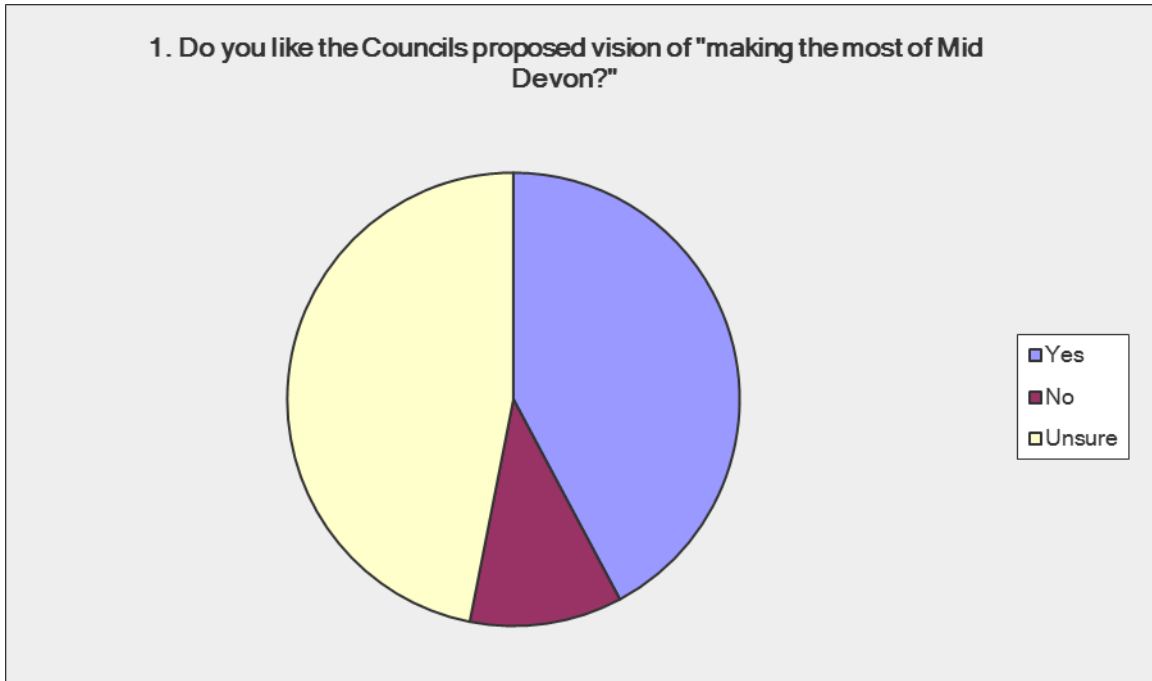


Corporate Plan Consultation Feedback

Question 1 – Do you like the Councils proposed vision of “making the most of Mid Devon?”



1. Do you like the Councils proposed vision of "making the most of Mid Devon?"		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	42.2%	54
No	10.9%	14
Unsure	46.9%	60

Question 2 – Do you have any comments, feedback or alternative suggestions on the vision?

What exactly does it mean?

It doesn't sound very positive!

It does sound a bit like we are having to make the most of what we have (as in, we'll do the best with the poor hand we've been dealt!)

The "vision" seems very "in house" with little consultation of ordinary people. Its presentation is that of a "done deal". I see very little evidence of the council listening to other ideas or opinions. These debates should be opened out in the media prior to going to council.

Not very inspiring!! How about securing the future for Mid Devon

Do not know what “making the most of Mid Devon” means

Do not like the use of the word “vision”

Yes, on the basis that “Mid Devon” is not just Tiverton

Please do not ignore the elderly in your vision

I don't like the proposed vision statement, as it immediately brings to mind the phrase 'making the best of a bad job', which is very far from what I'm sure the Council wants to convey. As you want a short phrase, I don't think you need to include the words Mid Devon, so you could concentrate on the priorities and have: 'a great place to live, work and visit', or something like that.

It sounds positive and good.

Sounds negative

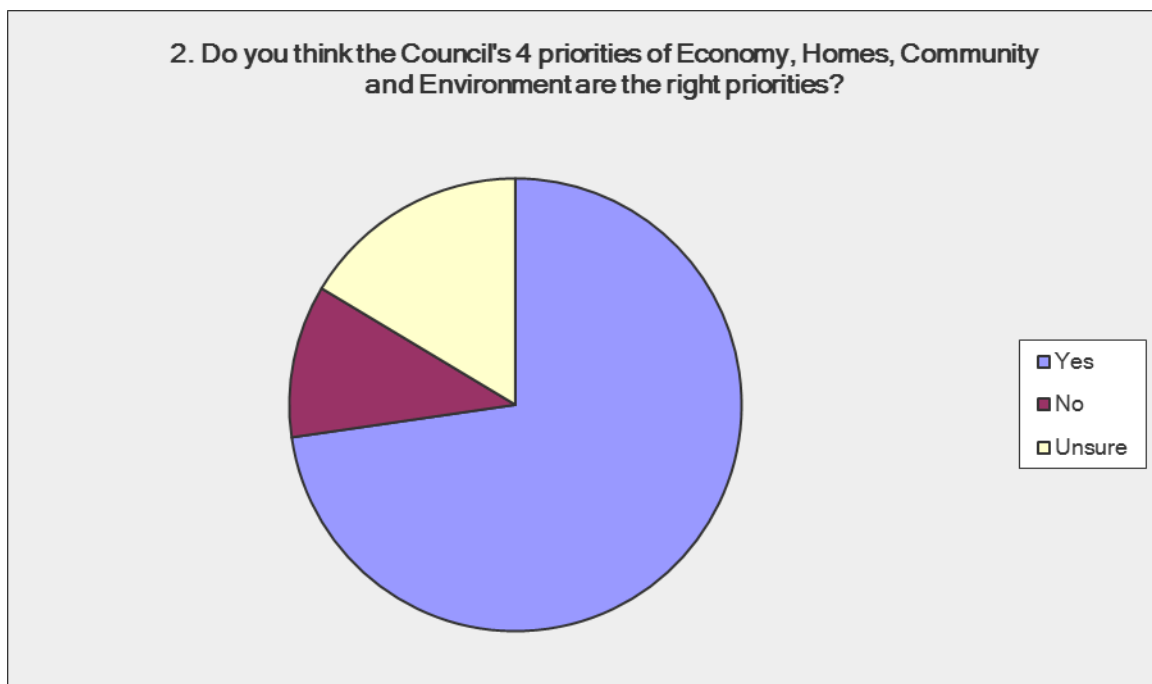
It sounds good, of course we want to make the most of Mid Devon,

That statement is so ambiguous and non-descript. One persons 'making the most of Devon' could be another person's nightmare. I am thinking of building plans, etc. The statement has no meaning unless it is backed up with some sort of evidence on what they mean by 'making the most of Mid-Devon'.

I don't think anyone can argue with the vision, but I think it leaves big questions as to how it can be delivered in the face of massive cuts in government spending on local government.

The vision could be made more ambitious. An example would be from Leeds City Council, “We're working to make Leeds to be the best place for children and young people to grow up”.

Question 3 – Do you think the Council’s priorities of Economy, Homes, Community and Environment are the right priorities?



2. Do you think the Council's 4 priorities of Economy, Homes, Community and Environment are the right priorities?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	72.7%	93
No	10.9%	14
Unsure	16.4%	21

Question 4 – Do you have any feedback or comments on the priorities? For example do you think we have missed anything? Is there anything you would change?

Thank you for all the effort that has gone into preparing this Draft. It is clear and easy to read and has obviously benefitted from substantial input. The four main areas, Economy, Homes, Community and Environment give good coverage of life in Mid Devon. In order to make these Objectives possible, and in line with the thinking that is being expressed in the Cullompton Neighbourhood Plan, we suggest the following:-

1) The addition of a fifth Priority – Infrastructure

Before any consistent development in the other four priority areas can take place effectively; the infrastructure must be front-loaded to avoid strain and collapse of vital services. The road infrastructure in Cullompton is no longer fit for purpose – without a viable town centre by-pass and a one-way system in the town centre, then growth and footfall will be severely limited.

1.1) Roads

1.2) Rail links

1.3) Transport hub

1.4) Sewerage and services

2) The proposed new development involves the introduction of a huge amount of new infrastructure within an already heavily constricted flood plain.

The addition of this infrastructure and the run off that will be produced as a result of it and the new community is of great concern. The location of the Cullompton relief road is crucial – any further restriction of the southern end of the flood plain by a road **MUST BE AVOIDED** – it is already too restricted for its purpose, with serious risk to the sewage treatment plant.

Could you re-order the priorities so that “Community” is first? Homes - Change to “Planning and enhancing the build environment to promote health, wellbeing and sustainability”. Environment - Change to “Protecting our natural environment”. Include “Air Quality” as a focus.

These are very wide-ranging and cover just about everything. What does "Economy" mean in this context?

Would like to have seen some specific proposals for each of the priorities. All seem vague.

Priority 2, Aim 3, third bullet, I do not believe that there are sufficient and appropriately qualified officers to deliver or influence.

Need to be clear re the main towns - lots of assumptions re people's knowledge of the area. Also make it clear which Pannier Market etc

Can MDDC really influence Priority 2 'Other' bullet 3 - or is this really a DCC/NHS responsibility and function?

I think environment is too low a priority, and that there should be a direct link between the need to provide employment and the possibility of 'green jobs'.

The environment bit talks about the natural environment but then goes on to discuss heritage issues - either the title needs to be tweaked to include heritage or the heritage bits need to move elsewhere. I would love to see the historic environment mentioned in the regeneration of the town centres element of economy, as it is very pertinent to those town's ongoing development and character.

Renewable energy as part of the environment. Environment has to be the most important issue for MDDC, UK, World. Look at the bigger picture.

Whilst all these matters are important, ultimately the environment in its broadest and long term has to be of prime importance.

Economy - What is the evidence that it is a priority? Homes - It appears large builders, build what they want and where they want to. Proper drainage, parking and type of houses rarely addressed. Community - How is this priority? Environment - Currently this means one thing recycling and grass cutting!!

I wonder whether Homes should be your first priority. This is surely a way of not only housing people but getting more people out of poverty and into work. Some of it is vague e.g. 'work with private landlords' - to do what?

My priority would be to spend more on public services raising council tax by broadening the highest band.

The priority should be to provide efficient quality services to the existing population.

Transport for those who cannot drive

I would further prioritise homes as the most important of those priorities listed above.

Your priority should be people. Stop closing care homes, look after the elderly, homeless, and get people into work. Build more schools & get GOOD teachers.

Community, Environment, Homes, Economy

I feel homes for the young more important as stability will most defiantly improve the economy

The health service is very important particularly for 70+, and Tiverton hospital needs all possible support.

Also transport - vital for rural communities

More support for the local farming community and small business owners

Need more money spent on infrastructure, country roads very bad. We pay very high council tax and continually have vehicles wrecked. Pot holes blocked drains etc.

More help for elderly

I think you have missed Mental and Physical Health in these priorities

It depends what is meant by community - some sections of the population tend to be overlooked - for example unless people are already members of organisations, read the local paper or have online access they are often not aware what is going on - they pay their council tax remember!!

I imagine economy involves cutbacks in everything except council tax bills. I would like to think that environment might involve stopping trying to build on Greenfield sites and applying the Environmental Protection Act to my neighbours defective, stinking, septic drainage system, but I fear that won't be the case.

I'd change the order: community, environment, homes and Economy.

Health should be in there as should provision of services for those already living in the community. MDDC places too much emphasis on building houses without thinking of the services required. E.g. Cullompton is now bigger than Tiverton was when Tiverton first had a swimming pool. And yet there is no consideration of this - only the number of play parks that is will shut. Listen to the Town Councils and the people that live in the communities.

Transport infrastructure

If taken in the order as above, then I am not in favour of that priority, you also miss out on a possible merge with another Council to achieve a reduction in running cost that it may provide. Not just working with others.

What's off the list?

More houses, free up building controls make mid Devon a place you can afford to live. Community plan is good. Environment- I think we pay enough council tax for are waste it you shouldn't be charged twice. For rural houses it's about the only thing you get for your tax!

I think that homes for local people should be a top priority.

I'd change the order: community, environment, homes and Economy.

I don't believe the economy should be a council priority when the government are spending millions, almost billions on bombing Syria. It is a red herring that the economy needs prioritising. It is the health and welfare of every individual that should be the council's priority, which would incorporate their community and environmental well being.

I don't see any real vision for putting together what we already have with the vision in order to attract more visitors and businesses. There are very few details or specifics.

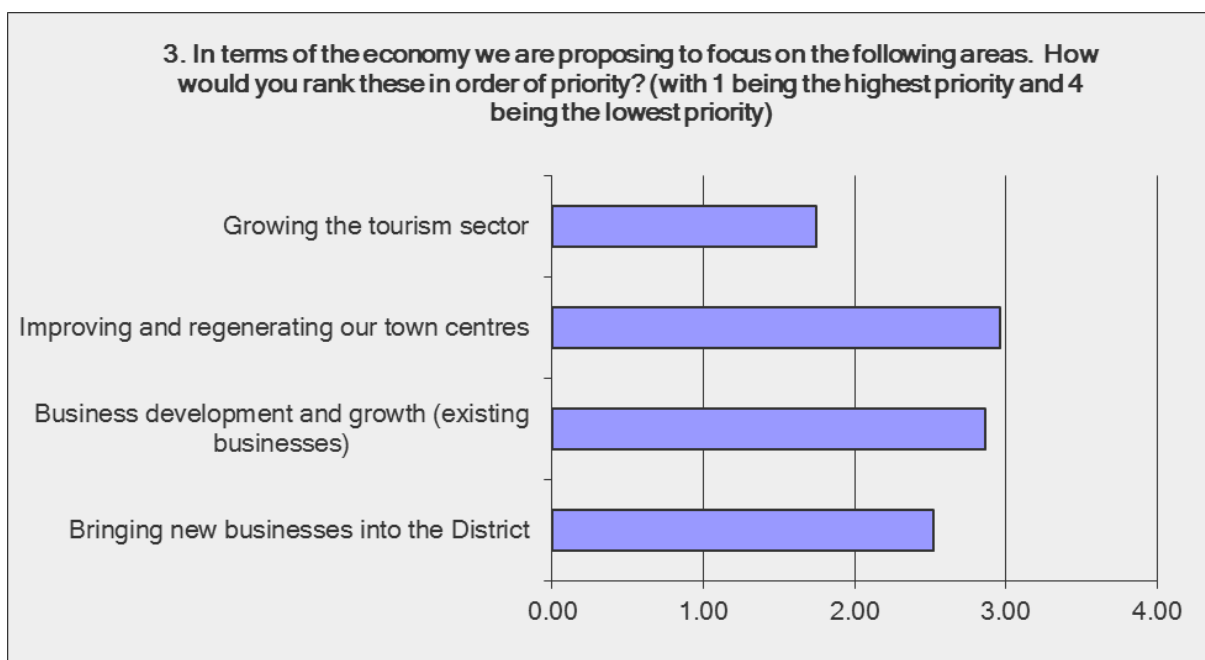
More emphasis on sustainable transport options and increased support for local community networks e.g. sharing resources

I would be happier if this included specific mention of planning issues, since I believe this is an area where local councils generally, and planning officers in particular, are particularly out of tune with public opinion. I do realise there are legal and central government issues here which hamper and contradict local views.

Your priorities should be essential services only. Reducing every cost to the council tax payer not pet projects.

Demographic change and challenges Young people

Question 5 – In terms of the economy we are proposing to focus on the following areas. How would you rank these in order of priority (with 1 being the highest priority and 4 being the lowest priority).



A weighted average has been applied to the figures so that those considered by the public to be the highest priority show as the highest figures in the chart above and vice versa for the lowest priorities – therefore Improving a regenerating town centres is the highest priority for the public

In terms of the economy we are proposing to focus on the following areas. How would you rank these in order of priority? (with 1 being the highest priority and 4 being the lowest priority)						
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	Rating Average	Response Count
Bringing new businesses into the District	34	21	31	29	2.52	115
Business development and growth (existing businesses)	30	51	26	10	2.86	117
Improving and regenerating our town centres	52	24	29	14	2.96	119
Growing the tourism sector	5	24	29	64	1.75	122

Question 6 – Do you have any feedback or comments in terms of our proposals for the economy?

Aim 3 to improve and regenerate town centres,

Please add in an extra bullet point:-

Focus on projects in Cullompton that will enable heritage and economy to work together

Please add

Aim 5 The Introduction of all new infrastructure for the new community must support and facilitate growth of the above sectors within Cullompton and surrounding areas. Implementation of any new infrastructure must be scheduled in prior to any major development in order to minimise/eliminate any negative impact economically on the town centre and aforementioned sectors.

Priority Projects for 2016-17

Please add this project:-

Priority Projects for 2016-2017	Portfolio	Service area
Develop a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a townscape heritage scheme for Cullompton	Planning and regeneration	Economic Development

In the “other” section the following could be discussed: Living wage, the active role businesses can play in promoting health and wellbeing. Projects for 2016/17 should include: Help those most disadvantaged (e.g. young people, people with a mental health difficulty or learning disability) to get access to employment and training

Should we make more of the river as a visitor attraction most other towns with water do!!

Whilst striving to attract businesses etc. etc. to Mid Devon please do not forget that Crediton is part of Mid Devon not just Tiverton and Cullompton.

A vibrant town centre would encourage tourism & business growth. Do we now have a coach park?

Support the growth of local businesses. They are less likely to downsize or relocate than large multi national companies and are likely to be more sympathetic with their local environment.

Regeneration of town centres should mean proper businesses not more charity shops and current shop fronts, pathing etc. all brought up to scratch before any major building work. We need completely new businesses coming to the town centre not just revamping shops for existing ones and putting up the rates etc.

Promote opportunities to work at home

The actual proposals seem weak - promoting Mid Devon as a place for business is a laudable aim but the projects list does not tie in with this aim.

Small and growing businesses should be treated more generously. Very large supermarkets that undermine town centres should contribute more business rates.

Ensure that the plans for expansion at Junction 27 the M5 motorway to go ahead.

Stop all the strategy's and committees and make decisions. Stop trying to pass the buck and watching your back. Do something positive instead of talking about it for years.

Build up on that which we have

The roads and infrastructure cannot accommodate more businesses

If by "our town centres" you basically mean Tiverton - this has more relevance to the Crediton area. We are fed up of all the funding going to Tiverton and DONT TAKE AWAY OUR COUNCIL OFFICES.!

Attracting new business will bring both visitors and new customers

If rental on shops/property was lowered to then help other businesses won't take the risk to open. And further afield advertising of what Tivertons got for families.

Feel we should be trying to promote the town as a tourist area; we already have the castle, museum, national trust house and canal

Current businesses should fund their own development

Some roads are not adequate for the heavy use of some of the businesses that use them

Why should businesses come into the towns when there is nowhere to park? I recently parked in Crediton and apparently there was a small sign on the wall which I didn't see. I was fined but wrote to the council who did not have the courtesy to reply. A good example for businesses and visitors.

Bringing tourists in means providing parking for coaches - spaces at the Canal Basin are not effective for town centre visits. And public toilets needed not to be closed!

The area needs more businesses to increase employment.

Not sure about proposal J27 level - afraid it will detract from Tiverton itself.

1 and 2 above are really equal priorities - we need successful businesses to provide employment, in particular for young people who otherwise have to leave the area

I don't think business development should be a role of the council, business is more likely to develop without council interference, and leaving business to its own devices would be an excellent way to save cash.

Things could always be better. But more jobs = greater need for houses = need for more jobs. Let's just concentrate on what we have at the moment without forever 'growing'.

We need a better link from Tiverton to the train station, timed if possible to meet arriving trains and arrive in good time for departing trains, also operating as early and late as the trains run. I would travel more often by rail if this link were available. Parking too expensive, taxis very expensive, local bus infrequent and often running late. There must be a public toilet near the Tiverton bus station, with clear signage. It is inhumane to deny bus users access to a nearby toilet. At the very least the district council toilets - OUR toilets - should be clearly signed and available for as many days/hours as possible. Also the existing Market toilets - the only ones in the centre - do not have clear signage from all the main shopping streets, only the local know where to find them.

Bringing new business into the District would probably mean a growth in population, something the District does not need.

I think the tourism sector is actually part of the business sector, so is included anyway in business development (my highest priority)

Our town centres need a lot of attention to make them more attractive, individual places, less empty shops/charity shops. Is it because the business rates are so high that we don't get a more diverse range of shops?

By growing tourism and improving the town centres it will help develop other businesses and attract new business to the area

If the town centre was to be re-generated, it should be done in a way which attracts visitors, locals and new businesses into the town. Any development done should not be done by an outsourced company, as they don't have a clue as to how this town once was and how it currently is. This is not city it is a small market town.

They overlap a great deal, making the priorities difficult to rank.

I wonder at all the empty shops in Tiverton; in spite of the Portas bid that we won. I don't see what difference that has made and wonder where and how the money was spent. Are the rates too high, is that why so many places are empty, and just fill up with more and more charity shops, which I understand pay less rates?

There simply isn't enough detail, and I don't see how it can be delivered when there is so little communication across levels of government & stakeholders - where are the forums through which economic growth can be delivered? MDDC doesn't even talk to all its Councillors, let alone the rest of us!

Not enough is made of the St Boniface element in attracting Dutch and German visitors.

Hard to differentiate these categories - they all seem interlinked - e.g. improving our town centres will probably impact positively on tourism and the introduction of new businesses

Charging more for car parks and closing public toilets will not encourage tourism or help regenerate town centres.

Any new business coming to Mid Devon should have the need to start up or relocate to Mid Devon and a good, sustainable business plan which will deliver a profit for them and good and well paid jobs for local people. Improving and regenerating our town centres can only happen when there is more wealth distributed across the area i.e. new business employing more local people who will spend some of their money locally. The tourism sector can only grow if we have something to offer that is of excellent quality and accessible. Therefore we need good communication and transport systems, good parking and bus terminals in the key towns and information and directions to other nearby areas.

Our town centres must be improved so that residents, especially new residents, do not migrate to Exeter or Taunton for retail needs

The proposals should have ecological concerns at their heart, not as a separate add-on.

Improving our town centres will help local businesses and tourism

Concentrate on supporting what is already working and help it grow

The best way to bring new businesses to Mid Devon is to make it appealing, restore our Town Centres as Tourist attractions. Link up existing features effectively; improve provisions for cycling, walking and other modes of Tourism across the District.

Bringing new businesses into the district, improving and regenerating our town centres, and growing the tourism sector all depend on business development and growth.

The environment bit talks about the natural environment but then goes on to discuss heritage issues - either the title needs to be tweaked to include heritage or the heritage bits need to move elsewhere. I would love to see the historic environment mentioned in the regeneration of the town centres element of economy, as it is very pertinent to those town's ongoing development and character.

Please make sure any development of Tiverton riverside locations allows more public access. The Exe could and should be an important part of Tiverton's future economy, look at how other communities - e.g. Exeter - make full use of the beautiful riverside setting for parks, benches, cafes with outdoor seating, markets, buskers

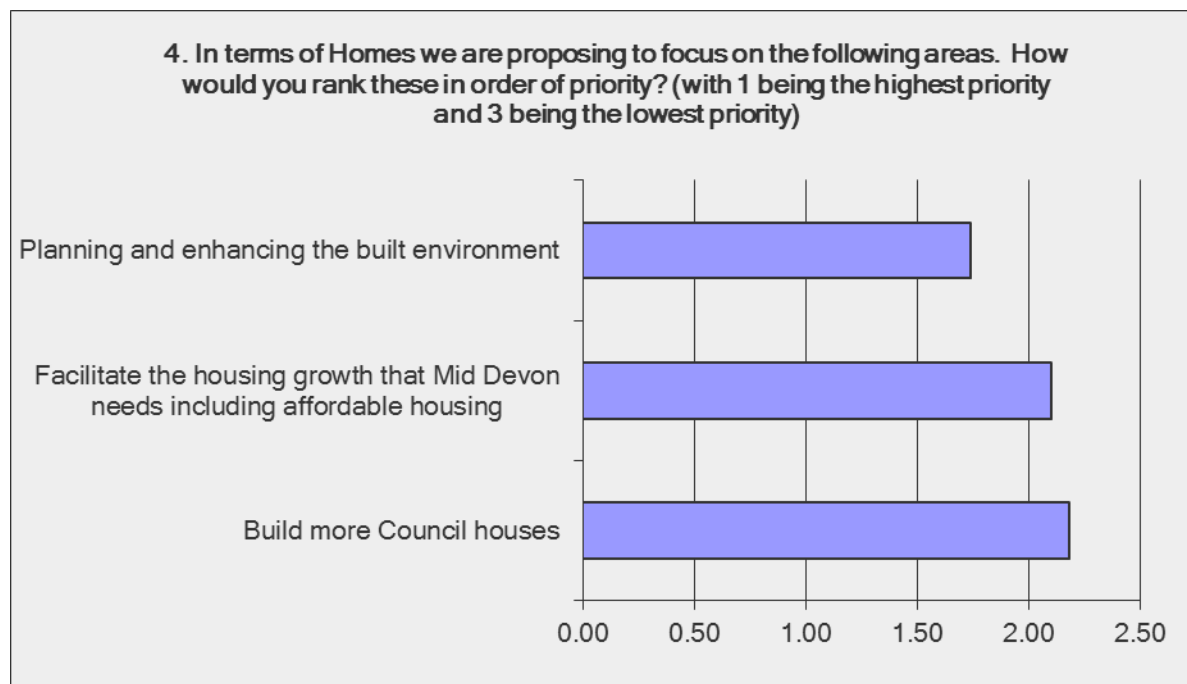
What jobs are being created? Tiverton has a lot of character and history; do not allow development to ruin the town!

I'm unsure because of junction 27 and so is the council and I don't know what the other visions are

The strongest vision is for Economy - seems as though there is more focus on this section.

On the whole 'yes' but feel there could be greater emphasis on start-ups, small enterprises etc.

Question 7 - In terms of homes we are proposing to focus on the following areas. How would you rank these in order of priority (with 1 being the highest priority and 3 being the lowest priority).



A weighted average has been applied to the figures so that those considered by the public to be the highest priority show as the highest figures in the chart above and vice versa for the lowest priorities - therefore building more council houses is the highest priority for the public

In terms of Homes we are proposing to focus on the following areas. How would you rank these in order of priority? (with 1 being the highest priority and 3 being the lowest priority)					
Answer Options	1	2	3	Rating Average	Response Count
Build more Council houses	53	36	31	2.18	120
Facilitate the housing growth that Mid Devon needs including affordable housing	40	51	28	2.10	119
Planning and enhancing the built environment	30	32	62	1.74	124

Question 8 - Do you have any feedback or comments in terms of our proposals for homes?

A missed opportunity to make land available to encourage self-build. More provision of suitable housing for the elderly is needed to allow them to downsize, releasing larger homes for families. Homes should be built in appropriate places and should include many more smaller starter properties, developers all want to build more profitable "executive" homes. Existing homes could be used more effectively, need incentives to encourage unoccupied homes to be brought back into use.

1. Build more Council houses but not on a right to buy scheme. There are too many examples locally and nationally of Council tenants using right to buy to sublet or become landlords, and there seem to be too many loopholes in the scheme allowing children who do not live at home to buy a family member's home. 2. Affordable housing: some of the recently built affordable family housing is too small e.g. the St Andrew Street housing where the outcome was more units than on the original plan. Also, the question of parking needs to be addressed. It seems that most recent housing projects are too cramped with properties too close together.i.e. Moorhayes. How did the planners give permission for these houses so close together, 3 storeys in some cases with no ease of access for furniture etc., narrow streets, hard to access parking areas. 3. Planning and enhancing the built environment: consult the people around those areas. Make sure new developments enhance the area. It's not just the buildings that the planners should look at - there needs to be some consideration as to how areas will be maintained - awkward pockets of grass or open land that the owners or tenants cannot maintain easily e.g. development by Becks Square with railings and grassed areas that already look scruffy. This is only one example in Tiverton but there are many others across the district. Other: homelessness - make us more aware of the problem on our doorstep and why someone finds themselves homeless and what is done to help them. Perhaps only look after people who are made homeless within this district. Of course, new Council housing will help with this but it's also retaining Council housing and not selling it off that will help too. Although it's stated that the No. 1 aim is to build more council houses within the next 5 years there's no start planned for 2016-2017 - is this within the Local Plan? Let us know what has happened in respect of developments from

which a developer has withdrawn with full facts and figures e.g. land at rear of Town Hall.

Aim 2 - "...including affordable and healthy housing" and "...built meet the needs of our population and are healthy by design". Priorities projects – (a) The homeless strategy and strategy for an ageing population should have public health and housing as the service area leads and (b) A further priority for 2016-17 is to develop a health and wellbeing policy approach to planning which will enable public health to comment on plans

Support the building of more council houses please consider passive housing to save energy costs

Ensure more affordable & social housing units are built so as to counter the fact that buy-to-let properties are becoming blight on recently completed new developments

There should be a focus on using the available (but unused) built environment for housing.

I hope affordable really is affordable and linked to local connection

Council houses should not be estates but pepper potting in appropriate developments. Having mixed estates raises standards, have the long term goal don't take the short term view to just tick a government target.

The proposal to build more Council Housing is commendable, and I hope that the Council will seek out more brown field sites for such housing.

The proposed number of houses is too many Devon's infrastructure will be detrimental to quality of life

It would be great if the MDDC could be more ambitious with Council Housing stock, as it is desperately needed across the whole country.

I do believe revamping run down houses to be used as an alternative to building is a good idea. I believe owners of rental properties should be made to make sure properties are liveable and if they don't follow this criteria their properties taken from them to give better quality homes so those living in them have a better quality of life.

The aspiration for housing seems worthy but rather bland without any detail of how it might be achieved. Is there going to be a delivery/resource plan to sit alongside the vision and if so, when will this be made publicly available?

Does Cullompton have the infrastructure to handle more housing?

Build more Council Houses and don't sell them off so they are there long term for those needing housing.

Build more Council houses and resist the press to sell them. Ensure developers provide a proportion of "affordable" homes so that those who aspire to own their own homes have a first step.

Things to consider when planning homes - Roads wide enough for fire engines etc., when cars are parked on both sides. Garages big enough for cars. Ample space for storing the myriads of recycling boxes no required to that they are not permanently on the street.

Does Mid Devon have the money for 250 new council homes?

I do not support selling council housing. Shared ownership would support so those who want to buy a property can use money from shared ownership can move on but not lose buildings for others in need

We should be seeking to protect our agricultural environment not building on it.

Affordable starter homes are very important to kick start the lower end of the market.

Council houses need to be built across the county particularly in rural areas where local people struggle to buy homes affordable or not!

Rather than spoiling our countryside build or improve existing sites e.g. market place in Taunton opposite Morrisons

This is a very urgent issue. Please ensure that council housing goes ahead as quickly as possible.

Cullompton does not need more homes until there are services to support them. We do not want to be a commuter town - listen to the people who pay your wages! We need more schools, shops, doctors, dentists ETC Get them sorted first.

We need fewer 4/5 executive type homes and far more starter/small family homes to allow our young people to remain in the area. small developments - of this types in villages are less likely to be objected to! these would also allow communications/school/shops etc. to be sustained

Every new house built = more concrete = less runaway for rain water etc.

Need more homes for families on lower wages

Its Ludacris Devon is becoming and will become a suburb of London

Yes get back to building rentable council homes for the young

The problem is most affordable homes are out of reach of many people

Business development needs to be balanced with homes to make employment locally.

In relation to new housing - to consider flood risks and act to improve the situation

Houses are outside most under 30's bracket low wages and lack of deposit

Try to find building sites away from green field agricultural sights if possible

Better control over owners renting and upgrading houses empty

Not happy to hear that the new houses by the railway are already being available right to buy. More affordable needed and then release council for those real need

Stop using the term affordable housing, anything is affordable if you have the money, low cost housing is a sensible term think very carefully where you agree for housing to be built on flood plains is not sensible

I feel that all empty flats above businesses in the town companies should be made to let them for the housing shortages

Affordable housing is a priority

Very important to build and/or adapt existing buildings into council homes but please do not sell them unless there can be some reconstruction put on sale that controls any future re sale to local first time buyers who buying the property for their own home and not to just let them disappear into the property market

No need to put thousands of homes on green field sites. We need to grow more food to feed existing people. Use brown field sites. More infrastructure needed before houses are built not after - take care not to build on flood risk areas.

There needs to be more quality affordable housing built so that the first time buyers have a chance

Very important to build and/or adapt existing buildings into council homes, but please do not sell them unless they can be some restriction put on the sale, that controls any future resale to local first time buyers who will be using the property for their own home and not just to let them disappear into the private rental market.

Look after what you already have don't build of flood plains, be aware of how new housing affects the country side, if built as affordable should stay that way.

Why build more Council houses when they are actually sold off at large discounts.

Genuine council houses by far the highest priority.

Council houses and affordable homes much the most important.

In ranking these I have put number 3 last because I do not understand what is meant by "planning and enhancing the built environment". If it what I think it might be there is limited scope for improvement anyway.

Ensure infrastructure is in place - school places - road networks - community policing - more supermarkets

The council has contributed greatly to the shortage of affordable housing by allowing small homes to be knocked into larger ones, or expanded, or both, so that they become mansions beyond the resources of first time buyers and are available only to the wealthy. My small rural community used to be composed of small, first-time buyer cottages, but almost all are gone now, thanks to MDDC granting planning permission to expand them into huge, expensive residences.

I am concerned about the right to buy proposals

Affordable homes for local young people are desperately needed.

Just build more Council Houses for rental

I think the most important thing is to build more social housing for rent, whether that's through housing growth or Council building.

I think building new homes in existing empty buildings is very important, not moving forever out into the countryside - wherever possible.

Appropriate development to match the existing environment

We seem to rely on private developers to build houses; this in turn means that most local people are unable to find suitable accommodation.

Affordable housing has to be 1 as the criterion is in terms of 'needs'.

The new homes target (and the Council's environmental aspirations) will require planning staff to be receptive to innovative development proposals rather than stay rooted in 'safe' 'same old' developments.

Planners seem to be blind as to style and taste of the area. More house in mixed styles instead of rows of bland rabbit hutches.

Ensure that homes (privately owned) which have been left vacant for a long time are encouraged/made to be made available for those who need accommodation.

If some of the appropriate empty places in Tiverton could be turned into affordable housing, surely this would be better than covering the countryside in new houses? Many spaces have been filled like this, which is excellent, and I think this should be looked at first before building on the green belt.

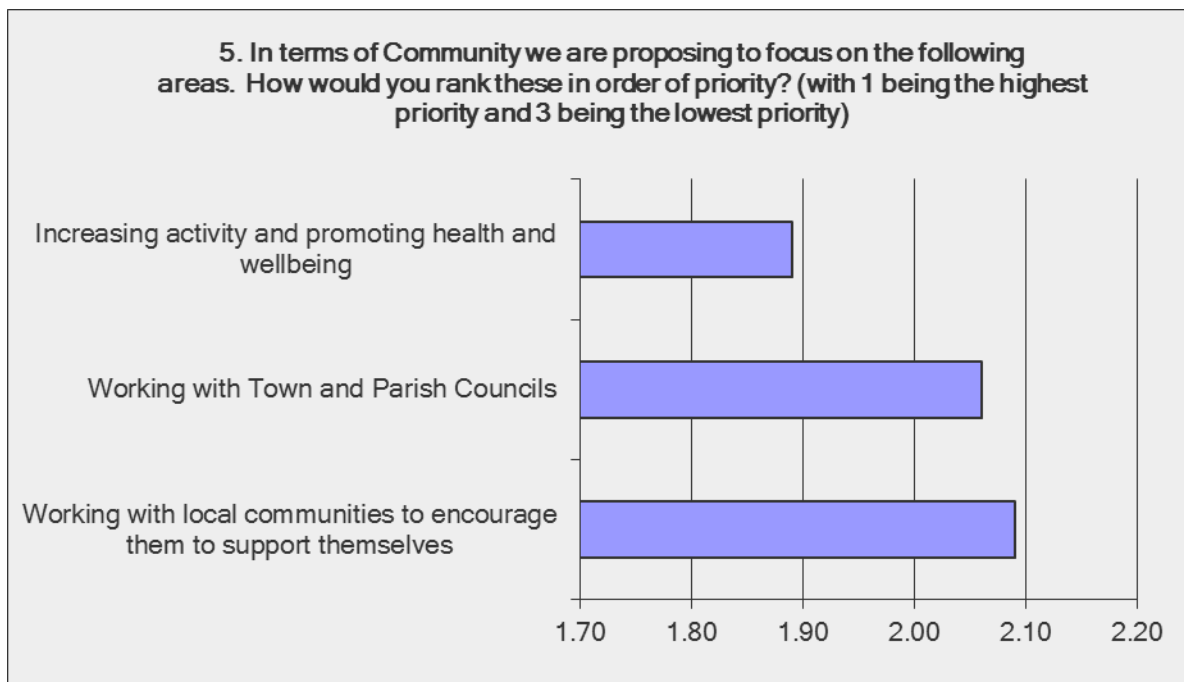
Homes that are affordable and aimed at the young people who live and work locally is a top priority.

Houses are out of reach for young families, give them council houses

Council Housing has to be the number one priority - including replacing all property which is sold to Tenants. Without affordable housing we cannot sustain the local economy.

How about doing more to stop buy to let landlords. Make buy to let landlords more accountable for problem tenants

Question 9 - In terms of community we are proposing to focus on the following areas. How would you rank these in order of priority (with 1 being the highest priority and 3 being the lowest priority).



A weighted average has been applied to the figures so that those considered by the public to be the highest priority show as the highest figures in the chart above and vice versa for the lowest priorities - therefore working with local communities to encourage them to support themselves is the highest priority for the public

In terms of Community we are proposing to focus on the following areas. How would you rank these in order of priority? (with 1 being the highest priority and 3 being the lowest priority)					
Answer Options	1	2	3	Rating Average	Response Count
Working with local communities to encourage them to support themselves	37	45	27	2.09	109
Working with Town and Parish Councils	37	44	30	2.06	111
Increasing activity and promoting health and wellbeing	40	21	53	1.89	114

Question 10 - Do you have any feedback or comments in terms of our proposals for community?

The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) is a national dataset of indicators with data available at the local/district level. It might be useful to select some of these indicators to monitor the success of the corporate plan.

Aim 1 - Need to define the term “health partners” as it’s a complex landscape with many health partners. The phrase “stronger voice” is unclear. Need to work to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities throughout the district.
 Aim 3 - Need to ensure that the Youth Games is “...working with school to encourage young people to participate in physical activity”. The Youth Games need to reduce health inequalities and be inclusive. “Work with partners such as the National Health Service on the public health agenda” is a very broad aim and needs to be more specific, both in terms of who in the NHS you want to work with and to achieve what goals? Other - “Help people access our services digitally”....whilst still providing alternative access for those not able to access/interact with technology. Additional point “Evaluation the effectiveness of our services including whether they are reducing health inequalities”. Additional point “Ensure that intervention are based on evidence of what works”. Additional point “Get public health value out of services that are already being delivered”. Priority projects for 2016-17 - Additional project “Develop a model for joint working with stakeholders, to improve health and wellbeing in Mid Devon”

Community could also include leisure activities to bring people together

Local communities and voluntary organisations need more financial support to keep them alive and thriving. Cutting funding to these organisations is bad because they give very good value for money.

It's imperative that MDDC works with town councils and parish councils as in most cases these people have a great knowledge of their areas. Also, it's important that MDDC works with groups like the Tiverton Portas Team whose aim is the improve and enhance the town. From what I've seen most local communities do a lot to support themselves and to enhance their local areas. As far as increasing activity and promoting health and wellbeing are concerned: apart from providing grounds and premises for activities and making them affordable, I'm not sure how MDDC can do more. What is the purpose of the £500 per member local budget? Let people know what is proposed for the Tiverton Town Hall building, and any other building

within the district which it is rumoured might be sold by MDDC. Faster broadband is needed in some areas of the District. Put pressure on the Government for this.

Promote growth and improvement of facilities for sport and leisure in the district - leave other aspects of health and wellbeing to NHS and DCC

It is crucial that you support local community groups especially in rural areas

It is increasingly important that town and parish councils become more professional and accountable for the decisions they make and the things that do. I have concerns that there is a massive gap in professionalism at these levels when compared to district council levels and as tasks and funding is more likely to be allocated locally, this has to change.

Any activity that gets young people moving should be supported as much as possible. Groups that use MDDC facilities to get young people moving should be heavily subsidised and supported. i.e. Tiverton Swimming Club

Whilst the Council can try and increase activity, there is a limit to how much it can make people active and less sedentary. Certainly it needs to work much more closely with Town & Parish Councils to deliver more joined up services and cohesive strategy. There is at present no forum for doing this though - surely the first thing has to be an end to the secretive 'Cabinet' and open discussions with Town & Parish Councils with input from other stakeholder organisations and the broader community. At present MDDC is almost entirely cut off from the community.

Safe cycle & running paths. Good playing field facilities - can't Blundell's be used in the long holidays. The first two are inter linked

We need to think more in the future before we act. What is the point of a swimming pool that you can't dive into from the side? The term working should be defined as it covers a multitude of sins and can be used to brush over problems when required.

I understand that over 80% of people in mid Devon are designated as living in rural areas. Solutions must take this into considerable when all matters are considered - this contrasts with so many councils which are largely urban. Solutions are strikingly different (sorry for the repetition)

Again, I see no projects which are aimed at bringing into actuality those areas mentioned above. How about sorting out superfast Broadband, or even just normally fast Broadband, in rural areas? That helps sustain communities and keep people working at home in the District.

Cutting back in sporting activities short sighted. If facilities are not supported and become too expensive or poorly maintained so cannot be used a backward step. Many volunteers already undertaking many tasks and no more hours left.

All the proposals are aimed at devolving responsibilities to others, not providing services. I cannot rank any of these tasks as priorities.

Not sure what the council is trying to achieve.

Town & Parish councils are far more aware of the local community needs MDDC should listen to these people unlike now! I don't understand your priority project 10/17 Trial a locality budget of £500 per member (who is this member??) Where is the money coming from?

Most communities value their amenities (shop, post office etc.) and often need minimal (but some) support to maintain them. Once lost they are unlikely to reappear

Let local parish people who have their finger on the pulse make the local decisions

I Feel town councils should be much more active. e.g. produce more information and more control over parish councils

Health and well being achieved by having local employment for local people

I think promoting sport and leisure and supporting these financially is very important. What about arts? Also very important for well being as local economy. Keep local hospitals - pressure NHS to reopen Crediton hospital - I know an elderly lady visiting husband in Tiverton hospital takes 3 buses all day trip and exhausting.

Would be good if country areas were listened to more as we do exist and contribute to Council Tax. Pay your wages

All three of those look like jolly good ways of paying fat salaries to civil servants without actually making any useful contribution to the MDDC community. I don't suppose promoting health and well-being will involve enforcing the Environmental Health Act against my neighbour (a senior civil servant) with regard to his stinking septic drainage which overflows sewage into the nearby stream in which children play. I would like to be able to let healthy fresh air into my house, but that would let in the foul miasma that routinely hangs over my property and which I and other people have to breathe in if we go outside.

Actually listen to the Town Council! E.g. the extension to Swallow Way in Cullompton has been a disaster for the town. The Town Council wanted there to be a fast flowing wide road that would relieve traffic in the town centre. Instead the new Kingfisher reach development is a liability. The bin lorries struggle to get through - it is only a matter of time before an ambulance can't pass through and this is directly a result of MDDC not listening.

I think there is already a huge amount of information and help regarding health and wellbeing, but if people don't want to make the effort I can't see how they can be made to take part.

As long as local communities are kept well informed and things aren't done behind closed doors, you'll find the support of the community will be easier.

Increased awareness of health and well-being should be a priority.

Increasing activity is all very well but lots of people can't afford to pay vast amounts of money to do this or to travel to do activities.

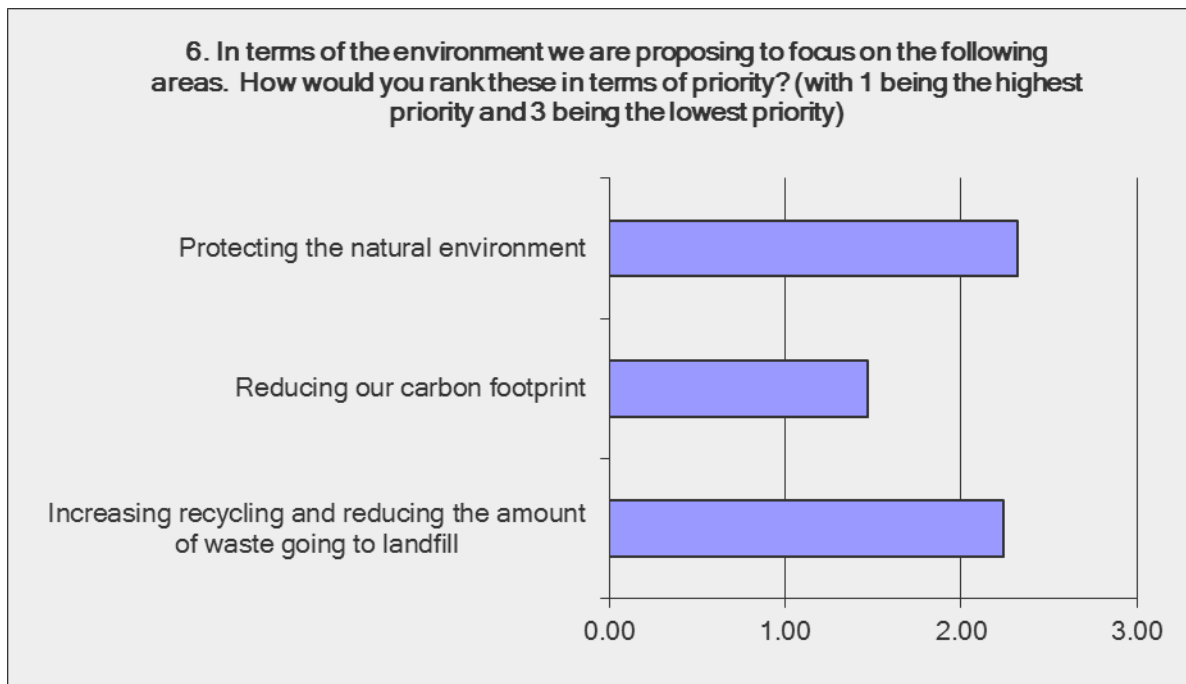
Footpaths, cycle/running paths, outdoor fitness equipment to encourage activity.

Encouraging communities to support themselves, just means stop giving them money so they have to raise it through charity. Charity has become another tax on people, as without charity, communities would not function. Just look at the number of food banks in our country. Communities already do a lot for themselves, especially villages that do their own festivals, carnivals, toddler groups, youth groups, childrens activities, sports training and events. All this is run by volunteers and charities. I really don't think asking communities to do more, whilst taking away any support is helpful. Especially as parents are having to work longer hours to ensure they can pay the mortgage etc. Where are these people going to come from?

In order to work with Town & Parish Councils and local communities you have to talk to them! Currently MDDC simply don't do this.

Please learn to listen more to what local councils say, and take note and act accordingly

Question 11 - In terms of environment we are proposing to focus on the following areas. How would you rank these in order of priority (with 1 being the highest priority and 3 being the lowest priority).



A weighted average has been applied to the figures so that those considered by the public to be the highest priority show as the highest figures in the chart above and vice versa for the lowest priorities - therefore protecting the natural environment is the highest priority for the public

In terms of the environment we are proposing to focus on the following areas. How would you rank these in terms of priority? (with 1 being the highest priority and 3 being the lowest priority)					
Answer Options	1	2	3	Rating Average	Response Count
Increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste going to landfill	44	53	17	2.24	114
Reducing our carbon footprint	18	16	76	1.47	110
Protecting the natural environment	56	42	19	2.32	117

Question 12 - Do you have any feedback or comments in terms of our proposals for the environment?

Priority projects 2016/17 - Additional point: Use schools and educational institutes as settings for priority projects in 2016/17, Additional point: Promote sustainability within the NHS in Mid Devon

Objectives may conflict with desire to build more and more houses.

1. Protecting the natural environment: making sure that any new buildings take into account the local environment and leave some open land that can be enjoyed by local wildlife. Also, make sure that houses built in flood plains are built properly and that any older properties that are experiencing problems because of close by new builds, or any water and sewerage, are fully addressed. 2. Reducing carbon footprint: make sure MDDC is using the most efficient and closest contractors for all its services e.g. refuse disposal and waste treatment etc. 3. Recycling etc: I don't know how recycling can be increased unless all areas within MDDC are brought into line and every household is adhering to the rules. Also, there needs to be more forethought about collection boxes - the right size, lids for all. I've read on the Council site that there's a proposal to reduce the cost of collection of offensive waste. Surely if there is no separate collection for this then it will be put in the landfill collection and this would be a health hazard for handlers. It seems that at present there's no intention to withdraw the clinical waste collection. I use this service (Type 1 insulin dependent diabetic) for collection of needles that I use for my insulin pens. I use 4 needles per day and probably have a collection every 3 months. Is there any plan to charge for this service? If so, I would be very afraid that some people would try to dispose of their needles and sharps in some other way.

Be more proactive on encouraging households to sort their waste in a responsible manner. Where necessary, take enforcement action

I believe recycling to be something of a distraction, not least because it's not clear how truly sustainable the whole cycle is, (and few working within it locally seem to be aware of it in its entirety, i.e. where items actually end up). Climate change should be named and centre stage; it's good that 'carbon footprint' is up there.

The environment bit talks about the natural environment but then goes on to discuss heritage issues - either the title needs to be tweaked to include heritage or the heritage bits need to move elsewhere. I would love to see the historic environment mentioned in the regeneration of the town centres element of economy, as it is very pertinent to those town's ongoing development and character.

Don't understand why you have set a target of getting 10,000 customers to sign up to pay for garden waste collection. Surely it is better to encourage them to compost their own garden waste. Recycling for charities such as village halls should be encouraged and free as they are used by the community who can take it home and recycle for free so why not just make it easier as people are lazy.

More joined up thinking and discussion with Town, Parish & County is needed to improve and protect the environment in general and reduce the carbon footprint. The way in which MDDC made recent changes to its recycling was a model of how not to go about things in the future.

Hope under environment it will include cleaner streets

On Environment, I would like to see more care in keeping our mid Devon area litter free i.e. streets, link road + motorway, of hate this is not inviting for visitors to our area

Protect areas around Railway footpath & canal. They are the main leisure areas for Tiverton. Good green areas for any planning applications.

Considering our children's & grandchildren's future all three are these are so, so important.

We should pick up cut grass and compost it centrally for re sale. The present system first encourages weed/dandelions growth. The clumps of grass left are not mulch.

Your only projects are about recycling, which has already been improved greatly recently. How about projects to reduce carbon footprint?

I support recycling but introducing schemes quickly when facilities not ready for changes is short-sighted. Also some frail elderly people need more help with the changes. Also collection times need to take more account of access difficulties.

The 3 suggested "priorities" are not really alternatives. They are equally important approaches to the same problem, the unsustainable level of population grown in an overcrowded environment.

This was difficult for me to order as we need to protect the environment as a priority but also improve our recycling - the council is doing a great job with improving the recycling but individuals in the community need to be PUSHED. I still know people who do not recycle at all! With all their waste going to landfill

Stop building on green land. Refurbish and regenerate existing buildings and "brown" sites. Protect and properly manage the natural environment.

Plastic recycling was a great addition and long overdue. Recycling centres are well run, with helpful staff. We do need to look at the charges for ordinary folk to dispose of small scale rubble/concrete etc. very unpopular and encourage people to fly-tip

You don't mention reducing traffic fumes and pollution

All equally important sustaining public transport fits into this.

I wouldn't like to see many more of our green fields covered in hundreds of houses. I think people come to Devon to enjoy our countryside and get away from all the towns and traffic in other places.

Better recycling and a lower carbon footprint

Reducing the "carbon footprint" is a nonsense. Over millennium there have been times when the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere has been much greater than nowadays.

(Ranked all three as priority 1) All three of those items go together

Again protect environment from over building. Stronger penalties for people too lazy to use recycling schemes already in place - well done on new recycling scheme- but still some people putting everything in black sacks

All are equally important however more renewable energy should be made available

Whilst I agree with considering the environment I feel I am doing the council work for them by having to spend considerable time sorting/separating waste. ! Black tub is not enough. There is only 2 of us.

It is all very well trying to recycle as much as possible but we do not want a "police" state where bags are opened to make sure there is no items in the bag that should be elsewhere.

When MDDC do anything to protect the environment I will expect to see little pink pigs flying past. Presumably reducing your carbon footprint means reducing services without reducing the amount we pay for them, e.g. the reduced collection of garbage. Increasing recycling appears to involve spending huge amounts of money on expensive plastic containers, which rather defeats the whole idea.

Recycling must be encouraged by making it easier for people to understand the various categories of waste.

The Council has done great work in increasing recycling, so maybe now is a good time for a slight shift in priorities.

I think our recycling system is excellent, a shame many people can't be bothered to use it properly.

These three items are not mutually exclusive. If you recycle more you automatically do the others. Hence it cannot be answered.

I think that the recycling in Devon is outdated and not effective, proper bins and realistic collection. Look at anywhere in Germany for decent recycling management.

Do not build on our farmland/open green places.

I think recycling is very important but bringing in a charge for garden waste seems counterproductive as I think it will encourage fly-tipping.

All three are important

Ensure the recycling is easy for households

In reality all of these are of equal priority - MDDC needs to take a lead in working with communities to develop ideas and facilitate schemes.

The recycling is beyond a joke already. The idea of the food waste caddy is going to be repellent by summer. It is already mouldy and horrible and that is in winter. God knows what it will be like in summer. we will not be using the food caddy through the summer due to maggots, flies, rats and more. it has got to the point where sometimes we are so tired of trying to work out which goes where and when it is supposed to be left out that we are filling the grey bin more as it is so confusing and things get left on the roadside so it is easier and simpler to bin it.

It would be useful to establish a universal standard, rather than having different rules and requirements for each area. We now recycle less in Cheriton Fitzpaine than previously - e.g. the ashes from our woodburner now have to go to landfill, rather than recycling.

Weekly collections for all

Elderly people especially those with dementia have problems with recycling. Please do not fine or punish this sector until you are sure if they are capable

MDDC can reduce its carbon footprint immediately by turning off unnecessary lights in phoenix house. Many evenings all year round the lights are blazing all night!
Recycling is a farce - you employ enough people to sort it yourselves. Instead of

asking us the tax payers to do the job for you. Some very elderly people I know are not sure of what goes where and are frightened of getting it wrong. This is wrong!

Household recycling not well thought out. Many homes do not have room for so many boxes. Separating waste could be done centrally at recycling hubs giving employment without great loss of revenue. Despite assurances to the contrary the topless cardboard recycling box is not emptied thoroughly when contents are rain affected.

Question 13 - Do you have any further comments you would like to add?

The plan itself is good and it is really positive that the Leisure Centres are included and health and well-being initiatives such as cycle paths and trim trails. The challenge is around effective delivery especially with increasing financial cuts - the general trend is that the more councils offer or find themselves having to do, the more they are expected to do with decreasing resource

Our District Council must be transparent in all its plans and proposals. It would be good to see a regular update on the plan in Mid Devon Talk, the website and in local media, on how the Corporate Plan progresses and when each project has been completed and whether or not it comes out on budget.

I have concerns regarding MDDC's staffing levels (professionals) to be able to deliver without undue reliance on external consultants.

Mid Devon has a lot to be proud of and this should be built on. If you want to encourage more footfall in the towns make a carpark free for the first hour, and stop overnight charging.

Whilst all these aims are laudable and I'm sure will be universally welcomed, it remains to be seen if MDDC in its current secretive and adversarial format will be able to deliver on much of it, particularly given the further cuts in funding from Central Government. The Council needs to work hard on increasing other revenue streams to try and make up some of that shortfall, or it will find delivery of these objectives almost impossible.

This is a 4 year plan but the effects will be for much longer. So any decisions need to be with a long term goal. We don't want to regret things later.

Yes, some of it is rather vague, and it is unclear as to how the Council will fund their proposals under the cuts in funding which are coming from central government. It's also unclear how the Council is going to engage with the Community effectively on its proposals.

I understand that 80% of the mid Devon population but very few corporate plan suggestions address. Their specific needs e.g. promotions to protect local schools, help adolescents, or the rural elderly.

Please re open or create public toilets. Visitors cannot believe this situation.

What are your proposals? If it includes closing office in Crediton definitely no. There is no way people can get to Tiverton also this office is very helpful - where phone enquiries to Tiverton are not.

The plan makes no provision for meeting existing commitments to the present population. It's all about unwelcome and inappropriate expansion.

The idea of the plan is good. It will be interesting to see whether any actions happen, as a result of this questionnaire.

Stop focusing on Tiverton & give more to Cullompton & Crediton. We all pay Council Tax. Allocate the money more fairly, that we pay for. Stop giving all of your staff perks (Free Car parking, new furniture etc.) and give back to the community.

I don't want you to take the tree down in St Georges View Cullompton

As far as I am aware councillors are paid a considerable amount of money for attending meetings etc. Should they not be given expenses and give their time for the benefit of the community which always was the case years ago and that would be a saving

As I am not privy to the Corporate Plan I cannot comment, except to assume that it will result the usual generous salaries and pensions for officers, and reduced services for those of us who pay through the nose for what we don't actually want or get.

Typically MDDC don't take very much notice of local town councils. It is the local town councils that know what is actually best for the communities.

It is not evident how the delivery of the vision will be monitored and reported and what steps will be taken (or additional resources allocated) if the listed priorities are not being achieved within the stated timescales.

Is sufficient attention given to Crediton and surrounding area?

Would be possible to extend the railway footpath to the section to encourage cyclists & less parking.

Mid Devon and The Exe Valley is a beautiful part of the world the Council & residents must strive to conserve it.

1 Protect Develop public paths 2 Professional support for local community activities (e.g. self-help) 3 Protect transportation especially for the elderly. 4 In general our local gps in the district are outstanding, but they are different from urban NHS practices. These differences must be recognized and protected.

As a Vision this is good, but as a plan to carry it out it lacks content.

I favour better services even if we have to pay more. However Mid Devon Services too centred on Tiverton which is not accessible to most places in Mid Devon. I believe in consultation but if plans already decided then it becomes a waste of money.

I almost always find documents such as this have no value in the real world. The Council should concentrate on meeting its existing responsibilities across the board before looking to spend money on new projects that will add to not resolve existing shortcomings.

Fields of solar panels are hideous. Why are new houses not automatically built with solar panels installed

Make more use of water - river and canal frontage. Use up stock of empty building sites

Send e-mails to mid Devon regarding missed waste grass verge cutting - no reply

I am very disappointed when reading of planning decisions in the local news that request by farmers on others in outlying area for wind turbines to make electricity for their own business are usually turned down. Very very short-sighted in my views also why is it easier to get permission to put solar panels on agricultural land? They take the land out of production for food. Cattle can graze and tractor can work around wind turbines only some poultry and some sheep could be grazed under solar panels and how do we top the weeds with solar panels

On going reduction of public car parking space which I have to use because of on street restrictions, closure of public toilets causing inconvenience to visitors in the town.

It appears to me that MDDC is attempting to turn itself into a purely administrative body designed to support the existing excess of civil servants, with reduced services for those paying the bills. In this it is rather like the major charities, where 80% or more of income goes on fat salaries and luxury offices, and very little actually goes to the cause itself.

The credibility and deliverability of the Vision will only be able to be properly assessed when it is accompanied by a Resource Plan

I know we have a lot of roads in Devon but they are in terrible condition, with a lot of wasted time and money on resurfacing that does not seem to work.

We need to support existing environmental qualities as well as providing more. Some people in Tiverton have been affected by flooding periodically for the last 6 years and even though some work has been done they are still being impacted. The quality of the local road complex is appalling.

The objectives are admirable - but there is no detail as to how they will be achieved. With the secretive Cabinet system we never know about anything in advance, and MDDC never speaks to anyone about its ideas, or works with anyone to generate new ones!

It sometimes feels like rules and values are being imposed on us, designed from the point of view of the council, rather than the people. It would be useful if you would think through the changes from a user's point of view as well. I guess these surveys are a positive step in that direction and commend you for them.