

Results of Budget Consultation Undertaken in January 2005

1.0 Method

The resident panel is a representative sample of the wider community in Tower Hamlets. A postal questionnaire was mailed to panel members at the beginning of January. One week later panel members were telephoned for their responses. This enabled residents to consider the priority list before offering a response.

At the same time, questionnaires were posted on the Council's website and published in local English language and Bengali newspapers, including East End Life. Responses to the newspaper questionnaire were invited by post, e-mail, telephone, text message, fax or personal delivery to a One Stop Shop.

The first part of the survey asked residents to indicate, in relation to five priority areas, their view as to whether these should be priorities for the Council.

The second part of the survey asked people to identify three things from a list that they thought the Council should concentrate more on improving, and three things they should concentrate less on.

Part three asked residents to give their view as to whether the Council should continue to keep the Council Tax low.

1,156 responses were received by the various media, with the majority coming from Residents' Panel survey.

2.0 Results

2.1. The Right Priorities?

In relation to views on the top priorities, the following views were put forward;

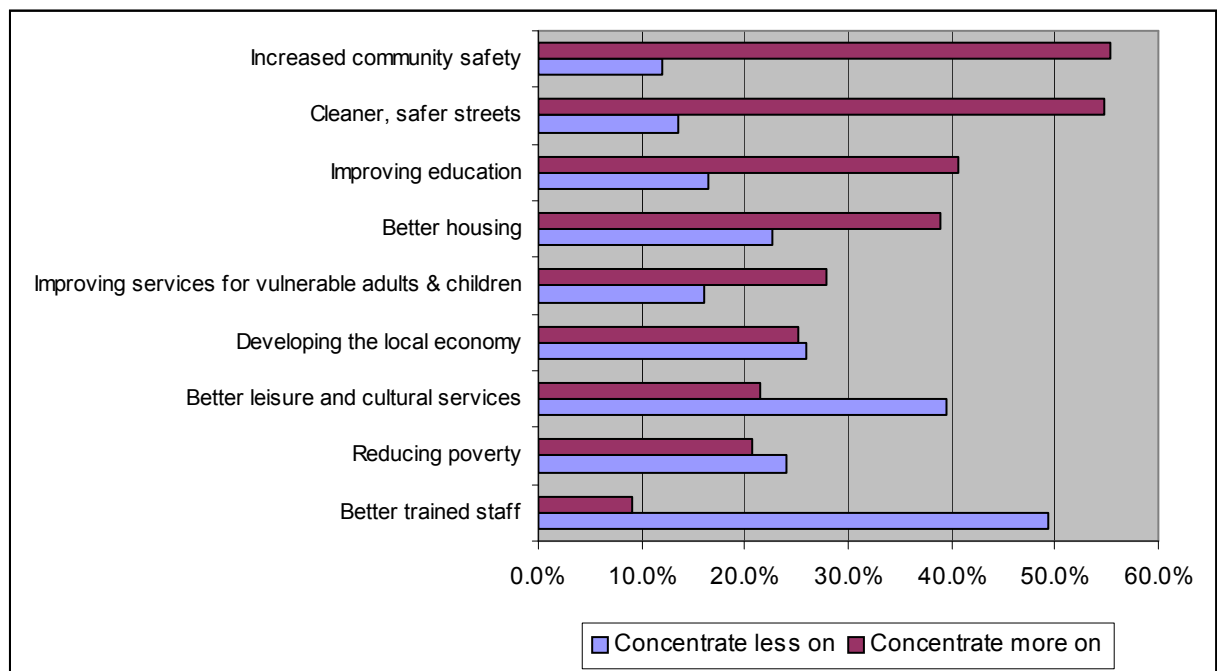
A better place for.....	Yes	No	Don't Know	Yes/ No Balance
...living safely	93.2%	3.8%	3.0%	+89.4%
...living well	90.1%	4.8%	5.1%	+85.3%
...learning, achievement & leisure	88.0%	6.2%	5.8%	+81.8%
...creating & sharing prosperity	80.9%	10.2%	8.9%	+70.7%
...excellent public services	88.8%	6.7%	4.5%	+82.1%

The results show on balance strong support for all of the priorities, with the strongest support shown for priorities for living safely and living well.

2.2. Preferred Priorities?

Overall the three priority areas that respondents would like the council to focus more resources on next year are:

- Increased Community Safety
- Cleaner, Safer Streets
- Improving education



These are the same three main priorities as were identified in budget consultation for 2005/06, although increased community safety is now relatively stronger compared with safer, cleaner streets. This response is also broadly consistent with the Annual Residents' Survey.

2.3. Council Tax

In answer to the question, 'Is it important to you that Council Tax in Tower Hamlets remains low?', 81.6% of people answered that it was important that it should. 13.1% of people said that it was not important to them.