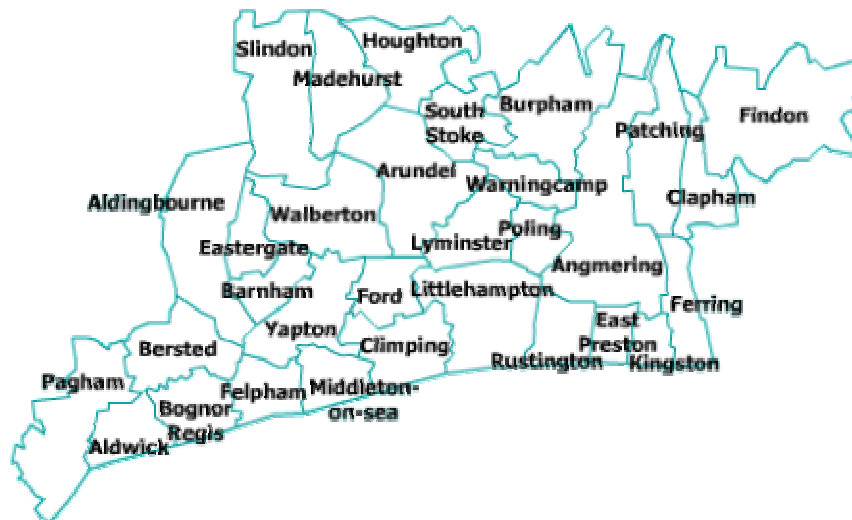




Survey results: The role of local government (for the Lyons Inquiry)

April 2006



INCLUDING:

- Arun District Council's results

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The questions were developed to provide Arun's input into the Lyons Inquiry on the role of local government. Chichester District Council ran the same¹ questions with their residents. A report comparing the results of the two surveys is available separately.
- 1.2 1,500 questionnaires were sent to a random sample of Arun's Wavelength Residents' Panel members, 573² responses were received, representing a 38.2% response rate. The Wavelength Panel is seen as being representative of Arun's residents; hence the terms 'panel member' and 'resident' are used interchangeably throughout the report.
- 1.3 Fieldwork, data inputting and verification were carried out by independent market research company QA Research Ltd. Analysis was carried out by Arun's Policy and Research Team.
- 1.4 For this report, in addition to age and gender, responses are analysed by which part of the district respondents live. The three areas used for this analysis are:

'Western area'	= Bognor Regis and surrounding area.
'Eastern area'	= Littlehampton and surrounding area.
'Downland area'	= Arundel, Barnham, Findon, Walberton, Yapton and surrounding areas.

¹ The exception being that Chichester asked respondents to 'select up to two options' for questions 11 and 12, thus invalidating any comparison with our findings for these questions.

² Representing a confidence interval +/-4.1% at the 95% confidence level.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Table A illustrates that the District Council is perceived by more respondents to be currently mainly responsible for being the: community and democratic leader; regulator; tax collector; commissioner of public services; and provider of public services. The County Council is perceived by more respondents to be currently mainly responsible for being the: strategic leader; scrutineer of services; and in charge of the economic and physical development of the area.

TABLE A

Which level of local government do you feel is CURRENTLY mainly responsible for the following roles? (shaded box = highest % of respondents)						
[PERCENTAGES]	County Council	District Council	New level replacing County & District	Town or Parish Council	None of these	Don't know / depends
Community and democratic leader	31%	35%	n/a	19%	2%	14%
Strategic leader	45%	32%	n/a	8%	2%	14%
Regulator	42%	44%	n/a	6%	2%	7%
Tax collector	34%	55%	n/a	4%	1%	6%
Commissioner of public services	35%	44%	n/a	7%	1%	13%
Provider of public services	27%	47%	n/a	16%	2%	10%
Scrutineer of services	48%	22%	n/a	8%	7%	16%
In charge of the economic and physical development of the area	42%	35%	n/a	10%	2%	11%

- 2.2 Table B shows that more respondents feel that the County Council should be mainly responsible as a regulator, whilst more respondents feel that the District Council rather than the County Council should be mainly responsible for the economic and physical development of the area.

TABLE B

Which level of local government do you feel SHOULD BE mainly responsible for the following roles? (shaded box = highest % of respondents)						
[PERCENTAGES]	County Council	District Council	New level replacing County & District	Town or Parish Council	None of these	Don't know / depends
Community and democratic leader	23%	36%	12%	20%	1%	9%
Strategic leader	33%	31%	15%	9%	2%	10%
Regulator	33%	31%	17%	8%	2%	9%
Tax collector	29%	42%	13%	7%	3%	6%
Commissioner of public services	27%	36%	15%	13%	1%	7%
Provider of public services	20%	45%	12%	16%	1%	6%
Scrutineer of services	29%	27%	18%	12%	5%	9%
In charge of the economic and physical development of the area	28%	34%	15%	16%	1%	7%

- 2.3 Depending on the role, only between 12% and 18% of respondents felt that 'a new level replacing County and District' should be mainly responsible for these roles (see table B).
- 2.4 Table C shows the percentage switching. It highlights some switching away from County (especially for 2, 7, and 8) and District (especially for 3, and 4) towards 'a new level' and, to a lesser degree, to Town or Parish Council.

TABLE C

Percentage switching. Which level of local government SHOULD BE mainly responsible (less) is CURRENTLY mainly responsible for the following roles.						
[PERCENTAGES]	County Council	District Council	New level replacing County & District	Town or Parish Council	None of these	Don't know / depends
1. Community and democratic leader	-8%	+1%	+12%	+1%	-1%	-5%
2. Strategic leader	-12%	-1%	+15%	+2%	-1%	-4%
3. Regulator	-9%	-13%	+17%	+2%	+1%	+2%
4. Tax collector	-5%	-13%	+13%	+2%	+2%	+1%
5. Commissioner of public services	-8%	-7%	+15%	+6%	+1%	-6%
6. Provider of public services	-7%	-2%	+12%	+1%	-1%	-4%
7. Scrutineer of services	-19%	+6%	+18%	+5%	-2%	-7%
8. In charge of the economic and physical development of the area	-15%	-2%	+15%	+6%	-2%	-4%

- 2.5 When asked whether there is anything else that should be the responsibility of local government, 66% didn't feel that there was anything else.
- 2.6 On being asked who should be responsible for the monitoring standards and performance of local government services, 60% think 'the public' should share in the responsibility (27% thought it should be solely the role of the public.) 'Central government' and 'local government' were joint second, each with 40% mentioning them.
- 2.7 When asked to choose between the two statements (1) "Local government should have greater freedom to set local priorities in consultation with its stakeholders" or (2) "Central government should provide local authorities with a range of options from which to decide local priorities"; 75% opted in favour of the local government statement.
- 2.8 There was no one preferred method of financing local government. The two most popular methods were 'council tax based on the number of people living in the house' (25%) and 'local income tax' (23%). A combination of methods ranked third (17%). Retaining the current system of council tax was the preferred choice of just 12%. Not surprisingly, the analyses tend to confirm that people will choose the method that will minimise the amount of tax that they will be asked to pay.

3. MAIN FINDINGS

3.1.1 We began by asking which level of local government residents think IS CURRENTLY mainly responsible for a range of eight roles, and which level they feel SHOULD BE responsible for these roles.³

These eight roles were taken directly from the Local Government Association leaflet 'Lyons Inquiry - the role of local government'⁴.

Respondents were given the opportunity to select 'a new level (of local government) replacing county and district' when providing their views on which level they feel SHOULD BE mainly responsible for these roles.

It is important to appreciate that all of these roles (apart from 'tax collector', which is a District Council role) can be performed to some degree by more than one level of local government - the purpose of the questions was to ask residents which level they perceive to be currently mainly responsible and which level they feel should be responsible.

3.1.2 The first role panellists were asked to give their view on is '**Community and democratic leader: (i.e. "representative, advocate, champion and accountable body")**'. Table 1 compares views on who they think is currently mainly responsible and who they think should be mainly responsible, and then the percentage difference between their perception and expectation.

TABLE 1

Q11a. Community and democratic leader (CURRENTLY)										
[PERCENTAGES] ⁵	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	538	88	224	226	252	286	25	81	163	269
County Council	30.9%	29.5%	30.8%	31.4%	27.8%	33.6%	12.0%	33.3%	33.7%	30.1%
District Council	34.8%	36.4%	37.1%	31.9%	36.9%	32.9%	32.0%	28.4%	34.4%	37.2%
A new level*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town/Parish Council	19.0%	17.0%	17.9%	20.8%	20.2%	17.8%	20.0%	24.7%	14.1%	20.1%
None of these	1.7%	4.5%	1.3%	0.9%	2.4%	1.0%	8.0%	0.0%	2.5%	1.1%
Don't know/depends	13.8%	12.5%	12.9%	15.0%	12.7%	14.7%	28.0%	13.6%	15.3%	11.5%

* A new level replacing County and District

³ Respondents to the Chichester District Council survey were asked to select up to two options for each responsibility, hence the results are not comparable with the Wavelength survey.

⁴ Local Government Association leaflet F/412, dated December 2005.

⁵ % of responses not respondents ('no answer/void' excluded, hence bases less than 573).

TABLE 1 (continued)

Q12a. Community and democratic leader (SHOULD BE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	536	87	220	229	254	282	26	81	162	267
County Council	22.6%	21.8%	19.1%	26.2%	24.0%	21.3%	19.2%	25.9%	23.5%	21.3%
District Council	36.0%	43.7%	37.3%	31.9%	35.0%	36.9%	23.1%	27.2%	38.3%	38.6%
A new level*	11.8%	11.5%	12.7%	10.9%	13.0%	10.6%	15.4%	13.6%	9.9%	12.0%
Town/Parish Council	20.1%	14.9%	20.0%	22.3%	19.7%	20.6%	15.4%	19.8%	21.0%	20.2%
None of these	0.9%	3.4%	0.9%	0.0%	0.4%	1.4%	3.8%	0.0%	0.6%	1.1%
Don't know/depends	8.6%	4.6%	10.0%	8.7%	7.9%	9.2%	23.1%	13.6%	6.8%	6.7%
Community and democratic leader (DIFFERENCE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
County Council	-8.3%	-7.7%	-11.7%	-5.2%	-3.8%	-12.3%	7.2%	-7.4%	-10.2%	-8.8%
District Council	1.2%	7.3%	0.2%	0.0%	-1.9%	4.0%	-8.9%	-1.2%	3.9%	1.4%
A new level*	11.8%	11.5%	12.7%	10.9%	13.0%	10.6%	15.4%	13.6%	9.9%	12.0%
Town/Parish Council	1.1%	-2.1%	2.1%	1.5%	-0.5%	2.8%	-4.6%	-4.9%	6.9%	0.1%
None of these	-0.8%	-1.1%	-0.4%	-0.9%	-2.0%	0.4%	-4.2%	0.0%	-1.9%	0.0%
Don't know/depends	-5.2%	-7.9%	-2.9%	-6.3%	-4.8%	-5.5%	-4.9%	0.0%	-8.5%	-4.8%

* A new level replacing County and District

3.1.3 Just over a third (34.8%) think that it's mainly the District Council that performs the role of 'community and democratic leader', whilst just under a third (30.9%) think it is the County Council. One in five (19.0%) consider it is their Town/Parish Council. When answering which level should be responsible, the proportions rise slightly for both District (36.0%) and Town/Parish (20.1%) but drops for County to 22.6%, only just higher than their Town/Parish Council. 'A new level' was chosen by almost one in eight respondents (11.8%).

Given that the County Council showed the greatest drop, one might assume that the majority of those choosing 'a new level' currently think that this role is the responsibility of the County Council. In fact this is not the case - of the 64 respondents selecting 'a new level', 28 think it is currently the responsibility of the District Council, 16 the Town/Parish Council, and 15 the County Council.

3.1.4 **By area:** Downland area respondents are more likely to feel the District Council should be responsible and are less likely to feel that their Town/Parish Council should be responsible.

3.1.5 **By gender:** Whilst one in three female respondents think it is currently mainly the County Council's responsibility, only one in five think that it should remain so. This is a 12.3 percentage point drop compared with just 3.8 percentage points for males.

3.1.6 **By age:** A higher than average percentage of 18 - 30 year olds selected 'Don't know/depends' both for 'currently' and 'should be', suggesting a lower level of awareness of among younger residents.

(Warning: low base - only 25 respondents⁶). For this age group, only one in eight thinks that the County Council is currently mainly responsible, well behind the District Council and their Town/Parish Council.

3.2.1 The second role is '**Strategic leader: (i.e. "setting vision, leading partners, finder of solutions and linker across agencies")**'. See Table 2 below.

TABLE 2

Q11b. Strategic leader (CURRENTLY)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	531	88	222	221	248	283	25	81	163	262
County Council	44.8%	50.0%	44.6%	43.0%	47.6%	42.4%	48.0%	40.7%	48.5%	43.5%
District Council	31.5%	29.5%	32.9%	30.8%	28.6%	33.9%	12.0%	37.0%	27.6%	34.0%
A new level*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town/Parish Council	7.7%	5.7%	7.2%	9.0%	8.1%	7.4%	8.0%	6.2%	6.1%	9.2%
None of these	2.3%	4.5%	2.3%	1.4%	2.8%	1.8%	4.0%	2.5%	3.1%	1.5%
Don't know/depends	13.7%	10.2%	13.1%	15.8%	12.9%	14.5%	28.0%	13.6%	14.7%	11.8%
Q12b. Strategic leader (SHOULD BE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	533	87	218	228	253	280	26	80	162	265
County Council	33.2%	34.5%	33.0%	32.9%	36.8%	30.0%	42.3%	27.5%	32.7%	34.3%
District Council	30.8%	31.0%	29.4%	32.0%	27.3%	33.9%	7.7%	28.8%	32.7%	32.5%
A new level*	15.4%	17.2%	15.6%	14.5%	16.6%	14.3%	15.4%	18.8%	17.3%	13.2%
Town/Parish Council	9.4%	6.9%	10.1%	9.6%	9.9%	8.9%	3.8%	10.0%	9.3%	9.8%
None of these	1.5%	4.6%	1.4%	0.4%	1.2%	1.8%	3.8%	2.5%	0.6%	1.5%
Don't know/depends	9.8%	5.7%	10.6%	10.5%	8.3%	11.1%	26.9%	12.5%	7.4%	8.7%
Strategic leader (DIFFERENCE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
County Council	-11.6%	-15.5%	-11.6%	-10.1%	-10.8%	-12.4%	-5.7%	-13.2%	-15.8%	-9.2%
District Council	-0.7%	1.5%	-3.5%	1.2%	-1.3%	0.0%	-4.3%	-8.2%	5.1%	-1.5%
A new level*	15.4%	17.2%	15.6%	14.5%	16.6%	14.3%	15.4%	18.8%	17.3%	13.2%
Town/Parish Council	1.7%	1.2%	2.9%	0.6%	1.8%	1.5%	-4.2%	3.8%	3.2%	0.6%
None of these	-0.8%	0.1%	-0.9%	-1.0%	-1.6%	0.0%	-0.2%	0.0%	-2.5%	0.0%
Don't know/depends	-3.9%	-4.5%	-2.5%	-5.3%	-4.6%	-3.4%	-1.1%	-1.1%	-7.3%	-3.1%

* A new level replacing County and District

3.2.2 Just under 45% feel that the County Council is mainly responsible, whilst under a third (31.5%) think it is the District Council. Fewer than one in twelve (7.7%) consider it is their Town/Parish Council. When looking at which level should be responsible, the proportion rises slightly for Town/Parish Council (to 9.4%) but drops slightly for District (30.8%) and drops to one in three (33.2%) for County. 'A new level'

⁶ We experience difficulty attracting younger residents to the panel, and once on the panel their survey response rate tends to be lower (around 10% for this survey).

was chosen by nearly one in six (15.4%) of respondents.

3.2.3 **By area:** Downland residents are more likely to think it is County and less likely to consider it is their Town/Parish Council.

3.2.4 **By gender:** Males are slightly more likely to view it as County role and slightly less likely to view it as a District role than females are.

3.2.5 **By age:** Again, a higher than average percentage of 18 - 30 year olds selected 'Don't know/depends' both for 'currently' and 'should be'. (Warning: low base - 25 respondents). Younger respondents are less likely to choose the District Council as the level that should be responsible.

3.3.1 The third role is '**Regulator: (i.e. "licensing, environmental health, planning, trading standards")**'. See Table 3 below.

TABLE 3

Q11c. Regulator (CURRENTLY)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	531	88	221	222	252	279	25	79	164	263
County Council	41.6%	42.0%	42.1%	41.0%	38.1%	44.8%	44.0%	53.2%	42.7%	37.3%
District Council	44.4%	47.7%	43.0%	44.6%	46.4%	42.7%	44.0%	31.6%	45.1%	47.9%
A new level*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town/Parish Council	5.8%	1.1%	6.3%	7.2%	6.3%	5.4%	0.0%	3.8%	6.1%	6.8%
None of these	1.5%	4.5%	1.4%	0.5%	2.8%	0.4%	0.0%	1.3%	1.2%	1.9%
Don't know/depends	6.6%	4.5%	7.2%	6.8%	6.3%	6.8%	12.0%	10.1%	4.9%	6.1%
Q12c. Regulator (SHOULD BE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	534	88	219	227	255	279	26	82	160	266
County Council	33.1%	38.6%	30.6%	33.5%	38.0%	28.7%	42.3%	34.1%	31.9%	32.7%
District Council	31.3%	35.2%	31.5%	29.5%	27.8%	34.4%	11.5%	28.0%	35.6%	31.6%
A new level*	16.5%	11.4%	18.7%	16.3%	16.5%	16.5%	15.4%	18.3%	16.9%	15.8%
Town/Parish Council	7.9%	2.3%	8.2%	9.7%	9.0%	6.8%	0.0%	4.9%	8.1%	9.4%
None of these	2.2%	5.7%	0.9%	2.2%	2.7%	1.8%	3.8%	2.4%	1.3%	2.6%
Don't know/depends	9.0%	6.8%	10.0%	8.8%	5.9%	11.8%	26.9%	12.2%	6.3%	7.9%
Regulator (DIFFERENCE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
County Council	-8.5%	-3.4%	-11.5%	-7.5%	-0.1%	-16.1%	-1.7%	-19.1%	-10.8%	-4.6%
District Council	-13.1%	-12.5%	-11.5%	-15.1%	-18.6%	-8.3%	-32.5%	-3.6%	-9.5%	-16.3%
A new level*	16.5%	11.4%	18.7%	16.3%	16.5%	16.5%	15.4%	18.3%	16.9%	15.8%
Town/Parish Council	2.1%	1.2%	1.9%	2.5%	2.7%	1.4%	0.0%	1.1%	2.0%	2.6%
None of these	0.7%	1.2%	-0.5%	1.7%	-0.1%	1.4%	3.8%	1.1%	0.1%	0.7%
Don't know/depends	2.4%	2.3%	2.8%	2.0%	-0.4%	5.0%	14.9%	2.1%	1.4%	1.8%

* A new level replacing County and District

3.3.2 Currently more than two in five think this is mainly the role of the District Council (possibly picking up on Arun's licensing, environmental

health, and planning roles) whilst a further two in five think it is mainly the County Council's responsibility. However, less than a third believe that it should be mainly a District Council role and around one in three think it should be County's role, with one in six feeling it should be handled by a new level of local government.

3.3.3 **By area:** Downland area respondents are less likely than the other two areas to choose 'a new level'.

3.3.4 **By gender:** Whilst the percentage of males selecting County remains constant, the percentage selecting District drops considerably when looking at who they think should perform this role. In contrast, the percentage of females selecting County drops considerably whilst the percentage selecting District drops but not by so much. It's hard to speculate why this view is held.

3.3.5 **By age:** 18 - 30 year olds are less likely to think this should be the role of the District Council but more likely not to know who's role it should be.

3.4.1 The fourth role is '**Tax collector: (i.e. "business rates and council tax")**'. See Table 4 below

TABLE 4

Q11d. Tax collector (CURRENTLY)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	548	91	230	227	259	289	25	82	167	274
County Council	34.3%	26.4%	33.0%	38.8%	30.5%	37.7%	40.0%	39.0%	34.7%	32.1%
District Council	54.7%	64.8%	57.0%	48.5%	59.8%	50.2%	44.0%	54.9%	54.5%	55.8%
A new level*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town/Parish Council	4.2%	2.2%	4.3%	4.8%	4.2%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	5.4%	5.1%
None of these	1.3%	3.3%	0.0%	1.8%	1.5%	1.0%	4.0%	1.2%	1.8%	0.7%
Don't know/depends	5.5%	3.3%	5.7%	6.2%	3.9%	6.9%	12.0%	4.9%	3.6%	6.2%
Q12d. Tax collector (SHOULD BE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	537	86	221	230	256	281	26	80	165	266
County Council	29.1%	31.4%	28.5%	28.7%	27.3%	30.6%	42.3%	32.5%	28.5%	27.1%
District Council	41.9%	44.2%	42.5%	40.4%	43.4%	40.6%	19.2%	40.0%	39.4%	46.2%
A new level*	13.2%	10.5%	14.9%	12.6%	14.1%	12.5%	11.5%	12.5%	15.8%	12.0%
Town/Parish Council	6.5%	4.7%	4.1%	9.6%	5.5%	7.5%	0.0%	6.3%	8.5%	6.0%
None of these	3.0%	4.7%	2.3%	3.0%	5.1%	1.1%	3.8%	0.0%	3.0%	3.8%
Don't know/depends	6.3%	4.7%	7.7%	5.7%	4.7%	7.8%	23.1%	8.8%	4.8%	4.9%

* A new level replacing County and District

TABLE 4 (continued)

Tax collector (DIFFERENCE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
County Council	-5.2%	5.0%	-4.5%	-10.1%	-3.2%	-7.1%	2.3%	-6.5%	-6.2%	-5.0%
District Council	-12.8%	-20.6%	-14.5%	-8.1%	-16.4%	-9.6%	-24.8%	-14.9%	-15.1%	-9.6%
A new level*	13.2%	10.5%	14.9%	12.6%	14.1%	12.5%	11.5%	12.5%	15.8%	12.0%
Town/Parish Council	2.3%	2.5%	-0.2%	4.8%	1.3%	3.3%	0.0%	6.3%	3.1%	0.9%
None of these	1.7%	1.4%	2.3%	1.2%	3.6%	0.1%	-0.2%	-1.2%	1.2%	3.1%
Don't know/depends	0.8%	1.4%	2.0%	-0.5%	0.8%	0.9%	11.1%	3.9%	1.2%	-1.3%

3.4.2 Despite this clearly being the role of the District Council, only just over half view the District Council as being mainly responsible for collecting council tax and business rates. A third of respondents think it is carried out by the County Council.

3.4.3 **By area:** Whilst almost two in three Downland residents think it is currently the District Council's role, less than half think it should be.

3.4.4 **By gender:** Males are slightly more likely to view it as District role and slightly less likely to view it as a County role than females are.

3.4.5 **By age:** The older the respondent, then more likely they are to feel that it should be the role of the District Council. Younger respondents are more likely to favour the County Council or not to know.

3.5.1 The fifth role is '**Commissioner of public services: (i.e. "contracts work to third parties")**'. See Table 5 below

TABLE 5

Q11e. Commissioner of public services (CURRENTLY)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	536	90	222	224	252	284	24	80	163	269
County Council	35.4%	31.1%	37.4%	35.3%	36.5%	34.5%	41.7%	36.3%	33.7%	35.7%
District Council	43.8%	53.3%	44.6%	39.3%	45.2%	42.6%	25.0%	46.3%	47.9%	42.4%
A new level*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town/Parish Council	6.7%	3.3%	6.3%	8.5%	6.3%	7.0%	0.0%	6.3%	6.1%	7.8%
None of these	0.7%	2.2%	0.5%	0.4%	0.8%	0.7%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Don't know/depends	13.2%	10.0%	11.3%	16.5%	11.1%	15.1%	29.2%	11.3%	12.3%	13.0%
Q12e. Commissioner of public services (SHOULD BE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	527	88	217	222	248	279	26	80	160	261
County Council	27.1%	23.9%	28.6%	27.0%	29.4%	25.1%	30.8%	17.5%	27.5%	29.5%
District Council	36.4%	44.3%	35.9%	33.8%	35.5%	37.3%	23.1%	35.0%	33.8%	39.8%
A new level*	15.2%	12.5%	17.1%	14.4%	16.1%	14.3%	7.7%	17.5%	16.9%	14.2%
Town/Parish Council	12.5%	12.5%	9.2%	15.8%	10.9%	14.0%	23.1%	17.5%	13.8%	9.2%
None of these	1.3%	3.4%	0.9%	0.9%	1.6%	1.1%	0.0%	1.3%	0.6%	1.9%
Don't know/depends	7.4%	3.4%	8.3%	8.1%	6.5%	8.2%	15.4%	11.3%	7.5%	5.4%

TABLE 5 (continued)

Commissioner of public services (DIFFERENCE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
County Council	-8.3%	-7.2%	-8.8%	-8.3%	-7.1%	-9.4%	-10.9%	-18.8%	-6.2%	-6.2%
District Council	-7.4%	-9.0%	-8.7%	-5.5%	-9.7%	-5.3%	-1.9%	-11.3%	-14.1%	-2.6%
A new level*	15.2%	12.5%	17.1%	14.4%	16.1%	14.3%	7.7%	17.5%	16.9%	14.2%
Town/Parish Council	5.8%	9.2%	2.9%	7.3%	4.6%	7.0%	23.1%	11.2%	7.7%	1.4%
None of these	0.6%	1.2%	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%	0.4%	-4.2%	1.3%	0.6%	0.8%
Don't know/depends	-5.8%	-6.6%	-3.0%	-8.4%	-4.6%	-6.9%	-13.8%	0.0%	-4.8%	-7.6%

* A new level replacing County and District

3.5.2 Slightly more perceive this to be mainly the role of the District Council than the County Council. Whilst one in sixteen feel it currently is the role of their Town/Parish Council, one in eight feel it should be their role.

3.5.3 **By area:** Downland respondents are more likely to feel that it is currently the role of the District Council. A greater percentage of Western area respondents, and a lower percentage of Eastern area respondents, feel that it should be the responsibility of their Town/Parish Council

3.5.4 **By gender:** No significant differences.

3.5.5 **By age:** Again, despite the low number of respondents within the age group, 18 - 30 year olds are less likely than older age groups to choose the District Council as the level currently performing, or should be performing, this role.

3.6.1 The sixth role is '**Provider of public services: (i.e. "carries out work using own staff")**'. See Table 6 below

TABLE 6

Q11f. Provider of public services (CURRENTLY)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	538	89	223	226	253	285	24	80	164	270
County Council	26.6%	32.6%	23.3%	27.4%	26.9%	26.3%	33.3%	30.0%	32.3%	21.5%
District Council	46.7%	56.2%	46.2%	43.4%	50.2%	43.5%	29.2%	47.5%	43.9%	49.6%
A new level*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town/Parish Council	15.6%	4.5%	20.2%	15.5%	12.6%	18.2%	16.7%	12.5%	14.0%	17.4%
None of these	1.5%	1.1%	2.2%	0.9%	1.6%	1.4%	0.0%	1.3%	2.4%	1.1%
Don't know/depends	9.7%	5.6%	8.1%	12.8%	8.7%	10.5%	20.8%	8.8%	7.3%	10.4%

TABLE 6 (continued)

Q12f. Provider of public services (SHOULD BE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	540	88	222	230	252	288	26	82	162	270
County Council	20.0%	21.6%	16.2%	23.0%	17.9%	21.9%	34.6%	20.7%	19.8%	18.5%
District Council	45.2%	48.9%	44.1%	44.8%	47.2%	43.4%	23.1%	35.4%	42.0%	52.2%
A new level*	12.0%	12.5%	13.5%	10.4%	13.9%	10.4%	3.8%	15.9%	14.2%	10.4%
Town/Parish Council	16.1%	10.2%	18.0%	16.5%	15.9%	16.3%	26.9%	15.9%	19.1%	13.3%
None of these	0.9%	2.3%	0.9%	0.4%	0.4%	1.4%	0.0%	1.2%	1.2%	0.7%
Don't know/depends	5.7%	4.5%	7.2%	4.8%	4.8%	6.6%	11.5%	11.0%	3.7%	4.8%
Provider of public services (DIFFERENCE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
County Council	-6.6%	-11.0%	-7.1%	-4.4%	-9.0%	-4.4%	1.3%	-9.3%	-12.5%	-3.0%
District Council	-1.5%	-7.3%	-2.1%	1.4%	-3.0%	-0.1%	-6.1%	-12.1%	-1.9%	2.6%
A new level*	12.0%	12.5%	13.5%	10.4%	13.9%	10.4%	3.8%	15.9%	14.2%	10.4%
Town/Parish Council	0.5%	5.7%	-2.2%	1.0%	3.3%	-1.9%	10.2%	3.4%	5.1%	-4.1%
None of these	-0.6%	1.2%	-1.3%	-0.5%	-1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.1%	-1.2%	-0.4%
Don't know/depends	-4.0%	-1.1%	-0.9%	-8.0%	-3.9%	-3.9%	-9.3%	2.2%	-3.6%	-5.6%

* A new level replacing County and District

- 3.6.2 Whilst almost half perceive this to be mainly the role of the District Council, just over a quarter think it is mainly the County Council's responsibility and one in six feel it currently is mainly the role of their Town/Parish Council.
- 3.6.3 **By area:** There is a difference between the mainly rural Downland area and the two predominantly urban areas. Whilst less than 5% of Downland respondents think it is currently mainly the responsibility of their Town/Parish Council, more than 15% of Western and more than 20% of Eastern area respondents think that this is the case. 10% of Downland area respondents think it should be mainly the responsibility of their Town/Parish Council.
- 3.6.4 **By gender:** Females are less likely than males to view this as the role of the District Council and more likely to view it as the responsibility of their Town/Parish Council.
- 3.6.5 **By age:** Whilst half of the 60+ age group consider the District Council to be mainly responsible, just one in five thinks it's the role of the County Council. In contrast less than a third of 18 - 30 year olds think it is mainly the District Council's responsibility and nearly the same proportion think it is the County Council. The younger the respondent, the less likely they are to feel that this should be the responsibility of the District Council. Indeed the 18 - 30 age group are more likely to state it should be the responsibility of their Town/Parish Council rather than the District Council.

3.7.1 The seventh role is '**Scrutineer of services: (i.e. "monitors the standards and performance of other public bodies")**'. See Table 7 below

TABLE 7

Q11g. Scrutineer of services (CURRENTLY)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	536	90	224	222	256	280	25	81	166	264
County Council	48.3%	47.8%	49.1%	47.7%	47.3%	49.3%	32.0%	45.7%	52.4%	48.1%
District Council	21.6%	18.9%	21.4%	23.0%	21.5%	21.8%	20.0%	23.5%	18.7%	23.1%
A new level*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town/Parish Council	7.6%	10.0%	6.3%	8.1%	7.0%	8.2%	12.0%	4.9%	6.6%	8.7%
None of these	6.9%	8.9%	6.3%	6.8%	8.2%	5.7%	20.0%	8.6%	6.6%	5.3%
Don't know/depends	15.5%	14.4%	17.0%	14.4%	16.0%	15.0%	16.0%	17.3%	15.7%	14.8%
Q12g. Scrutineer of services (SHOULD BE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	536	88	221	227	254	282	26	82	163	265
County Council	29.3%	28.4%	30.8%	28.2%	30.3%	28.4%	23.1%	20.7%	30.1%	32.1%
District Council	27.2%	29.5%	25.3%	28.2%	26.0%	28.4%	23.1%	28.0%	30.1%	25.7%
A new level*	17.5%	15.9%	19.0%	16.7%	18.5%	16.7%	11.5%	15.9%	20.2%	17.0%
Town/Parish Council	12.3%	13.6%	10.0%	14.1%	11.8%	12.8%	15.4%	15.9%	8.0%	13.6%
None of these	5.0%	8.0%	4.5%	4.4%	5.9%	4.3%	7.7%	9.8%	3.7%	4.2%
Don't know/depends	8.6%	4.5%	10.4%	8.4%	7.5%	9.6%	19.2%	9.8%	8.0%	7.5%
Scrutineer of services (DIFFERENCE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
County Council	-19.0%	-19.4%	-18.3%	-19.5%	-17.0%	-20.9%	-8.9%	-25.0%	-22.3%	-16.0%
District Council	5.6%	10.6%	3.9%	5.2%	4.5%	6.6%	3.1%	4.5%	11.4%	2.6%
A new level*	17.5%	15.9%	19.0%	16.7%	18.5%	16.7%	11.5%	15.9%	20.2%	17.0%
Town/Parish Council	4.7%	3.6%	3.7%	6.0%	4.8%	4.6%	3.4%	11.0%	1.4%	4.9%
None of these	-1.9%	-0.9%	-1.8%	-2.4%	-2.3%	-1.4%	-12.3%	1.2%	-2.9%	-1.1%
Don't know/depends	-6.9%	-9.9%	-6.6%	-6.0%	-8.5%	-5.4%	3.2%	-7.5%	-7.7%	-7.3%

* A new level replacing County and District

3.7.2 Nearly half feel this is currently mainly the responsibility of the County Council, compared with one in five who think it is mainly a District Council responsibility.

3.7.3 **By area, by gender:** No significant differences.

3.7.4 **By age:** One in five 18 - 30 year olds feel that 'none of these' are currently mainly responsible.

3.8.1 The eighth role is 'In charge of the economic and physical development of the area'. See Table 8 below

TABLE 8

Q11h. In charge of the economic and physical development of the area (CURRENTLY)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	530	88	223	219	253	277	24	78	166	262
County Council	42.1%	44.3%	43.5%	39.7%	45.8%	38.6%	33.3%	41.0%	43.4%	42.4%
District Council	35.3%	37.5%	35.0%	34.7%	31.6%	38.6%	33.3%	34.6%	36.1%	35.1%
A new level*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Town/Parish Council	9.8%	5.7%	9.4%	11.9%	9.1%	10.5%	16.7%	9.0%	7.8%	10.7%
None of these	2.3%	2.3%	1.3%	3.2%	4.0%	0.7%	0.0%	1.3%	2.4%	2.7%
Don't know/depends	10.6%	10.2%	10.8%	10.5%	9.5%	11.6%	16.7%	14.1%	10.2%	9.2%
Q12h. In charge of the economic and physical development of the area (SHOULD BE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	538	89	223	226	256	282	24	82	166	266
County Council	27.5%	28.1%	27.4%	27.4%	30.5%	24.8%	29.2%	14.6%	29.5%	30.1%
District Council	33.8%	39.3%	30.9%	34.5%	30.9%	36.5%	20.8%	37.8%	30.7%	35.7%
A new level*	15.4%	11.2%	19.7%	12.8%	14.1%	16.7%	16.7%	15.9%	18.1%	13.5%
Town/Parish Council	16.0%	16.9%	12.6%	19.0%	18.4%	13.8%	16.7%	22.0%	13.9%	15.4%
None of these	0.7%	1.1%	0.4%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.4%
Don't know/depends	6.5%	3.4%	9.0%	5.3%	5.5%	7.4%	16.7%	9.8%	6.0%	4.9%
In charge of the economic and physical development of the area (DIFFERENCE)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
County Council	-14.6%	-16.2%	-16.1%	-12.3%	-15.3%	-13.8%	-4.1%	-26.4%	-13.9%	-12.3%
District Council	-1.5%	1.8%	-4.1%	-0.2%	-0.7%	-2.1%	-12.5%	3.2%	-5.4%	0.6%
A new level*	15.4%	11.2%	19.7%	12.8%	14.1%	16.7%	16.7%	15.9%	18.1%	13.5%
Town/Parish Council	6.2%	11.2%	3.2%	7.1%	9.3%	3.3%	0.0%	13.0%	6.1%	4.7%
None of these	-1.6%	-1.2%	-0.9%	-2.3%	-3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	-1.3%	-0.6%	-2.3%
Don't know/depends	-4.1%	-6.8%	-1.8%	-5.2%	-4.0%	-4.2%	0.0%	-4.3%	-4.2%	-4.3%

* A new level replacing County and District

3.8.2 Whilst 42.1% think the County Council is currently mainly responsible for this, only 27.5% think it should be. The District Council largely maintained its support, making it the most popular choice to be mainly in charge of this role. Support for the Town/Parish Council handling this role is greater. Thus the trend appears to be in favour of this role being handled at a more local level.

3.8.3 **By area:** Downland area respondents are less likely than respondents from the other two areas to think that it is their Town/Parish Council currently responsible. Three times as many of this group think that their Town/Parish Council should be responsible.

- 3.8.4 **By gender:** Males are slightly more likely to view it as County role and slightly less likely to view it as a District role than females are.
- 3.8.5 **By age:** Whilst over 40% of the 31 - 44 age group think that the County Council currently performs this role, less than 15% think that it should do so. The difference is largely accounted for by 'a new level' and an increased percentage opting for their Town/Parish Council.
- 3.9.1 When asked whether there is anything else that should be the responsibility of local government, two thirds of respondents didn't feel that there was anything else. See Table 9 below.

TABLE 9

Q13. Is there anything else that you feel should be the responsibility of local government?										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	570	92	238	240	267	303	27	84	171	288
County Council	17.5%	19.6%	17.6%	16.7%	21.7%	13.9%	22.2%	7.1%	22.8%	17.0%
District Council	20.4%	21.7%	18.1%	22.1%	26.2%	15.2%	14.8%	11.9%	21.1%	22.9%
Town/Parish Council	23.0%	31.5%	21.0%	21.7%	24.7%	21.5%	18.5%	9.5%	30.4%	22.9%
No answer	66.7%	59.8%	69.7%	66.3%	60.3%	72.3%	77.8%	81.0%	63.2%	63.5%

- 3.9.2 Town/Parish Councils received the greatest number of mentions (132), followed by District (116) and County (100). Full comments are shown in the appendix.
- 3.9.3 **By area:** Downland area respondents were more likely than Eastern or Western area respondents to have a view, and to mention their Town/Parish Council.
- 3.9.4 **By gender:** Males were more likely to express a view.
- 3.9.5 **By age:** Older respondents were more likely to express a view.

3.10.1 Respondents were asked who they think should be responsible for monitoring standards and performance of local government services. Chart 1 and table 10 show that three out of five think 'the public' should share in the responsibility.

CHART 1

Who should be responsible for monitoring standards and performance of local government services?

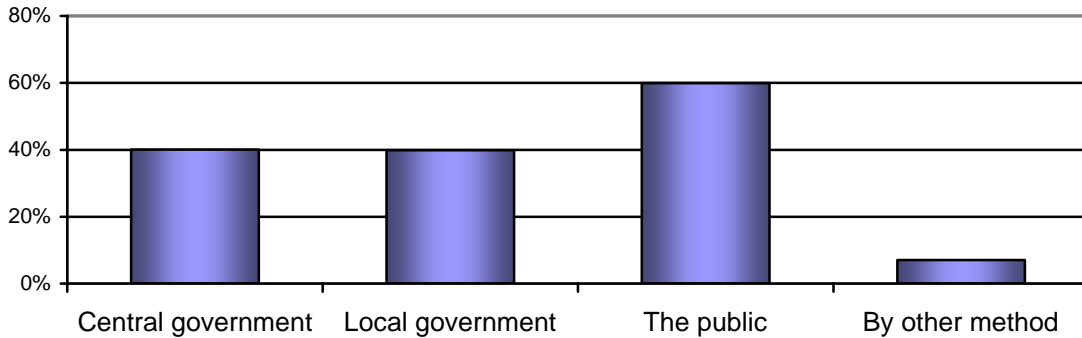


TABLE 10

Q14. Who should be responsible for monitoring standards and performance of local government services? (please select as many as appropriate)										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	546	91	228	227	260	286	24	81	165	276
Central government	40.1%	42.9%	40.4%	38.8%	42.3%	38.1%	45.8%	46.9%	36.4%	39.9%
Local government	39.9%	38.5%	39.9%	40.5%	34.6%	44.8%	25.0%	43.2%	38.2%	41.3%
The public	59.9%	61.5%	57.9%	61.2%	57.3%	62.2%	79.2%	64.2%	57.0%	58.7%
By other method	7.0%	3.3%	7.0%	8.4%	6.5%	7.3%	4.2%	6.2%	6.1%	8.0%

3.10.2 Respondents were given the opportunity to select more than one group. Although 59.9% mentioned 'the public, only 26.7% thought it should be solely the role of the public. 'Central government' and 'local government' were joint second, with 40.1% and 39.9% mentioning them.

3.10.3 **By area:** No significant differences.

3.10.4 **By gender:** Female residents are more likely than male residents to select 'the public' and 'local government' for this role, and less likely to select 'central government'.

3.10.5 **By age:** Under 45s are slightly more likely to select 'central government'. 18 - 30 year olds are less likely to select 'local government' but more likely to select 'the public'.

3.11.1 Respondents were asked whether they felt that "Local government should have greater freedom to set local priorities in consultation with its stakeholders" or that "Central government should provide local authorities with a range of options from which to decide local priorities." Chart 2 and table 11 show that three quarters opted in favour of the local government statement.

CHART 2

Which of the following statements do you most agree with?

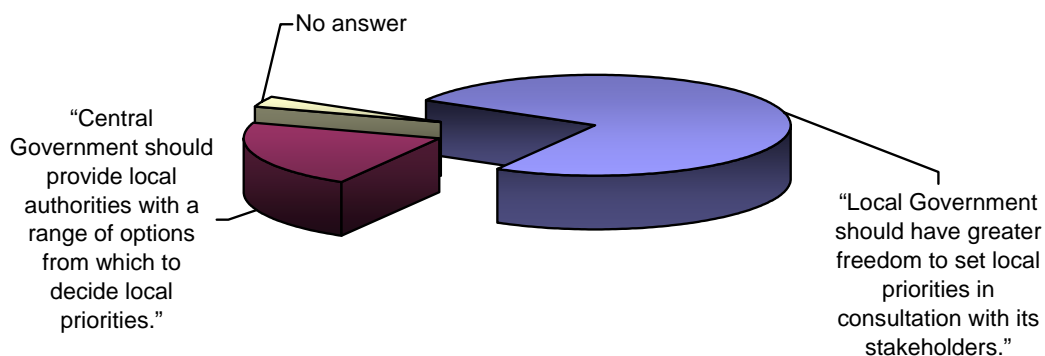


TABLE 11

Q15. Which of the following statements do you most agree with?										
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE			
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+
[BASE]	566	91	236	239	264	302	27	82	170	287
"Local Government should have greater freedom to set local priorities in consultation with its stakeholders."	75.1%	80.2%	75.4%	72.8%	79.2%	71.5%	66.7%	75.6%	77.6%	74.2%
"Central Government should provide local authorities with a range of options from which to decide local priorities."	21.6%	19.8%	20.8%	23.0%	19.3%	23.5%	25.9%	23.2%	20.6%	21.3%
No answer	3.4%	0.0%	3.8%	4.2%	1.5%	5.0%	7.4%	1.2%	1.8%	4.5%

3.11.2 **By area:** Downland respondents are slightly more likely than respondents who live in the other two areas to agree with the 'local government' statement.

3.11.3 **By gender:** Male respondents are more likely than female respondents to choose the 'local government' statement.

3.11.4 **By age:** Only two in three 18 - 30 year olds selected the 'local government' statement.

3.12.1 Finally in this section, panellists were asked which would be their preferred method of financing local government. Chart 3 and table 12 show the results.

CHART 3

Which would be your preferred method of financing local government?

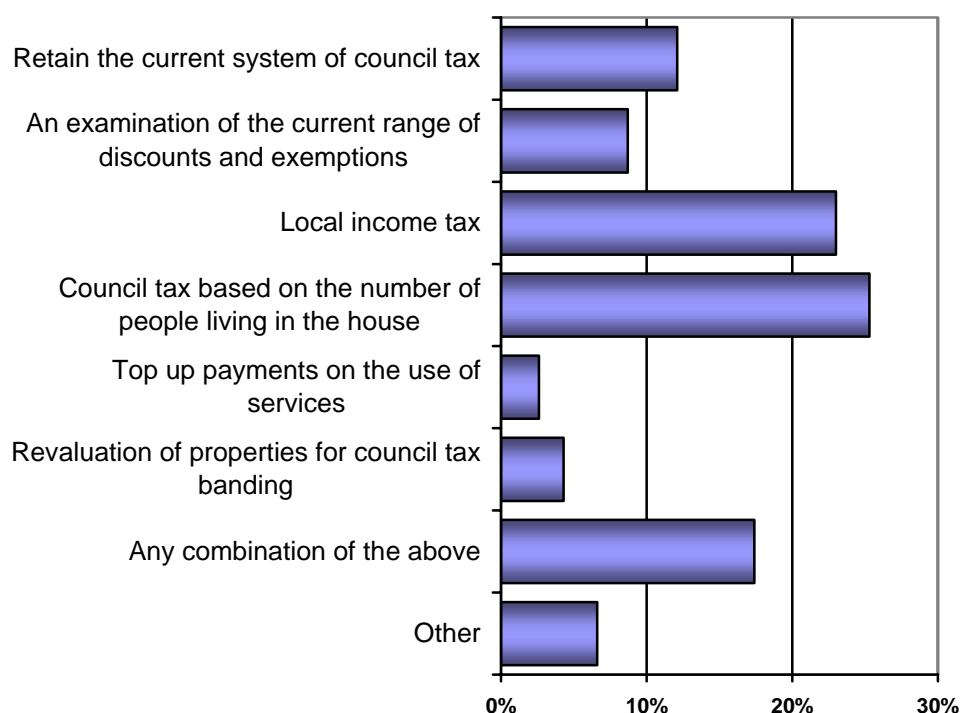


TABLE 12

Q16. Which would be your preferred method of financing local government?											
[PERCENTAGES]	ALL	AREA			GENDER		AGE				
		Downland	Eastern	Western	Male	Female	18 - 30	31 - 44	45 - 59	60+	
[BASE]	530	88	225	217	249	281	24	75	162	269	
Retain the current system of council tax	12.1%	12.5%	11.1%	12.9%	12.0%	12.1%	4.2%	22.7%	16.7%	7.1%	
An examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions	8.7%	5.7%	9.3%	9.2%	8.0%	9.3%	16.7%	10.7%	8.0%	7.8%	
Local income tax	23.0%	20.5%	22.7%	24.4%	29.3%	17.4%	8.3%	13.3%	24.1%	26.4%	
Council tax based on the number of people living in the house	25.3%	31.8%	23.6%	24.4%	24.9%	25.6%	25.0%	10.7%	25.9%	29.0%	
Top up payments on the use of services	2.6%	5.7%	2.2%	1.8%	1.6%	3.6%	16.7%	5.3%	3.7%	0.0%	
Revaluation of properties for council tax banding	4.3%	3.4%	5.3%	3.7%	3.6%	5.0%	0.0%	5.3%	3.1%	5.2%	
Any combination of the above	17.4%	14.8%	20.4%	15.2%	13.7%	20.6%	16.7%	26.7%	11.7%	18.2%	
Other	6.6%	5.7%	5.3%	8.3%	6.8%	6.4%	12.5%	5.3%	6.8%	6.3%	

3.13.2 The two most popular methods are 'council tax based on the number of people living in the house' (25.3%) and 'local income tax' (23.0%). A combination of methods ranked third, with 17.4% of respondents selecting this option. Retaining the current system of council tax was the preferred choice of just one in eight (12.1%). It is reasonable to assume that most people will choose the method that will minimise the amount of tax that they will be asked to pay - the analyses below show some predictable results.

3.13.3 **By area:** Downland area respondents are more likely to choose 'council tax based on the number of people living in the house'. The 2001 Census shows that average household sizes for wards in the Downland area tends to be smaller than in wards in the other two areas.

3.13.4 **By gender:** A higher percentage of male respondents than female respondents favour 'local income tax'. Conversely females are more likely than males to choose a combination of methods. It is not clear why more males than females have opted for local income tax given that males tend to have higher incomes.

3.13.5 **By age:** Older (60+) and younger (18 - 30) residents are less likely to want to retain the current council tax system, possibly as they may live in properties with high tax bandings in relation to their disposable incomes when compared with residents aged between 31 and 59. 60+ year olds are most likely to be in favour of a local income tax - not surprising as many will be on retirement incomes. 31 - 44 year olds are least likely to choose a 'council tax based on the number of people living in the house', possibly as many will have children living at home, hence this tax would penalise them. This is backed up by the finding that for those with children living at home 13% are in favour if this tax compared with 28% of those without children living at home who are in favour of it.

3.13.5 **By other classification:** 29% of retired people are in favour of a local income tax.

4. THE NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Make the relevant findings available to the Lyons Inquiry, The Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), and Arun District Council's 'Customers First' Project Team.
- 4.2 Distribute this report to Members and to Service Heads within Arun District Council.
- 4.3 The report will shortly be made available on the Arun District Council website www.arun.gov.uk under the 'Wavelength Survey Results' section on the 'Most Recent Survey Results' webpage.
- 4.4 Thanks to all the Wavelength panellists who took part in this survey. The key findings will be published in issue 5 of the Wavelength newsletter (expected publication date: October 2006).

5. FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about this report, Wavelength in general, or to request additional analysis, please contact Philip Frean in the Strategy and Partnership Unit (contact details below), or e-mail wavelength@arun.co.uk

Arun's Policy & Research Team's role is to gather and process information from desk research and public consultation to help Councillors ensure that their decision making is based on full and accurate data about the community of Arun, its needs and aspirations, and to assist officers in planning their service delivery to meet customer needs.

The Strategy and Partnership Unit holds reports on previous Wavelength surveys, together with a range of other research reports. It also holds facts and figures on the District obtained from a range of sources, including the 2001 Census.

A wide range of surveys produced by the Unit are available on the Arun District Council website at www.arun.gov.uk

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APPENDIX B

Q13a What other roles should be the responsibility of the (County Council)?

"A lead in all areas in the county"	"Education, roads"
"A27"	"Education, social services, highways, health"
"Abolish the county council"	"Ensuring the A27 is enlarged"
"Accountability of bus services, libraries, homes for the elderly."	"Environment, roads, facilities for young people, healthcare, education, community care, transport,"
"All - we don't need 2 tier government"	"Finding no district level"
"All areas"	"Generating employment, road improvements"
"As at present. Reducing overlaps. Combining where costs can be reduced and ensuring full accountability."	"Get rid of the county council!"
"As little as possible"	"Grant giving"
"Balance new housing projects with amenities available in the area"	"Greater accountability towards needs of District and parish levels of system"
"Club for teens to go to"	"Health, rural development"
"Collection of local income tax as a fairer means of finance"	"Highways and transport"
"Community safety services for adults and children, highways"	"Highways"
"Controlling the number of houses built"	"Highways, schools, fire, police"
"Country issues"	"Housing levels without government influence. Leisure levels"
"County/local should have more flexibility with government guidelines"	"I cannot see that any changes to the present system are necessary"
"Create more business for the area"	"I feel that there should be a new level replacing County & District"
"Do not feel qualified to comment"	"I strongly believe that local government - either at county or district level - should have greater tax raising powers and that the role of central government should be reduced accordingly, i.e. higher local taxes and lower national taxes along US lines"
"Don't know"	"Increased use of renewable energy sources. Incentive scheme to cut down waste of resources"
"Education"	"Keeping a closer eye on expenditure of rate payers money"
"Education, Fire, Police, health"	
"Education, health, transport, environment, finance"	
"Education, police"	
"Education, police, roads, transport"	
"Education, policing, tourism"	

"Less roles within county council."	"Road infrastructure, county public transport, county planning"
"Liaising with town/parish council"	"Road works"
"Link all bodies more efficiently"	"Roads"
"Listen to the people who elect and pay!"	"Roads, fire service"
"Local amenities liaising with higher authorities"	"Savings, redundancies of deadwood personnel, Transport, Road improvements, police"
"Local income tax"	"Schools" (x 2)
"Major decisions"	"Schools, police, fire service, libraries"
"Make sure council rates are kept to a minimum"	"Should be disbanded as a political body and be a proper professional business"
"More in control of major trunk routes in their area. Funded by central government"	"Should ensure district council fulfils its role well. Oversee public sector to ensure tax payers money is being used effectively."
"More interaction with utilities. And more awareness of voters."	"Sorting the traffic that speeds through villages, putting the right signs up"
"Oversee public expenses and services"	"South Downs National Park, water extraction, education, health"
"Overview of development in county especially building has adequate support structure. Health, water, leisure"	"Stop house building in a drought stricken area - less people=less water"
"Planning policy, rail services"	"Strategic planning, education provision"
"Planning strategies"	"The organisation of transport and road infrastructure e.g. A27"
"Police and support, amenities, large scale rejuvenation"	"The overseer of any decisions made by the District Council"
"Police"	"To make sure things get done promptly"
"Police, fire service, ambulance"	"To oversee and collate roles within District Council"
"Policing, education, elderly care"	"Town planning, highways, pavements"
"Preservation of the environment"	"Transport in the area - provide solutions to local problems"
"Protection of environment"	"Transport"
"Providing care homes"	"Transport, education, environment, police, health (large scale)"
"Reducing councillor influence"	"Trunk road network, town planning"
"Regional development"	"Value for money"
"Regulator"	
"Restriction of non-British residents i.e. immigrants!! i.e. asylum seekers!!"	
"Road improvements and repairs"	

"Waiting lists and conditions at local hospitals and identification of free dental care"

"Youth clubs"

"Youth Provision"

Q13b What other roles should be the responsibility of the (District Council)?

"A body who takes note of what the public says about domestic problems, not just the people involved."

"Environment. Less house building! Thus helping against water shortages."

"Abolish"

"Environmental issues"

"All local plans"

"Fire services, police"

"All public services"

"General running of facilities and amenities within the area"

"All services should be controlled, NOT given to private contractors"

"Get rid of it, it is obsolete"

"Animal Welfare and tree preservation"

"Greater accountability towards needs of local parish levels of system"

"Appointed governments should pay more attention to the opinions of local people i.e. planning"

"Greater liaison with all services connected with care in the community"

"As at present"

"Health and hygiene department, environment"

"As little as possible"

"Health and safety"

"Budgets"

"Health and safety. Capping of rents on private land. Investigate water payments."

"Car parking, local amenities"

"Health and safety of environment, elderly care, childcare, policing, cleanliness, local education"

"Car parking, tourist facilities"

"Charitable works, volunteer works"

"Highways and transport"

"Collection of rubbish"

"Highways"

"Consider local area needs. Prevent too much housing and inadequate local support structure"

"Inspection/monitoring/certification of all contract work on housing and buildings"

"Controlling the number of houses built"

"Keep the pavement and roads clean"

"District and local issues, a voice to the county council"

"Law and order"

"Do not feel qualified to comment"

"Leisure facilities, parks"

"Don't know"

"Less roles within district council."

"Education" (x 2)

"Library"

"Environment, condition of the road surfaces"

"Listen to the people who elect and pay!"

"Local amenities liaising with higher authorities"

"Local amenities"	"Rights of way"
"Local controls"	"Road safety" (x 2)
"Local planning if required"	"Roads and public transport"
"Local planning"	"Rubbish collection, housing, utility infrastructure"
"Local planning, local public transport, district planning, recreation"	"Rubbish, footpaths, planning, leisure centres"
"Local road network, Waste plan"	"School admission policy"
"Local roads and lighting"	"Scrutineer of services"
"Local roads etc"	"Setting tax rates"
"Local services, health, safety, leisure"	"Should be amalgamated with the new body and the expensive bureaucracy removed"
"Making safe and interesting play area for kids"	"Should oversee public sector e.g. eco matters. Should ensure that town councils fulfil their roles sufficiently"
"More control of housing developments"	"Social services"
"None - it should be abolished"	"Social services, bus services"
"Not quite sure what they actually do"	"Social services, home care"
"Parking, highway repairs (pavements)"	"Social services/ employment. Welfare, more autonomy"
"Planning Applications, Lighting"	"Street lighting, refuse collection"
"Planning of individual enterprises"	"Supplying direct service delivery (not contractors) e.g. waste, recycling and street cleaning"
"Planning" (x 2)	"Support for children, counselling and teenagers"
"Planning, services, environmental issues"	"Supporting arts and leisure better"
"Policing county and district council"	"These latter two are now obsolete in thought, management and deed - a breath of fresh air should be allowed and a saving could be made i.e. building upkeep"
"Policing" (x 3)	"To improve things (all) for the benefit of the district"
"Protection of environment"	"Value for money"
"Provide more information of local activities"	"Very few because in my opinion they are undemocratic"
"Providing community policing/wardens"	
"Provision of public toilets"	
"Public services, tax collector"	
"Public transport, local recreation areas, recycling etc"	
"Recreation"	
"Recycling"	

"Waste collection and disposal, community safety"

"Youth clubs"

"Youth Provision"

Q13c What other roles should be the responsibility of the (Town or Parish Council)?

"A local issue of interest, e.g. public conveniences, rural issues, regeneration, car parking in towns"

"Controlling the number of houses built"

"Access to funds to provide better street lighting in poorly lit parish areas"

"Council tax, community policing, street lighting, maintenance of trees along council paths"

"Again should be non political and run the local area as a proper business"

"Declaring alcohol free zones"

"All council tax payers receive good service, i.e. telephone manner etc of its employees"

"Developing local sense of community"

"All services" (x 2)

"Development of local issues (sports, education)"

"Amenities, e.g. playgrounds, swimming pools. Care of elderly."

"Development of new homes etc without interference from central government or county/ district"

"Antisocial behaviour"

"Development, leisure"

"Appearance of towns/villages"

"Do not feel qualified to comment"

"Arundel to protect residents' health and well being. To protect the town's image, character and possible development"

"Dog fouling patrols, more police attending, parish council meetings"

"As much as possible"

"Environment, road and pathways"

"Bognor has suffered since Arun DC formed and greater local power required to progress"

"Environmental issues"

"Building regulations"

"Forming closer communities"

"Car parking arrangements"

"Further local housing estates. Gypsy sites. Local business development"

"Caring for OAPs"

"Given more credit for local views/public debate"

"Community events"

"Grass cutting, does it need 2 vehicles, 3 English men and 3 non English and grass left everywhere, including my drive. French firm for rubbish, left out at night is broken in and left, should be out by 7am, they are always late."

"Community issues such as dog fouling, graffiti, fly posting"

"Grass cutting, maintenance of verges and grassed areas"

"Community issues, local transport"

"Community safety"

"Grass cutting, monitoring cleanliness"

"Community services, local roads/parks, parking, speed limits"

"Greater strategic role, scrutineer of overall services provided by county council"

"Control of parks and open spaces in my area. Public toilets and some transport"

"Have input into local economy"	"Local planning local recreation"
"Have much more say on a local level and that Parish Councillors should be voted in by the Parish and not just 'handed down' to a landowner"	"Local security"
"Have stronger statement and be listened to regarding local issues."	"Local services, local bylaws, cleaning town centre"
"Involved/local planning req., involved/local licensing req., involved/local mobile phone masts"	"Local town facilities for population especially for groups such as elderly and youth."
"Keeping the village clean and tidy"	"Local traffic control"
"Leisure, local employment, public spaces, trade"	"Make budget from district council available for the following: planning permission consent, local recreation, parking facilities"
"Fewer roles within town council."	"Making sure that money is spent equally around the town."
"Level of community policing"	"Monitor performance of District Council"
"Listen to the people who elect and pay!"	"More local endorsement"
"Local amenities liaising with higher authorities"	"More power in planning"
"Local amenities, cleaning, policing"	"More responsible for planning"
"Local amenities, open spaces, parks"	"More responsible role in policing and anti social behaviour"
"Local biodiversity plans"	"More say in planning"
"Local building planning services"	"None" (x 3)
"Local community, policing, neighbourhood watch, coordination"	"Non-political"
"Local feedback to district, town development plan"	"Parish care"
"Local government should have more authority on economic development issues rather than housing dictates from ODPM (i.e. planning)"	"Parish plan, housing allocation"
"Local issues and a voice to the district council"	"Planning and development"
"Local issues" (x 4)	"Planning applications, local environment"
"Local matters for welfare etc"	"Planning permission" (x 2)
"Local planning applications"	"Planning" (x 3)
"Local planning"	"Planning, democracy, free voting by persons elected, parks gardens and all local affairs"
"Local planning, environmental decisions using all age groups for consultation"	"Policing"
	"Prevent installations of radio masts"
	"Protection of environment"

"Public libraries, recycling"	"Support of activities for youth/elderly. Improve appearance of villages, maintenance of open spaces, dog fouling, litter"
"Purely local problems/services"	
"Recreation"	
"Recycling waste. Collection of rubbish. Policing."	"They know the area and the people who live in it."
"Remove"	"To be the local voice. Give advice in all local matters e.g. political and social info. To make sure everyone is aware of what support is available to them."
"Residential parking in Arundel."	
"Rights of way"	"To make sure we don't get a raw deal and left out"
"Road signs, crossings, dropped kerbs for scooters, wheelchairs"	"To provide up to date services in the way of entertainment"
"Roads, housing, planning"	"Tourism, leisure, housing, planning"
"Run local facilities, village halls, playing fields, environmental improvements"	"Town planning, able to refuse over development of area"
"Seating around greens e.g. Jubilee playing field"	"Town/Parish Councils should be given a stronger voice when changes are proposed to a community. Too often they are ignored."
"Should be more sympathetic to local people and their needs"	
"Should have more control of planning, especially in conservation areas"	"Traffic management, planning applications"
"Social services. Housing/planning"	"Trees, gardens etc"
"Speed restrictions, cleanliness of area"	"Unsociable behaviour, litter"
"Sports and seaside entertainment"	"We don't need a parish or town council"
"Street lighting, street maintenance, local problems such as youths, graffiti, small damage etc"	"We vote for Town and Parish Council they know the needs - such as ice rink for the young generation"
"Street lights"	"Youth clubs"
"Street scene, dog mess collection, playing fields"	"Youth Provision"

Q14 Who should be responsible for monitoring standards and performance of local government services? (other method)

"A combination of all three authorities"	
"A group from the wavelength people"	"A mixture of local government and the public"
"A local audit body at arms length from any councils"	"A select ombudsman to cover expenditure"
"A local democratically elected body"	

"An independent body of local government"	"Local authority ombudsman who would regulate all local government"
"An independent body should be responsible"	"Local council as before, why change it at all."
"An independent body. Is the district audit ombudsman independent?"	"Local government should be properly accountable to its local people and audited by proper auditors. Central government should be providing a service not a control"
"But not a political appointment"	
"By elected people only"	"Local referendum"
"Elected board of inspectors must NOT be card holding members of any political party"	"Local representatives forming a sub-group to comment"
"Employee and user comment"	"More accountability to electorate e.g. expenses should be minimal and topped up by the party represented."
"Independent body made up of representatives from local, district and public"	"More active involvement of local people in monitoring decisions"
"Independent body that reports back to the council and the public"	"No answer" (x 5)
"Independent experts and ombudsman system"	"Non-government bodies"
"Independent non political agency"	"Parish Councils"
"Independent ombudsman style but not controlled by central government"	"Regulate bodies and service users"
"Independent panel"	"The current system is useless in controlling expenses of local government"
"Liaison group with representations from business and general public"	"Using independent parties"
	"Via website access"
	"With local people not elected members"

Q16 Which would be your preferred method of financing local government? (Any combination of the above)

Suggestions for a combination of methods:

"Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house + top up payments for use of services + revaluation of properties for council tax banding" (x 3)	"Current system + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house" (x 2)
"Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house + revaluation of properties for council tax banding" (x 5)	"Current system + examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions" (x 5)
"Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house + top up payments for use of services" (x 7)	"Current system + examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house" (x 2)

"Current system + examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house + top up payments for use of services"

"Current system + examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + top up payments for use of services. Top up payments only on non-essential services. (If you do your own recycling should you have to pay for it?)"

"Current system + examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + revaluation of properties for council tax banding" (x 2)

"Current system + local income tax. But not at a rate that cripples people already paying income tax, VAT, NI etc"

"Current system + revaluation of properties for council tax banding" (x 3)

"Current system + top up payments for use of services + revaluation of properties for council tax banding"

"Examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house" (x 7)

"Examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house + top up payments for use of services" (x 3)

"Examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + local income tax" (x 4)

"Examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + local income tax + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house" (x 5)

"Examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + local income tax + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house + top up payments for use of services"

"Examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + local income tax + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house + revaluation of properties for council tax banding. Local income tax only captures loyal taxpayers. Self employed or black economy etc - face facts."

"Examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + local income tax + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house + revaluation of properties for council tax banding"

"Examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + local income tax + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house."

"Examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + local income tax + top up payments for use of services"

"Examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + local income tax + top up payments for use of services + revaluation of properties for council tax banding"

"Examination of the current range of discounts and exemptions + revaluation of properties for council tax banding" (x 2)

"Local income tax + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house" (x10)

"Local income tax + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house + top up payments for use of services"

"Local income tax + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house + revaluation of properties for council tax banding" (x 2)

"Local income tax + Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house + additional bed tax on tourists"

"Local income tax + top up payments for use of services" (x 2)

Q16 Which would be your preferred method of financing local government? (other)

"A fair system taking into account household usage"

"A full review by national government to avoid local government taxation annual increases"	"Council tax, top up payments or local sales tax"
"A local income tax and top up based on use of services"	"Don't know but a way where we pay less than currently!!"
"A mixture of local income tax bearing in mind the usage. The current system is useless."	"Don't know"
"Abolish Council Tax and increase VAT and income tax"	"Either local income tax or revaluation of properties for council tax banding extending the bands to cover more expensive properties"
"Abolish council tax"	"Go back to the rateable value that's size of ground"
"Adults only should be counted"	"Holiday/2nd homes should pay full council tax"
"All wage earners should pay a fair tax to the community"	"Include it with national income tax - economies of scale"
"And top up grants from central government"	"Income tax collected centrally and distributed to local councils on the basis of the number of people (of all ages) residing in their area of responsibility, i.e. everyone to pay according to their ability and the money to be distributed according to need"
"As an OAP I find it impossible to pay council tax"	"Individuals should be taxed fairer system"
"Asses by the amount of money coming into the house"	"It should be related to the income of the people living in the house. Not on house value."
"Assessment based on income of household"	"Local government to make sure financial waste is at a minimum"
"Based on 4 adults per property-Full council tax, 3 people 3/4 to pay, 2 people 1/2 to pay, 1 person 1/4 to pay."	"Local income tax and council tax"
"Based on the number of people and top up payments for services"	"Local income tax applying to all residents not just householder."
"Basic Council Tax + Local Income Tax"	"Local income tax to include number of people in house (local income tax & Council Tax based on the number of people living in the house)"
"Bring back Poll Tax"	"Local income tax together with adjustment based on number of people in property"
"Central government"	"Local income tax which would take into account each person's income plus a per capita share of the property owned and lived in."
"Combination of council tax and local income tax"	
"Council tax + local income tax"	
"Council tax based on number of people living in house and revaluation of properties for council tax banding"	
"Council tax based on the number of adults in house with discounts etc for those not working. (Poll tax)"	

- "Local income tax with a range of discounts/exceptions and top up depending on services received"
- "Local income tax, revaluation of properties"
- "Local sales tax instead of council tax"
- "Means tested and reduced/NO tax for pensioners"
- "None - council tax is 150% above inflation and it shouldn't be"
- "On income"
- "People living alone should have 50% reduction"
- "Poll tax was eminently suitable"
- "Pulling troops out of Iraq! Get money from EU. Get a Tory Government in charge!"
- "Re-rate what were small properties and have now been extended"
- "Retain council tax principle, but have top up payments on use of service"
- "Retain current tax revenue; don't give anymore funds back to central government"
- "Revaluation combined with size/area to give fairer figures"
- "Revalue houses in conjunction with local planning applications"
- "Revalue single persons use of services i.e. water"
- "Revaluation and Local Income Tax"
- "Revaluation as in revaluation of properties for council tax banding, with a surcharge on let properties and special category for retired / low income residents"
- "Stop making us pay for all the foreigners swamping Bognor. I worked hard all my life, they want for nothing. Wake up before it's too late."
- "Supply a list of ways people could opt out of local services i.e. give a household the option of taking their rubbish to the tip and cancelling bin collection."
- "Tax based on number of people living in house and top up payments"
- "Tax on earnings per capita using current tax system"
- "Tax taken from working public thru PAYE and refunded back to local councils by government"
- "Top up payments on services used and alteration of council tax. Also some services should be taken out of local funding and paid by government e.g. police fire service"