

Do the Numbers Limited

22nd November 2025

Rita Tong, Executive Officer
Fleet Town Council

Dear Rita,

Subject: Review of Voting for Harlington Renovation Options

As requested, I have reviewed the results of your online and paper survey of residents for the three options to renovate the Harlington.

The number of valid votes by residents of Fleet was as follows

Option A	976	51%
Option B	325	17%
Option C	608	32%

I can confirm that the postcode attached to each vote cast has been checked against the boundary map.

I can confirm that duplicate votes online were prevented by the SurveyMonkey IP software.

I can confirm that all votes were checked against postcodes and no irregular patterns (multiple votes from one address for example) were detected.

Where residents had given their address rather than their full postcode, that was used to validate the address.

A breakdown of the votes cast is shown in the table below.

	<i>All options</i>	<i>Option A</i>	<i>Option B</i>	<i>Option C</i>	<i>No option chosen</i>
Total votes	2,044	1047	363	634	
Valid resident votes	1,909	976	325	608	4
Out of parish votes	135	71	38	26	2
Electronic votes	1,788	935	300	553	
Paper votes	256	112	63	81	6
Additional online comments	1,411	720	219	472	

The electorate of Fleet Town Council is 18,661

The population of Fleet is 44,822 (including children)

The turnout against electorate was therefore 10% which is statistically significant

On the electronic voting system, 1411 comments were made by residents which are summarised as follows

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Director: Eleanor S Greene

Overall Summary of Comments Made

Option A

- Seen as a more affordable choice during the cost of living crisis.
- Some believe that option A provides sufficient updates without increasing council tax.
- Several residents believe that Fleet is already paying enough council tax.

Option B

- A balance between upgrades and cost, appealing to those who want improvements without excessive spending.
- A sensible improvement that is affordable to residents.
- Some residents support Option B but also desire the "Changing Places" facility.

Option C

- Provides a long-term solution and offers many more facilities for a small increase.
- Residents believe that Option C will expand the use of the Harlington.
- Stakeholders see option C as a future-proof solution and good community facility.

Detailed review of comments made by supporters of specific options

Key points raised by those who chose A

- The most affordable choice, aligning with current economic limitations
- Prudent Investment - necessary upgrades without overextending finances
- Includes all essential renovations needed to modernise the venue and serve community needs effectively, without unnecessary luxury features
- Concern About Rising Costs and Tax Impact
- Preference for Simplicity and Practicality - value functional updates over elaborate or vanity projects
- Future-Proofing Without Excessive Spending

Key points raised by those who chose B

- Balance of Cost and Improvements: best compromise between upgrading the facility and maintaining affordability
- Enhanced Accessibility and Facilities - better accessibility, a more modern design, improved entry, vital updates for the community
- Good Value and Future-Proofing - practical investment that addresses current needs and ensures the building remains relevant and functional for future use
- Minimal Impact on Household Budgets - modest increase in Council Tax is acceptable, especially compared to option C
- Sufficient Modernisation without over-spending or including unnecessary extras
- Perceived as Practical and Realistic - sensible, balanced improvement plan that can be delivered effectively within budget constraints, and can be completed within a reasonable timeframe

- Prefer Option B over the more ambitious C mainly because it avoids excessive costs and potential budget overruns, aligning with financial prudence during challenging economic times

Key points raised by those who supported Option C

- Comprehensive and Future-Proof Improvements - making the Harlington a more attractive and functional community asset for many years to come
- Enhanced Facilities and Community Benefits- more hireable spaces, better accessibility, modernised internal and external facilities, including features like changing places and improved auditorium space, which are seen as crucial for community needs and inclusivity
- Economic Growth and Town Prosperity - attract more visitors and footfall
- Best way to future-proof the facility for decades and potentially generate additional income, helping to offset the costs
- Inclusion and Support for Complex Disabilities
- Aesthetic and Modernisation Goals
- Perception of High Value and Community Necessity
- Willingness to Invest for Long-Term Gains - enhanced facilities that serve multiple generations.

Concerns raised by all groups

- Many residents feel that council tax is already excessive
- Affordability During Cost of Living Crisis
- Uncertainty About Long-Term Spending
- Unequal Contributions - why are Church Crookham and Elvetham not contributing
- only Fleet residents are bearing the costs, especially since not all benefit equally
- Belief that the existing funds should suffice
- Suspicion that funds spent on the project could have been misused or that previous plans have lacked support
- Concerns About Over-Spending: cost overruns, more expensive than initially projected without guaranteed benefits.

If either you or your members have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,



Eleanor S Greene