

Budget Consultation – Headline Results: Business and Voluntary Sector **(to support the development of the 2017/18 Budget** **and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2021/22)**

Introduction

Between 16 January and 7 February 2017 1,590 businesses (from the Economic Development database) and voluntary sector organisations were invited to complete a Business Community Consultation Survey (the majority of the businesses and the voluntary sector 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 increase, and
3. if they supported a council tax increase over the Medium term Financial Plan.

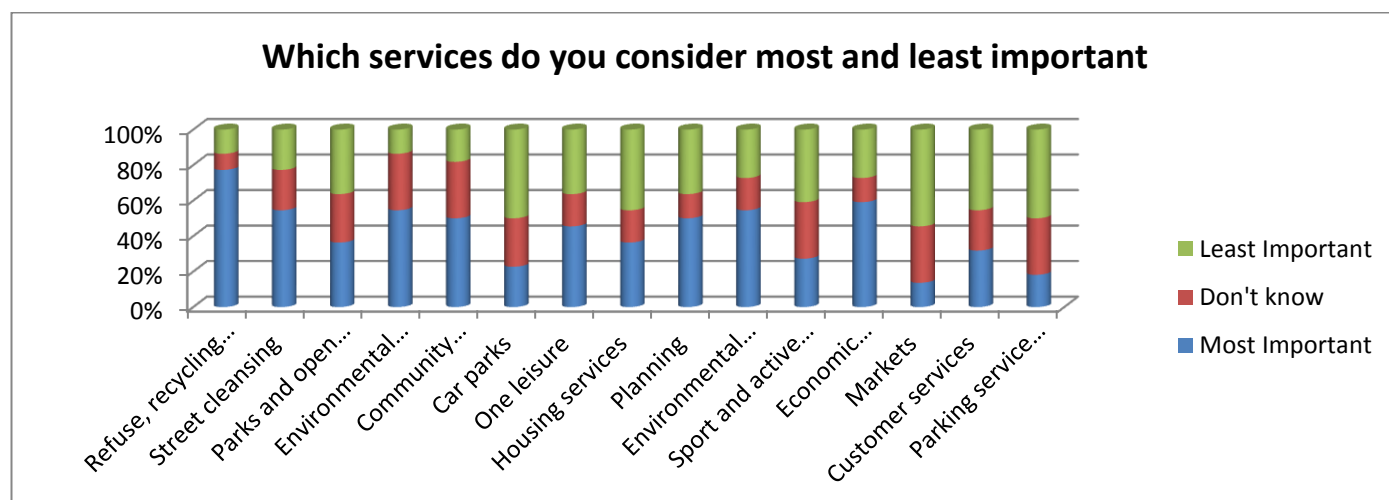
Out of the 1,590 businesses and voluntary sector organisations contacted, 22 completed the survey.

Findings

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

As shown in the Graph below:

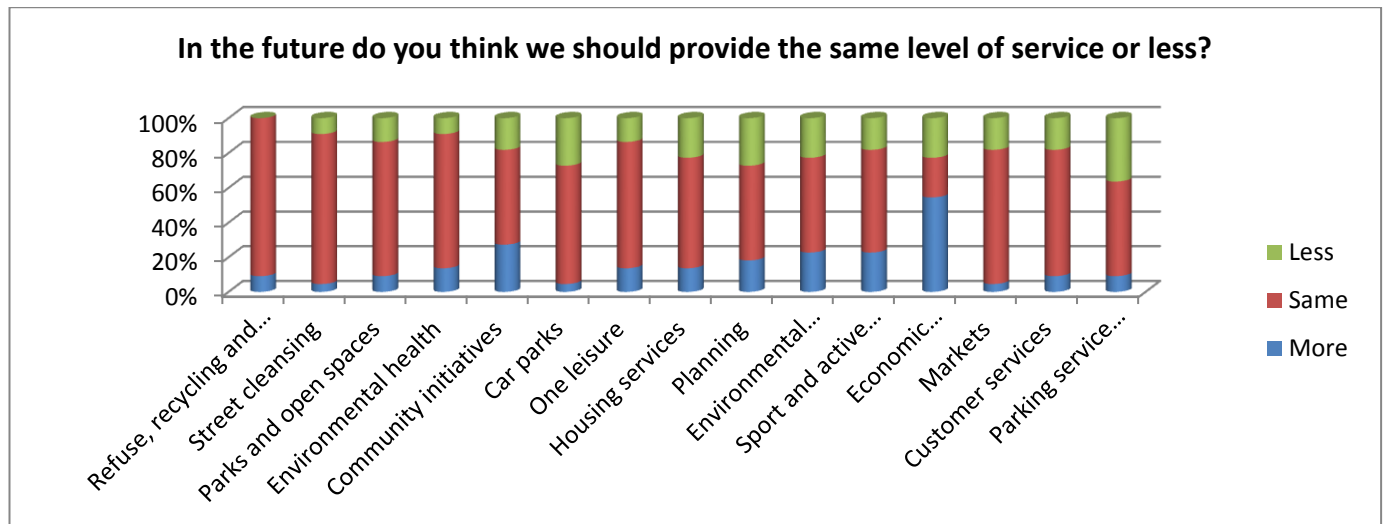
- Refuse, recycling and garden waste collection was considered the most important, followed by Economic Development, Street Cleansing and Environmental Health and Environmental Management.
- The Market, Car Parks and Parking Services Officers, Housing Services and Customer Services were considered the least important.



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

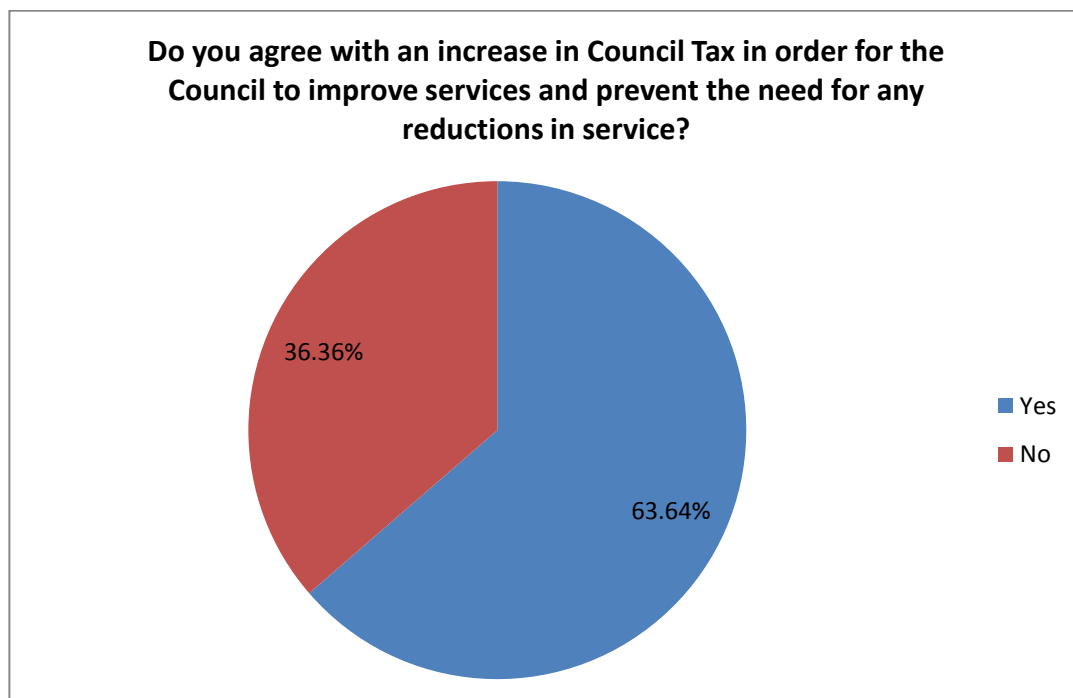
As shown in the Graph below:

- For Economic Development, Community Initiatives and Sport and Active Lifestyles respondents wanted to see an increase in the level of service provided, and
- A decrease in the provision of Car Parking, Parking Services Officers and Planning.



Question 3: “if they agree with an increase in Council Tax in order for the Council to improve services and prevent the need for any reductions in service.”

As shown in the Graph below, 64% said that they would agree to a Council Tax increase.



Question 4: “if they agree with an increase in Council Tax each year of the Medium Term Financial Plan in order for the Council to improve services and prevent the need for any reduction in service.”

As shown in the Graph below, 68% said that they agree with an increase in Council Tax each year.

