

The background of the slide features the Falkirk Council Coat of Arms. It is a shield divided into four quarters. The top-left quarter shows a castle tower. The top-right quarter shows a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quarter shows a sailing ship on water. The bottom-right quarter shows a lion passant guardant. Above the shield is a crown with four fleurs-de-lis. A banner at the bottom of the shield contains the motto 'A'NE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 6

**Falkirk Council/Falkirk Community
Trust Joint Working Group: Feedback
on Community and Stakeholder
Consultation**

Falkirk Council

Title: Falkirk Council/Falkirk Community Trust Joint Working Group: Feedback on Community and Stakeholder Consultation

Meeting: Falkirk Council

Date: 4 December 2019

Submitted by: Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of the consultation exercise conducted following the report to Council on 26 June 2019 in relation to the joint working between Falkirk Council and Falkirk Community Trust (FCT). It identifies next steps in taking this work forward in the wider context of the Strategic Property Review.

2. Recommendations

21 Council is asked to:-

- 1) **Note the outcomes of the recent consultation exercise.**
- 2) **Note that these outcomes will be considered as part of the Strategic Property Review**

3. Background

- 3.1 In September 2018, Council agreed that the status of FCT should remain unchanged. On 5 December 2018, Council agreed a joint vision document and an interim work plan based on 5 core tasks. This had been developed by a Joint Working Group consisting of four elected members, Councillors Meiklejohn, Munro, Reid and Spears, representatives from the Trust Board and officers. The group is chaired by the Chief Executive.
- 3.2 The primary task for the Joint Working Group in the workplan was to undertake joint medium term business planning to help develop a savings and investment plan over the next 5 years. The context for this is the fact that Council is seeking to reduce its subsidy to the Trust by £5.65m over the next four years. This is being progressed in the context of aiming to improve access to culture and sport, improve health and well-being, secure investment in strategic buildings and the need for continued community engagement.

- 33 On 26 June 2019 Council considered a report by the Chief Executive providing an update on the joint working activity between the Council and FCT. The report proposed a range of measures aimed at sustaining and improving culture and sport provision within Falkirk, including a proposed model for improved community leisure provision within a number of secondary schools, investment in core cultural and sporting assets, an increasing community role in the management of assets and asset rationalisation. The intention of the recommendations in the report to Council was to provide a framework for the Joint Working Group to develop a five year investment and savings plan detailing the actions required to complement the Council's 5 year Business Plan and Strategic Property Review (SPR).
- 34 In response to this report, the decision of Council was to delay any further implementation of the proposals until full engagement and consultation had taken place with communities, stakeholders and national bodies. The Council also recognised that some areas would be impacted adversely and the potential cumulative effect on these communities needed further exploration and the Chief Executive was asked to bring forward a further report by the end of September.
- 35 On 25 September 2019, Council received a report that set out the details of the consultation, the timescales for reporting back and the proposed next steps. Council agreed to:
- 1) note the actions taken to implement the decision made by Council on 26 June 2019;
 - 2) note the intention to report back on the outcomes of the consultation exercise to Council on 4 December 2019; and
 - 3) agree that the deadline for submission of the FCT Business Plan for 2020/21 is extended to 6 January 2020.
- 36 At its meeting on 29 October 2019, Executive considered a report on the SPR. The Executive agreed to have a workshop for elected members which would review the SPR implementation plan and potential asset rationalisation programme alongside the outcomes of the consultation exercise which are detailed in this report.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 In line with the decision taken at the June Council meeting, a community consultation on Transforming Services opened on 16 September 2019 and closed on 31 October 2019.

- 42 The purpose of this consultation was to test the principles that the Council and partners have been working towards with regards to changing services and ultimately reviewing assets. The outputs of previous budget consultation noted that the Council should consider rationalising property if that preserved services. This consultation sought to engage communities in what that means in practice while not at this point being specific about the impact this will have on individual communities or buildings.
- 4.3 The principles outlined are those previously agreed by Members as part of the SPR. They recognise that the Council needs to deliver services differently in order to meet future needs. They also recognise that, due to poor condition of many assets, the Council is unable at present to provide the quality of services from its facilities that communities deserve. The SPR as previously agreed by Members recognises that in order to improve service delivery, the Council needs to make significant investment in buildings where it makes sense to do so. This means maximising the use of buildings such as schools and reviewing where there is overprovision, underused or poor quality buildings.
- 4.4 The target audience for the consultation was those who live or work within the Falkirk Council area. It is important to understand their needs and views on the proposed delivery of services in a smaller number of better maintained buildings. Co-location of services will be fundamental to this to enable investment in the property portfolio. The aim was to understand how this can work in each community.
- 4.5 A total of 1743 responses were received to the survey. The survey results are attached as Appendix 1 and the key findings are set out below:
- In relation to the statement 'I would be prepared to travel further to use improved leisure and recreational facilities, such as swimming pools and gyms', 63% disagreed or strongly disagreed and 24% agreed or strongly agreed.
 - In relation to the statement 'I would be prepared to travel further to attend my local community group or organisation if it was based in a building with better quality facilities', 62% disagreed or strongly disagreed and 18% agreed or strongly agreed.
 - In relation to the statement 'The closeness of Council and Community Trust buildings to my home is more important to me than the quality of service/facilities they provide', 52% agreed or strongly

agreed and 24% disagreed or strongly disagreed.

- In relation to the statement 'I would rather access Council and Community Trust services and facilities nearer my home even if this meant their quality was poorer', 45% agreed or strongly agreed and 33% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- In relation to the statement 'The Council and Community Trust should look at how they can make better use of its public buildings', 52% agreed or strongly agreed and 26% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- In relation to the statement 'Council and Community Trust services should share buildings and resources', 63% agreed or strongly agreed and 15% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- In relation to the statement 'People will receive a better service if different Council and Community Trust services share buildings and resources', 48% agreed or strongly agreed and 21% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- In relation to the statement 'Schools should be the main venues of activities for communities outside school hours', 40% agreed or strongly agreed and 34% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- In relation to the statement 'The Council and Community Trust should close buildings that are poorly used', 43% agreed or strongly agreed and 33% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- In relation to the statement 'The Council and Community Trust should close buildings that are in a poor condition and too expensive to upkeep', 47% agreed or strongly agreed and 30% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- In relation to the statement 'The Council and Community Trust should invest in the buildings that can be used for the biggest variety of activities', 70% agreed or strongly agreed and 13% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- In relation to the statement 'Communities should be given the opportunity to run and manage Council or Community Trust buildings that are facing closure', 72% agreed or strongly agreed and 12% disagreed or strongly disagreed.

4.6 The most notable outcomes relate to the findings that a majority of those completing this survey do not wish to travel further to access improved facilities and services and that proximity appears to be of greater importance than the quality of the facility. In addition there were positive outcomes (more agreeing or strongly agreeing than disagreeing or strongly

disagreeing) in relation to statements about sharing buildings and resources, using schools as main venues and closing buildings that are poorly used, in poor condition or too expensive. There was a strong view that investment should be in buildings that can be used for the biggest variety of activities. In the appendix, there are references to the findings of the 2018 budget consultation which received 2028 responses and had some quite different results. That may relate to the different contexts in which the surveys were held.

Focus Groups

- 4.7 In addition to the survey, focus group sessions took place in three areas, Denny, Bo'ness and Grangemouth, in order to better understand the effect of applying the principles. A total of 28 people attended these focus groups. The key findings were as follows:

Community Activity and Access

- 4.8 Generally, participants felt that school campuses have facilities that should be better utilised. However, participants felt that proposals should take into account facilities already provided within the community. Concerns have been expressed regarding access to school buildings outside school hours and in the provision of public transport links.

Retaining Properties

- 4.9 It was generally felt that buildings should be retained if the properties were well used.
- 4.10 Participants who attended the meetings within Bo'ness felt that libraries were an important resource for local people. Also, the local demographic profile should be taken into consideration when making strategic decision around retaining properties.

Investing in Adapting Properties

- 4.11 Participants who attended the Denny focus group communicated that buildings should be fully accessible, and adhere to legislative standards. There was general support for an approach to invest in adapting properties.

Early disposal

- 4.12 Participants who attended meetings in Bo'ness suggested that buildings should not be disposed of if there is not an alternative

building that can provide the same services. The groups also stated that it is essential for community organisations to be properly consulted regarding the use of existing buildings and to properly understand performance, usage and accessibility of existing buildings.

Community Asset Transfers

- 4.13 Concerns were raised about the timescales to progress a community asset transfer as well as the level of funding that community groups may need to generate. In addition, capacity and support issues were raised as a potential barrier to some groups taking forward a Community Asset Transfer.
- 4.14 It was generally felt that long term leases rather than purchasing the properties may be more beneficial for community organisations.

Stakeholder Consultation

- 4.15 In relation to the consultation requested by the Council in relation to other stakeholders, Trust officers arranged an engagement event with local clubs, groups and organisations who contribute to the development and delivery of culture and sport in the area. 39 individuals from 27 organisations attended the event. There were mixed views on consolidation and geographic spread of facilities; views that local facilities should be retained because of concerns about transport to centralised facilities; users of Bo'ness and Grangemouth Town Halls felt strongly about retention of these halls; views that both local and centralised provision is required. A view about lack of clarity on hiring policy and that a mechanism is needed to ensure right hirer is allocated to most suitable venue, more promotion of all the available facilities and a simplified bookings process would be helpful. There was consensus that Investment is needed in sports facilities especially if facilities are to be reduced.
- 4.16 In respect of the secondary school estate there was support for improvement of these assets, but concerns about deliverability, suitability and cost. Considerable concern about current limited opening hours, late cancellations, high charges out with Trust operated hours and whether there is capacity across the school estate. Widespread feeling that significant programme, operating and physical changes will be required to improve matters

- 4.17 In terms of greater community engagement and input to management the point was made that volunteers are stretched already; concern about the challenge and complexity around asset transfer; some limited support for empowering clubs to manage and operate facilities assuming they were in good condition.
- 4.18 At a national level the relevant national agencies such as Sportscotland, VisitScotland, Museums Galleries Scotland and Creative Scotland as well as many national governing bodies of sport were contacted for their views. The national bodies noted the severity of the financial challenges facing local authorities and Trusts in developing and managing services. They noted the important and valuable contribution local bodies make to the delivery of the national plans. They flagged concern around potential impact on their agendas, but were supportive of and sympathetic to the complexity of the challenges faced and offered to be further involved in supporting the Council and the Trusts' joint planning work.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 The Council has given a commitment to work together with the Trust to prepare a five year investment and savings plan and this work remains ongoing. In the interim, the Council agreed to postpone its requirement of the Trust to submit its Business Plan from 15 November 2019 until 6 January 2020, allowing additional time for the Joint Working Group to reflect on the consultation feedback, to discuss the implications and to offer initial direction and guidance to the Trust on the way ahead. The Trust is preparing an initial one year business plan for Council's consideration as part of the budget setting process. This will be considered by Members at the Council meeting provisionally set for 22 January 2020, allowing for final decisions as part of the 2020/21 budget setting process.

5.2 Beyond this, there is an urgent imperative for the joint working group to be in a position to make recommendations that take cognisance of the consultation feedback, strategic property perspective, investment and savings proposals from the Council and Trust and the overall financial position at the time. This will form the basis of the five year savings and investment plan. The next step is to hold the SPR workshop for Elected Members as agreed at the October Executive meeting. It is proposed that this would be done on a locality basis:

- to consider the practical application of the SPR principles for each locality;

- to review the property assets owned and used by the Council (and its partners) to meet future service needs;
- to give thought, for each locality, to future use, investment and disposal of assets; and
- consider the way forward to enable the property strategy and its implementation programme to be finalised.

5.3 Following this workshop the Council will then further engage with specific communities to work through how the principles will change the way services are delivered in their area.

To achieve the above, the Council, Trust and appropriate partners will prepare a prospectus for each town that will seek to address the following:

- Identifying the current and future use of schools as community resources first and foremost
- The needs of those communities now and in the future
- Identifying properties that are underutilised, in poor condition or not used by that community
- Identifying what services need to be provided in each community, eg older persons' lunch clubs, health and well-being activities, advice and support services etc
- What is the provision of assets in the future for that community, including areas for investment, disposal and other use.

The consultation in each community will seek to engage a range of people from those who use our services at the moment, those who are part of existing community groups and those who may use our buildings in the future. Engagement activity will seek to involve significant numbers of people in these exercises. The outcome of this work will be to supply a set of recommendations for consideration by the Council and its partners.

6. Implications

Financial

6.1 The Trust will be limited in the savings options it will be able to bring forward without an agreed strategic framework being agreed. This will be particularly so for 2020/21 where the Budget timescale is very constrained.

Resources

6.2 Significant effort and resources will be required to progress all elements of

the consultation and develop the joint five year business plan. Any additional resource requirements will be identified through the Joint Working Group.

Legal

- 6.3 None.

Risk

- 6.4 The risks associated with the backlog maintenance issues of culture and sports assets are well understood by both the Council and the Trust. Ongoing underinvestment has left buildings vulnerable to service failure and reinforces the need to take a long term and strategic approach to the delivery of culture and sport services.

Equalities

- 6.5 An Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment (EPIA) is not specifically required for this report but such assessments will be a critical element of the detailed work to be done in planning future service provision and the approach to assets.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 At this stage, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for this report, however sustainability and environmental implications will be an integral part of planning future service provision and the approach to assets.

7. Conclusion

This report sets out the outcomes from the recent consultation exercise and the next steps to be taken forward in the context of the Strategic Property Review process.

Chief Executive

Author: Kenneth Lawrie
Date: 25 November 2019

Appendices

- Transforming Service Delivery Survey Results

List of Background Papers: Falkirk Council/Falkirk Community Trust Joint Working Group Files.

Transforming Service Delivery Survey Results

We ran a survey, between 16th September 2019 and 31st October 2019, to ask the public for their views on how we can make better use of our public buildings. The survey received 1743 responses and the results will be used to inform decisions made by the Council and Community Trust about how to invest in and improve the services and facilities that they provide. The results are presented below.

Sample

A statistically significant sample size¹ of 1060 was calculated using a confidence level of 95%² and margin of error of 3%³, based on an estimated population size of 160,340⁴. The survey received 1743 responses. The actual margin of error is, therefore, 2%. This means that if 40% of respondents, for example, pick an answer, we can be sure that, if we have asked the question to the entire Falkirk Council population, between 38% and 42% would have picked that answer 95% of the time. In other words, this is a *good* sample size.

We asked respondents to complete a number of Equality Monitoring questions at the end of the survey. This was voluntary but around 99% of respondents completed these questions. This gives us a good idea of the demographic characteristics of the

¹ This is the number of people we needed to respond to the survey in order for the results to be representative of the wider population.

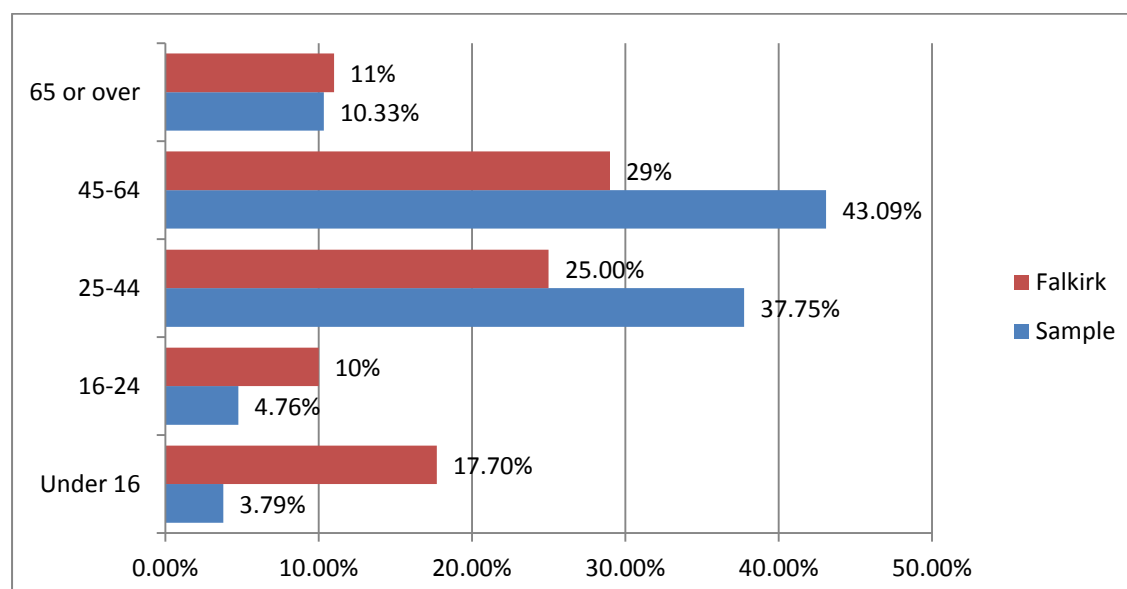
² **Confidence Level** — This tells you how sure you can be of the margin of error. It is expressed as a percentage and represents how often the true percentage of the population who would pick an answer lies within the margin of error. If you want 95% confidence, this means that 5 out of 100 responses would lie outside of your margin of error.

³ **Margin of Error** — Margin of error tells you how much you can expect your survey results to reflect the views from the overall population. The smaller the margin of error, the more confidence you may have in your results. The bigger the margin of error, the farther they can stray from the views of the total population. For example, a 60% “yes” response with a margin of error of 4% means that between 56% and 64% of the general population think that the answer is “yes.”

⁴ National Records of Scotland. (2018). *Falkirk Council Area Profile*. Available: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/falkirk-council-profile.html>. Last accessed 17th October 2019.

respondents. Figure 1 for example, shows the number of respondents in each age group.

FIGURE 1: WHAT IS YOUR AGE?



This is compared to the Falkirk Council population as a whole. We can see from this that each age group is either over or underrepresented to some degree. Under 16's for example, are the most underrepresented age group and the 45-64 age group is the most overrepresented.

We also asked respondents for their employment status. As can be seen in Figure 2, the majority of respondents (69%) are employed; 15% are retired; 8% are students and 5% are not employed. Local labour market statistics⁵ show, however, that 78% of residents are economically active and 24% are students, indicating that these groups are underrepresented in this sample. The sample is largely representative of the retired and unemployed, however, with statistics showing that 15% of residents are retired and 4% are unemployed.

⁵ Nomis. (2018). *Labour Market Profile - Falkirk*. Available: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157418/printable.aspx>. Last accessed 17th October 2019

FIGURE 2: WHAT IS YOUR EMPLOYMENT STATUS?

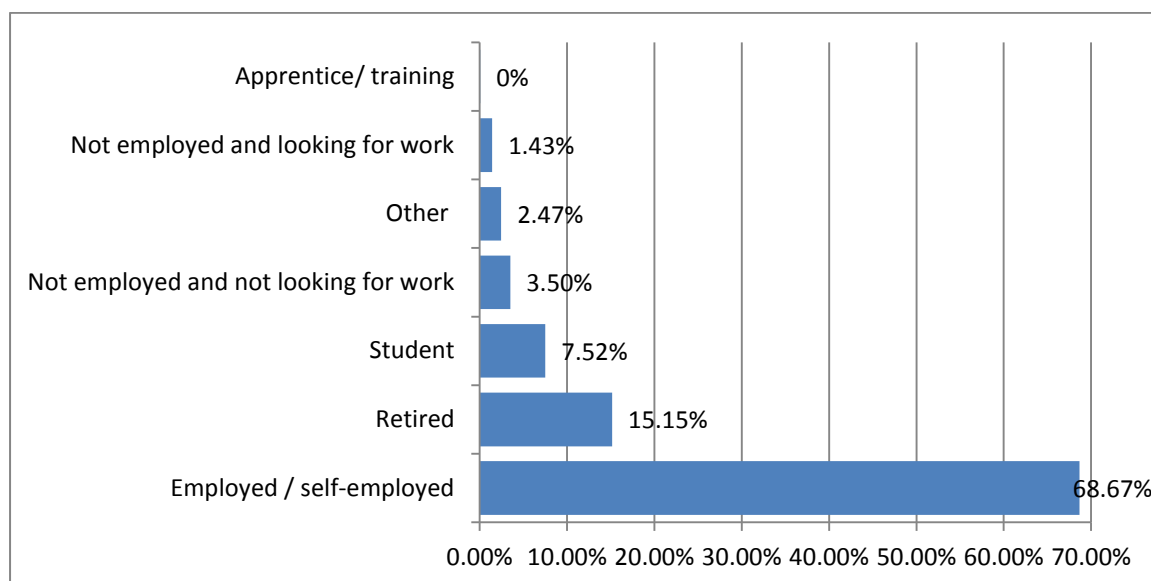
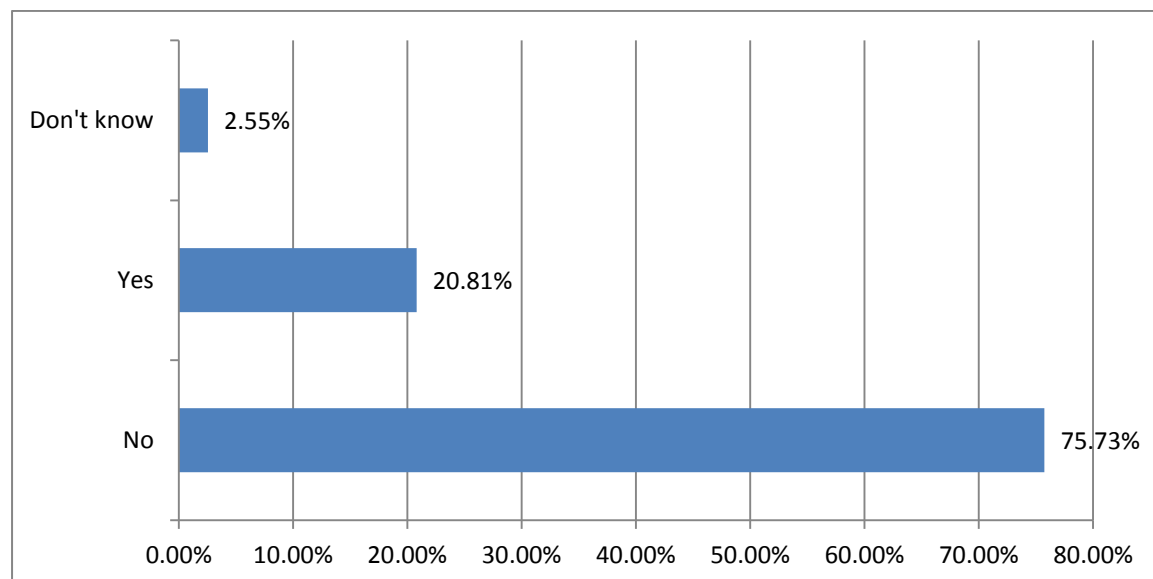


Figure 3, shows the percentage of the sample that have a physical or mental health condition or illness, or a learning disability, which they expect to last for 12 months or more. If we compare this to data from the Falkirk Council Equality Profile⁶, we can see that those with a physical mental health condition or illness and underrepresented in the sample. Indeed, 30% of residents have one or more long term health condition but just 21% of the sample does.

⁶ Falkirk Council. (2018). *Falkirk Council Equality Profile*. Available: <https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/council-democracy/statistics-census/docs/area-settlement-profiles/Falkirk%20equality%20profile%202018.pdf?v=201811221032>. Last accessed 17th October 2019.

FIGURE 3: DO YOU HAVE A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION OR ILLNESS, OR A LEARNING DISABILITY, WHICH YOU EXPECT TO LAST FOR 12 MONTHS OR MORE?



We also asked respondents where they live. This information can be found in Annex 1.

Results

Before outlining the results of the survey, it is important to set some context around the public response to the consultation. During the course of the consultation, it became clear, both on social and traditional media, that some residents were strongly opposed to the potential closure and/or repurposing of Council and Community Trust buildings. They were, thus, also opposed to the consultation itself and were highly critical of the questions asked in the survey. In an email to officers, one Bo'ness resident said:

“I have filled out the survey mentioned above and I am appalled by the biased question selection. The wording, context and order are skewed to the obviously desired result by Falkirk Community Trust. It is impossible

to answer the questions in the way that is appropriate without picking the "right" answer."

While another resident wrote to the Chief Executive:

"I found this very difficult to complete because: a) the questions were all similar and misleading; b) there was no opportunity to provide comments; c) the options to answer did not reflect the opinions I wanted to express; d) there was no information about what closures the council is actually planning."

The opposition to the survey also received coverage in the Falkirk Herald.⁷ The extent to which public opinion may have been swayed by the media coverage is arguable. Throughout the report, references have been made to the findings of the 2018 Budget Consultation⁸, which received 2028 responses. The results from that survey differ somewhat from the results of this survey. Despite the criticism this survey has received, it should not be discounted. When respondents were asked to rate this survey; 42% rated it good or very good, 39% rated it average and just 18% rated it poor or very poor. Furthermore, 81% fully understood the questions asked; 18% partially understood the questions asked; and just 1% did not understand the questions asked.

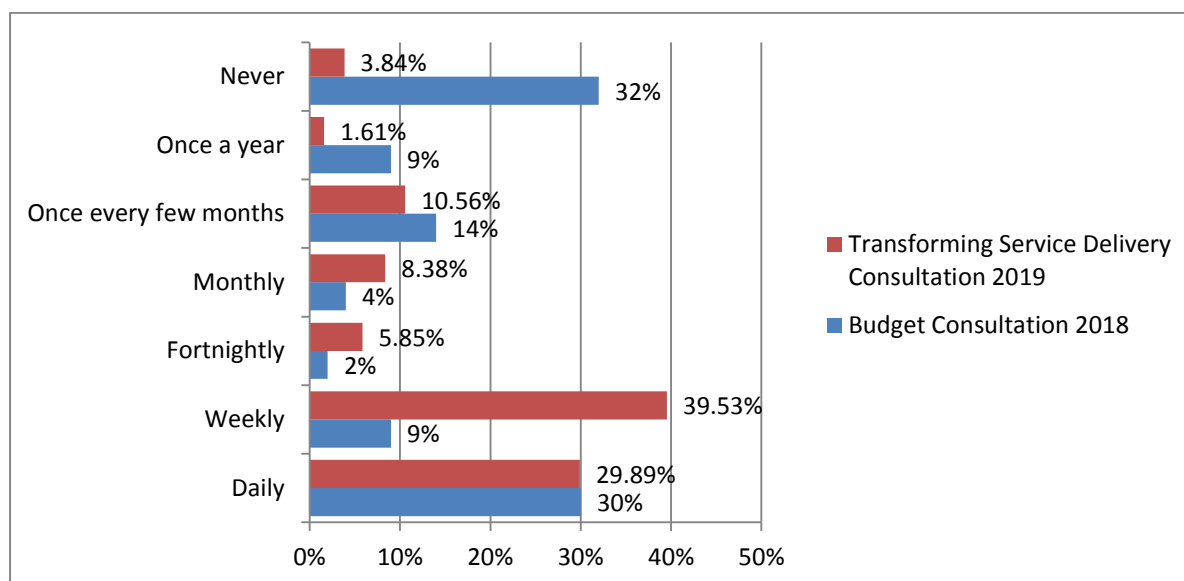
⁷ Falkirk Herald. (2019). *Row over Falkirk Council's public consultation on spending*. Available: <https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/news/politics/falkirk-council/row-over-falkirk-council-s-public-consultation-on-spending-1-5010921>. Last accessed 18th October 2019.

⁸ Falkirk Council. (2018). *Choices & Challenges: Budget Consultation 2018*. Available: <https://say.falkirk.gov.uk/corporate-housing-services/choices-challenges-budget-consultation-2018/>. Last accessed 17th October 2019.

Visiting Council and Community Trust Buildings

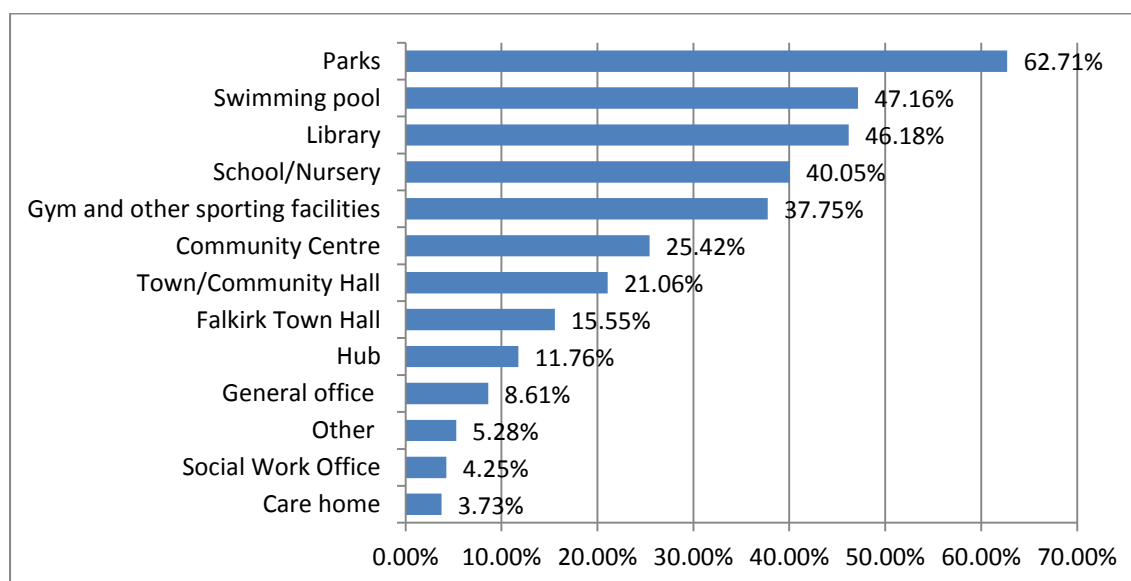
We asked respondents how often they visit a Council or Community Trust operated building. As can be seen in Figure 4, the majority of respondents (40%) visit a Council or Community Trust building weekly, with a further 30% visiting a building daily. We asked the same question in the 2018 budget consultation, and these results are shown alongside the results to this survey in Figure 4.

FIGURE 4: HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT A COUNCIL OR COMMUNITY TRUST OPERATED BUILDING?



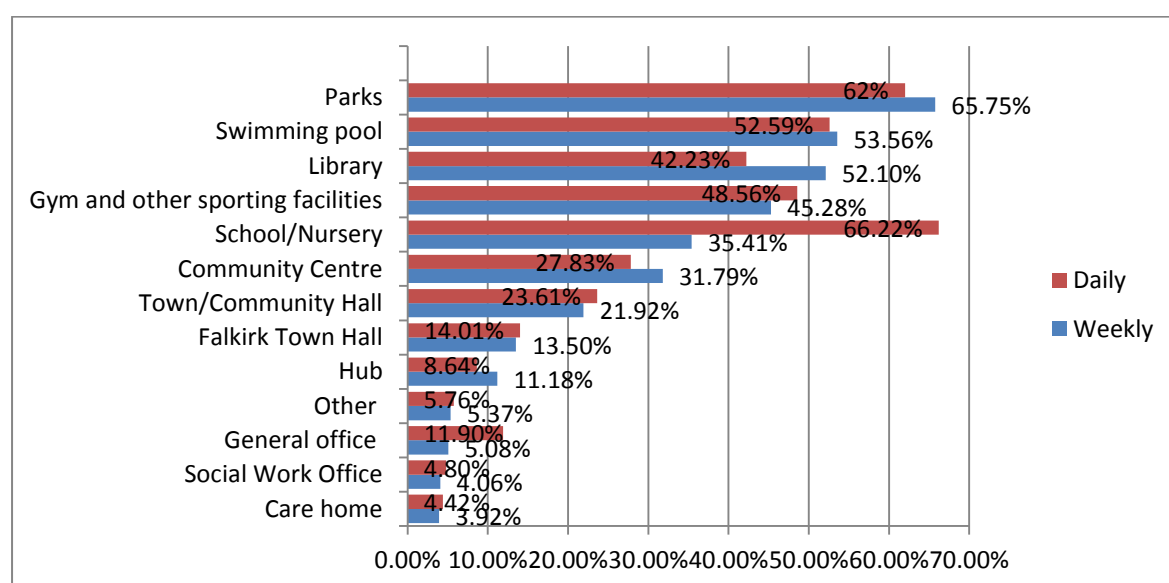
We asked respondents which Council or Community Trust operated buildings they visit. As Figure 5 shows, the most visited Council and Community Trust buildings are parks (63%), swimming pools (57%) and libraries (46%). The least visited buildings are care homes (4%), social work offices (4%) and general offices (9%).

FIGURE 5: WHICH COUNCIL OR COMMUNITY TRUST OPERATED BUILDINGS DO YOU VISIT?



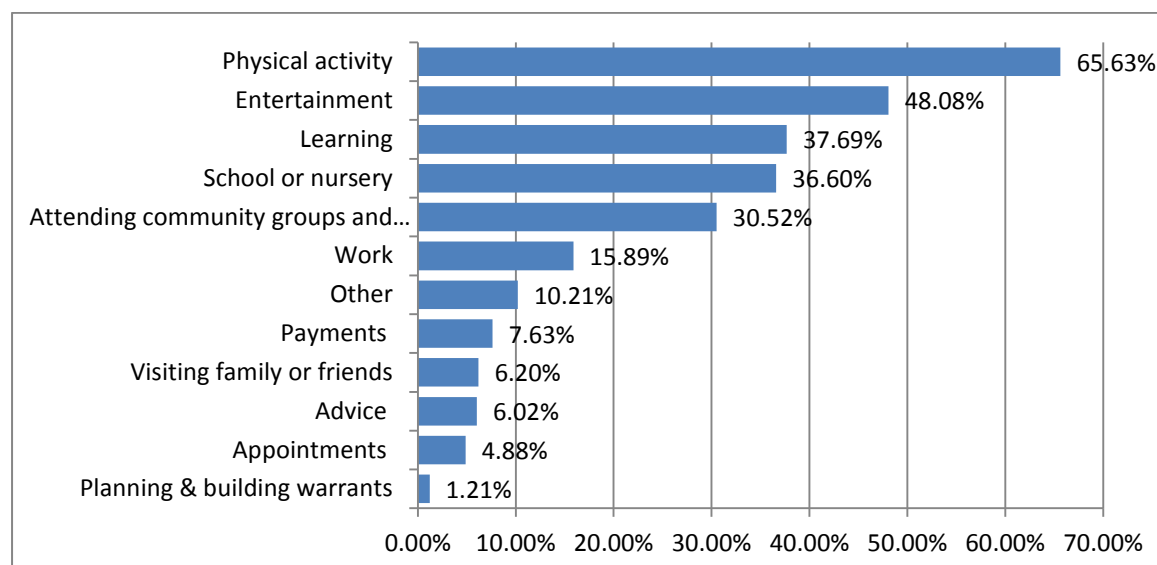
In Figure 6, we can see the most frequently visited buildings on a weekly and daily basis. The most frequently visited buildings on a weekly basis remain the same – parks (66%), swimming pools (54%) and libraries (52%). They change, however, for those buildings most visited on a daily basis, with school and nurseries (66%) being the most visited.

FIGURE 6: FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO COUNCIL BUILDING TYPE



We asked respondents the main reasons why they visit Council or Community Trust operated buildings. As can be seen in Figure 7, the most cited reasons were physical activity (66%) and entertainment (48%) and the least cited reasons were planning & building warrants (1%) and appointments, for example, social work, (5%).

FIGURE 7: WHAT ARE THE MAIN REASONS YOU VISIT COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY TRUST BUILDINGS?



We asked respondents in which areas the buildings they visit are located. As can be seen in Table 1, the majority of the buildings are located in Falkirk (50%), Grangemouth (42%) and Bo'ness (26%). We can see in Table 2, that the most visited Council and Community Trust buildings in Bo'ness are parks (67%), swimming pools (67%) and gyms and other sporting facilities (56%); the most visited buildings in Falkirk are parks (75%), libraries (52%) and swimming pools (50%); and the most visited buildings in Grangemouth are parks (68%), swimming pools (56%) and schools and nurseries (46%).

TABLE 1: IF YOU VISIT COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY TRUST OPERATED BUILDINGS,IN WHICH AREAS ARE THESE BUILDINGS LOCATED?

Option	Percent of All
Letham	0.06%
Standburn	0.17%
Skinflats	0.40%
Torwood	0.52%
Haggs & Longcroft	0.63%
Whitecross	0.63%
High Bonnybridge	0.69%
Rumford	0.69%
Banknock	0.75%
Dunipace	0.80%
Avonbridge	0.86%
California	0.92%
Slamannan	1.03%
Wallacestone	1.09%
Head of Muir	1.21%
Airth	1.26%
Dennyloanhead	1.26%
Langlees	1.32%
Other	1.32%
Blackness	1.38%
Westquarter	1.38%
Shieldhill	1.72%
Laurieston	1.84%
Carronshore	2.47%
Carron	2.70%
Redding	2.70%
Reddingmuirhead	2.87%
Glen Village and Hallglen	3.16%
Bainsford	3.56%
Maddiston	4.48%
Brightons	5.68%
Bonnybridge	7.29%
Denny	7.57%
Stenhousemuir	10.84%
Larbert	11.47%
Polmont	12.85%
Camelon	14.92%
Bo'ness	26.05%
Grangemouth	42.17%
Falkirk	49.80%

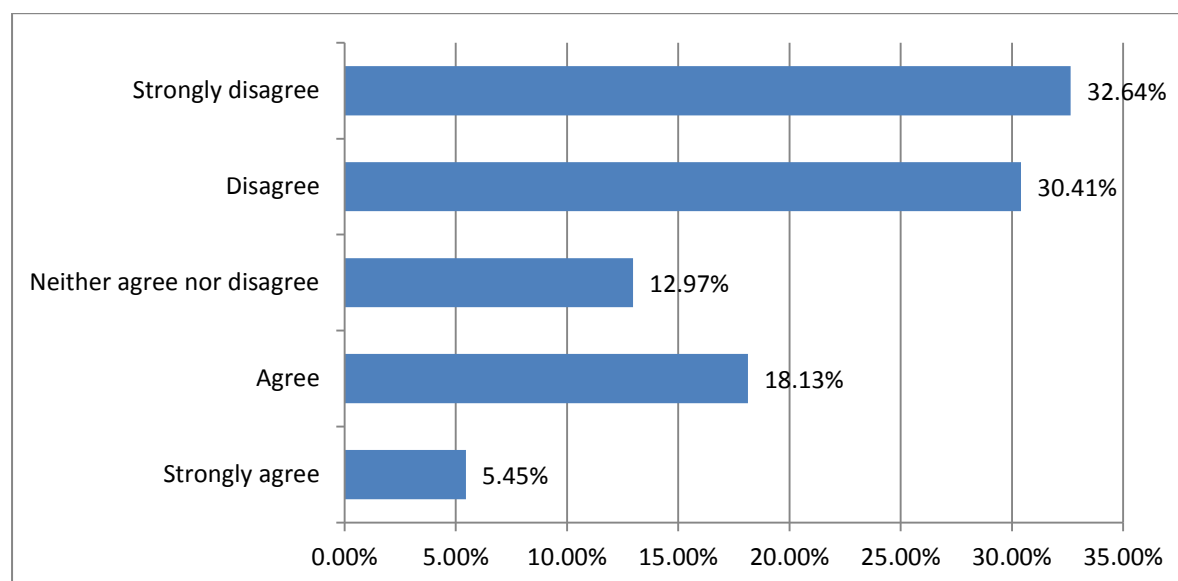
TABLE 2: TYPE OF BUILDING VISITED IN BO'NESS, FALKIRK AND GRANGEMOUTH

	Bo'ness	Falkirk	Grangemouth
Hub	10.35%	16.82%	14.69%
Community Centre	22.03%	28.80%	27.07%
Town/Community Hall	31.06%	26.04%	25.44%
Swimming pool	66.96%	50.23%	55.65%
Gym and other sporting facilities	55.73%	34.10%	45.03%
Falkirk Town Hall	11.23%	26.96%	17.14%
Social Work Office	5.29%	5.88%	5.44%
School/Nursery	39.87%	41.82%	46.12%
Care home	4.41%	5.53%	3.81%
Library	55.51%	52.07%	42.45%
Parks	66.96%	74.88%	67.89%
General office	7.05%	13.25%	9.39%
Other	6.83%	5.76%	4.63%

Distance vs Quality

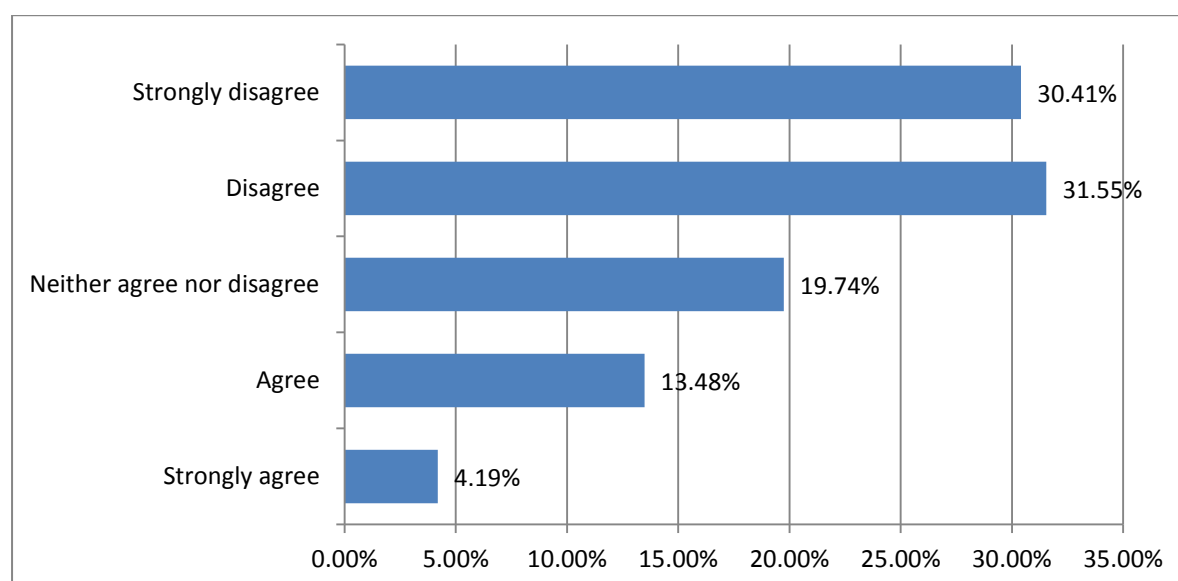
We asked respondents if they would be prepared to travel further to use improved leisure and recreational facilities, such as swimming pools and gyms. As can be seen in Figure 8, just 24% of respondents agree or strongly agree and 63% disagreed or strongly agreed.

FIGURE 8: I WOULD BE PREPARED TO TRAVEL FURTHER TO USE IMPROVED LEISURE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, SUCH AS SWIMMING POOLS AND GYMS



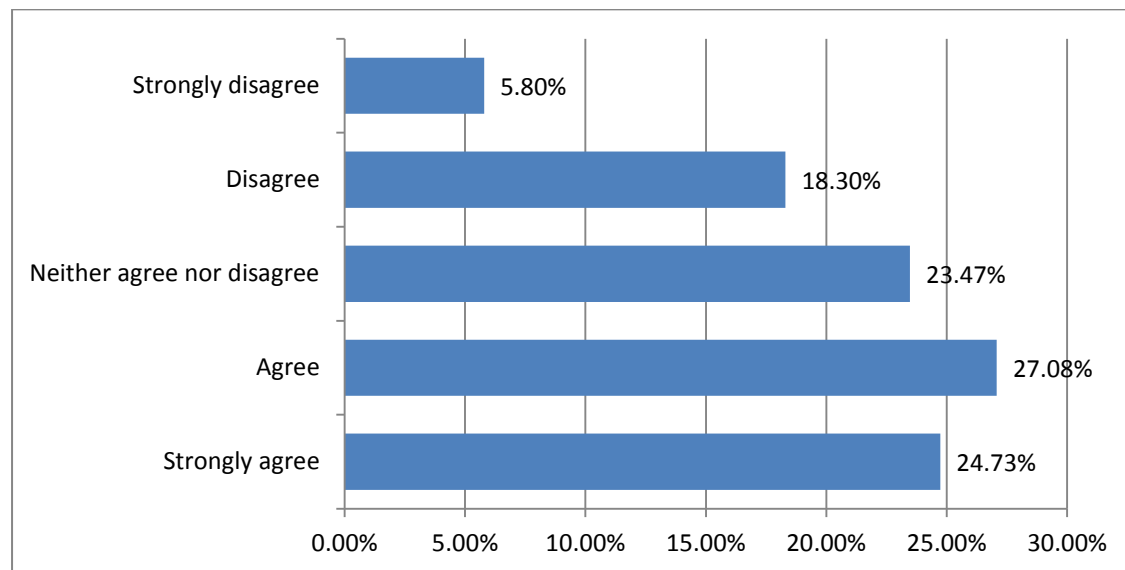
We asked respondents if they would be prepared to travel further to attend their local community group or organisation if it was based in a building with better quality facilities. As can be seen in Figure 9, just 18% agree or strongly agree and 62% disagree or strongly disagree.

FIGURE 9: I WOULD BE PREPARED TO TRAVEL FURTHER TO ATTEND MY LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP OR ORGANISATION IF IT WAS BASED IN A BUILDING WITH BETTER QUALITY FACILITIES



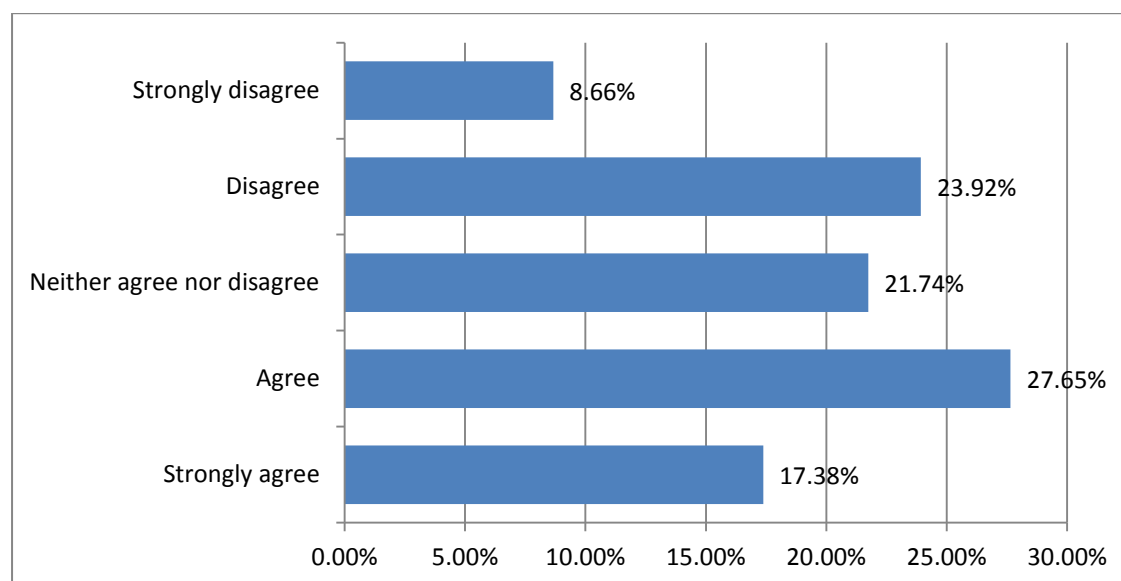
We asked respondents if the closeness of Council and Community Trust buildings to their home is more important to them than the quality of service/facilities that they provide. As can be seen in Figure 10, 52% agree or strongly agree and 24% disagree or strongly disagree.

FIGURE 10: THE CLOSENESS OF COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY TRUST BUILDINGS TO MY HOME IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAT THE QUALITY OF SERVICE/FACILITIES THEY PROVIDE



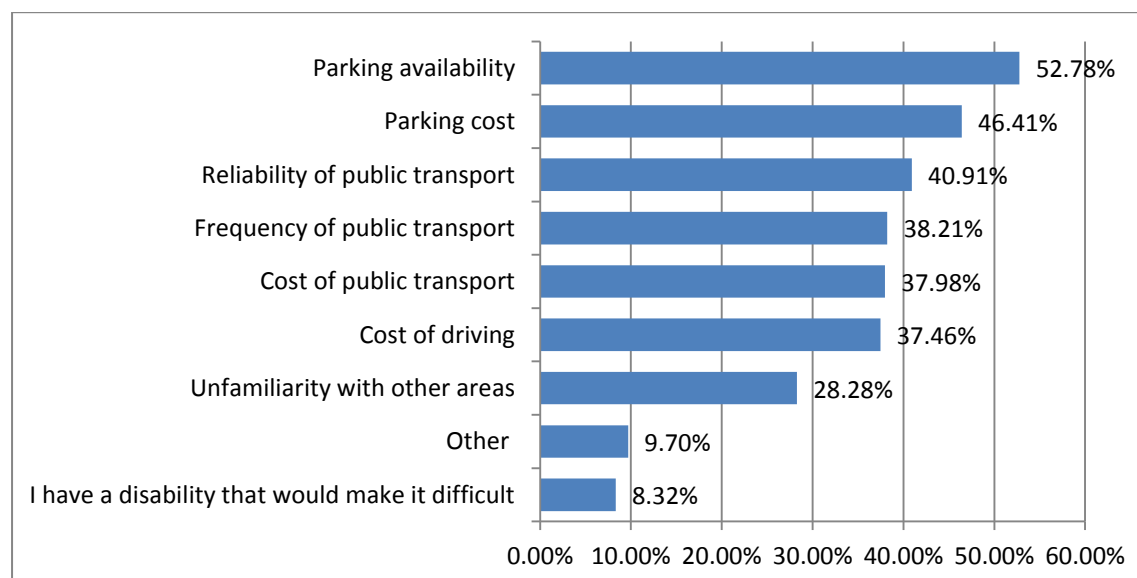
We asked respondents if they would rather access Council and Community Trust services and facilities nearer their home even if this meant their quality was poorer. As can be seen in Figure 11, 45% agree or strongly agree and 33% disagree or strongly disagree.

FIGURE 11: I WOULD RATHER ACCESS COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY TRUST SERVICES AND FACILITIES NEARER MY HOME EVEN IF THIS MEANT THEIR QUALITY WAS POORER



We asked respondents what, if anything, would prevent them from using Council and Community Trust services and facilities outwith their local area. As can be seen in Figure 12, parking availability (53%) and parking cost (46%) are the biggest factor preventing respondents from using facilities outwith their local area.

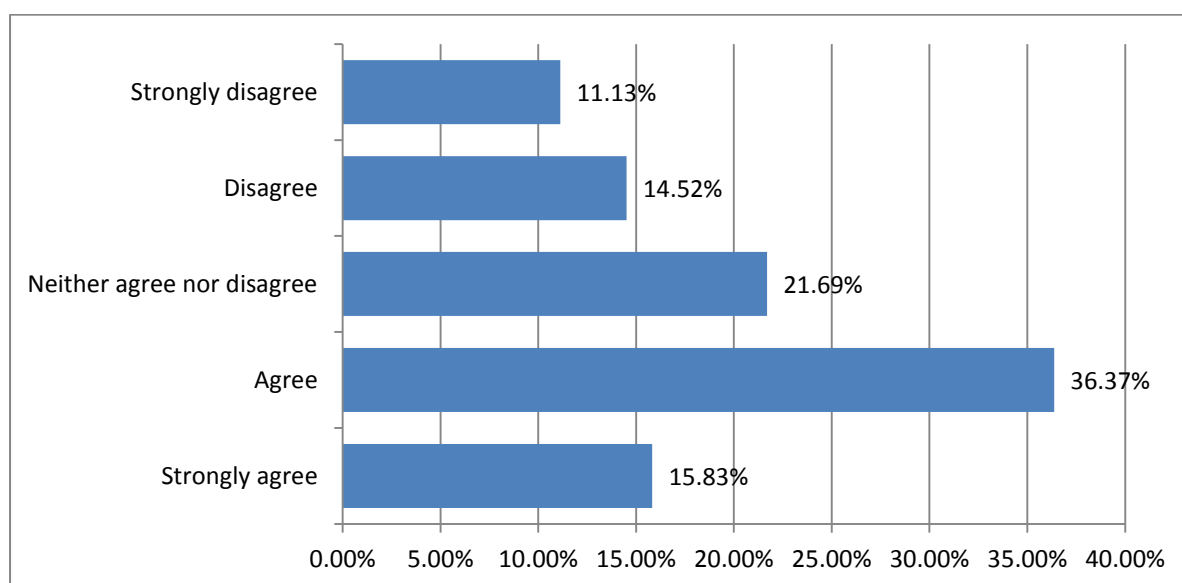
FIGURE 12: WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WOULD PREVENT YOU FROM USING COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY TRUST SERVICES AND FACILITIES OUTWITH YOUR LOCAL AREA?



Using buildings more effectively

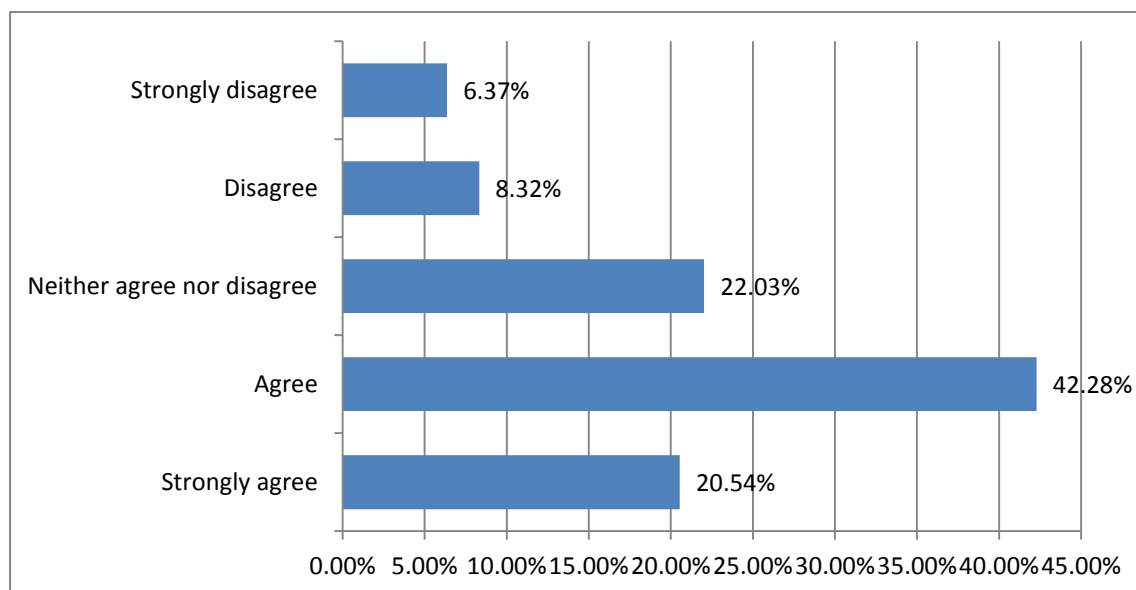
We asked respondents whether we should look at how we can make better use of our public buildings. We stated that this may involve moving some services or sharing properties with public sector organisations, closing buildings and investing in remaining buildings. As can be seen in Figure 13, 52% of respondents agree or strongly agree. In the 2018 Budget Consultation we asked a similar question and 90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Council should review how it uses buildings.

FIGURE 13: THE COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY TRUST SHOULD LOOK AT HOW THEY CAN MAKE BETTER USE OF ITS PUBLIC BUILDINGS.



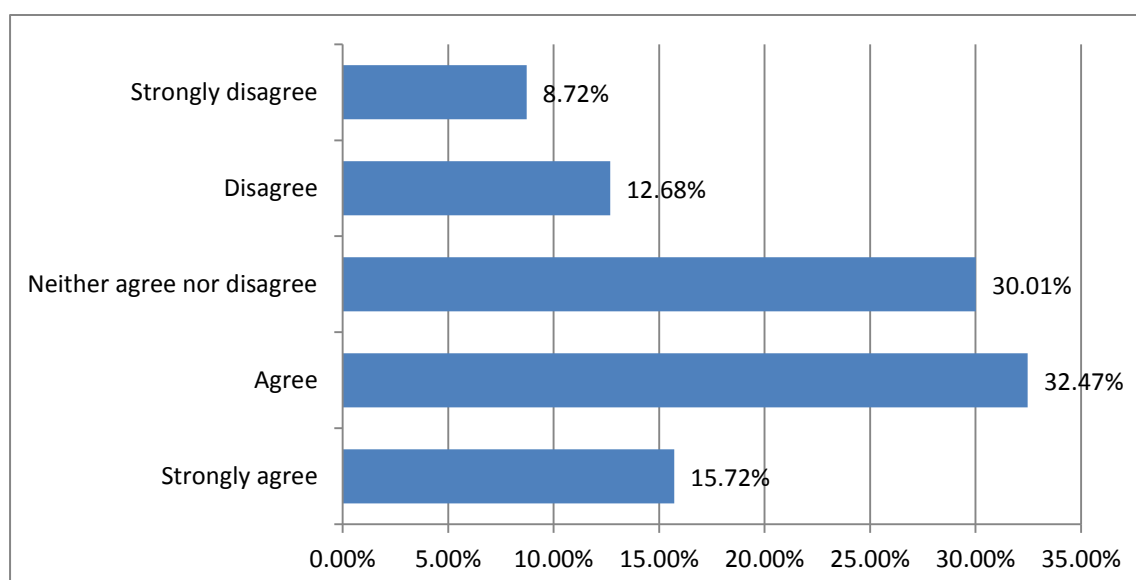
We asked respondents whether Council and Community Trust services should share buildings and resources. As Figure 14 shows, 63% of respondents agree or strongly agree and just 15% disagree or strongly disagree.

FIGURE 14: COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY TRUST SERVICES SHOULD SHARE BUILDINGS AND RESOURCES.



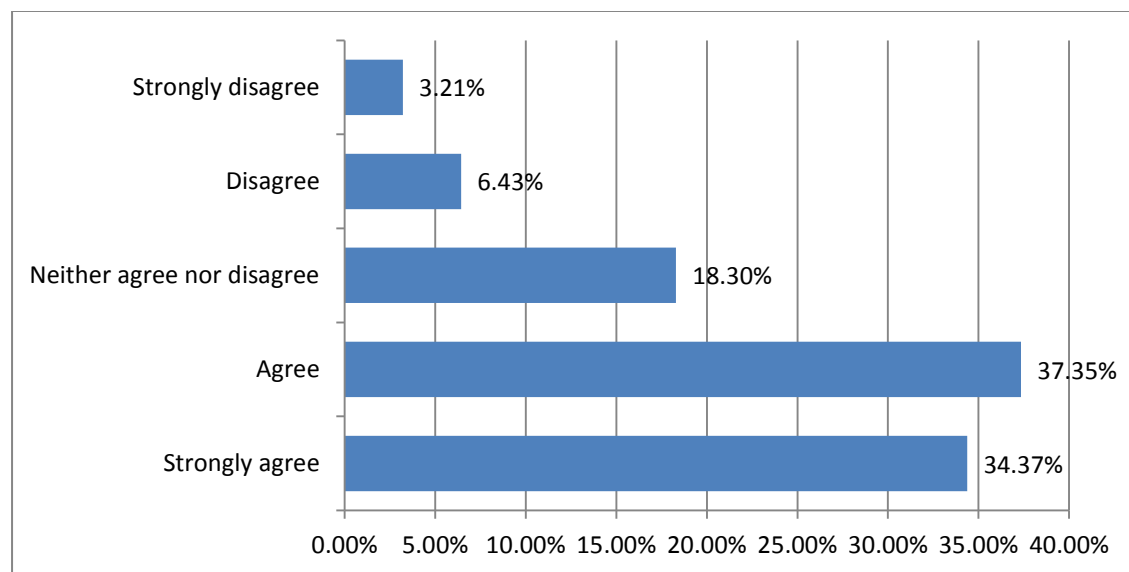
We asked respondents whether they think people will receive a better service if different Council and Community Trust services share buildings and resources. As can be seen in Figure 15, 48% of respondents agree or strongly agree and 21% disagree or strongly disagree.

FIGURE 15: PEOPLE WILL RECEIVE A BETTER SERVICE IF DIFFERENT COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY TRUST SERVICES SHARE BUILDINGS AND RESOURCES.



We asked respondents whether more Council services, like applying for a Council house or nursery place, should be made available online. As can be seen in Figure 16, 72% agree or strongly agree. In the 2018 Budget Consultation, 83% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that more services should be provided online.

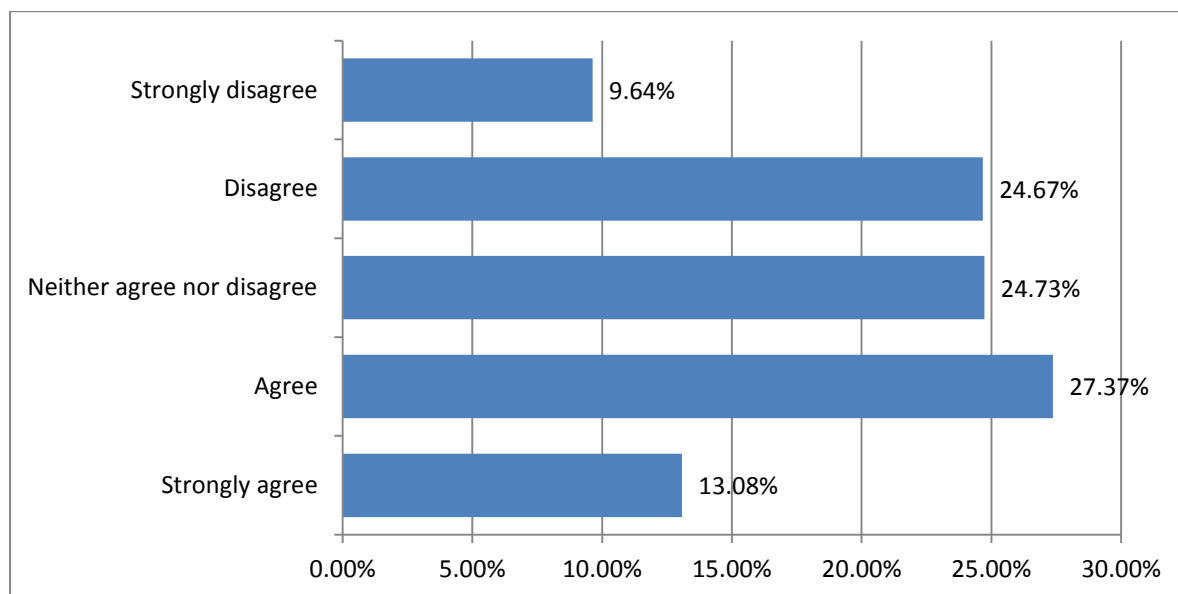
FIGURE 16: MORE COUNCIL SERVICES, LIKE APPLYING FOR A COUNCIL HOUSE OR NURSERY PLACE, SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE.



Community Activity & Access

We asked respondents whether schools should be the main venues of activities for communities outside school hours. As Figure 17 shows, 40% of respondents agree or strongly agree with the proposal and 34% disagree or strongly disagree.

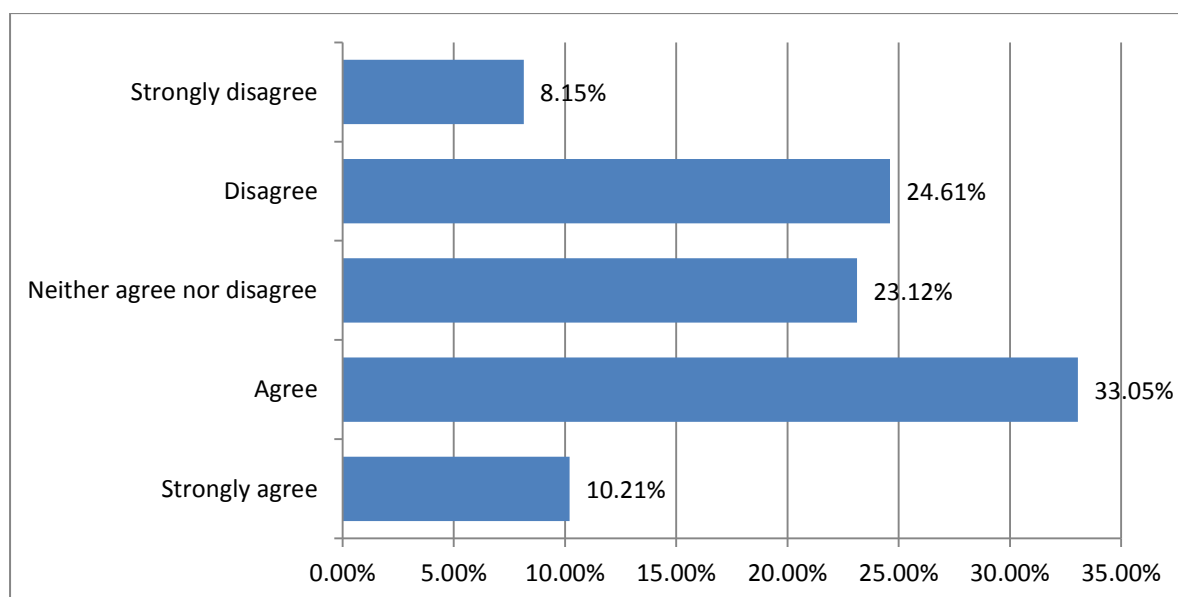
FIGURE 17: SCHOOLS SHOULD BE THE MAIN VENUES OF ACTIVITIES FOR COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS



We asked respondents whether we should close buildings that are poorly used.

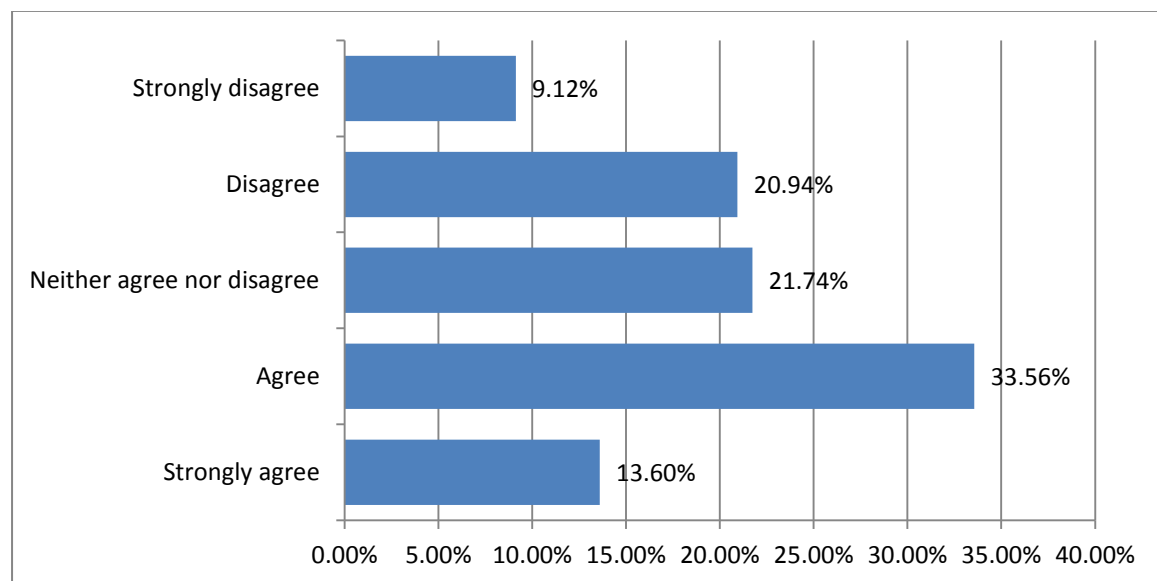
Figure 18 shows that 43% of respondents agree or strongly agree that poorly used buildings should be closed and 33% disagree or strongly disagree.

FIGURE 18: THE COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY TRUST SHOULD CLOSE BUILDINGS THAT ARE POORLY USED



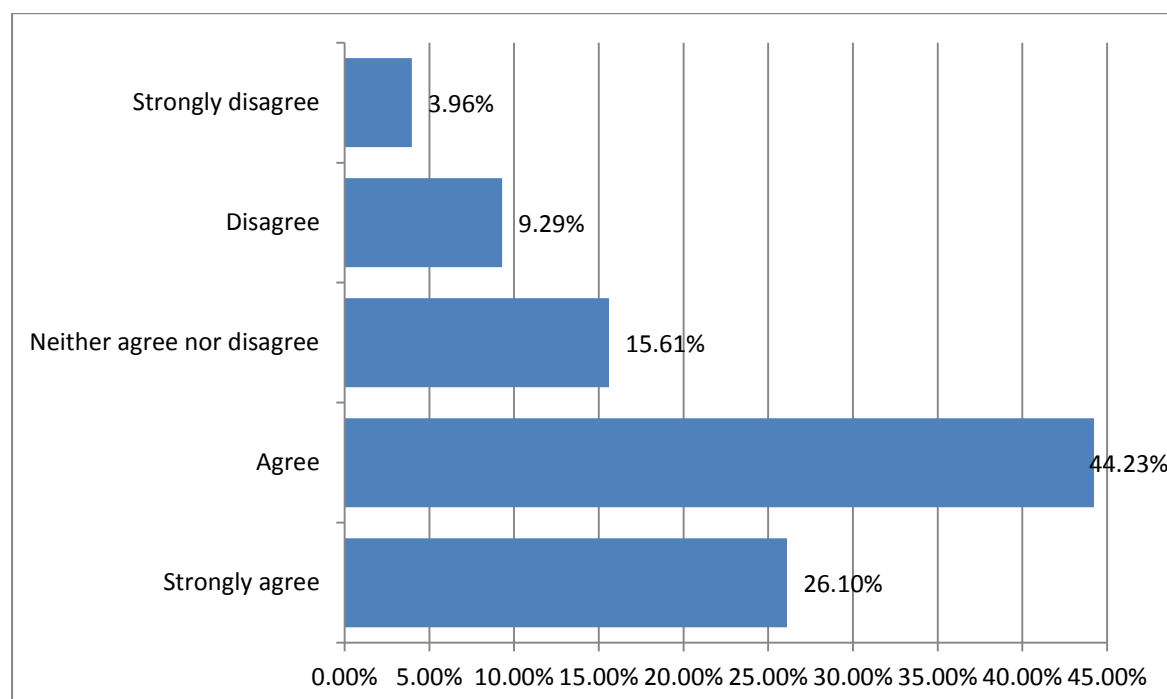
We asked the respondents whether we should close buildings that are in a poor condition and too expensive to upkeep. As can be seen in Figure 19, 47% of respondents agree or strongly agree with this proposal and 30% disagree or strongly disagree.

FIGURE 19: THE COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY TRUST SHOULD CLOSE BUILDINGS THAT ARE IN A POOR CONDITION AND TOO EXPENSIVE TO UPKEEP



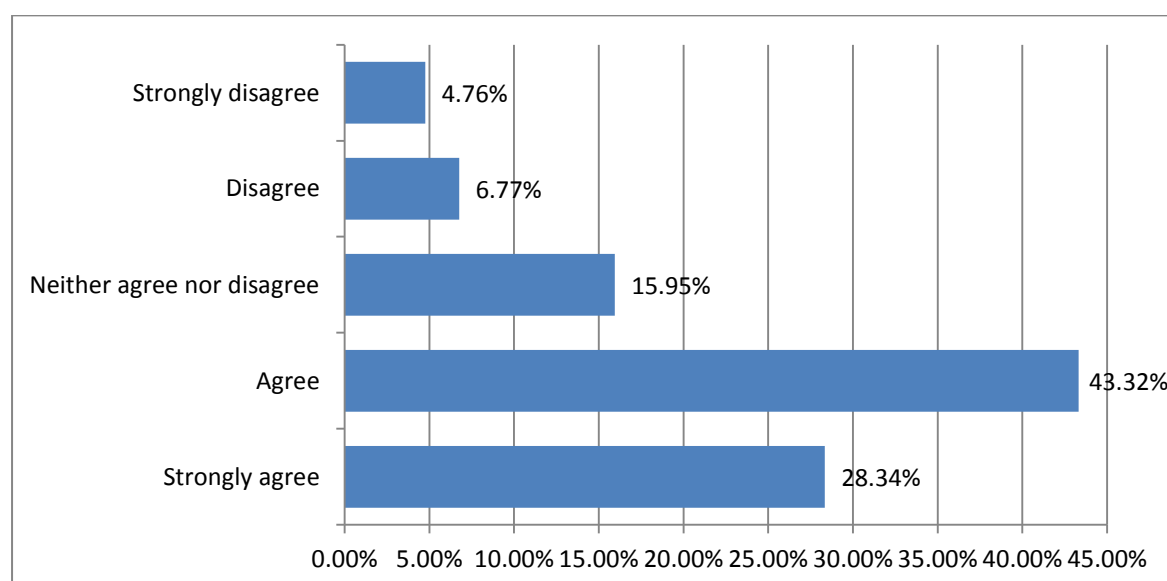
We asked the respondents whether we should invest in the buildings that can be used for the biggest variety of activities, for example, schools and leisure centres. As can be seen in Figure 20, 70% of respondents agree or strongly agree with this proposal and just 13% disagree or strongly disagree.

FIGURE 20: THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY TRUST SHOULD INVEST IN THE BUILDINGS THAT CAN BE USED FOR THE BIGGEST VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES.



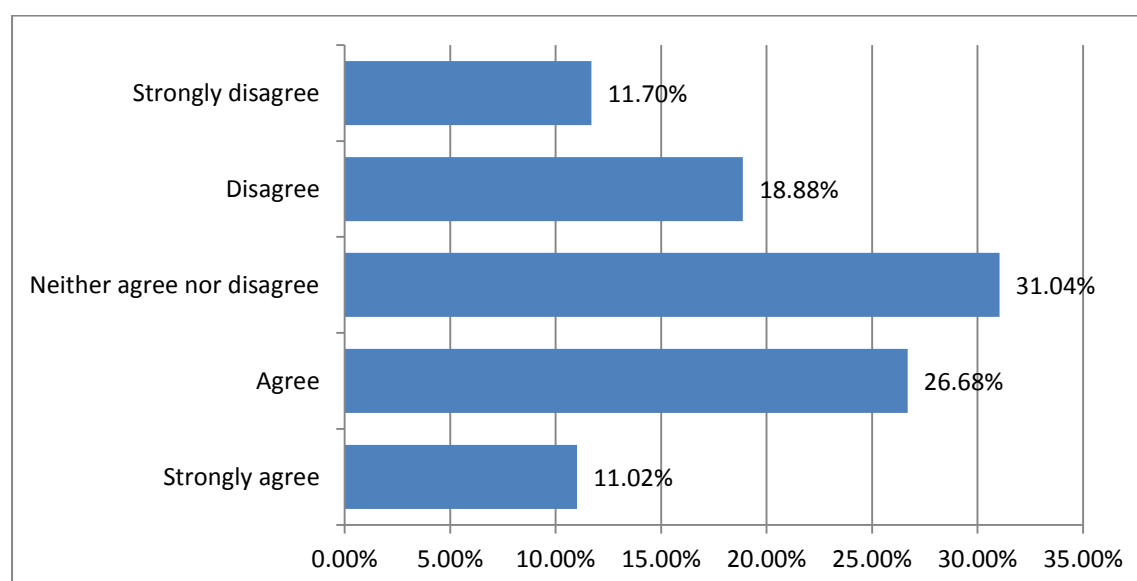
We asked respondents whether communities should be given the opportunity to run and manage Council or Community Trust buildings that are facing closure. As can be seen in Figure 21, 72% of respondents agree or strongly agree and just 12% disagree or strongly disagree.

FIGURE 21: COMMUNITIES SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RUN AND MANAGE COUNCIL OR COMMUNITY TRUST BUILDINGS THAT ARE FACING CLOSURE.



We asked respondents whether they would be willing to volunteer with their community to manage and run Council buildings that are facing closure. As Figure 14 shows, 38% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed and 31% disagreed or strongly disagreed. In the 2018 budget consultation, just 28% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would be willing to do so.

FIGURE 22: IF A COUNCIL OR COMMUNITY TRUST OWNED BUILDING IN MY AREA WAS FACING CLOSURE, I WOULD BE WILLING TO VOLUNTEER WITH MY COMMUNITY TO MANAGE AND RUN THE BUILDING



We told respondents that in the coming years, we may be unable to afford the operation and upkeep of a range of buildings throughout the area. We asked respondents what we should do with these buildings. Respondents were given three options to rank. In rank order:

- 1st preference: transfer to the community to manage and run;
- 2nd preference: transfer to a voluntary sector organisation to manage and run;
- 3rd preference: sell or lease.

We asked the same question in the 2018 budget consultation. 51% of respondents said the Council should sell these buildings, 29% said transfer to community ownership and 19% said transfer to a voluntary sector organisation to manage and run.

Annex 1

Option	Total	Percent of All
Airth	15	0.86%
Avonbridge	8	0.46%
Bainsford	33	1.9%
Banknock	7	0.40%
Bo'ness	321	18.42%
Blackness	4	0.23%
Bonnybridge	74	4.25%
Brightons	41	2.35%
California	9	0.52%
Camelon	34	1.95%
Carron	34	1.95%
Carronshore	26	1.49%
Denny	44	2.52%
Dennyloanhead	6	0.34%
Dunipace	9	0.52%
Falkirk	222	12.74%
Glen Village and Hallglen	26	1.49%
Grangemouth	322	18.47%
Greenhill	3	0.17%
Haggs & Longcroft	2	0.11%
Head of Muir	5	0.29%

High Bonnybridge	2	0.11%
Langlees	6	0.34%
Larbert	126	7.23%
Laurieston	19	1.09%
Letham	1	0.06%
Maddiston	46	2.64%
Polmont	82	4.70%
Redding	34	1.95%
Reddingmuirhead	32	1.84%
Rumford	11	0.63%
Shieldhill	21	1.20%
Skinflats	6	0.34%
Slamannan	9	0.52%
Standburn	1	0.06%
Stenhousemuir	54	3.10%
Torwood	1	0.06%
Wallacestone	11	0.63%
Westquarter	8	0.46%
Whitecross	5	0.29%
Not Answered	23	1.32%