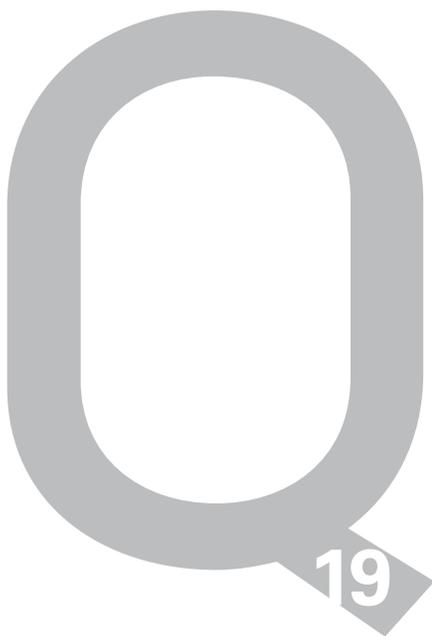


Citizens Panel



Overview

Welcome to the 19th Citizens Panel. In this questionnaire we ask you questions on the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Falkirk and on the protection and promotion of the historic environment of the Falkirk Council area.

Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Falkirk

We want to know what you think about local priorities, tackling inequalities, targeting resources and transforming services. Your feedback will help inform the development of the plan.

Historic Environment

We are currently developing a new strategy to protect and promote the overall historic environment of the Falkirk Council area. We are seeking your view about the effectiveness of existing planning policies and the contribution of the historic environment to the quality of life within the area.

About you

We have also included some questions at the end of the questionnaire about you to make sure our information is correct and to help us analyse results.

All of your answers are very useful to us, whether you complete the whole questionnaire or just part of it.

This survey will take around 10 minutes to complete. Please return your completed survey in the enclosed pre-paid envelope by Friday 18th August 2017.



Falkirk Council

Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Falkirk

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Falkirk Fire Plan is due for review. We seek your views on some of the key aspects that SFRS should consider when developing the priorities and objectives for the next plan.

1. The current local priorities of the Falkirk Local Fire Plan are listed below. Please rank these in order of importance with 1 being the most important.

	<i>Rank 1-6</i>
Reduce accidental dwelling fires	
Reduce casualties and fatalities from accidental dwelling fires	
Reduce deliberate fires	
Reduce fires in non domestic properties	
Reduce casualties and fatalities from non fire emergencies	
Reduce automatic fire alarm calls	

Do you think there are any other fire related local priorities the SFRS should consider for the Falkirk area?

A key principle of reform is tackling social and economic inequalities in our communities. SFRS recognise high incident levels have links with vulnerable members of the community and can also be associated with specific geographical areas in Falkirk.

2. Should prevention resources target those vulnerable members of the community who are most in need?

Please select only one item

Yes

No

Don't know

If no, who do you think we should target our resources to?

3. Who do you think are the most vulnerable members of the community in Falkirk?

The role SFRS plays in traditional incident response and fire prevention is well recognised. SFRS believe that to enhance community safety in Falkirk we should adapt and move towards a more holistic approach, by working with partners to prevent accidental/unintentional harm in the home and workplace.

4. Do you agree the role SFRS plays in keeping the community safe should expand to include non-fire safety specific initiatives?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree Strongly disagree

5. Do you think there are any examples of non-fire related initiatives SFRS should become involved in?

Historic Environment

Local authorities are required to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the historic environment when exercising their powers under planning legislation.

Key legislation and policies include the following:

- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act, 1997
- The Historic Environment Scotland Act, 2014
- The Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement, June 2016
- Falkirk Council Local Development Plan, July 2015

The Historic Environment of Falkirk includes a wide range of archaeological, cultural, historic and architectural assets and sites. These include statutory designations such as one world heritage site, The Antonine Wall (part of the transnational Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site), 89 scheduled monuments, 352 listed buildings, nine conservation areas, three historic gardens and designed landscapes, and two battlefield sites. Our area also has locally protected designations. The sites and monument record held at Callendar House has around 2,821 entries.

6. Are you a member of any heritage or local history group?

- Yes No Don't know

If yes, please specify:

7. Do you think the historic environment of the Falkirk Council area is adequately protected?

Please select only one item

- Yes No Don't know

If no, can you give further comments?

8. Do you think the historic environment of the Falkirk Council area is properly appreciated by local people?

Please select only one item

- Yes No Don't know

If no, can you give further comments?

9. Do you think the historic environment of the Falkirk Council area is adequately promoted?

Please select only one item

- Yes No Don't know

If no, can you give further comments?

10. Do you think the historic assets of the area contribute to the attractiveness of the area to tourists?

Please select only one item

- Yes No Don't know

If no, can you give further comments?

11. Do you think the local historic assets contribute to the quality of life in the Falkirk area?

Please select only one item

- Yes No Don't know

If no, can you give further comments?

If yes, go to next question. If no or don't know, go to the 'About you' section.

12. What type of historic assets do you think contribute to the quality of life in this area? Please tick all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic canals and other scheduled monuments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation areas and other historic towns | <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic gardens and landscapes | <input type="checkbox"/> Sites and Monuments Record |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological sites and relics | <input type="checkbox"/> Battlefield sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antonine Wall | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

If other, please specify

About You

We ask these questions each time, so we can break down the results by gender, age, area, etc. where necessary. You do not have to answer these questions, but it will help us if you do.

13. Are you male or female?

Male Female Prefer not to say

14. How old are you?

Under 16 16-24 25-34 35-44 45-64
 65 or over Prefer not to say

15. What is your employment status?

Employed full-time
 Employed part-time
 Unemployed
 Retired
 Student
 Other

16. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Yes No Prefer not to say

17. What is your postcode?

Introduction

Citizens Panel 17 contained questions on allotments and help with adaptations and repairs in the home.

There were 618 responses to the survey, with 149 postal returns and 469 online completions. 45% of respondents were male and 40% were female and 15% did not specify their gender.

Over a third of respondents (38%) were aged 65 years or over and 71% were aged 45 years or older. 9% were aged 35 to 44 years and 4% were aged between 16 and 34 years. 14% did not specify their age.

We also asked about respondents' houses in the survey. Most respondents (67%) either owned their house outright or had a mortgage. 17% lived in rented accommodation. 14% did not answer this question.

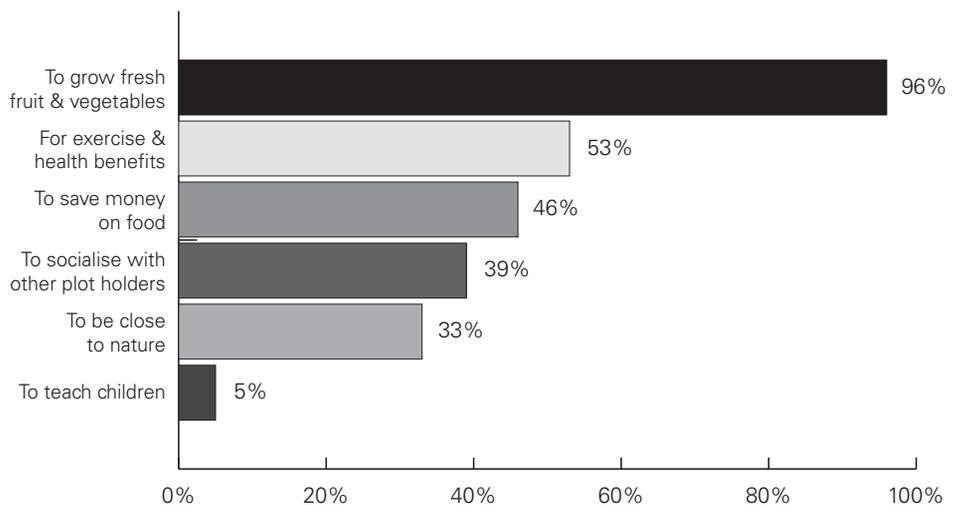
Allotments

We asked... a number of questions about allotments in the Falkirk Council area.

You said... 99% of you did not have an allotment. Of the respondents who did have an allotment, they stated that growing fruit and vegetables and health and exercise benefits were the main benefits, followed by being close to nature, socialising and reducing stress. They walk or drive to their allotment, and they found out about their local allotments through adverts or people they knew.

We asked... if you would be interested in having an allotment, if you didn't have one.

You said... 7% weren't sure and 13% were interested in having an allotment. Of those that were interested, 96% stated growing fruit and vegetables as the main reason to having an allotment. 53% stated exercise and health benefits and 46% stated to save money on food. 5% thought it would be good to teach children about gardening and food.



We asked... what information you would like about allotments

You said... information about where the allotments are, their cost and size were the most important things people wanted to know.

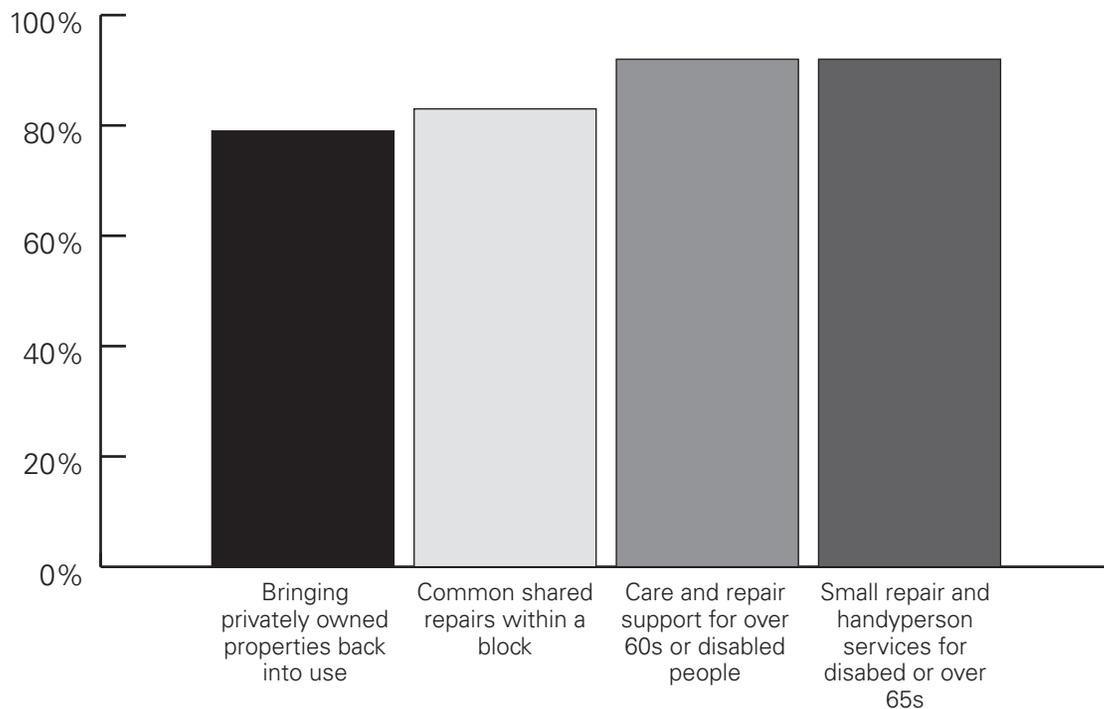
We asked... why aren't you interested in an allotment?

You said... 58% had gardens, 14% believed their health would prevent them from keeping an allotment and 13% didn't have time.

Help with Adaptations and Repairs in the Home

We asked... how important one to one practical assistance from a Council officer is for bringing privately owned properties back into use, common shared repairs within a block, care and repair support for over 60s or disabled people and small repairs or handyman for disabled and over 65s.

You said... support for disabled people and people aged 65 and over with no able bodied person at home were the most important, followed by common shared repairs and then bringing privately owned properties back into use. They are all seen as important services.



Property Conditions

We asked... how important property condition priorities are.

You said... properties below Tolerable Standard were the most important (87%), followed by properties in need of Lead Pipe replacements (87%), and properties subject to Statutory Notice (84%) and properties in need of Common Repair (84%).

We asked... if you have any comments about the Property Condition Service Standards

You said... promotion and standards were most important, each with 21% of respondents.

We asked... what you think is important for assisting applicants.

You said... There were 70 responses to this question. 21% said that the service needs better promotion, as many didn't know about it before. 19% were positive about the service, and 24% suggested improvements.

Positive feedback

"I have been highly delighted when service carried out";

"I think you all do great work in these times";

"I want to thank you for your help in problems";

Challenges

"All private landlords should be pre-approved as not all of them maintain to an acceptable standard";

"Attention should be given to properties that are privately owned and then sub-let which become run down and neglected looking";

"A 12 week timescale was not suitable to my mother as she could no longer get in or out of a bath safely";

Adaptations

We asked... what is important about our adaptation service.

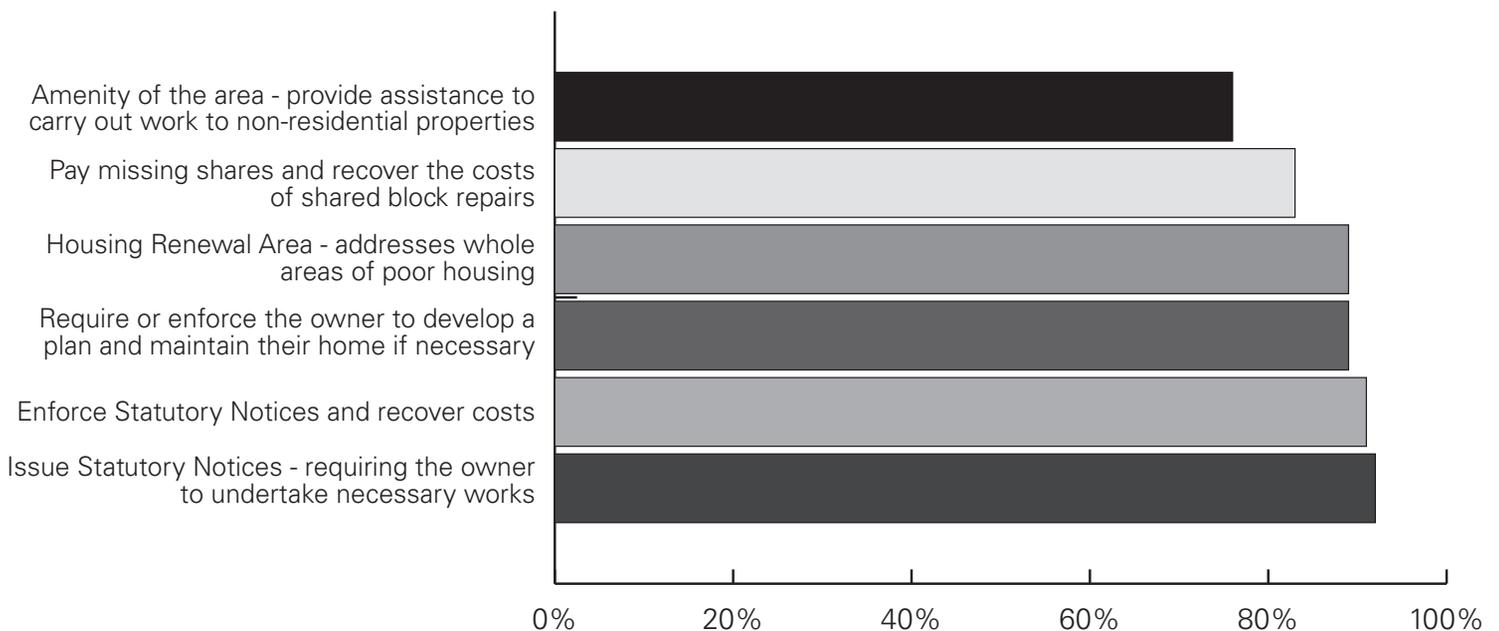
You said... all the aspects were important, however information about the process was the most important, followed by advice on options and quick installation.

How important are the following for assisting applicants?		
1	Information about the process	93%
2	Advice on housing options	91%
3	Quick installation	88%
4	One-to-one from a Council Officer	86%
5	An aftercare visit	84%
6	Discretionary Financial Assistance	77%
7	Client choice of materials and finish	69%

Homeowner and Landlord Enforcement

We asked... about privately rented accommodation and how landlords must meet the minimum letting requirement. We asked what was important to you.

You said... issuing Statutory Notices that require the owner to undertake necessary works was the most important with 92% of responses, closely followed by Enforcing Statutory Notices and recovering costs (91%).



We asked... should we continue with our current provision or review assistance and increase enforcement.

You said... 62% said we should review assistance and increase enforcement. This means that we will review assistance for repairs, but keep Discretionary Financial Assistance for adaptations. We will still provide the same level of information, advice and practical assistance. We will increase efforts to enforce homeowner and landlord property conditions.



Falkirk Council

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. If you have any queries about the Citizens Panel questionnaire, or if you want to receive questionnaires and feedback reports in other formats (e.g. Braille, large print, a different language etc.), please contact us at citizenspanel@falkirk.gov.uk, or call 01324 506016.