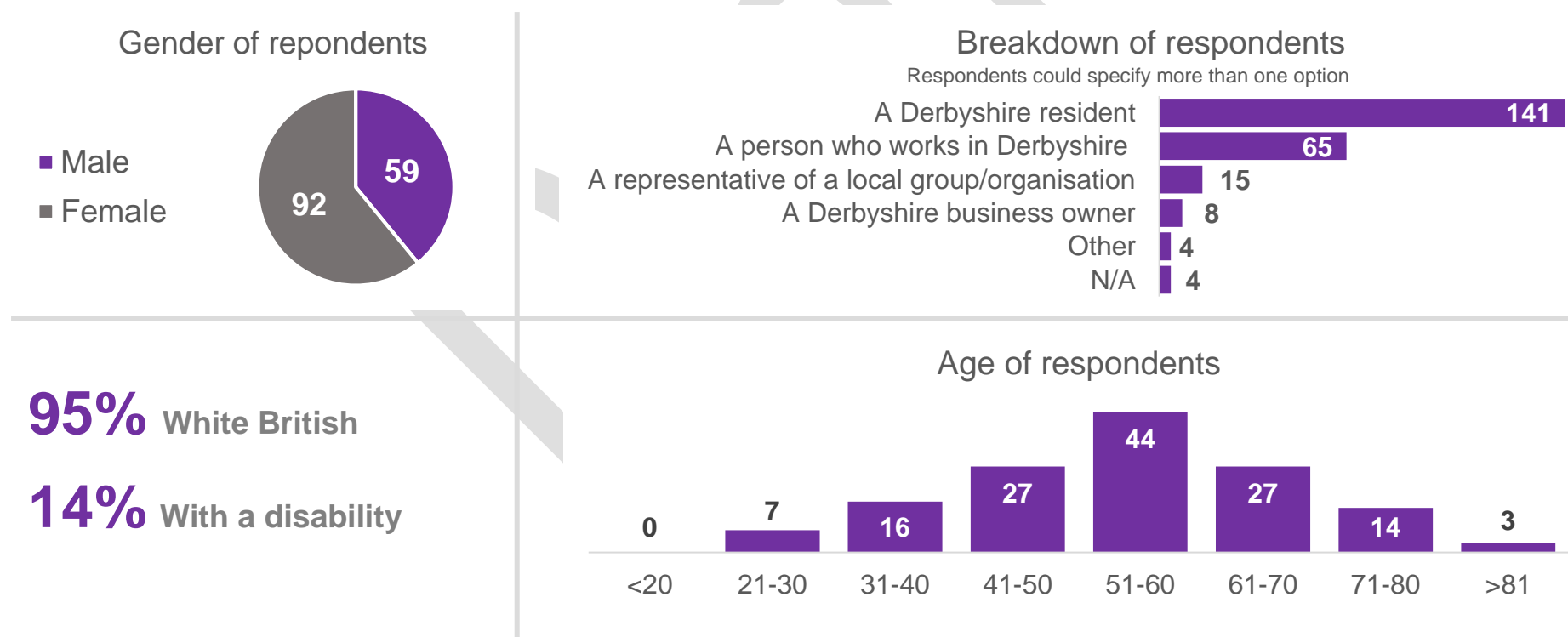


Appendix B - Council Plan 2021-25 Consultation results summary

Introduction

The draft Council Plan was developed using feedback from the Council's "Your Council, Your Voice 2020" residents survey, which received over 2,000 responses. In December 2020 a six-week period of consultation on the draft Council Plan 2021-25 began, providing residents, partners and members of staff the opportunity to feedback on proposals. The online consultation was publicised on the Council website, through social media and in Council publications. Partner agencies including district and borough councils, police, fire, health, the voluntary and community sector and agencies representing the private sector were also notified about the consultation.

A total of 163 people responded to the online questionnaire. The demographics of respondents are provided below.



Key findings

All comments received have been considered and reviewed. Many of the responses received were very detailed and covered various aspects of the Council Plan. The feedback from the consultation has been passed onto service departments, where appropriate, to inform the development of service plans.

Many comments were positive with respondents expressing their support for the proposed Plan and making suggestions for improvement. A number of key themes have emerged and are summarised below, together with the proposed actions in response to the consultation.

Theme	Proposed amendments
<p>Style and Language - It was suggested that the language used in the Plan could be made clearer for example the use of terms such as 'Deliverables' and further explanations of what an 'Enterprising Council' is and more detail about Thriving Communities.</p>	<p>The following changes have been made to ensure the document is clearer and easier to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of the term 'Deliverables' has been removed • The Plan includes information explaining the terms 'Enterprising Council', 'Thriving Communities' and 'Vision Derbyshire' • Further information relating to how the Plan will be delivered and how progress will be measured has now been added to the document • Introductory text has been added to the Priorities and Headline Initiatives pages • Amendments have been made to the wording throughout the document so that the Plan is easier to understand.
<p>Delivery and Measurement/ Achievement - Whilst people were generally supportive of the ambitions and priorities within the Plan, concerns were expressed about how achievable they were with the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information has been included regarding the Council's Financial Plan, the Council Plan delivery plan and service plans which ensure the actions within the Plan are resourced and timetabled.

resources and funding currently available. Respondents questioned how the Plan will be delivered and how success will be measured and reported to the public and suggested more detail could be provided here. Further information was also requested on how budgets relate to activity and outcomes.

- A set of key Council Plan measures have been included in the Plan, which will be used to measure performance and will be reported on quarterly basis, together with progress on the actions set out in the Plan.
- Additional information about the Council's budget for 2021/22 has been included within the Plan.

Headline Initiatives – A number of respondents felt that the initiative relating to investing £40m in maintaining roads conflicts with the initiative about tackling climate change and reducing carbon emissions. Others felt that the topic of social care was missing and should be included.

The following amendments to the headline initiatives have been made:

- The following initiative “Investing £40m in well maintained roads” has been widened to “Investing £40m in well maintained roads and pathways and developing sustainable methods of travel”
- An additional headline initiative, supported by a range of actions in the Plan, has been included - “Continuing our ongoing transformation of social care to improve outcomes and make the most effective use of resources”

Climate change – Many respondents felt there should be a greater emphasis placed on climate change throughout the Plan and suggested there should be a discreet priority relating to this.

There is a headline initiative to address climate change and a range of supporting actions in the Plan. These include strategic work to develop and implement a Climate Change Strategy and also actions to reduce carbon emissions from Council land and buildings; develop a Natural Capital Strategy and to provide green grants to community groups to support investment in sustainable and green community activity. A further action in the Plan is to work with other local councils as part of phase 3 of Vision Derbyshire on priorities including climate change. The following additional actions relating to climate change have been now added/amended:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Explore initiatives to tackle climate change, including low carbon local energy generation schemes and working with partners to provide further publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points” • “Implemented year 1 of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy Action Plan including rolling out a new £1m Business Start-up programme to support business growth and a £2m Green Entrepreneurs scheme to support innovation in low carbon technologies”
<p>Covid-19 - A number of respondents commented that the Plan did not address the impact of the pandemic or give detail about how the Council intends to support Derbyshire’s economic recovery.</p>	<p>A number of actions relating to both economic and community recovery from the pandemic are included throughout the Plan. Given the range of Council activity it is not possible to set out the detail requested regarding economic recovery in the Plan, however this is set out in the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy.</p>
<p>People in vulnerable groups or communities - Respondents indicated that the Plan should be more explicit with regards to how the Council intends to support people in vulnerable groups or communities and reduce inequalities, particularly existing inequalities that have been heightened by Covid-19. Vulnerable children and their families, people with mental health issues and the elderly were given as examples as some of the groups perceived to be missing from the Plan.</p>	<p>A wide range of actions are included in the Plan to assist people in vulnerable groups or communities. These include improving outcomes for people with learning disabilities; supporting the mental health of children; joining up existing mental health services; finalising new ways of working with older people and people with a disability to increase their independence and increasing the amount of age-appropriate accommodation and support for older people. The following additional action relating to helping those most in need has been included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Provided support to people and communities in need, including financial help from our discretionary fund and support for those affected by flooding”

<p>Employee wellbeing – There were concerns raised about the wellbeing of frontline staff; the need for more support from managers and the desire for more opportunities to develop skills.</p>	<p>Promoting employee wellbeing and supporting employees to achieve their potential is a headline initiative in the Plan. An additional action to support employees has been included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Developed and approved the Council’s People Strategy and associated people priorities, encompassing the Council’s people vision, employee values and behaviours” • There is also an existing action within the Plan “Implemented the Wellbeing Action Plan to support employee wellbeing, reduce sickness absence and improve service delivery”
<p>Other comments – Other topics that were felt to be missing from the Plan were skills and sustainable transport – especially cycling with the Derbyshire Cycle Plan and Network mentioned specifically.</p>	<p>Actions have been amended or added to the Plan to address the topics that were felt to be missing, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Implemented year 1 of the COVID-19 Employment and Skills Recovery Action Plan including delivery and expansion of a careers hub and development and implementation of a youth hub” • “Developed and delivered a strategic approach to sustainable travel and transport across the county, including the promotion of cycling and walking” • “Worked with partners through the Active Derbyshire network to increase the number of people in local communities taking part in physical activity, including reviewing and updating the Derbyshire Cycle Plan”
<p>Communication and Involvement - It was suggested that communication and involvement with residents was an area of concern for some respondents. Questions were raised about how elderly and vulnerable residents without access to the internet have had the opportunity to engage with</p>	<p>The constraints imposed by the pandemic has made undertaking wider consultation difficult. These considerations will be taken into account in future consultations once the current constraints have been lifted. In addition to the Council Plan consultation, the development of the draft Council Plan</p>

the consultation. Respondents also questioned why they had not been involved in the development of the plan.

was informed by the “Your Council, Your Voice 2020” residents’ survey which had over 2,000 responses.

Public perception - A number of comments indicated that although respondents were supportive of the Plan, they queried to what extent the ambitions and priorities would be reflected in the Council’s actions. A number of comments referred to the services and ways of working of partner agencies such as district and borough councils, the NHS and the Police. This suggests that there is a general lack of awareness of the roles and responsibilities each organisation performs.

As mentioned above, the Council Plan delivery plan, departmental service plans and regular monitoring of progress, ensure that the ambitions and priorities set out in the Plan translate into action.

There are plans to increase communication with the public regarding the actions taken and progress made against the agreed priorities and ambitions.

Consideration will also be given to how the Council coordinates work with partners to promote a better understanding of the responsibilities of each organisation.

Voluntary Sector - Whilst many respondents recognised that the voluntary sector has a significant role to play in community activity, it was suggested that the Council should not rely on them for service delivery. Comments indicated that the Council should instead focus on working in partnership with community groups to build the necessary skills and capacity.

The Council views the voluntary sector as an essential and valued service that is in addition to paid services provided by the Council, and the support provided to community groups.