CITY OF CLARENCE

Council meeting time change

Consultation Report

March 2025





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1 Survey design

Purpose of the survey

The survey was conducted to gather feedback regarding potential changes around timing of, and participation in, Council meetings. The survey sought to understand how the public currently engages and partakes with Council meetings and what changes would facilitate greater engagement.

Feedback Sought

This survey contained four questions for respondents to consider:

1. What the respondent's preferred start time for Council meetings was. This question gave three options, 6:00 pm, 6:30pm, and 7:00 pm, as well as an "other" option for written comments.

2. How the respondent currently, or would like to, engage with Council during meetings. This question gave two options of "submitting Questions With Notice", and "attending the meeting in person and asking Questions Without Notice", as well as an "other" option for written comments.

3. Whether the current start time (7:00 pm) limits the respondent's ability to participate or engage with Council. This question gave two options, "yes" or "no".

4. How the respondent views Council meetings. This question gave three options, and the respondent could select all that applied. These options were "in person", "via the live stream", and "watch the recording".

Rationale for selection questions

Questions were selected to better understand the community's current ability and preferences of accessing and participating in Council meetings.

2 What we did

How the survey was promoted

Advertisements in the Eastern Shore Sun.

Announcement of the consultation by the Mayor during two Council meetings, held between 11 November 2024 and 9 December 2024.

Social media posts on council's platforms.

Promotion of the consultation on the **City of Clarence website.**

Length of time survey was run

4 weeks (11 Nov 2024 – 9 Dec 2024)

Number of responses



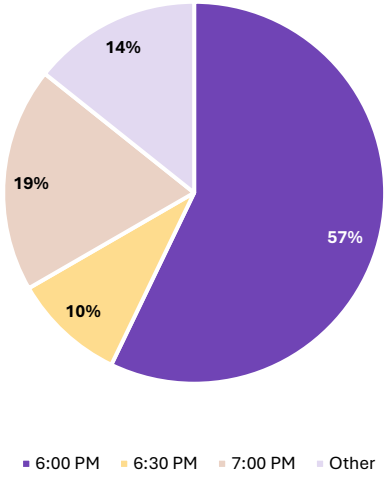
3 Key findings

Question one

Respondent's preferred start time

- **57 percent** of respondents selected **6:00 pm** as their preferred start time.
- The respondents who selected the **"other" option** each expressed their desire for **an earlier start time** than 7:00 pm.
- **Only 19 percent** of respondents preferred the start time of **7:00 pm**.
- **Overall, 81 percent** of respondents indicated that **a change in start time** for Council meetings **was preferrable**.

Preferred start time for Council meetings



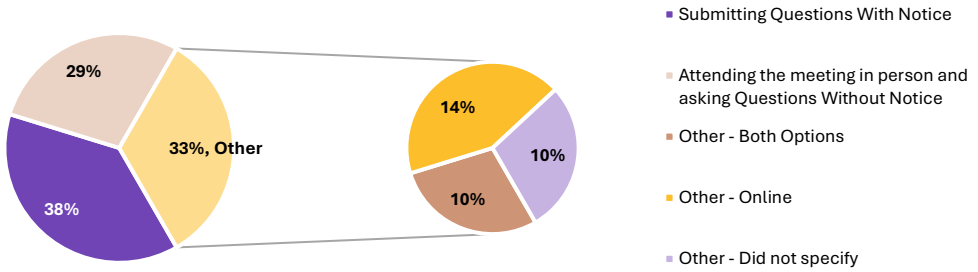
3 Key findings

Question two

Preferred method of engaging with Council during meetings

- Respondents showed **no overall preference** for an engagement method.
- **38 percent** selected “submitting Question With Notice”, **29 percent** selected “attending the meeting in person and asking Question Without Notice”, and **33 percent** selected “other”.
- Within the “other” responses, there is a desire to engage **via an online method**, or **both in person asking Questions Without Notice and submitting Questions With Notice**.

Preferred method of engaging with Council during meetings



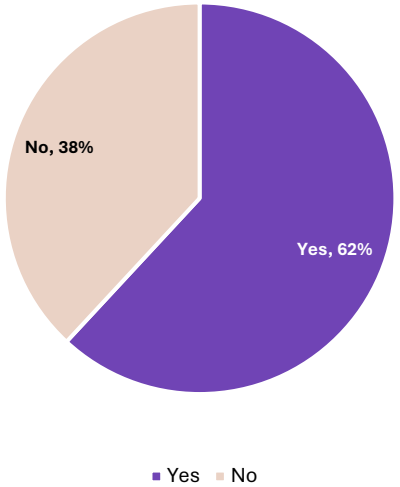
3 Key findings

Question three

Impact of the current state time on respondent participating or engaging with Council

- **62 percent** of respondents indicated that the current start time of 7:00 pm for Council meetings **limited their ability to participate or engage with Council.**
- The responses to question three are **reflective of the desire to change the Council meeting start time** as indicated in question one.

Current state time impact on respondent's ability to participate or engage with Council



3 Key findings

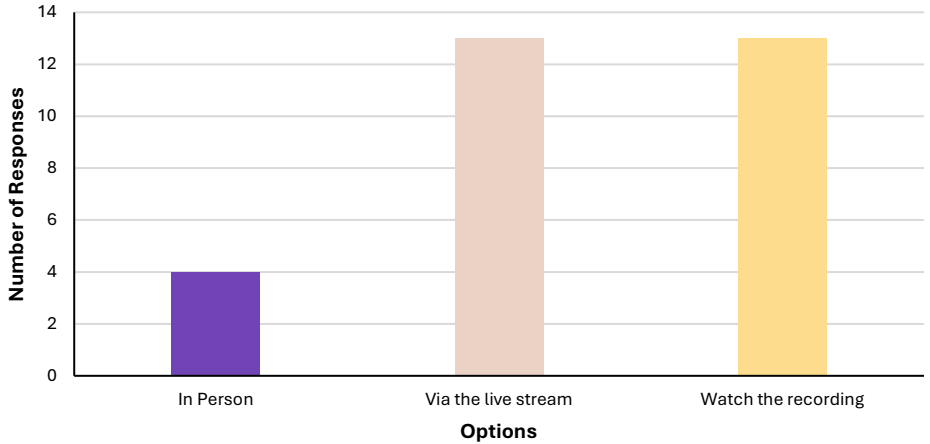
Question four

Methods that respondents use to view Council meetings

- **20 respondents** answered question four.
- **Most respondents viewed** Council meetings **via online methods**.
- Overall, **65 percent** of respondents viewed **“via the live stream” and “watch the recording”**.*
- **20 percent** of respondents viewed **“in person”**.

“Via the live stream” and “Watch the recording” have 65 percent response rates due to respondents being able to select multiple options. Of the responses that selected more than one option, two of these responses selected all three viewing options, and six responses selected “via the live stream” and “watch the recording”

Methods of viewing Council meetings



4 Summary

The results of this survey have indicated a desire for an earlier start time for Council meetings, the majority of which favoured a 6:00 pm start time.

This preference is further supported by over 60 percent of respondents who expressed that the current start time at 7:00 pm limits their ability to participate or engage with Council.

Survey participants largely viewed Council meetings via online methods, whether watching the live stream or the recording, however, 20 percent of respondents still attended Council meetings in person.

This variety of viewership is reflected in the preferred methods of engaging with Council, where having the ability to both submit questions on notice and ask questions without notice is desired.