DARLINGTON COMMUNITY SURVEY – OCTOBER 2002 TOPLINE FINDINGS – 1026 COMPLETED INTERVIEWS

Wards where interviews took place

Bank Top4.	% ا	Central	Cockerton East7.0%
Cockerton West2.9	9%	College	Eastbourne North2.6%
Eastbourne South2.9	9%	Harrowgate Hill 5.1%	Haughton West4.8%
Haughton East7.7	7%	Heighington 1.9%	Hummersknott
Hurworth	9%	Lascelles	Lingfield3.8%
Middleton St. George	9%	Mowden	North Road
Northgate North4.	%ا	Northgate South2.8%	Park East4.9%
Park West	9%	Pierremont5.8%	Sadberge2.0%
Whessoe	% ا		-

<u>Introduction</u> Good morning/afternoon/evening. I am from NWA Social & Market Research. We are doing a survey for Darlington Borough Council about life in the local area. (SHOW ID CARD & LETTER FROM COUNCIL) Could you answer some questions please. The interview will take about 20 minutes.

QA Can I just check, are you a senior officer or an elected member of Darlington Borough Council ? (IF UNSURE ASK – 'Are you precluded from taking part in any political activity by reason of your job?')

Yes CLOSE. THANK RESPONDENT.

- No..... CONTINUE
- **QB** And how long have you been a resident in the Darlington Borough Council area ? (REFER TO MAP IF NECESSARY)

Less than 3 months...... CLOSE. THANK RESPONDENT.

3 months to (less than) 1 year	2.2%
1 - 5 years	9.3%
6 - 10 years	8.7%
More than 10 years	79.8%

CLASSIFICATION - CHECK QUOTA REQUIREMENTS

In order to ensure that we are interviewing a representative sample of people living in this area, may I ask you - C1 (SHOWCARD 1) Which of these age groups do you fall into ?

16 - 24 years 13	3.4%	ACTUAL AGE
25 - 44 years	3.5%	
45 - 59 female / 64 male 28	8.9%	
60+ female / 65+ male 24	4.2%	

C2 (SHOWCARD 2) And which of these best describes your employment status ?

ACTIVE

In full time paid employment $(30 + hours) \dots 31.0\%$
In part time paid employment
Self-employed 3.9%
INACTIVE
On a Government Scheme 0.3%
Registered unemployed 0.7%
Not in paid employment - seeking work 2.7%
Not seeking work -
Looking after house/children/other10.5%
Long term illness/disability 5.3%
In full time education
RETIRED
Retired
Other (PLEASE STATE)

C.3	Gender	Male	
		Female	51.6%

SATISFACTION WITH WAY THE COUNCIL IS RUNNING THE BOROUGH

Q.1 (SHOWCARD) Thinking about Darlington Borough Council. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the Council is running the Borough ? (REFER TO MAP OF BOROUGH IF NECESSARY)

Very satisfied	9.7%
Fairly satisfied	57.3%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	14.0%
Fairly dissatisfied	12.3%
Very dissatisfied	5.0%
(don't know)	1.7%

Q.2 And over the past year or so, do you think Darlington Council has got better or worse at running the Borough, or has it staved about the same ?

Better	11.0%	
Worse	21.3%	
Stayed about the same	61.9%	SKIP TO Q.4
(don't know)		

Q.3 (IF BETTER/WORSE AT Q2) In what ways do you think it has got better (worse)? (DO NOT PROMPT) (PROBE FULLY)

Better : (113 respondents)	
Cleanliness/maintenance/appearance	29.2%
Flowers/ parks/ open spaces	13.3%
Crime/ security/ c.c.t.v.	12.4%
General improvement	8.8%

Worse : (219 respondents)	
Refuse collection	29.2%
Cleanliness	16.0%
Roads/ pavements	12.8%
Grass cutting/ tree maintenance	6.8%

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD – QUALITY OF LIFE

Q4 (SHOWCARD) Thinking now about this local neighbourhood. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your neighbourhood as a place to live?

Very satisfied	39.2%
Fairly satisfied	41.8%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3.4%
Fairly dissatisfied	10.4%
Very dissatisfied	4.9%
(don't know)	0.3%

Q.5 On the whole, do you think that over the past two years, your neighbourhood has got better or worse as a place to live, or has it stayed about the same ?

Better	8.0%
Worse	31.8%
Stayed about the same	51.9%
(Have lived here less than 2 years /don't know)	8.4%

Q.6 (IF 'GOT BETTER' OR 'GOT WORSE' RESPONSE AT Q.5) In what ways do you think the neighbourhood has got better/ worse ? (DO NOT PROMPT - CODE BELOW) (PROBE FULLY) Anything else ?

<u>Better</u> : (82 respondents)

Upkeep/appearance	43.9%
Safety/ crime/ vandalism	13.4%
Neighbours/ other residents	11.0%
Quieter	11.0%
Roads/ pavements	6.1%

Worse: (326 respondents)	
Crime/ vandalism	. 30.4%
Upkeep/ appearance	.28.8%
Neighbours/ other residents	.22.7%
Drug/ alcohol abuse	.13.8%
Nuisance children./ young people	.12.9%
Opportunities for leisure (youth)	.11.7%

Q7 (SHOWCARD) How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects in your neighbourhood ?

		Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied		Fairly dissatisfieddi		, T
(REA	AD OUT)	<u>sutistica</u>	butistica	<u> 1101</u>	aissuisticaai	<u>554(15110</u>	<u>u</u> u. mio <i>m</i>)
1.	Availability of housing	12.1%	40.5%	10.2% .	9.0%	3.4%	24.8%
2.	Affordability of housing	7.1%	39.8%	12.1% .	13.6%	5.6%	21.8%
3.	Employment opportunities	3.3%	30.5%	10.3% .	14.8%	11.0%	30.0%
4.	Quality of the natural environment	18.2%	55.8%	7.5% .	11.4%	5.0%	2.1%
5	Quality of the built environment	13.6%	64.7%	8.0% .	8.4%	2.6%	2.6%
6	Level of social and health services available	14.3%	53.3%	8.9%	11.2%	. 6.4%	5.8%
7	Level of cultural, recreational and leisure services available	9.6%	43.6%	7.7% .	18.4%	12.6%	8.2%
8	Standard of schools	19.0%	36.4%	5.6% .	4.5%	3.1%	31.5%
9	Level of public transport services available	16.3%	44.2%	5.9% .	12.0%	7.6%	13.9%
10	Opportunities to participate in local planning and decision-making processes	3.9%	28.8%	16.5% .	9.9%	9.4%	31.6%

Q.8 (SHOWCARD) How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in Darlington Borough area.....?

		Very <u>safe</u>	5	Neither safe <u>nor unsafe</u>	2	2	(Don't know)
(REA	D OUT)						
1.	During the day	. 33.3%	55.6%	3.9%	5.5%.	1.5%	0.3%
2.	After dark	. 7.6%	29.3%	11.0%	24.8%		3.7%

Q.9 (SHOWCARD) Noise pollution can be a problem. How would you rate the following types of noise in your neighbourhood ?

		<u>Serious</u>	<u>A problem,</u>	<u>NOT a</u>
		<u>problem</u>	but not serious	<u>problem</u>
(READ	OUT:)			
1.	Road traffic	10.6%	24.0%	65.4%
2.	Aircraft		16.0%	80.6%
3.	Trains	0.8%	5.3%	94.0%
4.	Noise from industrial or commercial premises	1.0%	3.8%	95.2%
5.	Road works	1.1%	9.3%	89.7%
6.	Construction or demolition	0.7%	4.1%	95.2%
7.	Pubs, clubs and entertainment	1.9%	7.0%	90.9%
8.	Neighbours		12.6%	82.1%
9.	Any other source of noise which is a problem ?	5.3%	8.3%	86.5%

(WRITE IN)

Other sources of noise mentioned by 139 respondents Children/young people - 56 respondents Dogs - 26 respondents Alarms – 11 respondents

Q.10 From your home, how easy is it for you to get to the following, using your usual form of transport ?

		Very <u>easy</u>	Fairly <u>easy</u>	Neither nor	Fairly difficult	Very <u>difficult</u>	(No opin. d. know)
	D OUT :	74 50/	10.00/	1.00/	2.00/	1 50/	0.00
1.	Corner shop or local shop						
2.	Shopping centre or supermarket						
3.	Post Office	. 66.8%	. 26.9%	1.1% .	3.3%	1.4%	0.6%
4.	GP / Doctors Surgery	. 42.2%	. 33.9%	4.0% .	14.4%	5.1%	0.4%
5	Local hospital	. 35.6%	. 43.0%	5.8% .	11.7%	3.1%	0.9%
6	Park or green space which can be used by the public						
7	Recycling facility	. 26.5%	. 33.3%	7.3% .	13.6%	7.7%	11.5%
8	Sports centre						
9	Bank or cash point	. 40.4%	. 44.1%	4.0% .	8.2%	1.9%	1.5%
10	Council Office or Neighbourhood Office	. 26.2%	. 44.9%	5.9% .	8.2%	2.2%	12.5%
11	Childcare facilities	. 10.9%	. 12.8%	8.5% .	2.2%	1.8%	63.8%
12	Library	. 32.7%	. 48.1%	4.5% .	7.1%	1.8%	5.8%
13	Any other facility you use which is difficult to get to (WRITE IN)				1.9%	1.9%	

VISION OF THE COUNCIL

- Q11 (VISION SHOWCARD). The Council's principal role is to make Darlington a place where people want to live, work and can enjoy a high quality of life. The Council has identified seven main issues which it believes are important.
- a) Which one of these issues do you feel is the <u>most important</u> in making Darlington a place where people want to live, work and can enjoy a high quality of life? (ONE RESPONSE ONLY)
- **b)** And which do you feel is the <u>second most important</u> ? (ONE RESPONSE ONLY)
- c) Are there any which you feel are <u>not important</u> (MULTIPLE RESPONSE POSSIBLE)

1.	Supporting healthy living	MOST <u>Important</u> 10.6%		
2. 3.	Supporting educational achievement Improving the local economy and creating jobs			
4. 5. 6.	Promoting community safety and reducing crime . Maintaining & enhancing the local environment Creating a safe & effective transport network	6.1%		0.6%
7.	Extending opportunities for cultural, recreational & leisure activities	3.0%	5.6%	8.5%
8. 9.	None of these Some other issue (PLEASE STATE)			85.0%

Q12 (SHOWCARD) And how successful or unsuccessful would you say the Council is in dealing with these issues?

		Very	Fairly	Neither		Very	(No opin.
READ	OUT ISSUES :	successful	successful	nor	unsuccessful	unsuccess'1	d. know)
1.	Supporting healthy living	5.5%	51.6%	16.2%	8.0%	2.2%	16.6%
2.	Supporting educational achievement	10.8%	54.3%	10.8%	5.8%	1.4%	17.0%
3.	Improving the local economy and creating jobs						
4.	Promoting community safety & reducing crime	5.9%	47.8%	17.0%	18.2%	5.1%	6.0%
5.	Maintaining & enhancing the local environment	9.4%	57.6%	12.5%	11.4%	4.1%	5.1%
6.	Creating a safe & effective transport network	6.9%	50.5%	13.6%	13.2%	4.4%	11.4%
7.	Extending opportunities for cultural, recreational,						
	& leisure activities	7.4%	49.8%	16.9%	10.0%	3.6%	12.3%

SERVICES

Q.13 (SHOWCARD) Thinking now about Council Services. I am going to read out a number of different types of service that are provided in this area. Using this card, I would like you to tell me how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the way in which each of these services is provided in your local area ? (READ OUT. ROTATE ORDER. TICK START)

		Very	Fairly	Neither		Very	(No opin.
		satisfied	<u>satisfied</u> 2	nor 3	dissatisfied <u>d</u>	lissatisfie 5	<u>d</u> d. know) 6
		1	2	5	4	5	0
1	Nursery & Primary Schools	17.3%	31.3%	5.1% .	4.2%	. 0.7%.	41.5%
2	Secondary Schools	12.4%	31.3%	6.3% .	4.7%	. 2.3%.	43.0%
3	School Meals						
4	Adult Education	12.9%	40.8%	8.6% .	3.5%	. 0.9%.	33.3%
5	Children's play areas	4 5%	23.4%	81%	21.0%	15.2%	27.9%
6	The Dolphin Centre						
7	Other Sports facilities	23.270	17.270	0.070 .		1.770	
	incl. golf course, facilities in parks	12.9%	42.7%	11.1%	6.7%	. 3.4%.	23.2%
8	Youth Clubs & other facilities for young people						
9	Civic Theatre	35.1%	43.8%	5.8%	1.4%	. 0.4%.	13.6%
10	Arts Centre						
11	Libraries & Museum						
12	Festivals and Events	23.2%	49.0%	11.2%	2.6%	. 0.6%.	13.4%
13	Council housing	5 8%	19.7%	13.0%	6.5%	4 5%	50 5%
14	Housing & Council Tax Benefits						
15	Council Tax Administration & Collection						
16	Parks & open spaces	13.5%	50.7%	9.0%	16.5%	. 8.1%.	2.3%
17	Upkeep of appearance - of Town Centre						
18	Upkeep of appearance - Residential Areas						
19	Pavement Maintenance						
20	Road maintenance and repairs						
21	Refuse Collection						
22	Recycling facilities	11.6%	46.8%	10.0%	14.9%	. 9.2%.	7.5%
23	Street lighting	24.8%	63.7%	3.6%	5 8%	2 20%	0.5%
23	Sign posting for facilities & attractions						
25	Car parking - in Town Centre						
26	Car parking - in Residential Areas						
20		0.070	11.070	13.370			
27	Planning & Control of Development	2.7%	33.5%	20.0%	9.0%	. 4.0%.	30.8%
28	Security measures (incl CCTV) - in Town Centre	35.2%	51.3%	4.7%	2.7%	1.1%	5.1%
29	Security measures (incl CCTV) - in Other Areas	9.6%	35.4%	16.3%	16.3%	. 6.2%.	16.3%
20							
30	Social care for older and vulnerable people	6 90/	28 504	12 50/	15 10/	0.50/	26 704
		0.0%	20.3%	13.3%	1.J.1 %	. 7.3%.	20. / 70

Q14 Are there any other services, not mentioned here, that you are particularly satisfied or dissatisfied with ?

Satisfied :

Dissatisfied :....

- Q15 (SHOWCARD) And which two services do you think should be given the greatest priority for improvement? a) What would be your FIRST priority for improvement.
 - b) And what would be your SECOND priority ?

Q16 Are there any services listed which you feel that the Council spends too much money on & could be reduced?

Q17 (SHOWCARD) Which, if any, of the services on this card do you or members of your family, use or feel you benefit from? Just read out numbers that apply. (SHOWCARD 8) (PROBE FULLY)

		Q15a FIRST <u>Priority</u>	Q15b SECOND <u>Priority</u>	Q.16 SPEND <u>TOO MUCH</u>	Q.17 USED <u>BENEFIT</u>
1	Nursery & Primary Schools	7.7%	3.8%		
2	Secondary Schools				
3	School Meals				
4	Adult Education				
5	Children's play areas				
6 7	The Dolphin Centre Other Sports facilities	0.9%	0.5%	1.4%	47.3%
	incl. golf course, facilities in parks	0.7%	1.7%	1.4%	17.3%
8	Youth Clubs & other facilities for young people	7.6%	6.9%	0.2%	2.3%
9	Civic Theatre	0.3%	0.2%	1.0%	45.7%
10	Arts Centre	0.1%	0.2%	1.2%	
11	Libraries & Museum	0.1%	0.8%	0.4%	43.4%
12	Festivals & Events	0.3%	0.8%		
13	Council Housing	4.3%	2.8%	1.9%	
14	Housing & Council Tax Benefits	1.0%	1.5%	1.4%	14.8%
15	Council Tax Administration & Collection	0.3%	0.3%		
16	Parks & open spaces				
17	Upkeep of appearance - Town Centre	2.4%	1.9%	6.1%	
18	Upkeep of appearance - Other areas	4.0%	4.7%	0.5%	
19	Pavement Maintenance	5.5%	6.2%	0.2%	
20	Road maintenance and repairs	6.6%	5.8%	3.0%	
21	Refuse Collection	4.2%	2.2%	0.5%	
22	Recycling facilities	2.9%	3.2%		
23	Street lighting				
24	Sign posting for facilities & attractions				
25	Car parking - in Town Centre				
26	Car parking - in other Areas	1.8%	2.0%	0.3%	
27	Planning & Control of Development (shown as Planning Department on Usage Showco		0.5%	1.0%	3.6%
28	Security measures (incl. CCTV) - in Town Centre	,	1.8%		
29	Security measures (incl. CCTV) - in Other Areas .				
30	Social care for older				
20	and vulnerable people	8.6%	8.2%	0.1%	5.7%
31	Some Other Service (PLEASE STATE)	1.0%	1.5%		0.3%
32			9.6%	26.0%	0.1%
33.	(None)				

Q18 You mentioned (SERVICE MENTIONED AT Q 15a) as being your first priority for improvement. How would you like this service to be improved ? (DO NOT PROMPT) (PROBE FULLY)

Q19 How well informed do you think Darlington Borough Council keeps residents informed about the following : (READ OUT EACH ASPECT)

Q20 (SHOWCARD) On which of the areas on this card, if any, would you like more information about the Council?

				Q.19			Q.20
	<u>-</u>	Very	<u>Fairly</u>	<u>Only a</u>	Doesn't	(Don't	LIKE
		well	well	limited	tell us	know)	MORE
	inf	formed	informed	amount info	much at all		INFO
1.	The services and benefits it provides 12	2.9%	48.4% .	20.7%	14.6%	. 3.4%	17.9%
2.	Local events and activities that affect you 18	8.6%	53.1% .	14.2%	10.4%	. 3.6%	15.6%
3.	The reasons why it makes the decisions it does	4.6%	25.9% .	24.1%		. 12.3%	25.0%
4.	How the Council spends its money	5.3%	26.9% .	25.1%		. 8.5%	30.2%
5.	Council Plans for the area	3.8%	28.3% .	24.9%		. 11.2%	35.0%
6.	How well the Council is performing	4.2%	34.8% .	22.5%		. 11.6%	15.1%
7.	Who to contact at the Council to find out about services and facilities	9.0%	42.6% .	15.2%	21.3%	. 11.9%	19.7%

Q21 How do you currently receive information about the Council ? (DO NOT PROMPT - CAN BE MULTI-CODED)

The Town Crier (Council Newspaper)
Council web-site 2.4%
Leaflets from Councillors 5.4%
Council Tax Bill information11.3%
Northern Echo
Other local paid-for newspapers
Free newspapers
Local television 2.0%
Local radio 3.3%
Leaflets/Posters
Public Meetings 0.4%
Local groups and associations 2.6%
Contact with Councillors 2.3%
Contact with Council staff 3.0%
Library 2.0%
Other method (PLEASE STATE) 10.1%
(Don't know/can't remember) 2.3%
(Don't receive any information) 3.3%
Word of mouth
Post/letters 6.0%
Work
Public buildings 1.4%

Q22 Have you any suggestions as to how the Council could keep you better informed ?

Q23 Do you have access to -

	Yes	<u>No</u>
a) a Personal Computer in your home		
b) the internet at home		54.9%

Q24 (IF NO ACCESS TO INTERNET AT HOME) How likely do you think it is that you will have access to the internet at home in the next two years or so?

Very likely	10.1%
Likely	
Unlikely	
Very unlikely	58.6%
(not sure/don't know)	5.2%

CLASSIFICATION

Finally, I would like to ask you a few more questions about yourself. We need this information to make sure our sample is really representative of the people who live in this area :

C4	Household composition :	How many people live in this household ?
•••		many people in this nousenoita t

Children under 5 years	14.8%
Children 5 - 11 years	19.2%
Young people 12 - 17 years	18.2%
Adults 18 to Retirement Age (60 women/65 men)	80.1%
Adults over Retirement Age	26.5%

TOTAL NO:

C4.1 (IF CHILDREN 5 – 17) How do your children normally travel TO school? Will you tell me the main method for each child please? (MAIN METHOD ONLY OF TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL – ONE FOR EACH CHILD – NOTE WHETHER CHILD OR CHILDREN ARE ATTENDING PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL)

	Primary School (245 children)	Secondary School (209 children)
1. Walk	69.8%	52.2%
2. Cycle		1.0%
3. School bus	1.2%	20.6%
4. Other bus	1.6%	12.9%
5. Train		
6. Car	26.5%	12.9%
7. Taxi		
8. Other (WRITE IN)	0.4%	

C5 Do you or anybody in this household suffer from a limiting long term illness or disability ?

Yes - self	20.2%
Yes - other household member	10.7%
Self and other member of household	1.5%
No	67.6%

C6 Do you have a car or van in the household ?

Yes - 1	49.7%
Yes - more than 1	25.6%
No	24.6%

C7 How would you describe your race or ethnic group ? (SHOWCARD)

White - British	97.6%
White - Irish	0.5%
White – Any other white background	0.6%
Mixed - White/Black Caribbean	••••
Mixed - White/Black African	
Mixed - White/Asian	0.1%
Any other mixed background	0.2%

Asian/Asian British - Indian	0.1%
Asian/Asian British - Pakistani	0.1%
Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi	0.3%
Asian/Asian British - Other	
Black/Black British - Caribbean	0.4%
Black/Black British - African	••••
Black/Black British - Other	••••
Chinese	
Other ethnic group (WRITE IN)	0.2%

C.8 And is your <u>home</u> - (READ OUT)

Owner occupied	76.1%
Rented from Council	13.8%
Rented from other	9.6%
Other	0.3% (WRITE IN) :

C9 And what is /was the <u>occupation</u> of the chief wage earner in your household?

(PROBE AS NECESSARY FOR	CODING	- IF RET	IRED ASK	K FOR P	REVIOUS	OCCUPA	TION)
AB	. 21.7%	(CODE &	WRITE IN	I OCCU	PATION I	FOR ALL I	BELOW)
C1	21.6%						
C2	. 26.2%						
DE	. 30.3%						

C10 Finally, would you be prepared to become a member of Darlington Borough Council's Citizens Panel, and help the Council with further research. Panel members are asked to complete self-completion postal questionnaires about three or four times a year. (SHOW EXAMPLE)

Yes	42.9%
No	57.1%

IF WILLING TO BECOME A PANEL MEMBER ASK PERSON TO PLEASE SIGN BELOW

Signature

Thank you very much for doing this interview with me. In order to ensure that all interviews were carried out to people's satisfaction, my supervisor will be contacting 10% of all the people I have interviewed. Please could I have your address and telephone number? WRITE IN This information will be used for this purpose only.

Name of Respondent: Tel. No:

Address 1:

Address 2: Postcode:

I have completed the above questionnaire in accordance with the instructions given and the MRS Code of Conduct for interviewers.

Time completed:

THANK RESPONDENT – GIVE THANK YOU LEAFLET AND CLOSE

FOR OFFICE USE

0	<u>ILY</u>	
Rec'd		
Check		
Ent'd		
QC'd		