Oxford City Council

OXFORD LOCAL PLAN 2040

Report on public consultation - Issues

April 2022

Contents

INTRODUCTION

The Local Plan can help tackle many of the issues that the city faces, such as our environment, inequalities and climate changes. It will set out where and how new development can happen. It will look at what development is needed in the city and try to provide for that. At the same time, it will try to keep hold of the things that make Oxford a special place, and see where things can improve to make it a better place to live, work and visit.

One of the main principles of the planning system is that local communities and stakeholders should be involved from the outset in the preparation of planning policy documents. The following are the main stages of consultation on the Oxford Local Plan 2020-2040.

Issues consultation (June-September 2021) (results summarised in this report)

Preparatory work on the Local Plan began in November 2020. Officers began to meet with a range of stakeholders and interest groups to commence conversations on the project. This has included neighbouring districts, Oxfordshire County Council and others.

An Issues consultation was held in the summer of 2021, with the aim of involving as many people as possible early in the process of producing a new Local Plan. This stage is not a statutory stage of consultation; it is in addition to the formal requirements (see below). This additional stage was incorporated into the project timetable because it was felt that early engagement, before any policy approaches are drafted, allows people the best opportunity to shape the plan as it develops. The City Council was also keen involve those who might not normally engage with planning. Restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic were still in place, which limited opportunities to meet people out and about at events, to hold workshops and so on. Therefore, social media was particularly important in spreading the word. We also took the step of arranging door-to-door delivery of an eye-catching leaflet with easy to digest info-graphics and a questionnaire that could be returned using Freepost.

Preferred Options consultation (programmed to be later in 2022)

This statutory consultation period on the preferred options for the policies and proposals of the Local Plan will be held later in 2022. It will involve a variety of methods of public consultation and be aimed at reaching a range of groups within the community. The outcomes from this stage of consultation will help the City Council to prepare the Proposed Submission Local Plan.

Proposed Submission consultation (programmed for Summer/Autumn 2023)

Following the analysis of comments on the Preferred Options Document, we will draft a Proposed Submission Document and consult people for a further 6 weeks. Comments must be received in writing (or by email) as they will be submitted to the Secretary of State.

Examination (expected during 2024)

Following the Proposed Submission consultation, there is an opportunity to make minor changes to the Local Plan in response to the comments made, before the document, evidence base and comments received are submitted to the Secretary of State. An independent examination is then carried out. Those who have made comments to the Proposed Submission Document have the right to ask the Inspector to be heard in person at the examination. If the document is found sound, changes recommended by the Inspector are made and the document is taken to Full Council to formally adopt it.

Issues consultation process

Consultees

The City Council conducted an extensive consultation exercise over the summer of 2021 to publicise the project and engage the Oxford community in the plan making process. The Issues consultation aimed to involve residents, workers, students and visitors to Oxford as well as stakeholders and service providers. A list of some key statutory consultees and other stakeholders consulted is available in Appendix 1. This list is not exhaustive and does not list every person group or body consulted, not least because a leaflet was delivered door-to-door across Oxford.

Consultation materials

At this stage in the Local Plan project the material that was published was focused on introducing the project (the scope and timetable) and on providing background information and asking questions on the themes and trends that the plan will seek to address. In order to make this information accessible and to engage with a wide range of parties/people and levels of interest a range of materials were produced with different audiences in mind:

For people with 5-10 minutes to get involved:
  o Leaflet (equivalent 2 sides of A3) with basic information and simple tick-box questionnaire with a freepost reply

For people with a little longer to get involved:
  o Issues document which contained more information and statistics and which posed more in-depth questions (freeform comments were also accepted and the document was designed to help frame these)

For stakeholders and those with more interest/time:
  o A series of background papers on each topic/issue the plan will be looking at with data analysis and identified trends
  o A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

For Duty to Co-operate bodies:
  o All the above and a Duty to Co-operate Scoping Strategy identifying the issues which fall under the duty to co-operate and those bodies with which co-operation may be necessary

The materials described above were available:
  o on the Council's website
  o on request

Consultation methods

Publicity:

The Issues consultation was publicised through the following channels:

- o door-to-door leaflet deliveries across the city with the questionnaire that could be returned by Freepost
- o direct notification by email or letter to those on the City Council's consultation database
- o notifying statutory consultees and Duty to Co-operate bodies
- o publishing information on our webpage
- o Posting introductory videos on YouTube
- o Using the City Council's social media channels (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter including paid adverts on Facebook)
- o a press releases
- o posters distributed to community noticeboards
- o local members

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Questionnaire, letter and email responses

At the close of the consultation, 1,143 responses had been received in total. This included 1,069 responses using the short questionnaire (either posted, emailed or entered using the online questionnaire), 36 responses using the longer questionnaire, and 38 other written responses.

The leaflet questionnaire contained 6 sets of questions with multiple statements against which respondents could tick to show to what extent they were important and add comments. There was also a question designed to show how easy people found it to access facilities by walking and cycling. The results of the tick-box questions are illustrated in a graphs in Appendix 2. The written comments contained in the short and long questionnaires, emails and letters received are summarised by topic within the Appendix 3.

Responses to social media campaign

The Council's social media channels (Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn) were used to advertise the consultation, with a structured campaign running over the consultation period and concentrating on particular themes each week. The messages released and the numbers of views are shown in Appendix 4.

Appendix 2: Summary of Questionnaire Responses

Pandemic response
We asked which issues were important to people when coping with the pandemic or future emergencies

Working patterns and practices

▪ Very important ▪ Important ▪ Neutral ▪ Less Important ▪ Not important

Category	%
Very important	32%
Important	38%
Neutral	22%
Less Important	5%
Not important	3%

Local facilities and services

▪ Very important ▪ Important ▪ Neutral ▪ Less Important ▪ Not important

Category	%
Very important	55%
Important	34%
Neutral	8%
Less Important	2%
Not important	1%

Indoor and outdoor living space

▪ Very important ▪ Important ▪ Neutral ▪ Less Important ▪ Not important

Category	%
Very important	52%
Important	36%
Neutral	10%
Less Important	1%
Not important	1%

Green routes and spaces for exercise

Very important · Important · Neutral · Less Important · Not important

1% — 1%
4%
18%
76%
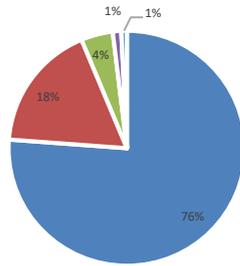
Super-fast broadband and mobile coverage

Very important · Important · Neutral · Less Important · Not important

3% 2%
10%
50%
35%
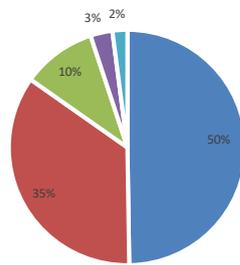
Oxford's strong medical research and healthcare

Very important · Important · Neutral · Less Important · Not important

2% — 1%
12%
54%
31%
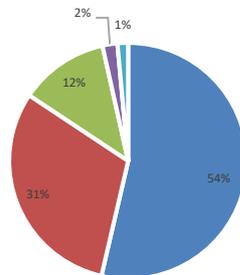
Climate emergency

We asked people which issues concerning the Climate Emergency were important to them

Reducing vehicle movements

Legend: ▪ Very important ▪ Important ▪ Neutral ▪ Less Important ▪ Not important

- 49%
- 24%
- 13%
- 8%
- 6%
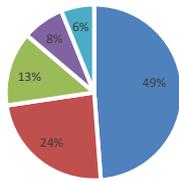
Travelling less and the use of sustainable transport

Legend: ▪ Very important ▪ Important ▪ Neutral ▪ Less Important ▪ Not important

- 53%
- 28%
- 11%
- 4%
- 4%
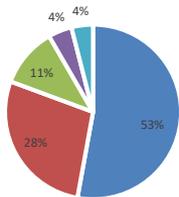
Regeneration on brownfield sites

Legend: ▪ Very important ▪ Important ▪ Neutral ▪ Less Important ▪ Not important

- 44%
- 33%
- 17%
- 4%
- 2%
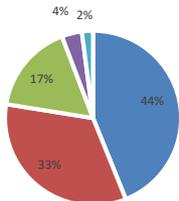
Adapting to more extreme weather events such as flooding, heat waves and storms

Legend: ▪ Very important ▪ Important ▪ Neutral ▪ Less Important ▪ Not important

- 58%
- 32%
- 8%
- 1%
- 1%

Planting of trees, hedges, etc?

- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less Important
- Not important

2%
1%
7%
29%
61%

Better uses of natural resources

- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less Important
- Not important

1%
1%
8%
32%
58%

Low carbon use in the new buildings

- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less Important
- Not important

1%
1%
6%
27%
65%

Existing buildings being carbon efficient

- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less Important
- Not important

2%
1%
10%
32%
55%

Housing
We asked which housing issues were important to people

Requiring contributions to carbon offsetting from new development

Very important • Important • Neutral • Less Important • Not important

45%
29%
18%
5%
3%
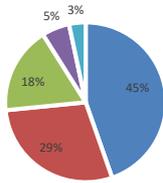
More housing in the city

Very important • Important • Neutral • Less Important • Not important

18%
30%
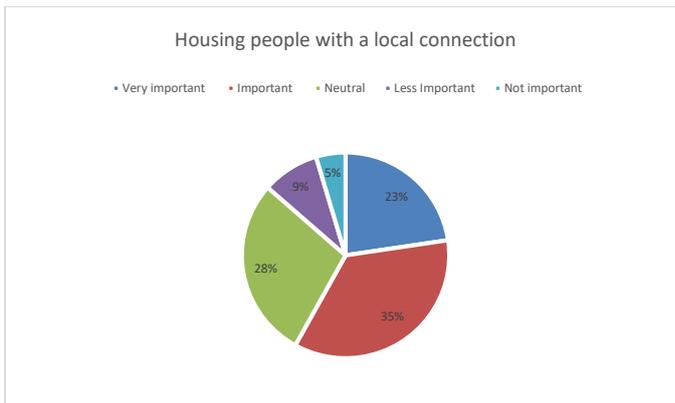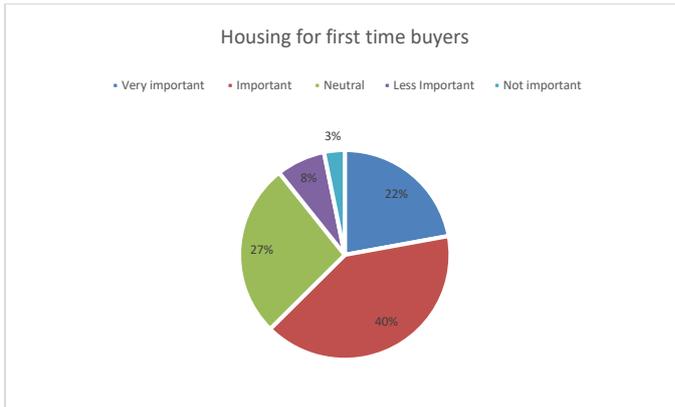29%
13%
10%
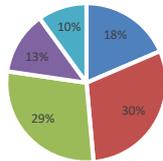
More truly affordable housing in the city

Very important • Important • Neutral • Less Important • Not important

56%
28%
9%
3%
4%
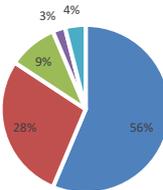
Housing for those in greatest housing need (e.g. those hwo need social rented housing)

Very important • Important • Neutral • Less Important • Not important

49%
33%
12%
3%
3%

Housing for first time buyers

Very important · Important · Neutral · Less Important · Not important

3%
8%
27%
22%
40%

Housing people with a local connection

Very important · Important · Neutral · Less Important · Not important

5%
9%
28%
23%
35%

Housing key workers in the city

Very important · Important · Neutral · Less Important · Not important

3%
2%
12%
42%
41%

Housing students

Very important · Important · Neutral · Less Important · Not important

6%
21%
16%
24%
33%

Inclusive economy

We asked people which issues concerning the economy were important to them

Focus on small businesses and start-ups

- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less Important
- Not important

3% 2%
22%
27%
46%
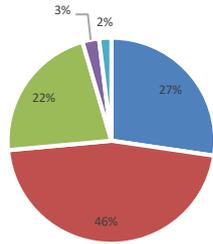
Affordable workspaces should be available

- Very important
- Important
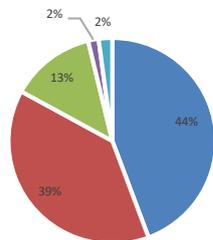- Neutral
- Less Important
- Not important

3% 2%
20%
27%
48%
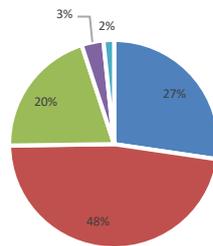
Support a wide range of jobs, including retail, office and leisure

- Very important
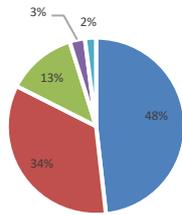- Important
- Neutral
- Less Important
- Not important

3% 2%
20%
28%
47%
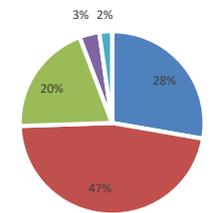
Support the knowledge and research economy

- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less Important
- Not important

2% 2%
13%
44%
39%

Support nationally and globally important research and development in the health sector

- Very important
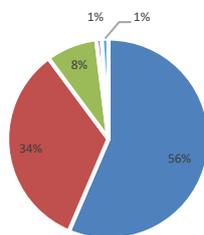- Important
- Neutral
- Less Important
- Not important

3%
2%
13%
48%
34%

Developers and employers should provide skills and training opportunities

- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less Important
- Not important

1%
1%
9%
48%
41%
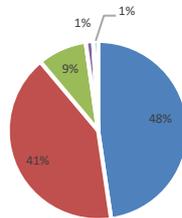
Access to good schools

- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less Important
- Not important

1%
1%
8%
56%
34%

Health and wellbeing
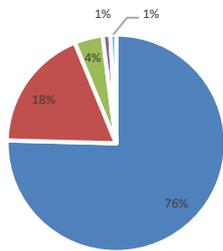*We asked people which issues concerning health and wellbeing were important to them*

Good access to outdoor spaces for sport and recreation

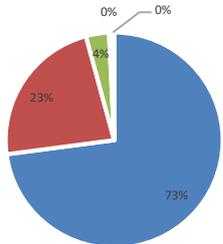Very important ▪ Important ▪ Neutral ▪ Less Important ▪ Not important

1%
0%
3%
22%
74%
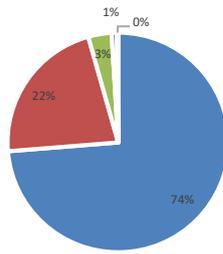
Good walking and cycling routes

Very important ▪ Important ▪ Neutral ▪ Less Important ▪ Not important

1%
1%
4%
18%
76%

Feeling safe in your local area

Very important ▪ Important ▪ Neutral ▪ Less Important ▪ Not important

0%
0%
4%
23%
73%

Living in good quality, affordable housing

Very important ▪ Important ▪ Neutral ▪ Less Important ▪ Not important

1%
1%
6%
34%
58%

Local access to community facilities and shops

Very important · Important · Neutral · Less Important · Not important

1%
0%
6%
39%
54%

Availability of cultural and leisure facilities

Very important · Important · Neutral · Less Important · Not important

1%
1%
11%
44%
43%

Good air quality

Very important · Important · Neutral · Less Important · Not important

0%
1%
4%
21%
74%
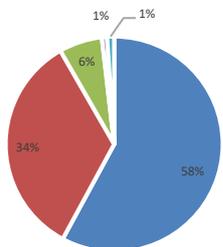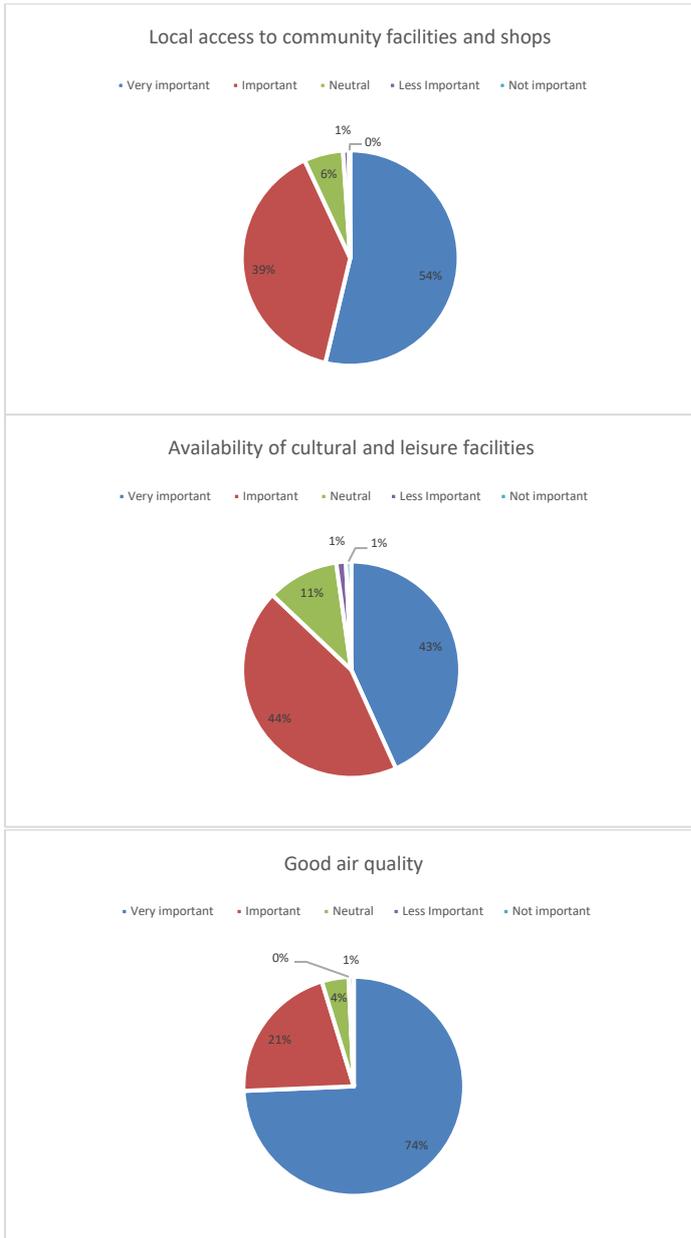
Experience of neighbourhood
*We asked people how they experience their neighbourhood*

Pubs, cafes and restuarants

- I do walk and/or cycle to...
- I usually catch the bus to...
- I usually access online...
- I would like to walk and/ or cycle to... but don't often
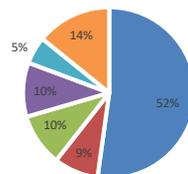- I usually drive to...
- Not applicable

1%   2%
9%
9%
6%
73%
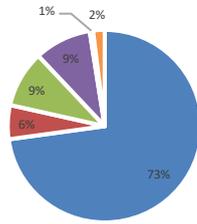
Cultural and entertainment venues (cinema, theatre, museum)

- I do walk and/or cycle to...
- I usually catch the bus to...
- I usually access online...
- I would like to walk and/ or cycle to... but don't often
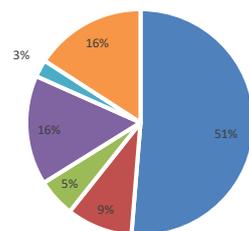- I usually drive to...
- Not applicable

1%   2%
13%
23%
52%
9%
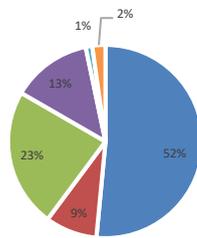
Community facilities (for group meetings and activities, adult learning and classes etc.)

- I do walk and/or cycle to...
- I usually catch the bus to...
- I usually access online...
- I would like to walk and/ or cycle to... but don't often
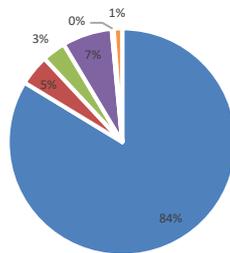- I usually drive to...
- Not applicable

5%
10%
10%
14%
52%
9%

Sport and exercise facilities (gyms, playing pitches, dance studios etc.)

- I do walk and/or cycle to...
- I usually catch the bus to...
- I usually access online...
- I would like to walk and/ or cycle to... but don't often
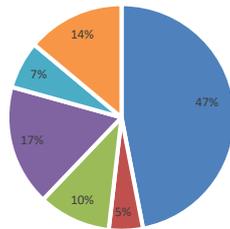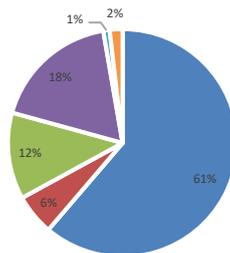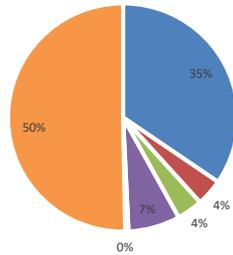- I usually drive to...
- Not applicable

3%
16%
16%
5%
51%
9%

Parks and open spaces for leisure sport or recreation

- I do walk and/or cycle to…
- I would like to walk and/ or cycle to… but don't often
- I usually catch the bus to…
- I usually drive to…
- I usually access online…
- Not applicable

0%
1%
3%
5%
7%
84%

Workplaces

- I do walk and/or cycle to…
- I would like to walk and/ or cycle to… but don't often
- I usually catch the bus to…
- I usually drive to…
- I usually access online…
- Not applicable

14%
7%
17%
10%
5%
47%

Healthcare facilities

- I do walk and/or cycle to…
- I would like to walk and/ or cycle to… but don't often
- I usually catch the bus to…
- I usually drive to…
- I usually access online…
- Not applicable

2%
1%
18%
12%
6%
61%

School or childcare (if applicable)

- I do walk and/or cycle to...
- I would like to walk and/ or cycle to... but don't often
- I usually catch the bus to...
- I usually drive to...
- I usually access online...
- Not applicable

35%
4%
4%
0%
7%
50%

Basic high street shopping (food, clothes, stationery, toiletries, chemist)

- I do walk and/or cycle to...
- I would like to walk and/ or cycle to... but don't often
- I usually catch the bus to...
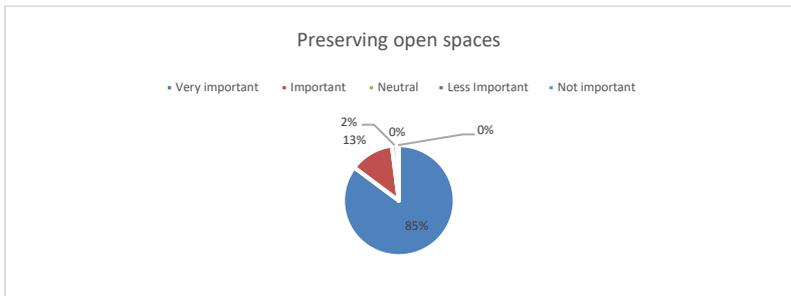- I usually drive to...
- I usually access online...
- Not applicable

1%
6%
20%
12%
4%
57%
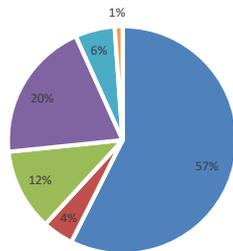
Walking and Cycling
We asked people what they saw as the barriers to walking and cycling in their local area

BARRIERS TO WALKING & CYCLING

| Category	Value
I don't feel safe from traffic	357
I don't feel safe	113
Traffic is too noisy/air quality is poor	280
Routes are not attractive or well-maintained	291
I am put off by the weather	166
There are no direct routes	65
There are not enough places to go to in easy reach	81
My journeys don't work by foot or bike because they are too complicated, involve other people or carrying bulky/heavy loads	140
I am not able to cycle or walk far	136

Landscape and greenspace

We asked people which issues concerning landscape and greenspace were important to them

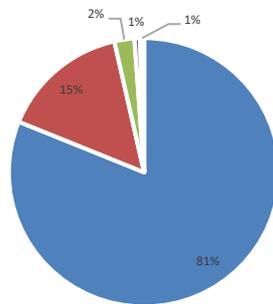Preserving open spaces

- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Less Important
- Not important

2% / 13% / 0% / 0% / 85%

Creating more public open spaces

■ Very important   ■ Important   ■ Neutral   ■ Less Important   ■ Not important
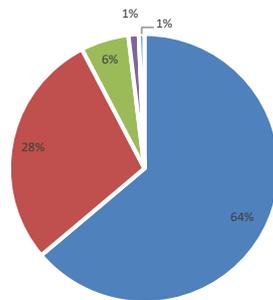
2%   1%

16%

46%

35%
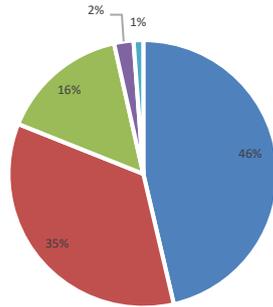
Safeguarding the natural enviornment and its wildlife habitat

■ Very important   ■ Important   ■ Neutral   ■ Less Important   ■ Not important

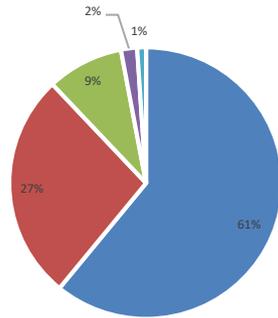2%   1%   1%

15%

81%

Opportunities for children and young people to play outside

■ Very important   ■ Important   ■ Neutral   ■ Less Important   ■ Not important
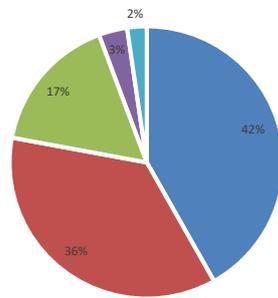
1%   1%

6%

28%

64%

Planting more trees in gardens, roads and parks

Very important • Important • Neutral • Less Important • Not important

Opportunities for outdoor sport

Very important • Important • Neutral • Less Important • Not important

Landscape and greenspace