolyts benefits from a joined up approach with Hitchin, and that's less likely to occur if the remaining area is less a part of the residential Hitchin community.
1934	Resident	No	As residents who have a parish council committed to high maintenance and communication for all aspects of community facilities and rural aspects of this parish I can see no reason to change same. This will result in loss of councillors who work at no cost and loss of budget that could mean the level of service goes down. A lose lose for all	No	I don't want to be effected by a Hitchin council that will have little interest or time to address the many sometimes quite small but important issues that our parish council deal with. The councillors are not paid and give their time to help the community there is no justification to reduce their numbers.
1935	Resident	No	We will not get any where near the same level of attention that our local parish council provide potentially the loss of budget from the north ward will have serious effects on the ability of our council to run and maintain all our local facilities	No	This proposal has not been properly thought through the councillors give their time with no cost because they are committed to keeping the parish in good order and maintaining all rural aspects of same
1941	Resident	No	The local Parish Council do sterling work in protecting the interests of local residents.	No	
1942	Resident	No	St Ippolyts is a very distinct community with separate concerns from Hitchin and its needs and voice would be subservient to those of Hitchin	No	North and South should have equal representation and no reduction if it is mixed for the reasons set out previously
1948	Resident	No	Extra layer of administration controlled by well meaning but amateur representation will add extra costs and achieve no improvements. The administrative process can not currently run our libraries, bin services, dumps, lighting etc; adding layers will not improve matters.	No	Extra layer of administration controlled by well meaning but amateur representation will add extra costs and achieve no improvements. The administrative process can not currently run our libraries, bin services, dumps, lighting etc; adding layers will not improve matters.
1966	Resident	No	I would like to keep st.ippolyts together	No	
1979	Resident	No	I think St Ippolyts will be better managed at a local level	No	All parish councillors are volunteers, surely the more we have that are willing to give their time and opinions to help shape the community the better. I don't understand why you would reduce the number
1990	Resident	No	St Ippolyts Parish should remain in intact as one civil parish.	No	The number of parish councillors should remain at 8.
1994	Resident	No		No	
1995	Resident	No		No	
1996	Resident	No		No	
1997	Resident	No	Please don't split this rural community.	No	

Responses to the public consultation

1998	Resident	No	As a resident, our natural focus is towards the village & the facilities that it offers. There is a distinct difference in the character of this area which is represented by our Parish Councillors & if the proposal was to go ahead, that accountability and recognition will be lost. The current boundaries of Blackhorse Lane and Newlands Lane are clear, whilst the proposed boundaries appear rather more convoluted	No	With the development at Pound Farm, a reduction in the number of councillors at this time does not make sense.
1999	Resident	No	no coment	No	no coment
2000	Resident	No		No	
2002	Resident	No	I do not agree that the village should be separated into different wards	No	
2003	Parish or Town council (St Ippolyts Parish Council) *	No	Parish Council object to north ward moving into a proposed Hitchin Town Council. North Ward residents want a voice within the Parish, rural problems would not be met, there are no advantages and huge disadvantages, it will result to a short fall of funding for the Parish.	No	Parish Council object to a reduction in unpaid volunteers. There is no benefit in a reduction.
2004	Resident	No	The parish should stay united! Together us better!	No	More people better views and options
2005	Resident	No		No	
2006	Resident	No		No	
2007	Resident	No		No	
2008	Resident	No		No	
2010	Resident	No	I feel this will negatively affect the village of St. Ippolyts. It will mean there is less financial support available to maintain parish projects such as the football and bowls Pavillion. I also think this is being done to allow further building to take place in St. Ippolyts as the broadmeadow estate would no longer count as housing built in St. Ippolyts. There are already two huge sites of building in St. Ipps including London Road and Waterdell lane and there just isn't the infrastructure to support further building of new homes. It will destroy the green space of the area and lose the village feel	Yes	Reduction in the number of councillors appears appropriate if the move of the north does not happen. I do not support this move.
2012	Resident	No	We as a parish like a say and part control of relevant village issues.	No	The councillors are needed.

Responses to the public consultation

2013	Resident	No	There is a strong bond between people on the broadmeadow estate to the st Ippolyts and Gosmore locality. Church - we were married there and children christened there School - children attended the primary school Recreation ground - football and bowls facilities used across all times of life. Bird in hand pub- a social space Village hall - events held. By staying in the st Ippolyts parish area those bonds are maintained and strengthened.	No	Same as previous answer! This is a repeat question?
2015	Resident	No	We want to stay as part of St. Ippolyts parsh	Yes	
2016	Resident	No	We are part of the St Ippolyts community and will lose representation if we become part of Hitchin Priory	No	
2018	Resident	No	My family wishes to remain in St Ippolyts as it is now	No	My family wishes to remain in St Ippolyts as it is now
2019	Resident	No	We bought in a village location and want to remain in a village.	No	
2020	Resident	No	It would be a disaster to separate the church, it does do much for the community and children and school,	No	
2021	Resident	No	We want to stay united, and keep our parish as one. We do not want to be split.	No	Leave St ippolyts as it is.
2022	Resident	No			Keep the same number of councillors
2024	Resident	No	No	Yes	
2026	Resident	No		No	
2027	Resident	No	I am not in favour of this proposal. It's not at all clear what the reason is for doing it?? Apart maybe from looking a bit neater on a map! Who is it benefitting? If it was to be taken further I'd like to see North Herts set out the pros and cons for each of a) the residents living in that area b) St Ippolyts PC and c) a future Hitchin council. If I understand the proposal correctly, people living in that ward would still live in St Ippolyts but they would no longer have a say on local matters and facilities	Yes	
2028	Resident	No	St Ippolyts is a lively community and splitting the parish is Rome	No	
2029	Resident	No		No	
2030	Resident	No	It splits our community	Yes	Reduced overhead
2031	Resident	No	Not in favour	No	

Responses to the public consultation

2032	Resident	No		No	
2035	Resident	No		No	
2036	Resident	No	It will be detrimental to the community amenities.	No	
2037	Resident	No	Do not want to change my address from St Ippolyts to Hitchin. St Ippolyts' Parish Council seems to do a good job for this area.	No	
2038	Resident	No		No	
2039	Resident	No	This is a separate community with its own identity and our voice would be reduced by the proposal plus south ward becomes poorer	No	As above - don't believe change is necessary especially given the I create in population due to new developments
2040	Resident	No		No	
2041	Resident	No		No	
2042	Resident	No	Leave St. Ippolyts alone as a complete parish. Do not split it up	No	I wish to stay in the St. Ippolyts parish rather than in the Hitchin area
2044	Resident	No	I do not want the power of the parish to be diluted.	No	
2046	Resident	No	This Parish council operates well in its current boundaries. No need for chsnge	No	
2048	Resident	No	I relate to St Ippolyts village, NOT Hitchin. I cannot see any advantages to splitting the Parish. The local parish council is more in touch with needs of the community.	No	I relate to St Ippolyts village, NOT Hitchin. I cannot see any advantages to splitting the Parish. The local parish council is more in touch with needs of the community.
2049	Resident	No		No	
2050	Resident	No	I am worried that I would lose my voice on local matters	No	As above
2051	Resident	No	St Ippolyts North parish ward has been part of St Ippolyts for many hundreds of years. Indeed the parish records were kept in the Black Horse Inn in St Ippolyts North parish ward. I was myself responsible for proposing that the St Ippolyts sign was placed on London Road close to the Blackhorse Lane / Newlands Lane crossroads. This was accepted by the Parish Council, who agreed that this would help the residents of the then new estate comprising of Broadmeadow Ride and the roads off it to feel very much part of St Ippolyts Parish. The Highways department happily placed the St Ippolyts sign at this position.	No	You have not provided any arguments in favour of changing the status quo.
2052	Resident	No		No	
2053	Resident	No	I moved here with my family thirty three years ago, partly because I wished to live in the village of St Ippolyts, having moved from the village of Kimpton. I very much wish to continue to do so.	No	The current number of Parish Councillors seems fine to me.

Responses to the public consultation

2054	Resident	No	I do not agree with splitting St Ippolyts Parish Council	No	
2055	Resident	No		No	There are no advantages that I can see in moving St Ippolyts North to Hitchin.
2057	Resident	No		No	
2059	Resident	No	I have been a resident for over 40 years and the system has worked and there is no reason to change for the sake of change-we will our voice in matters that touch and concern local matters.	No	Once again there is no valid reason to change for the sake of of it.
2060	Resident	No		No	
2061	Resident	No	I strongly disapprove of the proposal to split of St Ippolyts North from St Ippolyts south to incorporate St Ippolyts north into Hitchin. I see no reason why it should be divided. I have lived in the parish for many years and do not wish to be part of Hitchin: my identity and connections are with St Ippolyts including the church, school and activities in the parish hall. Current funding levels and services and the sense of community would be diminished. These would be huge disadvantages for those living in St Ippolyts, both north and south.	No	
2063	Resident	No			
2064	Resident	No		No	
2065	Resident	No	I do not want to see South ward isolated and financially at risk due to the separation. The facilities in the area are already under resourced.	No	
2067	Resident	No		No	
2068	Resident	No	Detrimental affect to the area.	No	
2069	Resident	No		Yes	
2071	Resident	No	Please keep north ward with St.Ippolyts	No	Please keep arrangements as at present
2072	Resident	No		Yes	
2073	Resident	No		Yes	
2076	Resident	No	I do not want our local community and the funding of it to be split. I feel it will damage our sense of place and identity if we are merged into Hitchin which is a very different urbanised area.		
2077	Resident	No	Loss of resident voice in local matters	No	

Responses to the public consultation

2078	Resident	No	I am actually neutral but the questionnaire did not allow such a response.	No	The proposal and question appears to be identical to 6. I am against any part of St Ippolyts Parish Council being absorbed by the Town Council rural matters often differ from urban issues. In my opinion this survey failed to solicit a meaningful response and was poorly drafted.
2079	Resident	No			
2080	Resident	No		No	
2081	Resident	No	I moved to St Ippolyts as I wanted to be part of a small village and parish council. Becoming part of HITCHIN council will not improve my life but will potentially make things worse and cost more	No	Leave St Ippolyts alone
2082	Resident	No	I cannot see what it would improve but it would make things worse for the village I live in.	No	Leave St Ippolyts alone
2083	Resident	No	I have, on occasion, attended the Parish Council meetings to voice my concerns about various topics and as these people are my neighbours, they listen! I feel very strongly that this would NOT happen should this split of the parish happen. Hitchin residents would have no interest in the concerns of St Ippolyts parish. Also St Ippolyts parish may struggle to maintain the wonderful amenities such as the Football and Bowls pavilion. This would be a travesty for the local people who enjoy to play or watch the games in a lovely green open setting.	No	I believe these people are volunteers.....
2084	Resident	No	It would appear that this is just a money making exercise, to take money from the St Ippolyts Parish Council which would make it difficult to support its activities such as the football team and bowls club pavilion. Why would local residents want to be in a larger group where its voice would be reduced as opposed to a smaller local group with a more intimate association?	No	There is no obvious advantage of reducing the numbers by 1. No cost saving as they are volunteers anyway.
2087	Resident	No		No	
2089	Resident	No	INH will be absorbed into the larger Hitchin area and we will have no say in the local INH area that we live. Please leave the ward as it is. Thank you	No	As above.
2097	Resident	No		No	
2098	Resident	No		No	
2099	Resident	No	This change will leave the South Ward too small and it will become harder to raise and resolve issues.	No	
2100	Resident	No		No	

Responses to the public consultation

2101	Resident	No	It will deprive St Ippolyts of funding for recreation grounds, public bins, dealing with fly tipping etc.	Yes	
2102	Resident	No		No	
2105	Resident	No	control at a local level would be lost therefore a loss of actioning things that are important to residents along with financial budgets that will no doubt get cut, leave things alone that aren't broke !	No	
2106	Resident	No	Facilities in the parish would suffer, financing would be reduced and parish projects would be threatened. We are a rural community	No	
2110	Resident	No		No	
2113	Resident	No	This proposal would further encourage expansion of Hitchin into its rural surroundings, absorbing the rich character of villages that surrounds it and diminishing not only the quality of life in those villages but also for the residents of Hitchin who will be deprived of a rural setting close to the town centre.	No	
2115	Resident	No		No	
2116	Resident	No		No	
2119	Resident	No	St Ippolyts is a very small ward and it is better for local people to be able to be represented by someone who knows the parish and ward personally, which would not be so easy if the ward was incorporated into Hitchin and by being made even smaller the likely scenario would be the eventual demise of the St Ippolyts ward.	No	It would seem reasonable for both north and south St Ippolyts to each have the same number of Councillors.
2121	Resident	No		No	
2123	Resident	No		No	
2124	Resident	No		No	
2125	Resident	No		No	
2126	Resident	No		No	
2127	Resident	No	It is important that there is representation of the St Ippolyts parish by the residents and not diluted.	No	Why is there an imbalance of representation- surely they should be a balanced representation
2128	Resident	No		No	
2129	Resident	No	I wish the village of St Ippolyts to remain a settlement separate to Hitchin. This is unwelcome creeping urbanisation of a rural parish. It is inappropriate for residents of Hitchin to be consulted on potential decisions which have a direct impact on this community	Yes	As above
2132	Resident	No		No	

Responses to the public consultation

2133	Resident	No	I live in the edge of Hitchin/St. Ippolyts (North Ward)and was a resident in St. Ippolyts for much of my life. I'm appalled that village residents are potentially being dragooned into a situation that would lead to their area being submerged into a large, urban area. This begs the question for what precise purpose is this being attempted?	No	I don't think any further comments are necessary (see earlier).
2134	Resident	No	I have lived in the parish of St Ippolyts (north ward) all my life and I'm horrified at the proposal to split the Parish of St Ippolyts and include the north ward in with Hitchin. I have not found any logical reason for this to happen. The parish of St Ippolyts is a community in itself and residents feel part of a village community which is now being threatened. North ward residents would no longer have a voice on parish matters and we want to stay united. We do not live in Hitchin, and if we had wanted to, could have bought property there. The proposal would reduce significantly the number of households in the parish which would leave the parish council short of money for the upkeep of community assets such as the recreation ground.	No	The role of a Parish Councillor is voluntary, so I'm not sure why there needs to be a reduction in numbers when they carry out their roles without costing the taxpayer any money.
2135	Resident	No		No	
2137	Resident	No	Our children went to St Ippolyts School and we feel part of the village. We take part in classes and events in St Ippolyts and are more affected by St Ippolyts than by Hitchin.	No	The parish councillors carry out their roles diligently, caring for the best interests of the village. Reducing the number of councillors will increase the workload and make it harder to fulfil their roles and balance this with family life.
2138	Resident	No	We have been very involved in st ippolyts parish , school events at village hall	Yes	
2143	Resident	No	North ward would no longer have any say on local matters and South Ward would suffer from reduced funding.	No	I am not in favour of reduction of number of Councillors.
2145	Resident	No	I have lived all my life in St. ippolyts and have been a parish councillor, School Governor and my family part of the village community for many ,many years, now for no good reason you want to tear this apart	No	
2146	Resident	No		No	
2157	Resident	No		No	
2163	Resident	No	I believe North and South Ward should stay as a joint ward with 8 councillors and continue to look after the affairs of St. Ippolyts.	No	See above.

Responses to the public consultation

2164	Resident	No	The parish of St. Ippolyts north and south should stay together. Moving the north into Hitchin would reduce the effectiveness of the remaining south due to cuts in funding and services. It's a village called St.Ippolyts therefore it should remain as such. You wouldn't move the part of Hitchin closest to Luton into Bedfordshire	No	Why ?
2165	Resident	No	I object to splitting the parish of St Ippolyts	No	I object to splitting up the parish of St Ippolyts
2173	Resident	No		No	
2178	Resident	No	Concerned about lack of funding for rural areas	No	
2179	Resident	No		No	
2187	Resident	No		No	
2188	Resident	No		No	
2189	Resident	No		No	
2193	Resident	No	I have lived in the Paddocks (SG4 9EF) for nearly 35 years. It has always felt like a semi rural parish much better served by St. Ippolyts than the more urban Hitchin. It is has always been more closely aligned to St. Ippolyts community and I can see no sensible reason why it should change. It would also deprive the St. Ippolyts parish of much needed funding and facilities which would once again effect the nature of a pleasant rural and semi rural environment. I am very strongly against the recommendation and would be interested to know why after all these years it is even being considered and who thinks it is a good idea. PRESUMABLY NO ONE WHO ACTUALLY LIVES IN THE PARISH PUT THIS SUGGESTION FORWARD, BUT AS USUAL ITS PEOPLE WITH SECONDARY AGENDAS WHO		N/A I am extremely anti the recommendation consequently am unable to consider these alternatives.
2196	Resident	No		No	
2197	Resident	No	Why fix what is broken. St Ippolyts is an OLD and thriving community - this will fragment the village and confuse funding.	No	Again why fragment something that works so well left alone. St Ippolyts has been ONE parish and should remain so. At a time when you really should be strengthening community you are trying to divide and destroy it
2198	Resident	No		No	
2201	Resident	No		No	

Responses to the public consultation

2209	Resident	No		Yes	
2215	Resident	No	This would reduce monies for upkeep of facilities	No	
2217	Resident	No	I do not support this move at it would leave St Ippolyts Parish Council in an impossible position financially. They would not be able to maintain existing meagre facilities with fewer households paying in and yet those residents moving into hitchin under the proposal will continue to use the facilities without paying anything to St Ippolyts. In particular the maintenance of play and hun equipment at the rec would concern me	No	
2219	Resident	No	As a resident of North ward we want to have a voice on local matters.	No	
2220	Resident	No	It seems important that households on the Broad meadow estate have an input to local matters.	No	
2229	Resident	No	Remaining south ward will be too small to generate sufficient funds for directing into local needs	No	
2238	Resident	No	Leave it alone!	No	It's fine as it id
2239	Resident	No	Leave matters as they are.	No	
122	District Councillor	Yes		Yes	
1733	Resident	Yes		Yes	
2025	Resident	Yes	I am against Hitchin having a Town Council	Yes	
86	Resident	Yes		Yes	
90	Resident	Yes	This area is continuous with Hitchin and we already vote in Hitchin Priory Ward	Yes	Less people to represent therefore less councillors needed
97	Resident	Yes	The parish council is rarely elected, as so few people come forward. Hence most are co-opted or appointed without a vote. To me, this situation says that the parish councils could be disbanded and decicions left with town or district councils.	Yes	I'd rather there were 0 (zero) parish councillors.
239	Resident	Yes		Yes	
313	Resident	Yes		No	
325	Resident	Yes		Yes	
409	Resident	Yes		Yes	
441	Resident	Yes	Far too selective and so outdated to have clicky Parish councils who are far to set in their ways to be progressive.	Yes	Get rid of Parish councillors altogether
702	Resident	Yes		Yes	
754	Resident	Yes		Yes	
990	Resident	Yes		No	

Responses to the public consultation

1375	Resident	Yes		Yes	
1726	Resident	Yes	Change makes sense	Yes	
1771	Resident	Yes	As it stands, the inclusion of what is contiguous with Hitchin in St Ippolyts makes no sense especially. with the border running down the centre of Blackhorse lane and Newlands Ave. However with the current development next to Broadmeadow, the gap is decreasing. This may need to be addressed in the future as the demographics are changing.		This does not make sense. You are basing the survey
1974	Resident	Yes		Yes	
2014	Resident	Yes	This was the original setup many years ago. The idea of a town council seems sensible given the development of the area	Yes	Not sure why such a small area needs so many councillors
2023	Resident	Yes	St Ippolyts north share closer proximity with Hitchin. Thus, it would make sense to be a part of proposed town council.	Yes	It does not make a difference.
2144	Resident	Yes	I am in favour of this only if a new parish of Hitchin, served by a new Town Council goes ahead.	Yes	
2203	Resident	Yes	I've always seen Broadmeadow as Hitchin anyway; its not exactly rural and will be even less so once the adjoining new estate is completed. I think there is a case for excluding Millfield Lane from INH and keeping that in St Ippolyts, but that's probably not on the list for consideration	Yes	Seems logical
E/007	Resident	No	I do not agree that the St Ippolyts North parish ward should become part of a new Hitchin Town council.		
			-Smaller wards give more and speedier access ,by parishioners, to serving Councillors -Councillors in smaller wards are more likely to be identified in the area. - Personal relationships are facilitated in smaller wards , creating less frustration. - There will be more connection on-line which can by-pass a whole community of the elderly		

ST. PAUL'S WALDEN

ID	Capacity	Response	Reason
2006	Resident	No	
2124	Resident	No	

Responses to the public consultation

345	Resident	No	"The establishment of new Town Councils in Baldock, Hitchin, and Letchworth - this will have implications on the amount of council tax paid by residents" State how. Be clear. You have already increased it while reducing our services, for example core services - waste disposal to 3 weeks. Disgusting.
1348	Resident	Yes	Fairly content with our status quo
1534	Resident	Yes	
2235	Parish or Town council (St Paul's Walden Parish Council)	Yes	*

THERFIELD

Election dates				N Cllrs	
ID	Capacity	Response	Reason	Response	Reason
1752	Resident	No		No	
1760	Parish/Town Councillor (Therfield Parish)	No	See no reason why a Parish election needs to be aligned with NHDC elections.	No	I believe 5 is too few for the Parish to be run effectively without asking too much from the councillors who volunteer their time. There can't be a financial benefit to NH as we're not paid anything. Having more people means you get a wider range of life experience on the council with more chance of constructive opinions
1885	Resident	No	I believe the elections should be kept separate to highlight that Parish Council elections are NOT political!	No	Parish Councillors are volunteers, juggling private lives, families and work alongside their PC duties. It would make it too onerous on individuals to reduce their number with the amount of work that they do already. More volunteers equals wider experience and knowledge - always good to have - and our village is rapidly growing in population meaning there will inevitably be more for the Councillors to deal with
61	Resident	Yes		No	5 is too few councillors for Therfield. They could possibly function ok with 6
1442	Resident	Yes		No	

Responses to the public consultation

1655	Parish/Town Councillor (Therfield Parish Council) *	Yes	No comments.	Yes	No comments.
1662	Resident	Yes		No	If we have 7 people interested we should make room for them in the interests of democracy and spreading the load around volunteers.
2226	Resident	Yes		No	Councillors keep saying at meetings that they have too much to do as Parish councillors, so decreasing the numbers would result in more work for individuals. The larger number of councillors means there is more diverse input from the village.

WESTON

Election dates

ID	Capacity	Response	Reason
2162	Parish/Town Councillor	No	Why reduce the number of councillors to below the current number of councillors? There is clearly a need for a greater allocation than being proposed and it makes no sense to disengage local people from being part of their parish council.
1870	Resident	No	

Responses to the public consultation

1955	Parish or Town council (Weston Parish Council) *	No	<p>We do not agree that synchronising Parish Council elections with District Council elections is a good idea. The District Councillors mostly stand as representatives of political parties, whereas Parish Councils are, for the most part, completely non-political. Holding elections for both at the same time simply encourages the greater politicisation of Parish Council elections, which we believe would be undesirable.</p> <p>If the move to a unitary authority goes ahead, synchronising elections at this time would be a pointless exercise, so better to leave it as is.</p> <p>In Weston we have no difficulty in supporting a council with 9 members. Reducing this to 7 would simply impose an undesirable constraint on numbers and greater work pressure on those filling the vacancies.</p>
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WYMONDLEY

ID	Capacity	Response	Reason
8	Resident	No	Changing the electoral cycle is fine but i am not in favour of the reduction from 2 to 1 for Great Wymondley. Having served on the parish council for 11 years we need to spread the load to more councillors not les..
944	Resident	Yes	For a small parish it is often difficult to find enough councillors