

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ASSET AND ESTATE MANAGEMENT,
SPORT, LEISURE AND CULTURE
CABINET MEMBER**

DEVELOPING A MODERN LEISURE SERVICE – CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To report on the outcomes of the consultation process undertaken to inform the continuing development of Modern Leisure Services across North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The key points of the report are as follows.
- On 21 December 2011, the Cabinet Member approved a paper titled “Continuing the Development of Modern Leisure Services in North Lincolnshire”. This report proposed a consultation process to help inform future changes to our sport, leisure and cultural services.
 - The consultation took place from 22 December until 25 January 2012.
 - We have had 1,001 responses. This report outlines the key findings of that work.
 - We also consulted with employees working within the services in question and had 95 responses.
 - We need to agree what action is taken to continue the development of a Modern Leisure Service.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 On 21 December 2011, the Cabinet Member approved a wide-ranging consultation process to help inform the future direction toward “Continuing the Development of Modern Leisure Services in North Lincolnshire”.
- 2.2 The consultation sought views on:
- The range of services we provide and any opportunities to diversify to engage more people in sport, active recreation and cultural activities
 - The charges we currently and might make with a view to ensuring that they are fair and affordable but also support the service to achieve better value
 - Who should manage services in the future, including the council continuing to directly provide a range of core leisure activities.

- 2.3 The questionnaire was launched 'online' on 22 December 2011, and an e-mail was sent to 8,000 people who have signed up to receive information electronically from Sport, Leisure and Culture. In addition, the survey was promoted on Facebook and through the local media. We distributed 5,000 paper copies of the survey and hosted road shows at four venues around the area during the week of 9 January 2012. We also used the council's poster boards and 'sign-on' screen on all council computers.
- 2.4 This approach has proven extremely successful with 1,001 completed surveys returned by the deadline.
- 2.5 The full results are attached as appendix 1 but the key findings from the survey are as follows.
- 95% believe that Sport, Leisure and Culture benefits the local community and helps to make the area a better place to live and work.
 - 47% think that the council does not have to run the services with 40% believing that they should be council run.
 - The choice between closure, service reduction or another organisation managing services, was 3% favouring closure, 22% supporting reduction and 64% favouring another organisation.
 - The type of other organisation in rank order was:
 - not for profit trust
 - community organisation
 - town/parish council
 - another local authority
 - private company
 - The responses to the question on council spending on Sport Leisure and Culture showed that 26% favoured increasing spending, 58% maintaining existing spending and reducing costs, 16% making users pay the full cost of service.
 - The answers to question six gave an indication as to which services people use across Sport, Leisure and Culture.
 - 82% were happy with the current opening times with a number providing details of the changes they would like. (see appendix 2)
 - 78% felt that the current programmes met their needs, with responses from those who wanted to see changes ranging from detailed comments related to specific services, to more general views.
 - 47% of users rated the value for money as good, with 23% saying it was average and 22% excellent.
 - 51% would not want to pay more for services with 26% saying they would pay more. The remaining 19% did not express a view either way.
 - 53% of people completing the survey were customers.
 - The survey included a box for general comments. These can be grouped into nine main areas, ranging from opening times and comments on the programme to views on alternative governance and the range of facilities. The comments received on alternative governance are attached as Appendix 2.

- Managers are using comments from the survey to help plan service developments and improvements. The Cabinet Member for Asset and Estate Management, Sport, Leisure and Culture will be kept informed of key service developments.

2.6 The public survey also sought expressions of interest from organisations interested in discussing the possibility of managing services on behalf of the council. We had 24 responses ranging from individuals and service specific groups to an existing Sport Facilities Trust and local community heritage and arts organisations. They were mostly interested in aspects of the service only, broadly split into Sports and Cultural services, with some very focussed expressions of interest in a particular activity or specific service. We note this interest and will consider it as part of the evaluation and any potential future soft market testing exercises.

2.7 The key results of the employee survey were as follows.

- 97% believe that Sport, Leisure and Culture benefits the local community and helps to make the area a better place to live and work.
- 37% think the council does not have to run the service while 45% believe that the council should continue to manage services
- Given the choice of service closure, reduction or alternative management, 3% supported closure, 16% service reduction and 64% another organisation.
- The type of organisation in rank order was:
 - not for profit company/trust
 - another local authority
 - community organisation
 - town/parish council
 - private company
- The comments from employees were mainly around seeking assurances about service continuity, hours and rates of pay, and terms and conditions.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 **Option 1** - To note the survey results and continue offering services in a traditional way.

3.2 **Option 2** – Evaluate potential options for changes to the future delivery and management of services, with a view to finding the most suitable option for the council going forward.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 **Option 1** would result in sport, leisure and cultural services continuing to operate as they are currently. As the council faces up to difficult financial challenges, the status quo is not a realistic option and the service will inevitably have to make significant budget savings. It is likely that a good proportion of the savings will potentially come via reducing or ceasing service provision.

4.2 **Option 2** is suggested as the best option. As the council faces difficult financial challenges, services need to find innovative ways of delivering outcomes and priorities for North Lincolnshire.

4.3 A number of options exist which could help the council deliver the outcomes for the area. They include:

Option	Description
Rationalisation and retention in-house	This would involve the retention of services in-house and following a rationalisation of services and/or a change in the way the services are delivered to ensure that, whilst retained in-house, these continue to represent best value
Outsource to a private sector operator	This would involve the transfer of the services to a private sector operator and entering into contractual arrangements for the delivery of agreed service outcomes
Partnership with an existing non-profit distributing organisation (NPDO)	This would involve working in partnership with an existing NPDO and entering into contractual arrangements for the delivery of agreed service outcomes
Partnership with a newly established NPDO	This would involve working in partnership with a newly established NPDO. The new NPDO would be locally based and would involve local community representation on the Board of the organisation
Public Sector Co-operative	This would involve the current in-house team establishing a co-operative and arranging for the transfer of the services to the co-operative to be managed by the staff previously employed by the local authority
Mixed Economy	This would involve the diversification of delivery of services by different delivery models whether public, private or voluntary sector and/or in-house
Transfer of assets to a local community organisation with ongoing grant funding/community outputs	This would involve the transfer of assets to a local community organisation with ongoing grant funding to assist in the delivery of certain services with minimum service outputs required. This would, therefore, involve an ongoing relationship between the local authority and the community organisation
Transfer with no grant funding/community outputs	This would involve the freehold transfer of the assets to a local community organisation or a private sector organisation with no community funding and no community outputs. This could be at less than best consideration if to a charity or community organisation or at market value if to a private sector entity, thus creating a capital receipt
Cease to provide	The council could determine that it should no longer provide these types of services

The above list is not exhaustive

4.4 We need to evaluate options and decide which is the best option for the council. In order to do this, we will have to develop robust evaluation criteria. The criteria will need to be split between quality criteria and financial criteria and cover areas such as subsidy reduction, delivery of health, educational and social outcomes, widening participation, risk transfer and potential to raise funding.

4.5 We would recommend that a Steering Group, made up of specialist officers, Elected Members and stakeholders, evaluate the options, with the aim of recommending to Cabinet the best options for the council.

- 4.6 Given some of the specialised areas requiring consideration such as VAT, governance, legal etc, it is recommended that external advice is sought, as required.
- 4.7 The Council Management Team has agreed that we take a one council approach to evaluating alternative governance options for council services. In particular, it is suggested that Youth Services are invited to participate in, and contribute to the work of the proposed Steering Group.
- 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**
- 5.1 Financial
- 5.1.1 The draft budget plan for 2012/13 for the service allocates £75,000 to support work required to help the council to select the best option for delivering services
- 5.2 There are no immediate staffing, property or other implications arising from this report, but these are likely to arise depending on any options that are taken forward.
- 6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**
- 6.1 There are no other implications to consider at this point, but these are likely to arise depending on any options that are taken forward.
- 7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**
- 7.1 See Appendix 1 for the results of the consultation.
- 7.2 Service managers are using some of the comments gathered in the survey to plan and deliver service improvements.
- 7.3 The trade unions have expressed a desire to be consulted as decisions about the future of the service are made.
- 8. RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 8.1 That the survey results are noted and are used to help the process of determining the best options for the future direction of the council's Sport, Leisure and Culture services.
- 8.2 That a Steering Group is established with the aim of identifying the best possible alternative governance option for delivering the council's Sport, Leisure and Culture services and reporting the option to the Cabinet for consideration.

DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

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Date: 7 February 2012

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Nil

**North Lincolnshire Council
Infrastructure Service
Sport, Leisure and Culture**

Public Consultation Results

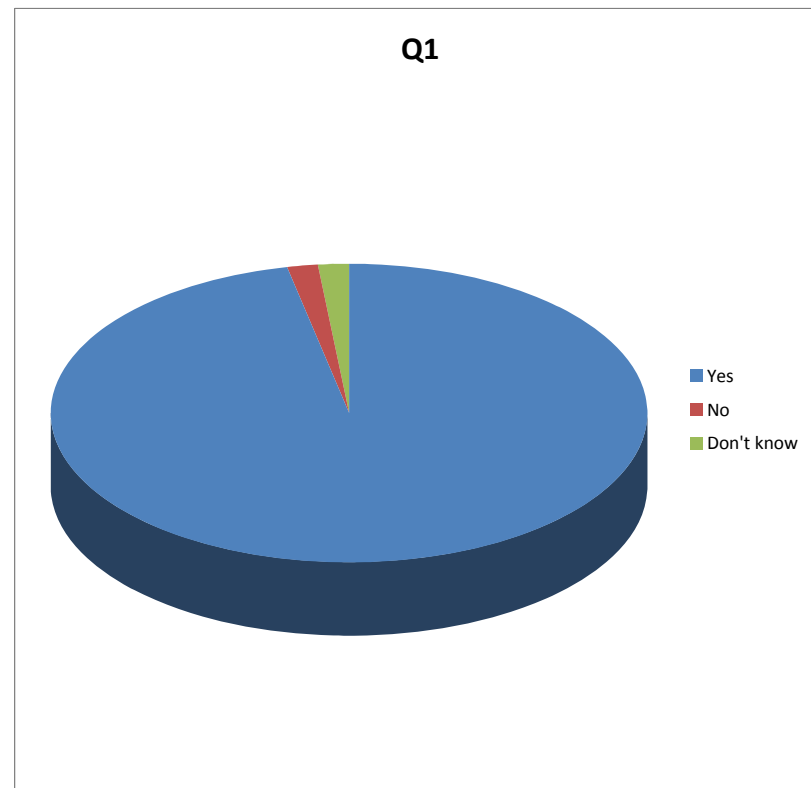
Consultation Event Name	Sport, Leisure and Culture - the future
Consultation Description	
Consultation Start Date	16/12/11 13:12
Consultation End Date	25/01/12 23:59
Total Responses	1001

Q1

We believe that sports, Leisure & cultural services benefit the local community and help make North Lincolnshire a better place to live and work, do you agree ?

Yes
No
Don't know
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
Yes	95.30%	
No	1.80%	
Don't know	1.60%	
[No Response]	1.30%	
Total	100.00%	

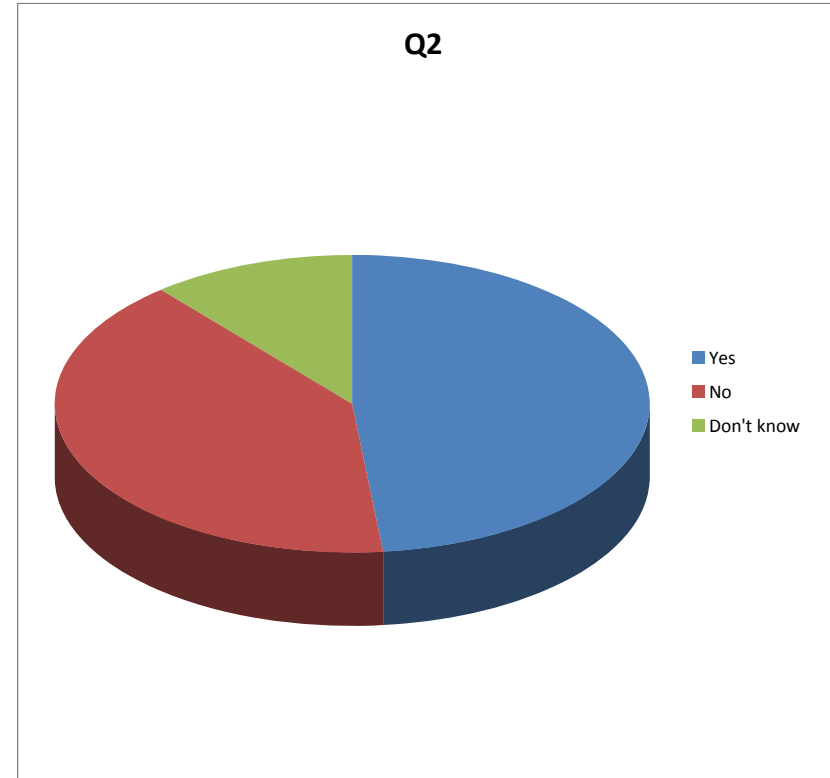


Q2

We believe that the council does not necessarily have to manage these services directly. Do you agree ?

Yes
No
Don't know
[No Response]

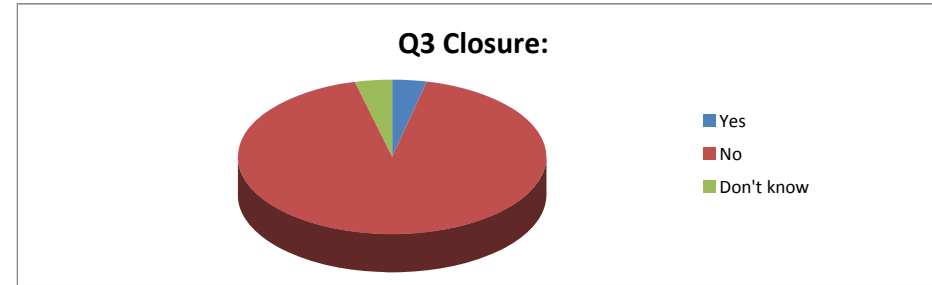
	% Total	Count
Yes	47.45%	
No	39.66%	
Don't know	10.99%	
[No Response]	1.90%	
Total	100.00%	



Q3 Closure:

If it was a choice between a service closing, being reduced or finding another organisation to run it for the council, which would you prefer ?

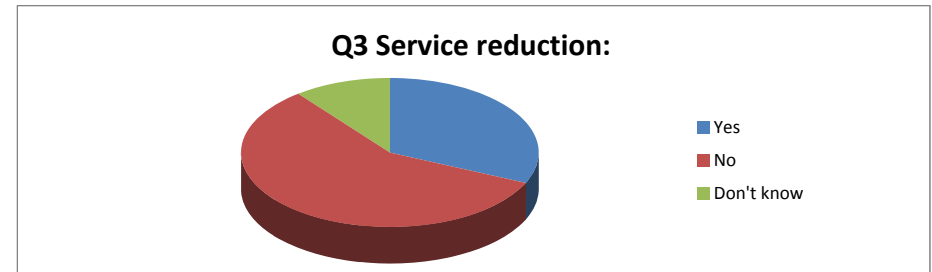
Closure	% Total	Count
Yes	2.50%	
No	63.34%	
Don't know	2.70%	
[No Response]	31.47%	
Total	100.01%	



Service reduction:

Yes
No
Don't know
[No Response]

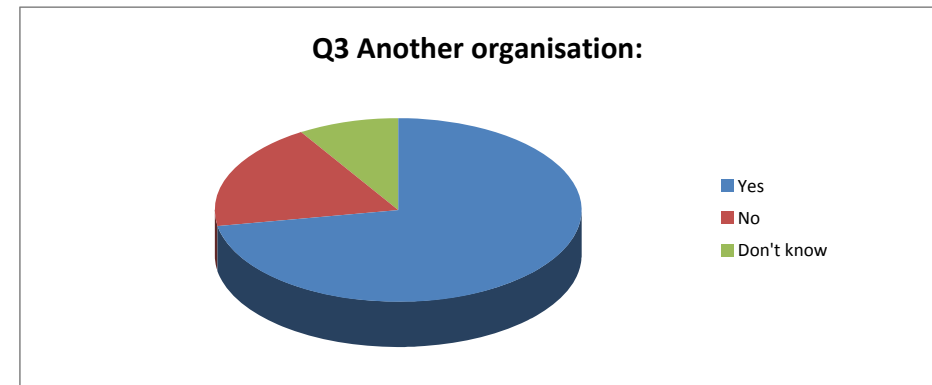
	% Total	Count
Yes	22.18%	
No	41.56%	
Don't know	7.29%	
[No Response]	28.97%	
Total	100.00%	



Another organisation:

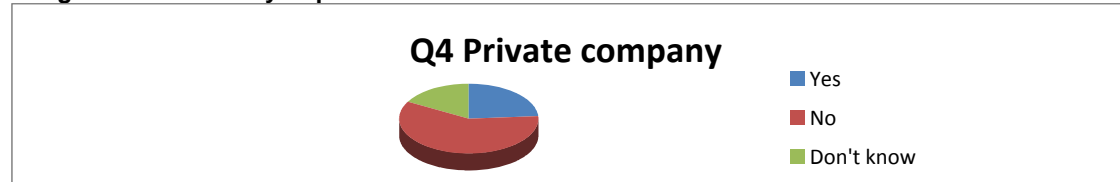
No
Don't know
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
No	64.44%	
Don't know	17.88%	
[No Response]	7.99%	
Total	100.00%	

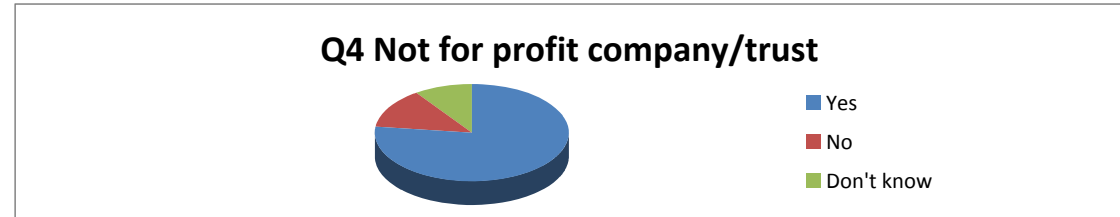


Q 4 If it was another organisation running the services, which type of organisation would you prefer

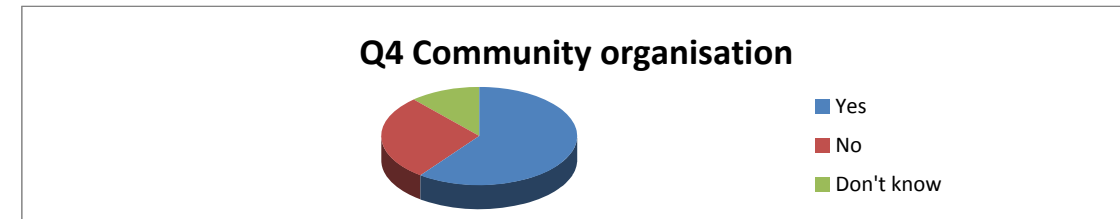
Q4 Private company	% Total	Count
Yes	16.38%	
No	40.86%	
Don't know	11.69%	
[No Response]	31.07%	
Total	100.00%	



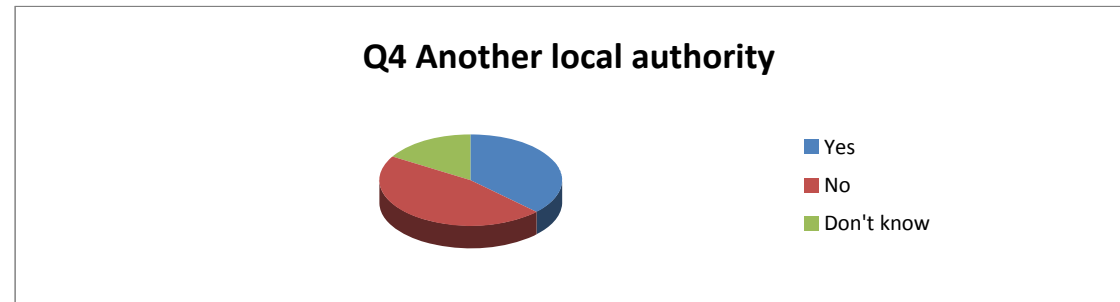
Not for profit company/trust	% Total	Count
Yes	63.14%	
No	10.79%	
Don't know	8.29%	
[No Response]	17.78%	
Total	100.00%	



Community organisation	% Total	Count
Yes	44.26%	
No	20.98%	
Don't know	8.89%	
[No Response]	25.87%	
Total	100.00%	

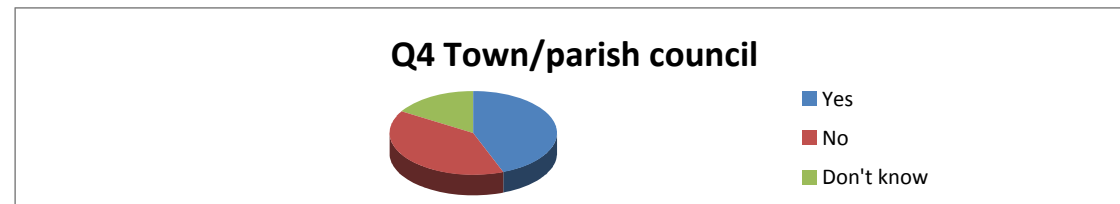


Another local authority	% Total	Count
Yes	25.07%	
No	31.07%	
[No Response]	11.29%	



[No Response]	32.57%	
Total	100.00%	

Town/parish council	% Total	Count
Yes	31.07%	
No	26.97%	
Don't know	11.99%	
[No Response]	29.97%	
Total	100.00%	



Q5

Number of Responses

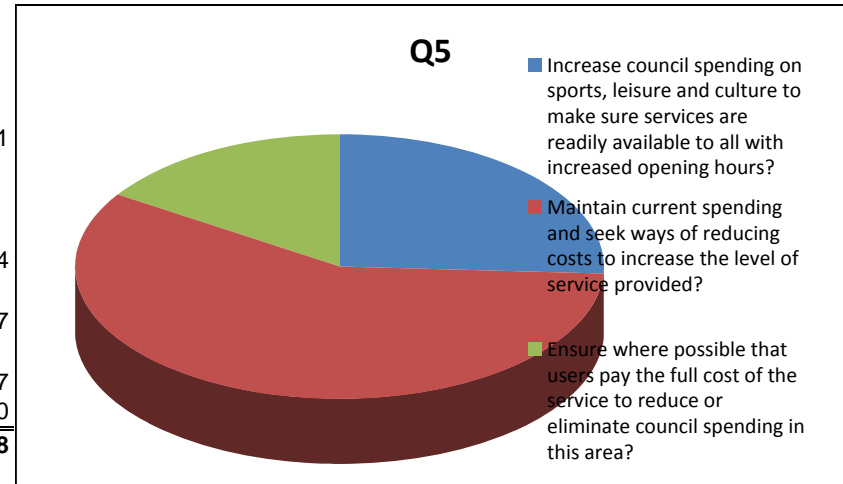
Increase council spending on sports, leisure and culture to make sure services are readily available to all with increased opening hours?

Maintain current spending and seek ways of reducing costs to increase the level of service provided?

Ensure where possible that users pay the full cost of the service to reduce or eliminate council spending in this area?

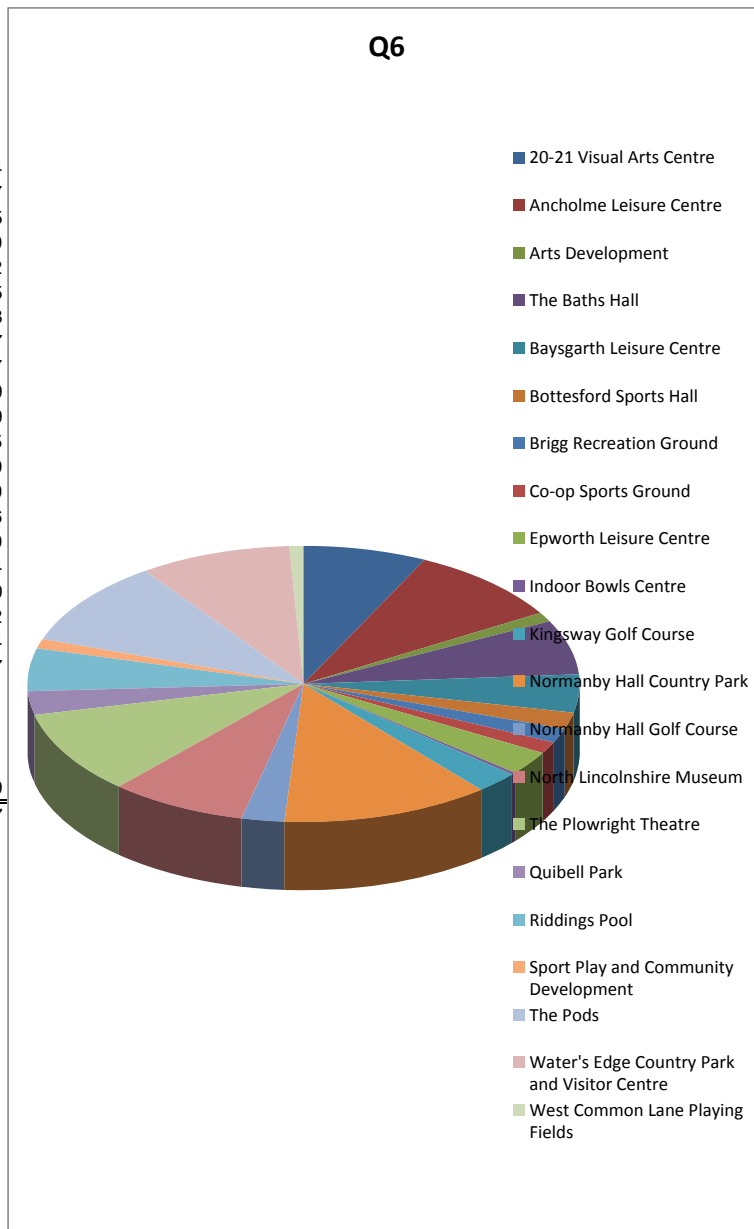
[No Response]

	% Answer	Count
	-	921
	25.71%	254
	58.40%	577
	15.89%	157
	-	80
Total	100.00%	1,068



Q6

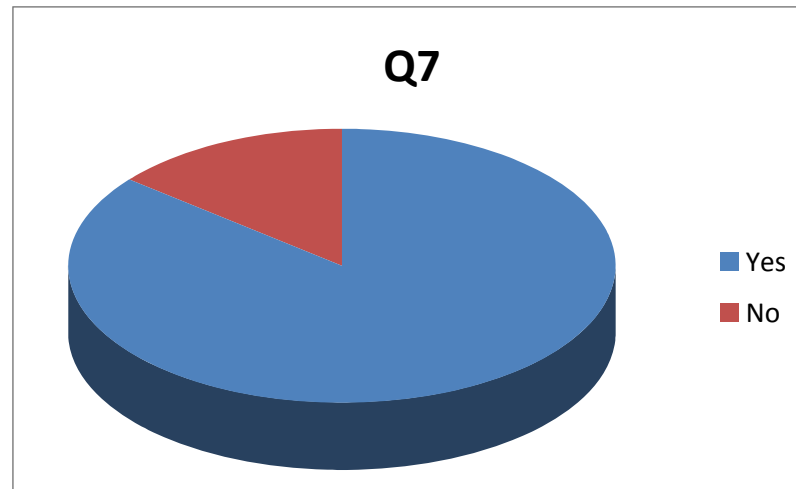
Number of Responses	% Total	
	97.06%	
20-21 Visual Arts Centre	7.28%	304
Ancholme Leisure Centre	9.02%	377
Arts Development	1.08%	45
The Baths Hall	6.44%	269
Baysgarth Leisure Centre	4.60%	192
Bottesford Sports Hall	1.80%	75
Brigg Recreation Ground	1.87%	78
Co-op Sports Ground	1.12%	47
Epworth Leisure Centre	2.80%	117
Indoor Bowls Centre	0.45%	19
Kingsway Golf Course	2.37%	99
Normanby Hall Country Park	12.33%	515
Normanby Hall Golf Course	2.39%	100
North Lincolnshire Museum	8.11%	339
The Plowright Theatre	9.72%	406
Quibell Park	2.85%	119
Riddings Pool	4.88%	204
Sport Play and Community Development	1.20%	50
The Pods	9.86%	412
Water's Edge Country Park and Visitor Centre	8.95%	374
West Common Lane Playing Fields	0.89%	37
[No Response]	0.00%	29
Total	100.01%	4,207



Q7

Do the current opening hours meet your

	% Total	Count
Yes	82.22%	
No	13.59%	
[No Response]	4.20%	
Total	100.01%	



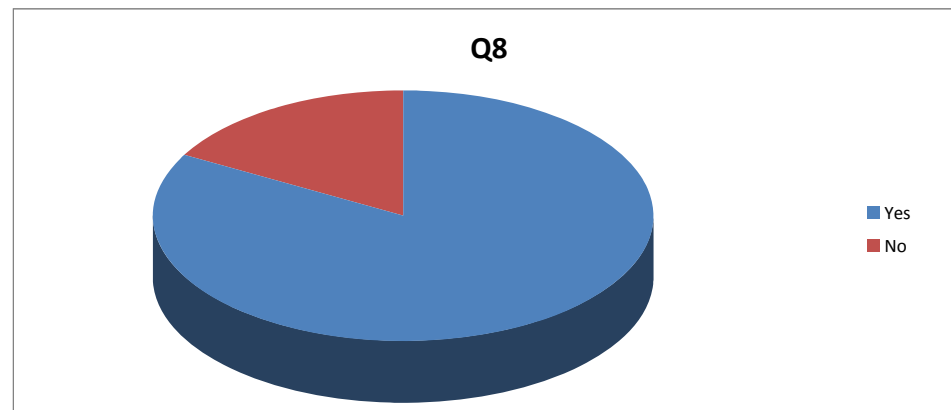
Separate report for comments

Q8
Do the programmes, events workshops or activities meet your needs ?

Number of Responses

Yes
No
[No Response]

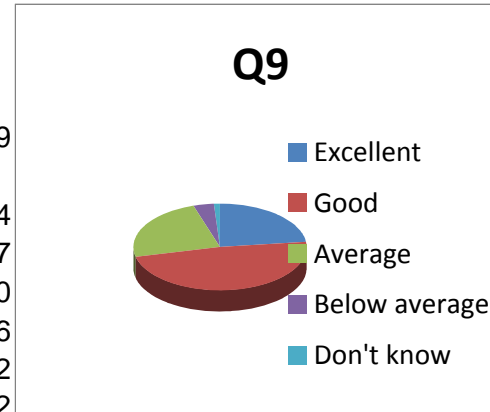
	% Total	Count
	94.41%	
Yes	78.32%	
No	16.08%	
[No Response]	5.59%	
Total	100.00%	



Q9

How do you rate the current services offered for value for money ?

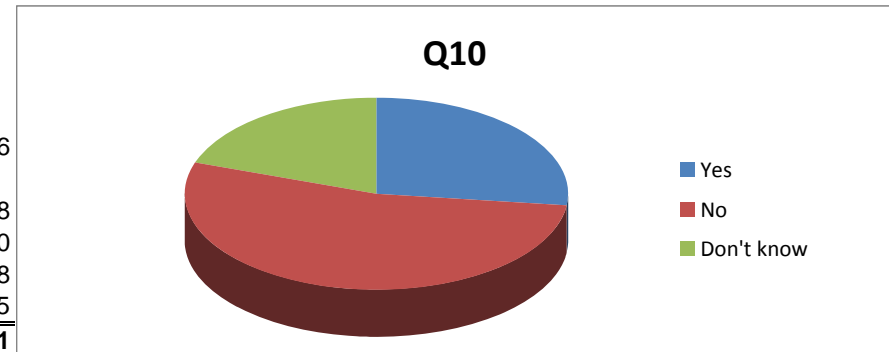
	% Total	Count
Number of Responses	96.80%	969
Excellent	22.38%	224
Good	46.65%	467
Average	22.98%	230
Below average	3.60%	36
Don't know	1.20%	12
[No Response]	3.20%	32
Total	100.00%	1,001



Q10 Would you be prepared to pay more for the current services ?

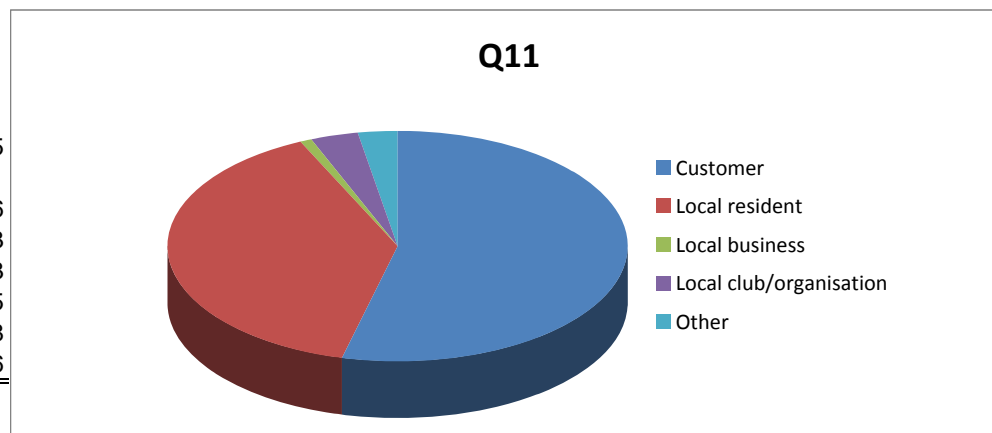
Number of Responses

	% Total	Count
	95.50%	956
Yes	25.77%	258
No	50.95%	510
Don't know	18.78%	188
[No Response]	4.50%	45
Total	100.00%	1,001



Q11 In what capacity are you responding to the questionnaire ?

	% Total	Count
Number of Responses	97.40%	975
Customer	52.91%	736
Local resident	38.32%	533
Local business	0.93%	13
Local club/organisation	3.24%	45
Other	2.73%	38
[No Response]	1.87%	26
Total	100.00%	1,391



Age	% Total	% Answert
Number of Responses	95.90%	-
18 - 25	7.79%	8.13%
26 - 35	16.98%	17.71%
36 - 45	23.68%	24.69%
46 - 55	20.48%	21.35%
56 - 65	16.58%	17.29%
66 - 80	9.69%	10.10%
80+	0.70%	0.73%
[No Response]	4.10%	-
Total	100.00%	#####

Gender		
Male	42.51%	46.41%
Female	49.10%	53.59%
[No Response]	8.38%	-
Total	100.00%	#####

Ethnicity		
White: - English	87.81%	94.92%
White: - Welsh	0.90%	0.97%
White: - Scottish	1.10%	1.19%
White: - Northern Irish	0.20%	0.22%
White: - British Irish	0.20%	0.22%
White: - Gypsy or Irish	0.00%	0.00%

White: - Any other white background, eg. Polish, Lithuanian	0.90%	0.97%
Mixed/multiple ethnic	0.10%	0.11%
Mixed/multiple ethnic	0.00%	0.00%
Mixed/multiple ethnic	0.10%	0.11%
Mixed/multiple ethnic	0.10%	0.11%
Asian/Asian British: -	0.40%	0.43%
Asian/Asian British: -	0.00%	0.00%
Asian/Asian British: -	0.20%	0.22%
Asian/Asian British: -	0.10%	0.11%
Asian/Asian British: - Any	0.00%	0.00%
Black/African/Caribbean/BI	0.10%	0.11%
Black/African/Caribbean/BI	0.00%	0.00%
Black/African/Caribbean/BI	0.00%	0.00%
Other ethnic group: - Arab	0.10%	0.11%
Other ethnic group: -	0.20%	0.22%
[No Response]	7.49%	-
Total	100.00%	#####

Disability		
Yes	5.49%	6.90%
No	71.63%	89.96%
Prefer not to say	2.50%	3.14%
[No Response]	20.38%	-
Total	100.00%	#####

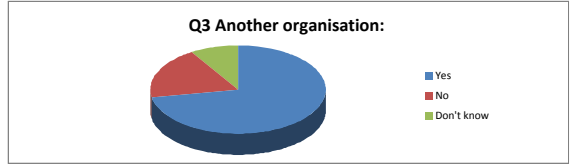
Impairments		
Impairment affecting	4.03%	20.48%
Hearing impairment	3.28%	16.67%
Visual impairment	1.69%	8.57%
Speech impairment	0.09%	0.48%
Neurological condition e.g.	0.94%	4.76%
Long term medical	6.75%	34.29%
Learning disability	0.09%	0.48%
Mental health condition	1.59%	8.10%
Hidden or other	1.22%	6.19%
[No Response]	80.30%	-
Total	100.00%	#####

Q3 Service reduction:

	% Total	% Answer	Count
Number of Responses	71.07%	-	678
Yes	22.43%	31.56%	214
No	41.09%	57.82%	392
Don't know	7.55%	10.62%	72
[No Response]	28.93%	-	276
Total	100.00%	100.00%	954

Q3 Another organisation:

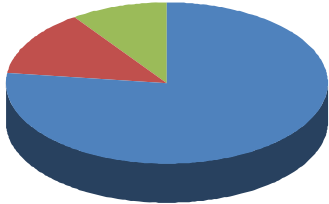
Number of Responses	% Total	% Answer	Count
	90.57%	-	864
Yes	65.51%	72.34%	625
No	16.88%	18.63%	161
Don't know	8.18%	9.03%	78
[No Response]	9.43%	-	90
Total	100.00%	100.00%	954



Q4 Not for profit company/trust

	% Total	% Answer	Count
Number of Responses	82.49%	-	787
Yes	63.52%	77.00%	606
No	11.01%	13.34%	105
Don't know	7.97%	9.66%	76
[No Response]	17.51%	-	167
Total	100.00%	100.00%	954

Q4 Not for profit company/trust



- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q4 Community organisation

	% Total	% Answer	Count
Yes	44.97%	60.17%	429
No	21.07%	28.19%	201
Don't know	8.70%	11.64%	83
[No Response]	25.26%	-	241
Total	100.00%	100.00%	954

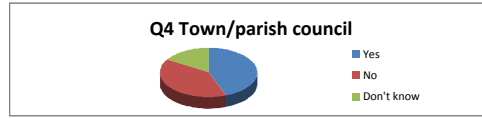
Q4 Another local authority
Number of Responses

	% Total	Count
	67.71%	646
Yes	25.26%	241
No	31.34%	299
Don't know	11.11%	106
[No Response]	32.29%	308
Total	100.00%	954



Q4 Town/parish council

	% Total	% Answer	Count
	70.34%	-	671
Yes	31.13%	44.26%	297
No	27.67%	39.34%	264
Don't know	11.53%	16.39%	110
[No Response]	29.66%	-	283
Total	100.00%	100.00%	954

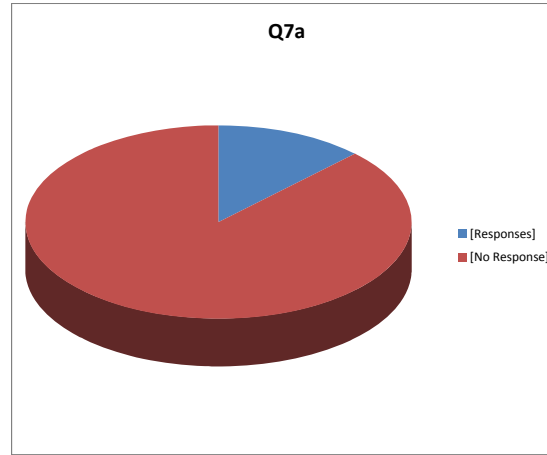


Q7a

Number of Responses

[Responses]
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
[Responses]	12.58%	120
[No Response]	87.42%	834
Total	100.00%	954

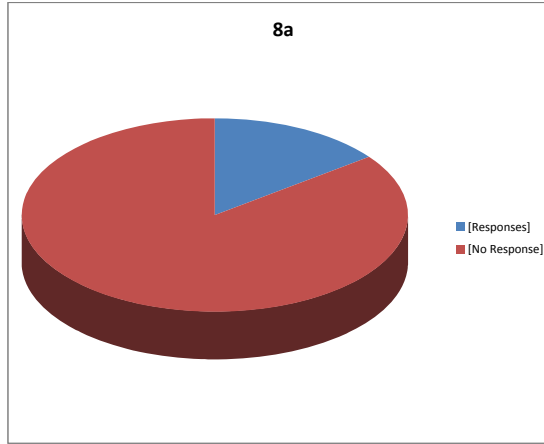


8a

Number of Responses

[Responses]
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
	14.78%	141
[Responses]	14.78%	141
[No Response]	85.22%	813
Total	100.00%	954

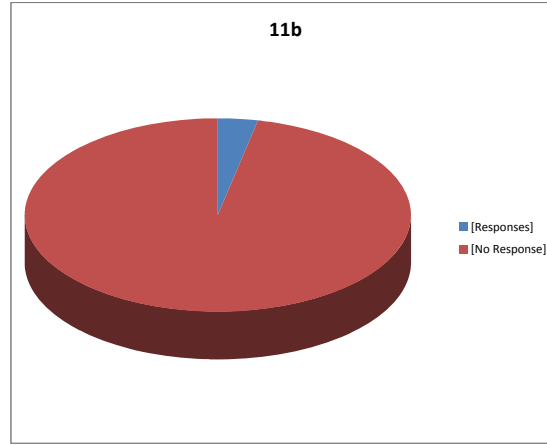


11b

Number of Responses

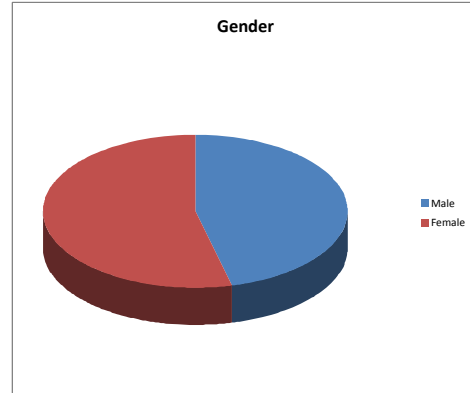
[Responses]
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
	3.25%	31
[Responses]	3.25%	31
[No Response]	96.75%	923
Total	100.00%	954



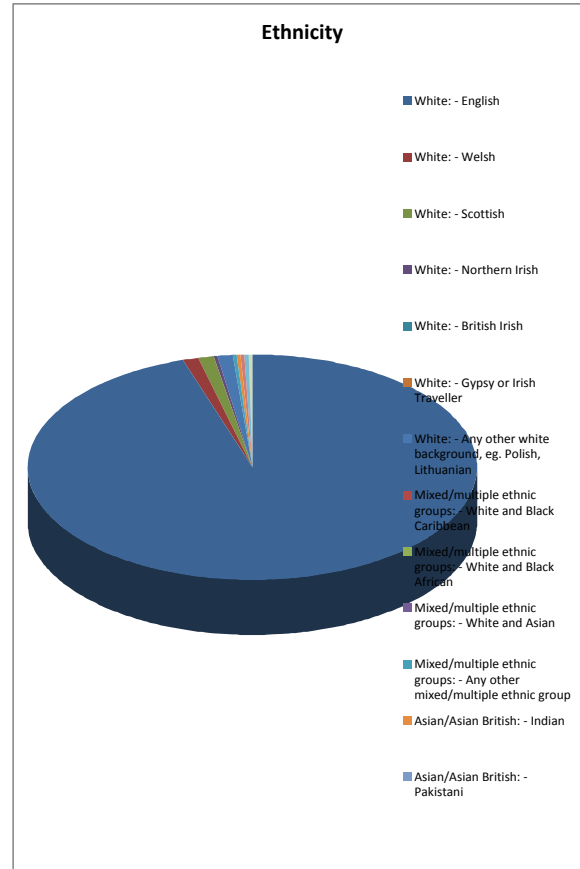
Gender

	% Total	% Answer	% Frequency	Count
Number of Responses	92.24%	-	-	880
Male	42.62%	46.20%	42.66%	407
Female	49.63%	53.80%	49.69%	474
[No Response]	7.75%	-	7.76%	74
Total	100.00%	100.00%	-	955



Ethnicity

	% Total	Count
Number of Responses	92.35%	881
White: - English	87.74%	837
White: - Welsh	0.94%	9
White: - Scottish	1.05%	10
White: - Northern Irish	0.21%	2
White: - British Irish	0.21%	2
White: - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.00%	0
White: - Any other white background, eg. Polish, Lithuanian	0.84%	8
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: - White and Black Caribbean	0.10%	1
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: - White and Black African	0.00%	0
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: - White and Asian	0.00%	0
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: - Any other mixed/multiple ethnic group	0.10%	1
Asian/Asian British: - Indian	0.42%	4
Asian/Asian British: - Pakistani	0.00%	0
Asian/Asian British: - Bangladeshi	0.21%	2
Asian/Asian British: - Chinese	0.10%	1
Asian/Asian British: - Any other Asian background	0.00%	0
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: - African	0.10%	1
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: - Caribbean	0.00%	0
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: - Any other Black/African/Caribbean background	0.00%	0
Other ethnic group: - Arab	0.10%	1
Other ethnic group: - Another group	0.21%	2
[No Response]	7.65%	73
Total	100.00%	954

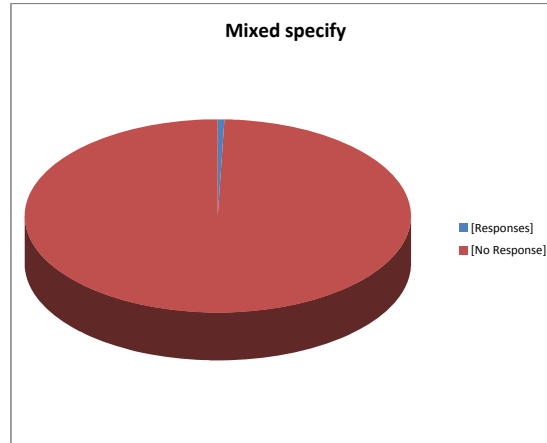


Mixed specify

Number of Responses

[Responses]
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
	0.63%	6
	0.63%	6
	99.37%	948
Total	100.00%	954



Disability

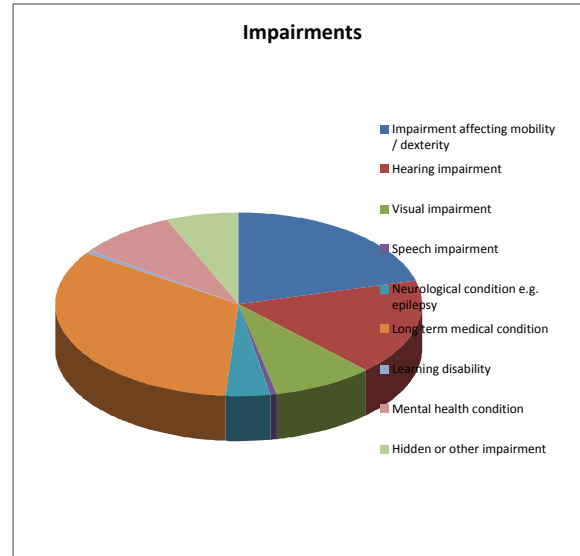
Vertical line



Impairments

Impairments

	% Total	Count
Number of Responses	14.36%	137
Impairment affecting mobility / dexterity	4.13%	42
Hearing impairment	3.34%	34
Visual impairment	1.77%	18
Speech impairment	0.10%	1
Neurological condition e.g. epilepsy	0.79%	8
Long term medical condition	6.58%	67
Learning disability	0.10%	1
Mental health condition	1.67%	17
Hidden or other impairment	1.28%	13
[No Response]	80.26%	817
Total	100.00%	1,018

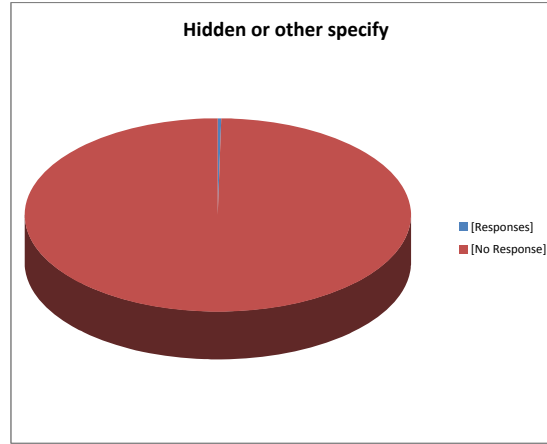


Hidden or other specify

Number of Responses

[Responses]
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
[Responses]	0.21%	2
[No Response]	99.79%	952
Total	100.00%	954



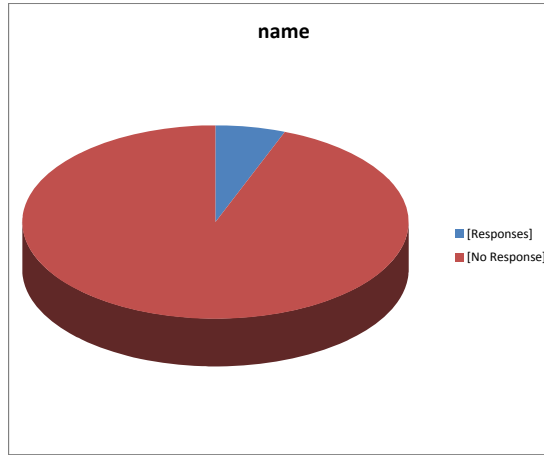
name

Number of Responses

[Responses]

[No Response]

	% Total	Count
	5.77%	55
	5.77%	55
	94.23%	899
Total	100.00%	954

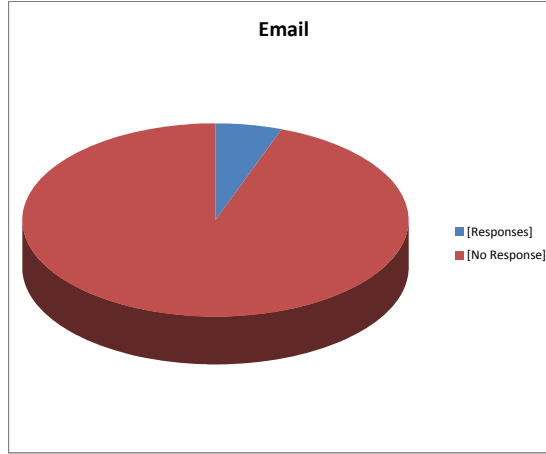


Email

Number of Responses

[Responses]
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
	5.66%	54
	5.66%	54
	94.34%	900
Total	100.00%	954

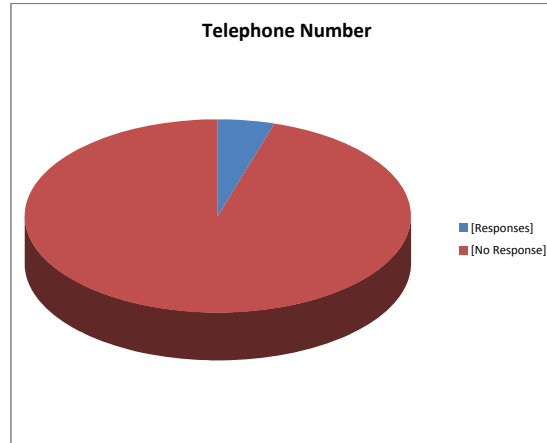


Telephone Number

Number of Responses

[Responses]
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
	4.61%	44
	4.61%	44
	95.39%	910
Total	100.00%	954

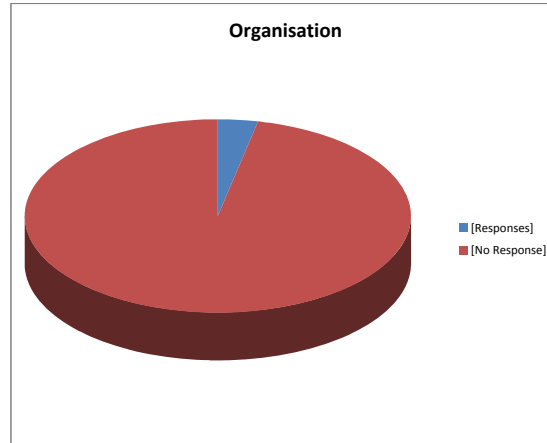


Organisation

Number of Responses

[Responses]
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
	3.25%	31
	3.25%	31
	96.75%	923
Total	100.00%	954

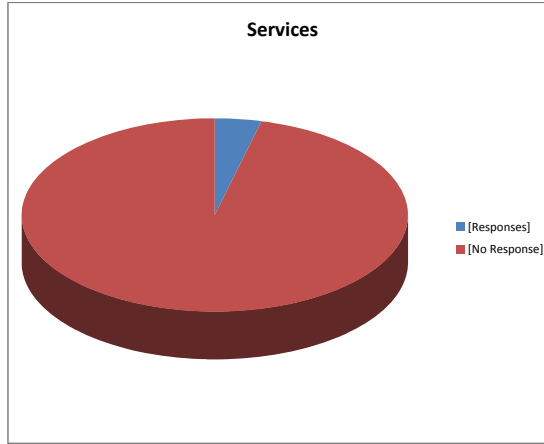


Services

Number of Responses

[Responses]
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
	3.77%	36
	3.77%	36
	96.23%	918
Total	100.00%	954

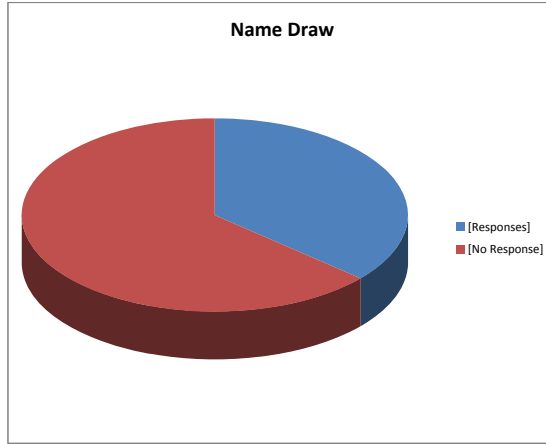


Name Draw

Number of Responses

[Responses]
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
	36.48%	348
	36.48%	348
	63.52%	606
Total	100.00%	954

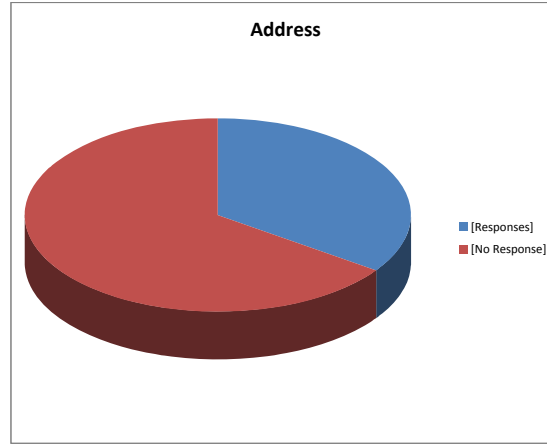


Address

Number of Responses

[Responses]
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
	34.70%	331
	34.70%	331
	65.30%	623
Total	100.00%	954

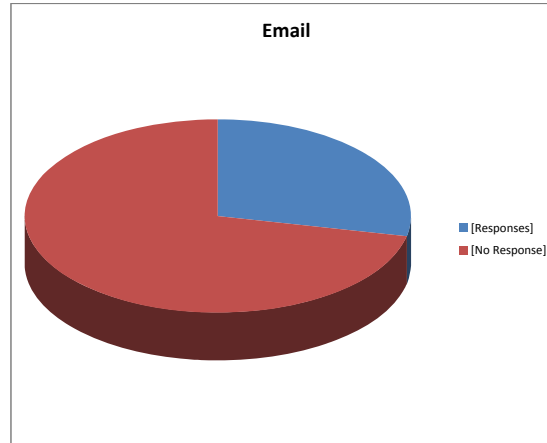


Email

Number of Responses

[Responses]
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
	28.20%	269
	28.20%	269
	71.80%	685
Total	100.00%	954



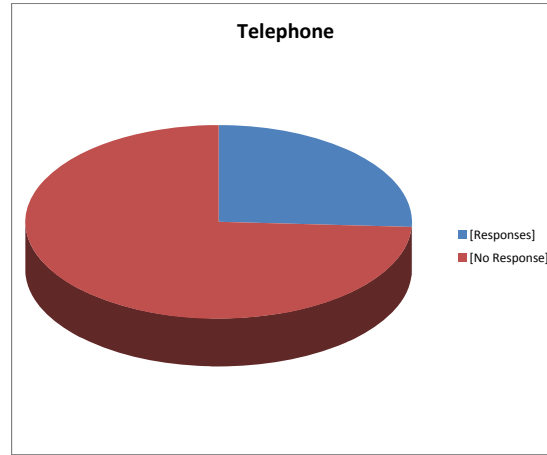
Telephone

Number of Responses

[Responses]

[No Response]

	% Total	Count
	25.79%	246
	25.79%	246
	74.21%	708
Total	100.00%	954

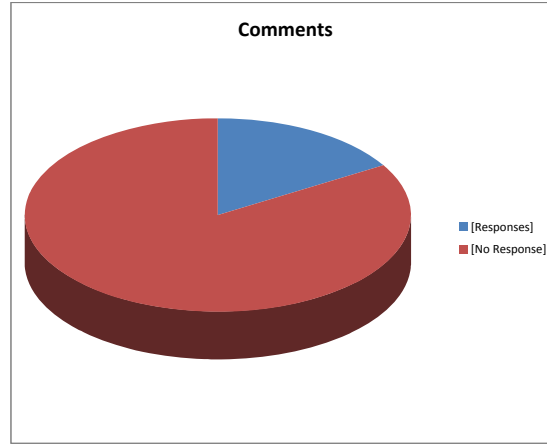


Comments

Number of Responses

[Responses]
[No Response]

	% Total	Count
[Responses]	16.46%	157
[No Response]	83.54%	797
Total	100.00%	954



SPORT, LEISURE & CULTURE – THE FUTURE COMMENTS ON ALTERNATIVE GOVERNANCE

<p>As a family we would be happy for these services to be run by a not for profit organisation such as Nuffield. We would not want it to move to a totally private organisation mainly interested in profit.</p>
<p>I use Ancholme Leisure Centre very frequently - 4 times a week - for a variety of activities including swimming, gym, circuits and badminton, and I have done so for several years. I know others who do the same. In my experience this leisure Centre is both popular and pleasant to use with excellent amenities, conveniently located and dedicated staff. It is difficult to answer questions such as 'do I agree with cut backs' without knowing details of what might be involved. However, my feeling is that cut backs, should any be necessary, are better managed by a public body than by a profit oriented business. Public amenities are there, after all, for those unable, for whatever reason, to access private sports facilities of which there are several in the area.</p>
<p>If a private company can make ends meet running a service, why can't the council? I've never understood the logic of this - unless the private company pay lower wages etc....</p>
<p>The important thing in my view is to ensure that jobs are kept and if the Council does move leisure to a trust, then the Council staff be transferred to, I do not want people to lose their jobs - there are too many job losses in the current climate as it is!</p>
<p>The council must not, under any circumstances, abdicate on its responsibility to provide top quality leisure services. Selling off to the third sector or others is not acceptable.</p>
<p>It is essential for leisure services to remain within local authority control. Transferring operation to a private company would leave local residents without recourse if changes were made to opening hours or prices. It would also mean no obligation for services to participate in such schemes as free swimming, provided under the previous Labour government, which was such a success locally.</p>
<p>I think that the leisure and cultural facilities that we have are first rate and prefer that they are run by the local authority. I know there are many challenges to this but at least it makes sure that there is fairness and accountability in the way they are managed.</p>
<p>The council have spent a lot of money building the pods and improving our other leisure centres the work they have done is fantastic we should keep hold of them and encourage people to use them. As for the outdoor site such as Quibell Park we are in the Olympic year we should let the schools use this facility and get the kids and adults active.</p>
<p>Concern that whoever takes over the services will have to either increase prices or reduce services or both. For example when CHAMP took over at Baysgarth House Museum the opening hours were immediately reduced dramatically. Also concerned for members of staff whose jobs will be even less secure than at present. Many facilities presently are provided free of charge to the public which ensures that every person can join in regardless of their financial position. This helps to bring many diverse groups together to enjoy the facilities. The council have so many policies that ensure everyone is treated with equal respect and this may not be present in private companies.</p>
<p>I happily pay my council tax for the council to do its job and run these services. How can a private company possibly keep the same service and manage to make a profit? If there are ways of cutting costs, you should be doing this already. There is a catalogue of other councils who have handed their swimming pools to private companies to run, only to find that the companies cannot make the profits they expected and the pools end up closing. Don't hand the control of my assets to an unelected body with no democratic accountability.</p>
<p>It is such a pity that these services are having to be looked at in this way, which is obviously due to the loaded questions, moving towards privatisation. Sad times!!!! If this happens then the cost will increase to the public and many much needed services will not be affordable to those who need them and get most from them. This is also now due to the state of the country and individuals circumstances, affecting not only those on benefits but also hard working families, Shocking!! We are all doing more for less and having to pay more for goods, many essentials like fuel and food!</p>

Of course if they are set to the private sector then the haves will again get richer!!!!
If we are faced with losing the services then of course they should be offered to NOT FOR PROFIT companies or other such organisations who give things back to the community.

I await the results of this survey but as I have stated before the outcome is pretty much guaranteed due to the loaded questions!
Thank you for your time. (392 DA)

The answers I gave to some of the questions require some qualification. For example I answered yes to all the options for alternative service providers but I believe that, although all the suggested providers are suitable alternatives for some services, none of them is a suitable provider for all the services. In my opinion a community group would be a poor choice for the Baths Hall but a private company would be an unsuitable choice for the museum service.

Please, please don't privatise sports and leisure, it is invaluable for our community that sports and health is encouraged and promoted.
Furthermore, it benefits our community if staff are paid a decent wage and have proper conditions of employment.

The sports and Leisure in our area are something to be proud of

It's hard to answer such generalised questions. Private companies or other organisations could run swimming pools etc, and charges for using them be increased, but the countryside belongs to everyone, so nature parks should be financed by local or national government.

Keep our services as they are now.

Councils should NOT run golf courses.

I feel that this questionnaire is too general. I'm sure that some of the premises mentioned would benefit from private ownership, others by being run by non-profit organisations, but some would suffer badly if not council run. The questionnaire should reflect this and I would hope that each case is taken individually when making these decisions.

If the services/assets were transferred to another organisation would NL council tax payers who funded the centres be recompensed i.e. what would costs be and will they be reimbursed to NLC? or will it be council tax payers who lose out!!

It is an absolute disgrace that the council, and the halfwits (or malicious sods), devising this survey - have not once allowed its residents, (and thus taxpayers and voters), from expressing our firmly held beliefs that the services should remain to be run by the council. This is absolutely imperative in order to maintain the absolutely key twin axis of democratic accountability and high-quality services.

A 10 year old could have devised a more competent, and less biased survey.

This is in its very nature, fails the council's legal obligation for consultation purposes and will be liable for judicial review, (I'll do it myself if need be), if the conclusions are not what those denied of our democratic right, (see above), would have wanted prior to their rights being removed and restricted by this shocking survey and the council's incompetence.

I'd get busy chatting with the lawyers if I were you..... (462)

Please do not sell off our services.

Council should not provide golf services funded by the taxpayer.

I have no objection to outside agencies running the various departments on a non profit basis. If profit was allowed, then admission prices would rise and people would stop using the facilities.

Usually use Baysgarth Leisure Centre find it to be excellent, clean, modern and well equipped.

Do not wish to line pockets of a private company/shared holders. Council should continue to run leisure services!

How can this be an unbiased survey, the options are either leisure services reduced or moved to another organisation, surely a lose situation

Sports & leisure is an integral part of my free time and I believe that the Council should be promoting these services so that more people use the facilities rather than cutting services.

Baysgarth Leisure Centre staff are superb. They are helpful and kind and a pleasure to deal with. IF the council plans to hand leisure services over to a trust or management company I feel they are making a big mistake.
Current arrangement offer a good service at reasonable cost and regard it as part of my return on H Band Charges. I would not want to see outsourcing leading to inevitable cost increases to provide profits.
Our children especially need as many affordable centres as possible and all should be maintained under council control in my opinion.
Believe council should run services we don't vote for private company we've never heard and can't confront on bad service or programme.
The questions appear loaded towards outsourcing of leisure and arts facilities as if this is the option preferred by the council.
There is not enough information to answer many of these questions and they seem loaded towards outsourcing for provision e.g. does Q3 assume another organisation would run things for nothing? There is no counter balance e.g. how do these facilities contribute to the overall economy by drawing in tourists - is this offset against cost?
Wants to keep within this local authority Times perfect don't change anything
I note that you spend £2.6m pa is this gross or net? You do not say how much income is generated by these facilities I know I pay £380 pa for the leisure services I use. I think that the money is well spent and good value for money - the equivalent Council Tax quoted represents 6.4% of the Council Tax I pay. Asides from refuse collection, street lighting, the dubious provision of policing, fire service and road maint. iffy at best I wonder where the remaining 93.5% goes. I'm reasonably sure I am subsidising others - education etc, so I see this spending on leisure services as fair play - what are you going to spend this 2.6 m on if not leisure services. .
I am very impressed with the work that the council has done recently, in particular The Baths Hall and The Pods. I would hate see these sold off to the detriment of the tax payer/council tax payer. The tax payer was ripped off when public utilities and railways, amongst others were sold off and we continue to pay the price and will again when the banks are returned to the private sector. It would be a travesty if the impressive assets that the Council Tax payer of North Lincolnshire have accrued were sacrificed to the private sector, and goes for allowing them to run them inevitably we would have to pay more, with no corresponding reduction in Council Tax.
Council run services provide accountability and are value for tax payer
I do NOT want private capitalists running our Leisure Services i.e. Hedge fund bankers, investment trusts etc - KEEP IT A PUBLIC SERVICE
Q4 council should maintain management responsibility
Q5 option D Spend what the council can to retain leisure facilities and "weather the storm"
Disappointed that Baths/Plowright management is now in private hands instead of improved council handling (which was needed) Sorely miss the previous library screen cinema. Premises do not appear to have been used to any benefit
This is the most biased and badly written questionnaire I have seen. It is clearly biased towards trying to outsource leisure, e.g. "If it was a choice between a service closing, being reduced or finding another organisation to run it for the council, which would you prefer?". Given I play sport I guess my answer is "another organisation".
Grandparents and child minders often care for children in school holidays. They need healthy and affordable activities to take them to. When 'sponsors' take over our schools playing fields and sports halls, they will be run for profit only.
The only way private companies run services for less is my cutting wages or reducing services as they have to make a profit. Don't sell off our family silver!
Council spending on Arts & Culture should NOT be to the detriment of essential services such as safeguarding children & adult social care.