

Lewes District Council Corporate Plan consultation report



Lewes District Council

Consultation report | January 2024

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Background

From Thursday 30 November to Sunday 31 December 2023, Lewes District Council carried out a public consultation over its draft corporate plan, 'Re-imagining Lewes District - Delivering the Vision - 2024 to 2028'.

We invited comments and feedback on the proposed priorities of the draft plan from residents, businesses, partners and other stakeholders. We also asked respondents if they had any suggestions for additions to the plan.

The sections of the draft plan:

- Delivering high quality, responsive services to local people
- Continuing to support local people through challenging times
- Providing leadership to the district in tackling the climate and nature emergency
- Creating sustainable community wealth
- Building genuinely affordable homes

We also asked for comments on about a section of the plan detailing how the council proposes to work with people and partners.

How we consulted

We published a page on the Lewes District Council website, providing the draft plan to download and an online survey asking questions about each section of the plan.

We made the consultation information available in other languages and formats, including hard copy on request.

We promoted the consultation through the news section of the council website, an email to our 20,000 news and consultation email alert subscribers.

We promoted the consultation repeatedly through promotional videos on the council's social media channels and emailed key partners and stakeholders directly with an invitation to respond to the consultation.

We also signposted to the consultation from a site-wide message on every page of the council website.

Summary of responses

1. In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
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1. In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

1	A resident of Lewes district		86.07%	105
2	As a tenant or leaseholder of Lewes District Council		1.64%	2
3	A visitor to Lewes district		0.00%	0
4	Someone who works in Lewes district but doesn't live here		0.82%	1
5	A business operating in the district		0.82%	1
6	An organisation or group (please specify below)		8.20%	12
7	Other (please specify):		2.46%	3
			answered	122
			skipped	0

Organisations responding:

- Lewes Priory Cricket Club
- Southeast Communities Rail Partnership
- Lewes Swift Supporters
- South Highton Parish Council
- Lewes District Citizens' Advice x 2
- Environmental Law Foundation supporting Love Our Ouse
- Werks Collaborations Ltd
- Plumpton Parish Council
- Ringmer Parish Council
- Railfuture Ltd - London & South East Regional Branch
- Cycle Lewes
- Sussex Police

2. Where in Lewes district do you live?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Lewes (town)	20.54%	23

2. Where in Lewes district do you live?

2	Newhaven		8.93%	10
3	Peacehaven		8.04%	9
4	Telscombe Cliffs		0.00%	0
5	Saltdean		1.79%	2
6	Seaford		25.89%	29
7	Barcombe		1.79%	2
8	Bishopstone		0.89%	1
9	Chailey		0.89%	1
10	Denton		1.79%	2
11	Ditchling		0.89%	1
12	East Chiltington		3.57%	4
13	Falmer		0.00%	0
14	Firle		0.00%	0
15	Glynde		0.00%	0
16	Hamsey		2.68%	3
17	Iford		0.00%	0
18	Kingston		1.79%	2
19	Newick		2.68%	3
20	Offham		0.00%	0
21	Piddinghoe		0.89%	1
22	Plumpton		5.36%	6
23	Ringmer		7.14%	8
24	Rodmell		0.89%	1
25	Southeast		0.00%	0
26	South Heighton		1.79%	2
27	Streat		0.00%	0
28	Tarring Neville		0.00%	0
29	Telscombe Village		0.00%	0
30	Westmeston		0.00%	0
31	Wivelsfield		0.89%	1
32	Somewhere else (please specify):		0.89%	1
			answered	112

2. Where in Lewes district do you live?

skipped	10
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Somewhere else (please specify): (1)
 - Brighton

3. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority: 'Delivering high quality, responsive services to local people'?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	48.18%	53
2	Agree	34.55%	38
3	Neither agree or disagree	15.45%	17
4	Disagree	0.91%	1
5	Strongly disagree	0.91%	1
		answered	110
		skipped	12

Comment: (26)

Comment Themes from Individuals

- A need for more GP provision in the district.
- There is a need to maintain face-to face customer service as an option for those who need it.

Comments from organisations and groups

Access in Seaford and Newhaven Committee: The group stated that they felt an Access Officer was needed to support local access groups.

4. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority: 'Continuing to support local people through challenging times'?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	48.33%	58
2	Agree	30.00%	36

4. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority: 'Continuing to support local people through challenging times'?

3	Neither agree or disagree		16.67%	20
4	Disagree		2.50%	3
5	Strongly disagree		2.50%	3
			answered	120
			skipped	2

Comment: (22)

Comment Themes from Individuals

- Support is particularly important for older people or people with a disability.

Comments from organisations and groups

Lewes Priory Cricket Club: The group were supportive but felt more information could be provided about how the council could work with volunteer groups and extend its reach.

Citizens Advice: The organisation noted that the cost-of-living crisis would end in due course, but that current challenges would continue, with less government funding available. It wanted to know more about how this would be addressed.

Plumpton Parish Council: The organisation commented on the need to monitor vacant properties and make second homes liable for council tax.

Ringmer Parish Council: The organisation focused on the importance of supporting voluntary organisations to work with vulnerable people and making all new housing carbon net zero.

5. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority: 'Providing leadership to the district in tackling the climate and nature emergencies'?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	47.93%	58
2	Agree	24.79%	30
3	Neither agree or disagree	14.88%	18
4	Disagree	4.96%	6
5	Strongly disagree	7.44%	9

5. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority: 'Providing leadership to the district in tackling the climate and nature emergencies'?

answered	121
skipped	1

Comment: (32)

Comment Themes from Individuals

- Continue to address issues around water companies and sewage.
- A need to improve air quality.
- A need to tackle detrimental farming practices.
- Concerns around flooding and flood defences.

Comments from organisations and groups

Lewes Priory Cricket Club: The group was concerned about flooding.

Southeast Communities Rail Partnership: The group's focus was on providing more support for integrated and sustainable travel, with various specific initiatives mentioned.

Lewes Swift Supporters: The group commented that there should be reference in the plan to preservation of birds under threat, and also bats, when considering future housing development.

Citizens Advice: The organisation was concerned about the term 'leadership' and felt that engagement was a better way to achieve mindset change.

Love Our Ouse: The group commented with several helpful editorial amendments to this section of the plan.

Plumpton Parish Council: The organisation sought greater clarity regarding what is meant by protecting rivers and suggested that more resource is needed for supporting environment, ecology and water quality. More engagement with farmers was suggested. Amongst other issues, the importance of improving air quality and risks around electric vehicles were also noted.

Ringmer Parish Council: The organisation noted that all new housing should be carbon net zero, with sufficient public transport provided and more tree planting.

Cycle Lewes: The group sought more focus on reducing transport emissions and a continued focus on cycling and walking.

6. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority: 'Creating sustainable community wealth'?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	37.19%	45
2	Agree	33.88%	41
3	Neither agree or disagree	20.66%	25
4	Disagree	4.13%	5
5	Strongly disagree	4.13%	5
		answered	121
		skipped	1

Comment: (34)

Comment Themes from Individuals

- This should include an emphasis on self-sustainable and circular communities.
- Regenerating Newhaven

Comments from organisations and groups

Lewes District Citizens Advice: The organisation asked to see the plan include additional areas including safer roads, lower speed limits and managing antisocial behaviour and community outreach spaces. More face-to-face contact with residents was also raised, along with more preventive approaches to avoid crisis.

Plumpton Parish Council: The organisation was supportive of retaining wealth locally.

Ringmer Parish Council: The organisation was supportive of promoting local procurement.

7. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority: 'Building genuinely affordable homes'?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	44.26%	54
2	Agree	23.77%	29
3	Neither agree or disagree	16.39%	20
4	Disagree	7.38%	9

7. How much do you agree or disagree with the priority: 'Building genuinely affordable homes'?

5	Strongly disagree		8.20%	10
			answered	122
			skipped	0

Comment: (51)

Comment Themes from Individuals

- Green areas to be unaffected by development
- Traffic and accessibility to the towns by road
- Influence over building developers
- Effects on local services/infrastructure

Comments from organisations and groups

Lewes Priory Cricket Club: The group were supportive of the priorities.

Lewes Swift Supporters: The group were concerned about building on green field sites or flood plains.

Lewes District Citizens Advice: The organisation supported affordable housing and were concerned about the lack of this in the district.

Love Our Ouse: The group supported the emphasis on affordable housing but asked for more emphasis on a nature first approach as part of this.

Plumpton Parish Council: Whilst supporting the aspiration, the organisation queried the level of the housing target and expressed concern about quality and monitoring.

Ringmer Parish Council: The organisation supported the priorities and focused on the use of Community Land Trusts to help deliver them.

Access in Seaford and Newhaven Committee: The group asked that Lifetime homes be included.

8. How much do you agree or disagree with how we propose to work with people and partners?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	28.69%	35
2	Agree	31.15%	38

8. How much do you agree or disagree with how we propose to work with people and partners?

3	Neither agree or disagree		31.97%	39
4	Disagree		5.74%	7
5	Strongly disagree		2.46%	3
			answered	122
			skipped	0

Comment: (26)

There were no common themes found in this section.

Comments from organisations and groups

Lewes Priory Cricket Club: The group sought more information about how this would be achieved.

Lewes District Citizens Advice: The organisation asked that residents were put first in decision making.

Citizens Advice: The organisation sought more evidence about how this happens in practice.

9. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposed priorities?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	54
		answered	54
		skipped	68

Comment: (54)

Comment Themes from Individuals

- Primary health provision and local services/infrastructure.
- Traffic and accessibility to the towns by road.
- The importance of retaining green spaces.

Comments from organisations and groups

Lewes Priory Cricket Club: The group asked to see more support for volunteer groups.

Citizens Advice: The organisation hoped to see the plan fully realised.

Love Our Ouse: The group appreciated the opportunity to respond.

Plumpton Parish Council: The organisation was concerned that some of the development aspects of the plan may be outside of council control.

Ringmer Parish Council: The organisation asked that there continues to be a focus on value for money.

Railfuture Ltd - London & SE regional branch: The organisation felt that restoring a rail link between Lewes and Uckfield would contribute to many of the plans' aims and felt that it should be included as a specific action.

Sussex Police: The organisation did not believe the plan would heavily impact their priorities, however, did mention their work with LDC, Neighbourhood First and councillors to prevent and tackle Anti-social behaviour.

10. If you would like us to update you on the outcome of this consultation please enter your email address below.

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	66
		answered	66
		skipped	56

Equality monitoring questions

11. Would you like to answer or skip the following questions about you?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Answer the questions	60.68%	71
2	Skip the questions	39.32%	46
		answered	117

11. Would you like to answer or skip the following questions about you?

	skipped	5
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12. What is your age?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Under 18	0.00%	0
2	18 - 24	0.00%	0
3	25 - 34	5.41%	6
4	35 - 44	5.41%	6
5	45 - 54	5.41%	6
6	55 - 64	27.93%	31
7	65 - 74	31.53%	35
8	75 +	14.41%	16
9	Prefer not to say	9.91%	11
		answered	111
		skipped	11

13. What is your sex?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Male	55.56%	60
2	Female	43.52%	47
3	Other	0.93%	1
		answered	108
		skipped	14

14. What is your sexual orientation?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Bisexual	2.80%	3

14. What is your sexual orientation?

2	Gay man		1.87%	2
3	Gay woman or lesbian		0.93%	1
4	Heterosexual or straight		70.09%	75
5	Prefer not to say		14.95%	16
6	Other (please specify):		9.35%	10
			answered	107
			skipped	15

Other (please specify): (10)

15. What is your ethnic group? Ethnic groups are defined by the 2011 census

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
White			
1	English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	88.46%	92
2	Irish	0.00%	0
3	Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.00%	0
4	Any Other White background	2.88%	3
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups			
5	White and Black Caribbean	0.96%	1
6	White and Black African	0.00%	0
7	White and Asian	0.00%	0
8	Any Other Mixed background	0.00%	0
Asian or Asian British			
9	Asian/Asian British	0.00%	0
10	Indian	0.00%	0
11	Pakistani	0.00%	0
12	Bangladeshi	0.00%	0
13	Chinese	0.00%	0
14	Any Other Asian background	0.00%	0

15. What is your ethnic group? Ethnic groups are defined by the 2011 census

Black/African/Caribbean/British Black

15	African		0.00%	0
16	Caribbean		0.00%	0
17	Any Other Black/African/Caribbean background		0.00%	0

Other ethnic group

18	Arab		0.00%	0
19	Any Other Ethnic Group (please specify):		7.69%	8
			answered	104
			skipped	18

Any Other Ethnic Group (please specify): (8)

16. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes, limited a lot	9.62%	10
2	Yes, limited a little	8.65%	9
3	No	81.73%	85
		answered	104
		skipped	18

Next steps

This consultation findings report will be presented to Lewes District Council Cabinet for consideration alongside the draft plan 'Reimagining Lewes District – Delivering the Vision – 2024 – 2028' on 1 February 2024.

Once considered by the Cabinet, these findings will be published on our website ahead of consideration by Full Council at its meeting on 19 February 2024.

Full Council will be recommended to adopt the plan as their key corporate document to drive the council's direction over the next 4 years.

If you have any questions about this report or would like to request it in a different language or format, including a paper copy, please email BPP@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk