



Civic Centre  
HARTLEPOOL

14 March, 2022

Councillors Ashton, Boddy, Brash, Brown, Cassidy, Clayton, Cook, Cowie, Cranney, Creevy, Elliot, Falconer, Feeney, Fleming, Groves, Hall, Hargreaves, Harrison, Howson, Jackson, Lindridge, Little, D Loynes, Moore, D Nicholson, V Nicholson, Picton, Price, Prince, Richardson, Riddle, Smith, Stokell, Tiplady and Young.

Madam or Sir,

You are hereby summoned to attend the SPECIAL COUNCIL meeting to be held on THURSDAY, 24 MARCH 2022 at 5.30 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

D McGuckin  
Managing Director

Enc

# SPECIAL COUNCIL AGENDA



**Thursday 24 March 2022**

**at 5.30 pm**

**in the Council Chamber,  
Civic Centre, Hartlepool.**

- (1) To receive apologies from absent Members and communications sent to the Deputy Ceremonial Mayor or Managing Director;
- (2) To receive any declarations of interest from Members;
- (3) To deal with any business required by statute to be done before any other business;
- (4) To receive the Monitoring Officer's report and to pass such resolutions thereon as may be deemed necessary;

## CIVIC CENTRE EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire alarm or a bomb alarm, please leave by the nearest emergency exit as directed by Council Officers. A Fire Alarm is a continuous ringing. A Bomb Alarm is a continuous tone. The Assembly Point for everyone is Victory Square by the Cenotaph. If the meeting has to be evacuated, please proceed to the Assembly Point so that you can be safely accounted for.

# COUNCIL

24 March 2022



**Report of:** Monitoring Officer

**Subject:** Electoral Cycle

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key Decision

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To note the outcome and responses from the public consultation and to decide whether to retain the current electoral cycle of elections by thirds or to move to whole council/all-out elections from 2024.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Constitution Committee, at its meeting held on 6 July 2021, agreed that consideration should be given to changing the current election of a third of all Elected Members held each year, except in every fourth year when no election is held, to an 'all out' whole Council election being held every 4 years.
- 3.2 At the meeting of the Committee held on 22 November 2021, the Chief Solicitor advised Elected Members of the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 'Act') in relation to a proposal to change the electoral cycle (see Legal Considerations below).
- 3.3 Elected members noted that all other Tees Valley Council hold 'whole Council' elections. Members also noted the financial savings that would be achieved by changing to an election every 4 years and discussed when they considered it would be appropriate for the first year of whole Council elections. The Committee recommended to Full Council that consideration be given to the electoral cycle being changed to whole council elections with effect from May 2024, when the term of office of all currently elected members will have expired.
- 3.4 Full Council, at its meeting on 16 December 2021, agreed the recommendations of the Committee and for consultation to commence on 20 December 2021.

## 4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Act states that the Council need to have ‘taken reasonable steps to consult on the change’ and that ‘it is for the council to decide which persons it is appropriate to consult’. No minimum or maximum timescale for consultation is described.
- 4.2 The following consultation has taken place between 20 December 2021 and 27 February 2022.

Your say our future site – <https://yoursay.hartlepool.gov.uk/local-council-elections> (**Appendix 1**) (live from 20 December 2021 to 1889 people) registered

Elected Members – email x 2

Parish Councils – email

Social Media – facebook, twitter, instagram

HBC Press release -

[https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/news/article/2414/have\\_your\\_say\\_on\\_hartlepool\\_borough\\_council\\_elections](https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/news/article/2414/have_your_say_on_hartlepool_borough_council_elections)

Hartlepool Mail -

<https://www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk/news/politics/council/this-is-how-much-changing-hartlepool-council-election-cycle-would-save-taxpayers-3558668>

<https://www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk/news/politics/council/hartlepool-council-moves-closer-to-one-all-out-election-every-four-years-3503098>

- 4.3 The poll asked from "Do you think that Hartlepool Borough Council should move to "whole Council" elections, where the whole council would be elected at the same time once every four years". There were 107 votes, of which:
- 80 (74.8%) voted "yes"
  - 27 (25.2%) voted "no"

A copy of the consultation report is attached at **Appendix 2**. Unfortunately, the Your Say system does not require people to include where they live when signing up so we are unable to provide any data on the demographics.

## 5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The Act provides that a Council that elects by halves or by thirds may resolve to move to a scheme of whole-council elections. A Council must comply with section 33 of the Act when passing a resolution for whole-council elections and must not pass the resolution unless it has taken reasonable steps to consult “such persons as it thinks appropriate on the proposed change”.
- 5.2 Having consulted, a resolution to move to whole council elections is required:
- (a) at a meeting which is specially convened for that purpose; and
  - (b) by a majority of at least two thirds of the members voting on it. The resolution must specify the year for the first ordinary elections of the council at which all Elected Members are to be elected.

- 5.3 If the Council passes a resolution to change the electoral cycle it may not pass another opposing resolution before the end of five years beginning with the day on which the resolution was passed.
- 5.4 If the Council resolves to move to whole council elections, the council must produce an explanatory document and make this available for public inspection at the council's principal office at all reasonable times and to the public by other means that it thinks is appropriate. The Council must publicise:
- (a) that the Council has become subject to the scheme for whole-council elections under section 34 of the LGPIHA 2007;
  - (b) when elections will first take place in accordance with the scheme;
  - (c) how the explanatory document is available;
  - (d) the address of the council's principal office.
- 5.5 The Council must also give notice to the Electoral Commission that it has passed the resolution.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 That Full Council consider the outcome of the public consultation and decide whether to retain the current electoral cycle of elections by thirds or to move to whole council/all-out elections from 2024.

## **7. CONTACT OFFICER**

Hayley Martin  
Monitoring Officer  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Road  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

Email [hayley.martin@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:hayley.martin@hartlepool.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01429 523003

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report and Minutes – Constitution Committee 6 July and 22 November 2021  
Report and Minutes – Council 16 December 2021



# YOUR SAY OUR FUTURE



- [Hartlepool Council Website](#)
- [Staff Hub](#)
- [Project Outcomes](#)
- [Towns Deal](#)
  - [Towns Deal Re-imagining Middleton Grange Shopping Centre](#)
  - [Towns Deal Wesley Chapel Hotel Redevelopment](#)
  - [Towns Deal Marina Connectivity](#)
  - [Towns Deal Health and Care Centre of Excellence](#)
  - [Towns Deal Tees Valley Civil Engineering Institute](#)

- [Sign in](#)
- [Register](#)



# YOUR SAY OUR FUTURE



[Home](#) » [Past Projects Archive](#) » [Local Council Elections Consultation](#)

# Local Council Elections Consultation



Consultation has concluded

Hartlepool Borough Council is interested in your views on whether we should change to 'whole council' elections or continue with the current system of 'elections by thirds'.

The change to 'whole council' elections would mean the whole council would be elected at the same time once every four years.

Following a recommendation of the Constitution Committee, approved by Full Council on 16 December 2021, Members voted to hold a public consultation process to seek the views of the public on moving to 'whole council' elections in 2024. Below is some background information to help give you an informed view on the issue.

The consultation will run from **20th December 2021 until 27th February 2022.**

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## **Background**

Hartlepool Borough Council has 36 councillors in 12 electoral wards. Each ward is represented by three councillors.

The councillors represent their ward as well as making decisions on the running of council.

### **The current process – 'elections by thirds'**

Residents have three ward councillors for the area they live. The council currently uses a 'by thirds' electoral system. This means that over four years, elections are held in years one, two and three for one of the three councillors in each ward. In the fourth year there are no elections.

#### *Benefits of this system:*

- New councillors can be elected more frequently.
- Voters are able to react sooner to local circumstances, providing more immediate political accountability.
- Residents are familiar with this electoral system.

### **The alternative - 'whole council' election**

This process would see all councillors up for election at the same time once every four years.

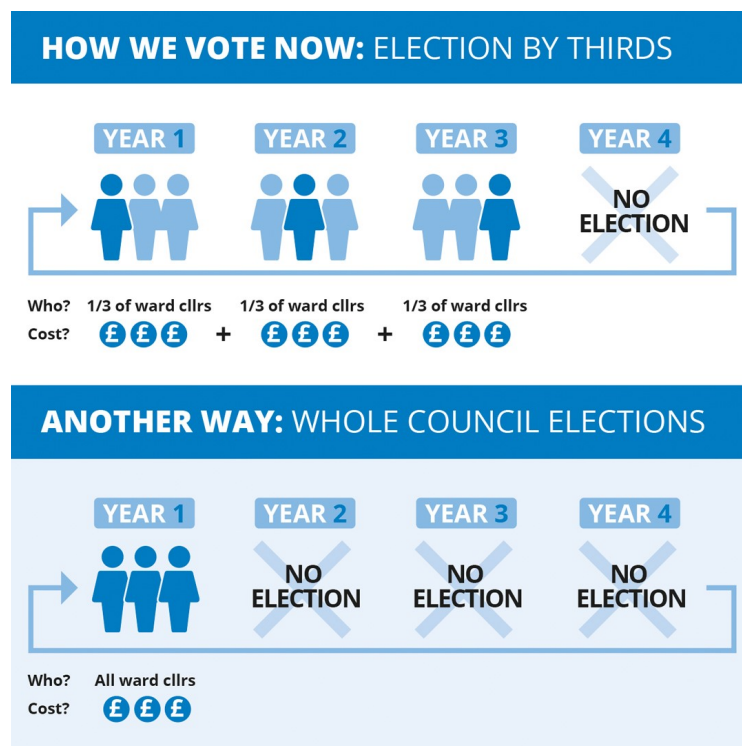
#### *Benefits of this system:*

- Provide stability for the council to adopt a more strategic, long-term approach to policy and decision making.
- Reduced costs. By reducing the number of elections held from three to one this would save approximately £40,000 per year over the four-year cycle.
- Greater opportunity for residents to influence overall political control of the council, which may encourage more people to vote.

## **Infographic**



The following infographic demonstrates how the system could change:



This consultation relates only to Hartlepool Borough Council local elections. No other elections will be affected by any future change in Hartlepool Borough Council's electoral cycle. Parish, parliamentary elections, Police and Crime Commissioner and Combined Authority Mayoral elections will continue on their normal electoral cycle.

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement Health Act 2007, amended by the Localism Act 2011, the council has the power to change its electoral arrangements to 'whole council' elections. This allows the council itself to decide whether to move to whole council elections, or back to elections by thirds. Following consultation, a special meeting of Full Council will be held in March 2022 for Members to consider the consultation and make the final resolution. If a change to 'whole council' elections is approved, it cannot be changed again until a period of five years has passed.

**To provide your feedback, please answer the question in the poll (on the right if viewing on a laptop or PC or below on a mobile).**

## Quick Polls

No Quick Polls for this project

## Key dates



### **Opens 20th December 2021**

This consultation is open for contributions.



### **Closes for Review 27th February 2022**

Contributions to this consultation are closed for evaluation and review. The project team will report back on key outcomes.



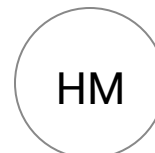
### **Final report March 2022**

The final outcomes of the consultation are documented here. This may include a summary of all contributions collected as well as recommendations for future action.

## Who's Listening

**Hayley Martin**

Head of Legal Services



**Amanda Whitaker**

Legal and Democratic Services Team  
Manager



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[Data Protection Information](#)

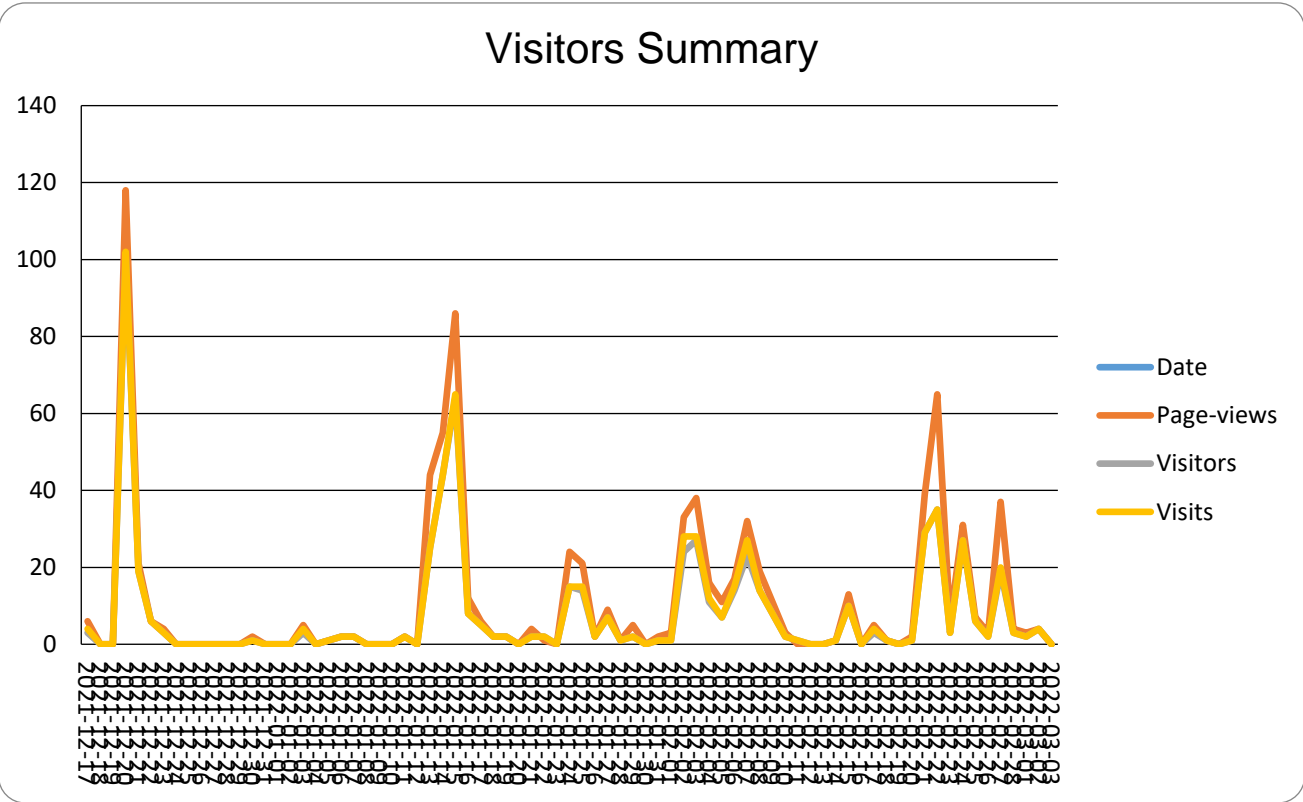
[Cookie Policy](#)

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[Technical Support](#)

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[FAQs](#)



Project Highlights

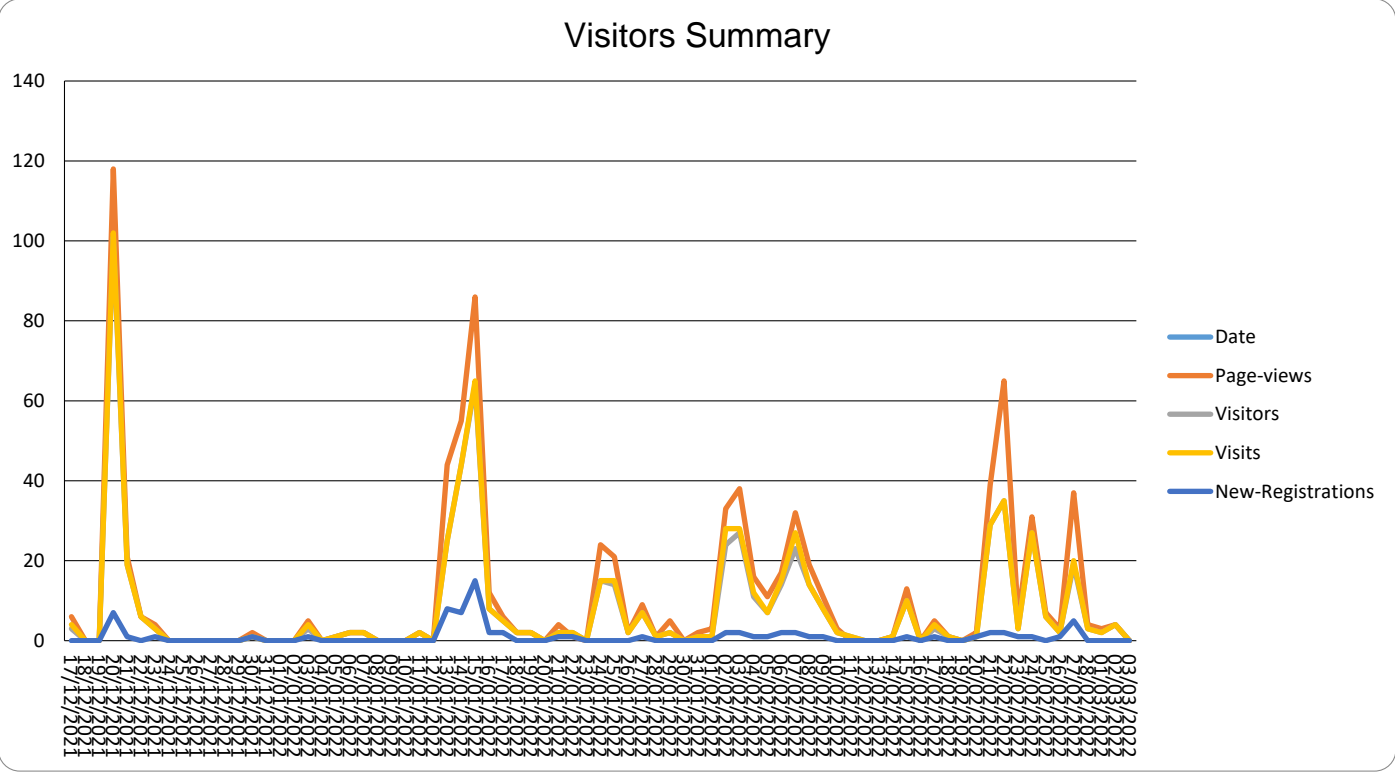
Total Visits	637
New Registrations	75
Video views	0
Photo Views	0
Document Downloads	0

ENGAGED PARTICIPANTS	107		
Engaged Actions Performed	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Contributed on Forums	0	0	0
Participated in Surveys	0	0	0
Contributed to Newsfeeds	0	0	0
Participated in Quick Polls	107	0	0
Posted on Guestbooks	0	0	0
Contributed to Stories	0	0	0
Asked Questions	0	0	0
Placed Pins on Places	0	0	0
Contributed to Ideas	0	0	0

INFORMED PARTICIPANTS	107
Informed Actions Performed	Participants
Viewed a video	0
Viewed a photo	0
Downloaded a document	0
Visited the Key Dates page	0
Visited an FAQ list Page	0
Visited Instagram Page	0
Visited Multiple Project Pages	0
Contributed to a tool (engaged	107

AWARE PARTICIPANTS	572
Aware Actions Performed	Participants
Visited at least one Page	572

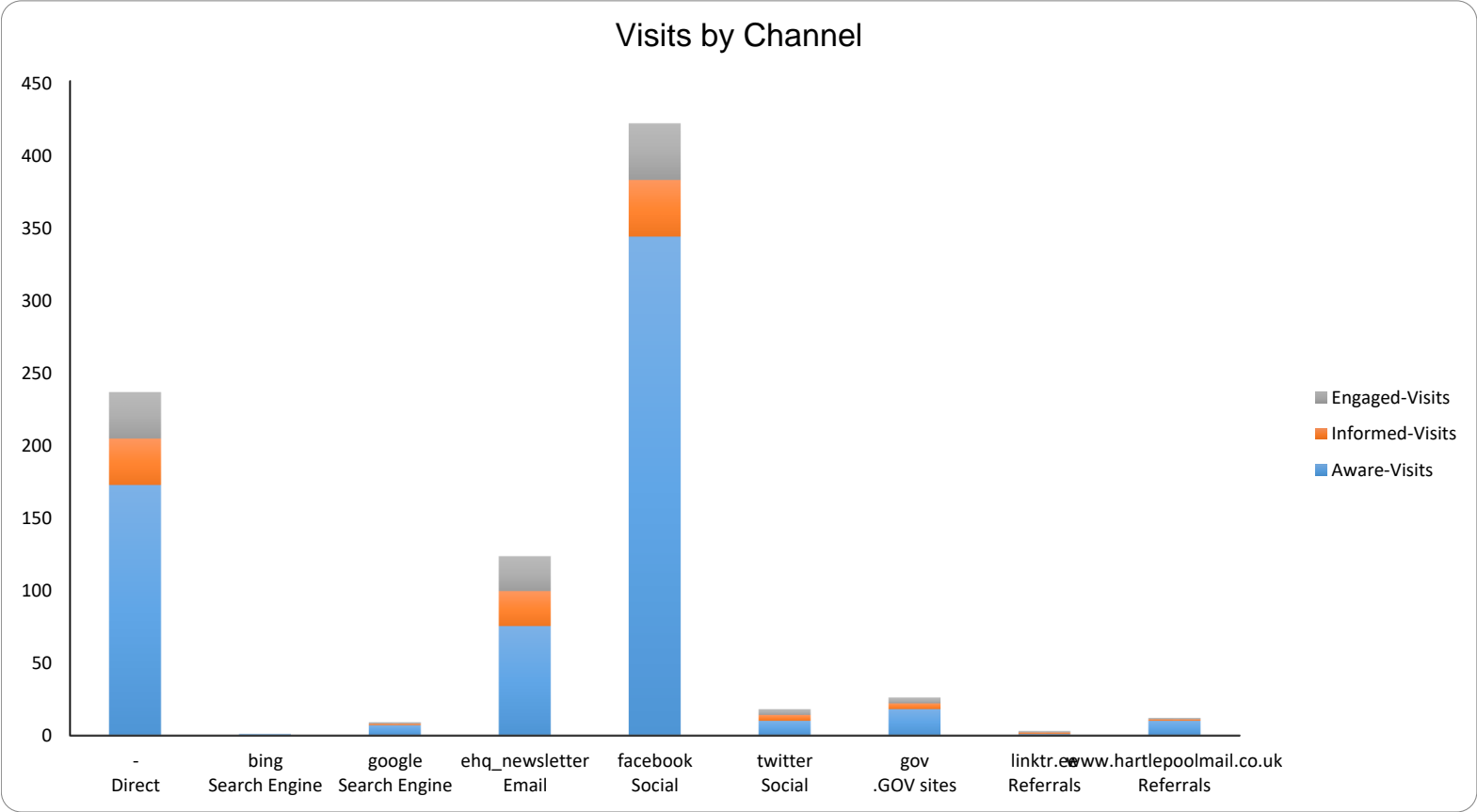
Visitors Summary		Local Council Elections Consultation	Date	Page-views	Visitors	Visits	New-Registrations
29-Jun-2021	to	03-Mar-2022					



17/12/2021	6	3	4	0
18/12/2021	0	0	0	0
19/12/2021	0	0	0	0
20/12/2021	118	101	102	7
21/12/2021	21	19	19	1
22/12/2021	6	6	6	0
23/12/2021	4	3	3	1
24/12/2021	0	0	0	0
25/12/2021	0	0	0	0
26/12/2021	0	0	0	0
27/12/2021	0	0	0	0
28/12/2021	0	0	0	0
29/12/2021	0	0	0	0
30/12/2021	2	1	1	1
31/12/2021	0	0	0	0
01/01/2022	0	0	0	0
02/01/2022	0	0	0	0
03/01/2022	5	3	4	1
04/01/2022	0	0	0	0
05/01/2022	1	1	1	0
06/01/2022	2	2	2	0
07/01/2022	2	2	2	0
08/01/2022	0	0	0	0
09/01/2022	0	0	0	0
10/01/2022	0	0	0	0
11/01/2022	2	2	2	0
12/01/2022	0	0	0	0
13/01/2022	44	25	25	8
14/01/2022	55	44	44	7
15/01/2022	86	64	65	15
16/01/2022	12	8	8	2
17/01/2022	6	5	5	2
18/01/2022	2	2	2	0
19/01/2022	2	2	2	0
20/01/2022	0	0	0	0
21/01/2022	4	2	2	1
22/01/2022	1	2	2	1
23/01/2022	0	0	0	0
24/01/2022	24	15	15	0
25/01/2022	21	14	15	0
26/01/2022	2	2	2	0
27/01/2022	9	7	7	1
28/01/2022	1	1	1	0

29/01/2022	5	2	2	0
30/01/2022	0	0	0	0
31/01/2022	2	1	1	0
01/02/2022	3	1	1	0
02/02/2022	33	24	28	2
03/02/2022	38	27	28	2
04/02/2022	16	11	12	1
05/02/2022	11	7	7	1
06/02/2022	17	14	15	2
07/02/2022	32	23	27	2
08/02/2022	19	14	14	1
09/02/2022	11	8	8	1
10/02/2022	3	2	2	0
11/02/2022	0	1	1	0
12/02/2022	0	0	0	0
13/02/2022	0	0	0	0
14/02/2022	1	1	1	0
15/02/2022	13	10	10	1
16/02/2022	0	0	0	0
17/02/2022	5	3	4	1
18/02/2022	1	1	1	0
19/02/2022	0	0	0	0
20/02/2022	2	1	1	1
21/02/2022	39	29	29	2
22/02/2022	65	35	35	2
23/02/2022	6	3	3	1
24/02/2022	31	27	27	1
25/02/2022	7	6	6	0
26/02/2022	3	2	2	1
27/02/2022	37	19	20	5
28/02/2022	4	3	3	0
01/03/2022	3	2	2	0
02/03/2022	4	4	4	0
03/03/2022	0	0	0	0

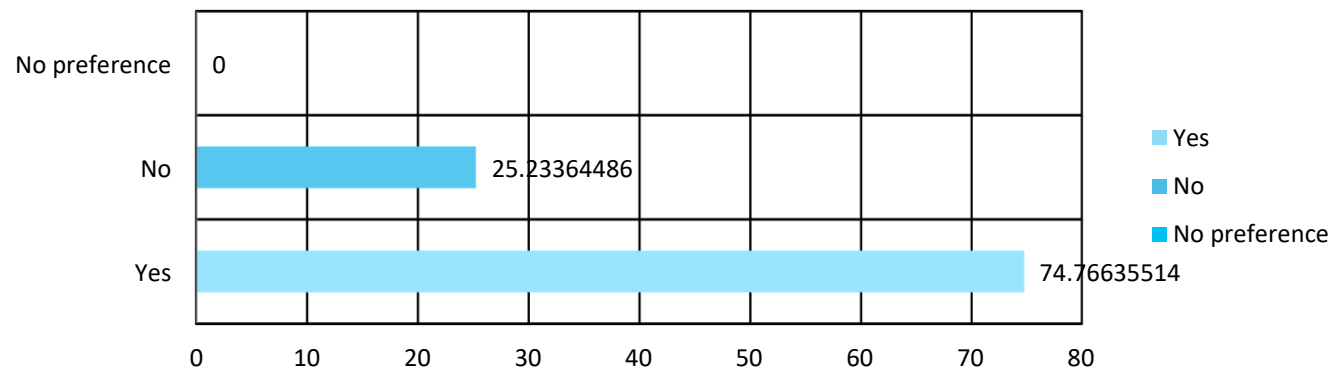
Sources of Traffic Summary		Local Council Elections Consultation		Traffic-Channel	Source	Aware-Visits	Informed-Visits	Engaged-Visits
29-Jun-2021	to	03-Mar-2022		Direct	-	172	32	32



Search Engine	bing	1	0	0
Search Engine	google	7	1	1
Email	ehq_newsletter	75	24	24
Social	facebook	343	39	39
Social	twitter	10	4	4
.GOV sites	gov	18	4	4
Referrals	linktr.ee	1	1	1
Referrals	www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk	10	1	1

QuickPoll Response  
Graph

Do you think that Hartlepool Borough Council should move to "whole Council" elections, where the whole council would be elected at the same time once every four years?

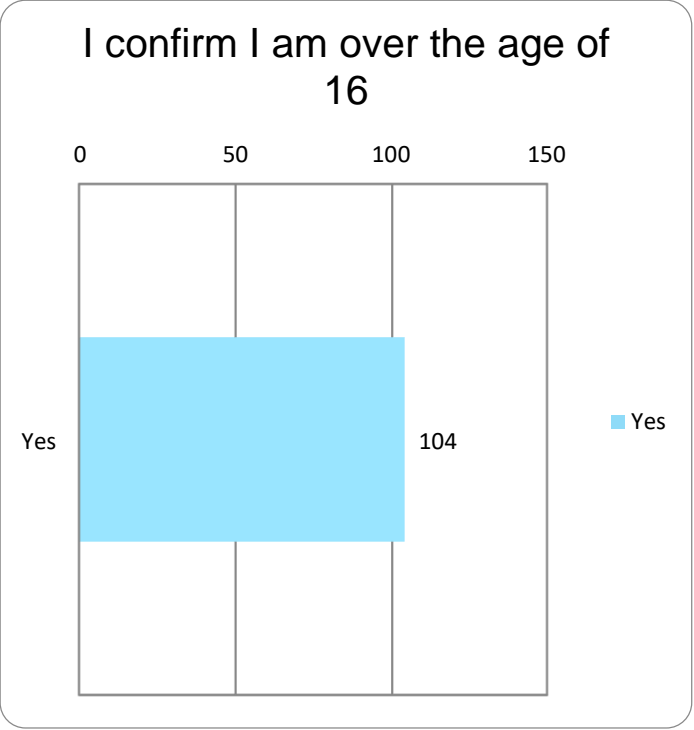




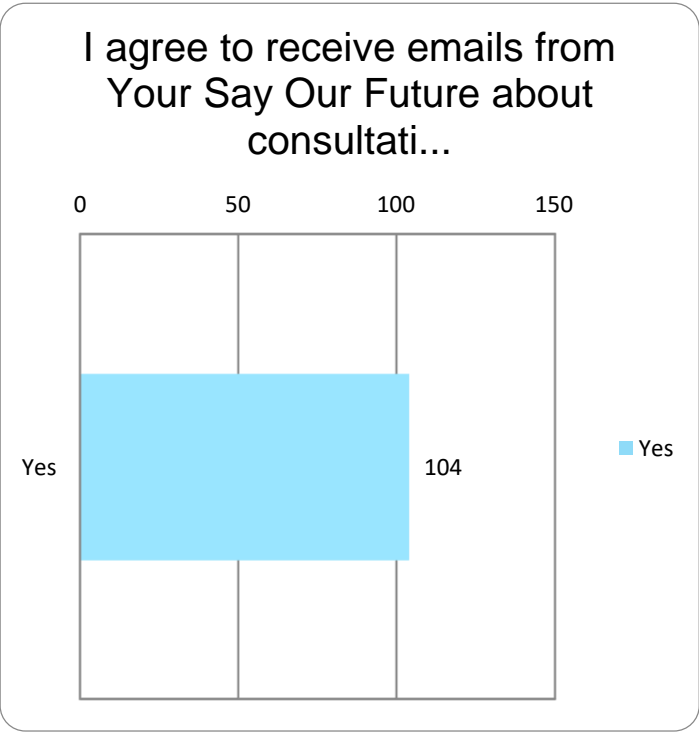
DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS of Contributors - Based on Sign-up form responses

*\*special characters like '&' will be removed from options*

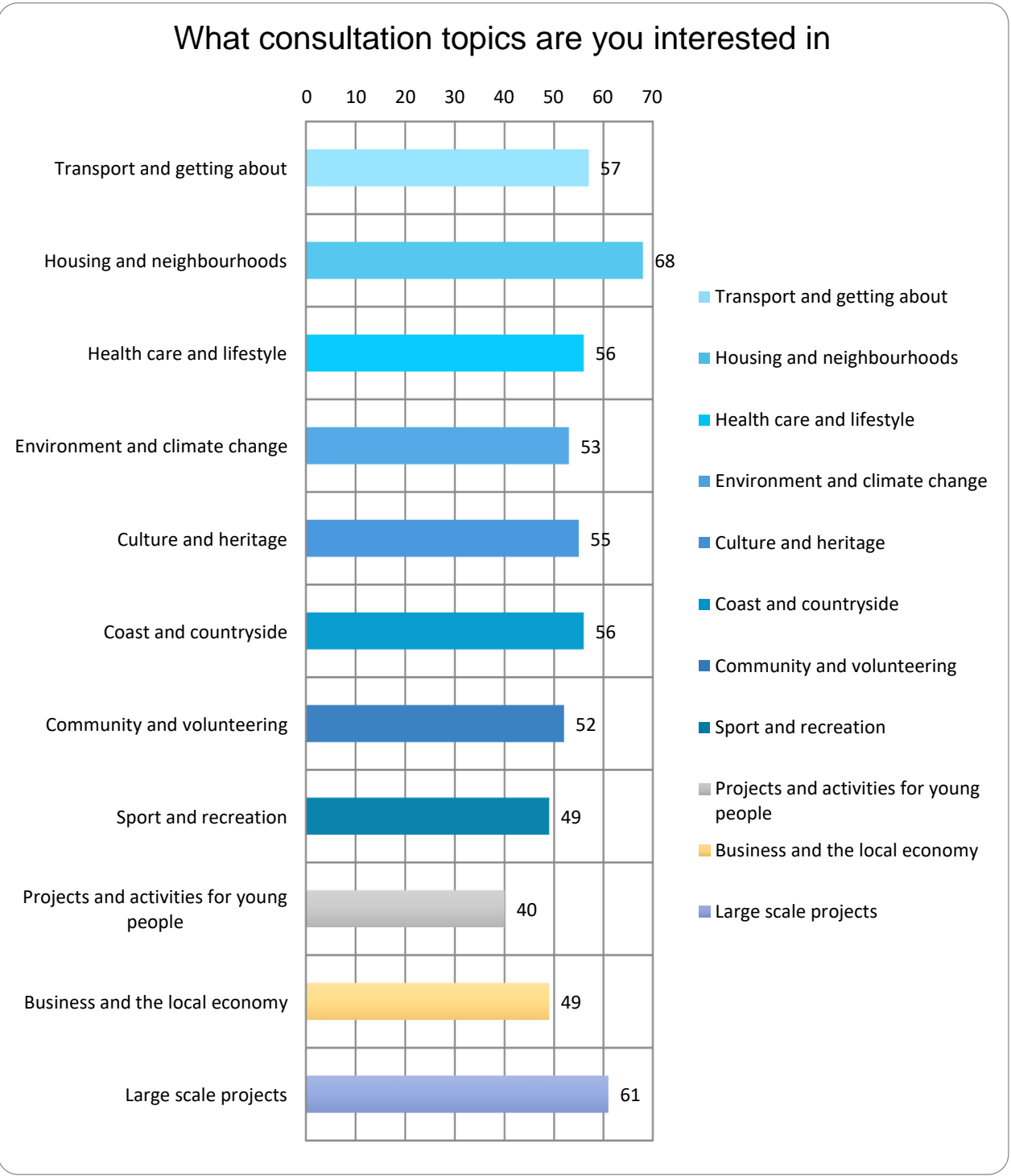
I confirm I am over the age of 16	
Yes	104



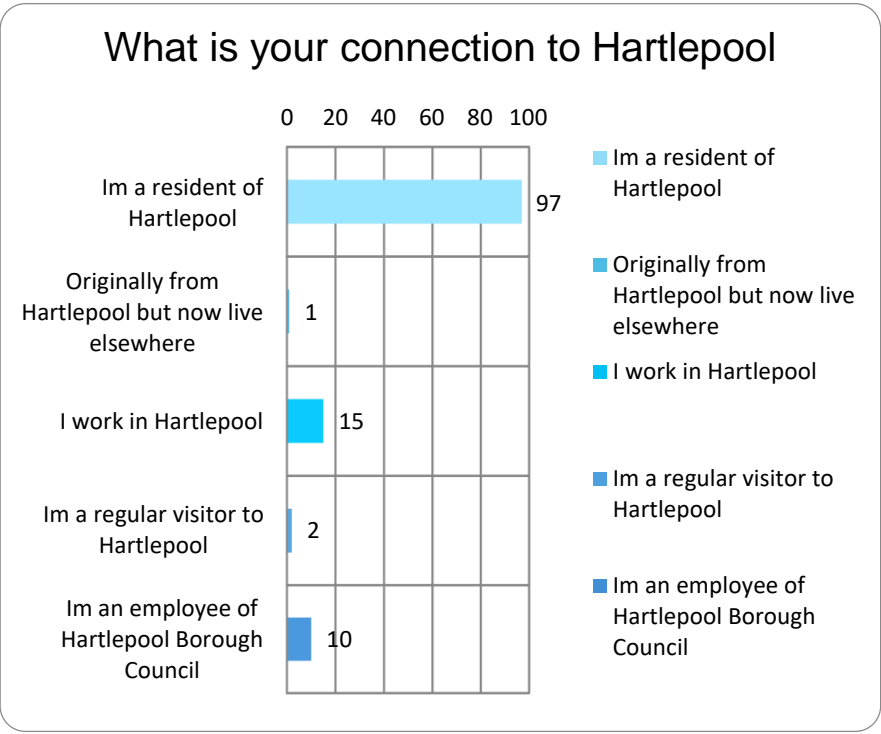
I agree to receive emails from Your Say Our Future about consultation	
Yes	104



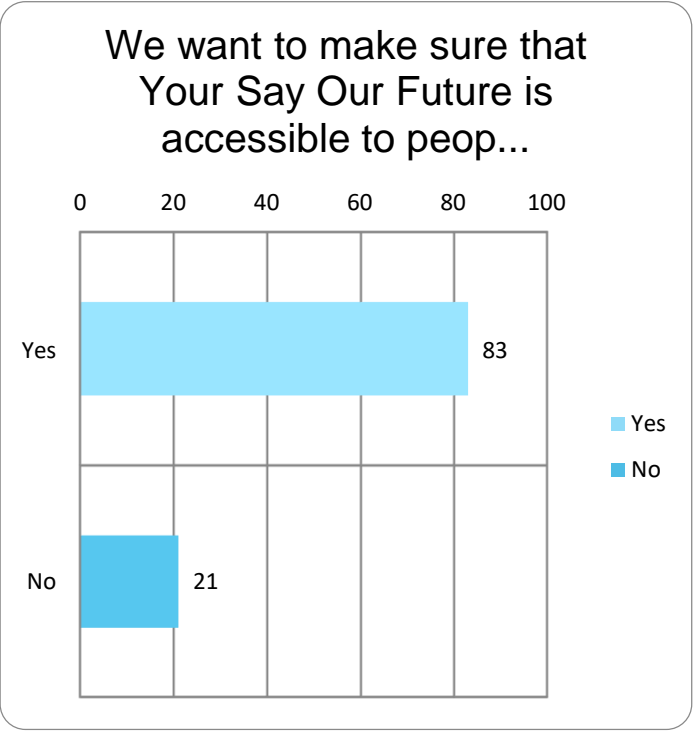
What consultation topics are you interested in?	
Transport and getting about	57
Housing and neighbourhoods	68
Health care and lifestyle	56
Environment and climate change	53
Culture and heritage	55
Coast and countryside	56
Community and volunteering	52
Sport and recreation	49
Projects and activities for young people	40
Business and the local economy	49
Large scale projects	61



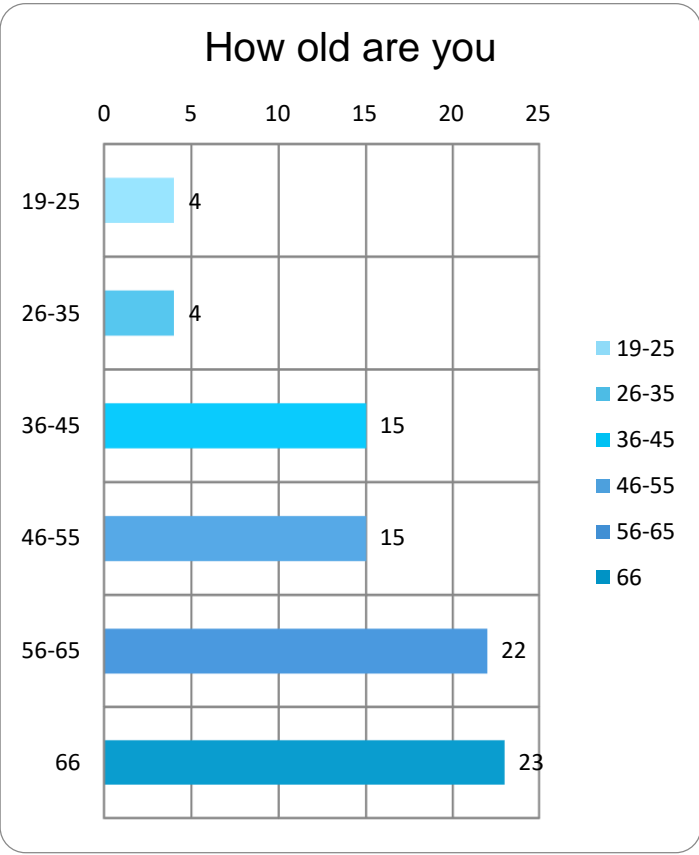
What is your connection to Hartlepool?	
Im a resident of	97
Original ly from Hartlep	1
I work in Hartlep	15
Im a regular visitor	2
Im an employ ee of	10



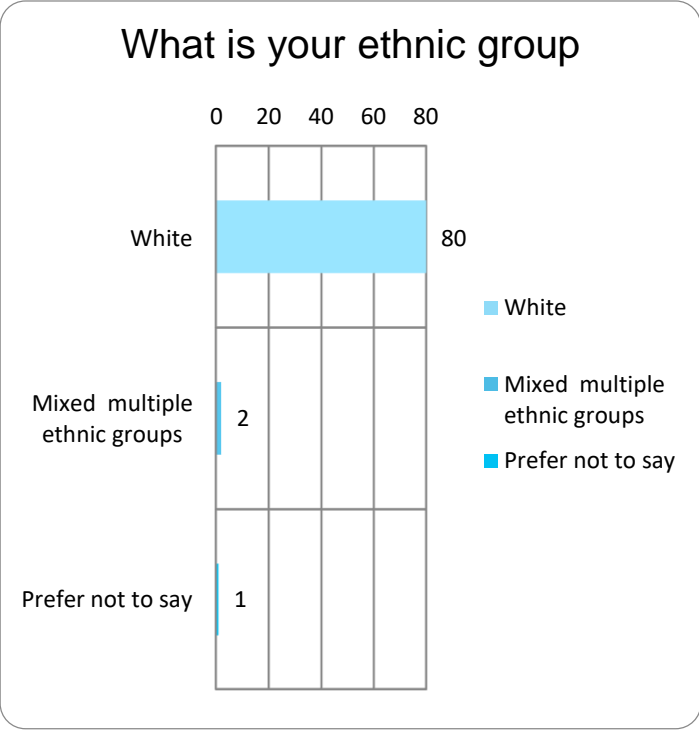
We want to make sure that Your Say Our Future is accessible to	
Yes	83
No	21



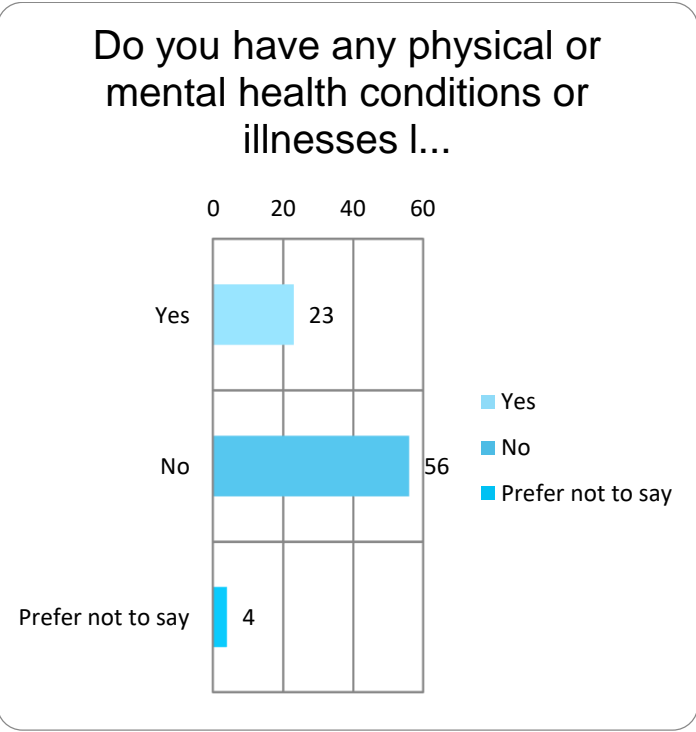
How old are you?	
19-25	4
26-35	4
36-45	15
46-55	15
56-65	22
66	23



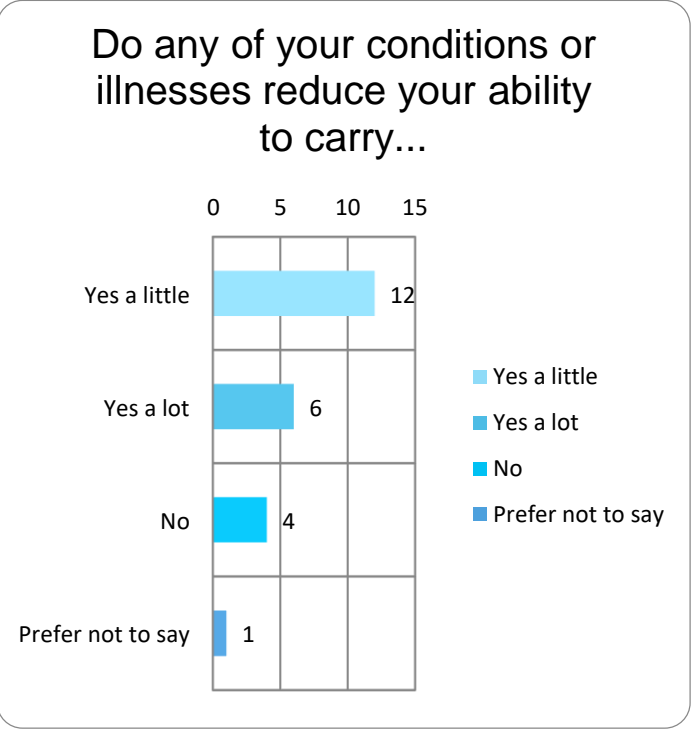
What is your ethnic group?	
White	80
Mixed multiple ethnic	2
Prefer not to say	1



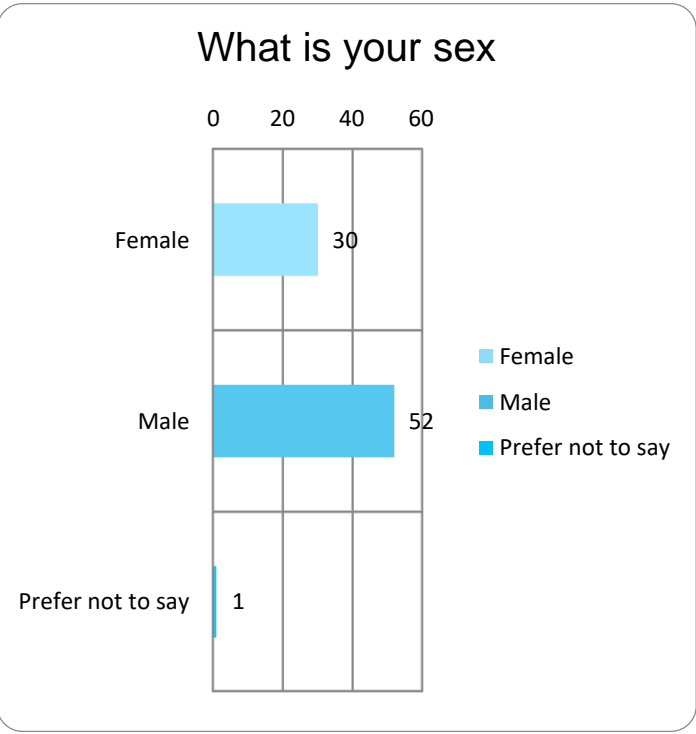
Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or	
Yes	23
No	56
Prefer not to say	4



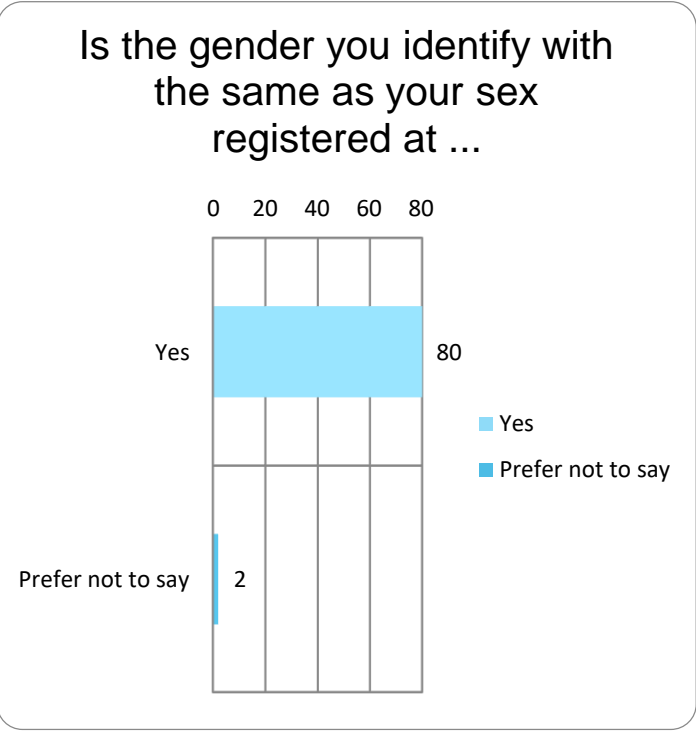
Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry	
Yes a little	12
Yes a lot	6
No	4
Prefer not to say	1



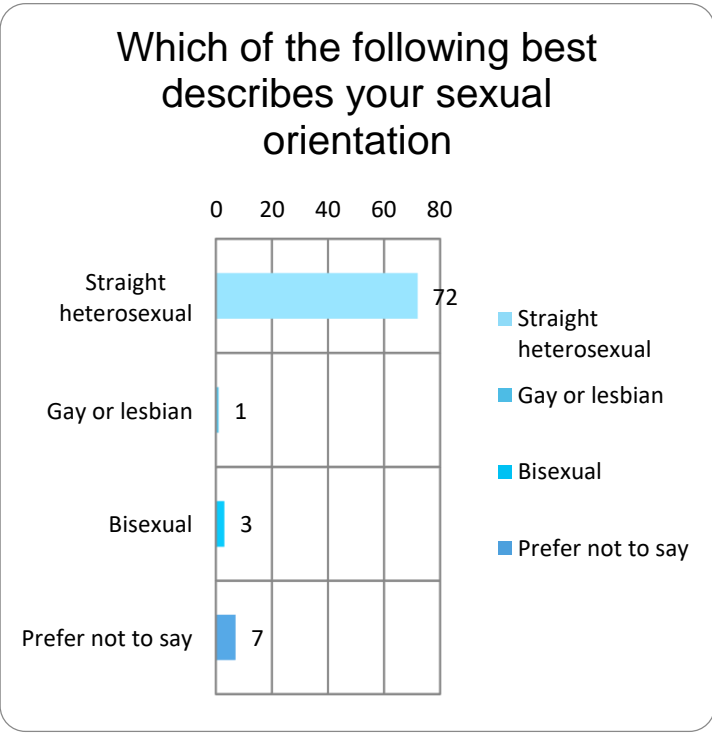
What is your sex?	
Female	30
Male	52
Prefer not to say	1



Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?	
Yes	80
Prefer not to say	2



Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?	
Straight heterosexual	72
Gay or lesbian	1
Bisexual	3
Prefer not to say	7



What is your religion?	
No religion atheist	31
Christian including	49
Other religion	2
Prefer not to say	1

