

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2012

### REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR REPUTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

#### Tamworth Listens 2012 Report

#### EXEMPT INFORMATION

There is no exempt information

#### PURPOSE

Tamworth Listens is a regular consultation process. The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the findings of Tamworth Listens for the State of Tamworth debate.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet endorse the report and take account of the findings during the State of Tamworth Debate.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

##### What people like

Residents like that Tamworth is in a central location with easy access to the countryside and lots of things to do. People are proud of our history, the castle and the castle grounds. There were many comments around the good shopping facilities, flowers and Tamworth being a nice place to live.

##### What people don't like

Many of the comments about what people don't like were litter, anti-social behaviour, expensive car parking charges, lack of facilities for young people, the traffic at Ventura Park, the empty shops in the Town Centre and the lack of quality shopping in the Town Centre.

##### What people would change

Respondents would like to see free parking, more jobs, cleaner streets, less anti-social behaviour and a better range of shops in the town centre. Congestion at Ventura Park is also an issue that residents want to see addressed.

#### Issues raised

- Respondents are concerned with the levels of unemployment or minimum wage employment in the town;
- More than 50% of respondents to the community safety survey were worried about becoming a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour.;
- Respondents felt that tackling anti-social behaviour and crime is a key area for both the Council and the Police;
- There is a view that there is a lack of affordable decent housing in Tamworth, private rent is too high and there are too many Houses of Multiple Occupation;
- 55 % of respondents indicated that street cleaning was an area that needed to be improved to make Tamworth a better place to live;

- Respondents still feel that the town centre is in decline and only offers low end shopping. There is concern over the vacant shop units in the town centre. They express the view that offering free parking will help to address this issue;
- Many respondents recognise that there is a lot to do in Tamworth but express the view that sport and leisure opportunities, even council subsidised activities such as swimming, are too expensive to access.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no resource implications directly arising from this report.

## **LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND**

There are no legal/risk implications

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no resource sustainability implications.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The 'Tamworth Listens' initiative aims to improve communication between councillors and the public. Events take place throughout the year where residents can give their ideas on what would make Tamworth a better place to live and raise any questions or concerns they may have.

## **REPORT AUTHOR**

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## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A - Tamworth Listens 2012 Report