



Group: Chief Executives Department

Lead Officer: Martin Gray

Consultation Title: Your Money, Your Views. Budget Consultation 2008/09

Winter Survey

Version: Full Results

Introduction

The Winter Viewpoint survey was carried out in November 2007 and was sent to all 718 panel members. The survey focused solely on the Budget for 2008/09 looking at the council's six corporate priorities, value for money and spending choices.

In total 315 responses were received including 20 surveys completed via the internet. For the viewpoint panel this gives us a response rate of 41%.

Question 1

Residents were asked to look at the council's six corporate priorities for 2007-10 and think about which three they would prioritise for the coming year. The findings are as follows:

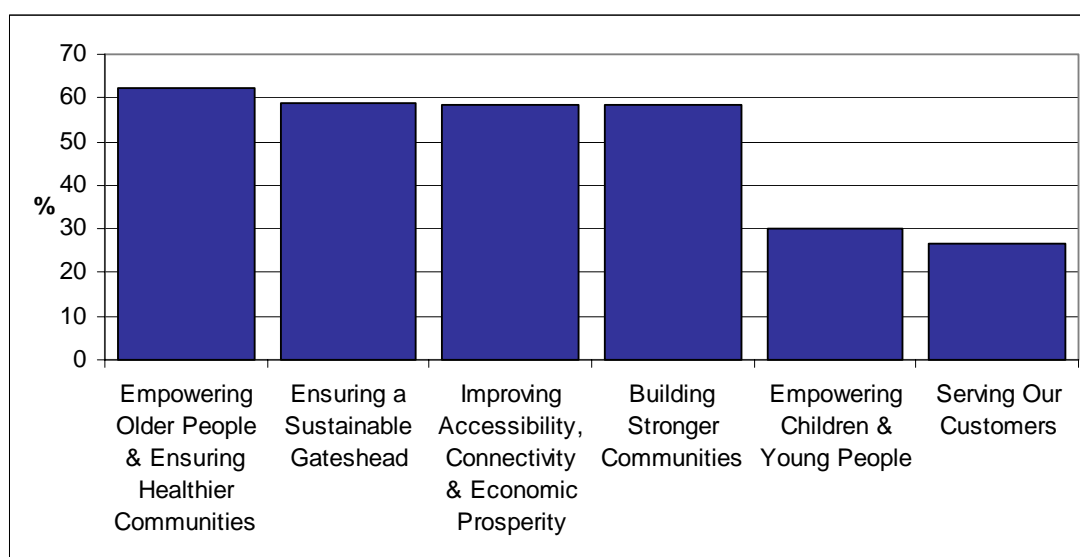


Fig 1: Which three corporate priorities would you prioritise for the coming year?

There are clearly four priorities favoured by the residents who have responded so far:

- Empowering Older People & Ensuring Healthier Communities (62.2%)
- Ensuring a Sustainable Gateshead (59%)
- Improving Accessibility, Connectivity & Economic Prosperity (58.6%)
- Building Stronger Communities (58.3%)

This supports findings from the focus groups carried out with residents where the same four priorities were highlighted.

Question 2

Residents were asked how much they agree or disagree that the services we provide represent good value for money residents.

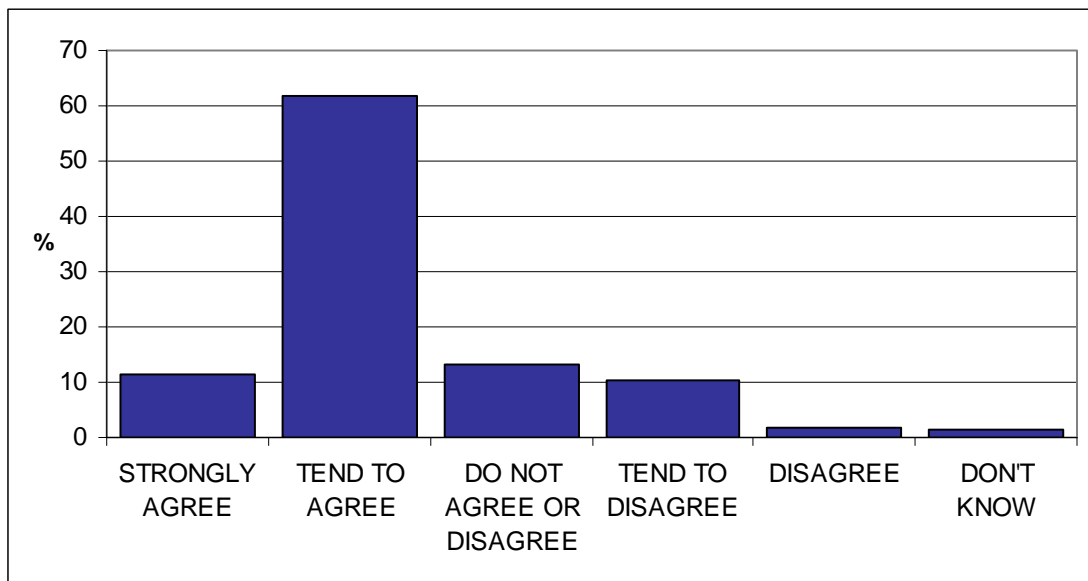


Fig 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the services we provide represent good value for money?

- 73.2% of residents agree or strongly agree that the services we provide are good value for money.
- 12.5% disagree or strongly disagree that the services we provide are good value for money.

Question 3

As the council faces difficult decision on spending and has to carefully consider the balance between the level of Council Tax and the provision of good quality services residents were asked in broad terms if they would be prepared to pay more Council Tax if this would result in better services.

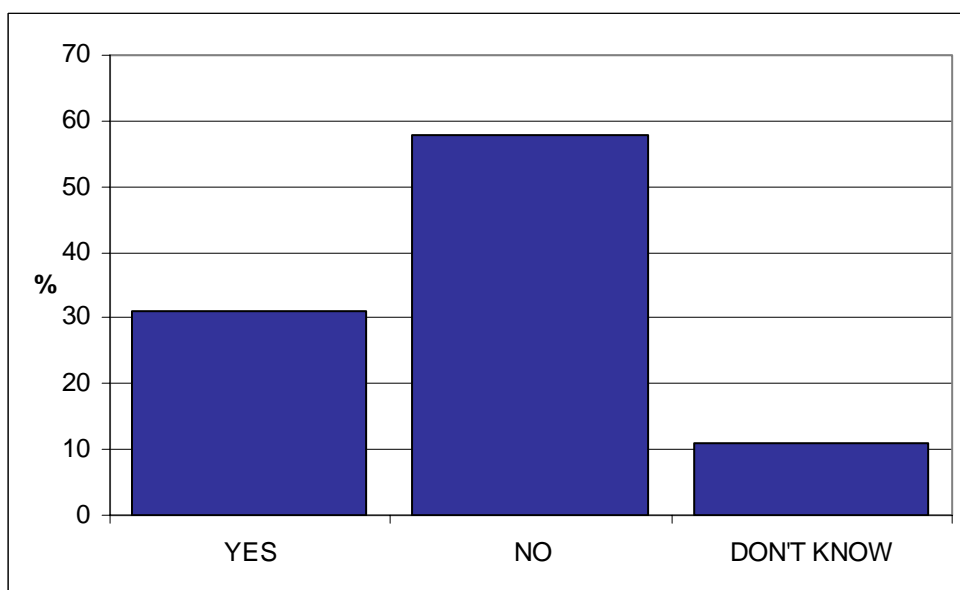


Fig 3: Would you be prepared to pay more Council Tax if this would result in better services?

- The majority of residents would not be prepared to pay more Council Tax (57.9%)
- Just under one third would be prepared to pay more (31%)
- 11% were undecided upon paying more Council Tax.

Question 4 and 5

Residents were given a list of services areas and asked to select six which they would like to see us spend more on and six that they would be prepared to see us spend less on.

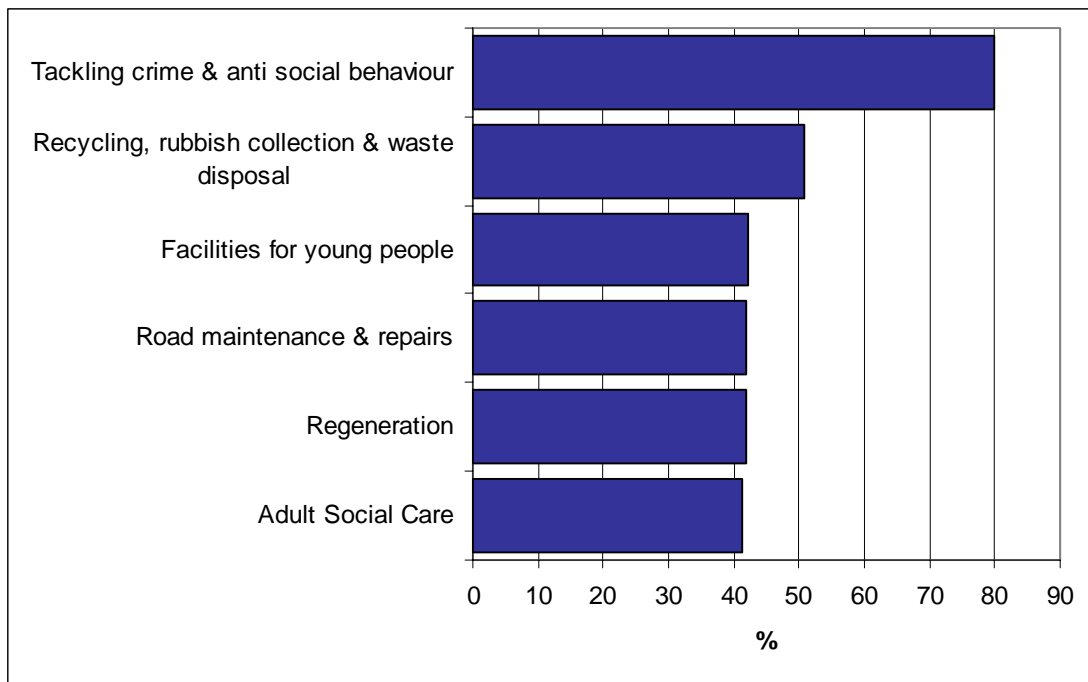


Fig 4: Six services residents would like to see us spend more on.

These almost match up exactly to the service areas selected in the focus group, the one difference being that Traffic management, parking and road safety was pointed out in the focus groups and road maintenance and repairs was not. Interestingly, traffic management has been selected by residents in the survey as an area that they would be prepared to see less money spent.

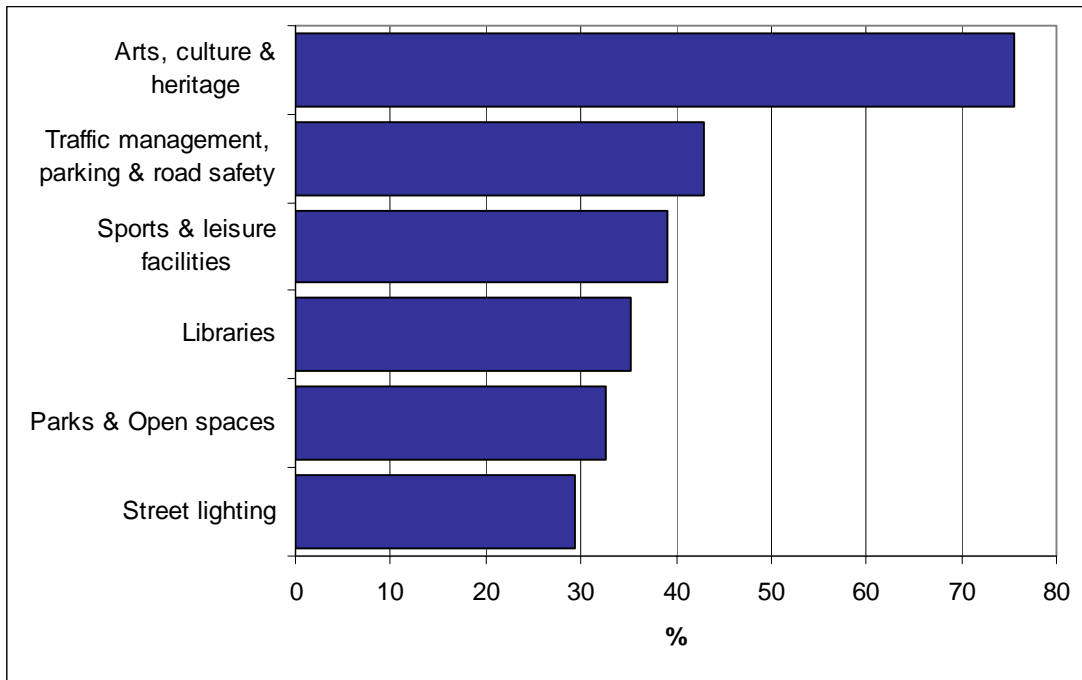


Fig 5: Six services residents would be prepared to see us spend less on.

Again, these are very similar to the focus group results with the exception of Schools which were highlighted in the focus groups as an area residents would be prepared to see less money spent on.