

Budget Engagement

Investing in our Communities

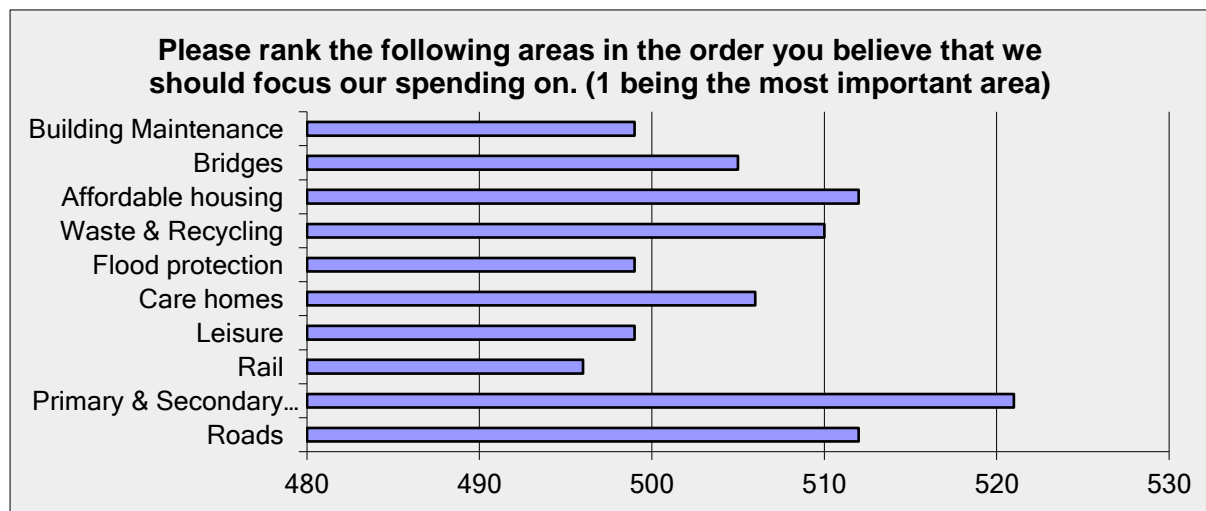
Respondents were asked three questions through either online survey application SurveyMonkey, or during group conversations, as follows:

Q1 *The council has allocated £862million in its capital plan until 2031. Do you agree that we are spending enough on capital projects?*

Out of a total of 647 respondents, 548 answered this question, with 58.4% answering 'Yes' and 41.6% answering 'No'.

Q2 *Please rank the following areas in the order you believe that we should focus our spending on (1 being the most important area)*

539 responded to this question, with the top three priorities emerging as primary & secondary schools; roads, and affordable housing. The full results are below:



Q3 *Please provide us with any general comments about investing in communities.*

228 respondents provided a response to this question. The **key themes** included:

- **Additional priority areas** – 18% of 228 respondents expressed general support for some of the priorities listed as part of the capital plan. Additional areas highlighted included the building of flood defences, care of the elderly (increasing ageing population, care homes, home care provision), and maintenance of leisure facilities.
- **Sharing investment** – 8% of the 228 respondents felt investment was not distributed fairly across Aberdeenshire, with Peterhead, Stonehaven and Ellon highlighted as towns receiving an unfair share. It was also suggested that funding allocation should be determined by population density.

- **General comments** – The majority of comments (65%) were general opinions that were not directly relevant to Aberdeenshire Council's capital plan and mainly related to service delivery.