

Budget Consultation – Headline Results: Business (to support the development of the 2016/17 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2020/21)

Introduction

Between 27th January and 9th February 2016 (2 weeks) 1,300 businesses (from the Economic Development database) were invited to complete a Business Community Consultation Survey (the majority of the businesses are within the Council's area).

The survey asked them:

1. In respect of a list of Council services:
 - what services they considered most and least important, and
 - what services they wanted more or less of,
2. if they supported a council tax freeze for 2016/17, and
3. if they supported a council tax freeze until 2019/20.

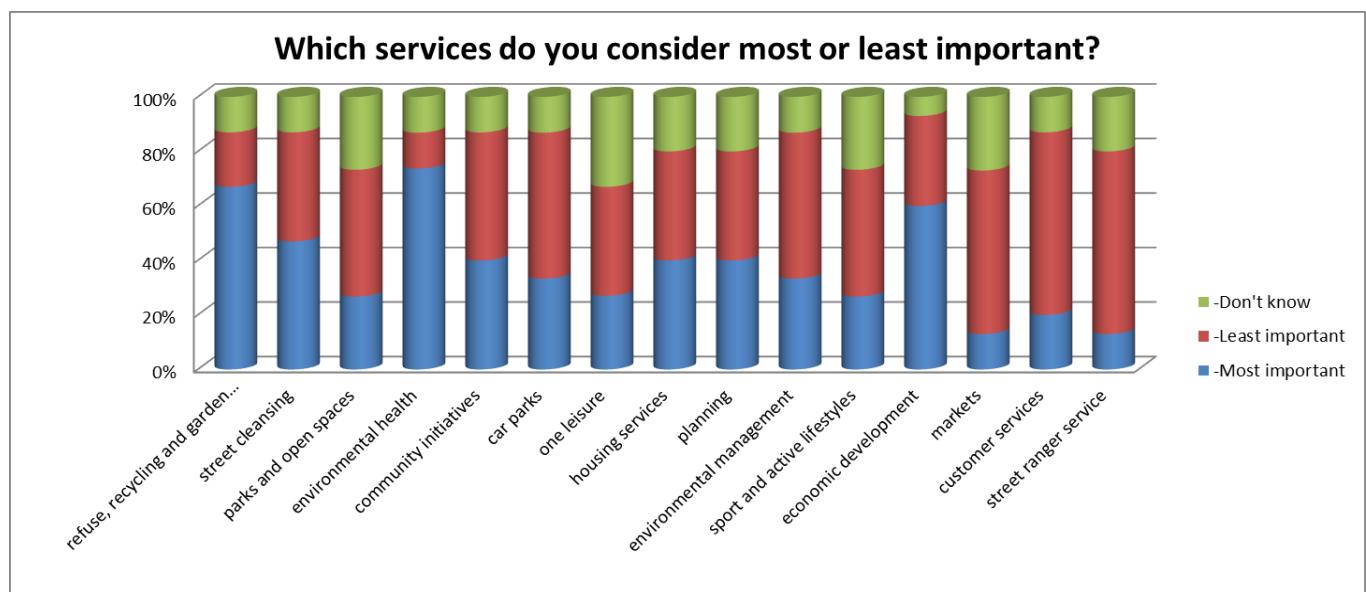
Out of the 1,300 businesses contacted, 15 businesses completed the survey.

Findings

Question 1: “which service did they consider the most or least important.”

As shown in the Graph below:

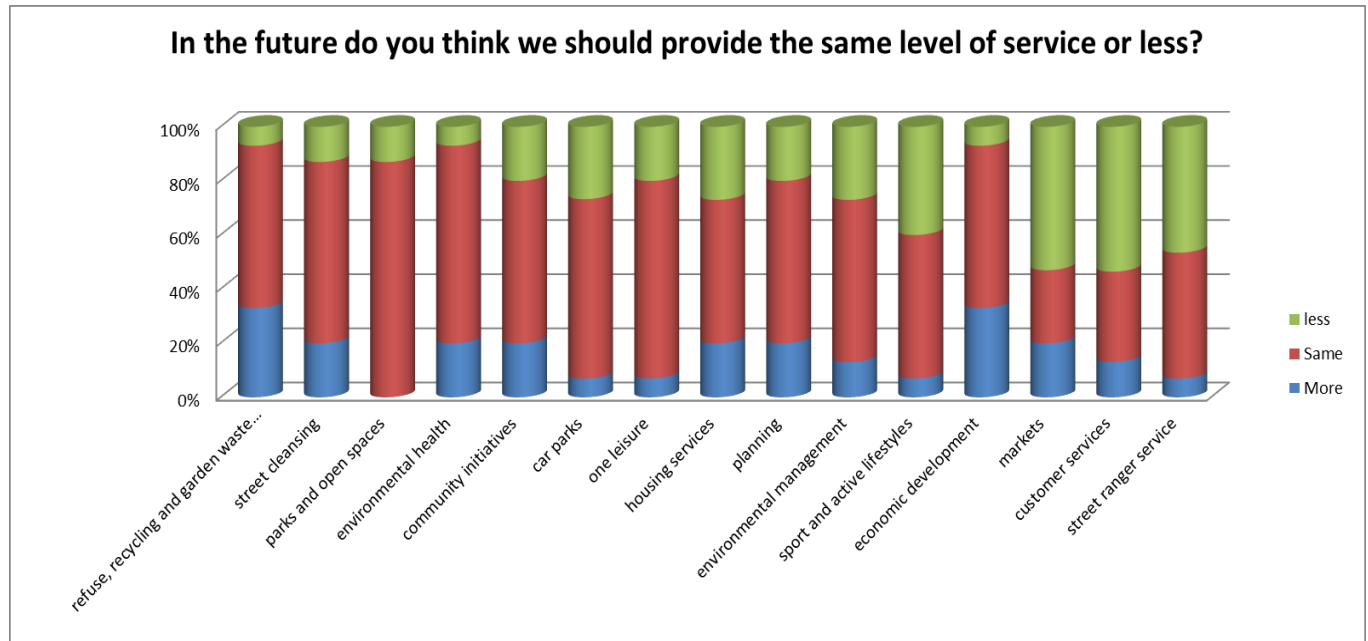
- Environmental Health was considered the most important, closely followed by Refuse Recycling & Waste service and Economic Development.
- The Street Ranger service, Customer Services and Markets were considered the least important.



Question 2: “should we provide the same level of service, or less for each of the services listed.”

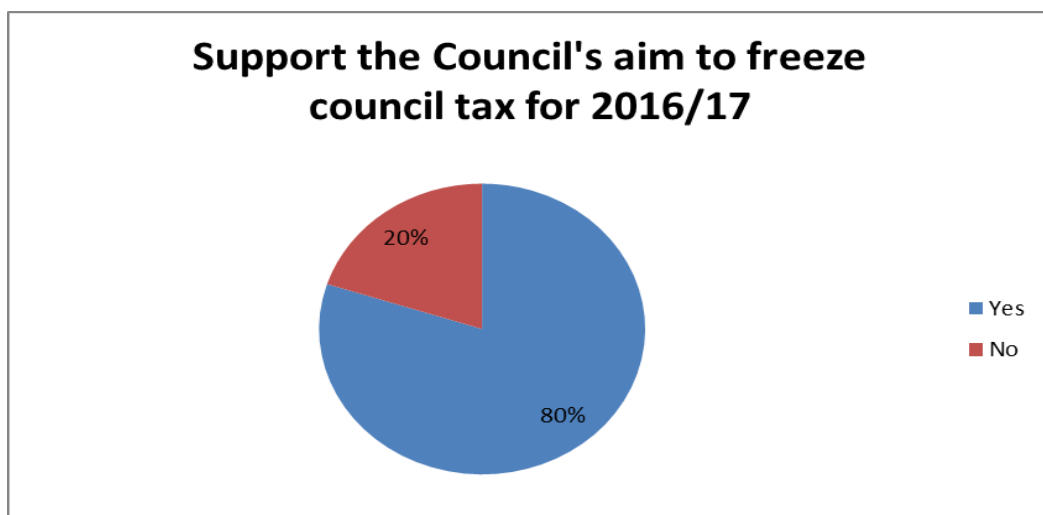
As shown in the Graph below:

- For both Refuse Recycling & Waste and Economic Development respondents wanted to see an increase in the level of service provided, and
- A decrease in the provision of Customer Services and Markets.



Question 3: “if they supported the Council’s aim to freeze council tax for 2016/17.”

As shown in the Graph below, 80% said that they would support the council tax freeze.



Question 4: “if they supported the Council’s aim to freeze council tax until 2019/20.”

As shown in the Graph below, 60% said that they would support the Council freezing council tax until 2019/20.

