

Leicester City Council Golf Courses Consultation Results

Findings of the public consultation
July 2014

Prepared by Sports Services, Leicester City Council



CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

On 11 March 2014, the council began a consultation to gain insight into public and user views on continuing to subsidise Humberstone Heights and Western Park Golf Courses.

Consultation questionnaires were completed at:

- Humberstone Heights and Western Park Golf Courses
- City Council Sports and Leisure Centres
- City Council Customer Services Centre
- www.leicester.gov.uk/golf (online)

Background information was included in the online and paper questionnaires (see Appendix A). The consultation period ran from 11 March until 18 April 2014. In total 2,773 responses were received by the City Council. The majority of responses were completed at the two council golf courses.

A petition to 'Save Humberstone Heights Golf Course and to show your support of keeping Humberstone Heights open' has been submitted with 1,071 valid signatures. An e-petition submitted at the same time to 'Save Humberstone Heights Golf Course and stop the closure of Humberstone Heights Golf Course' had a total of 43 signatures as at 20th May 2014.

A petition to 'Save Western Park Golf Course' stating that 'We are sad to find out you are considering closing the Western Golf Course' and providing names of 'people who use and need our facilities for various reasons' has been submitted with 1,611 valid signatures. An online petition to 'Save Western Park Golf Course' currently has 486 signatures (<http://brad.epetitions.net/>).

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

The consultation asked three questions:

- 1. Do you think the council should continue subsidising golf courses?**
Yes/No
- 2. Are you a user of one or both of the council owned golf courses?**
Humberstone Heights/Western Park/Both/None
- 3. Do you live in the city of Leicester?**
Yes/No

Note: Questionnaire participants were warned that answering 'no' to question 1 may result in the council no longer providing either one or both golf courses.

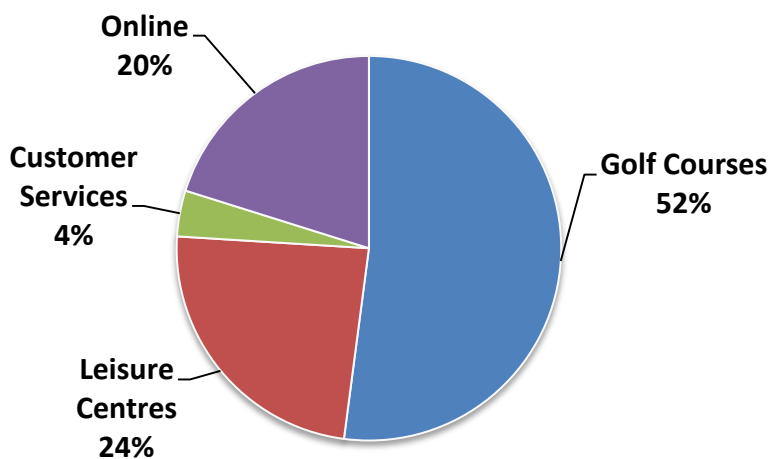
PUBLIC RESPONSE AND VIEWS EXPRESSED

The Consultation

Total Number of Responses: **2773**

| Location | Responses |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Golf Courses | 1444 |
| Leisure Centres | 663 |
| Customer Services | 107 |
| Online | 559 |

Location Breakdown of All Responses

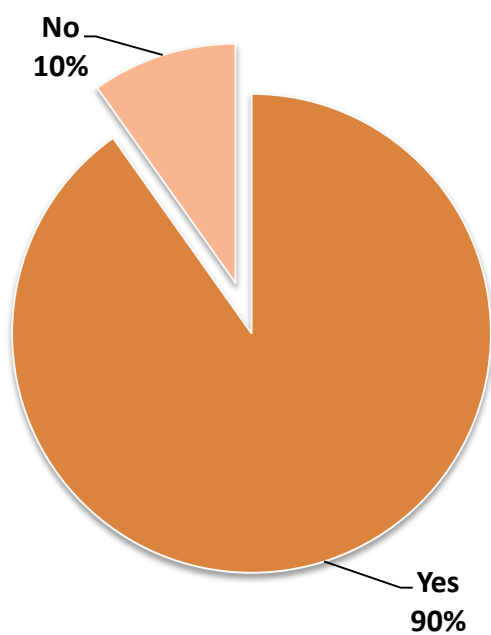


Q1: Do you think the council should continue subsidising golf courses?

All Responses

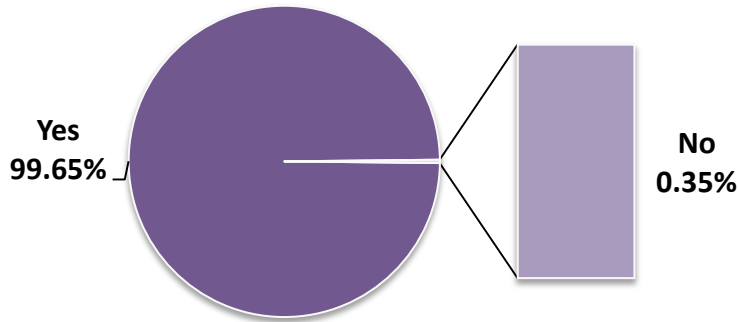
| Answer | Responses |
|--------|-----------|
| Yes | 2500 |
| No | 272* |

**1 'No Answer' was also received*



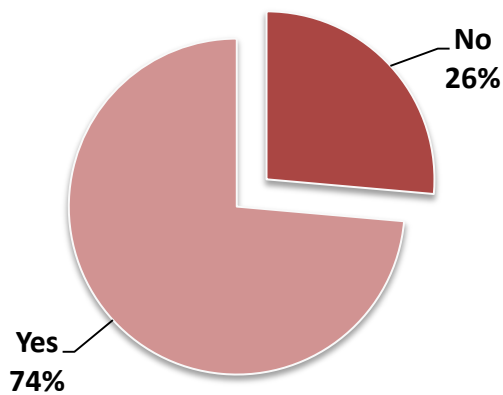
Location breakdown: Do you think the council should continue subsidising golf courses?

Responses from Golf Courses



| Answer | Responses |
|--------|-----------|
| Yes | 1439 |
| No | 5 |

Responses from Leisure Centres



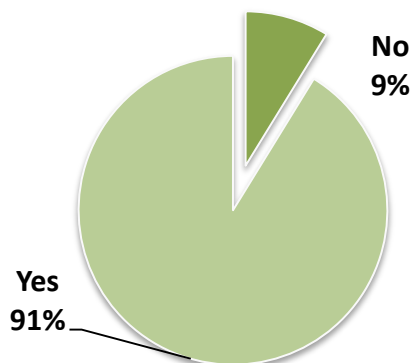
| Answer | Responses |
|--------|-----------|
| Yes | 488 |
| No | 175 |

Responses from Customer Services



| Answer | Responses |
|--------|-----------|
| Yes | 64 |
| No | 43 |

Responses from Leicester.gov.uk/golf (online)



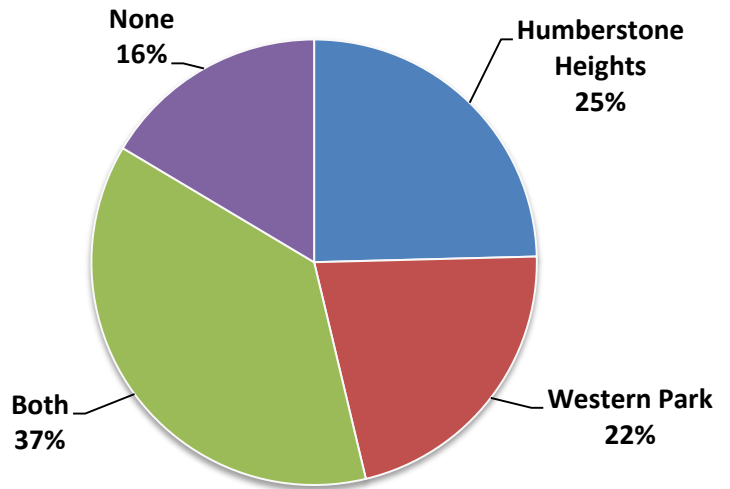
| Answer | Responses |
|--------|-----------|
| Yes | 509 |
| No | 49* |

*1 'No Answer'

Q2: Are you a user of one or both of the council owned golf courses?

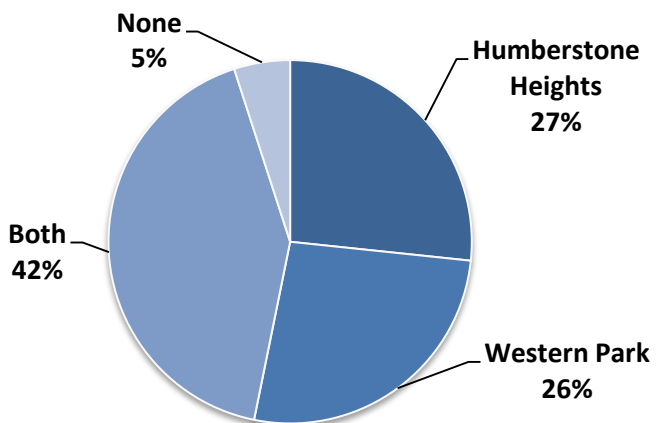
All responses

| Answer | Responses |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Humberstone Heights | 682 |
| Western Park | 601 |
| Both | 1034 |
| None | 456 |



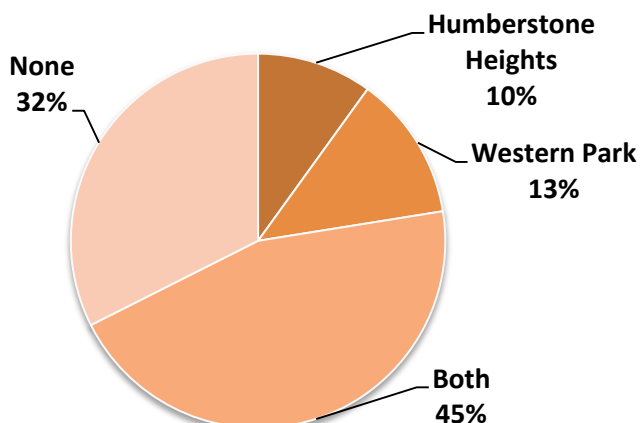
Location breakdown: Are you a user of one or both of the council owned golf courses?

Responses from Golf Courses



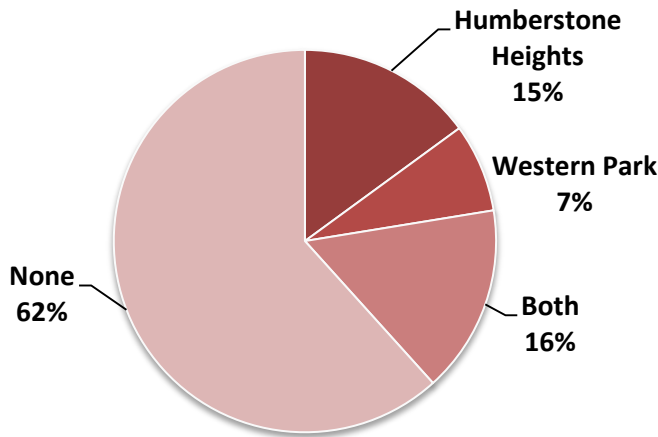
| Answer | Responses |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Humberstone Heights | 385 |
| Western Park | 383 |
| Both | 604 |
| None | 72 |

Responses from Leisure Centres



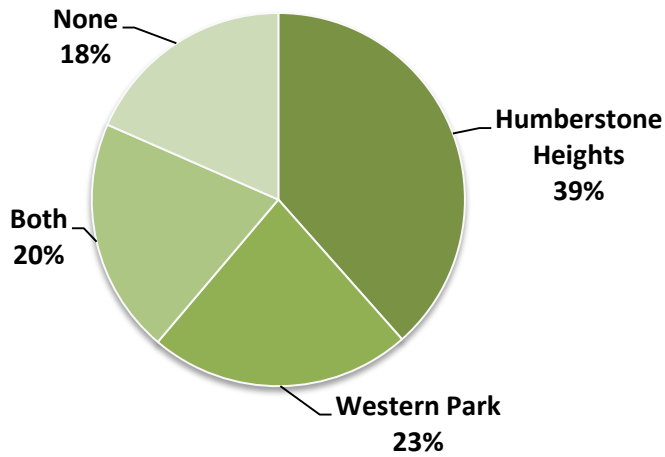
| Answer | Responses |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Humberstone Heights | 66 |
| Western Park | 83 |
| Both | 299 |
| None | 215 |

Responses from Customer Services



| Answer | Responses |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Humberstone Heights | 16 |
| Western Park | 8 |
| Both | 17 |
| None | 66 |

Responses from Leicester.gov.uk/golf (online)

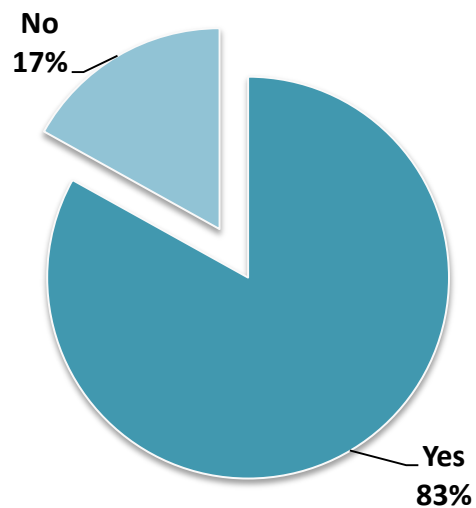


| Answer | Responses |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Humberstone Heights | 215 |
| Western Park | 127 |
| Both | 114 |
| None | 103 |

Q3: Do you live in the city of Leicester?

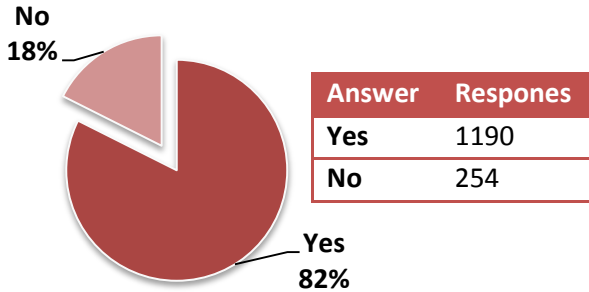
All responses

| Answer | Responses |
|--------|-----------|
| Yes | 2302 |
| No | 469 |

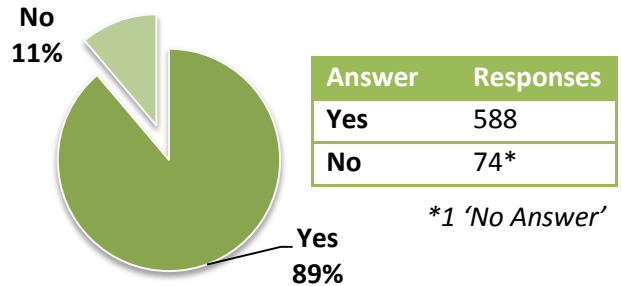


Location Breakdown: Do you live in the city of Leicester?

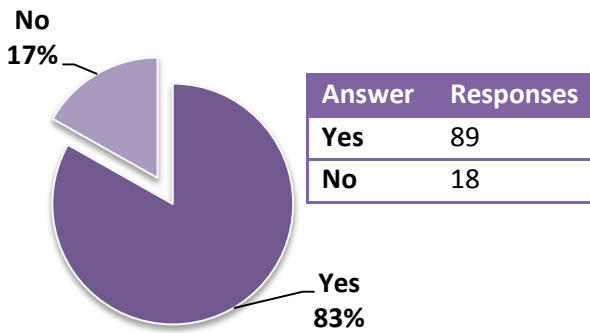
Responses from Golf Courses



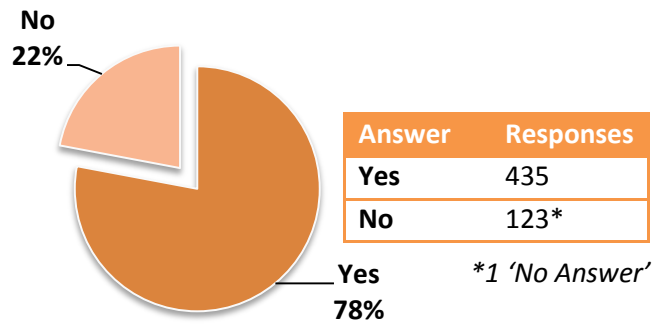
Responses from Leisure Centres



Responses from Customer Services

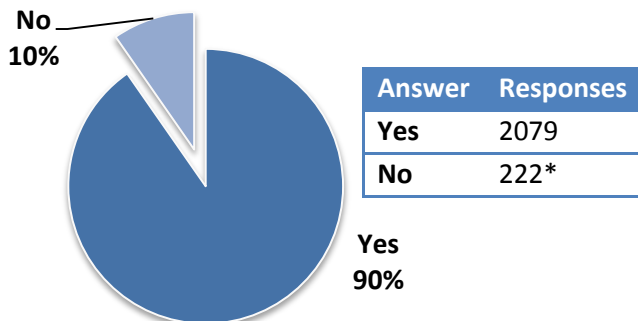


Responses from Leicester.gov.uk/golf (online)

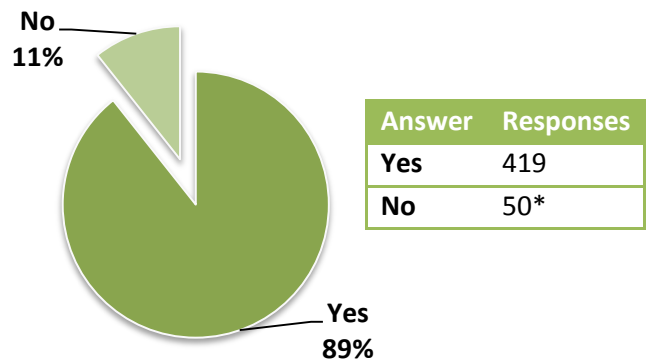


Qs 1 & 3: Do you think the council should continue subsidising golf courses – Leicester versus non-Leicester residents

Leicester Residents



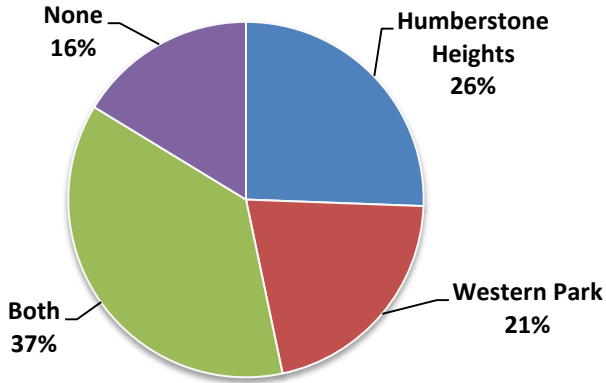
Non-Leicester Residents



*Residency is unknown for 2 responses

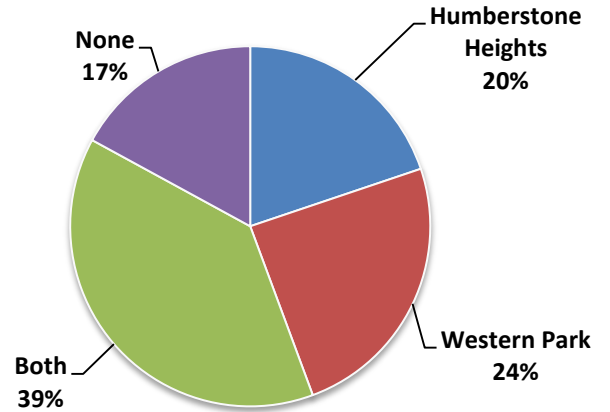
Qs 2 & 3: Are you a user of one or both of the council owned golf courses – Leicester versus non-Leicester residents

Leicester Residents



| Answer | Responses |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Humberstone Heights | 589 |
| Western Park | 486 |
| Both | 852 |
| None | 375 |

Non-Leicester Residents



| Answer | Responses |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Humberstone Heights | 93 |
| Western Park | 115 |
| Both | 181 |
| None | 80 |

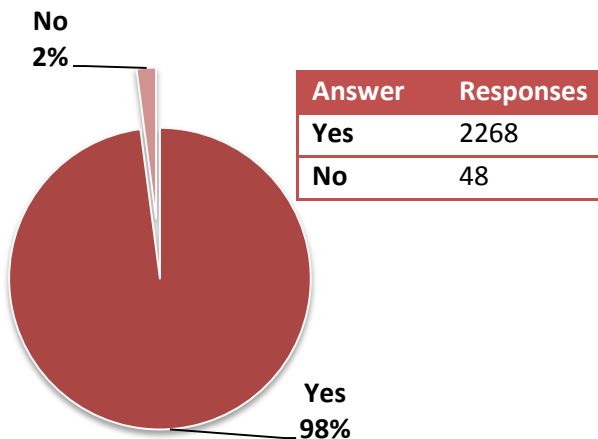
**Residency is unknown for 2 responses*

Qs 1 & 2: Do you think the council should continue subsidising golf courses – golf club users versus non-golf club users

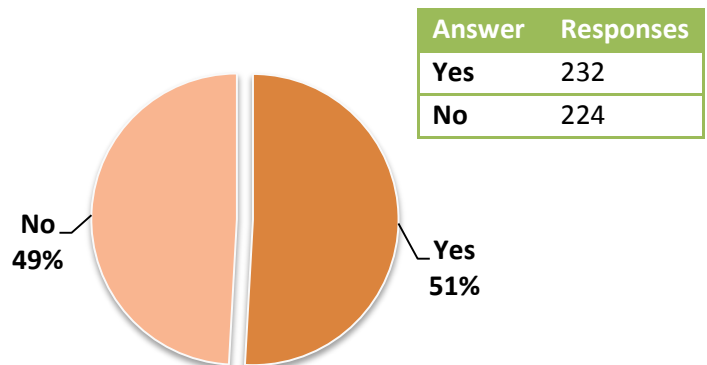
Number of consultation participants who use either or both Humberstone Heights Golf Course and Western Park Golf Course: **2,317 (84%)**.

Number of consultation participants who use neither: **456 (16%)**

Golf Club Users

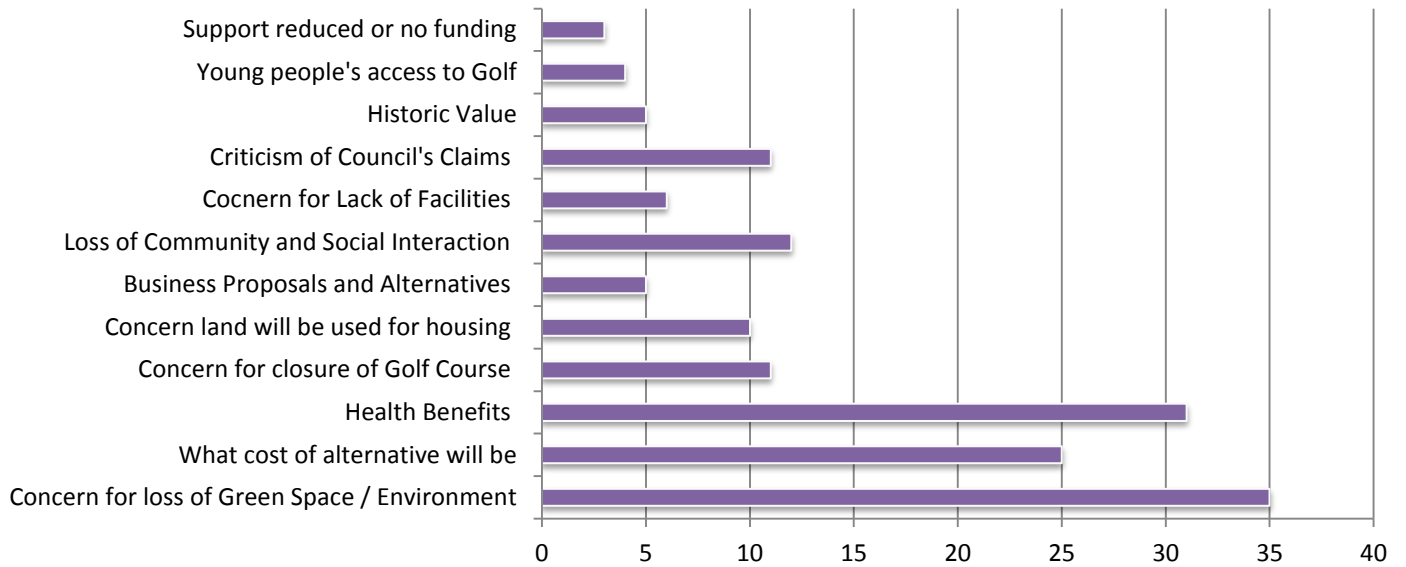


Non-Golf Club Users



Letters and Complaints

The council also received 86 letters and complaints as a result of the consultation. The letters highlighted a range of issues which could arise if a decision were taken to close one or both golf courses. A total of 158 concerns and opinions were raised in the 86 letters, with the majority of responses raising more than one issue (table below).



The letters show that the public is most concerned about the environmental impact of losing the golf courses, while the health benefits to golf and what the alternative would cost were also frequently mentioned. 3 letters expressed support for reduced or no funding to golf.

Appendix A

Golf Consultation

Overview

Leicester City Council is interested in your views. We would like to know if you think the council should continue to financially support the two council-owned golf courses in the city, Humberstone Heights and Western Park. Please read the following information and complete the questions on the back of this leaflet.

Background

Leicester City Council owns and manages eight sport centres, an athletics stadium and two golf courses.

Sports services, including leisure centres, sports development and sport on parks, cost the council approximately £2.9 million each year in public subsidy.

However, large cuts in government funding mean the council is no longer able to continue running all these current services in the same way.

The council will be asking your opinion about specific elements of sports services.

In this consultation – which runs between 11 March and 18 April – we would like to know if you think the council should continue to

financially support the two council owned golf courses – Humberstone Heights and Western Park.

Golf

Per user, golf is by far the most expensive sports facility provided by the council and one of the least used.

On average, sports centres cost the council £1.68 per visit. Golf subsidy has been on average £3.60 per visit – over £150,000 per year. Last year, due to poor weather, the subsidy for Western Golf Course was £6.95 per visit.

On average 215,000 people participated in activities at each of the council sports centres per year - on average only 28,800 used each of the golf sites.

18% of the council's sports centre members do not live in Leicester.
30% of the council's golf course members do not live in Leicester.

The council's sports centres have direct debit membership numbers of approximately 5000 people while the golf courses have a membership of 596 people – of whom about 45 are juniors and 30 are women.

Today, there are 16 other golf clubs across the city and county, most of which offer a member and non-member "pay and play" facility at competitive or lower costs than the council courses.

Why We Are Consulting

We would like to know if you think the council should continue subsidising the two council-owned golf courses in the city.

Please note: If you do not think the council should continue to fund golf that this may result in the council no longer providing either one or both golf courses.

The consultation closes on Friday 18 April 2014

You can complete these questions online at:

www.leicester.gov.uk/golf

Please answer the questions on the back of this leaflet and return the completed questionnaire to our leisure centres, golf courses or to Customer Services, 91 Granby Street, Leicester, LE1 6FB

Questions

- [1] **Do you think the council should continue subsidising golf courses?** Please tick ✓ one box only

Yes No

- [2] **Are you a user of one or both of the council owned golf courses? (Humberstone Heights or Western Park)**

Please tick ✓ one box only

Humberstone Heights Golf Course
Western Park Golf Course
Both
None

- [3] **Do you live in the City of Leicester?** Please tick ✓ one box only

Yes No

Thank you

for completing the questionnaire

