



# worcestershire

## county council

### **June 2007 Citizens' Panel Survey Summary of Findings**

In June 2007, we sent you our 15<sup>th</sup> Citizens' Panel Survey. The survey was produced in conjunction with the Worcestershire Partnership and focused on the review of the Community Strategy. The Community Strategy aims to improve the quality of life for everyone in the county and is being updated to make sure it is up to date and relevant for Worcestershire today. We received 1,354 surveys by the closing date, representing a response rate of 68%. Thank you to those of you who responded.

This feedback sheet aims to highlight the main findings from the survey and provide you with some information about what the results are currently being used for. The full results analysis can be downloaded from our website [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/citizenspanel](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/citizenspanel)

#### **Section A: Communities that are safe and feel safe**

92% of you feel safe in your neighbourhood during the day. The results vary by district, 83% of you living in Redditch feel safe in your neighbourhood during the day compared to 96% of you living in Bromsgrove. At night, 62% of you feel safe in your neighbourhood. There is a significant difference between those of you living in rural areas who feel safe in your neighbourhood after dark compared to those of you living in urban areas (73% and 57% respectively).

The top three things causing the most problem in your neighbourhood are litter, speeding and troublesome teenagers/children. In addition to this, you also said vehicles blocking paths and driveways and dog fouling cause a problem in your local area.

43% of you said your local area is a place where people look out for each other. This percentage increases by age with 37% of 18-39 year olds saying their local area is a place where people look out for each other compared to 50% of 65+ year olds.

When asked which groups of people are most likely to experience prejudice, discrimination or be disadvantaged in Worcestershire, most of you said travellers/gypsies, refugees/asylum seekers or migrant workers.

#### **Section B: A better environment for today and tomorrow**

Over half (54%) of you are extremely or very concerned about climate change, and 51% of you think it is very important that we take action to tackle climate change in Worcestershire.

77% of you agree that you can help to limit the effects of climate change, and 63% of you agree that you are doing all that you can to limit the effects of climate change. However, you are not sure if public agencies or businesses in Worcestershire are doing what they can to limit the effects of climate change.

Interestingly, 90% of you support the generation of renewable energy within Worcestershire and around 70% of you think we should give a high priority to constructing extremely energy efficient buildings in Worcestershire.

### **Section C: Economic Success that is shared by all**

45% of you agree that migrant workers are beneficial to the economy in Worcestershire. More panel members in Wychavon and Malvern Hills agree with this statement in comparison to respondents in any other district.

35% of you think we should do more to learn about the culture of migrant workers and 68% of you believe it is important to respect the rights of migrant workers.

### **Section D: Improving health and well being**

The majority of you agree that we should be tackling smoking and obesity in order to help to increase life expectancy and reduce morbidity in Worcestershire.

Your priorities for improvement in Worcestershire's health service are reducing admin and bureaucracy, care for older people and increasing the number of NHS dentists.

### **Section E: Meeting the needs of children and young people**

Just under half of you do not think that children and young people have enough opportunities to play safely/freely with walking/cycling distance of their home. When we asked you about the facilities for children and young people in your local area, 34% of you rated them as average. 24% of you rated the facilities as good or excellent and 26% of you rated them as poor or very poor.

To improve the existing facilities children and young people, over half of you thought we should provide activities for children to do at the weekends and in the school holidays.

***In response to these findings the Worcestershire Partnership Co-ordinator said: "The Citizens' Panel questionnaire responses confirm that Worcestershire residents generally agree with the priorities identified by the Worcestershire Partnership. Some issues have emerged, which suggest higher priority be given to specific issues. As an example, concerns over climate change are higher than in the past. This may be in part the result of the summer floods of 2007. The findings are very helpful and will influence the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy."***