



**Summary of Consultation to Test the
Assumptions and Proposals of the Exeter City
Council Built Sports Facility Strategy**



5th June 2019

Draft V5

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Appendix 1: Exeter Built Facility Strategy Face to Face, On-Line Consultation, Letter, and Email Correspondence

1. Context and Objectives

1.1 The Exeter Built Facilities Strategy has assumptions and proposals that have been subject to test through an online consultation with stakeholders and residents. The consultation process has included face to face meetings and emails and letters that have been received as part of the consultation process.

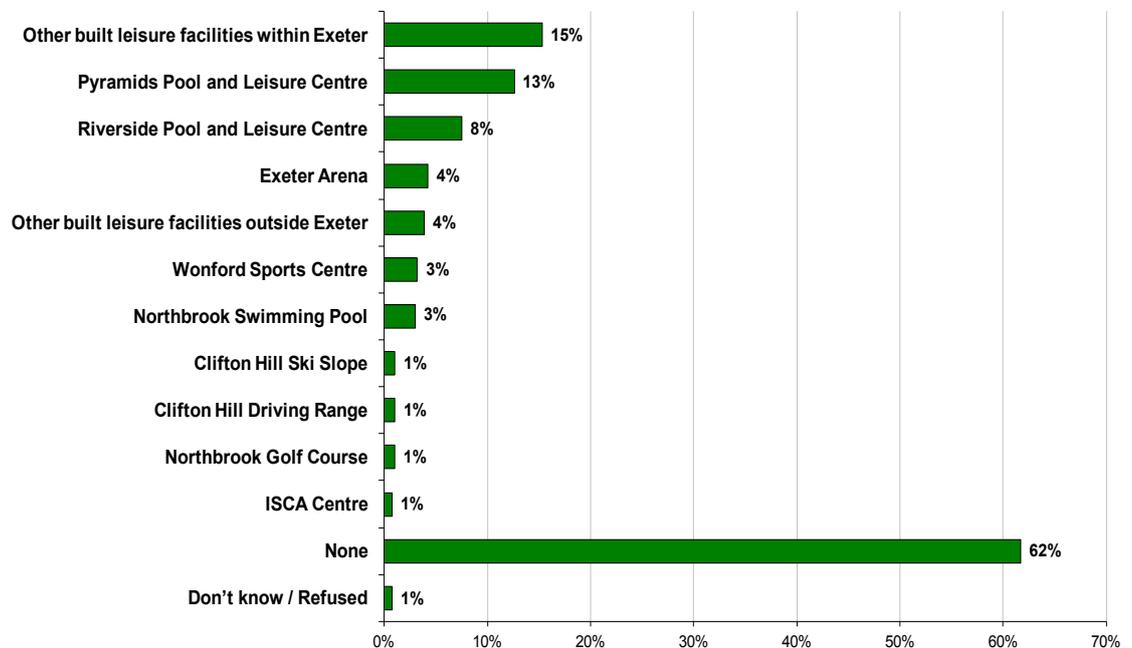
1.2 This report provides the results of the consultation.

2. Residents online survey consultation

2.1. The online consultation received a response from 1008 residents.

2.2. The respondents were asked to identify the current facilities in a typical month that they or their family use within Exeter. Table 1 below shows the responses received.

Table 1: Current Use of Built Facilities in Exeter



Source: Marketing Means 2019 Base: All respondents (1,008)

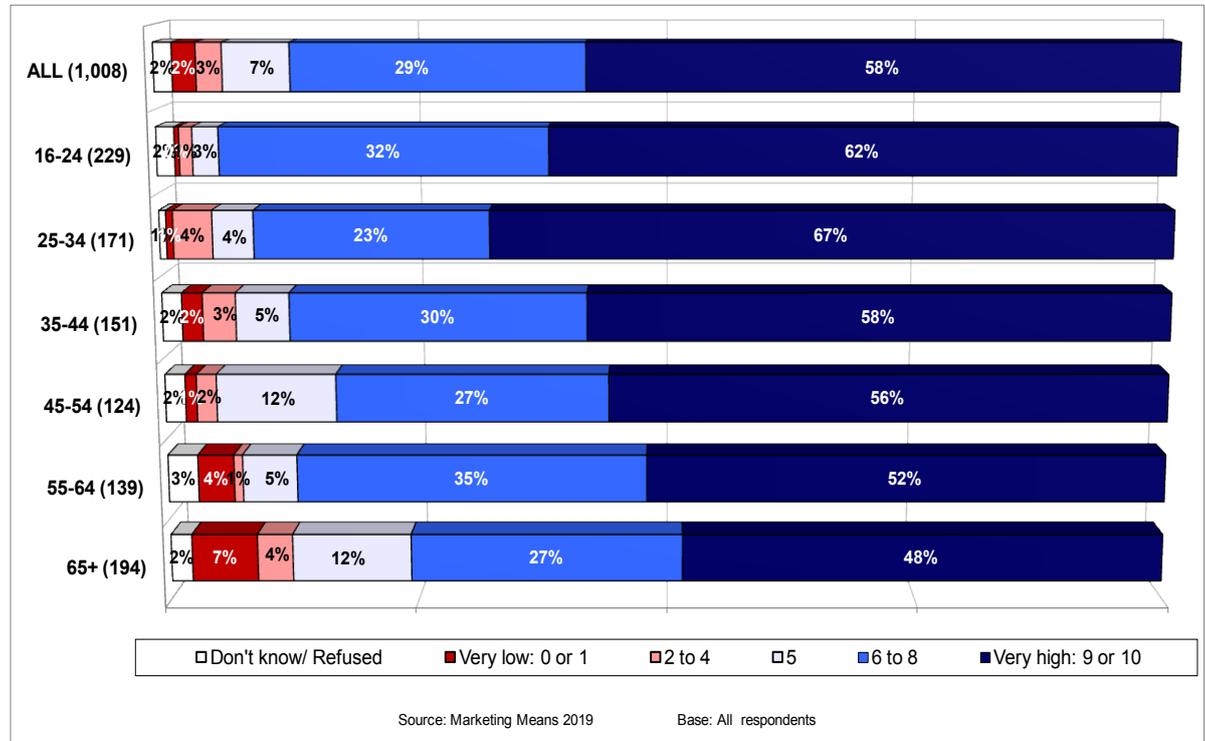
2.3 Of the 1008 respondents to the resident's survey, 15% use other built facilities within Exeter. The highest use of Exeter built facilities is Pyramids Pool and Leisure Centre (13%) followed by Riverside Pool and Leisure Centre (8%). 4% of respondents use Exeter Arena and other built leisure facilities outside Exeter. 3% of respondents use Wonford Sports Centre and Northbrook Swimming Pool. The remaining facilities Clifton Hill Ski Slope, Clifton Hill Driving Range, Northbrook Golf Course, and the ISCA Centre are used by 1% of respondents.

2.4 62% of respondents stated that they didn't use any built leisure facilities in or outside of Exeter and 1% didn't answer the question.

2.5 Residents were asked to complete a survey based on specific questions around the 2 Built Facility Proposal Posters below:

2.9 Table 3 shows the responses by age for respondents when considering if the aims and approach recommended are fair and reasonable.

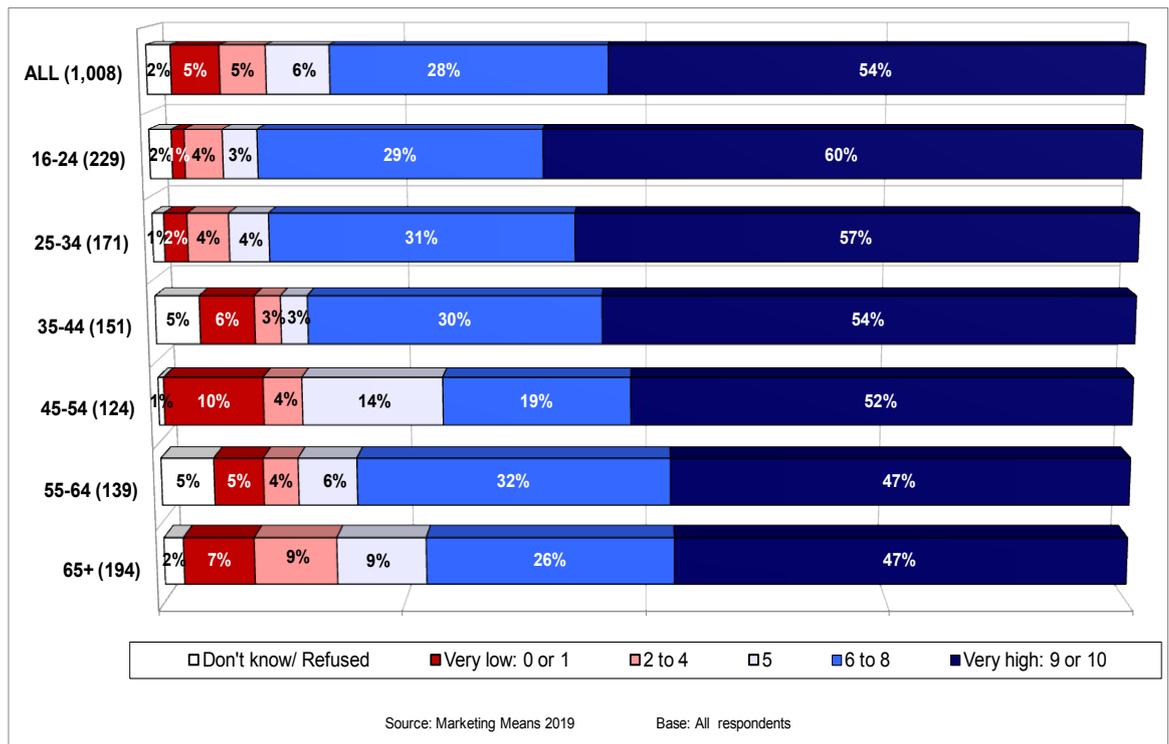
Table 3. The aims and approach recommended are fair and reasonable (Responses by AGE)



2.10 The highest % of respondents considering the aims and approach recommended are fair and reasonable are those aged 16 -24 years (94%) and 25 -34 years (90%) followed by those aged 35 – 44 years (88%). These 3 age ranges are most likely to make use of built sports facilities. The next highest are aged 55 – 64 years (87%), followed by 45 – 54-year-olds (85%) and then those aged 65+ (75%).

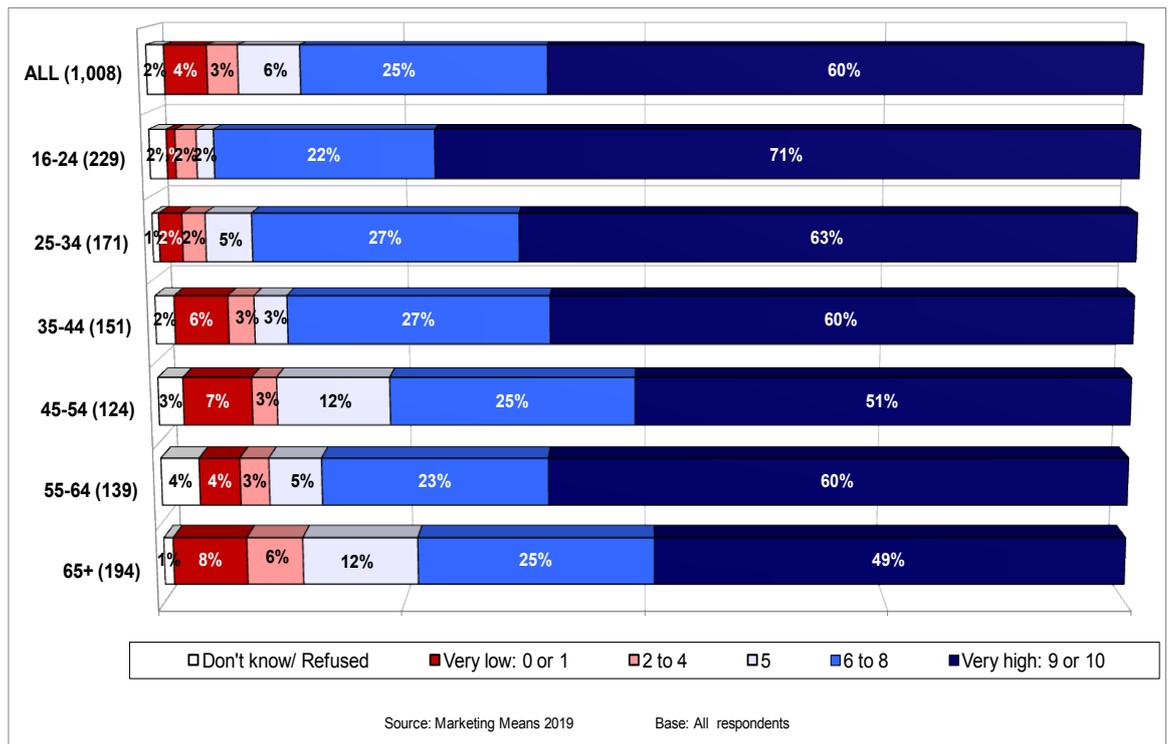
2.11 The survey asked if the priorities were right for Exeter. The different age ranges responses are in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Are these the right priorities for Exeter (responses by AGE?)



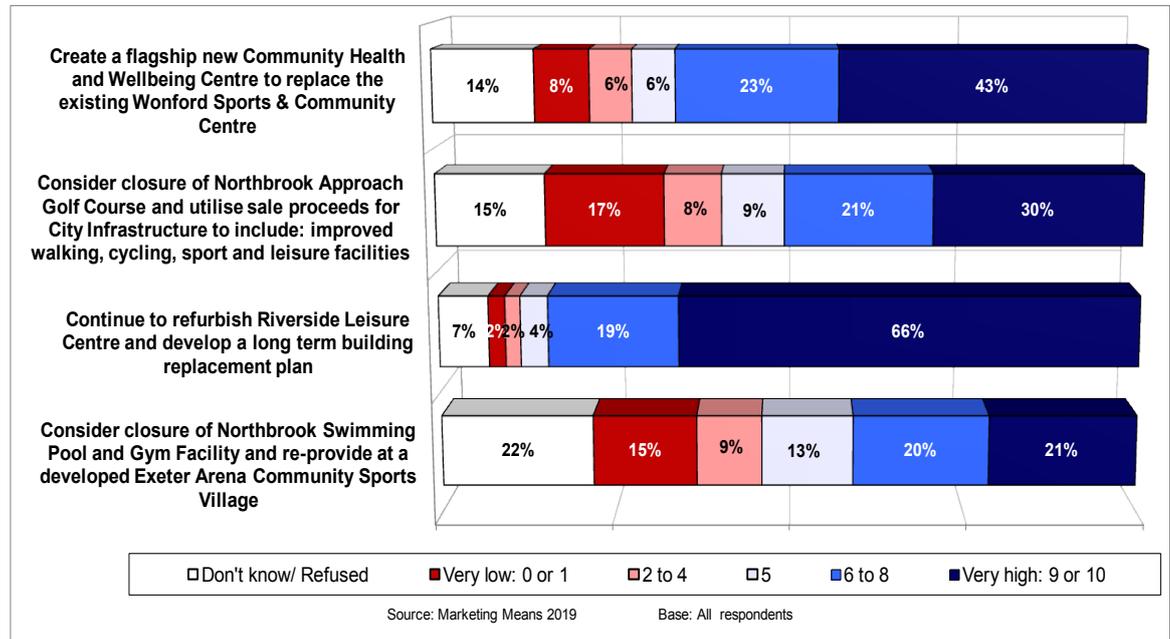
- 2.12 The highest % of respondents that considered that these are the right priorities for Exeter are aged 16 -24 years (89%) and 25 -34 years (88%) followed by those aged 35 – 44 years (84%). These 3 age ranges are most likely to make use of built sports facilities. The next highest are aged 55 – 64 years (79%) followed by the 65+ (73%) and then those aged 45 – 54 years (75%).
- 2.13 The different age range response to “overall, I support these proposals” are shown in the Table below.

Table 5. Overall, I support these proposals (responses by AGE)



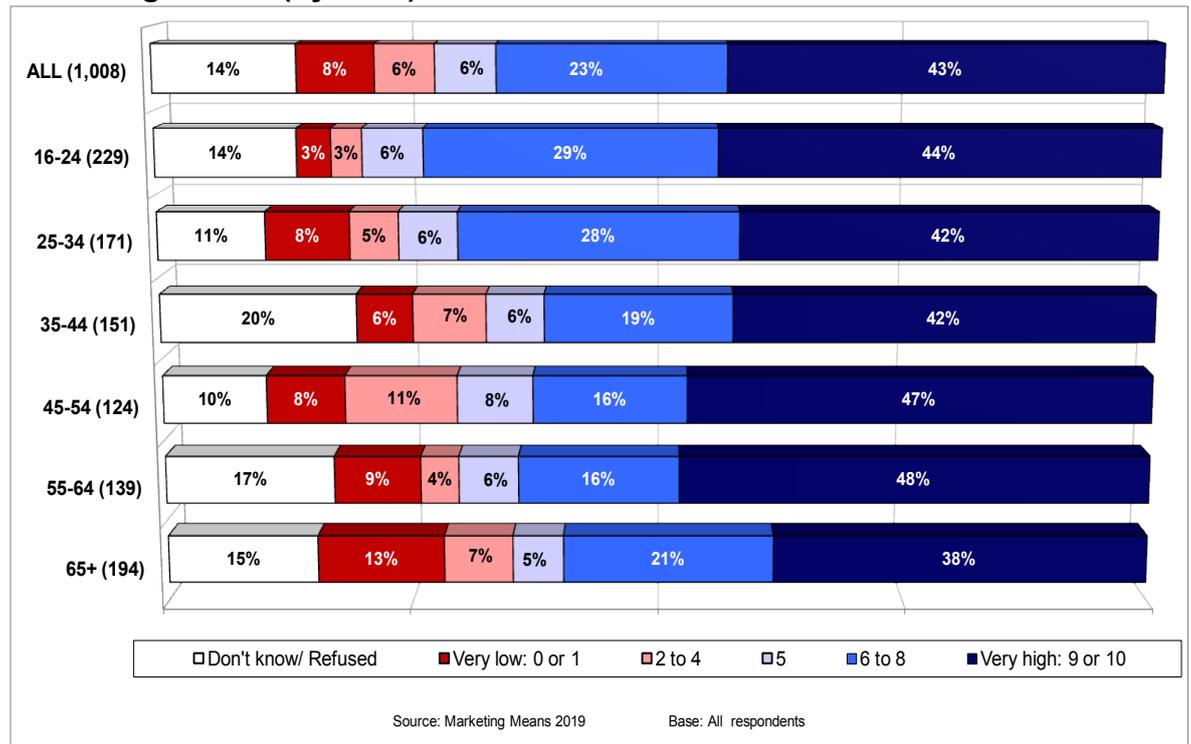
- 2.14 The highest % of respondents that considered that overall, they support these proposals are from those aged 16 -24 years (93%) and 25 -34 years (90%), followed by those aged 35 – 44 years (87%). These 3 age ranges are most likely to make use of built sports facilities. The next highest are aged 55 – 64 years (83%) followed by those aged 45 - 54 years (76%) and then those aged 65+ (74%).
- 2.15 The next section of questions asked for specific responses around individual facilities and whether respondents approved or disapproved of the proposals.
- 2.16 The responses to approve/disapprove the Council’s built facilities for sports and leisure summary are shown in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Approve/disapprove of the Council’s built facilities for sports & leisure? – Summary



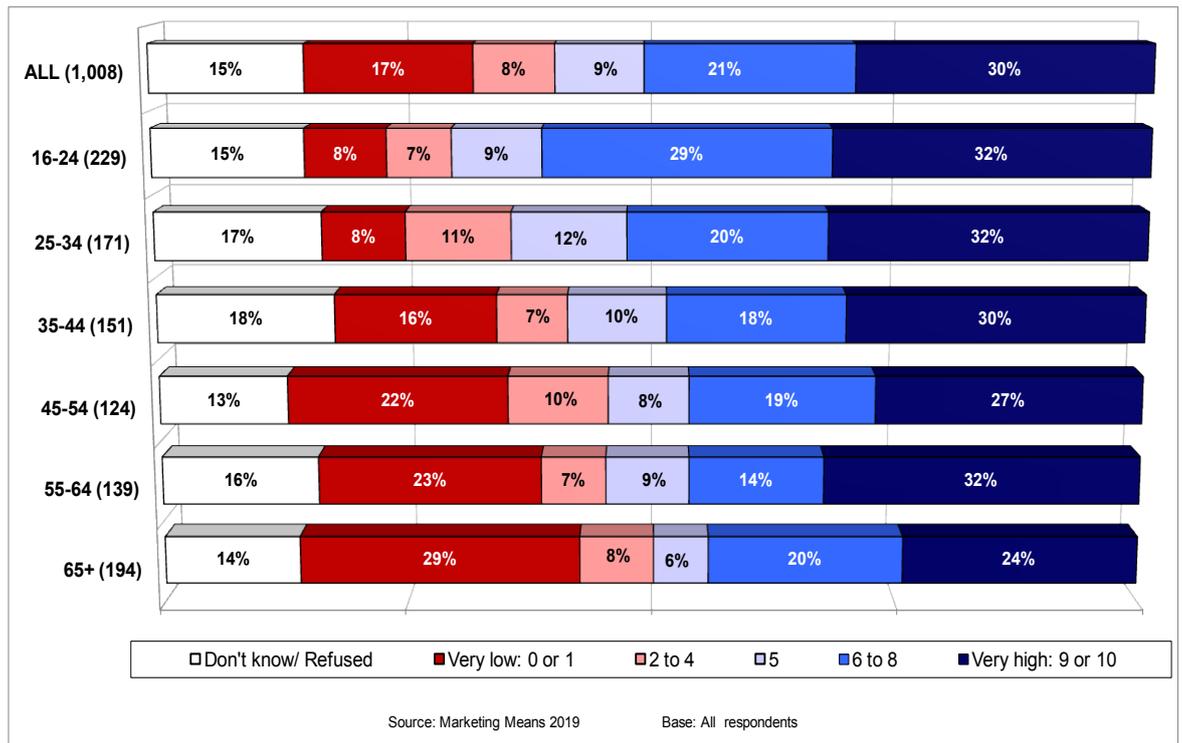
- 2.17 The highest support 85% is for the proposal to continue to refurbish Riverside Leisure Centre and develop a long-term building plan.
- 2.18 The creation of a flagship new community health and wellbeing centre to replace the existing Wonford Sports Centre and Community Centre has the next highest support 66%. This is followed by 51% approving of the consideration to close Northbrook Approach Golf Course and utilise the sale of proceeds for City Infrastructure to include improved walking, cycling and sport, and leisure facilities. The low (8%) and very low (17%) responses indicate that 25% disapprove of the proposal.
- 2.19 41% of respondents indicated approval to consider the closure of Northbrook Swimming Pool and Gym facility and re-provide at a developed Exeter Arena Community Sports Village. The low (9%) and very low (15%) responses indicate that 24% disapprove of the proposal. 13% of respondents scored a 5 and 22% didn't respond.
- 2.20 The responses indicate that the survey respondents are happy to progress with all 4 proposals. The 2 lowest Northbrook Approach Golf Course and closure and replacement of Northbrook Swimming Pool merely received disapproval from 25% and 24% of respondents respectively.
- 2.21 The approval level to the proposals to create a flagship new Community Health and Wellbeing Centre are shown in table 7 below.

Table 7. Approval level: Create a flagship new Community Health and Wellbeing Centre (by AGE)



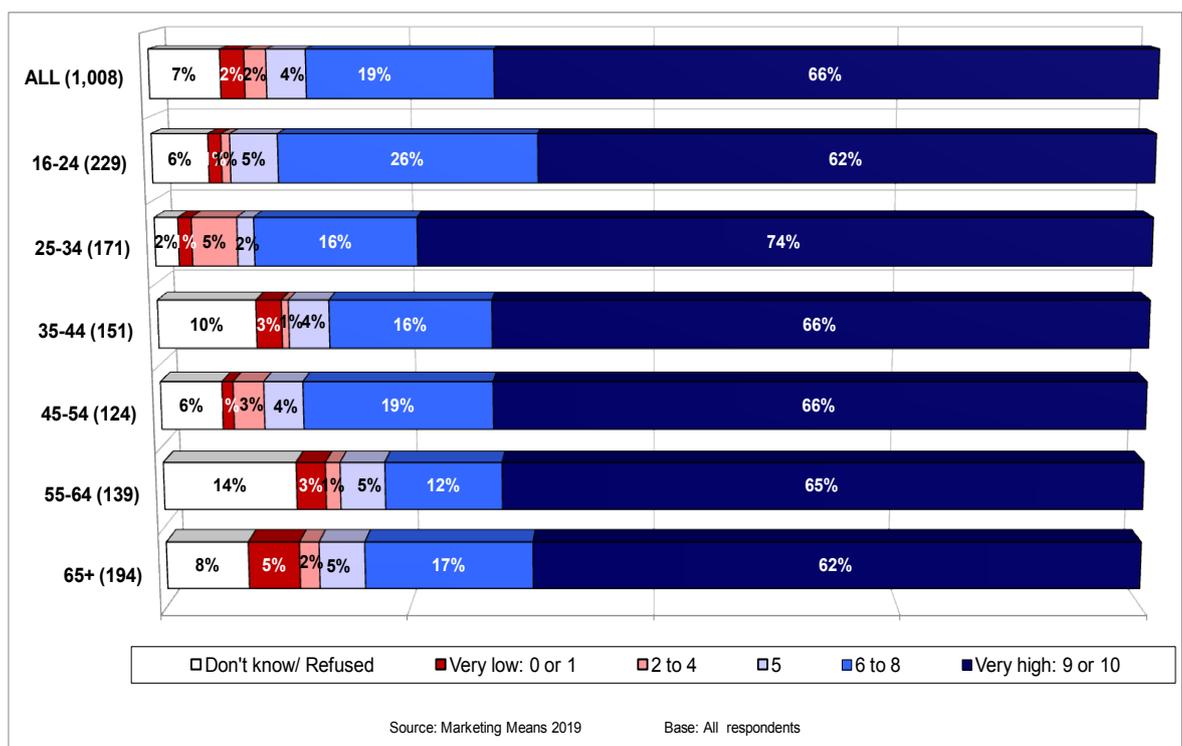
- 2.22 The highest % of responses for approval by age to create a new Community Health and Wellbeing Centre are those aged 16 -24 years (73% high + very high) and 25 -34 years (70% high + very high). The remainder are fairly near each other with those aged 55 – 64 years (64% high + very high), 45 – 54 years (63% high + very high), 35 – 44 years (61% high+ very high) and then those aged 65+ (59% high + very high).
- 2.23 Table 8 below shows the approval level for consideration of the Northbrook Approach Golf Course by age.
- 2.24 The highest % of responses for approval by age for considering the closure of Northbrook Approach Golf Course are those aged 16 -24 years (61% high + very high) and 25 -34 years (52% high = very high). The remainder is all fairly close with those aged 35 – 44 years (48% high + very high), 45 – 54 years and 55 – 64 years (46% high + very high), and then those aged 65+ (44% high + very high).

Table 8. Approval level: Consider closure of the Northbrook Approach Golf Course ... (by AGE)



2.25 The approval level by age to continue to refurbish Riverside Leisure Centre is shown in table 9 below.

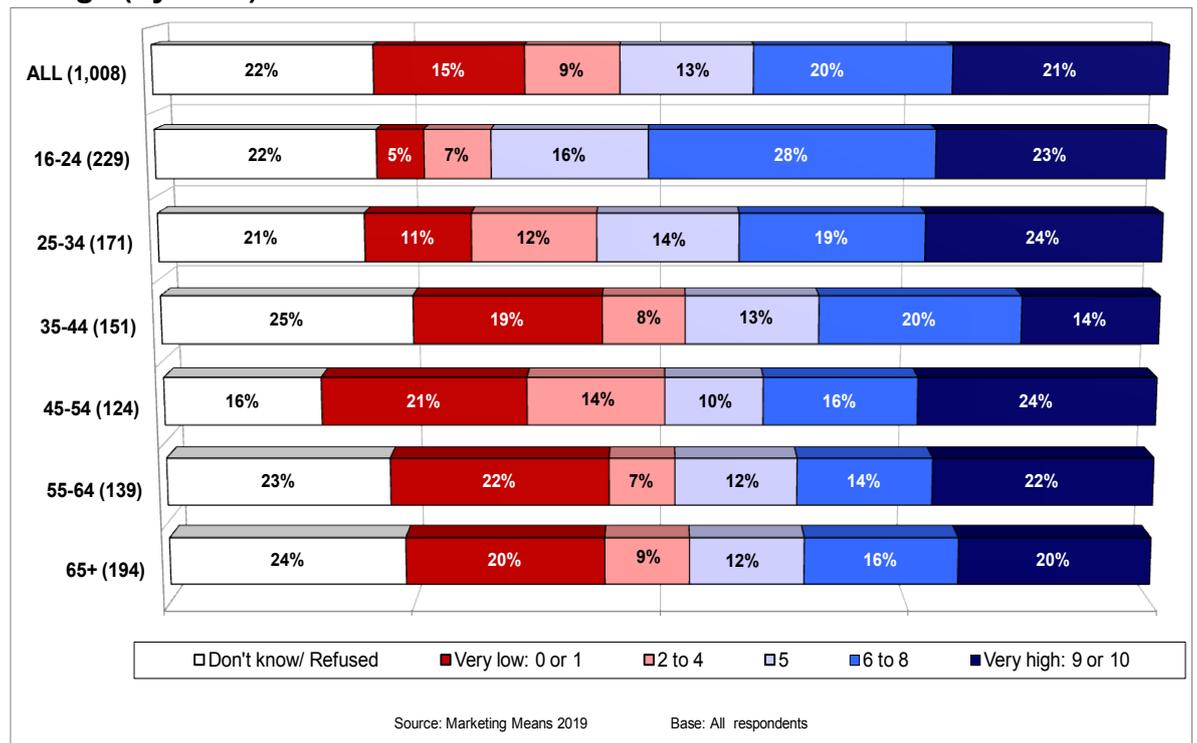
Table 9. Approval level: Continue to refurbish Riverside Leisure Centre ... (by AGE)



Appendix B

- 2.26 The highest % of respondents by age for approval to continue to refurbish Riverside Leisure Centre are those aged 25 -34 years (90% high + very high), 16 -24 years (88% high + very high) , 35 – 44 years and 45 – 54 years (85% high + very high), 65+ (79% high + very high) and 55 – 64 years (77% high + very high).
- 2.27 The approval level by age considering the closure of Northbrook Swimming Pool and Gym facility and re-provide a developed Exeter Arena Community Sports Village is shown in table 10 below.

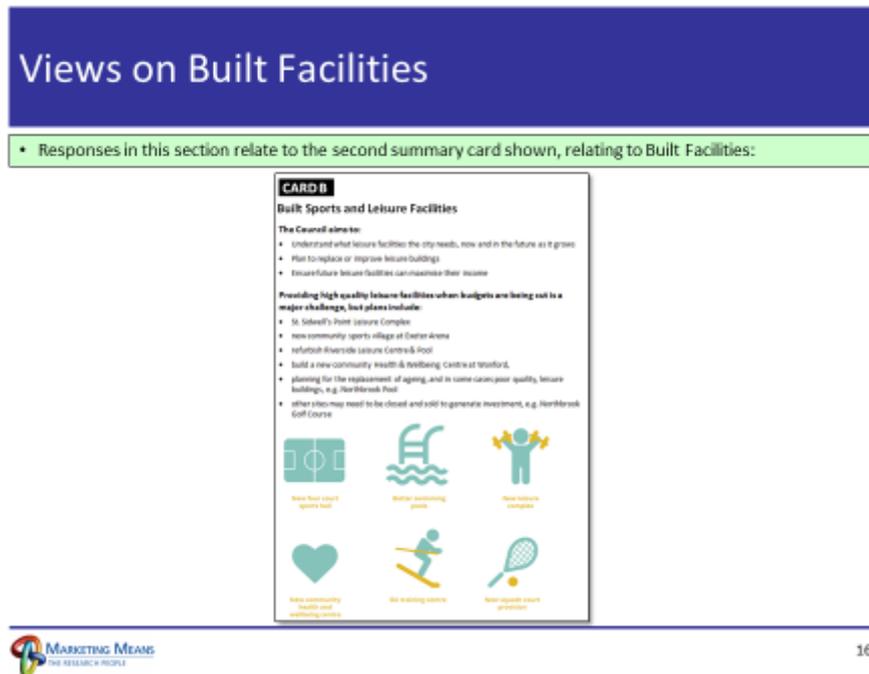
Table 10. Approval level: Consider closure of Northbrook Swimming Pool and Gym Facility and re-provide a developed Exeter Arena Community Sports Village (by AGE)



- 2.28 The highest % of respondents by age for approval to consider the closure of Northbrook Swimming Pool and Gym Facility are those aged 16 -24 years (51% high + very high), followed by 25 -34 years (43% high + very high), and 45 – 54 years (40% high + very high), 55 – 64 years (38% high + very high), 65+ (36% high + very high) and 35 – 44 years (34% high + very high),
- 2.29 The resident survey has clearly shown support for the Council’s Plans and Priority actions for the Built Sports Facility Strategy. The same can be said for the proposed plans and actions for facility closure and development.

3. Stakeholder Survey - On Line Built Facilities Strategy

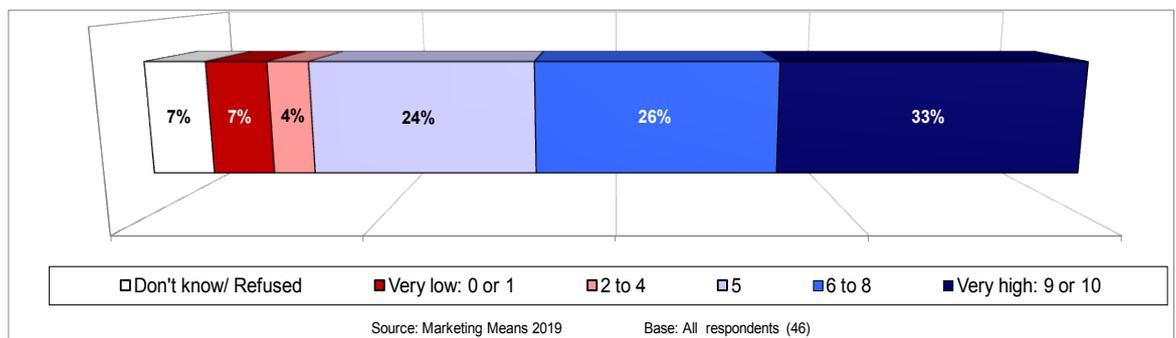
3.1 The responses in the stakeholder section relate to a summary card shown, relating to built facilities. This card can be seen below.



3.2 50 stakeholders responded to the online survey. However, only 46 respondents completed the questionnaire. The results of the 46 completed questionnaires are considered below.

3.3 Table 11 shows how likely respondents or their organisation would be to commit to the proposals for Built Facilities for Sports and Leisure in the City.

Table 11. How likely would you and your organisation be to commit to the proposals for Built Facilities for Sports and Leisure in the city?



3.4 59% (33% very highly and 26% highly) said they were highly likely or very likely to commit to the proposals. 11% responded with low ratings and would be unlikely to commit to the proposals for built facilities. 24% rated the question neither high nor low. It could be said that this 24% have an open mind about the council's proposals.

3.5 The reasons for respondents' views on committing to the proposals for Built Facilities for Sports and Leisure are shown in table 12 below.

Table 12.

Reasons for view on committing to the proposals for Built Facilities for Sports and Leisure

Comment	# of mentions
We need ECC to listen to our concerns (re. specific issues)	12
Need good range of facilities/ Offer wide range of activities	11
Flexible/Multi-use facilities will be needed	8
Facilities in Exeter need to be improved	8
Will promote sports participation and physical activity/ Helps the club to develop	8
Important to have outdoor facilities/playing pitches	6
Need more detail/rationale for proposals in PAS	3
Need to include watersports provision	3
OTHER	9
Can't comment/ Not in a position to give a view	6

3.6 The majority of mentions 12 were stakeholders requesting 'Exeter City Council to listen to their concerns re specific issues'. The next highest mentions 11 were the 'need for a good range of facilities offering a wide range of activities'. This was followed by 3 mentions each for the following:

- The need for flexible/ multi-use facilities;
- The need for facilities in Exeter to be improved; and
- Will promote sports participation and physical activity and help clubs to develop.

3.7 The next 6 mentions were the importance to have outdoor facilities/playing pitches.

3.8 3 mentions requested water-sports provision.

3.9 There were an additional 9 other mentions. 6 mentions were not able to comment or not in a position to give a view.

3.10 Table 13 shows the stakeholders views on what role they or their organisation would like to play in developing the proposals for Built Facilities for Sports and Leisure in the City.

Table 13.

What role would you/your organisation like to play in developing the proposals for Built Facilities for Sports and Leisure in the city?

Comment	# of mentions
Help to advise/be consulted re. new facilities	22
Will make use of new facilities/pitches	14
General support/involvement in developing plans	13
Help to ensure multi-use/ Venue suitable for different sports	3
Help to involve local community(ies)	3
OTHER	5
Not sure/Nothing in particular/ Need to know more	7



- 3.11 22 mentions stated they would 'help to advise/ be consulted re the new facilities'. 14 mentions stated they would use the new facilities/pitches. 13 mentions stated they would 'provide general support/ involvement in developing the plans'. There were 3 mentions each for 'help to ensure multi-use/ venues suitable for different sports' and 'help to involve local communities'.
- 3.12 There were 3 other views mentioned and 7 were not sure, need to know more or had no particular view.
- 3.13 Table 14 shows respondent's mentions to what support they or their organisation needs from Exeter City Council to carry out the roles they have stated.
- 3.14 The highest mentions 15 in table 14 relate to 'improvement of facilities in Exeter/ additional facilities to expand capacity/expand the capacity of pitches.
- 3.15 13 mentions stated the need for them to be involved in consultation and collaboration on developing plans. 9 mentions related to communication and keeping us informed. 4 mentions related to finding ways to secure additional funding/ offer grants or subsidies to support physical activity opportunities.
- 3.16 3 mentions want 'their sport/ activity included in the proposals'. A further 3 mentions state a need for 'Council support/ co-ordinate promotion of their sport / physical activity'. Another 3 mentions would like 'financial support'.
- 3.17 There are 2 mentions with the view the Council should 'support what we already do' and 2 mentions of maintaining current green space/ restrict building development on spaces used for leisure.

Table 14.

What support would you/your organisation need from Exeter City Council in order to do so?

Comment	# of mentions
Improvement of facilities in Exeter/ Additional facilities to boost capacity/ Expand capacity of pitches	15
Involve us in the consultation/ Collaborate with us on developing plans	13
Communication/ Keep us informed	9
Find ways to secure additional funding/ Offer grants or subsidies to support physical activity opportunities	4
Include our sport/activity in the proposals	3
Council support/co-ordinate promotion of our sport/physical activity	3
Financial support	3
Support what we already do	2
Maintain current green spaces/ Restrict building development on spaces used for leisure	2
OTHER	3
No comment	7

- 3.18 When answering the question do the majority of players at your club or organisation live within Exeter 40 respondents said yes, 1 replied no and 9 replied not applicable. The majority of respondents represent Exeter residents.
- 3.19 Of the 50 stakeholder responses to the online survey 45 have said they would be willing to take part in further research or consultation with the project.
- 3.20 In answering does your club or organisation plan to increase teams 28 respondents said yes, 5 respondents said no and 17 replied not applicable.
- 3.21 Nearly all clubs have stated they have plans to develop participation and increase membership numbers. Some clubs have facility development aspirations and plan to develop new facilities and storage facilities.
- 3.22 Clubs have identified issues that may threaten their development or prevent them from increasing use of their current facilities. These threats are primarily the lack of current suitable available facilities and storage. Others quoted poor facilities, lack of maintenance of facilities and insecurity of use and tenure. The lack of funds and the cost of hiring facilities is another issue as is the need for more volunteers and coaches.

4 General Emerging Themes, Recommendations and Priority Actions

- 4.1 The online survey for stakeholders is complemented by a number of face to face consultations, email and letter responses. Along with the online responses, the face to face responses and email responses have been placed in Appendix 1 under the heading of individual sports or organisations.
- 4.2 The general emerging themes coming from the National Governing Bodies of Sport show support for the Council's Built sports Facility Plans. These are:
- British Cycling – highlights priority for a strategic cycling hub in Exeter and supports the development of cycling facilities at Exeter Arena in partnership with local clubs
 - British Swimming – supports the proposals to develop swimming facilities in Exeter
 - Badminton England – supports the proposals and wishes to be consulted further on facility design.
- 4.3 The resident survey has clearly shown support for the Council's Plans and Priority actions for the Built Sports Facility Strategy. The same can be said for the proposed plans and actions for facility closure and development.
- 4.4 There is a commitment by stakeholders 59% (33% very highly and 26% highly) who have said they were highly likely or very likely to commit to the proposals and a further 25% who have an open mind about the Council's proposals.
- 4.5 Stakeholders have stated they would provide general support/involvement in developing the plans. Others have stated they would like to be consulted and work in collaboration with the Council on developing the plans. Stakeholders understand the need for a good range of flexible multi-use facilities and that those existing facilities in the City need to be improved watersports and the Quayside & waterways should be included in the proposals.
- 4.6 There is a clear need for Exeter City Council to listen to stakeholders concerns. There are specific issues, such as consulting, communicating and keeping stakeholders informed. Stakeholders want to help and advise the Council and be consulted on the proposals for the new facilities.
- 4.7 Some stakeholders object to some proposals namely the closure of the Ski Slope and the closure of Northbrook Approach Golf Course. It is important to emphasise that the objections regarding Northbrook Approach Golf Course are mostly concerning the loss of open & green space and not the golf facility itself.
- 4.8 Other stakeholders have emphasised the need for a locally driven solution and community led design for Wonford Community Health and Wellbeing Centre.
- 4.9 Exeter Water Sports Association lease the Water Sports Centre at Haven Road, from Exeter City Council. The Council should hold discussions with Exe Water Sports Association and member clubs in the City to identify current and future needs for facilities and identify how best to work towards meeting those needs in the future.
- 4.10 Some stakeholders and clubs are keen to explore the development of AGP provision at Exeter Arena to enhance the playing pitch provision

Recommendations from the General Emerging Themes

- 4.11 It is recommended that further discussions are held with stakeholders and community groups with objections and concerns to work with them throughout any future developments of the Built Facilities strategy
- 4.12 It is recommended that all stakeholders that have made known their interest in being consulted on the proposals for the Built Facility Strategy are kept informed and consulted on developments as they progress.
- 4.13 Following the consultation process and the support shown for the proposals at Exeter Arena and Wonford Community Health and Wellbeing Centre, it is recommended that the Council move forward by developing an outline business case for Exeter Arena and Wonford Community Health and Wellbeing Centre.
- 4.14 It is recommended that the Council endorse the core facility mix at Exeter Arena and in addition consider strategic cycling facility opportunities in partnership with British Cycling and local stakeholders
- 4.15 The Council should recognise from the consultation that a ski simulator will not be suitable as a replacement for the ski slope and hold discussions with the ski club to seek an alternative and appropriate site.
- 4.16 The Council should consider the closure of Northbrook Approach Pitch and Putt Golf Course. However, in response to public feedback we recommend that the Council retains the Northbrook site as an open green space.
- 4.17 The key priority actions are set against the draft proposals that were consulted on in the table below:

Draft proposals	Priority Actions
<p>Exeter Arena and ISCA Centre</p> <p>Redevelopment into a Community Sports Village.</p>	<p>We recommend the Council engages with key stakeholders in the production of an outline business case for the development of the Exeter Arena and ISCA site into a Community Sports Village.</p> <p>This will retain existing athletics track, playing pitches, skate park, indoor bowls and fitness facilities alongside new core indoor facilities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New community swimming pool to replace the aging Northbrook pool. • New sports hall to replace Clifton Hill Sports Centre sports hall. • Group exercise studios <p>We recommend the Council also considers the potential inclusion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a strategic cycling hub in partnership with British Cycling, key national stakeholders and local clubs. This could include an off road cycling track, local club provision and a free to use outdoor pump track attracting families and children to the village • Commercial Leisure, with possible options to include soft play, Junior Tag/Tag Active and tenpin bowling facility.

Appendix B

Draft proposals	Priority Actions
	<p>Gymnastics centre with a potential lease/partnership with Exeter Gymnastics Club. (Awaiting contact from Gymnastics Club (Several attempts made throughout May/June)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boxing and martial arts studio with flexible space that could be used by a variety of clubs. • An artificial grass pitch depending the outcome of the Playing Pitch Strategy • Multi-use changing pavilion/club house <p>The aim is that this mix of facilities, including both traditional and innovative facilities will make Exeter Arena a destination facility, with a focus on young people and family participation. There will be activity to suit all age groups and abilities, from babies and toddlers using the pool or soft play to older people playing bowls. The space available on site and level of parking is deemed sufficient for this proposed facility mix.</p> <p>We recommend the Council continues to work with Devon County Council to improve access to the site through walking and cycling and connecting new housing developments to the E4 Strategic Cycling route.</p>
<p>Riverside Leisure Centre and Swimming Pool</p> <p>This community swimming pool and leisure centre needs to be maintained to provide access on this side of the river. A rolling programme of refurbishment with a long term building replacement plan is required to ensure sustainability</p>	<p>The Council has funding in place to refurbish the Riverside Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre and to develop a long term building replacement plan.</p> <p>Refurbishment work is now well underway and an opening date for the swimming pool and health suite will be announced in June 2019</p>
<p>Wonford Sports Centre:</p> <p>Innovative new build integrated community health and wellbeing centre to replace existing Sports and Community Centres. This should be designed with the local community</p>	<p>We recommend that the Council continues to work with the local community, Sport England and other stakeholders to co-design an outline business case for a flagship Community Health and Wellbeing Centre to replace the Wonford Sports and Community Centres. The co-design process now underway with local residents, community group and other stakeholders will define the exact purpose and facility mix. This has the potential to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced, flexible community spaces to meet the needs of local residents which could include space for a community kitchen, gardens and café amongst a range of other community facilities. • As well as community space there is the potential for re-provision of a sports hall, group exercise space and fitness. These could be built as flexible spaces with a moveable wall to allow different activities and classes to be delivered in the space, including health related programmes. • A new primary care centre in partnership with Wonford Green GP Practice. • A new design which connects the centre to the adjacent green space including playing pitches, play areas, walking & cycling networks and Ludwell Valley Park
<p>Northbrook Swimming Pool:</p> <p>Closure and removal from restrictive lease.</p>	<p>We recommend that the Council re-provides the Northbrook Swimming Pool at the Exeter Arena and ISCA site. In partnership with the trustees, the Council should consider future closure of the Northbrook</p>

Appendix B

Draft proposals	Priority Actions
	Gym and the re-provision of boxing & martial arts facilities at Exeter Arena and ISCA site.
Northbrook Approach Pitch and Putt Golf Course: Closure and disposal of site	We recommend that the Council removes the Northbrook Approach pitch and putt golf course from its leisure provision. However, in response to public feedback we recommend that the Council retains the Northbrook site as an open green space.
Exeter Ski Club	We recommend that the Council continues to hold discussions with Exeter Ski Club to help them identify alternative sites for the future re-location of the Ski Slope at Clifton Hill