

Shopping Mall Democracy Summary

Seven key issues were identified (education, local jobs, transport, protecting the environment, reduce waste, Council customer service and more facilities, parks, libraries etc) and respondents were asked to rank in priority order. Once ranked respondents were asked to spend \$1000 amongst these issues. An opportunity was then given for any general comments they might like to make.

Issue	Median spend	Median ranking	Total spend	No. of respondents to rank it 1st
Education	200	2	67875	118
Transport	200	3	52076	70
Local jobs	150	3	48030	59
Protecting the environment	150	4	42935	41
More facilities, parks, libraries etc	100	5	37150	17
Reduce waste	100	4	33236	19
Friendly Council/Council customer service*	50	7	16628	8

Summary of results

Education again was a clear top priority, followed by transport and local jobs. Reduce waste again ranked quite low although protecting the environment ranked as a medium priority for the general public.

Summary of written comments from General public

Education

Comments were noted addressing education at all levels, with it highlighted that education should be supported throughout people's lives. Strong support was voiced for a tertiary institution to be developed within Waitakere City as well as the need for more pre-school services.

Transport

A strong need was voiced for improvements in the public transport system; more frequent services (more local buses – micro size), better connections between different modes of transport, simpler and standardised fare structure and the improvement in the condition of trains and buses.

Local Jobs

Comments focussed on Council providing support to encourage new industries into Waitakere City (including coaching and incentives). Residents saw the development of new businesses as an opportunity to teach skills to the unemployed and young; many comments identified the connection between the lack of local jobs and transport problems.

Protecting the environment

Several points were made. Education was seen as a key means of furthering the protection of the environment, the importance of consulting and involving the community was highlighted as was the need for more planting and increased efforts in the removal of noxious weeds. Some noted the specific need to protect the Waitakere Ranges.

More facilities, parks, libraries etc

Many comments considered that the focus should be on the improvement, upgrade and maintenance of the facilities that already exist. There was also a call for more facilities and parks for youth. There was good feedback on the Massey Library.

Reduce waste

Education as a means of reducing waste came through strongly in the community comments. Concerns were focussed generally around littering and recycling. There was some mention of the need for more inorganic collections not less.

Friendly Council/Council Customer Service

It was noted that the Council needs to talk to the community and listen to what they are saying as well as communicate clearly what they are doing. Many positive comments were made about the Council.

How are the key issues allowed for in the Council's draft Strategic Plan?

➤ *Education*

This issue emerged as one of the major priorities for many in the community. Currently within the draft Strategic Plan it is provided for within the Strong Communities platform; through the development of skills of its citizens and working with education agencies to ensure standards. The community focus on education corresponds with work currently being undertaken within the Collaboration Forum and the strong focus on education in the development of banner goals. Support was also seen for the development of a tertiary institute in the City. This focus on education within the community would suggest the support of a strong Council role as a broker and advocate within the educational sector of the City.

➤ *Transport*

Provided within the Transport and Communication Platform. The focus in the consultation was very much on resolving the road congestion problems and providing better, more convenient public transport. One key issue identified was that the various modes of public transport must be interlinked and coordinated so that people were not stranded between modes.

➤ *Local Jobs*

This is covered within the Strong Innovative Economy. The community identified the link between more local jobs and the reduction in traffic congestion. Strong support was voiced for Council to play a lead role in encouraging the development of more local industry.