



**Northern Ireland  
Review of Public Administration**

**RESEARCH BULLETIN 6  
NORTHERN IRELAND OMNIBUS SURVEY - JULY 2005**

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This bulletin is based on information obtained from the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey, carried out over a 7-week period in June and August 2005 by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). A total of 1,148 people were surveyed, representing a response rate of 59%. The Review of Public Administration team commissioned a series of questions to be included in this survey (Appendix 1) on consultation issues relating to the future of local government in Northern Ireland such as community planning, community involvement, governance, local roads, libraries and youth services.

**KEY POINTS**

- The majority (53%) of respondents thought that responsibility for libraries should remain integrated with the education sector and that the planning and provision of youth services should fall within the responsibilities of a new single Education Service (Tables 2 and 3).
- The majority of respondents reported that the use of either a postal questionnaire (49%) or the holding of open meetings (28%) would be the best methods of seeking their views for inputting to the community planning process (Figure 3).
- An overwhelming majority (93%) thought it would be important for their council to inform them of progress made against the community plan (Figure 7).
- When asked if they thought that the community planning process would make a difference to the delivery of services in their area, the majority (70%) of respondents replied that they thought it would (Table 10).
- Over half of all respondents (57%) said that they would not be prepared to pay more money to have a higher standard of service in their area (Table 12).
- Almost two-thirds (65%) of respondents stated that councils should have some discretion to use public money to exceed the basic standard for service delivery. An overwhelming majority (94%) thought that if councils were to use their discretion, that they should let the people within their council know why they did, what they spent the money on and how much they spent (Figures 12 and 13).
- Sixty-two percent of respondents thought that, with fewer councils proposed, some people would find it difficult to access public services (Figure 14).

## Introduction

The Review of Public Administration is a major reform in Northern Ireland designed to transform the way in which public services are developed, organised and delivered with a view to enhancing both political and financial accountability, as well as improving efficiency and cost effectiveness.

The review includes proposals on health, education, public bodies and also includes options for a reduction in the number of councils in Northern Ireland, from 26 down to configurations of 7, 11 or 15 councils. With a view to co-ordinating and enhancing service delivery, councils will be given additional powers or an enhanced role in various areas of responsibility.

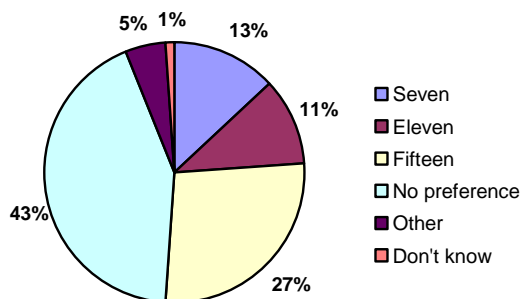
## Structures

### *Number of councils*

#### Overall

Forty-three percent of all respondents replied that they had no preference in relation to the future number of councils (figure 1).

**Figure 1: Number of local councils (%)**



Just over a quarter (27%) thought that there should be 15 councils, while a further 13% thought there should be seven.

### *Local roads*

Respondents were asked who they thought should be responsible for local roads (i.e. all public roads except for motorways and trunk roads).

## Overall

Views on the responsibility for local roads were relatively evenly varied. Table 1 indicates that a third of all respondents (33%) thought that responsibility for local roads should be shared between both the Executive and local government, while 30% thought responsibility should transfer to local government and a further 29% thought that local roads should remain with the Executive.

**Table 1: Responsibility for local roads**

Local roads	N	%
Transfer to local government	343	30
Remain with the Executive with local government having some influence on decisions	334	29
Shared, with the Executive responsible for structural aspects e.g. new roads, and local government responsible for public realm aspects e.g. grass cutting. Local government would have some influence on structural aspects.	383	33
Other	4	-
Don't know/Refused	84	7

## *Libraries*

#### Overall

As table 2 indicates, the majority (53%) of respondents thought that the responsibility for libraries should remain as it currently is – integrated with the education sector.

**Table 2: Responsibility for libraries**

Libraries	N	%
Transfer to local government	199	17
Remain integrated with the education sector	607	53
Transfer to a new single Library Authority for Northern Ireland	257	22
Other	2	-
Don't know	83	7

Over a fifth (22%) thought that a new single Library Authority for Northern Ireland should be established with responsibility for all

libraries, while 17% of respondents thought that responsibility should be transferred to local government.

### **Youth services**

While it is proposed that the overall responsibility for policy and strategy development of youth provision should continue to rest with the Department of Education, respondents were asked who they thought should be responsible for the *planning and provision* of youth services e.g. youth clubs, youth organizations etc.

Table 3 indicates that while 12% of respondents did not know who should be responsible for the planning and provision of youth services, the majority (53%) thought that it should fall within the responsibilities of a new single Education Service.

**Table 3: Responsibility for youth services**

<b>Youth services</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Transfer to local government	334	29
Fall within the responsibilities of a new single Education Service	610	53
Other	66	6
Don't know	138	12

### Gender

Females (63%) were significantly more likely than males (58%) to think that responsibility for the planning and provision of youth services should fall within the responsibilities of a new single Education Service. Males (37%) were significantly more likely than females (30%) to think that responsibility should be transferred to local government.

### Disability

Respondents without disabilities (63%) were significantly more likely than those with disabilities (50%) to think that responsibility for the planning and provision of youth services should fall within the responsibilities of a new single Education Service (figure 2) .

**Figure 2: Responsibility for youth services, by disability (%)**

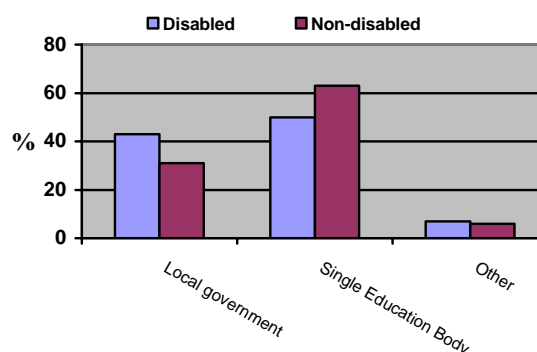


Figure 2 also indicates that while the views of those respondents without disabilities differed substantially (31% thinking responsibility should transfer to local government compared to 63% thinking it should fall within a new single Education Service), the views of those respondents with disabilities did not (43% and 50% respectively).

### **Community Planning**

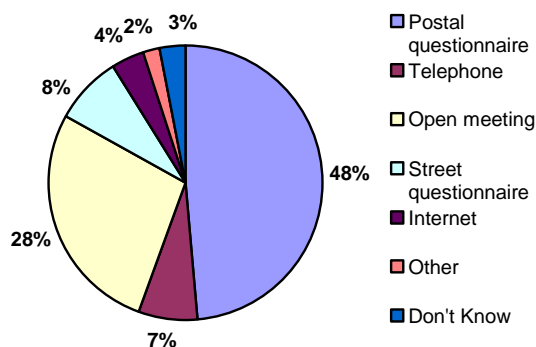
It is proposed that the new local councils would have a central role in developing and co-ordinating local policy on service delivery between the major service providers within their council boundary. This would be achieved through the **community planning** process whereby the council would have a statutory duty to prepare a community plan in consultation with other service providers and the community they represent. The other service providers would be required by legislation to co-operate fully in this planning process.

### ***Method of inputting views to community planning process***

#### Overall

The majority of respondents reported that the use of either a postal questionnaire (49%) or the holding of open meetings (28%) would be the best methods of seeking their views for inputting to the community planning process (figure 3).

**Figure 3: Method of inputting views to community planning process (%)**



### Religion

Table 4 indicates that protestant respondents (54%) were significantly more likely than catholic respondents (43%) to view a postal questionnaire as the best method of inputting their views to the community planning process.

**Table 4: Method of inputting views to community planning process, by religion (%)**

Method of input	Catholic	Protestant
Postal questionnaire	43	54
Telephone call	8	6
Open meetings	33	28
Street questionnaire	13	6
Council internet site	2	4
Other	2	2

Catholic respondents were significantly more likely to suggest open meetings (33%) and street questionnaires (13%) than protestant respondents (28% and 6% respectively).

### Area

Respondents in the East of Northern Ireland (55%) were more likely to say that they would like to input their views through a postal questionnaire than those in Belfast (51%) and the West (45%) of Northern Ireland (Table 5).

Alternatively, respondents in the West of Northern Ireland (35%) were more likely to say that they would like to input their views through open meetings than those in Belfast (26%) and the East (25%) of Northern Ireland. These findings were statistically significant.

**Table 5: Method of inputting views to community planning process, by area (%)**

Method of input	Belfast	East	West
Postal questionnaire	51	55	45
Telephone call	6	5	9
Open meetings	26	25	35
Street questionnaire	12	8	7
Council internet site	3	5	2
Other	2	2	2

### Occupation

Respondents from the skilled non-manual socio-economic group were significantly more likely to want to input their views using a postal questionnaire than other groups e.g. managerial and technical (51%), skilled manual (49%) and partly skilled (44%).

### Age

As table 6 indicates, respondents aged 35-49 (53%) were significantly more likely than other age groups to view a postal questionnaire as the best method to input their views: in particular those aged 16-24 (42%).

**Table 6: Method of inputting views to community planning process, by age (%)**

Method of input	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65 & over
Postal questionnaire	42	50	53	52	51
Telephone call	12	9	6	3	8
Open meetings	32	23	28	29	33
Street questionnaire	9	10	8	10	6
Council internet site	3	6	5	4	-
Other	2	3	1	1	2

Respondents aged 65 and over (33%) and those aged 16-24 (32%) were significantly more likely than other age groups, particularly those aged 25-34 (23%), to prefer an open meeting.

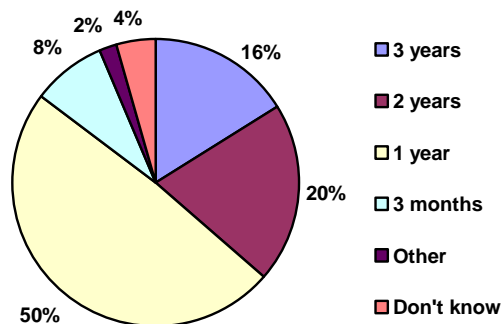
### *Frequency of inputting views to community planning process*

### Overall

Almost half (49%) of respondents replied that they would prefer to input their views to the

community planning process once a year (figure 4). A further fifth (20%) thought views should be input once every two years and 16% thought once every three years was adequate.

**Figure 4: Frequency of inputting views to community planning process (%)**



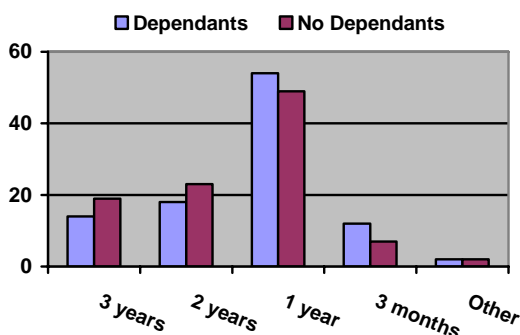
### Occupation

Almost two-thirds (63%) of those respondents from the partly skilled socio-economic group thought that their views should be taken once a year. This group was significantly more likely than other groups to have this view e.g. full-time students (53%), managerial and technical (47%) and professional (37%).

### Dependants

Figure 5 indicates that those respondents with dependents (54%) were significantly more likely than those without dependents (49%) to want their views to be taken once a year.

**Figure 5: Frequency of inputting views to community planning process, by dependants (%)**



### Method of communicating content of agreed community plan

#### Overall

When asked their views on the best way of letting people know about the content of the agreed community plan, the majority of respondents (60%) thought a summary of the plan should be sent to every household within the area (table 7). A further 23% thought that a copy of the agreed plan should be put in the local paper.

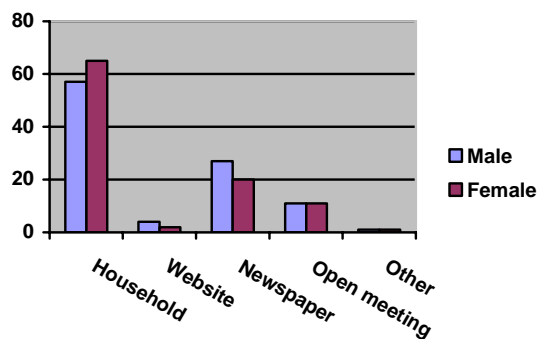
**Table 7: Method of communicating content of agreed community plan (%)**

Method	N	%
Send a summary of the plan to every household within the area	690	60
Issue a copy of the plan on council website for people to access	34	3
Put a copy of the plan in the local newspaper	260	23
Hold an open meeting to let people hear the content of the plan	124	11
Other	13	1
Don't know	27	2

### Gender

Females (65%) were more likely than males (57%) to think that a summary of the plan be issued to every household within the area (figure 6).

**Figure 6: Knowledge of local councils and services they provide, by gender (%)**



Males (27%) were more likely than females (20%) to think that a copy of the plan should be included in the local newspaper. These findings were statistically significant.

Area

Respondents from Belfast (66%) and the East of Northern Ireland (65%) were significantly more likely than those from the West of Northern Ireland (55%) to think that a summary of the plan should be issued to every household within the area.

Respondents from the West of Northern Ireland (30%) were significantly more likely than those from the East (21%) and Belfast (15%) to think that a copy of the plan should be placed in the local paper.

Occupation

Over two-thirds (70%) of those respondents classified as partly skilled, thought that a summary of the plan should be issued to every household within the area. This compares with other socio-economic groups such as: skilled non-manual (66%), managerial and technical (60%), skilled manual (57%) and unskilled manual (49%). These findings were statistically significant.

Age

While the majority of all age-bands thought that a summary of the plan should be issued to every household within the area, those aged 25-34 were more likely to think this than others (table 8).

**Table 8: Knowledge of local councils and services they provide, by age (%)**

Method	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65 & over
Households	61	65	64	59	59
Website	4	4	5	2	1
Newspaper	15	23	21	25	28
Open meeting	20	7	9	13	11
Other	0	1	1	2	1

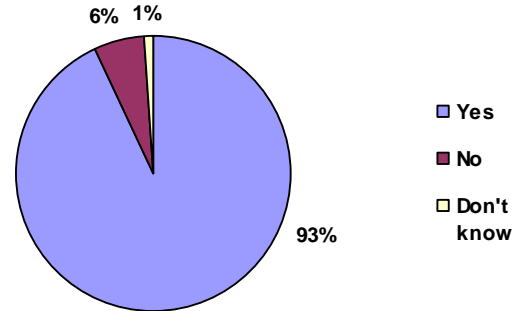
Respondents aged 65 and over (28%) were more likely than others to think that a copy of the plan should be placed in the local paper. These findings were statistically significant.

**Information on progress made against the community plan**

Overall

An overwhelming majority of respondents (93%) thought it would be important for their council to inform them of progress made against the community plan (figure 7).

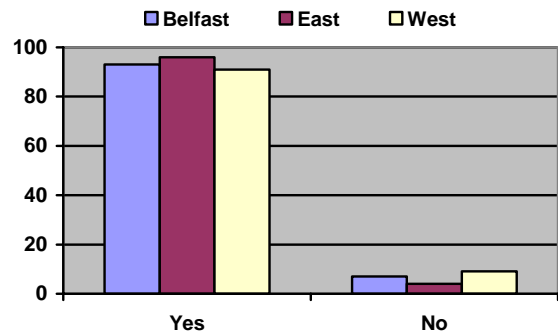
**Figure 7: Information on progress made against the community plan (%)**



Area

Those respondents in the East of Northern Ireland (96%) were significantly more likely to think that it would be important for their council to inform them of progress made against the community plan, than those respondents in Belfast (93%) and the West of Northern Ireland (91%) (figure 8).

**Figure 8: Information on progress made against the community plan, by area (%)**



Age

Those respondents aged 65 and over (89%) were significantly less likely than other age groups (95% and over) to think that it would be important for their council to inform them of progress made against the community plan.

### Marital status

Those respondents who were widowed (87%) were least likely to think that it would be important for their council to inform them of progress made against the community plan (table 9). This finding was statistically significant.

**Table 9: Information on progress made against the community plan, by marital status (%)**

Informed on progress	Single	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
Yes	93	96	95	97	87
No	7	4	5	3	13

### Dependants

Respondents with dependants (96%) were more likely to think that it would be important for their council to inform them of progress made against the community plan, than those without dependants (93%). These findings were statistically significant.

### Disability

Respondents with disabilities (90%) were significantly less likely to think that it would be important for their council to inform them of progress made against the community plan, than those without disabilities (95%).

### *Community planning making a difference to the delivery of services*

#### Overall

When asked if they thought that the community planning process would make a difference to the delivery of services in their area, the majority (70%) of respondents replied that they thought it would (Table 10).

**Table 10: Community planning and the delivery of services (%)**

Making a difference	N	%
Yes	808	70
No	194	17
Don't know/refusal	146	13

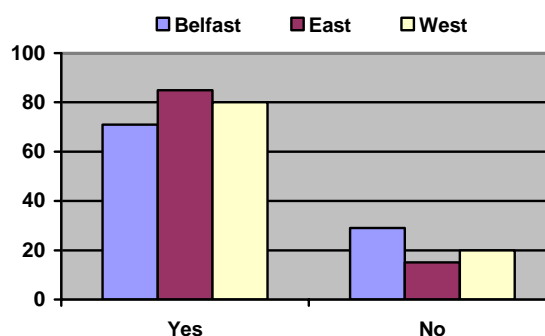
### Age

Just under a quarter (73%) of those aged 65 and over thought that the community planning process would make a difference to the delivery of services in their area. This finding was significantly lower than for other age groups e.g. 35-49 (86%), 25-34 (83%), 50-64 (81%) and 16-24 (80%).

### Area

Respondents in the East of Northern Ireland (85%) were significantly more likely than those in both the West (80%) and Belfast (71%) to think that the community planning process would make a difference to the delivery of services in their area (figure 9).

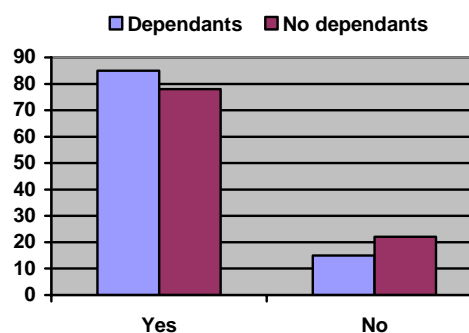
**Figure 9: Community planning and the delivery of services, by area (%)**



### Dependants

Significantly more respondents with dependants (85%) than without (78%) thought that the community planning process would make a difference to the delivery of services in their area (figure 10).

**Figure 10: Community planning and the delivery of services, by dependants (%)**



### Marital status

Respondents who were widowed (72%) were less likely to think that the community planning process would make a difference to the delivery of services in their area than those who were divorced (88%), married (83%), separated (80%) or single (80%) (table 11). This finding was statistically significant.

**Table 11: Community planning making a difference to the delivery of services, by marital status (%)**

Community planning and the delivery of services	Single	Married	Separate	Divorced	Widowed
Yes	80	83	80	88	72
No	20	17	20	12	28

### **Standards of service delivery**

#### *Basic standard*

#### Overall

Presuming that a basic standard of service delivery were applied throughout Northern Ireland, over half of all respondents (57%) said that they would not be prepared to pay more money to have a higher standard of service in their area (table 12).

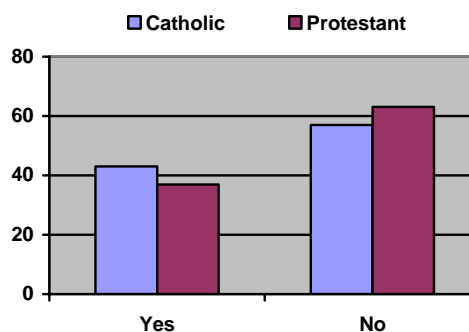
**Table 12: Paying for a higher standard of service (%)**

Prepared to pay	N	%
Yes	434	38
No	657	57
Don't know/refusal	57	5

#### Religion

Protestant respondents (63%) were significantly more likely than Catholics (57%) to say that they would not be prepared to pay more money to have a higher standard of service in their area (figure 11).

**Figure 11: Paying for a higher standard of service, by religion (%)**



#### Area

Just under two-thirds (64%) of those respondents from the East of Northern Ireland said that they would not be prepared to pay more money to have a higher standard of service in their area. This compares with 57% in the West of Northern Ireland and 56% in Belfast. These findings are statistically significant.

#### Occupation

While the majority of respondents from some of the socio-economic groups would not be prepared to pay more money to have a higher standard of service in their area, professionals (71%) and full-time students (55%) said that they would be (table 13). These findings were statistically significant.

**Table 13: Paying for a higher standard of service, by occupation (%)**

Group	Yes	No
Professional	71	29
Managerial & technical	41	59
Skilled non-manual	35	65
Skilled manual	35	65
Partly skilled	43	57
Unskilled manual	39	61
Never worked	36	64
Full-time student	55	45

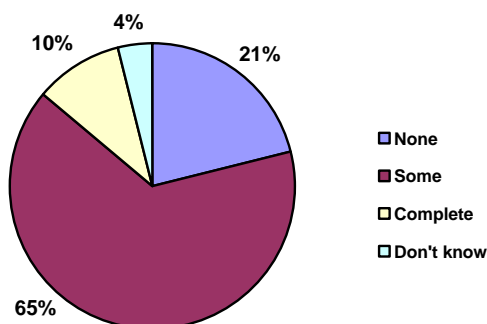
#### *Levels of discretion for councils*

#### Overall

When asked how much discretion councils should have to use public money to exceed the basic standard for service delivery, almost

two-thirds (65%) of all respondents stated that they should have some discretion (figure 12).

**Figure 12: Levels of discretion for councils to use public money (%)**



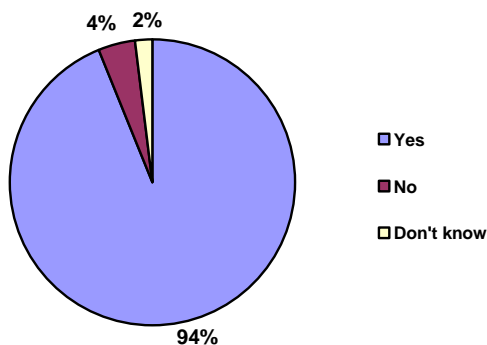
However, over a fifth (21%) thought that councils should have no discretion at all.

***Informing the public about the use of discretion by councils***

Overall

The vast majority (94%) of respondents thought that if councillors were to use their discretion to exceed the basic standard of service delivery, that they should let the people within their council boundary know why they did, what they spent the money on and how much they spent (figure 13).

**Figure 13: Informing the public about the use of discretion by councils (%)**



Area

Those respondents from the East of Northern Ireland (97%) were more likely than those from Belfast (96%) or the West of Northern Ireland (94%) to think that if councillors were to use their discretion to exceed the basic standard of service delivery, that they should

let the people within their council boundary know why they did, what they spent the money on and how much they spent (table 14). These findings were statistically significant.

**Table 14: Informing the public about the use of discretion by councils, by area (%)**

Public to be kept informed	Belfast	East	West
Yes	96	97	94
No	4	3	6

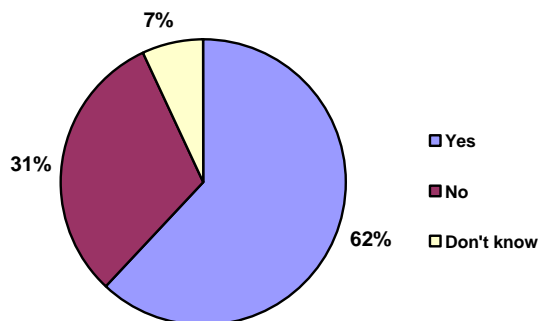
**Equality**

***Accessing Public services***

Overall

Just under two-thirds (62%) of all respondents thought that, with fewer councils proposed, some people would find it difficult to access public services (figure 14).

**Figure 14: Difficulty accessing public services (%)**



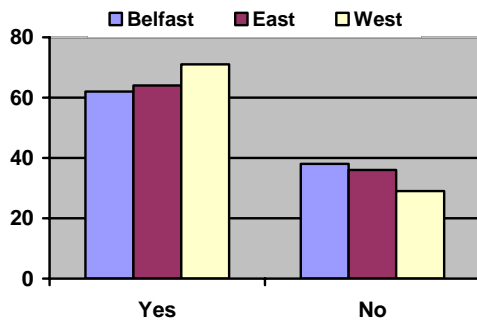
Gender

Females (69%) were significantly more likely than males (62%) to think that, with fewer councils proposed, some people would find it difficult to access public services.

Area

Proportionately more respondents in the West of Northern Ireland (71%) thought that, with fewer councils proposed, some people would find it difficult to access public services, than those in the East (64%) and Belfast (62%) (figure 15). This finding was statistically significant

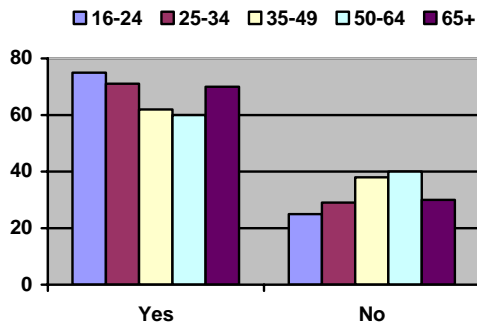
**Figure 15: Difficulty accessing public services, by area (%)**



Age

Respondents aged 16-24 (75%) 25-34 (71%) and 65 and over (70%) were significantly more likely than those aged 35-49 (62%) and 50-64 (60%) to think that , with fewer councils proposed, some people would find it difficult to access public services (figure 16)

**Figure 16: Difficulty accessing public services, by age (%)**



Disability

Respondents with disabilities (72%) were significantly more likely than those without (64%) to think that, with fewer councils proposed, some people would find it difficult to access public services (table15).

**Table 15: Difficulty accessing public services, by disability (%)**

Difficult to access services	Disabled	Non-disabled
Yes	72	64
No	28	36

**Improving access to services**

Respondents were asked to say how they thought access to services could be improved. They could give more than one answer to this question.

Over half (57%) of all respondents reported that access to public services could be improved, if better information on the services that are available was provided (table 16).

**Table 16: Improving access to public services**

Method	N	%
Provide better information on the services that are available	652	57
Provide better information on how to access public services	550	48
Improve the range of services delivered electronically	192	17
Make better use of existing facilities e.g. post offices, schools	541	47
Use mobile units to provide access to services	195	17
Provide single locations that provide a range of services i.e. one-stop-shops	327	28
Other	12	1
Don't know/Refused	72	6

Just under half (48%) thought that better information on how to access public services should be provided, while 47% thought that better use could be made of existing facilities e.g. post offices, schools etc.

Only 17% of respondents thought that improving the range of services delivered electronically would improve access to public services.

Area

Respondents from Belfast (71%) were more likely than those from the East of Belfast (64%) and the West (54%) to think that access to public services could be improved, if better information on the services that are available was provided (table 17).

Again, respondents from Belfast (67%) were more likely than those from the East of Belfast (52%) and the West (46%) to think that better information on how to access public services should be provided.

Almost two-thirds (64%) of respondents from the West of Northern Ireland thought that better use of existing facilities could improve access to public services, compared to those from both Belfast (52%) and the East of Northern Ireland (52%). All findings were statistically significant.

**Table 17: Improving access to public services, by area (%)**

<b>Method</b>	<b>Belfast</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>West</b>
Provide better information on the services that are available	71	64	54
Provide better information on how to access public services	67	52	46
Improve the range of services delivered electronically	20	21	14
Make better use of existing facilities e.g. post offices, schools	52	52	64
Use mobile units to provide access to services	24	20	21
Provide single locations that provide a range of services i.e. one-stop-shops	38	31	38
Other	1	1	2

The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey is conducted several times each year by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), and is designed to provide a snapshot of the behaviour, lifestyle and views of a representative sample of the people of Northern Ireland.

The survey comprises two distinct parts: core questions about the respondents and their individual circumstances, and a variety of mainly attitudinal questions commissioned by clients. Fourteen questions commissioned by the Review of Public Administration team were included in the July 2005 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey. The questions asked were:

**Q1. In terms of the reviews' proposals to reduce the number of councils to either: 7, 11 or 15, do you have a preference?**

- (a) Seven
- (b) Eleven
- (c) Fifteen
- (d) No preference
- (e) Other (please specify)

*In terms of the additional responsibilities that could be transferred to local government (councils) there are three in particular that we would like your views on: local roads, libraries and youth services.*

**Q2. Do you think responsibility for local roads should:**

- (a) be transferred to local government?
- (b) remain with the Executive with local government having some influence on decisions?
- (c) be shared, with the Executive responsible for structural aspects e.g. new roads, and local government responsible for public realm aspects e.g. grass cutting? Local government would have some influence on the structural aspects.

**Q3. Do you think responsibility for libraries should:**

- (a) be transferred to local government?
- (b) remain integrated with the education sector?
- (c) be transferred to a new single Library Authority for Northern Ireland?

*It is proposed that overall responsibility for policy and strategy development on youth provision should continue to rest with the Department of Education.*

**Q4. Do you think responsibility for the planning and provision of youth services e.g. youth clubs, youth organisations etc should:**

- (a) transfer to local government?
- (b) fall within the responsibilities of a new single Education Service?

*It is proposed that the new local councils would have a central role in developing and co-ordinating local policy on service delivery between the major service providers within their council boundary. This would be achieved through the **community planning** process whereby the council would have a statutory duty to prepare a community plan in consultation with other service providers and the community they represent. The other service providers would be required by legislation to co-operate fully in this planning process.*

**Q5. How best could your views be taken to feed into this community planning process?**

- (a) Postal questionnaire
- (b) Telephone call
- (c) Open meetings
- (d) Street questionnaire
- (e) Post views on council internet site
- (f) Other (please detail)

**Q6. How often should your views be taken?**

- (a) Once every three years
- (b) Once every two years

- (c) Once a year
- (d) Once every three months
- (e) Other (please detail)

**Q7. What do you think would be the best way of letting you know about the content of the agreed community plan?**

- (a) Send a summary of the plan to every household within the area
- (b) Issue a copy of the plan on the council web-site for people to access
- (c) Put a copy of the plan in the local newspaper
- (d) Hold an open meeting to let people hear the content of the plan
- (e) Other (please detail)

**Q8. Do you think it would be important for your council to inform you of progress made against the community plan?**

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) Don't know

**Q9. Do you think this community planning process will make a difference to the delivery of public services in your area?**

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) Don't know

**Q10. If a basic standard of service delivery were applied throughout Northern Ireland, would you be prepared to pay more money to have a higher standard of service in your area?**

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) Don't know

**Q11. How much discretion should a council have to use public money to exceed the basic standard of service delivery within their area?**

- (a) No discretion at all
- (b) Some discretion
- (c) Complete discretion
- (d) Don't know

**Q12. If councillors use their discretion to exceed the basic standard of service delivery, do you think they should let the people within their council boundary know why they did, what they spent the money on and how much they spent?**

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) Don't know

**Q13. With fewer councils proposed, do you think that some people would find it difficult to access public services?**

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) Don't know

**Q14. How could access to services be improved?**

- (a) Provide better information on the services that are available
- (b) Provide better information on how to access public services
- (c) Improve the range of services delivered electronically
- (d) Make better use of existing facilities e.g. post offices, schools
- (e) Use mobile units to provide access to services
- (f) Provide single locations that provide a range of services i.e. one-stop-shops
- (g) Other (please detail)

The sample of those surveyed in the July 2005 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey was drawn from the Valuation and Lands Agency list, the most up-to-date listing of private households in Northern Ireland. The complete list of private addresses was stratified into three regions – Belfast, East of Northern Ireland and West of Northern Ireland, and a random sample drawn from each region.

At each address, the interviewer lists all members of the household eligible for inclusion in the sample, i.e. all persons aged 16 or over. The interviewer’s computer then randomly selects one person from each household to complete the interview. From an eligible sample of 1,953 individuals, 1,148 interviews were achieved, giving an overall response rate of 59%.

Selecting only one individual for interview from each address means that individuals living in large households have a lower chance of being included in the sample than individuals living in smaller households. The data presented in this bulletin have been weighted to prevent a bias towards smaller households.

To assess how accurately a survey sample reflects the population of Northern Ireland, the characteristics of the sample are compared with the characteristics of the current Census of Population.

Statistical significance tests were carried out on a range of group differences observed in the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey findings. These tests are used to establish the degree of confidence with which we can infer the observed findings as an accurate reflection of the views of the total Northern Ireland population.

For the purposes of this bulletin, the term “significant” is used only in the strict statistical sense. This means that if a comparison is reported as being significant (between the views of older and younger people for example) we are confident that there is a real difference between these groups in the sample and that the result has not occurred by chance. The term “significant” is not used in any other sense such as “important” or “meaningful”.

Area analysis was based on District Council boundaries and is detailed in Table 18. Councils listed in this table were used to form each of the three areas (Belfast, East of Northern Ireland, West of Northern Ireland) described in this bulletin.

**Table 18: Areas of Northern Ireland by District Council**

<b>Area</b>	<b>District councils</b>
Belfast	Belfast
East of Northern Ireland	Antrim, Ards, Ballymena, Banbridge, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Craigavon, Down, Larne, Lisburn, Newtownabbey, North Down
West of Northern Ireland	Armagh, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Cookstown, Dungannon, Fermanagh, Limavady, Derry, Magherafelt, Moyle, Newry & Mourne, Omagh, Strabane

The totals in some tables are greater than the number of respondents. This is because respondents were able to give multiple responses to some questions.

Due to rounding, percentages noted in figures and tables may not add to 100%.

A ‘-’ in tables represents a percentage less than 1%

The Socio-Economic Classification used in this bulletin groups occupations into eight socio-economic classes with the implication that occupation is a meaningful indicator of social welfare.

*Further information and additional copies of this bulletin can be obtained by contacting Laura Hague on 028 9027 7603, by fax on 028 9027 7610, or by email to [laura.hague@rpani.gov.uk](mailto:laura.hague@rpani.gov.uk).*

- I Professional
- II Managerial and Technical
- III Skilled Non-Manual
- IV Skilled Manual
- V Partly Skilled
- VI Unskilled Manual
- VII Never Worked
- VIII Full-time Students