West Dorset – Key Results

Consultation Questionnaire and Household Survey Results [1]

This area summary report is provided for convenience and should be read in conjunction with the full report and executive summary.

To what extent do you agree or disagree …

	... that Dorset's councils should focus on cutting out duplication and reducing administration costs wherever possible?			… with the proposal to replace the NINE existing councils (option 1) with TWO new councils (options 2a– 2c) in order to protect services as far as possible? [2]		
Open questionnaire	**96%**	**2%**	**2%**	**84%**	**3%**	**11%**
Representative Household Survey	**94%**	**3%**	**3%**	**77%**	**7%**	**11%**
	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Agree	Neither	Disagree

Please rate how important you think each of these criteria are where "10" means that the criteria is critically important and "0" means the criteria is of no importance.

Criterion	Open Questionnaire		Household Survey	
	Rank	**Overall average score (out of 10)**	**Rank**	**Overall average score (out of 10)**
Accountability	**3**	8.9	**3**	8.8
Quality	**1=**	9.1	**2**	9.1
Local Identity	**5**	7.4	**5**	7.3
Access	**4**	8.1	**4**	8.4
Value For Money	**1=**	9.1	**1**	9.2

If two new councils were created, to what extent do you support or oppose each of the possible options that are being considered? [2]

	Option 2A				Option 2B				Option 2C			
Open Questionnaire	**30%**	**10%**	**51%**	**-21**	**65%**	**11%**	**20%**	**+45**	**32%**	**12%**	**45%**	**-13**
Representative Household Survey	**38%**	**20%**	**33%**	**+6**	**64%**	**14%**	**16%**	**+48**	**21%**	**22%**	**44%**	**-22**
	Support	Neither	Oppose	Net	Support	Neither	Oppose	Net	Support	Neither	Oppose	Net

[1] The results above include all individuals who indicated that they lived in West Dorset and made responses to the relevant questions. This includes 1,419 respondents from the open questionnaire and 508 residents in the household survey.

[2] The proportion whose views are unknown for a specific option but who gave a valid response to at least one of the proposed options (option 1, option 2a, 2b or 2c) are included in the base but are not shown in tables. As a result, these percentages will not sum to 100%.

Further Comments[3]

All percentages shown are of those who gave further comments. Each individual may have made comments about multiple topics, so results will not sum to 100%.

Coded comment	Open Questionnaire % of respondents who made comment	Representative Household Survey % of residents who made comment
Alternatives: one large unitary authority preferred/worked for Wiltshire/most cost-effective	19%	4%
Other comments: general criticism of consultation	11%	7%
Concern about and opposition to general proposal: loss of access/concern about loss of local services/urban areas will be prioritised over rural ones	11%	9%
Concern and opposition about general proposal: loss of accountability/less direct involvement for people/more bureaucracy	9%	8%
Alternatives: infrequently suggested alternative proposals/other suggestions	9%	6%
Other comments: comments relating to town and parish councils (including comments about Weymouth getting a Town Council)	9%	1%
Concern about and opposition to general proposal: loss of local identity/links with local communities must be maintained/every area has different needs	8%	7%
Other comments: need more information to make decision (e.g. need to see a business plan)	7%	17%
Other comments: comments about specific Council services being affected by the proposals	7%	6%
Criticism of/issues with current situation: too much wastage/duplication	7%	1%

Deliberative Workshops

This workshop took place on 19th September and had 21 attendees.

CRITERIA	AVERAGE RANK
Accountability	**2**
Quality of Services	**1**
Local Identity	**4**
Access	**5**
Value For Money	**2**

AREA	INITIAL OPINIONS Proportion (%) favouring reducing number of councils	FINAL OPINIONS Proportion (%) favouring reducing number of councils
West Dorset	**48% (10/21)**	**66% (14/21)**

AREA	Option 2a % support	Option 2b % support	Option 2c % support	Don't know/ Abstain
West Dorset	**52% (11/21)**	**10% (2/21)**	**38% (8/21)**	

[3] The further comments presented here are the top 10 most frequently occurring sub-themes identified from responses to the open consultation questionnaire.