



Welcome to the citizens' panel newsletter which tells you about the results of the last two surveys and a number of focus groups. Thank you for signing up to the panel and participating in the surveys. A special thanks to those of you that signed up for the focus groups. The full panel reports can be found at www.northyorks.gov.uk/citizenspanel

Understanding ambitions and aspirations for North Yorkshire

Your top aspirations are related to 'jobs/ employment' (32%), 'health' (27%), 'housing' (25%), 'financial security/ wealth' (20%), and aspirations for respondents 'children or family' (27%). [Note: you listed 3]

You were asked about your agreement with 15 statements. Listed below by your level of agreement:

- Young people should be given the opportunity to develop business skills needed to succeed in the workplace (98%)
- There should be sustainable economic growth in North Yorkshire (97%)
- There should be more good/satisfying jobs in North Yorkshire (96%)
- People should strive to be economically successful (95%)
- Access to mobile phone coverage is essential (95%)
- Access to broadband is essential (95%)
- We need to balance growth with the need to protect the environment and heritage of the County (95%)
- Housing should not be built without managing any impact on the local community (94%)
- Earning a good salary is important (93%)
- People should be able to afford to buy a home where they were brought up (83%)
- Housing should be built in existing towns to address the need for more housing (80%)
- Rail transport connections need to improve (79%)
- Road transport connections need to improve (79%)
- We should focus our efforts on deprived areas that have poor educational outcomes and health (75%)
- New settlements should be built in North Yorkshire to address the need for more housing (66%)



We are currently in the process of developing the initiatives that we believe will deliver our ambition for growth. We are producing a detailed economic growth plan that will outline this activity and the findings from the panel are being used to shape this process.



Community safety

We asked the same questions as we did last year. How safe you feel in the dark has not really changed (92% safe in both years). However, there has been a very small fall in how safe you feel in the day – 95% of you said you felt safe this year compared to 97% last year. The information from the survey is used by the [Community Safety Partnership](#) to manage their performance and develop future plans.

Weight management

Only 12% of you were aware of the weight management services that the County Council supports. Most of you would either 'ask my GP' (46%), or 'refer yourself' (39%) if you wanted to access a weight management service.

You are split on whether or not 'overweight and obesity is a medical problem that should be treated by health care professionals', half of you (50%) agree but just under half (47%) disagree, 3% 'don't know'.

The information from the survey has been used as part of the evaluation of the weight management programmes and our public health team will use this information in developing future programmes.



Information and Advice



Half of you (50%) agree that 'It is easy to find information about charities and groups that can provide support in my area' and just over half (56%) agreed that 'I know where to go to find information on charities and community groups'.

Most of you (89%) said you would find 'an online directory of all of the community services/support available in your area' helpful, and 85% said you would find 'an online directory of information on a variety of topics, including benefits, debt, and employment' helpful.

This information is being used by the project team that is looking into the possibility of developing a community directory for the county. Citizens' Panel members are invited to a design day in July.

Budget consultation



57% of you said 'yes' you believe council tax should be increased by 3.99% to fund social care delivery our priority areas and reduce further savings. The council made the decision to increase council tax by 3.99% for 2016/17.

Focus Groups

Local Government Association (LGA) peer review: Members of the panel were involved in a focus group as part of the LGA peer review of the council. The review found that North Yorkshire County Council is a very good council. The report on this review has now been published and can be accessed at www.northyorks.gov.uk/lgareport

Highways and transportation: The group was designed to get feedback on what people think about how highway related statutory notices are currently published and how they would like to access the information contained in the notices in the future. A high percentage of those people who got involved use (and many prefer) digital channels for accessing information, but they require reliable, 'tailored' and 'real time' information to meet their needs. So, although some people will continue to look for information by traditional means such as local signs and hard copy notifications, many look for effective web enabled information. The feedback received has been submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government for their consideration in deciding future policy for Statutory Notices. You can see a map of the current highway related statutory notices at www.northyorks.gov.uk/roadworksmaps

