

Council spending - have your say

Survey Results

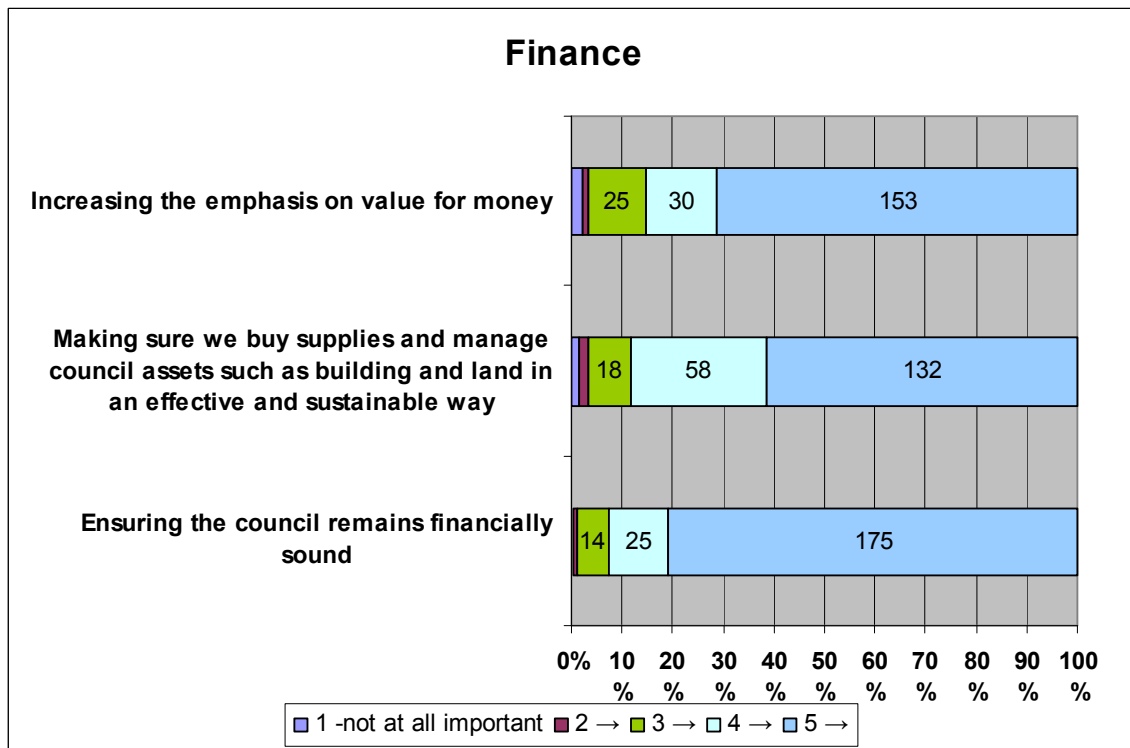
The summer 2010 edition of Uttlesford Life invited residents to participate in a consultation which, although not identical, reflected the questions put to members of the Uttlesford Voices¹ citizens' panel regarding the council's priority areas for improvement.

Residents were given the option to either participate in an online version of the survey via the council website or to submit their responses by post. 202 postal responses were received and 15 residents took part online.

The survey similarly asked participants to rate elements of the four priority areas in order of importance using the same 5 point scoring system used in Uttlesford Voices, 1 being 'not at all important' and 5 being 'very important'.

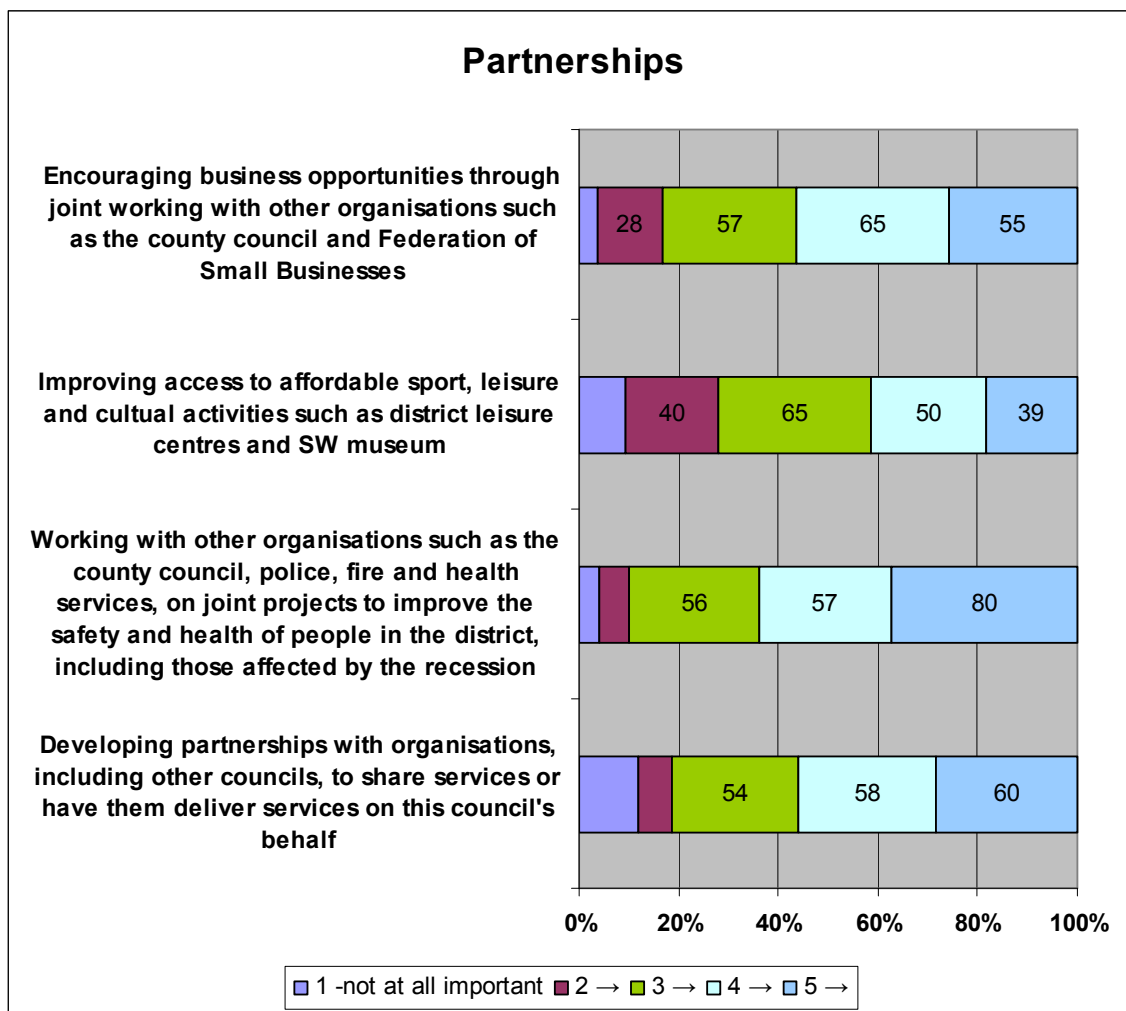
Finance

Of the three priorities 'ensuring the council remains financially sound' was given the highest rating with 80.6 % (175 in total) selecting it as very important. This was a considerably larger proportion than the 58.4% of the citizens' panel who selected the same priority



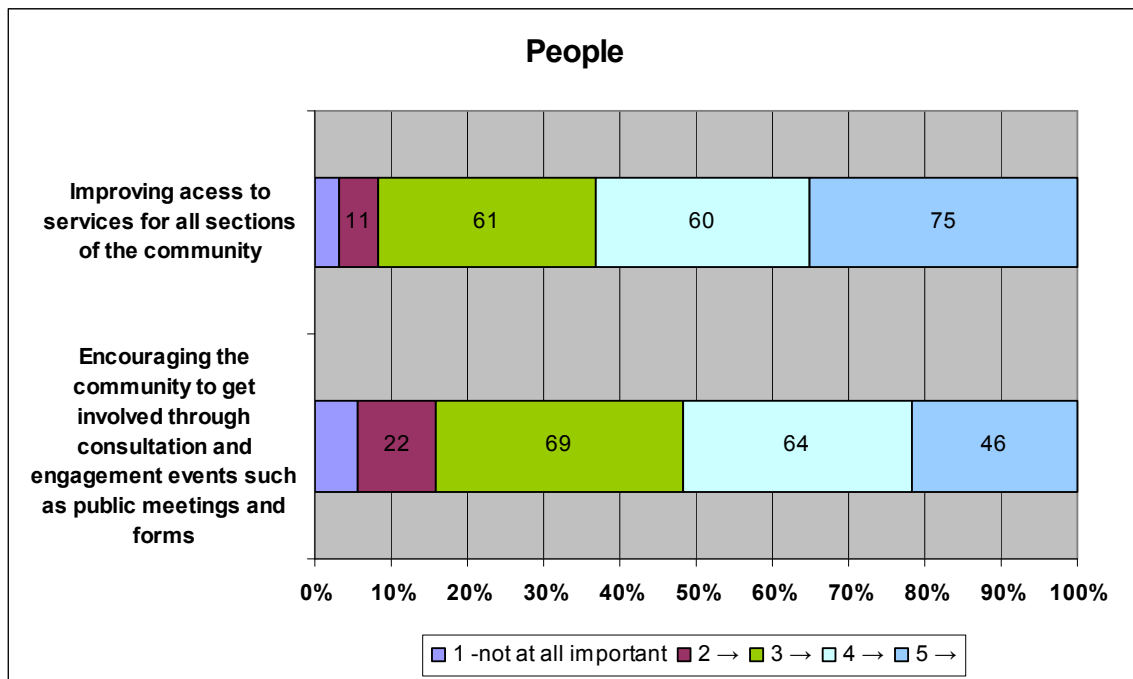
Partnerships

The responses to the Uttlesford Life and online survey were very similar to those from the Uttlesford Voices 1 citizens panel questionnaire. The chart shows that 37% (in total 80) selected 'working with other organisations such as the county council, police, fire and health services, on joint projects to improve the safety and health of people in the district, including those affected by the recession' as very important which compared with the 36.7% of the citizens' panellists for whom this was similarly the most highly rated option. By contrast the element least selected as very important was, for both surveys, 'improving access to sport, leisure and cultural activities'.



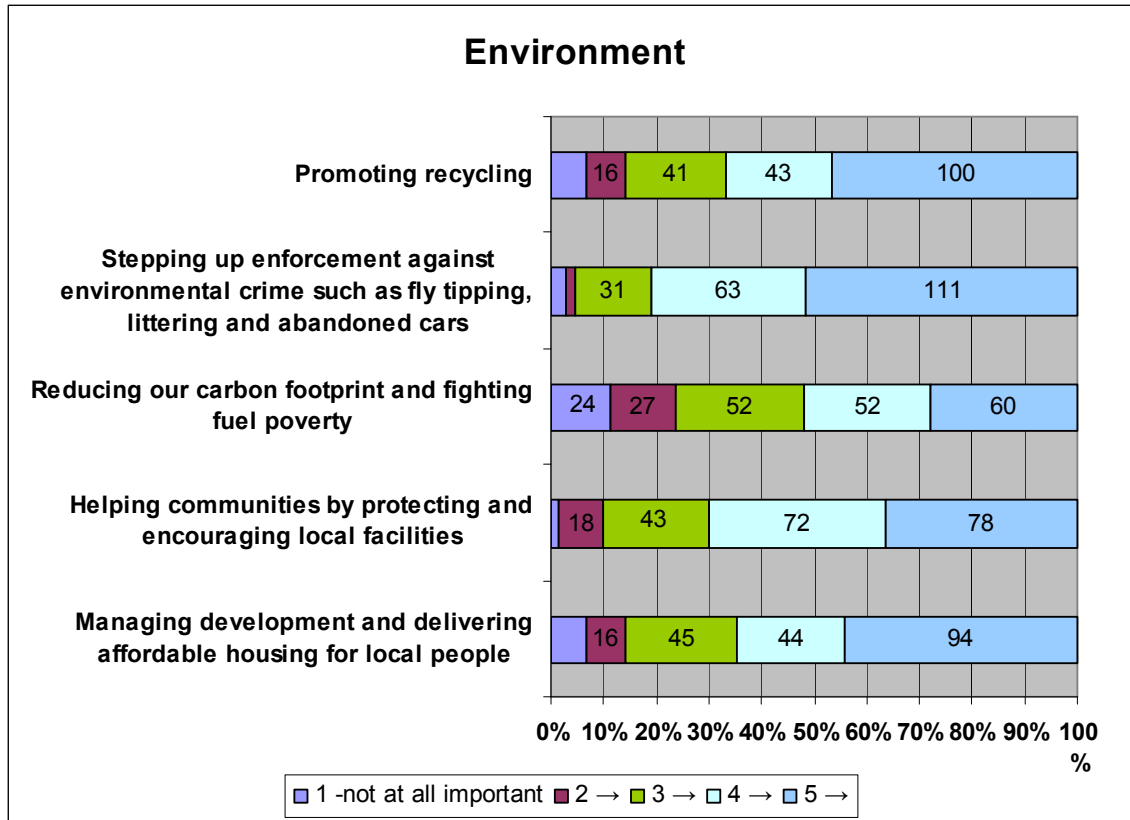
People

Under 'People' the scores for both surveys were very similar for 'encouraging the community to get involved through consultation and engagement events'. However 'improving access to services for all sectors of the community' was selected as the headline 'people' priority by 34.9% of the Uttlesford Life and online respondents but only 19.9% of the citizens' panellists selected this as very important.



Environment

For 'Environment' The results for 'reducing our carbon footprint and fighting fuel poverty', 'managing development and delivering affordable housing for local people' and 'helping communities by protecting and encouraging local facilities' were comparable with those from the Uttlesford Voices 1 citizens panel. In both surveys between 66 to 70% of respondents selected the latter as either important or very important. Over half (51.4%, 111 in total) of the Uttlesford Life and online respondents gave 'stepping up enforcement against environmental crime such as fly tipping, littering and abandoned cars' a 'very important' rating.



Summary of results

By totalling the scores assigned by all Uttlesford Life postal and online survey respondents to each of the elements listed (e.g. very important = 5 points), it is possible to determine which of the areas overall were considered of highest importance by the participants as shown in the table below.

All the three elements listed under the main priority Finance, scored highly, with 'ensuring the council remains financially sound' as the headline priority. 'Stepping up enforcement against environmental crime' was similarly highly rated, closely followed by 'promoting recycling' and 'working with other organisations...to improve the safety and health of people in the district, including those affected by the recession'.

'Improving access to services for all sections of the community' was the least rated overall despite being considered as 'very important' by 75 of the 215 respondents.

Corporate Plan Consultation

