

Constitution Consultation: Overview of survey results

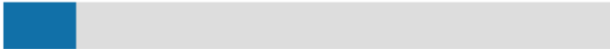





- Consultation held from 18 September to 17 October – With 51 responses received
- Of those understanding decisions (30% very or somewhat easy) was greater than the ability to influence decisions (2%)
- 61% of respondents felt it was very difficult to hold the council to account for decisions and 12% didn't know
- Ease of accessing information and communication are key themes
- Respondents didn't know how to influence council decisions (or find it difficult) – although more than 18,000 residents are signed up to the council's consultation platform Engage Wokingham Borough

Q4

Customise

How easy is it for you to understand the reasons for the council's decisions?

Add chart

Answer Choices	Responses		
Very easy		11.76%	6
Somewhat easy		15.69%	8
Okay		19.61%	10
Somewhat difficult		31.37%	16
Very difficult		21.57%	11
Don't know		0.00%	0
Answered: 51 Skipped: 0	Response Total:		51

Q6

Customise

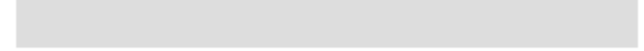
How easy is it for you to influence council decisions?

Add chart

Answer Choices

Responses

Very easy



0.00%

0

Somewhat easy



1.96%

1

Okay



13.73%

7

Somewhat difficult



17.65%

9

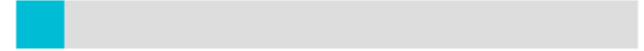
Very difficult



58.82%

30

Don't know



7.84%

4

Answered: 51 Skipped: 0

Response Total:

51

Q8

[Customise](#)

How easy is it for you to hold the council to account?

[Add chart](#)

Answer Choices	Responses		
Very easy		1.96%	1
Somewhat easy		5.88%	3
Okay		5.88%	3
Somewhat difficult		13.73%	7
Very difficult		60.78%	31
Don't know		11.76%	6
Answered: 51 Skipped: 0	Response Total:		51

Comments – Decision Making

- Foreknowledge of decisions and how to influence them
- Understanding options
- Meaningful consultation and how consultation impacts on decisions
- Anonymous consultation
- Access to supporting evidence and business cases
- Rationale for decisions
- Summary of decisions

Comments - Constitution

- Summary of the constitution
- Simpler and shorter
- Explain the decision making process

How easy do you find it to engage with the council in the following areas?

 Add chart

Answer Choices	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Okay	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult	Don't know	Response Total
Public questions	3.92% 2	9.80% 5	19.61% 10	17.65% 9	27.45% 14	21.57% 11	51
Petitions	8.00% 4	10.00% 5	16.00% 8	18.00% 9	22.00% 11	26.00% 13	50
Consultations	11.76% 6	21.57% 11	15.69% 8	23.53% 12	21.57% 11	5.88% 3	51
Attendance at public meeting	3.92% 2	5.88% 3	13.73% 7	15.69% 8	25.49% 13	35.29% 18	51
Viewing meetings on YouTube	11.76% 6	1.96% 1	5.88% 3	15.69% 8	13.73% 7	50.98% 26	51
Transparency of information published on the council's website	5.88% 3	11.76% 6	21.57% 11	17.65% 9	27.45% 14	15.69% 8	51
Freedom of Information Act requests	3.92% 2	3.92% 2	7.84% 4	13.73% 7	21.57% 11	49.02% 25	51
Subject access requests	1.96% 1	3.92% 2	7.84% 4	13.73% 7	15.69% 8	56.86% 29	51
Input into Overview and Scrutiny agenda	1.96% 1	0.00% 0	5.88% 3	5.88% 3	31.37% 16	54.90% 28	51
Complaints	2.00% 1	6.00% 3	14.00% 7	16.00% 8	40.00% 20	22.00% 11	50
Customer Excellence	1.96% 1	1.96% 1	7.84% 4	11.76% 6	35.29% 18	41.18% 21	51
Registering to vote	58.82% 30	17.65% 9	17.65% 9	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	5.88% 3	51
Voting in borough elections	50.98% 26	19.61% 10	25.49% 13	3.92% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	51

Answered: 51 Skipped: 0

Comments - Better awareness on existing processes

- Meeting agenda and minutes
- Public Questions
- How to influence decisions / hold Council to account
- Simple guide on how to engage with the Council
- Publication of expenditure
- Who your councillors are?

Specific Actions Related to the Constitution

- The revised constitution will be simplified and written in plain English utilising a glossary to improve accessibility and public understanding
- Many of the comments relate to information that is held on the website already - We will increase visibility of these areas using links within the constitution (also see specific links later)
- Chapter 1 will provide a summary of the constitution and include what the Council is responsible for
- Each chapter will include a summary of the chapter that provides an overview and context information
- Chapter 3 – Public Participation and Rights is the key chapter on addressing the issues identified in the consultation this will be supported by links to key processes to support the public in understanding how decisions are taken and how they can engage with the council.
- Chapter 4 – Will detail public engagement in council meetings

General Responses

- Improved clarity of forthcoming decisions (forward look, consultations and O&S work plan) – Communications will highlight key decisions and opportunities for public participation
- Supporting information for decisions will ensure that it includes options considered, consultation undertaken (and impact of consultation) and business case
- The rationale for decisions will be clearly recorded
- Following decision making, decisions and how to access supporting information will be communicated more widely
- The identity of your local councillors and how to contact them will be communicated on a regular basis (at least once a year)

Consultation Point	Further information
Asking questions at public meetings	Ask a question at a meeting (wokingham.gov.uk)
Understanding when decisions will be made	Browse forward plans Wokingham (moderngov.co.uk)
Transparent decision making	Films of Council, Executive and Planning meetings (wokingham.gov.uk)
How the public can participate in decision making	Take part in our meetings (wokingham.gov.uk)
Know who your councillor is / contact your councillor	Your Councillors Wokingham (moderngov.co.uk)
Understand how decisions are made	How decisions are made and scrutinised (wokingham.gov.uk)
Shape the council's agenda / hold the Executive to account	Ask for a scrutiny review Wokingham
How the council spends money	Data sets and open data (wokingham.gov.uk)
Influence council policy	Current e-Petitions Wokingham (moderngov.co.uk)
Hold councillors to account	Register to vote (wokingham.gov.uk)
Understand background to how decisions are made	Monthly meetings calendar - October 2023 Wokingham (moderngov.co.uk)
Find out about how the council works, what it does and how what it spends money on	Publication scheme (wokingham.gov.uk)
Influence policy making through consultation	Active Consultation (2) Public participation platform of Wokingham Borough Council CitizenLab
How to make a complaint	Complaints (wokingham.gov.uk)