Delivering the new
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Community Boards Consultation Findings Report

Published: November 2019

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Executive Summary

On 1 April 2020 there will be a new single council for Buckinghamshire, replacing the County Council and four district councils. A core part of the business case for setting up a single council was establishing community boards to ensure that the new Council has strong local connections with communities. The purpose of this consultation was to gain the views of residents and other stakeholders on this proposal and in particular on the the aims for community boards; the number and boundaries; membership and funding.

This consultation ran from 12 August to 30 September 2019. A widely advertised online survey was available on the Shadow Council's website. Stakeholders, including county and district members, town and parish councils, were made aware of the consultation through direct mailings, as well as wider promotions such as member briefing events. Residents were encouraged to complete the survey through communications in the press, on social media, posters and leaflets displayed in libraries and other venues. Additionally, six drop-in information sessions where held across the county; plus an information session held at the Bucks County Show.

The key findings were:

- A clear majority of respondents agreed with the proposed three objectives for community boards, with at least 70% agreement across all three objectives from organisations and individuals.
- The top three issues that respondents felt community boards should focus on addressing were: environmental, transportation and improving community facilities.
- Respondents supported and suggested a wide-range of people and organisations to be involved in community boards. In addition to Buckinghamshire Council councillors, this included town and parish councils, the voluntary and community sector, the police and residents.
- With regards to funding, a strong majority of respondents (79%) thought that each board should receive different amounts of money which would be allocated according to the needs of the local population.
- Respondents were asked who should be able to vote on community boards. A strong majority (92%) thought Buckinghamshire Council Councillors and others such as town and parish councillors and other community representatives should have a vote. Very few (8.1%) thought voting should be open to Buckinghamshire Council Councillors only. Some respondents suggested that residents should be included, or that voting should be open to everyone. There were no significant differences between town/parish council representatives and other organisations with regards to who should be able to vote.
- With regards to the number of community boards, the most popular response was for 14 (29%), followed closely by 19 (27%). 15% thought there should be fewer than 14 and only 7% thought there should be more than 19. There were some differences in opinion between the responses by area within Buckinghamshire, with a higher proportion of South Bucks respondents stating a preference for 19 boards.

Respondents made a range of locally specific suggestions on the detail of the proposed boundaries of community boards. Finally, key themes arising from the 'other comments' free text question were in regard to community boards being open and easily accessible to all members of its community, with pro-active engagement with residents.

Introduction

Prior to the formal consultation, extensive research and initial engagement was carried out in order to shape the proposals. Details of this engagement and research were outlined in an options appraisal, which was published as part of the supporting papers to the consultation.

Research included looking at practice elsewhere, as well as considering the existing models within Buckinghamshire. Initial engagement took place with town and parish councils through five workshops held across the county, as well as discussions with partners.

Approach

This consultation ran from 12 August to 30 September 2019, consisting of an online survey to understand the overall opinions and views of key stakeholders. The consultation was open to all stakeholders through an online survey which was promoted through a range of channels. The survey was open to those aged 16 or over.

The survey sought views on the proposed aims and objectives of community boards; issues; the number and geographies; membership and funding. Additionally, opportunities were provided for any comments and suggestions on the proposal to set-up community boards through a range of free-text questions. These questions enabled respondents to let us know their opinions and express views in their own words. Respondents raised a range of different issues. To better understand the key themes, free-text were categorised into the most common themes that respondents raised.

Differences in opinion by group

Respondents were asked to complete a range of 'classification' questions in the survey so that the views of different groups of people or organisations could be understood; this allowed identification of statistical differences between different groups.

The categories of demographics that were asked and used to examine difference for residents included:

- age,
- ethnicity,
- gender,
- and geographic region

Organisations were also asked what type of organisation that they represented (e.g. town or parish council or other organisation).

Other considerations

The survey was open to all residents and organisations to respond; participation was self-selecting. This was not a random sample of respondents and the sample was not stratified to reflect the proportions of the people responding according to the make-up of the Buckinghamshire population. Please see the respondents profile section for more information on how the profile of respondents compares to that of the Buckinghamshire population.

Note that respondents may have completed the survey a number of times (participation was anonymous), in this survey for example there were four organisations where two or three representatives responded.

Promotion of the Consultation

Communications

The consultation was promoted on the Shadow Authority website, social media and in newsletters/emails to partners, members and staff. Promotions included:

- An article in a newsletter to all county and district members, as well as reminder emails;
- An article in a staff newsletter and intranet promotions;
- Two press releases- both at launch and one week prior to consultation close;
- Shadow Authority website promotions;
- Leaflets and posters distributed to all libraries;
- Social media;
- Internal staff communications online and posters;
- Posters at council offices;
- Emails to town and parish councils;
- Emails to key partners;
- Included in Aylesbury Vale's email to their MyAccount subscribers & MyBucks (Buckinghamshire County Council eNewsletter) and requested for all councils to include this information in any relevant newsletters.

Events

The consultation was promoted through drop in sessions, briefing sessions and at the Bucks County Show:

- Six informal drop-in sessions were held across the county during the consultation period.
- Two briefing sessions were held with district and county members.
- A display stand at the Bucks County Show.

Profile of respondents

There were 525 respondents to the consultation. This number was made up of 393 (75%) residents, 93 (18%) town/parish councillors responding as individuals, 14 (3%) town/parish clerks responding as individuals, 14 (3%) county councillors and 42 (8%) district councillors. 101 (19%) were representatives of organisations. Of these 101 organisations, 38% were representing town or parish councils and 63% representing other organisations. Just over a fifth (21%) of respondents selected multiple options. 512 responses were received online, with an additional 12 respondents submitting a letter, 10 from organisations and two from individuals. A total of 13 paper copies were received and these are included within the total responses.
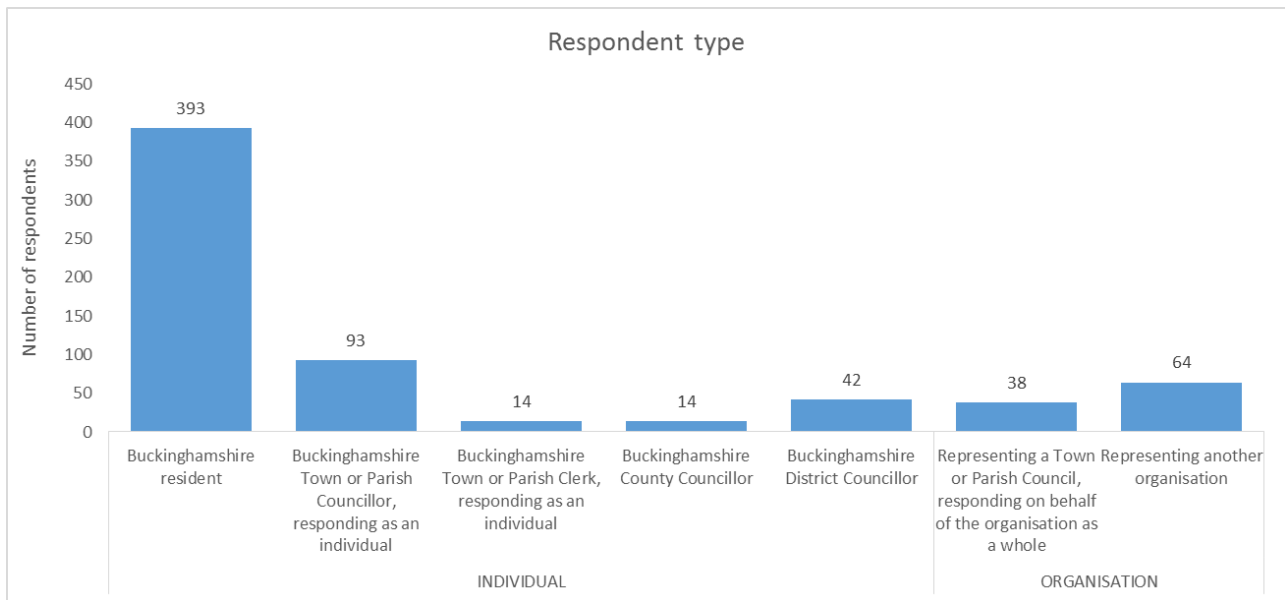
Base: All 525 respondents

Organisations

Over a third (38%) of the 101 responses received on behalf of an organisation were responding from a town or parish council. 63% were representing other organisations, including Primary Care Networks (PCN), Residents Associations, Community Associations, Citizen's Advice and charities. There were 10 responses from organisations received via email, seven from town/parish councils, one from a Citizen's Advice Bureau, one from Better Connected Beaconsfield, and one from Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Partnership.

Residents – Location, Acorn, age, gender, ethnicity

393 respondents completed the survey as a resident or individual. The profile of adults responding was compared with the Buckinghamshire profile across a range of other demographic characteristics. Almost twice as many respondents (59%) were in the 56+ age groups compared with the Buckinghamshire population, where there are 31% in these age bands. White ethnic groups (96%) were over-represented compared with the Buckinghamshire population (87%).

Demographic Profile of Respondents
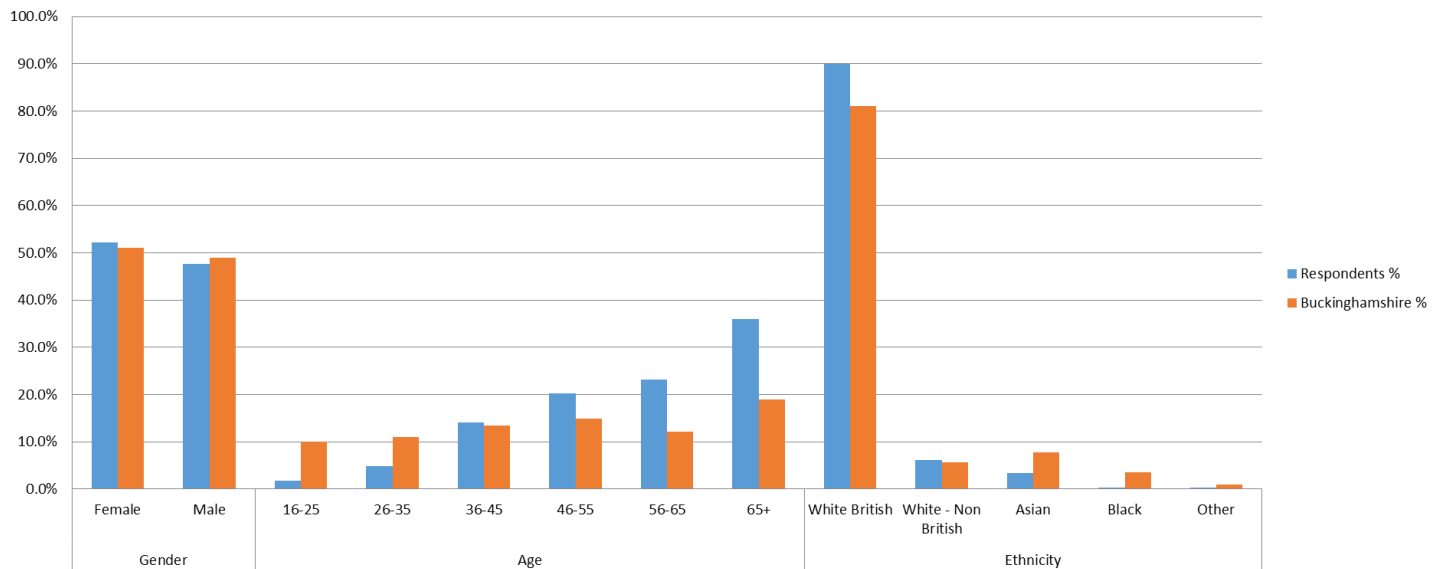
Base: Respondents who answered the question as an individual/resident: Gender (396), Age (393), Ethnicity (380)

Just over half of respondents (280) provided a valid residential postcode, enabling Acorn classification to understand the typical attributes of households and postcodes. Acorn is a tool used to categorise a population into demographic types; providing a general understanding of the attributes of a neighbourhood by classifying postcodes into a category, group or type. Affluent Acorn Groups were over-represented, with 68% from the "Affluent Achievers" category, compared with 47% in Buckinghamshire.

The geographic profile of respondents was compared with the Buckinghamshire profile. Chiltern District was over-represented compared with the Buckinghamshire average (23% vs. 17% for Bucks) while Wycombe was under-represented (21% vs. 33% for Buckinghamshire). See Annex 4 for details.

Respondent ACORN categories
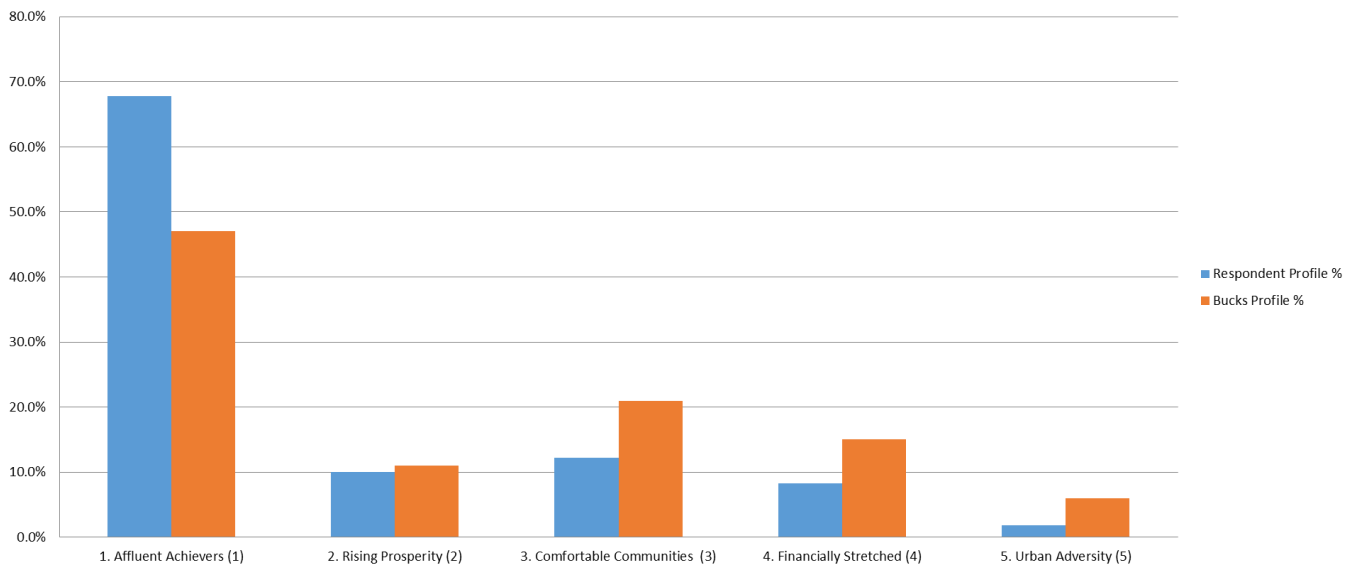
Base: 280 respondents who gave a valid postcode that could be linked to Acorn Classification

The proportion of people agreeing or disagreeing with the proposals was sometimes different for specific groups of people. For example, there were statistically significantly differences between female and male respondents in opinions on community wellbeing (such as improving mental health, tackling social isolation), with a higher proportion of females than males thinking this is an important issue that should be focussed on at community boards.

Statistically significant differences between groups are highlighted in the questionnaire findings.

Questionnaire findings

The following section provides an overview of responses in relation to each of the ten questions asked. A copy of the questionnaire can be viewed in Annex 1.

*The proposed objectives for community boards (Q1)*

Respondents were asked whether they agree, or disagree with the proposed objectives for community boards. The three objectives proposed were:

1. Enabling Buckinghamshire Council Councillors to take decisions on local issues, alongside key partners including parish councillors and other community representatives.
2. Empowering Buckinghamshire Council Councillors and communities to influence service design and delivery on local issues.
3. Facilitating communities to come together with unitary councillors and partners to find local solutions to local issues.

There was also a free text box so respondents could also add any additional comments.

**Q1. To what extent do you agree with the proposed objectives for community boards?**

Enabling Buckinghamshire Council councillors to take decisions on local issues, alongside key partners including parish councillors and other community representatives.
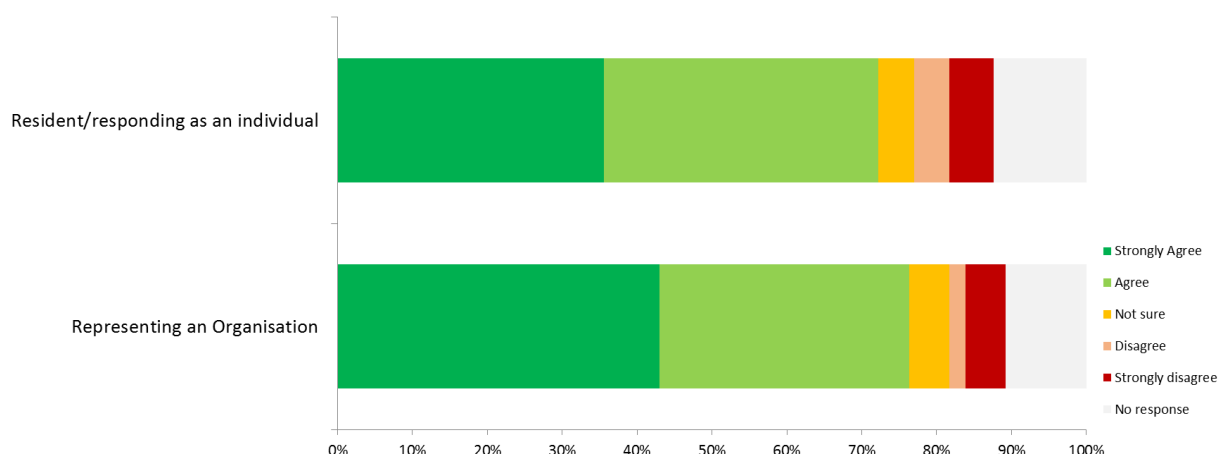
Empowering Buckinghamshire Council councillors and communities to influence service design and delivery on local issues.
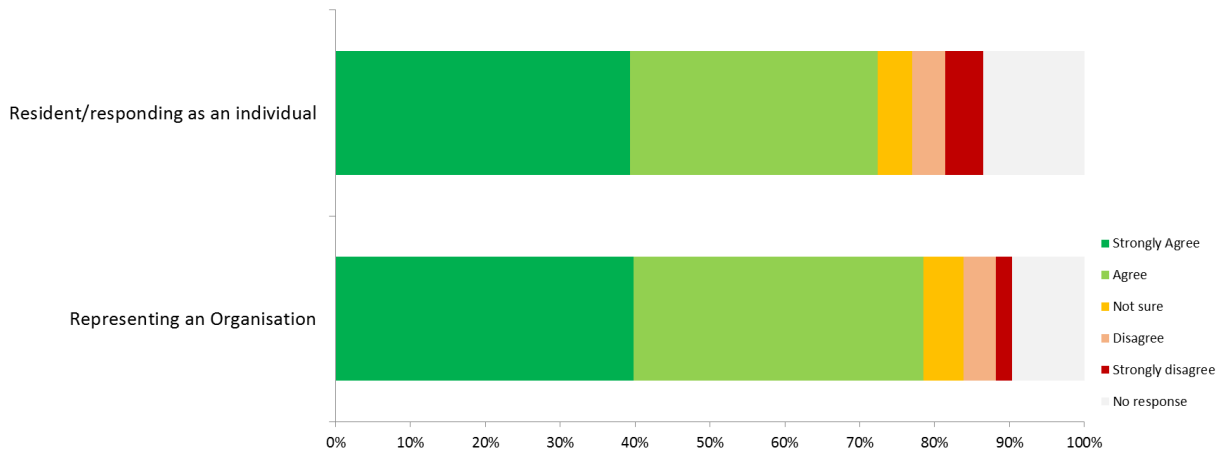
Facilitating communities to come together with unitary councillors and partners to find local solutions to local issues.
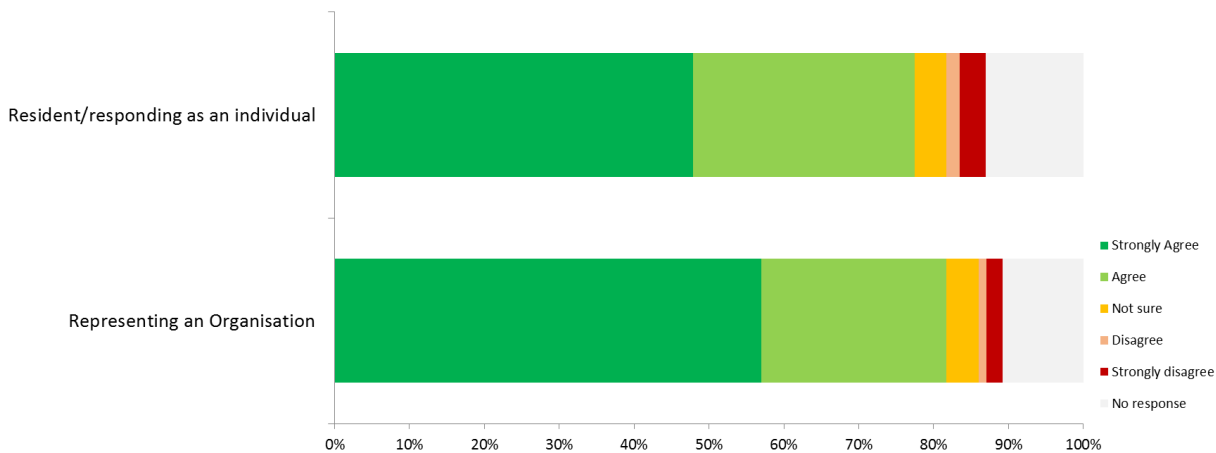
Base: All 456 individuals/residents and 101 organisations

A clear majority of respondents agreed with all of the proposed objectives. There was at least 70% agreement across all three proposals for both organisations and individuals.

Agreement with the proposals was slightly higher for representatives of organisations than for individuals, however, these differences are not statistically significant.

What issues should community boards focus on? (Q2)

Respondents were asked what issues they thought community boards should focus on. Issues included opportunities and support for younger and older people, community facilities and wellbeing, transportation and tackling crime.

Q2. If community boards are set up, what issues would you like your local board to focus on?

If community boards are set up, what issues would you like your local board to focus on?

Issue	Residents/Individuals	Respresenting an organisation
Environmental issues (green space, parks)	65%	66%
Transportation	61%	58%
Improving community facilities	60%	64%
Community wellbeing (such as: improving mental health, tackling social isolation)	58%	57%
Support for older people	57%	59%
Opportunities for children and young people	54%	52%
Tackling crime	53%	44%
Encourage volunteering / community participation	45%	52%
Other	22%	36%

Base: All 101 organisations and 456 individuals/residents

A wide range of issues were viewed by respondents as important for community boards to focus on. The top three areas were environmental, transportation and improving community facilities.

Environmental issues were the most important issue for both individuals (65%) and organisations (66%). 61% of individuals and 58% or organisations thought that transportation should be an area of focus, and improving community facilities was important for 60% of individuals and 64% of organisations.

Statistically significant differences were observed for some respondent groups for this question. A higher proportion of females (67%) than males (58% thought that community wellbeing was an important issue that should be focussed on. County or district councillors (76%) also were more likely to state this is an important issue.

Representatives of organisations (55%) were more likely to think that encouraging volunteering is important to focus on compared with those who were not from an organisation (44%).

Tackling crime was more important for respondents from less affluent Acorn Categories (4 and 5). 78% from Acorn categories 4 and 5 thought this was important, compared with 53% from more affluent groups, 1, 2 and 3.

County or district councillors were more likely to select opportunities for children and young people as an issue to focus on compared with those from other respondent groups.

Improving community facilities was an issue that was of lesser importance for those who were responding as a resident than those who were not, while county or district councillors (67%) were more likely to say this was an important issue than those who were not councillors (52%).

There were no significant differences between town/ parish council representatives and other organisations with regards to what issues should be focussed on.

Q2. If community boards are set up, what issues would you like your local board to focus on? (Other – open response)
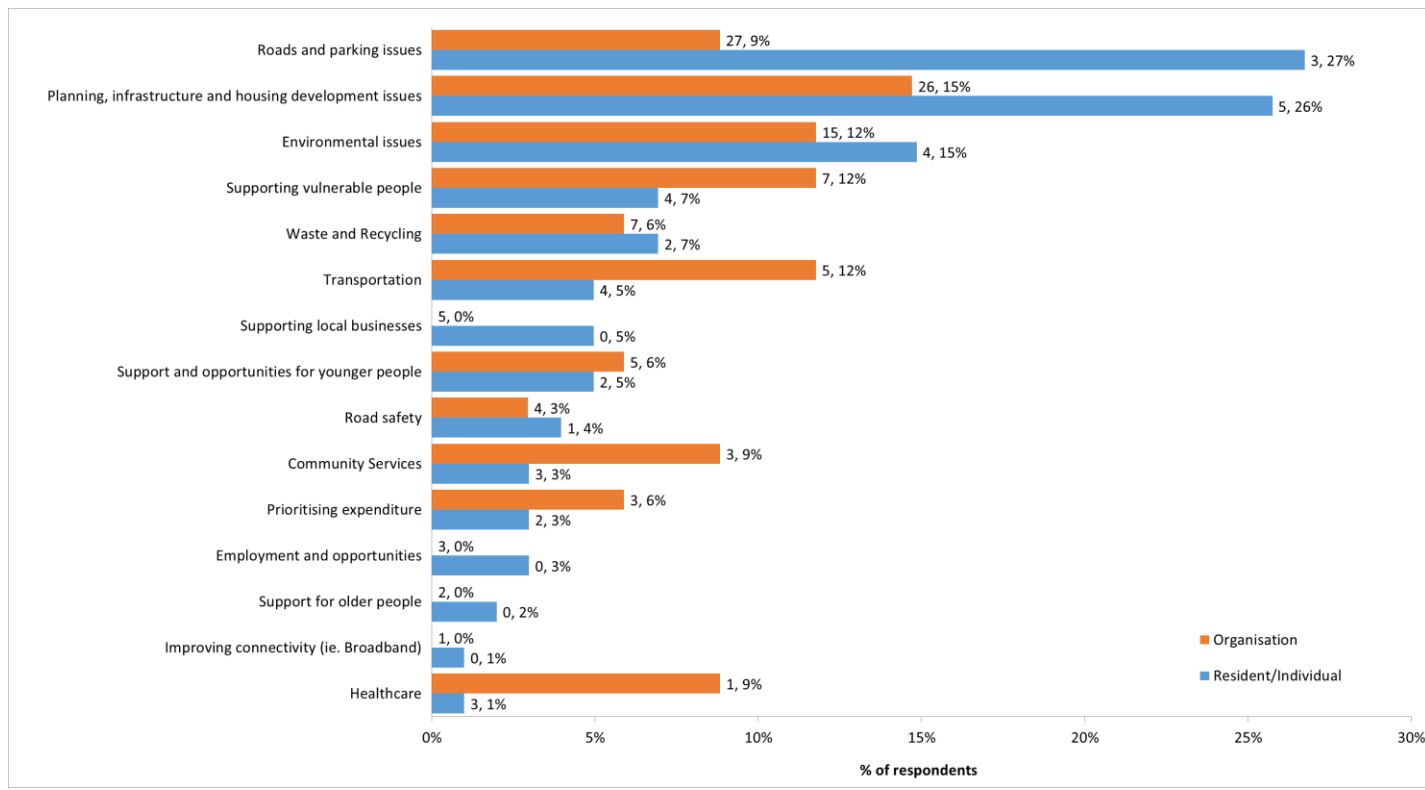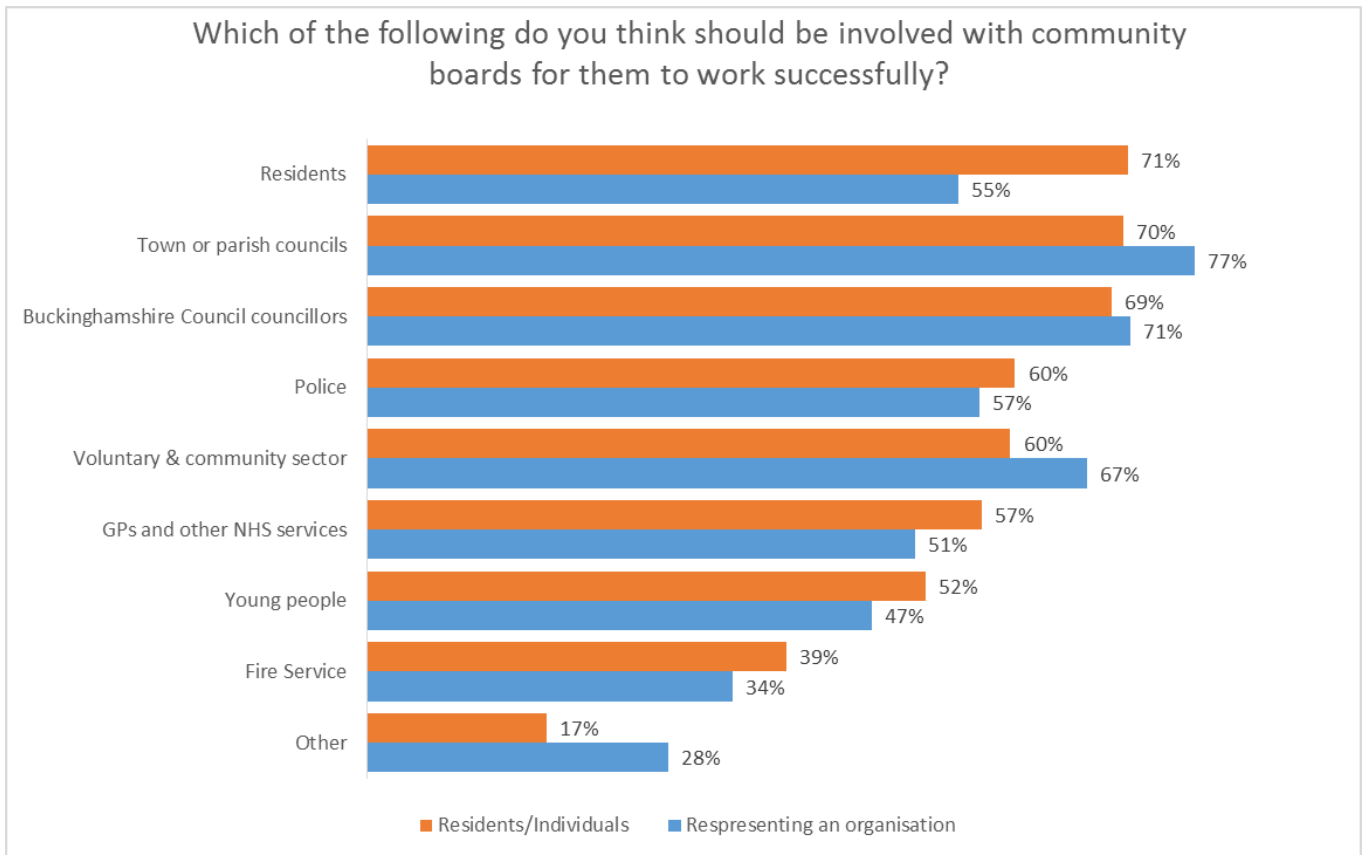

Base: 34 organisations and 101 individuals/residents who provided a valid response to this question

121 respondents expressed their views on this question by making open comments, and the top three issues that emerged were roads and parking; planning, infrastructure and housing development; and environmental issues.

Proposed membership of community boards (Q3)

Respondents were asked who should be involved in community boards. There were some differences in responses depending on the respondent type.

Q3. Which of the following do you think should be involved with community boards for them to work successfully?

Base: 101 organisations and 456 individuals/residents

Both individuals and organisations felt it was important that town or parish councils should be involved, with a statistically significantly higher proportion of representatives of organisations (81%) than individuals (71%) thinking this was important.

A higher proportion of individuals/ residents (71%) than organisations (55%) thought that residents of Buckinghamshire should be involved in community boards.

Buckinghamshire Council councillors, the voluntary and community sector and the police also ranked highly in the question of who should be involved for both groups of respondents.

For those respondents who selected "Other" in response to Q3 (Q3. Which of the following do you think should be involved with community boards for them to work successfully?), there was a free text option to suggest other potential stakeholder groups for community boards. 95 respondents completed this question and the most common additional groups suggested were: local businesses (12 respondents), youth/school councils (10 respondents), charities (six respondents), and religious groups (five respondents).

Funding (Q4)

Respondents were asked how they thought community board funding should be allocated.

Q4. How do you think the available funding from the new council should be allocated to community boards?

How do you think the available funding from the new council should be allocated to community boards?
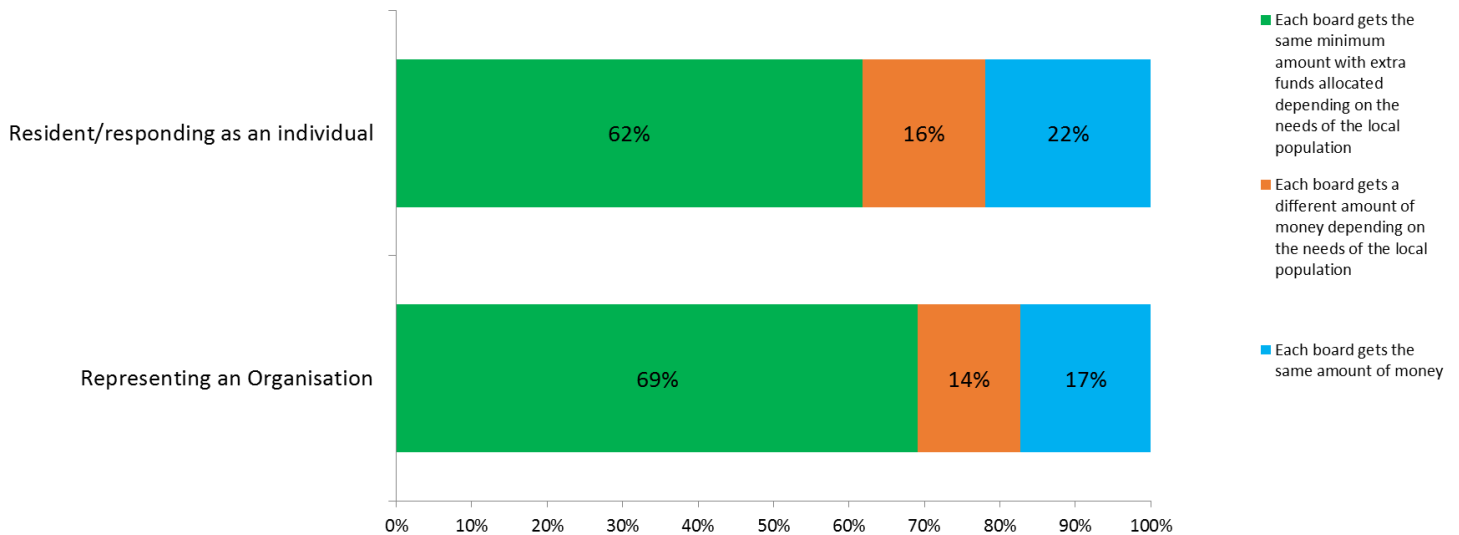
Base: All 82 organisations and 379 residents responding with valid answers to this question

The strong majority of respondents (78% of residents/individuals and 83% of organisations) thought that each board should receive different amounts of money which would be allocated according to the needs of the local population. Most (62% and 69% respectively) thought that each board should receive the same minimum amount. 22% of individuals and 17% of organisations thought that each board should receive the same amount of money.

Decision-making (Q5, Q6)

Respondents were asked who should be able to vote in community boards.

Q5. When voting is needed at community boards, who do you think should be allowed to vote?

When voting is needed at community boards, who do you think should be allowed to vote?
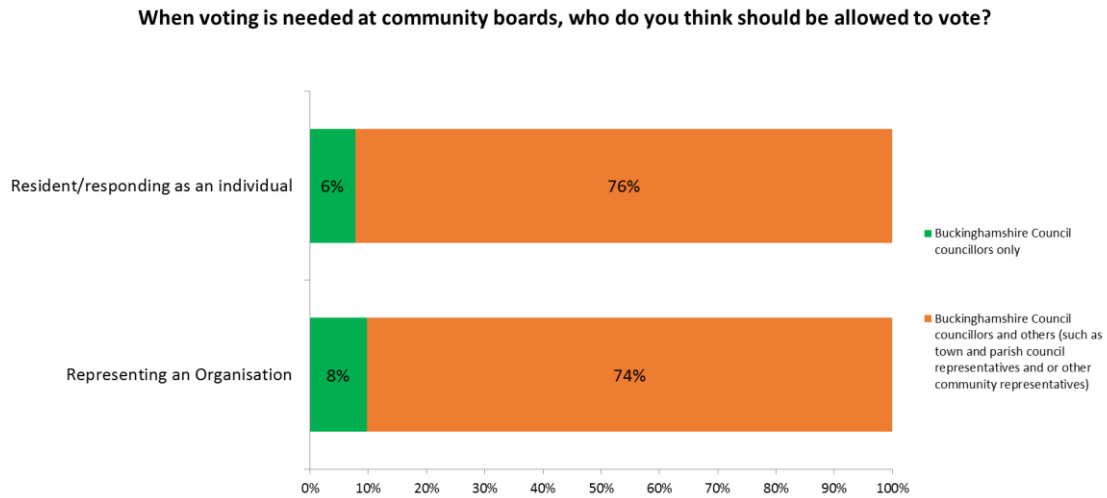
Base: All 82 organisations and 374 residents responding with valid answers to this question

Only 6% of individuals and 9% of representatives of organisations thought that voting rights should be limited to Buckinghamshire Council Councillors only, with a large majority believing it should be extended to others such as town and parish councillors and other community representatives. There were no significant differences in opinion on who should vote between town/parish councils and other organisations.

There was also a free text option for respondents to suggest other potential options for how decision making could work. This was completed by 156 respondents. There were a range of suggestions as to who should be allowed to vote or be involved in decision making. Suggestions included residents, parish town councils, community groups or representatives, all members of the board, or that voting should be open to everyone.

Q6. Do you have any other suggestions for how decision-making at the community boards should work? (Other - open response)
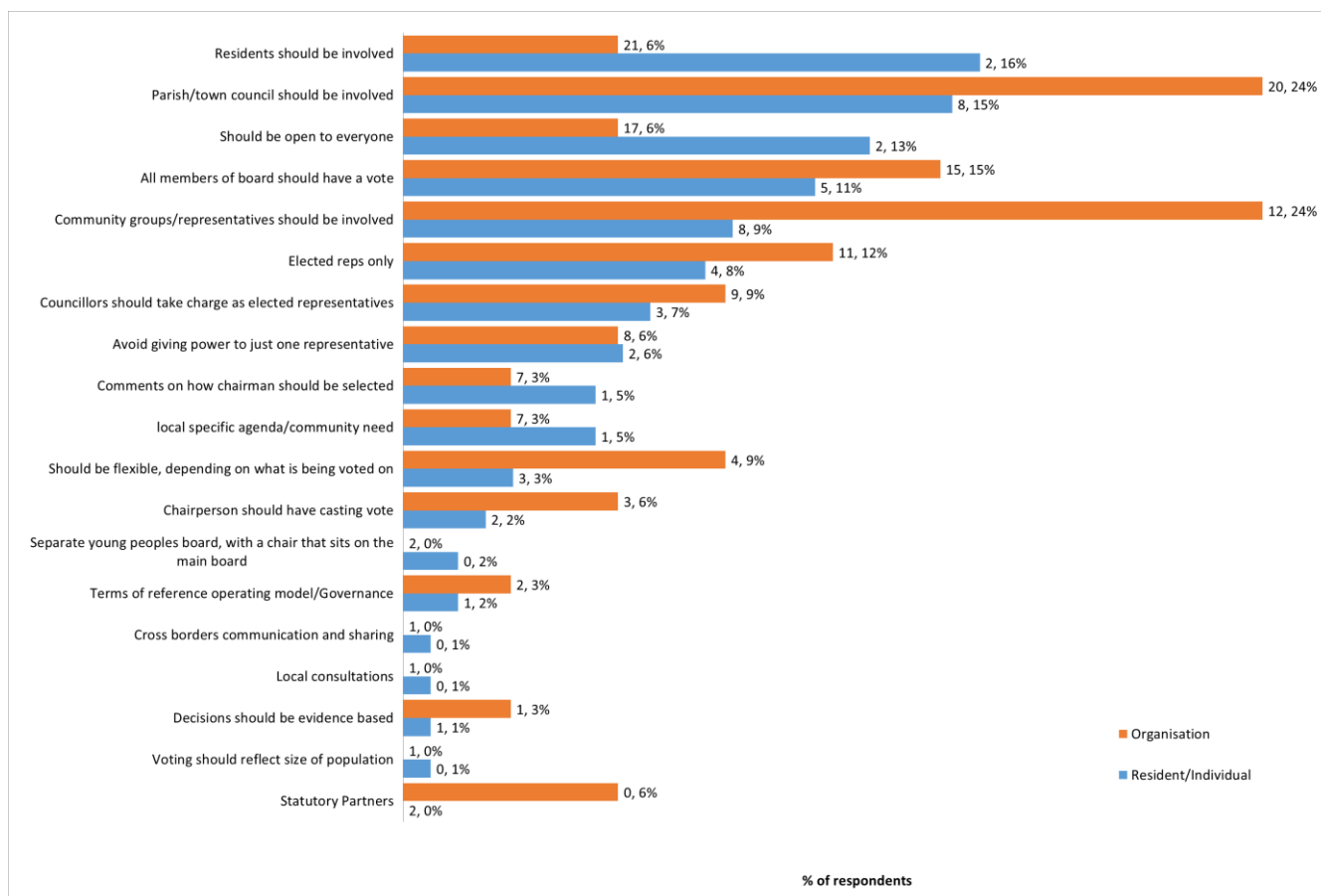
Base: 34 organisations and 133 individuals/residents who provided a valid response to this question

Number and geography of community boards (Q7, Q8)

Respondents were invited to consider the optimum number of community boards across Buckinghamshire and comment upon the boundaries. Responses were invited on all options.

Four options were mapped for consideration: 11, 12, 14 or 19 boards, with an initial preferred option identified of 14 respondents were invited to choose one of these options, or whether they thought less than 11 or more than 19 would be more suitable.

Q7. How many community boards do you think there should be across Buckinghamshire?

How many community boards do you think there should be across Buckinghamshire?
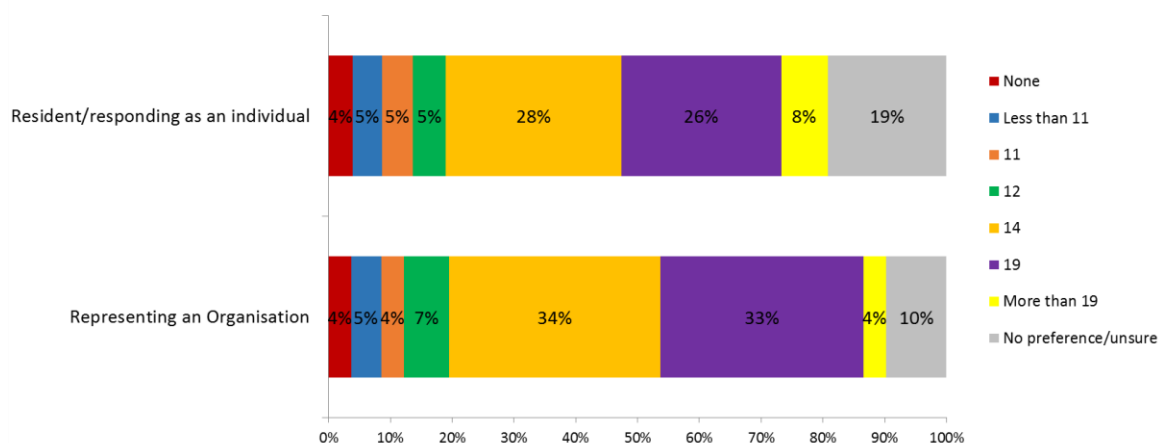
Base: All 83 organisations and 359 individuals/residents responding with valid answers to this question

The highest proportion of both individuals (28%) and organisations (34%) were in agreement with the suggestion of 14 community boards. A close second choice was 19 boards, 26% of individuals and 33% of organisations selected this option. 15% thought there should be fewer than 14 and only 7% thought there should be more than 19.

A notable difference in responses by area within Buckinghamshire was that a higher proportion of South Bucks respondents (36%) thought there should be 19 community boards than in comparison to other areas.

Respondents were also asked to make comments/suggestions on where the boundaries should be. Their comments were grouped into broad themes.

Suggestions included separation or combination of specific boundaries, maintaining the County Council Local Area Forum boundaries, basing around towns, or similar parishes, or considering matching the Primary Care Network (PCN) boundaries. Some were concerned that the suggested areas were too large, while some thought larger areas were better for efficiency.

Q8. Do you have any suggestions/comments on the proposed boundaries for community boards?
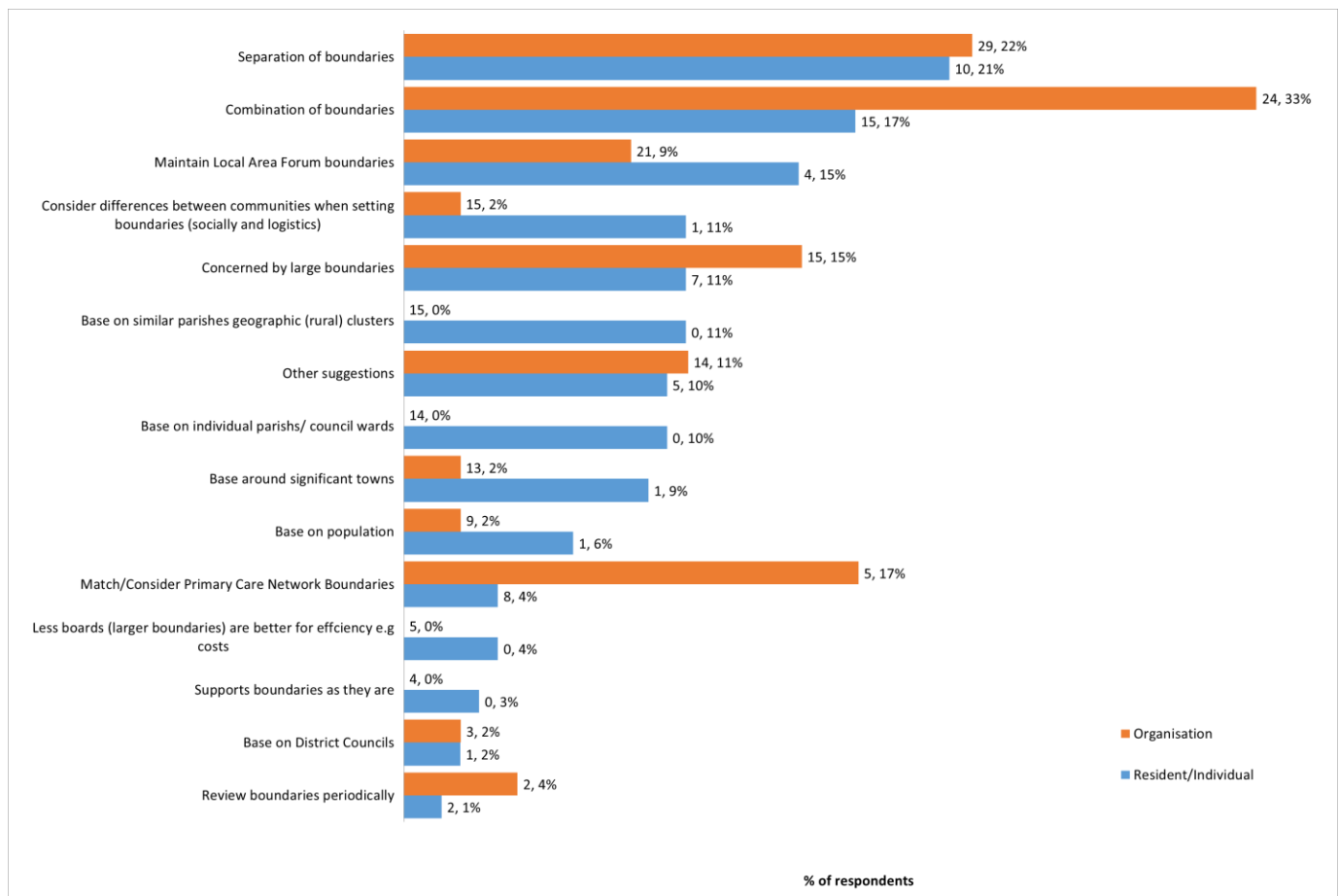
Base: 46 organisations and 139 individuals/residents

A selection of example quotations were chosen to represent some of the themes that emerged from individuals and organisations:

Individuals/Residents' Views:

> There may be some confusion during the transition to the New Authority. Sticking to the existing LAF boundaries offers some continuity.

> The community boards need to match with the newly formed Primary Care Networks or fit wholly within their boundaries. It will lead to more integrated improvements and projects but also build more useful community links and further shared working opportunities.

> There should be a board for each significant town (i.e Buckingham and Winslow in North Bucks) and others for geographical groups of parishes.

> The boundaries really need to be representative of population size otherwise rural communities will continue to receive a greater proportion of support. The main Towns of Aylesbury and High Wycombe should have more than one community board each.

> The boundaries should reflect natural communities with shared interests, and not draw together those that have no clear links – for example, Beaconsfield is grouped with Gerrards Cross, where there is no shared interest, indeed there are likely to be conflicting interests.

> The needs of individual parishes vary greatly, even though they may be geographically close together, so the number of boards set up needs to reflect this individuality.

Organisations' Views

Key consultation responses were received from the Clinical Commissioning Group, Primary Care Networks and Thames Valley Police in regard to the proposed boundaries via individual letters. All organisations were keen to ensure effective joint working between the community boards and respective organisations. All therefore were keen to see a better alignment with their organisational structures.

The Accountable Directors across the Primary Care Network provided a joint response which highlighted perceived difficulties for their Primary Care Networks in working across multiple boundaries, which might make it harder to participate in partnership structures and ensure joint action.

Similarly, the Thames Valley Police highlighted in their response that they would prefer to see an alignment of boundaries with their local policing areas (based on the existing district boundaries) to make it easier for operational alignment and participation.

Naming of community boards (Q9)

Of the 525 respondents, 61 made comments or suggestions regarding the naming of community boards (Q9. Do you have any suggestions/comments on possible names for community boards?).

Several respondents made specific suggestions for area names (16 respondents), while others suggested that the names should reflect everything that the boundary encompasses (13 respondents), or base on the most populated area in the board (8 respondents).

Other comments or suggestions about community boards (Q10)

Of the 525 respondents, 172 made other general comments or suggestions regarding community boards. These were grouped into broad themes. Opinions varied depending on the type of respondent, although in general there were common themes across all respondents.

The top three themes were that community boards should be public, open and accessible to all demographics, (18% of individuals, 17% of organisations), community engagement (15% of individuals, 14% of organisations) and funding (33% of individuals, 14% of organisations).
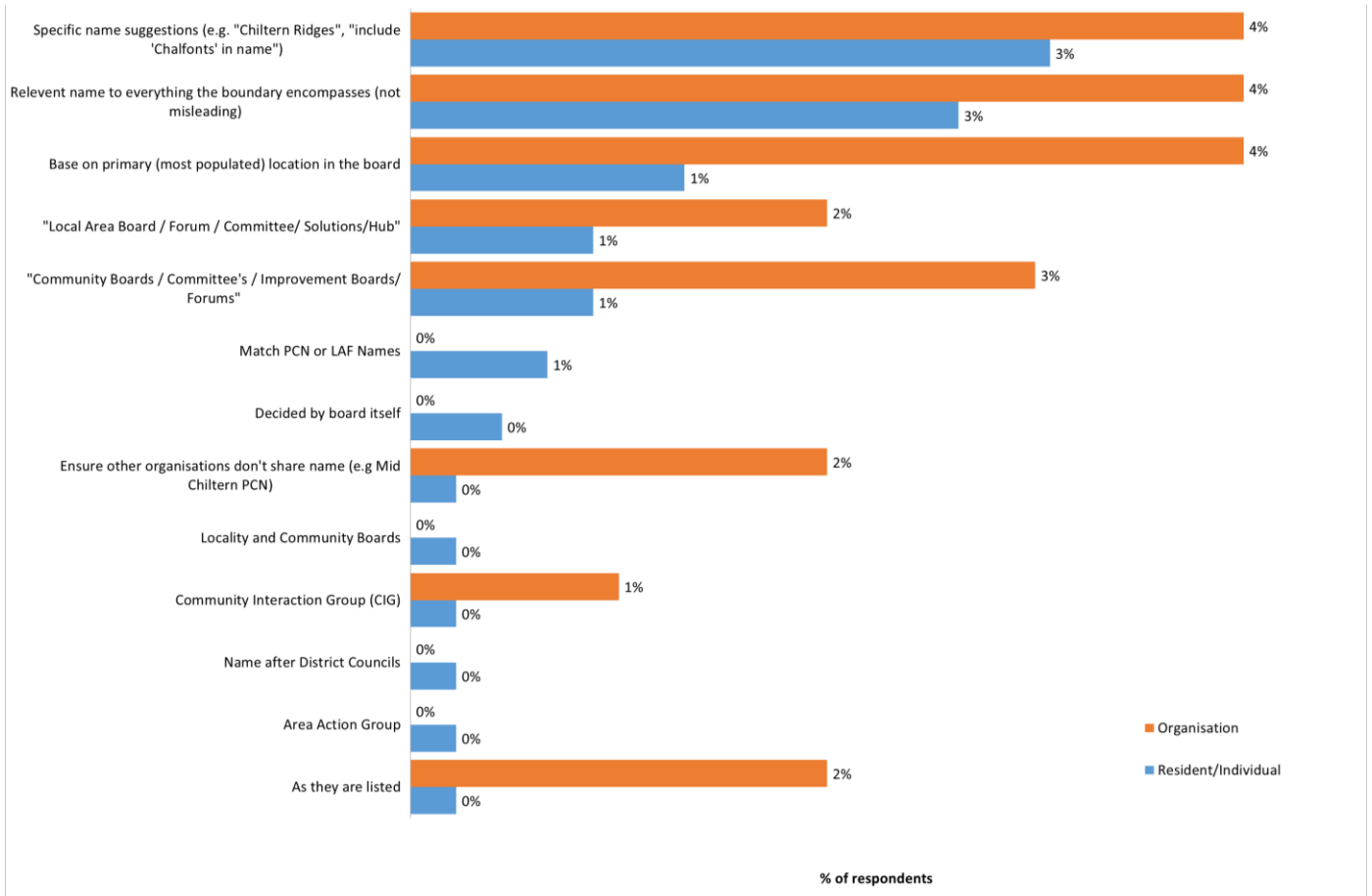
Base: 101 organisations and 456 individuals/residents

Q10. Do you have any other comments or suggestions about community boards, this could include on how they work and/or alternatives? (open response)
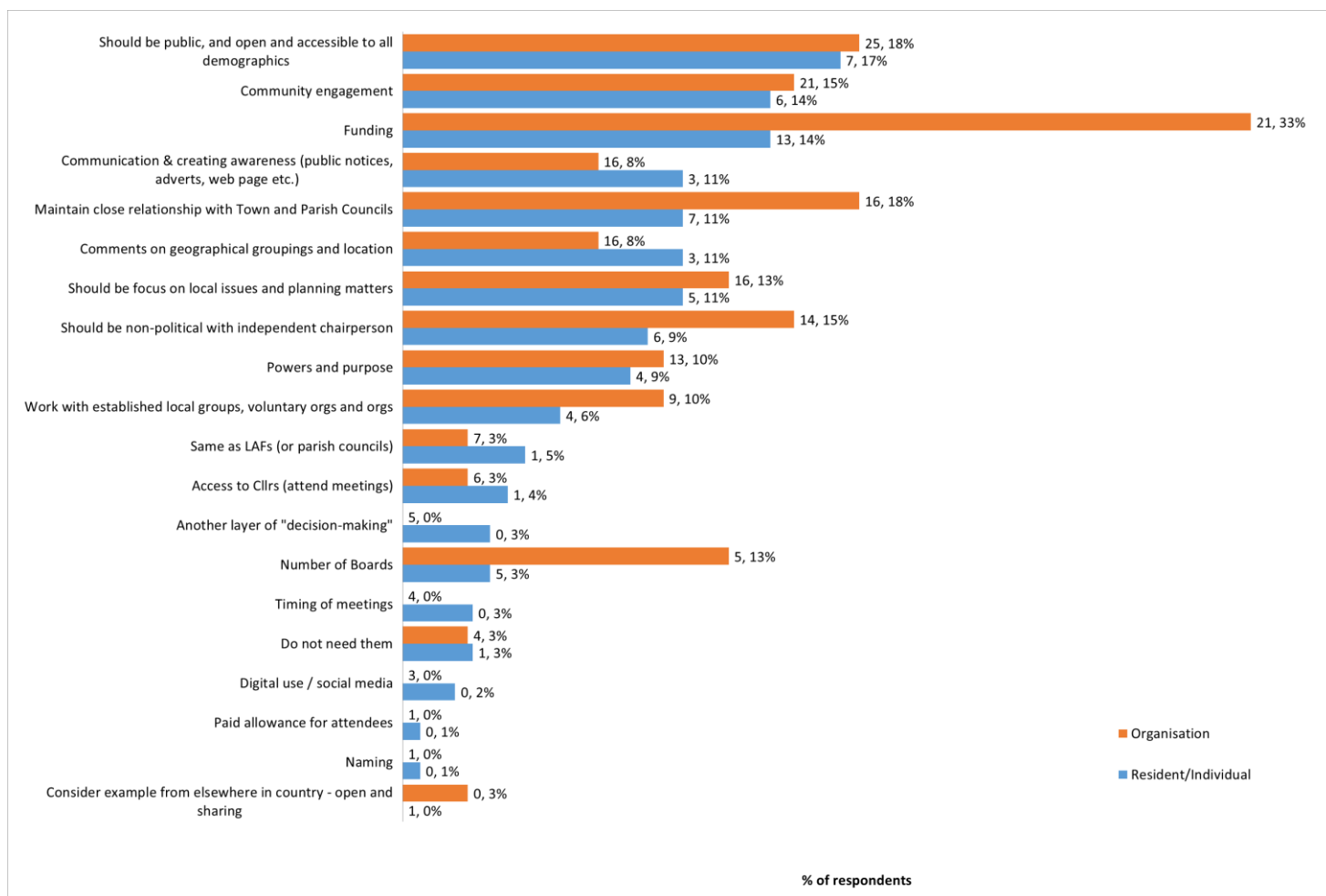
Base: 40 organisations and 149 individuals/residents who provided a valid response to this question

A selection of quotations below reflect some of the common themes that emerged from individuals and organisations:

Individuals/Residents' quotes:

> I think they are a very good idea, providing there is a true representation and concerns, ideas and thoughts are genuinely listened to.

> They need to be democratically robust and follow a clear code of practice.

> Localism through the local boards is essential if the Unitary Authority is to remain in touch with local issues and do the joined up thinking when common issues are identified.

> The boards must be known about and accessible by everyone in Buckinghamshire and participation in them encouraged.

> I think it's an excellent idea for residents to be involved.

> People want to be and feel more involved. Politics are changing and people want to have a say in how our money is spent.

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Organisations' quotes:

> Community Boards offer an opportunity to engage with communities in different ways and reach people who might not otherwise get involved in local democracy.

> Their agendas and decisions should be public and their meetings should be open - always.

> Boards need to have real power and influence, they need to have a say on issues that matter to the community. They need to be adequately resourced in terms of staff time and funds in order to function properly.

> Agree deliverable, measurable, interventions and be transparent about impact, sharing good practice. Consider examples from elsewhere around the country

> They should be able to have a rolling budget so that bigger schemes are funded.

> Community Boards must maintain a close liaison with the Town and Parish Councils within their areas of responsibility

Information events

Six informal drop-in sessions were held across the county during the consultation period plus a display stand at the Bucks County Show. Approximately 65 people attended these sessions.

Two briefing sessions were held with county and district members. There were approximately 28 attendees across both meetings.

The purpose of these events was to provide information to help people complete the online survey. Feedback from these sessions was mainly concerning the detail of geography and boundaries of the boards, with very varied responses on specific local issues. The principle of setting up community boards was widely supported.

Feedback from partners

In addition to the survey responses received key partner organisations submitted individual letters and/or held meetings to discuss issues. A full list of additional organisational responses is detailed in Annex 2. Key organisational responses included:

- Integrated Care Partnership (ICP);
- Joint Response from Buckinghamshire Primary Care Networks; and
- Thames Valley Police

All partners welcomed the set-up of community boards. All responses highlighted the complexity and potential challenges in operating community boards in parallel to the different geographies used by health and the police.

In addition, the ICP asked that there were further discussions on future partnership arrangements and involvement, consideration of the role of the Network Patient Participation Groups, consideration of pan-community board joint working where appropriate.

The Thames Valley Police response also highlighted their difficulties in attending the existing 19 Local Area Forums, and ensuring senior representation in particular:

> "There is no benefit to this model (except to maintain the status quo). Because of operational requirements we know that we often do not manage to attend the Local Area Forums as we would like to, in terms of senior representation that can manage resourcing and set tasks within Thames Valley Police."

The police response included a favoured response of 14 community boards:

> "Making such a change on the 14 board model would enable us to consider, as a more realistic option in the medium term, adjusting Neighbourhood Policing Boundaries within our *existing* Local Policing Areas to match the new Buckinghamshire Council community board areas. We would see significant benefit in aligning our Neighbourhood Policing Boundaries so that community engagement methods can take full advantage of the new Board structures and potentially we can rationalise other meetings we attend as a result to maximise our efficiency and effectiveness in terms of community engagement. Adjusting our Neighbourhood Policing Boundaries would also allow us to provide data through publication on police.uk which would reduce the need for police to provide bespoke data to inform board decision making and potentially make decisions more effective."

Feedback from the not-for-profit sector

The not-for-profit sector have been engaged strategically on the set-up of community boards through the County Council's strategic partnership sounding board. Strong support was expressed in their potential opportunity to strengthen partnership working to improve outcomes for residents, particularly in joint working on health & wellbeing opportunities.

Suggestions were made on the importance of ensuring representation from community groups and the non-usual suspects in all aspects of the work of community boards to help make them successful; ideas on different and more engaging formats for events beyond committee style meetings; a request that the funding supports the sector; and that intelligence is utilised to inform priorty setting by members.

Annex 1 - Questionnaire

Delivering the new
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Community Boards Consultation
About You

* Which of the following descriptions apply to you? (please select all that apply)

☐ Buckinghamshire resident

☐ Buckinghamshire District Councillor

☐ Buckinghamshire Town or Parish Councillor, responding as an individual

☐ Representing a Town and Parish Council, responding on behalf of the organisation as a whole

☐ Buckinghamshire Town or Parish Clerk, responding as an individual

☐ Representing another organisation

☐ Buckinghamshire County Councillor

Other (please specify)

[   ]

Community Boards Consultation
About You

Please note: responses from organisations will be shared with decision-makers and identifiable.   If you do not wish your response to be identifiable please return to the previous page and respond as an individual.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please specify the name of the organisation below:

[   ]

Community Boards Consultation

About you

Please note: if you are replying on behalf of an organisation you do not need to complete the section below.

All information provided will only be used for the purpose of analysing the responses received. All responses will be kept anonymous.

Please tell us your postcode…

I identify my gender as …

- ◯ Male
- ◯ Female
- ◯ Other
- ◯ Prefer not to answer

Which of the following best describes your ethnic group?

- ◯ White – English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- ◯ White – Irish
- ◯ White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ◯ White – Any other White background (please specify below)
- ◯ Asian/Asian British
- ◯ Asian/Asian Pakistani
- ◯ Asian/Asian British – Bangladeshi

- ◯ Asian/Asian British – Chinese
- ◯ Asian/Asian British – Any other Asian background (please specify below)
- ◯ Black/Black British – African
- ◯ Black/Black British – Caribbean
- ◯ Black/Black British – Any other Black/African/Caribbean background (please specify below)
- ◯ Other (please specify below)
- ◯ Prefer not to say

Other (please specify)

Please tell us your age:

- ◯ 16-25
- ◯ 26-35
- ◯ 36-45
- ◯ 46-55

- ◯ 56-65
- ◯ 65+
- ◯ Prefer not to answer

Community Boards Consultation

Objectives

We're proposing that community boards have three objectives:

- **Enabling Buckinghamshire Council councillors to take decisions on local issues, alongside key partners including parish councillors and other community representatives.**
- **Empowering Buckinghamshire Council councillors and communities to influence service design and delivery on local issues.**
- **Facilitating communities to come together with Buckinghamshire Council councillors and partners to find local solutions to local issues.**

To what extent do you agree with the proposed objectives for community boards?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
Enabling Buckinghamshire Council councillors to take decisions on local issues, alongside key partners including parish councillors and other community representatives.					
Empowering Buckinghamshire Council councillors and communities to influence service design and delivery on local issues.					
Facilitating communities to come together with unitary councillors and partners to find local solutions to local issues.					

Additional comments:

Community Boards Consultation
Local issues

If community boards are set up, what issues would you like your local board to focus on? (Please select all that apply)

- [ ] Opportunities for children and young people
- [ ] Support for older people
- [ ] Community wellbeing (such as: improving mental health, tackling social isolation)
- [ ] Environmental issues (green space, parks)
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Improving community facilities
- [ ] Tackling crime
- [ ] Encourage volunteering / community participation
- [ ] Other (please specify

Community Boards Consultation

Which of the following do you think should be involved with community boards for them to work successfully? (please select all that apply)

- [ ] Buckinghamshire Council councillors
- [ ] Fire Service
- [ ] GPs and other NHS services
- [ ] Police
- [ ] Other (please specify)
- [ ] Residents
- [ ] Town or parish councils
- [ ] Voluntary & community sector
- [ ] Young people

Community Boards Consultation
Funding

There will be some funding provided to community boards to help support the delivery of local priorities. Whilst funding will only be one part of the work of community boards we know that it matters. It is proposed that £2.5 million overall is made available to community boards in 2020/21.

Further details on the proposed funding arrangements can be found in the **options appraisal**, see page 28.

How do you think the available funding from the new council should be allocated to community boards?

○ Each board gets the same amount of money

○ Each board gets a different amount of money depending on the needs of the local population

○ Each board gets the same minimum amount with extra funds allocated depending on the needs of the local population

Community Boards Consultation
Community board decision-making

For community boards to be effective, different people and organisations who are involved in a local area will need to come together. Decisions will normally be reached by consensus.

Upon occasions there will be a need for voting to ensure clarity and accountability, for example on community grant applications. To ensure accountability for decisions, particularly in regard to council expenditure, Buckinghamshire councillors from that area are proposed as the voting members. In addition, other people could also vote alongside them.

When voting is needed at community boards, who do you think should be allowed to vote?

○ Buckinghamshire councillors only

○ Buckinghamshire councillors and others (such as town and parish council representatives and or other community representatives)

Do you have any other suggestions for how decision-making at the community boards should work?

Community Boards Consultation
Number and geographies

There are many different options for the number of community boards which could be set up and their respective boundaries. The council is consulting on all options.

The initial thinking is that 14 community boards across the county would be optimum number overall, based on consideration of the possible areas and the best fit for natural communities. However, we want to better understand views on all options.

See the **options appraisal** for more information on the assessment. Maps of all options can be viewed **here**.

How many community boards do you think there should be across Buckinghamshire?

- ( ) None
- ( ) Less than 11
- ( ) 11
- ( ) 12
- ( ) 14
- ( ) 19
- ( ) More than 19
- ( ) No preference/unsure

Do you have any suggestions/comments on the proposed boundaries for community boards?

The possible names for community board area can be viewed on this **map**. If you type in your postcode, the names of your relevant board area will pop-up. A list of the possible names for each option can also be found **here**.

Do you have any suggestions/comments on possible names for community boards?

Community Boards Consultation
Other suggestions

Do you have any other comments or suggestions about community boards, this could include on how they work and/or alternatives?

Annex 2: List of organisations

101 organisations responded to the consultation, and 60 of these provided their organisation'sname :

Amersham Town Council

AVS PCN

Better Connected Beaconsfield

Buckingham Canal Society

Buckingham Town Council

Buckinghamshire Music Trust

Chalfont St Giles & Jordans Revitalisation Steering Group

Chepping Wycombe Parish Council

Chesham Town Council

Citizens Advice Aylesbury Vale

Citizens Advice High Wycombe

Denham Parish Council

Families and Carers Together in Bucks

Fulmer Parish Council

Gerrards Cross Town Council

Great Missenden Village Association

High Wycombe Community Advocates

John Hampden Surgery Patient Participation Group

Leap - The Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Sport and Activity Partnership

Little Chalfont Community Association

Little Marlow Parish Council

MMPC

Penn & Tylers Green Residents Society

School chair of governors

Thames Valley Police

The Ivers Parish Council

THE MARLOW SOCIETY

West Wycombe Parish Council

Winchmore Hill Residents Association

Wingrave with Rowsham Parish Council

ARC Primary Care Network

Beaconsfield Town Council

Buckingham Area Community Advice Foundation

Buckingham Park Parish Council

Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Partnership

Chairman of OAKLEY Parish Council

Chearsley Parish Council

Chesham Connect Revitalisation Group

Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parsish Council

Citizens Advice Chiltern

Community Impact BUcks

Dinton with Ford and Upton Parish Council

Farnham Royal Parish Council

Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council

Great Missenden & Prestwood Revitalisation Group

Hambleden Parish Council

Iver Village Residents Association

Leap

Lindengate, Mental Health Charity

Little Chalfont Parish Council

Mid Chiltern Primary Care Network

North Buckinghamshire Primary Care Network

Richings Park Residents Association

Taplow Parish Council

The Beaconsfield Society

The Lee Parish Council

Wendover Parish Council

Westongrove PCN (GP Surgeries)

Wing Parish Council

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Annex 3: Additional letters received

The following additional letters were received from organisations.

- Beaconsfield Town Council
- Better Connected Beaconsfield
- Buckingham Town Council
- Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Partnership
- Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council
- Citizens Advice High Wycombe
- Denham Parish Council
- Farnham Royal Parish Council
- Fulmer Parish Council
- The Lee Parish Council

Two individuals (ie. not representing an organisation) responded via letter.

Annex 4: Geographical distribution of respondents

285 respondents provided a valid postcode The table below shows how many respondents there were from each of the four districts compared with the Buckinghamshire population.

District	Number		%	
	Buckinghamshire Population	Repondents	Buckinghamshire Population	Repondents
Aylesbury Vale	196,020	113	37%	40%
Chiltern	95,355	66	18%	23%
South Bucks	69,785	47	13%	16%
Wycombe	174,758	59	33%	21%
Total	535,918	285	100%	100%