

North Lanarkshire Council

Report

Policy and Strategy Committee

approval noting

Ref LMcM/MC/LP

Date 01/10/20

Implementation of Community Boards and Potential Future Locality Planning and Community Board Arrangements

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Executive Summary

This report firstly provides an overview of the initial implementation arrangements for the 9 Community Boards established as a key delivery element of the new Engaging with Communities Framework, and secondly outlines the outcome of a recent engagement exercise carried out in the Coatbridge and Northern Corridor Community Board areas to determine the final area composition of these specific Boards.

Recommendations

The Policy and Strategy Committee is recommended to:-

- (1) note the outcome of the community engagement and consultation exercise carried out in the Coatbridge and Northern Corridor Community Board areas, as outlined in section 2.2 and Appendix 3 of the report; and
- (2) agree that, on the basis of the consultation findings as set out in Appendix 3, the future operational arrangements for the Coatbridge and Northern Corridor Boards be amended to reflect this with immediate effect and that the Northern Corridor Board comprise Wards 5 & 6 and the Coatbridge Board comprise the Wards 7,10 and 11.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority	Enhance participation, capacity, and empowerment across our communities
Ambition statement	(20) Improve the involvement of communities in the decisions, and development of services and supports, that affect them

1. Background

- 1.1 Community Matters - A Framework for Working with Communities sets out the Community Planning Partnership's commitment to engaging with communities, underpinned by a set of principles and approaches designed to deliver on a number of key priorities associated with working with communities. This includes the creation of 9 Community Boards. This approach was approved at the Policy & Strategy Committee on 19th March 2020.
- 1.2 Following on from that earlier decision, this report outlines for the Policy and Strategy Committee how the Boards are shaping up following the initial round of meetings in August/September, particularly in terms of representation, a key enabler in the all-important ongoing direction and development of the Boards and their standing within communities.
- 1.3 The 9 Boards support community participation and provide a single coordinated approach to governance for local planning reflecting statutory and regulatory requirements. The Boards will operate in a manner consistent with influencing and delivering the One Plan outcomes at local level.
- 1.4 The first 9 meetings have all now taken place. The Boards considered an agreed start up agenda, an example of which is included in **Appendix 1**.
- 1.5 The inaugural Community Board meeting schedule is set out in Table 1.

Table 1 – Cycle 1 Community Board Meetings

Area	Meeting Date & Time	Location
Northern Corridor	17/8/2020 1030	WebEx
Shotts	17/8/2020 1400	WebEx
Coatbridge	19/8/2020 1030	WebEx
Motherwell	19/8/2020 1400	WebEx
Kilsyth	20/8/2020 1400	WebEx
Wishaw	21/8/2020 1030	WebEx
Airdrie	25/8/2020 1030	WebEx
Cumbernauld	25/8/2020 1400	WebEx
Bellshill	01/9/2020 1400	WebEx

2. Report

2.1 Community Boards – Feedback from Initial Meetings

- 2.1.1 When fully up and running, the 9 Boards will drive streamlining and better alignment of engagement with communities across services and the community planning partnership to provide one coordinated and easy to navigate approach providing integrated, meaningful opportunities to influence priorities around a variety of issues e.g. (but not limited to), local grants, participatory budgeting, consultations, and input to master planning.

- 2.1.2 The initial programme of Community Board meetings, although organised somewhat quickly following lockdown, were on the whole well received by participants. Some users experienced technical difficulties in using the WebEx system, despite the careful pre planning by Officers in seeking to address such potential issues prior to the meetings through 1-1 dialogue and test calls. Ongoing work will address these capacity issues in order to avoid similar issues at future meetings and to ensure a digitally inclusive approach. There was generally a good mix of partners, elected members and community groups present at all of the 9 Board meetings. Efforts will continue to further extend the reach of community input to the Boards. Specific work is ongoing within local communities, with young people, Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups and disability groups, in order to widen the representation at future Board meetings.
- 2.1.3 Recognising that not all community organisations' identity is place based, there is a need to ensure that people who come together because they share particular characteristics and identity, also have a platform where they are heard and can influence both decision making structures and the realisation of the Plan for North Lanarkshire. Many identity based groups, particularly where there are smaller populations, are often North Lanarkshire wide and therefore don't naturally fit with a locality based structure like that of the Community Boards. This is particularly true for groups whose connections relate to disability or impairment, ethnicity, culture and language, sexuality etc.
- 2.1.4 Over the course of the coming weeks the Council's communities team, will initiate discussions with those representative North Lanarkshire wide communities of identity to explore how best their influence can be formalised and add value to the Community Boards and other participatory and decision making structures.

Table 2 – Initial Community Board Meetings - Participants

Community Councils	Tenants and Residents Associations
Historical /Cultural Groups	Community Forums
Youth Groups	Police Scotland
Scottish Fire & Rescue	NHSL
Elected Members	Co-op Pioneer Group
Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire	Council Officers

- 2.1.5 Following the Community Board meetings, feedback from participants was sought and the returns have now been analysed to determine specific issues and ensure procedures are adapted as necessary.
- 2.1.6 From initial participant discussions regarding the role of the Boards, there is very welcome evidence of positive community engagement, with some areas immediately identifying potential Community Board Chairs from within the community and also positive ideas generated in terms of establishing task/reference sub-groups of the Boards. This will be progressed to maintain the momentum for community involvement in taking the boards forward. Opportunities to build on existing community work aligned to the Plan for North Lanarkshire will be progressed at pace.
- 2.1.7 Proposals around new ways of improving the accessibility of community boards i.e. live-streaming of meetings and on line live debates on specific topics generated interest.

- 2.1.8 Feedback was actively sought from participants at all Community Boards. A number of responses received from community groups and organisations indicated the view that it was positive that the meetings were going ahead 'virtually' rather than being postponed or not going ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- 2.1.9 Some respondents articulated the view that there was good representation from the community, that it was positive that they were able to introduce themselves, had an opportunity to provide input, and were able to express their points of view and provide up-dates on what was happening within their local community.
- 2.1.10 Participants were generally positive that the Community Boards had the potential to represent the voice of the community and were looking forward to getting involved, hosting meetings, developing agendas and having a say in the future of their communities.
- 2.1.11 In community representatives own words, there is potential....

'Good to know that the meetings will serve as a platform to share visions and priorities and ensure voices are listened to' (Community Representative Motherwell Board)

'This could be a tremendous new initiative for our community' (Community representative Cumbernauld Board)

- 2.1.12 Community Safety issues have been a consistent theme across the 9 Boards with local community groups identifying this issue as a priority. The emergence of Community Safety reference groups as part of the boards, will consolidate the already positive links in with Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and other relevant community planning partners in the development of local plans.
- 2.1.13 Feedback from several of the initial Board meetings and subsequent submissions indicated that the times of meetings should change to encourage attendance from; young people who may still be in education or training and those working. Therefore, the meetings due to be held in November will be in the evening with dates and times to be confirmed in due course.

2.2 **Future Operational Arrangements for the Coatbridge and Northern Corridor Boards – Outcome of Community Engagement**

- 2.2.1 Some clear issues and concerns were identified by a number of community organisations prior to the staging of the first Board meetings in terms of the decision making around and rationale underpinning the formation and structure of the Boards in the Coatbridge and Northern Corridor areas. In response, a specific consultation exercise has been undertaken, facilitated by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL), to explore concerns and provide the two Community Board areas with an opportunity to feedback on the initial arrangements for the Boards and put forward their opinions in terms future operating arrangements.

2.3 **Survey**

- 2.3.1 A copy of the consultation materials and a breakdown of the results from the consultation exercise are set out in **Appendices 2 and 3**.
- 2.3.2 Overall There were **46** responses from the Coatbridge area and **18** from the Northern Corridor.

2.3.3 **58** responses were received to the question regarding the make-up of Coatbridge and Northern Corridor Boards, the responses were as set out in Table 3 below :

Table 3 Board Composition

Community Board	Status quo	Split Ward 6 - Glenboig joins Coatbridge Board	Ward 6 returns in its entirety to Northern Corridor	Any other ideas you might suggest	Total responses
Northern Corridor	0 (0%)	6 (33%)	11 (61.11%)	1 (5.56%)	18
Coatbridge	6 (13.04%)	14 (30.43%)	24 (52.17%)	2 (4.35%)	40
Total responses	6	20	35	3	58

2.3.4 In summary, the feedback from the on line survey demonstrated that there was **majority support amongst respondents for the option to realign the Northern Corridor Community Board to include Wards 5 & 6.**

2.3.5 The consultation responses also highlighted support to participate in future sub groups of the boards and suggested different ways of appointing a chair, these proposals will be considered further and progressed in conjunction with local community groups.

2.3.6 In terms of the name of the Northern Corridor Community Board there was a clear majority in favour of retaining the “Northern Corridor” as the name for the board.

2.4 **Focus Groups**

2.4.1 Focus groups were held with representative from community and voluntary sector from the Coatbridge and Northern Corridor areas on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd September 2020. The focus groups were attended by a total of 20 representatives. The following is a summary of responses.

Coatbridge Focus Group

2.4.2 **15** community representatives contributed to the Coatbridge focus group that was facilitated and scribed by VANL. **13** representatives attended the meeting and **2** sent apologies but provided their views in writing. Findings from the focus group identified that:

- 9** were in favour of Option 3, Ward 6 to returns to the North Corridor Board
- 3** were in favour of Option 2, Glenboig joins the Coatbridge Board,
- 1** was in favour of Option 1, status quo
- 2** did not specify a preference

2.4.3 Therefore the majority view was that **Ward 6 to return to the Northern Corridor.**

Northern Corridor Focus Group

2.4.4 **7** community representatives attended the Northern Corridor focus group facilitated and scribed by VANL. A further **4** representatives sent apologies as they were unable to attend. **2** of the representatives attended both Coatbridge and Northern Corridor Focus Groups and voted for Option 3. Findings from this focus group identified that all participants were in favour of Option 3, Ward 6 returning to the Northern Corridor Board.

2.4.5 Therefore the majority view was that **Ward 6 be aligned to the Northern Corridor Board.**

2.5 Community Boards - Role

2.5.1 It is vital that the realigned Boards play an increasingly pivotal role for communities, through the future emergence of reference/sub groups, in providing an interface with statutory and key voluntary agencies supporting key decisions around:-

- the targeted use of resources to meet local needs (for example, through participatory budgeting);
- community safety;
- design of physical infrastructure and spaces (Town and Community Hubs, Town Visions and Parks master planning);
- the planning and design of services (operating models, activities targeted to meet local need); and
- guiding, overseeing and monitoring the statutory locality planning approach.

3. Equality and Diversity

3.1 Fairer Scotland Duty

3.1.1 An initial assessment has been completed that will be further informed by the ongoing community engagement and consultation associated with the development of the Community Boards.

3.2 Equality Impact Assessment

3.2.1 An initial assessment has been completed that will be further informed by the ongoing community engagement and consultation associated with the development of the Community Boards.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Impact

4.1.1 The Community Boards and locality planning processes will, in the main, be delivered within the available resources of the Council and community planning partners. However, there may be some additional technology costs in relation to setting up of online meetings and ensuring as wide an access as possible for local communities.

4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact

4.2.1 None identified at present.

4.3 Environmental Impact

4.3.1 None identified at present.

4.4 Risk Impact

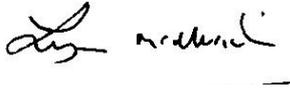
4.4.1 None identified at present

5. Measures of success

5.1 Increased levels of engagement with local communities and partners resulting in positive outcomes for communities across a wide spectrum of Plan for North Lanarkshire priorities as well as key issues identified through locality planning as a result of the effective functioning of the Community Boards.

6. Supporting documents

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Sample Community Board Agenda.
- 6.2 Appendix 2 – Consultation in Northern Corridor and Coatbridge Board areas - Methodology/Consultation Materials
- 6.3 Appendix 3 – Outcome of On Line Consultation in Northern Corridor and Coatbridge Board Areas



Lizanne McMurrich
Head of Communities

Community Board Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction - Convener
2. Brief introductions by board members
3. Concordat with Communities – Developing the Community Boards and Board representation
4. One Place, One Plan – Covid 19 Recovery Planning Overview
5. Board Reference/Sub Groups
6. Local/Strategic Consultations
7. Petitions
8. AOCB
9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

**Consultation in Northern Corridor and Coatbridge Board Areas -
Methodology/Consultation Materials**

Northern Corridor Community Board Consultation

The Community Partnership Team within NLC are seeking your views as a representative of a local organisation/group within the Northern Corridor regarding the structure of the Community Board representing your locality.

As you may already be aware, the new model for the Northern Corridor Community Board does not presently include Ward 6 which covers Gartcosh, Glenboig and Moodiesburn communities. As concerns have been raised regarding this recently agreed model, it is really important that we find out the views of a range of organisations/groups including yours to enable us to find a way of moving forward.

We would really appreciate if you could take a few minutes to complete the short questionnaire below. Your views are important to us and the information gathered from this will be used to help reach consensus and help determine a structure that is appropriate to the identified needs of your local communities.

Please complete this questionnaire via the Survey Monkey or by sending this completed form to the Community Matters e-mail address details of which are provided at the end of this questionnaire.

1. What is your name and the name of your organisation/group (if applicable)?

2. What locality/village or area do you/your organisation or group represent?

3. Please identify from the following options, you/your organisation or group's choice for the Northern Corridor Community Board going forward.

Options	Details
Option 1	Status Quo <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ward 6 remains part of Coatbridge Board
Option 2	Split Ward 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Glenboig joins Coatbridge Board.• Gartcosh and Moodiesburn re-join the Northern Corridor Board.
Option 3	Ward 6 returns in its entirety to Northern Corridor
Option 4	Any other ideas that you might wish to suggest? Please tell us your ideas.

Please tell us your choice and the reason for your choice.

I confirm that my/my organisation/group choice is Option _____

Please state the reason for your choice

4. We understand that 'Northern Corridor Community Board' may not be the most appropriate title for the Board. Do you think this title should be changed? (Please tick)

Yes

No

If your organisation feels the name should be changed, please share any suggestions you may have for another name below.

5. Please tell us how you think the chair of the Community Board should be rotated or elected, and the most appropriate way to achieve this?

6. It is intended to set up sub-groups within each Community Board. The purpose of the sub-groups will be to progress work on locally identified themes/topics that will support the delivery of local outcomes. This could include for example Community Safety, Youth, Local Development Programme projects, participatory budgeting, new build housing etc. What topics/themes do you think are important to your local community and should be progressed by a sub-group of the Community Board?

7. Would you/your organisation be willing to participate in any sub-groups? If so, please tell us which one/s.

8. What topics should be included in the agenda for future board discussions?

Survey Monkey via link _____

CommunityMatters@northlan.gov.uk

Please feel free to forward the link to others.

Thank you for providing your views. We value your opinion.

Coatbridge Community Board Consultation

The Community Partnership Team are seeking your views as a representative of a local organisation/group regarding the structure of the Community Board representing your locality.

As you may already be aware, the new model for the Coatbridge Community Board presently includes Ward 6 which covers Gartcosh, Glenboig and Moodiesburn communities. As concerns have been raised regarding this recently agreed model, it is really important that we find out the views of a range of organisations/groups including yours to enable us to find a way of moving forward.

We would really appreciate if you could take a few minutes to complete the short questionnaire below. Your views are important to us and the information gathered from this will be used to help reach consensus and help determine a structure that is appropriate to the identified needs of your local communities.

Please complete this questionnaire via the Survey Monkey or by sending this completed form to the Community Matters e-mail address details of which are provided at the end of this questionnaire.

2. What is your name or the name of your organisation/group (if applicable)?

3. What locality/village or area do you live in or your organisation/group represent?

4. Please identify from the following options, your/your organisation or group's choice for Coatbridge Community Board going forward.

Options	Details
Option 1	Status Quo <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ward 6 remains part of Coatbridge Board
Option 2	Split Ward 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Glenboig joins Coatbridge Board.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gartcosh and Moodiesburn re-join the Northern Corridor Board.
Option 3	Ward 6 returns in its entirety to Northern Corridor including Glenboig
Option 4	Any other ideas that you might wish to suggest? Please tell us your ideas.

Please tell us your choice and the reason for your choice.

I confirm that my individual/organisation/group choice is Option _____

Please state the reason for your choice

5. Please tell us how you think the chair of the Community Board should be rotated or elected, and the most appropriate way to achieve this?

6. It is intended to set up sub-groups within each Community Board. The purpose of the sub-groups will be to progress work on locally identified themes/topics that will support the delivery of local outcomes. This could include for example Community Safety, Youth, Local Development Programme projects, participatory budgeting, new build housing etc.

What topics/themes do you think are important to your local community that should be progressed by a sub-group of the Community Board?

9. Would you/your organisation be willing to participate in any sub-groups? If so, please tell us which one/s

10. What topics should be included in the agenda for future board discussions?

Survey Monkey via link _____

CommunityMatters@northlan.gov.uk

Please feel free to forward the link to others.

Thank you for providing your views. We value your opinion.

Outcome of On Line Consultation in Northern Corridor and Coatbridge Board Areas

Circulation

Two on line surveys were launched on Tuesday 1st September 2020 and closed on Wednesday 16th September 2020. The links to the surveys were circulated:

- to all representatives from Coatbridge and Northern Corridor Community Board Meetings
- via Twitter (@My_Northern Corridor and @My_Coatbridge)
- via Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL)

Responses received

An overall total of **64** responses were received to both surveys, **46** responses to the Coatbridge consultation and **18** responses to the Northern Corridor consultation. The breakdown of these responses is as set out in the table below.

Community Board	Elected members	Community organisations/ groups	Local residents/ individuals	Not specified	Total
Northern Corridor	1	10 (2 from one organisation)	6	0	18
Coatbridge	5	14	21	4	42
Totals	6	24	27	4	60

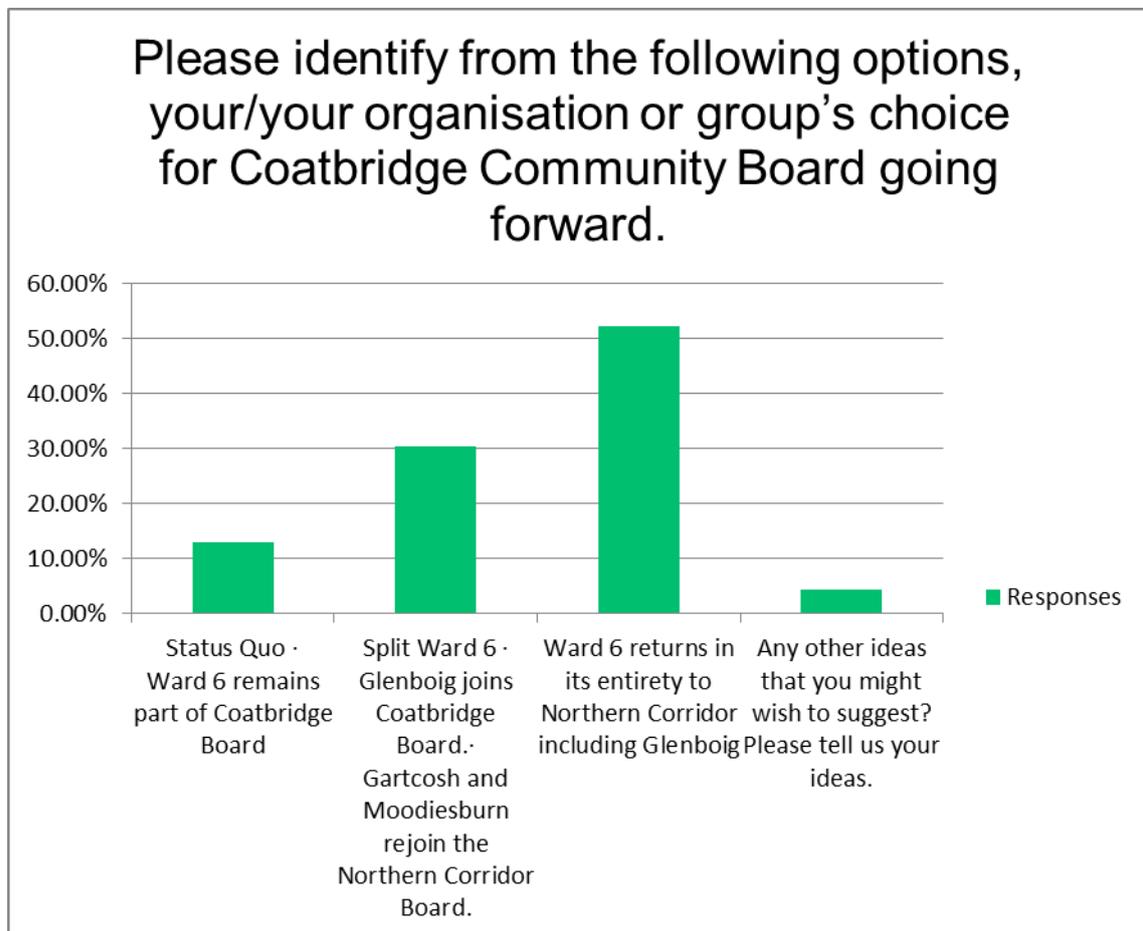
In addition, NHS Lanarkshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue Community Learning & Development responded to the Northern Corridor survey.

Survey Results

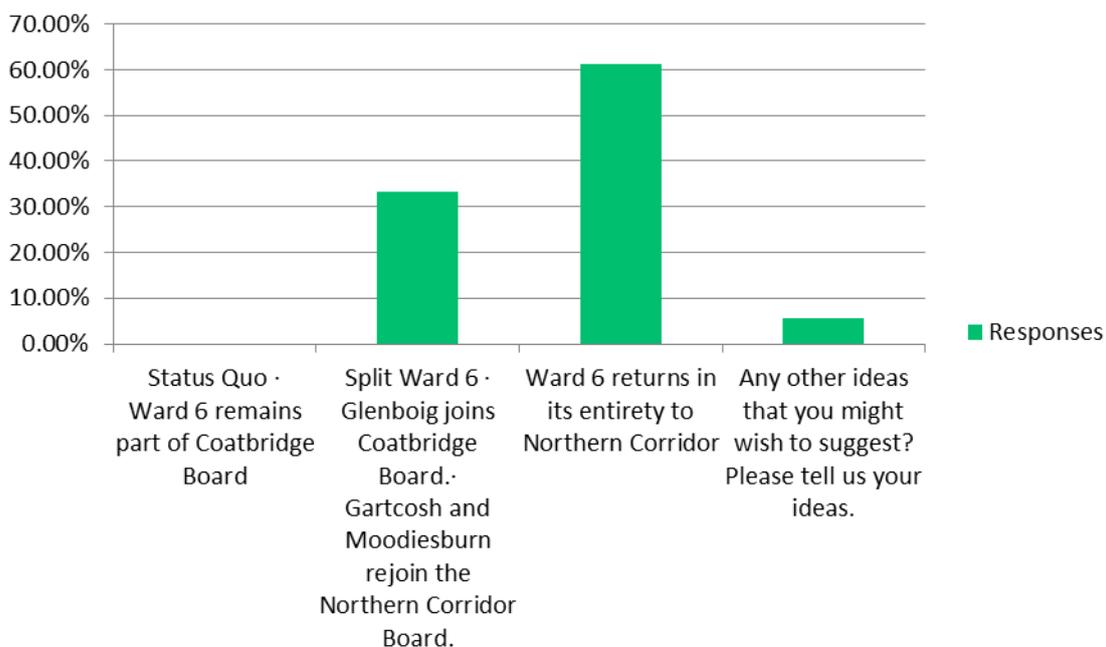
Both surveys were identical in format and questions except for an additional question added to the Northern Corridor Board asking for views about the title 'Northern Corridor'.

58 responses were received in relation to the question regarding the make-up of Coatbridge and Northern Corridor Boards, the responses were as follows:

Community Board	Status quo	Split Ward 6 - Glenboig joins Coatbridge Board	Ward 6 returns in its entirety to Northern Corridor	Any other ideas you might suggest	Total responses
Northern Corridor	0 (0%)	6 (33%)	11 (61.11%)	1 (5.56%)	18
Coatbridge	6 (13.04%)	14 (30.43%)	24 (52.17%)	2 (4.35%)	40
Total responses	6	20	35	3	58



Please identify from the following options, your/your organisation or group's choice for Northern Corridor Community Board going forward.



18 responses were received as follows to the question 'Do you think the title of the Northern Corridor should be changed' :

Total responses received	Yes	No
18	5 (27.78%)	13 (72.22%)

We understand that 'Northern Corridor Community Board' may not be the most appropriate title for the Board. Do you think this title should be changed?
(Please tick)

