

Have your say and help us get on the right track ...

A public consultation exercise is in progress to help the Council understand what is important to people whilst it sets its budget in line with its priorities. The survey also includes questions on the Council's proposed new consultation arrangements.

In respect of the priorities element of the survey, the interim results of the public consultation to 21 January 2014 are listed below. The survey is open until 14 March 2014 and the results of the survey are to be made available on the Council's website by 25 April 2014 along with a report back on what was said and how this information was used.

The online survey went live on 23 December and hard copies are available upon request to Customer Services. A Press Release was sent out on 23 December 2013 and a small article appeared in the Melton Times on 2 January 2014 in the middle of the publication.

A5 flyers have been produced (see page 4) and circulated to Parish Councils for the village noticeboards and our regular user groups. There are leaflets in Parkside Reception, at the library and at the Children's Centres. Also flyers will be handed out at Tenants Residents' meetings.

It is recognised that ongoing promotion is needed and Councillors have helped by promoting the survey to shoppers at their Surgery Market Stall held on Saturday 25 January 2014. From 20 January, the survey has been given a higher profile on the Council's website and regular tweets are being sent out. We are also liaising with the Melton Times for a more significant article in a future issue of the Melton Times.

There are 23 responses so far distributed between male and female as follows :- 12 male, 9 female and 2 non-responses

The postcodes of respondents show a higher response from the rural areas with 6 being from an LE13 postcode, 14 being out of town and 3 non-responses.

The age range of respondees (shown below) is higher in the over 45's and particularly in the 45-54 age range. There are no responses from the under 19 age group and the 75 and over age range.

Under 19	0
19-24	1 response
25-34	3 response
35-44	1 response
45-54	9 responses
55-64	3 responses
65-74	4 responses
75 & over	0
Prefer not say	2

In the priorities part of the survey, respondents are asked to rate each priority giving each one a score of 1-10, 1 being of the highest importance and 10 being the lowest.

From the survey results, the table below shows the priorities in order of importance, 1 being the most important. The third column shows the average score given by participants for each priority, the lowest score being the highest importance.

Rating	Priority	Average rating score given by respondents**
1	Encourage people to take an active role in their communities	4.96
2	Increasing public confidence & pride in neighbourhoods	5.48
3*	Reduce re-offending and the impact of offending on the community	5.52
3*	Support people and businesses through the economic downturn	5.52
5	Meet the economic needs of the Borough	5.74
6	Maximise the potential of Melton Mowbray Town centre	5.91
7	Improve quality of life for people living in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods	6.22
8	To provide high performing services that are efficient and meet customers' needs	6.78
9	Help provide a stock of housing accommodation that meets the needs of the community	6.83
10	Improving the well-being of vulnerable people	7.04

*These priorities have the same score

**The lowest score = the most important priority

The survey also asks the following question and the responses are listed below :-

...tell us anything else you would like us to know when considering the Council's priorities

- reduce the money that is spent on councillors allowances and the fringe benefits they receive they should perform the duties of councillors voluntarily like they used to. that way you would see who is genuinely interested in serving the public, all council staff should be put on performance related pay this would make them more efficient and

would get rid of this couldn't care less oh its only joe public they don't matter and we will do what we want any way (attitude)

- Remove superfluous quangos that cost the tax payer money and absorb council resources in analysis that tells what is common sense. Focus on valuable stuff that helps the welfare of the community rather than just making the place look pretty.
- Where many local people seem to know that illegal drugs are on sale quite freely at certain addresses how come the Police seem to either not know or don't do anything about it - even when it is regularly happening almost on their doorstep. We need to give citizens confidence to go out and enjoy their town without having to be escorted door to door in taxis now there is no evening public transport to speak of. For those without a car, they are likely to become completely isolated unless something is done, particularly when you see reports like recently in the Melton times with the 70+ year old chap who was beaten for a few pounds despite being almost at his home.
- How do you intend to provide services closer to the remote communities using existing infrastructure and facilities, together with the capabilities in your local parish and town councils? How do you intend engaging with these authorities in order to drive your own costs down much in the way of LCC? How do you intend to demonstrate your cost efficient services specifically to the more remote communities that need the support more?
- Ensure your Equality Diversity Inclusion and Human Rights practice is implemented in all your activities.
- There are far too many people in the Borough not prepared to work and are happy to sit on benefits. The council needs to continue to challenge them and support the government agenda on benefit cuts however it is important that jobs are created and businesses safeguarded to allow those people to be offered employment.

Have your say... and help us get on the right track...

Over the coming months, Melton Borough Council wants to be sure that it is meeting the needs of the people it serves and making the best use of its budgets and staff.

These are difficult times for everyone and this means it is even more important that as we move forward we deliver the services people need within the budgets available. Therefore we would like your views on what the Council does and how it spends its money.

At the same time, the Council is asking for your views on the way it consults people.

The Council is putting together some new arrangements and would like to know what you think of these and whether they will work for you. A new strategy aims to ensure that the public opinion is asked for whenever the Council changes its services and way of working. Your opinions will be used to improve the way the Council works and helps Councillors with making decisions. This is valuable information for the Council as it helps to make a future which we all have a part in creating.



Go online today to tell us what
is important to you!

www.melton.gov.uk/priorities
Closing date 14 March 2014



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