

**Proposal to Cease the Provision of Plastic Refuse
Sacks to Residents
Feedback on Consultation
(Budget Option D1.24)**



Sefton Council



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Executive Summary

On 13th December 2012 Sefton Council's Cabinet considered a report proposing to cease the supply of plastic refuse sacks to some residents in the borough.

At the moment, Sefton Council provides some households in the L20, L21, L22 and L23 postcode areas with 120 sacks each year for them to use when disposing of their normal household waste. It issues sacks to around 14,000 households and these costs the Council £60,000 each year. The proposal was to cease this service and save the Council £60,000.

At the Cabinet meeting, Street Scene Services Department was asked run a more extensive consultation on these increases, and this ran from 19th December until 1st February 2013.

Three options were proposed to service users:

- Option A – Keep the existing free of charge service
- Option B – the Council makes available plastic refuse sacks, that can be purchased and collected by residents; and continues to collect a limited quantity (2 per week) of only Council approved plastic sacks each week; or,
- Option C – households provide and use their own type of plastic sacks/bags and the Council agrees to collect all plastic sacks/bags of residual waste placed out for collection.

In addition to these options, there would be an expanded waste recycling service for households, as a result of grant funding obtained by Sefton Council to increase the levels of recycling in the Borough.

The consultation consisted of:

- An online questionnaire on the Council's eConsult online consultation system
- A paper questionnaire available for those who did not have access to a computer
- A letter sent out to a random 10% sample of the service users advising them of the proposal and signposting them to the Council's eConsult online consultation system
- An electronic mail out to 250 community groups in the L20, L21, L22 and L23 postcode areas, facilitated by Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (Sefton CVS). These postcode areas are where this particular service is provided

The consultation shows that:

- Two thirds of respondents were in favour of Option C
- Almost one third were in favour of Option A
- Less than 4% were in favour of Option B

A number of other suggestions were supplied by the public. These included:

- Reduce or rationalise the number of sacks given out – some respondents said they were never given enough, whilst others received too many
- Consider the needs of people who are housebound, therefore unable to get to the shops easily and buy plastic bags
- Continue to provide sacks, but without the printed logo in order to reduce costs

- Look at the current service to see if more households would be able to use standard wheelie bins instead of sacks
- Reduce the number of Councillors per ward to save money
- Reduce the level of pay and allowances for staff

The results of this consultation will now be submitted for consideration by elected members to inform their decisions regarding this proposal.

Background

Sefton Council has to make a saving of £50 million as part of the budget reductions required by the Government.

Currently, Sefton Council provides some residents in the L20, L21, L22 and L23 postcode areas with 120 sacks each year for them to use when disposing of their normal household waste.

These households are provided with a sack collection service as a wheelie-bin storage and collection service is not considered to be appropriate due to restricted access, the type of building or limited storage being available within the house.

Sacks are issued to around 14,000 households free of charge, and this costs the Council £60,000 each year.

Also, there is currently a large amount of fly tipping in alleyways to the rear of properties in receipt of free plastic sacks as only sacks issued by Sefton Council are collected from the front of the premises. Therefore, when householders have no 'Sefton issued' plastic sacks available, a significant amount of excess waste is 'fly tipped', predominantly behind properties.

Proposal

To save the Council £60,000 the proposal was to cease this service, and ask householders to buy their own sacks from retailers. In return, any type of sack up to a standard 70 litre refuse sack, and any number of sacks per property, would be collected.

In addition to this, there would be an expanded waste recycling service for households, as a result of grant funding obtained by Sefton Council to increase the levels of recycling in the Borough.

Three options were proposed to residents receiving the service during the consultation:

- Option A – Keep the existing free of charge service
- Option B – the Council makes available plastic refuse sacks, that can be purchased and collected by residents and continues to collect a limited quantity (2 per week) of only Council approved plastic sacks each week; or,
- Option C – households provide and use their own type of plastic sacks/bags and the Council agrees to collect all plastic sacks/bags of residual waste placed out for collection.

Summary of Feedback

Consultation feedback was received from 57 of the 1,400 householders contacted, 53 online via eConsult, the council's consultation system, and six by email or letter.

The consultation shows that:

- Two thirds of respondents were in favour of Option C
- Almost one third were in favour of Option A
- Less than 4% were in favour of Option B

A number of other suggestions were supplied by the public. These included:

- Consider the needs of people who are housebound, therefore unable to get to the shops easily and buy plastic bags
- Continue to provide sacks, but without the printed logo in order to reduce costs
- Look at the current service to see if more households would be prepared to use standard wheelie bins instead of sacks, and rationalise the supply of plastic sacks to give sufficient for each household's needs, rather than an over or under supply
- Reduce the number of Councillors per ward to save money

Conclusion

Option C was shown to be the most popular of the three options. However the number of people responding to the consultation was low.

The consultation has now ended and the results have been incorporated into a Cabinet report to go before elected members, so that they can discuss whether they wish to adopt the proposal as part of the overall council savings package.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Overview of Consultation

The overview of consultation table below shows which groups were contacted.

Direct Services		Change Proposals 2013/14 Overview of Consultation				Street Scene		
Key		Activity Completed ✓		Activity Cancelled ✕				
Version 1.2						Signposting to eConsult		
	Change Proposal	e-Consult	Forum /Meetings	Drop In Sessions	Hard to Reach Groups	Letter/email	Posters	Twitter/ Facebook/ Press release
	<i>No longer providing refuse sacks for residents</i>	Questionnaire loaded on e-consult 19/12/2012 ✓	None	None	None	Letter to 10% of residents using the service 20-21/12/2012 ✓ (New) Email through Sefton CVS to 250 community groups in L20, L21 and L22 area 14/01/2013 ✓	None	

Appendix 2 – Consultation Questionnaire Responses

	Online	Offline (paper)	Total
No longer providing refuse sacks for residents			
Number of users who have completed the questionnaire	47	0	47
Number of users who have partially completed the questionnaire	6	0	6
Number of users who have responded (partially & fully completed the questionnaire)	53	0	53

In addition to the online responses above, a further six responses were received from the public via email or letter.

Details of the feedback from the questionnaire and other responses are shown below.

Appendix 3 – Feedback from Consultation

Accurate as of 07:57 04/02/2013

Respondent	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments Received
Public feedback via website (53 responses)			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29.41% were in favour of Option A 3.92% were in favour of Option B 66.67% were in favour of Option C <p>Reasons for choosing the preferred option:</p> <p>Option A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think this is a clean option, my husband and I usually on most weeks have only 1 bag of refuse and would like to continue the way we have. My comment is, is there any way you can check with residents before delivering more bags. We currently have about 18 rolls of unused bags - maybe more, you are giving some residents more bags than they need and this is obviously costing the council more than it should! As these items are part of my council tax. I do not believe that I should have to purchase my own waste sacks/bags for the council to collect as will this mean if I chose this option my council tax would be reduced to take into account this? Option a preferably. Option B - some people would not bother to purchase the correct rubbish sacks and they would just leave the bags on the street, they would not be collected and everyone else would have to put up with the mess. Plus would surely cost more to arrange the admin for

Respondent	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments Received
				<p>the purchase of the rubbish sacks? Option C would be my 2nd choice, but some areas have wheelie bins and therefore do not have to purchase their own rubbish bags so this would penalise people in areas who do not have wheelie bins which tend to be the less well off areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think it is inappropriate that people who live in residences where wheelie bins cannot be used should be required to purchase bags for their refuse as wheelie bins are provided free of charge • We are happy with the current option. • Because my council tax goes towards rubbish collection - this includes basic provision of a receptacle for my rubbish. If you're not making people pay for their wheelie bins, it is discrimination to make people pay for their refuse sacks. • Option c) is open to abuse as there could be excess waste to collect adding to time and efforts of collection staff, leading to increased cost rather than saving Option b) would be dependent on where and when bags could be purchased, increases perceived cost to residents and there would have to be staff allocated to the role of 'bag seller' Option a) is still supplying bags through the council, which is seen by many as one of the council's roles, and does limit the amount of rubbish placed out, and also helps to ensure that the council meets recycling/waste limitation targets by making people think about the amount of waste produced. It also does make a saving, not only on the bags cost to the council, but also as mentioned, less to collect means more efficient collection runs. • It doesn't seem fair that those residents who use council provided plastic sacks for refuse collection should be penalised for living in properties deemed unsuitable for wheelie bin collections for safety reasons due to insufficient storage areas for wheelie bins and poor access. The fire brigade were previously consulted on the suitability of properties to have a wheelie bin collection and deemed certain terraced houses to be unsuitable. • I would prefer to have a wheelie bin as the

Respondent	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments Received
				<p>other end of my street does and the same lorry collects the but as this is not an option I chose to have bags provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because it works • Small household. 2 per wk is ample and saves me purchasing them • I selected option a as it is the option which impacts my household the least, however, I would like to provide an alternative for your consideration. I live in a terraced property, and currently use the council's plastic bags. Having recently moved to Sefton Council from Liverpool Council, I was shocked at this approach to refuse collection (I was previously used to wheelie bins). I called Sefton Council and asked for a wheelie bin, and was told I couldn't have one, due to the type of property I live in. Eventually, it was agreed that I would be provided with one, for storage only. My preferred option would be for Sefton Council to review the current wheelie bin arrangement, and consider issuing households with wheelie bins. It would be the responsibility of the householder to put their wheelie bin out. In instances where there were terraced properties, the wheelie bin would need to be taken to the gate at the end of the alley, and then the householder would need to recollect it from the same place, after the refuse collection had taken place. Is Sefton Council prepared to look at alternatives, rather than just the options presented? Surely reconsidering wheelie bins would also provide cost savings, after the initial investment of wheelie bins for each household. It would then be the responsibility of the household to use their own bags when disposing of refuse, and therefore Sefton would generate the savings from plastic refuse bags. • £60000 is a small amount. Would those residents charged for the service, or those who provide their own containers/sacks be given a discount on their Council Tax? • It is not my fault that I am not allowed to use the wheelie bin provided by the council

Respondent	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments Received
				<p>Option B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will save money but will also make people think about how much rubbish they are throwing away if they are limited to two per week. • Sell the Council refuse sacks in local shops. Purchasing may encourage the public to use less. People previously purchased black bags without complaint. Allows the continued use of see through sacks. Consider use of different coloured sacks for recycling (when collection/disposal facilities become available). <p>Option C:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I choose this option, because I can't see the point in the sacks you provide, as black bags are cheap and just as good as the one's you provide, and if it means that the council can save money, or could use that money else were then that must be the better solution. • No limit on the number of bags being collected • the council do not need to pay for the sack that way council save £60.000 each year common sense • In the long run I think it will be a better provision for us. • At the moment most of the time we have our own sacks anyway which then have to be wrapped in council one's to be taken away. The council sacks are useless as they are not strong enough and rip easily, also I don't know how a family of 4 is supposed to get all there rubbish in 2 bin bags! • I currently use this service and I hate the clear bags, everyone can see what you are discarding, I would prefer to use my own bags and as many as I needed to use. • Every plastic sack we use has to be double bagged otherwise, thanks to our neighbours' cats; we find our rubbish strewn over our back yard. This means we use at least 4 bags a week, and since the number and quality of bags we receive has dropped we already have to supplement the council's supply. We do not currently

Respondent	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments Received
				<p>have a problem with rats attacking bin bags in our back yard, but if collection is restricted to 2 bags per week the chances of this happening are greatly increased.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would actually prefer a wheelie bin collection. I really think that the council needs to strongly give some thought about how they could accommodate a wheelie bin collection on a street by street basis. It's not acceptable in 2013! Bags on the street attract vermin and I really dislike having to haul dirty and smelly bin bags through the house every week. It's really unhygienic and I think you need to consider other options - back alley access? Health and safety concerns is not an excuse as pulling dirty bin bags through the house is also not very 'health and safety'. I have ticked option c above in absence of a wheelie bin because I hate the clear sacks you provide. I would rather not see everyone else's waste thanks! I think asking us to pay for your bin bags is really unfair and quite disgraceful and I would seek a council tax reduction if this was brought in. • SMBC can make better use of their resources with this option • Firstly, my refuse collectors are excellent. In turn, my household puts out refuse in a clean and tidy way, in the clear sacks you provide. Before that, we used the wheelie bin you provided. This now provides a good storage facility until bin night. Prior to that we used black bin bags in whatever manner the council requested - won't go back as far a metal bins. Regardless of how wonderful my refuse collectors are, company policy obviously precludes them removing anything that is not in a regulation plastic bag and, living in a terraced area I regularly see how some refuse is put out. At least people might leave the stuff outside their own home if you will collect any tidily made up package instead of dumping near alley gates, or overflowing the public waste bins/doggy poo bins. • Not everyone in the borough gets the free sacks so why should some addresses be treated differently.

Respondent	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments Received
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also happy with option A but definitely would NOT be happy with option B. This would also reduce plastic consumption by allowing use of other types of plastic bags. • Hopefully the recycle provisions will improve with this option • It seems a ridiculous expense to print Sefton logo on plastic bags obviously savings have to be made the costs of providing own bags would not cost so much • With a large household 2 bags a week isn't enough so you end up running out & having to purchase black bags & go to the tip so if the council would take any bags as long as garden rubbish was still segregated I think it would be viable for people to purchase their own bin bags • it's easy / cheap to buy black bags • I chose option C for the following reasons: Option A would mean that people would have an excess of rubbish because most households produce more than 2 bags of rubbish per week, this would lead to more litter on the streets, not a good option. Option B would mean the same two bag collection as above with the same side effects and added to this we would have to pay the council for the bags and collect, which as well as being inconvenient would probably also mean paying a premium for bags that would be cheaper from Tesco's. I would rather pay for my own bags on the condition that the council will collect all of my rubbish. • Best option as your people will take all bags without quibbling, so to me a far better option • Large families struggle with the limitation of 2 bags per week • Many people who currently have large obtrusive bins would be very pleased to convert to this option. I would rather like to do so myself • It would save the council having to supply bags, and for those households who have bigger families and more waste, it doesn't limit them to 2 bags per week • As there are 7 members in our family we think providing our own sacks/bags will help the council and my family as long as

Respondent	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments Received
				<p>all is collected /removed from our property on the day put out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It makes better financial sense for householders to buy their own sacks and save the cost to the authority. The current system isn't working with some households getting more than their quota and some less. The resulting mess that is left on the streets when collectors refuse to take bags that do not have the day of the week printed on them is a disgrace and encourages the overwhelming rat problems that are prevalent. • We have a large family with three small children, and have a lot of waste it would be a health hazard if all of our bags were not collected and difficult to dispose of ourselves. • 1. This is returning to a previous system; however you never stated whether collection would remain weekly. 2. I never needed the amount of plastic bags supplied and ended up throwing many of them away. I did contact the council about this. I wonder how many households require the amount of bags supplied? • My waste is currently collected in the council refuse sacks and I believe that if the council will only take waste in bags (rather than providing a wheelie bin) then residents should be free to put this waste in any bags and that the council should collect any reasonable number of bags per week. As a family of 4, including our youngest who is still in nappies, we generate a fair amount of waste and being able to dispose of this without having to use council refuse sacks would be easier. For example, we already use 'nappy sacks' that are clean and hygienic, but when one of these is full we still have to put this inside a council refuse sack. All this does is increase the amount of plastic we are putting in landfill - it would be more appropriate to collect a reasonable amount of householder-supplied refuse sacks on a weekly basis. • Occasionally have more than 2 bags, also at the moment if correct bag is not used bin men will not collect and its left on the pavement causing other issues this way

Respondent	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments Received
				<p>bin men should collect all rubbish and the streets should be clear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier to provide own bags and be able to put extra bags out if necessary <p>Ways of reducing impact/mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therefore why not just give every resident 1 bag per week and any further rubbish they would need to purchase their own rubbish bags. • Wouldn't it be simpler to give each household wheelie bins the size that would fit one or two bags of waste per week this would then leave property owners to then purchase their own waste bags and reduce your bill of a period of time. Also your recycling facilities should be compulsory for households not as I am advised an option. This would then reduce the landfill waste. Your recycling facilities are to be honest a joke as, you do not recycle cardboard which then has to go to landfill.....why?! • 1 - Deliver less bags. I live in a 2-person household and we are overflowing with refuse sacks that have been delivered over the last 4 years. Supply bags based on the number of people listed on the Council Tax for that property or ask residents to specify how many bags they need up to a maximum amount. 2 - Fine residents who do not recycle. Recycling significantly reduces the amount of general household waste that needs to go in refuse sacks. My neighbours do not recycle - this impacts the environment and causes the council more work in rubbish collection. • Residents should be encouraged to better recycle waste and on occasion should be warned and then penalised if obvious recyclable materials are consistently thrown out with general rubbish in the sacks. • Consult a wider population. I would have been unaware of the consulting if I hadn't checked the Sefton website for something unrelated. If you want residents to buy in to the proposals, you need to make them aware of the consultation, and how

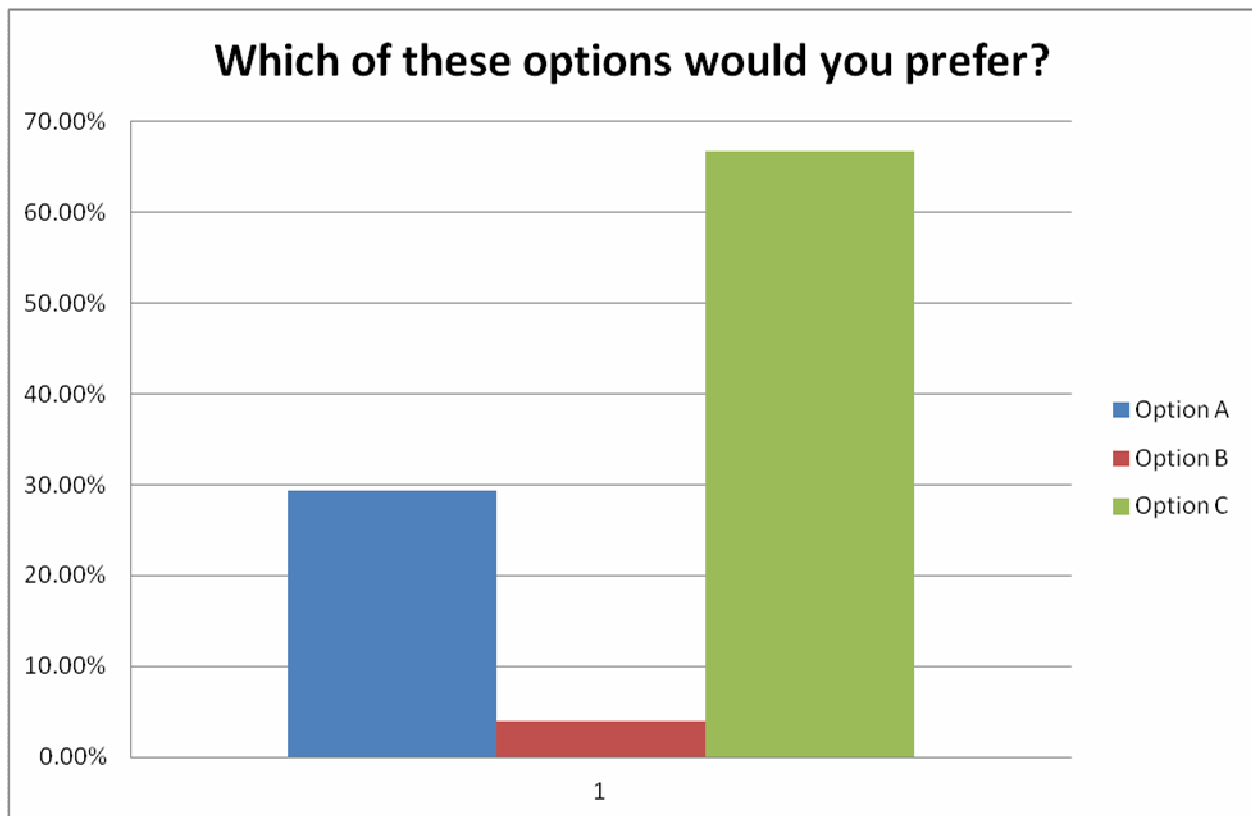
Respondent	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments Received
				<p>everyone can get involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find savings elsewhere. Does the Mayor of Sefton and senior officers get car/travel allowances? Cut these instead and I am sure £60000 could easily be found. • Nothing - people need to be aware that the Council is in dire financial straights and people cannot expect the Council to carry on supplying the same level of service that they do now • Give those residents affected plenty of notice and information before changing • give everybody fair notice of and tell people about recycling centres if they do it themselves more cost effective • Why have we not been given wheelie bins like most other households? • Give us a wheelie bin - no more unsightly bags in the yard, and no more carrying rain sodden bags through the house to put them out for collection. • Have you included your Refuse Collectors in this discussion? They do the work and if asked might have some good suggestions. Listen to people from a variety of backgrounds and not just those who do not encounter refuse problems, filth, and rats, on their own doorsteps. Do it once and, hopefully, do it right. How much did it cost you to deliver, then find that wheelie bins were unsuitable in some areas?? • By providing better recycling services such as collection of recyclable plastics and cardboard. • The authority should expand its recycling to our homes. Some authorities have receptacles for cardboard, plastics and green waste which is recycled weekly this would reduce greatly the volume of waste going to landfill. Some areas already have green waste and it is unfair that all areas who have green spaces do not have equality of services. I run a shop which recycles clothing, books, furniture, footwear by giving them away free and we also redistribute surplus food. The authority should make available hard to rent retail units free of charge for more people to do the same this would reduce the amount thrown on the tip by residents.

Respondent	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments Received
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I believe consideration regarding the availability of wheelie bins should be given as an alternative to the collection of sacks. I also believe increased recycling facilities should be available kerbside. We recently moved to Sefton from Liverpool where a recycling wheelie bin was provided. This was an excellent service (collected fortnightly) that took cardboard along with plastic bottles/cartons (such as milk and lemonade bottles etc) in addition to the tins, glass, paper etc that are currently collected by Sefton council. We have a lot of cardboard waste (from cereal boxes to Amazon packages!) and if this could easily be recycled it would be most helpful. Even the local recycling banks in Crosby village do not accept cardboard, meaning that the only option is to drive to the recycling facility in Bootle. As a consequence, a significant amount of waste that could otherwise be recycled, ends up going into our standard waste on a weekly basis and does not help Sefton council in achieving its recycling targets and benefitting the environment. I would encourage the council to consider its kerbside recycling offering to see if it could be improved.
Mrs G-M, Seaforth			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With regards to your letter concerning sacks I am more than happy to provide and pay for my own! All that I ask is that you make sure residents are only putting them out on the day of collection. Seaforth Rd looks like a rubbish dump because residents are not caring or taking pride in our area.
Anonymous			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option C Or option D cut down on councillors. Cut out 2 councillors per ward. Save £20,000 per ward.
Ms BB, Crosby			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having received your letter today, regarding the cost of you supplying the Clear Plastic Sacks, that we use to dispose of our household waste, and in conjunction with the 3-alternative choices you have given to us, as residents in College Road, my choice is for - Option c. We always used to provide our own Black

Respondent	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments Received
				<p>Bags in the past, then this was changed to you supplying our bags with the day printed on for our collection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I see no problem to supplying my own bags, so long as there will not be any problem with the collection of same.
Mrs VB	?	?	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't care for any of your options offered about the above. I would like to suggest an alternative. Sefton continues to provide 2 sacks but without the logo. This would surely be cheaper. I residents provide any extra. However before any changes are made I think we should be informed about the additional recycling to be done and this should be in place Being housebound because of sight and mobility problems I can't travel to collect anything without help. Sure I am not the only one in this situation. Don't see why this could not be considered given that one of the options is (we can use any sack and you will take the lot) if Sefton is rereleased from providing any at all. A further point I see Sefton is asking for views on increased Council tax would it be true to say that if we agree to buying our own sacks and the increase goes through this would be a double whammy, Don't think I care for that at all.
Ms EW	?	?	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have completed the online consultation form however I do not understand why there is not an option for wheelie bins. I live on a road where one end of the street has bins and the other has plastic bags. I would much rather be provided with a bin as we all, apart from the flats, have a storage space for the bins. Surely this would also be a cheaper option for the council as they would only need to provide bags for the flats. I was also informed, by the council, 7 years ago when I moved in that I would get a green garden recycling wheelie bin but as of yet there is no sign of us being given them.

Respondent	Option A	Option B	Option C	Comments Received
Ms MW	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have chosen option a and would also like a food bin for recycling left overs too please.

Appendix 4 – Analysis of Questionnaire Results in Detail

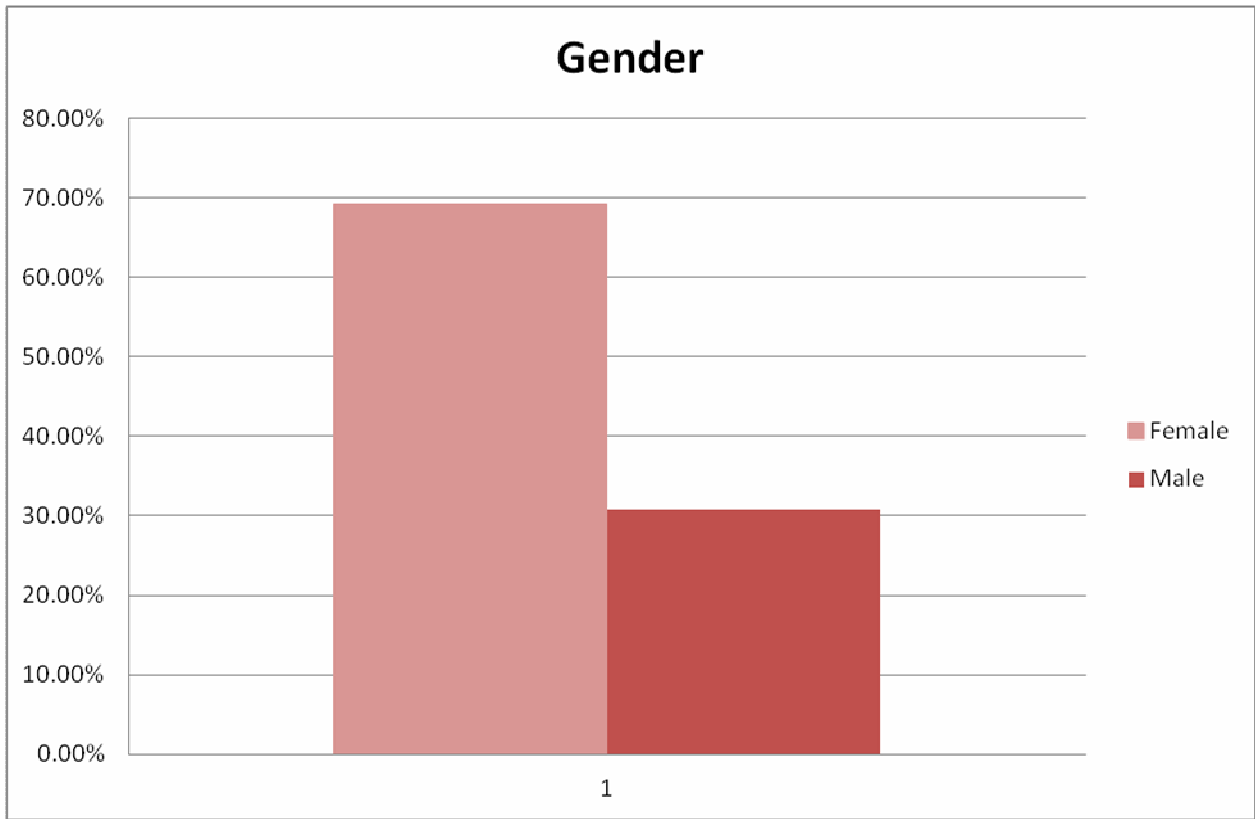


Some 66.67% of respondents chose Option C, to use their own plastic sacks in exchange for all sacks being collected from their household. 29.41% chose Option A, to continue with the existing service. Two thirds of householders who responded are in favour of Option C.

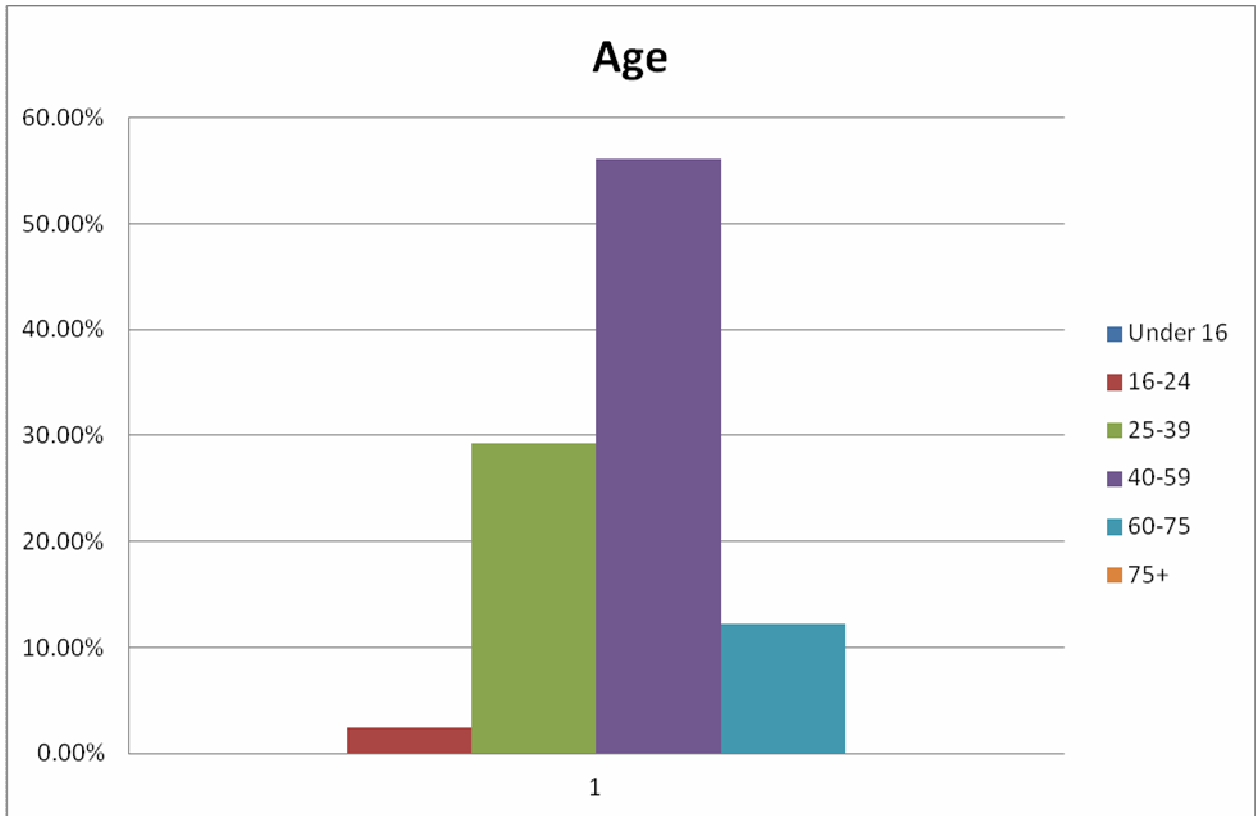


The catchment area for the service is L20, L21, L22 and L23. 32.56% come from the L23 area, whilst 27.91% come from L22, 20.93% come from L21 and 11.63% come from the L20 areas. The majority of respondents come from the L23 and L22 areas, where the service is most heavily used.

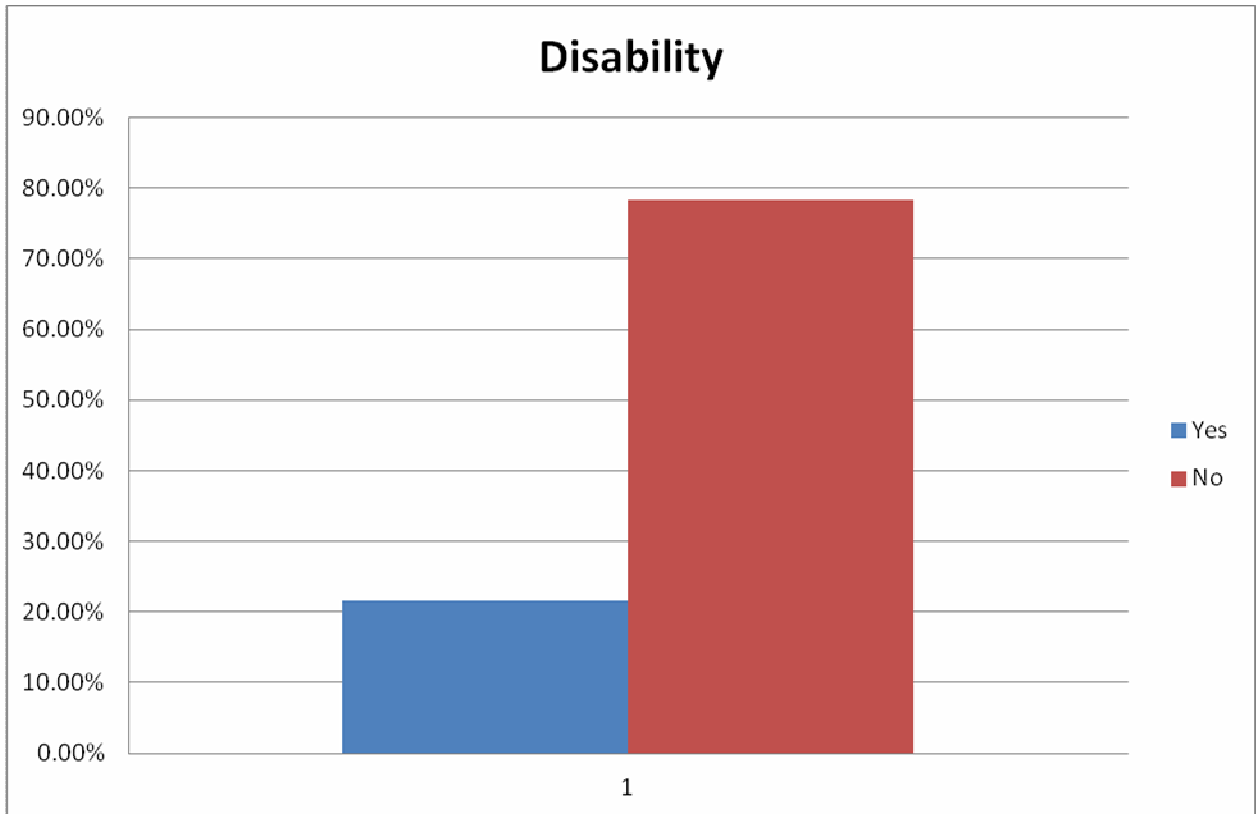
Appendix 5 – Equality Data



The majority of respondents to the questionnaire were female, 69.23% compared to 30.77% male.

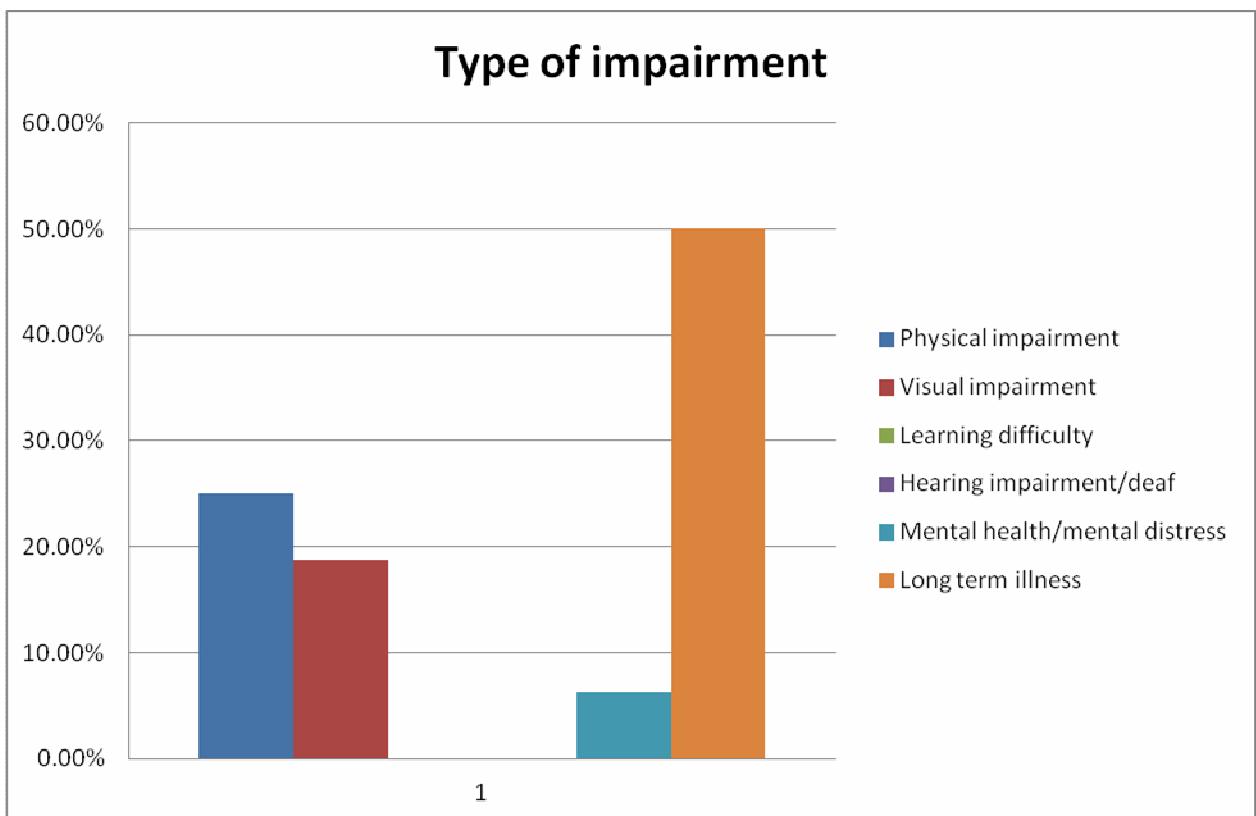


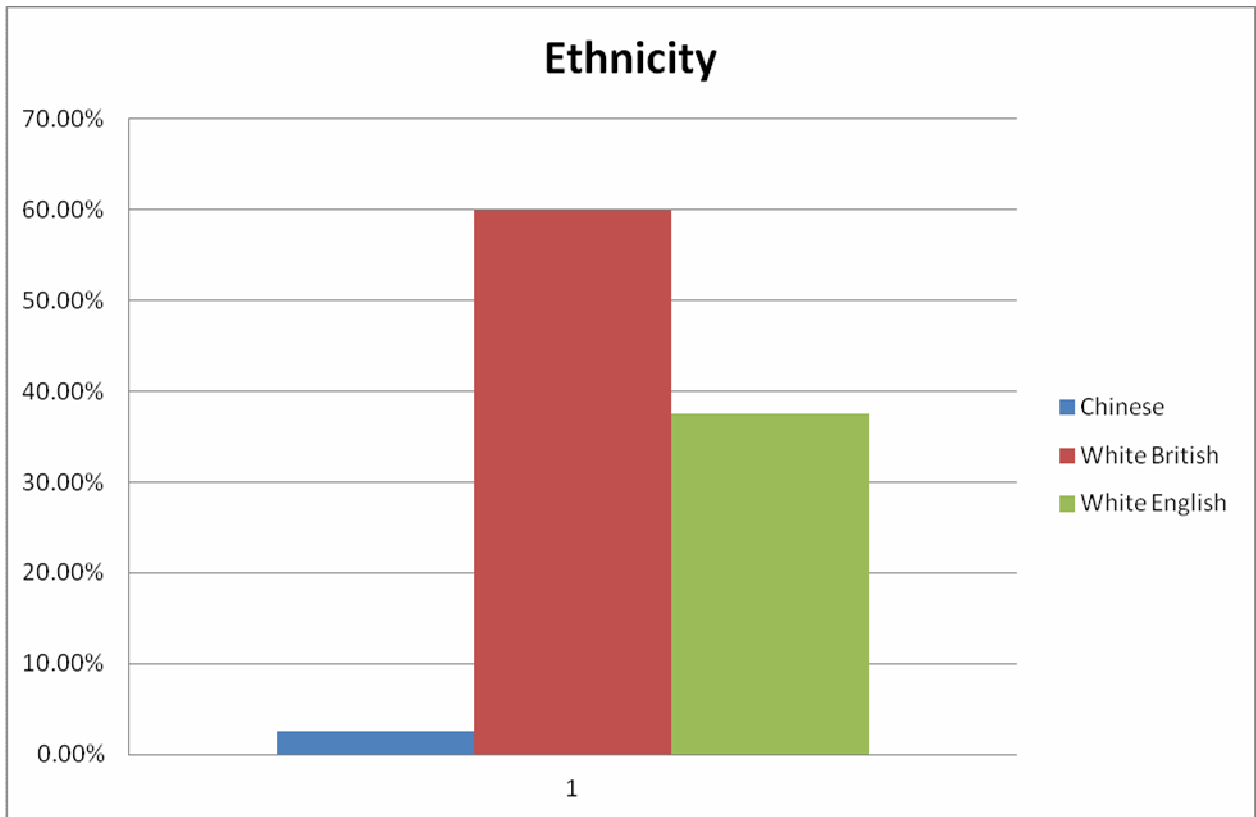
The most respondents were in the 40-59 age groups (56.10%), followed by the 25-39 age groups (29.27%). This differs from the 2011 Census figures, which show that total numbers in both age groups are roughly even at around 60,000 each for the Sefton average.



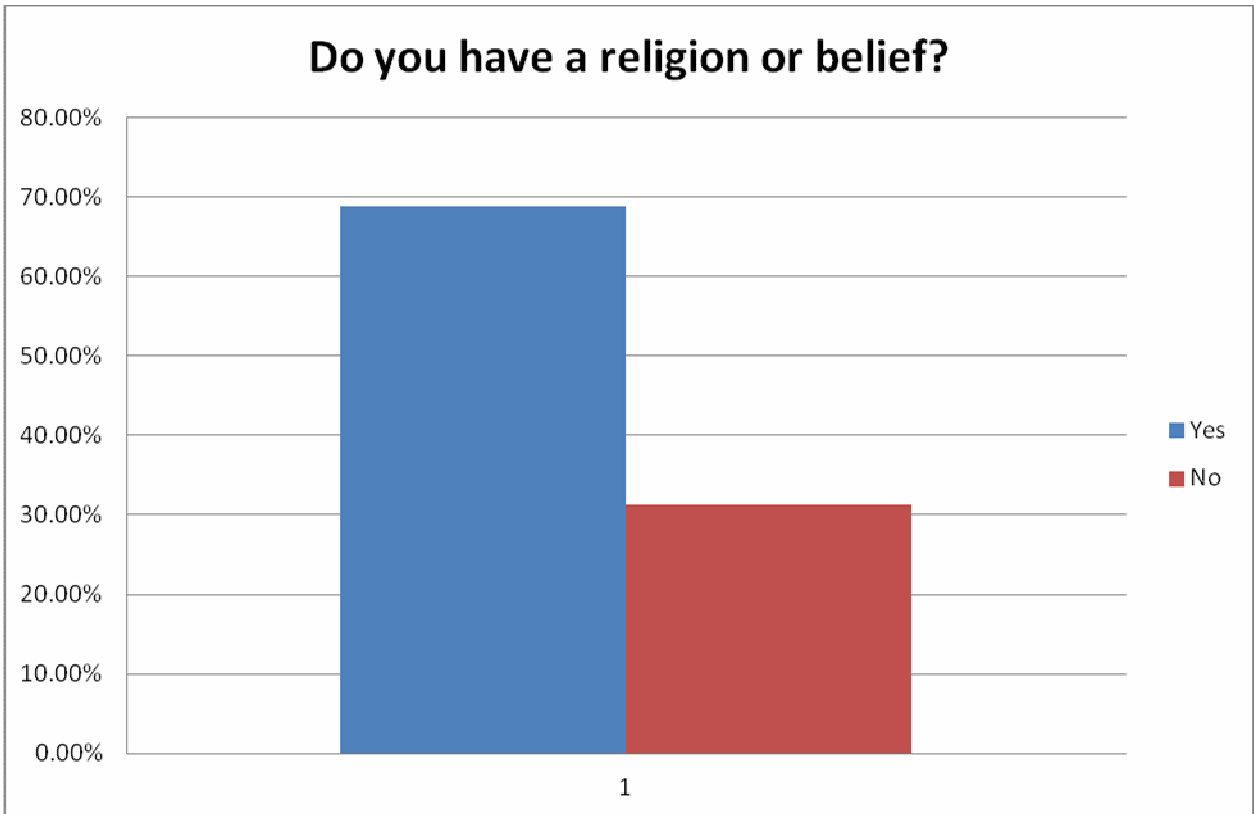
This shows that 21.62% considered themselves to have a disability under existing legislation.

Of those that responded, half said that they had some form of long term illness that affected daily activities. Some 25% had a physical impairment, whilst 18.75% had a visual impairment.

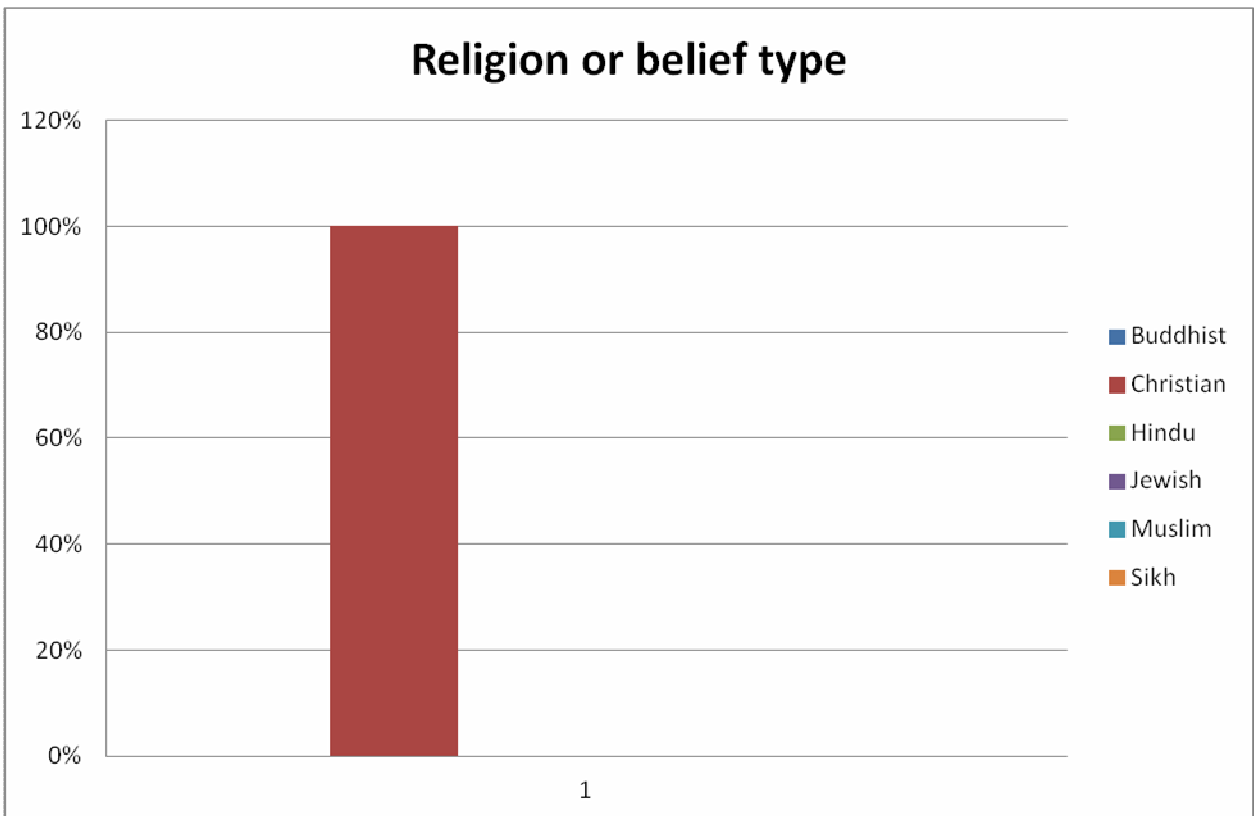


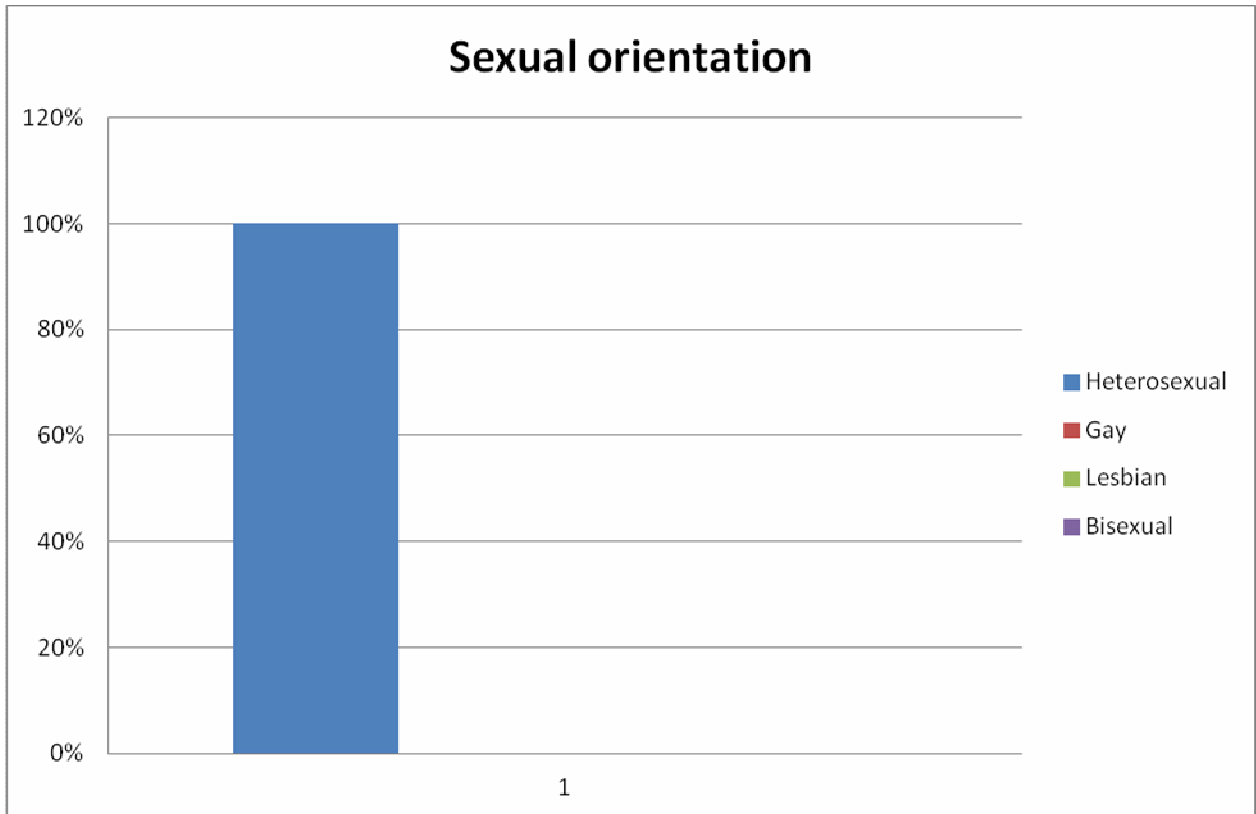


Over 97.5% of respondents were either White British or White English. 2.5% were of Chinese descent.



Some 68.75% said that they had a religion or belief. Of these respondents, all of them are of the Christian faith.





All respondents stated that they were heterosexual, and that they were still living in the gender that they were given at birth.



Appendix 6 – Methodology

A questionnaire was developed and loaded on to e-Consult, the council's online consultation software. The questions asked were:

- Which of the options would residents prefer
 - The Council continues to provide households with a limited supply (2 per week) of plastic refuse sacks free of charge and to only collect these
 - The Council makes available plastic refuse sacks, that can be purchased and collected by residents and continues to collect a limited quantity (2 per week) of only Council approved plastic sacks each week
 - Households provide and use their own type of plastic sacks/bags and the Council agrees to collect all plastic sacks/bags of residual waste placed out for collection
- Why did they choose the preferred option
- What ways they thought the council could reduce the impact of the proposed change?

A paper questionnaire was also created for those without computer access.

Letters were sent out to residents using this service with a direct link to e-Consult. A random sample of 10% of service users was contacted and asked to participate (1,400 people of the 14,000 receiving the service). A further 250 community groups in the L20, L21, L22 and L23 postcode areas were contacted through Sefton CVS and asked to forward the link and information to their members.

Because the service is only in use in the L20, L21, L22 and L23 postcode areas, wider consultation was not deemed appropriate. Community Empowerment Networks were not used as existing mitigation, such as assisted collections for people with disabilities or older people, will be unaffected by this proposal.

Consultation on the Proposal to Cease Providing Refuse Sacks

HAVE YOUR SAY



Consultation on the Proposal to Cease Providing Refuse Sacks

Tell us what you think

Introduction

At the moment, some 14,000 premises in the borough are provided with free refuse sacks by the Council. This is because either the house is too small to allow for a normal wheelie bin to be stored by the resident, or because it is too difficult to collect a wheelie bin from these premises.

To save the Council £60,000, we are considering no longer providing free refuse sacks. Instead we propose that those residents who currently receive this service use their own plastic sacks/bags and, in return, we will collect any number of plastic sacks/bags from each household on the normal bin collection day. The types of sack/bag that would be collected would range from the standard 70-litre refuse sack down to small plastic carrier bags (including supermarket carrier bags).

How to get involved

To give us your views go to <https://www.engagespace.co.uk/sefton> and fill in the on-line questionnaire or telephone Gary Berwick on 0151 934 6134 or email gary.berwick@sefton.gov.uk for more information.

Copies of this consultation document are available in large print and other formats on request. To request this service please call 0151 934 6134.

What we will do with your feedback

The information you provide will be treated confidentially and used solely by Sefton Council.

Your views and the information provided will be analysed and will form part of a report to the Council to make a decision on the final budget for Sefton.

Questionnaire

① which of these alternative options would you prefer:

Option a) The Council continues to provide households with a limited supply (2 per week) of plastic refuse sacks free of charge and to only collect these sacks as we do now; or,

Option b) The Council makes available plastic refuse sacks, that can be purchased and collected by residents and continues to collect a limited quantity (2 per week) of only Council approved plastic sacks each week; or,

Option c) Households provide and use their own type of plastic sacks/bags and the Council agrees to collect all plastic sacks/bags of residual waste placed out for collection.

2 Why did you choose your preferred option?

3 What ways do you think the council can reduce the impact of this proposed change?

Get involved

Please let us know if you would like to be involved in further consultation in this area ...

Please tick all that apply

I would like to be involved in further consultation on this area such as focus groups, workshops, etc.

I would like to become part of Sefton's E-Panel
(An on line consultation panel, email address required)

If you have said you want to get involved leave your contact details here:

Name

Email:

telephone number/s

Please fill out your on-line questionnaire by Friday 1st February 2013

We thank you for participating in this consultation and we value your contribution. We do however recognise that the data you provide is private and confidential. Any personal information that you provide to the Council as part of this consultation will be handled and used in compliance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998. Regardless of whether you provide this electronically or on paper it will be stored and processed securely, and deleted once it is no longer required.

Sefton Council will not share your personal data. However, we will share the overall anonymised results of the consultation with partners with whom we work to improve the delivery of local services. The information you give us in response to surveys will form part of a final report but you will never be personally identified in any such report

Diversity Monitoring (optional)

Answer as much or as little as you want. Sefton Council will not share your personal data. However, we will share the anonymised results of the consultation with partners who we work with to deliver local services. Your contributions will be anonymised on receipt and your comments will then be used for research and consultation purposes. Your identity will not be published by us at any stage without your consent unless we are obliged to do so by law

Please enter the first part of your postcode (i.e. the first 3 or 4 characters)

Are you: Male

Female

What is your age

Under 16

16-24

25-39

40-59

60-75

75+

Disability: Do you have any of the following (please tick all that apply):

Physical Impairment

Visual Impairment

Learning difficulty

Hearing Impairment/Deaf

Mental Health/Mental distress

Long term illness that affects
your daily activity

Other (Please specify)

Please read the following statement ...

If you have ticked any of the boxes above, or you have cancer, diabetes or HIV this would be classed as 'disability' under the legislation. Do you consider yourself to be 'disabled'?

Yes

No

Ethnicity – do you identify as

Asian:

Bangladeshi

Indian

Pakistani

Other Asian background (please specify if you wish)

Black:

African

Caribbean

Other black background (please specify if you wish)

Chinese:

Ethnicity – do you identify as

Mixed Ethnic Background:-

Asian & White

Black African & White

Black Caribbean
&White

Other mixed background (please specify if you wish)

White

British

English

Irish

Scottish

Welsh

Polish

Latvian

Gypsy/Traveller

Other white background (please specify if you wish)

The following questions are a little more personal and you can choose to stop here if you wish, however it would be really helpful if you would consent to complete ...

Do you have a religion or belief?

Yes

No

If yes, please tick one of the below ...

Buddhist

Christian

Hindu

Jewish

Muslim

Sikh

Other (Please specify)

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

Heterosexual

Gay

Lesbian

Bisexual

Do you currently live in the gender you were given at birth?

Yes

No

