

Council Plan (2020-23) Consultation – Summary Report

Summary

The survey asked respondents to read a description of each priority and of the areas of focus for 2020-23. Respondents were then asked to what extent they agreed that identified areas of focus for 2020-23 would achieve each priority.

Respondents were also asked to what extent they agreed that delivering all six of the priorities would enable the Council to meet its vision that all people living in Wrexham County Borough are supported to fulfil their potential, prosper and achieve a high standard of well-being.

There were 98 responses overall - this is a low response rate and not all respondents answered every question / fully completed the survey. We think this might be for a number of reasons – because of the recent consultation on the six priority areas in summer 2019, there were no proposals about any specific service changes or cuts, as well as the emerging Covid 19 situation.

For each priority, there are clear areas of focus which the large majority of respondents strongly agreed or agreed would contribute to achieving the priority. Additionally, more people strongly agree or agree than strongly disagree or disagree that almost all the identified areas of focus will contribute to achieving the priorities.

The single area of focus which the majority of respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed would meet a priority was 'Welsh language' for Priority 2 – Ensuring a Modern and Resilient Council (30% strongly disagree or disagree, 21% strongly agree or agree). This correlates with the profile of respondents to the survey overall, only two of whom indicated that they spoke Welsh. The council is, nevertheless, required to meet the legislative requirements of the Welsh Language Standards.

Priority 1 - Developing the economy

84 people responded regarding one or more areas of focus for this question.

'Ensuring the road and rail infrastructure meets the needs of our economy' had the highest percentage of respondents in strong agreement (54%), followed by 'Masterplan a smaller town-centre' (30%) and 'Promote local entrepreneurship' (26%). When strongly agree and agree are combined, 'Ensuring the road and rail infrastructure meets the needs of our economy' has the highest percentage in agreement (90%) with 'Promote local entrepreneurship' next (77%), then 'North Wales Growth Deal' (66%).

Priority 2 - Ensuring a modern and resilient council

79 people responded regarding all areas of focus for this question. 'Ensure key services are sustainable' had the highest percentage of respondents strongly in agreement (42%), followed by 'Modern ways of working' (35%) and 'Review our office accommodation requirements' (34%). When strongly agree and agree are combined, 'Ensure key services are sustainable' has the highest percentage in agreement (84%), followed by 'Modern ways of working' (68%) with 'Review our office accommodation requirements' and 'organisational development' both having 65% in agreement.

Priority 3 - Ensuring everyone is safe

77 people responded regarding one or more areas of focus for this question.

'Improving community safety' had the highest percentage of respondents strongly in agreement (56%), followed by 'Reducing homelessness' (45%) and 'Investing in housing standards and services' (34%). When strongly agree and agree are combined, 'Improving community safety' has the highest percentage in agreement (91%), followed by 'Reducing homelessness' (82%) and 'Investing in housing standards and services' (70%).

Priority 4 - Improving secondary education

75 people responded regarding one or more areas of focus for this question.

'Improve pupil attendance, well-being and behaviour' had the highest percentage of respondents strongly in agreement (61%), followed by 'urgently improve outcomes for learners' (61%) and 'Strengthen joint working' (47%). When strongly agree and agree are combined, 'Improve pupil attendance, well-being and behaviour' and 'Urgently improve outcomes for learners' score equally, 88% in each case. 68% of respondents strongly agree or agree with 'Strengthen joint working'.

Priority 5 - Improving the environment

72 people responded to regarding all areas of focus for this question. 'Improve the safety and condition of roads' had the highest percentage of respondents strongly in agreement (75%), followed by 'Litter and fly-tipping' (54%), and 'Increase recycling and minimise waste' (49%). When strongly agree and agree are combined, 'Improve the safety and condition of roads' has the highest percentage in agreement (92%), followed by 'litter and fly-tipping' (88%) then 'Increase recycling and minimise waste' (79%).

Priority 6 - Promoting good health and well-being

71 people responded regarding one or more areas of focus for this question.

'Prevention and early help' had the highest percentage of respondents strongly in agreement (49%), followed by 'Children's social care' (32%), then 'Fostering and adoption' (32%). When strongly agree and agree are combined, 'Prevention and early help' has the highest percentage in agreement (80%), followed by 'Children's social care' (76%), then 'Fostering and adoption' (72%).

Further Comments overall

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed that delivering all six of these priorities will enable the Council to meet its vision that all people that live here are supported to fulfil their potential, prosper and achieve a high standard of well-being?

71 respondents answered this question. 16% strongly agreed and 39% agreed, making a total when rounded up of 55% of respondents strongly agreeing or agreeing. 13% of respondents disagreed and 7% strongly disagreed, making a total 20% who disagreed or strongly disagreed. 25% of respondents neither agreed or disagreed, or didn't know.

When asked the question 'Do you have any other comments on the draft Council Plan 2020-23?' 30 people responded with their comments. These comments indicated considerable strength of feeling.

Most respondents wanted to see a difference being made. They wanted the plan to result in action and visible change. This was highest common theme, accounting for 24% (7) individual comments. Others felt that the plan needed to be more realistic and in touch with the residents of the area and current issues. 10% (3) respondents left comments that asked the plan to be more reflective of public concerns, with more consultation required to reach this point.

14% (4) respondent comments suggested more focus was required to look at how public money was spent.