



PDF
Complete

*Your complimentary
use period has ended.
Thank you for using
PDF Complete.*

[Click Here to upgrade to
Unlimited Pages and Expanded Features](#)



Working for you

Harrogate Borough Council New Leadership Model

Public Consultation 2009

June 2009

Fiona Friday
Community Engagement Officer
Department of Corporate Policy & Improvement

- 1.1 In February 2009 Harrogate Borough Council consulted residents of the District to seek views on the Harrogate Borough Council New Leadership Model. A copy of the questionnaire can be found at Appendix A
- 1.2 The following questionnaires were returned:

Analysis of responses		
Total questionnaires analysed = 854		
	Questionnaires returned	Response Rate %
District Panel	835	55.7
Staff/Internet	16	
Councillors	2	3.7
Political Party	1	12.5
Total	854	

- 1.3 In total **853** responses to the **New Leadership Model** questionnaire were received.

I New Leadership Model

- 78% of all respondents stated a preference for a Leader and Cabinet Model developed for a four year term
- Both Councillors that responded to the survey stated a preference for a Leader and Cabinet Model developed for a four year term
- The one Political Party that responded stated a preference for a Leader and Cabinet Model developed for a four year term
- Respondents were given the opportunity to make comment on the Leadership Model. A variety of responses were received and all comments are shown in full within this report.
- Key reasons for favouring the Leader and Cabinet Model include:
 - It's a more balanced model
 - I don't think that Harrogate is the appropriate place for a directly elected Mayor
 - High quality leadership at a political level is derived from a Cabinet system
 - The directly elected Mayor model leads to a too restrictive form of government. The Mayor becomes too important and too public a figure
 - Over a four year period a persons views, etc can change completely
 - If a majority of the people of Harrogate elect councillors from party x then party x should run the council not party y under the guise of a directly elected Mayor

[Click Here to upgrade to Unlimited Pages and Expanded Features](#)

asked residents of the District the question How should the Council be led and managed? They were also given background information (see Appendix A)

3.2 Respondents were asked which Leadership model they would prefer

- 78% of all respondents stated a preference for a Leader and Cabinet Model developed for a four year term
- Both Councillors that responded to the survey stated a preference for a Leader and Cabinet Model developed for a four year term
- The one Political Party that responded stated a preference for a Leader and Cabinet Model developed for a four year term

Which Leadership model would you prefer?		
	Number	%
I prefer to see a Leader and Cabinet Model developed for a four year term	664	77.8
I would like a scheme for a Directly Elected Mayor prepared in more detail	190	22.2
Total	854	

3.3 Respondents were asked if they have any comments to make regarding the Leadership Model, comments have been broadly categorised as follows:

- In favour of the Proposal for a Leader and Cabinet Model developed for a four year term
 - 52 comments
- Would like a scheme for a Directly Elected Mayor prepared in more detail
 - 14 comments
- Comments regarding the cost and salary implications of a Directly Elected Mayor
 - 4 comments
- Comments regarding the current Cabinet / Leadership model
 - 11 comments
- Comments regarding Mayoral / Leader duties
 - 17 comments
- Miscellaneous
 - 14 comments

[Click Here to upgrade to Unlimited Pages and Expanded Features](#)

up of 1,500 local people. Panel membership was constructed in such a way that it would represent the District in respect of gender, age, physical/mental impairment and location of residence.

- 4.2 The gender split of those responding to the consultation was similar to the profile of the panel overall, although a slightly higher proportion of males responded to the questionnaire.

Gender	Respondents		Panel	
	No.	%	No.	%
Male	429	52.2	748	49.9%
Female	393	47.8	752	50.1%
Total	822		1500	

* 13 respondents did not supply this information

- 4.3 The response rate of young people aged 17-24 and 25-34 was the lowest. The lower response rate has been noted in previous District Panel consultations and is assumed to result because young people may be less inclined to involve themselves in consultation activity and may also be more likely to move around (eg attend university etc) and not be readily available. Older age bands were correspondingly over-represented.

Age (yrs)	Respondents		Panel	
	No.	%	No.	%
17-24	4	0.5	90	6%
25-34	20	2.4	203	15.5%
35-44	101	12.2	349	23.3%
45-54	170	20.6	402	26.8%
55-64	260	31.5	233	15.5%
65+	271	32.8	223	14.9%
Total	826		1500	

* 9 respondents did not supply this information
Note circumstances of respondents may have changed since panel demographics assessed

...onse by age findings, the response rate of the highest in the panel and those respondents on were under represented.

Economic position	Respondents		Panel	
	No.	%	No.	%
Employed	298	36.6	839	55.9%
Self employed	93	11.4	173	11.5%
Unemployed/govt. scheme	13	1.6	11	0.7%
Retired	374	45.9	313	20.9%
Student	4	0.5	52	3.5%
Looking after home/family	32	3.9	112	5.8%
Total	814		1500	
* 21 respondents did not supply this information Note circumstances of respondents may have changed since panel demographics assessed				

- 4.5 The response rate from those with a physical/mental impairment was slightly less proportionately (6.9%) than their proportion on the Panel (7.6%).

Table 4: Response by mobility – Do you suffer from any form of disability?				
<i>Yourself</i>				
	Respondents		Panel	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	56	6.9	114	7.6
No	755	93.1	1386	92.4
Total	811			
* 24 respondents did not supply this information				
Are you a full-time carer for a disabled sick or elderly relative or partner?				
Disabled	31	3.9	115	7.7
Not disabled	762	96.1	1385	92.3
Total	793			
*42 respondents did not supply this information.				

- 4.6 The response rate from respondents in the Harrogate wards, the Knaresborough wards, the Ripon wards and the rural wards broadly reflected the percentage of members from these wards on the panel.

	Respondents		Panel	
	No	%	No	%
Harrogate Wards	387		713	47.5%
Bilton	58		81	5.4
Granby	21		46	3.1
Harlow Moor	43		58	3.9
High Harrogate	30		59	3.9
Hookstone	39		71	4.7
Low Harrogate	19		44	2.9
New Park	24		60	4
Pannal	43		67	4.5
Rossett	35		72	4.8
Saltergate	17		38	2.5
Starbeck	22		32	2.1
Stray	27		55	3.7
Woodfield	9		30	2
Knarborough Wards				
Knarborough Wards	94		153	10.2
Knarborough East	32		59	3.3
Knarborough King James	38		56	3.9
Knarborough Scriven Park	24		48	3.2
Ripon Wards				
Ripon Wards	89		162	10.8
Ripon Minster	25		41	2.7
Ripon Moorside	31		56	3.7
Ripon Spa	33		65	4.3
Rural Wards				
Rural Wards	250		472	31.5
Bishop Monkton	26		40	2.7
Boroughbridge	25		25	1.7
Claro	9		36	2.4
Killinghall	17		32	2.1
Kirkby Malzeard	15		25	2.7
Lower Nidderdale	20		28	1.9
Marston Moor	22		34	2.3
Mashamshire	11		35	1.5
Newby	11		36	2.3
Nidd Valley	7		26	1.7
Ouseburn	19		18	1.2
Pateley Bridge	19		15	1
Ribson	10		32	2.1
Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale	21		36	2.4
Washburn	8		27	1.8
Wathvale	10		27	1.8

ifferent ethnic groups reflects the make up of the respondents classed themselves as British and 1.6% of respondents are from other ethnic groups.

Table 6: Response by Ethnicity				
	Respondents		Panel	
	No	%	No	%
British	808		1475	98.3
Irish			4	0.3
Any other White background	6		3	0.2
Caribbean			0	0.1
African			0	0
Any other Black background			1	0.1
White and Black Caribbean	2		2	0.1
White and Black African			3	0.2
White and Asian	1		1	0.1
Any other Mixed background	2		2	0.1
Indian			2	0.1
Pakistani	1		7	0.4
Bangladeshi			0	0
Any other Asian background			0	0
Chinese			0	0
Other Ethnic Group	1		0	0
Total	821			
14 Respondents did not supply this information				

4.8 Overall, the response rate is broadly reflective of the make-up of the District Panel, albeit that those over 55 years old are somewhat proportionately over represented.

Leadership Model

[Click Here to upgrade to
Unlimited Pages and Expanded Features](#)

ed?

l management for the Council and we need to know what you think.

Under new legislation, local authorities are being required to reconsider their political management arrangements. Harrogate Borough Council must do this by 31 December 2010. Currently, the 54 elected Councillors appoint a Leader annually and he appoints other Councillors to form a Cabinet Executive.

The Cabinet's role is to make recommendations to the Council on major policies, the budget and setting Council Tax and also to implement these measures when the Council has finalised them as well as setting the overall direction of much of the Council's work.

In future, only two types of arrangement will be permitted and these are known as:

- (i) **Leader and Cabinet Executive;** and
- (ii) **Mayor and Cabinet Executive.**

The most striking difference between our current arrangements and the Leader and Cabinet Executive Model proposed by Government is that the Leader will serve for a four year term of office and legislation will enable the Council to prepare a scheme which will allow for the removal of the Leader in certain circumstances.

It is important that the Leader retains the confidence and support of a majority, or at least the largest possible number of serving Councillors.

A Leader Model has operated since the Executive system was introduced in 2001, successfully in periods of political control by both the major political groups on the Council and in times of no overall control.

The other permissible model is the Mayor and Cabinet Executive. The Mayor would be directly elected in an additional election and would appoint his or her Cabinet Executive from among the elected Councillors. Once elected, the Mayor cannot be removed from office by the Council and would serve for a four year term.

In these circumstances, it is possible for a Mayor to wish to operate entirely different policies to that of a majority of elected Councillors seeking to represent their local areas. There has been no discernable degree of support for a directly elected Mayor for the Borough in the past and such a role might conflict with the well established civic role of the current Mayor of Harrogate. For these reasons, the Borough Council does not favour the Mayor with Cabinet Executive Model.

Before making a final decision and preparing detailed proposals we would like to hear from you about the Council's intended proposal. You can contact us by writing to Peter Jordan, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Council Offices, Crescent Gardens, Harrogate, HG1 2SG or local.democracy@harrogate.gov.uk

Alternatively give your brief comments below.

Which leadership model would you prefer?

Please tick one box

I prefer to see a Leader and Cabinet Model developed for a four year term.....



Your complimentary
use period has ended.
Thank you for using
PDF Complete.

[Click Here to upgrade to
Unlimited Pages and Expanded Features](#)

for a Directly Elected Mayor prepared in more
.....

wish to make?
us

Please specify below

Would you like to take part in further consultations regarding Local Democracy? If so, please supply your name and address below.

Please note - This information will not be used in conjunction with this survey, but will be passed directly to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

Please specify below
