

Safer Swansea Community Safety Strategy 2018-2021 Consultation Report

April 2018

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1. Introduction

The residents of Swansea were invited to comment on the Safer Swansea Community Safety Strategy 2018-2021 partnership document through an online public consultation which closed on 9th March 2018.

The consultation highlighted that the Strategy would be delivered within a multi-agency, partnership framework, and asked questions about the priority areas for development that the Partnership planned to focus on over the five year period.

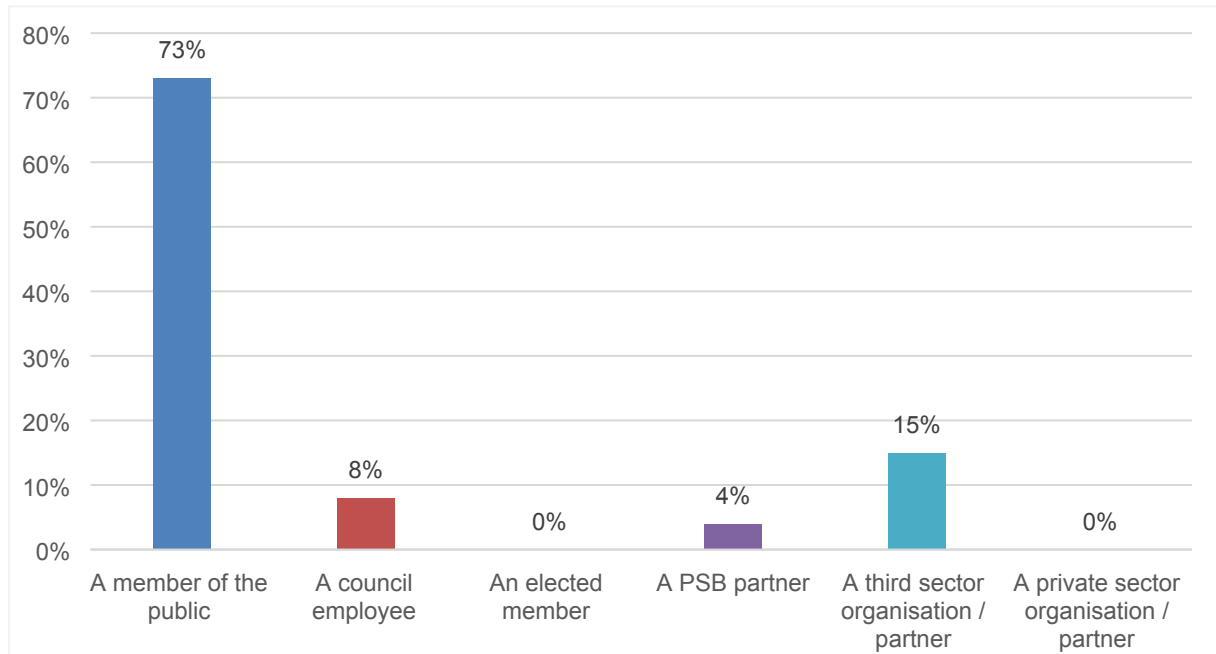
2. Summary of Responses

- A total of 26 survey responses were received.
- 73% of those who completed the survey were a member of the public.
- 96% of respondents agreed that the Strategy was easy to read.
- 83% agreed that the Strategy was easy to understand.
- 83% agreed that the Strategy was informative.
- 92% agreed that the vision / purpose was appropriate.
- 82% agreed that the vision / purpose was achievable.
- 88% agreed that the vision / purpose is the right one for Swansea.
- Most of the respondents strongly agreed that the five priorities outlined in the strategy were appropriate and the right ones for Swansea.
- 64% agreed that it was clear how progress on the Strategy would be measured.

3. Consultation Responses

1.1. Which best describes you?

The 26 survey respondents were asked whether they were responding as a member of the public, as part of the Council, as part of the PSB, or another organisation / partner. The majority said they were a member of the public.



1.2. Why are you interested in responding to the consultation on our Safer Swansea Community Safety Strategy?

The respondents were why they wanted to have their say on the Strategy. Below are the answers that they gave:

As I have been providing legal advice to the Anti-social Behaviour Core Group for the past 15 years.

because I am a citizen of the city and county of swansea

Can't give suggestions etc if don't participate

Community input is essential for an appropriately focussed and supported strategy.

Community Safety and Cohesion and relative aims directly relate to my professional role.

I am a member of Neighbourhood Watch.

I like to have input

I live and work in the area and there are issues covered by the strategy that affect both my working environment, the environment within which our beneficiaries live and I live personally.

i WANT TO FEEL SAFE IN MY COMMUNITY. There are times in the past when i have not felt safe. I want other people in my community to be safe. If the community don't get involved in these things how can we make anything work?

In order to be able to respond to questions raised by the public

It has relevance for and an impact on myself and those I care about

It should shape our environment

Saving money

So that Swansea is Safe!

So we feel safe in our own community.

To ensure the strategy meets the needs of Swansea's diverse communities, particularly in the context of anti-immigration rhetoric.

To make Swansea a safe place to live and visit

To reduce danger of R.T.A. Knoll Avenue. Vehicles travel at speeds in excess of 44ft. per second. 19 out of 20 fail to stop. Your road Inspector has witnessed this. Children cross the road to attend park/school.

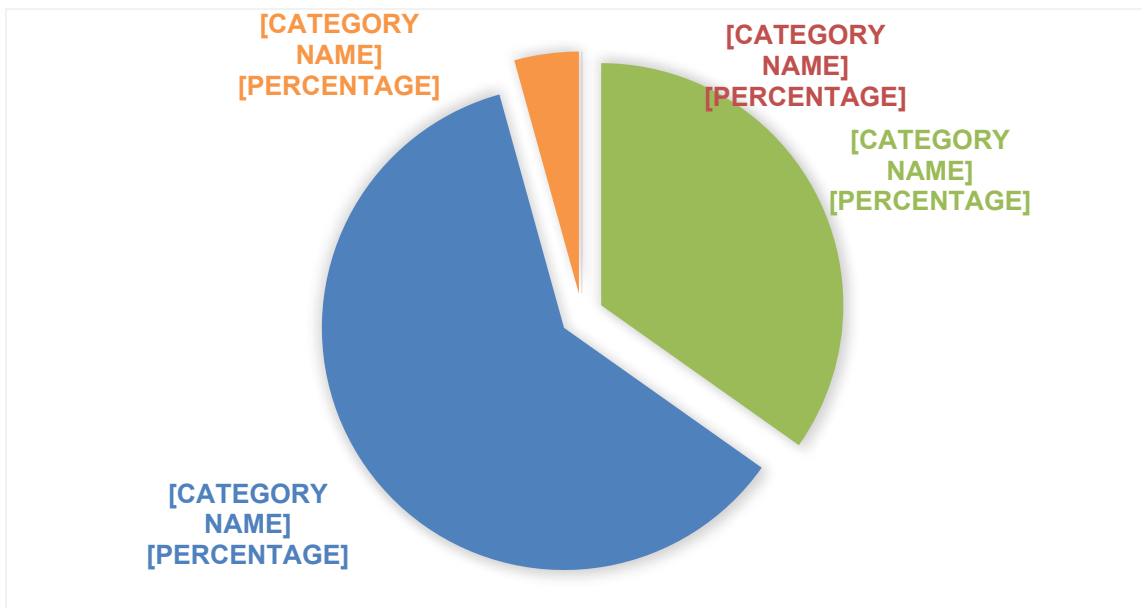
THE STRATEGY

1.3. Thinking about the Strategy, do you agree or disagree with the following...?

The respondents were asked to give their thoughts on five statements about how they found the Strategy document. Most of them agreed with all of the statements, with the majority answering that they tended to agree:

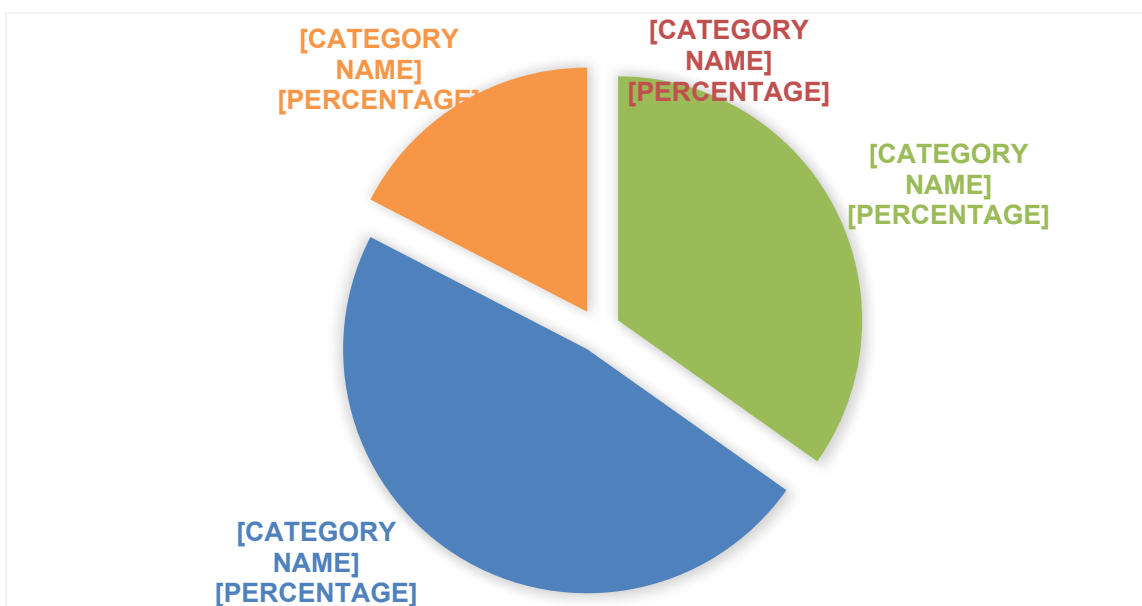
'The Strategy is easy to read'

This statement produced the most positive response out of the five posed, with 96% of respondents agreeing that the strategy was easy to read.



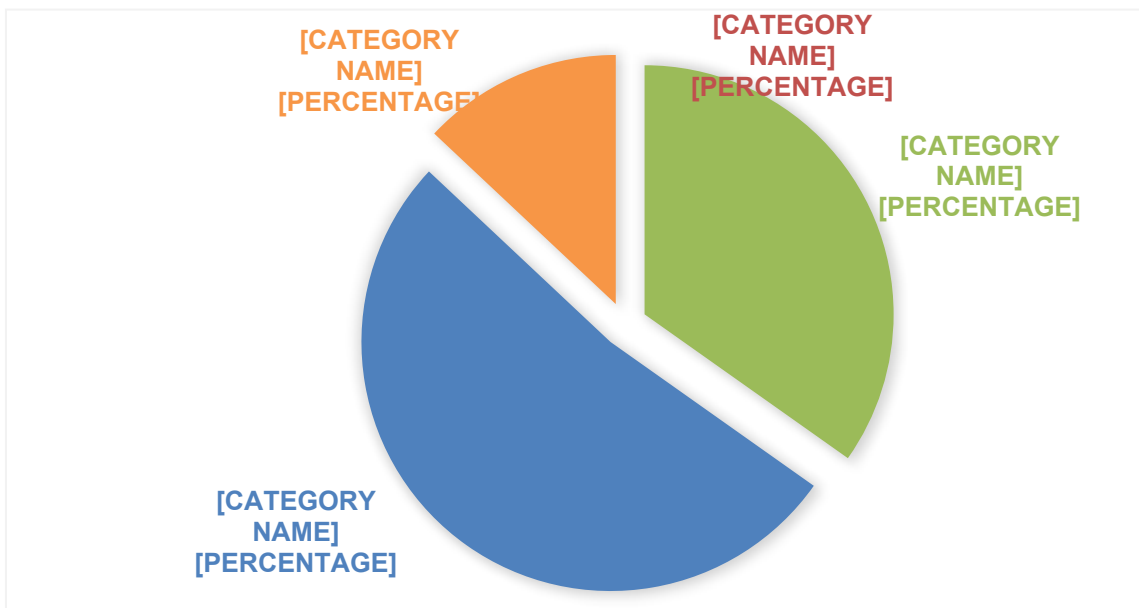
'The Strategy is easy to understand'

This statement produced the third most positive response, with 83% agreeing that the Strategy is easy to understand. However, almost a fifth (17%) tended to disagree.



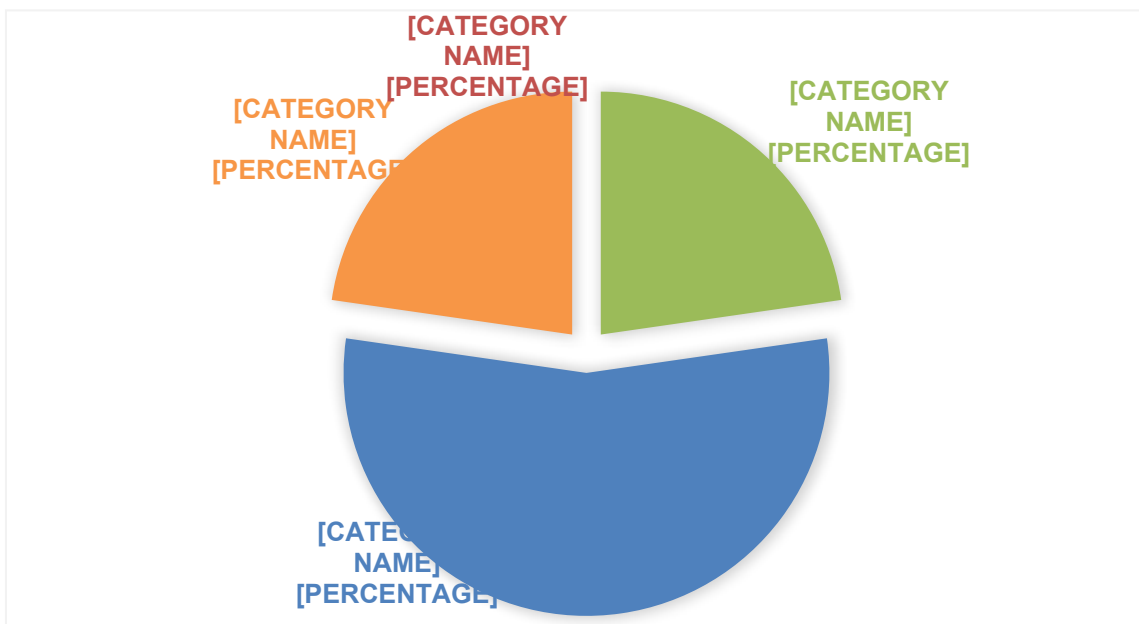
'The Strategy is well laid out'

This statement produced the second most positive response, with 87% of the respondents agreeing that the Strategy is well laid out, but 13% tended to disagree.



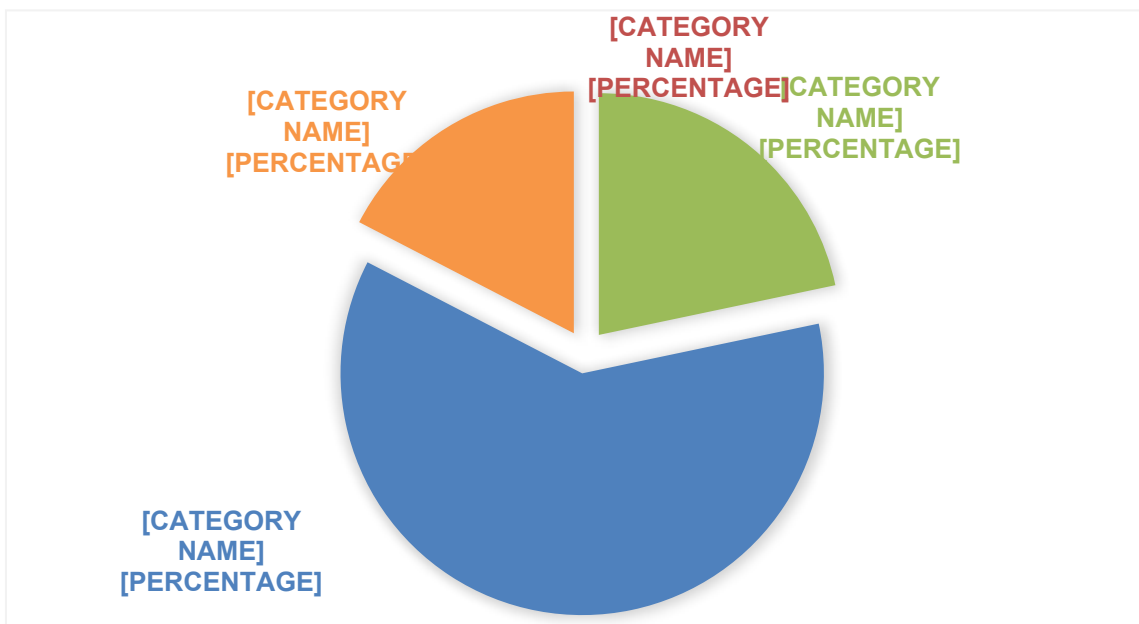
'The Strategy is an appropriate length'

This statement produced the least positive response, but over three quarters (78%) agreed that the Strategy was an appropriate length. An equal percentage of people both strongly agreed and tended to agree with the statement (23%).



'The Strategy is informative'

This statement produced the fourth most positive response, with 83% of respondents agreeing that the Strategy was informative. A lower percentage said they strongly agreed than with the previous statements (22%), and 17% tended to disagree.



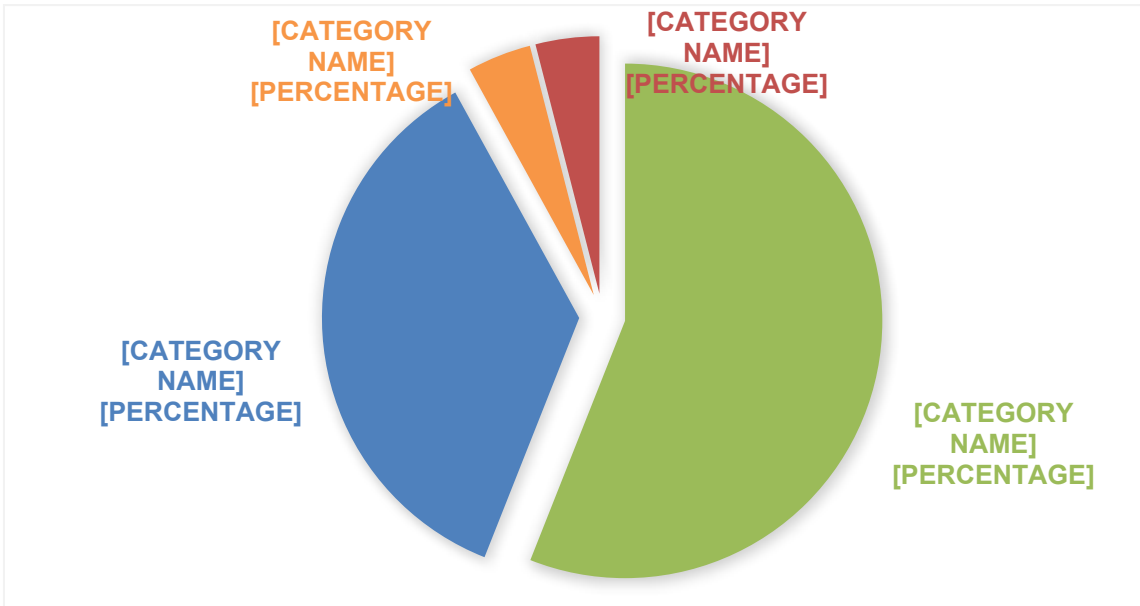
OUR VISION

1.4. Thinking about our vision / purpose, do you agree or disagree with the following...?

The respondents were asked to respond to three statements about the vision / purpose of the Strategy. The majority agreed with all of the statements; strongly with two of them.

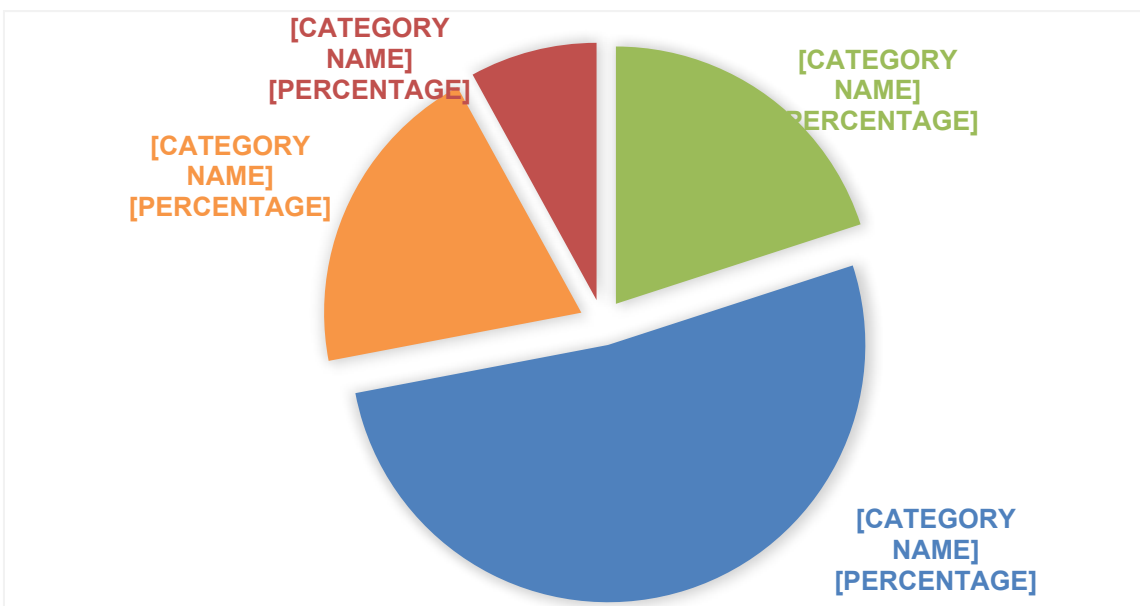
'The vision / purpose is appropriate'

This statement produced the most positive response, with 92% of respondents agreeing the vision / purpose was appropriate. Most strongly agreed with the statement (56%), with only 8% saying they disagreed.



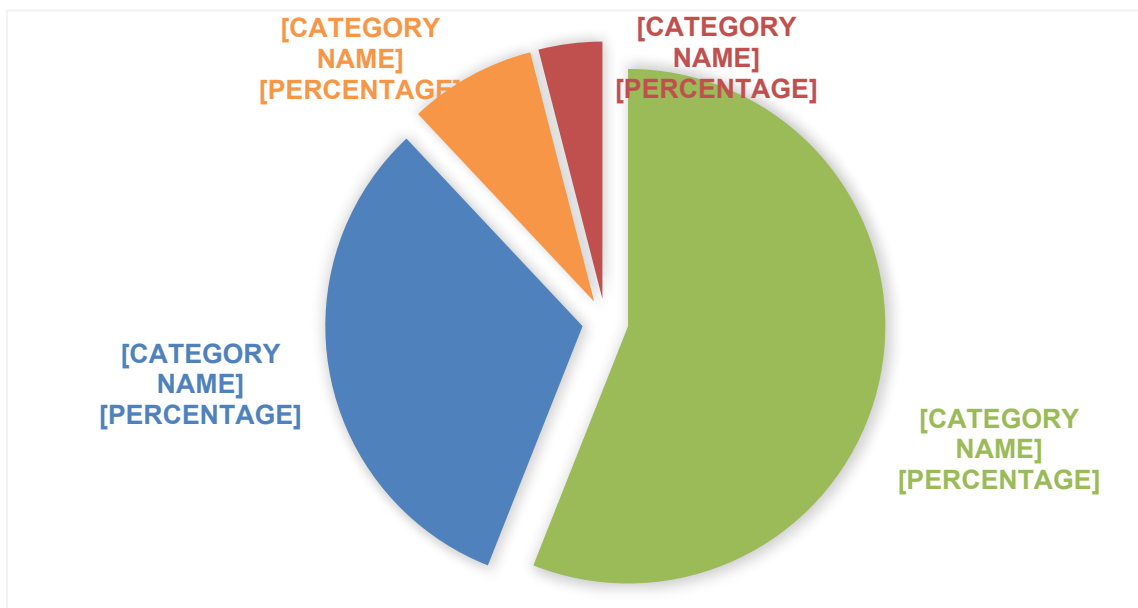
'The vision / purpose is achievable'

This statement produced the least positive response, with 72% of respondents agreeing it was achievable. Most tended to agree (52%), whilst 28% said they disagreed.



'The vision / purpose is the right one for Swansea'

This statement produced the second most positive response, with 88% of respondents agreeing it was the right vision / purpose for Swansea. Most strongly agreed with the statement (56%), but 12% said they disagreed.



The respondents that disagreed with any of the three statements were asked to give reasons why. These are the responses that were provided:

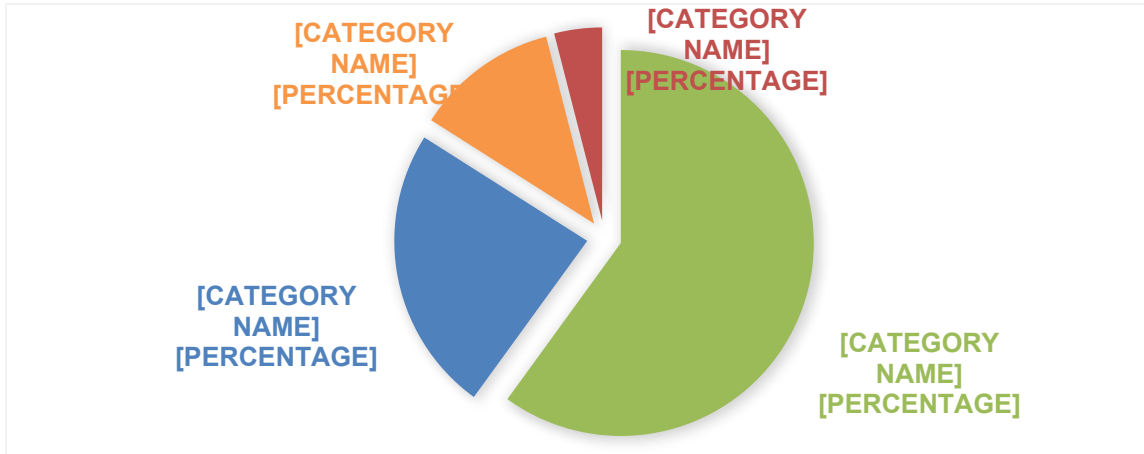
Does not cover the whole community, Elderly, Disabled etc.
I believe resourcing will never be adequate and persuading all members of society to buy into this is unachievable but these are the ideas to be striven towards.
I do not think that there is sufficient money to provide the correct resources. Also I feel that certain things have been left out and unless they are considered (in those communities in which they are relevant) then the chance of success is less.
It is an impossible goal as it is perception lead – what is welcoming to one may not be seen as welcoming to another.
Not applicable.
The traffic system is a chaos, too many narrow lanes, not enough public toilets WITH! CHANGING PLACES facilities. There should be more public water drinking systems, for disabled, elderly and young children. More MANNED visitor public information kiosks. More lanes for mobility scooters. Places in shops where you can just go and sit down for 5-10 minutes to get your breath back.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

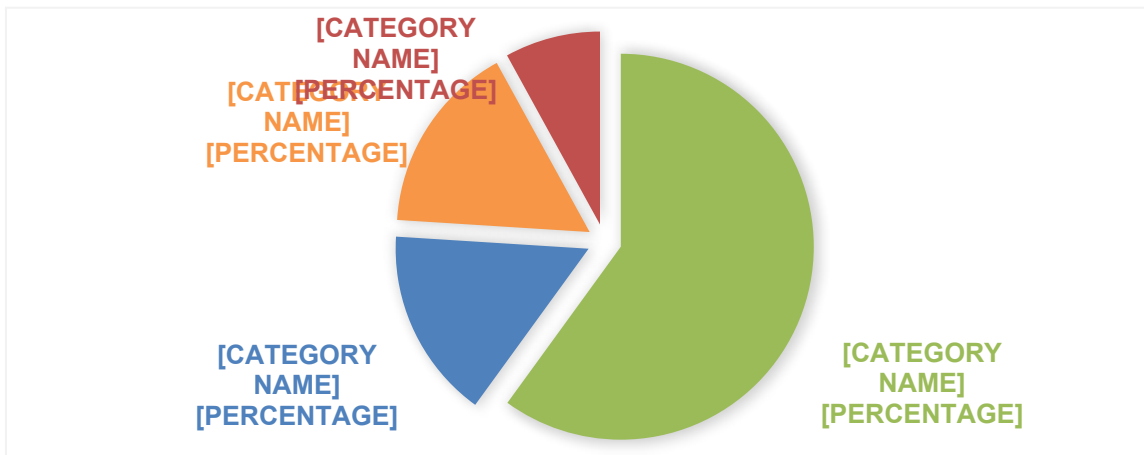
1.5. Thinking about Strategic Priority 1: Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV), do you agree or disagree with the following...?

The respondents were asked to give their thoughts on this priority. 84% agreed it was appropriate and 76% agreed it was the right one for Swansea.

‘The priority is appropriate’



‘The priority is the right one for Swansea’



The respondents that disagreed with either statement gave these reasons why:

As you put this first you give the impression that this is the most important vision – is it?

Awareness of the offence(s) is perfectly fine and required, however these offences are in the minority of concerns of the lay person and/or affect the lay person to a minimum. Therefore why is this first? just because the Welsh government say so?

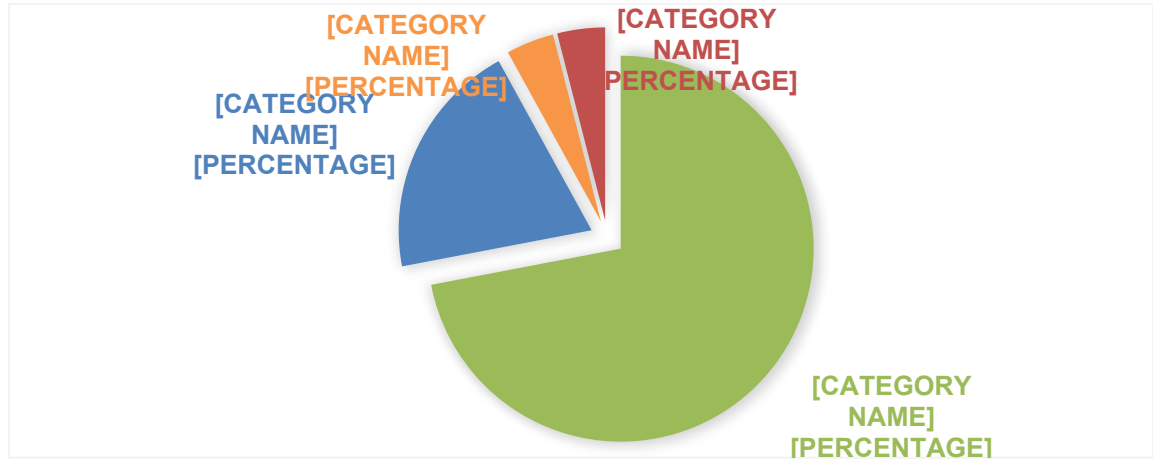
Domestic violence and abuse is perpetrated by both sexes, it is simply under reported when men are victims. Swansea should recognise abuse against men as well and not discriminate.

Violent society.

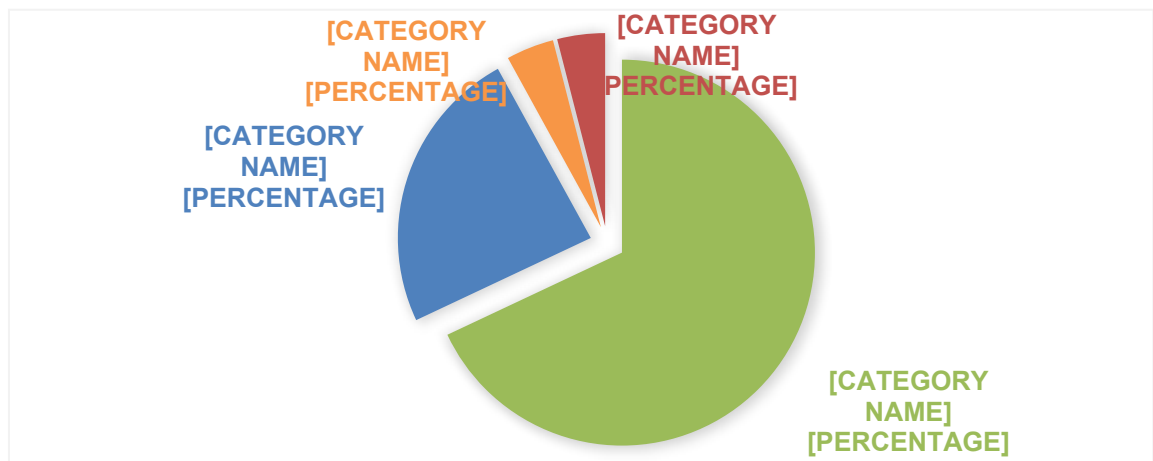
1.6. Thinking about Strategic Priority 2: Substance Misuse, do you agree or disagree with the following...?

The respondents were asked to give their thoughts on this priority. 92% agreed it was appropriate and 92% agreed it was the right one for Swansea.

'The priority is appropriate'



'The priority is the right one for Swansea'



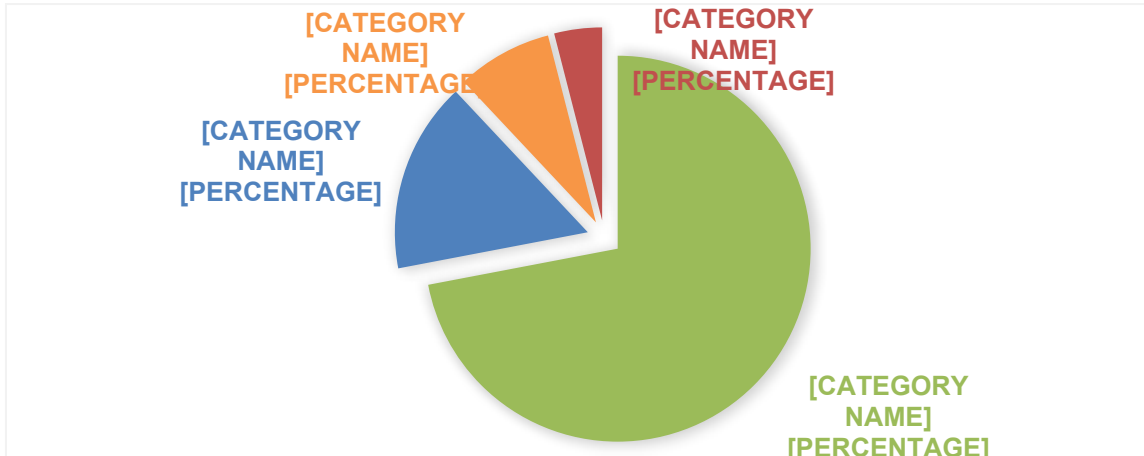
The respondents that disagreed with either statement gave these reasons why:

Weak management by desk bound officers, stating that they do not have the staff.

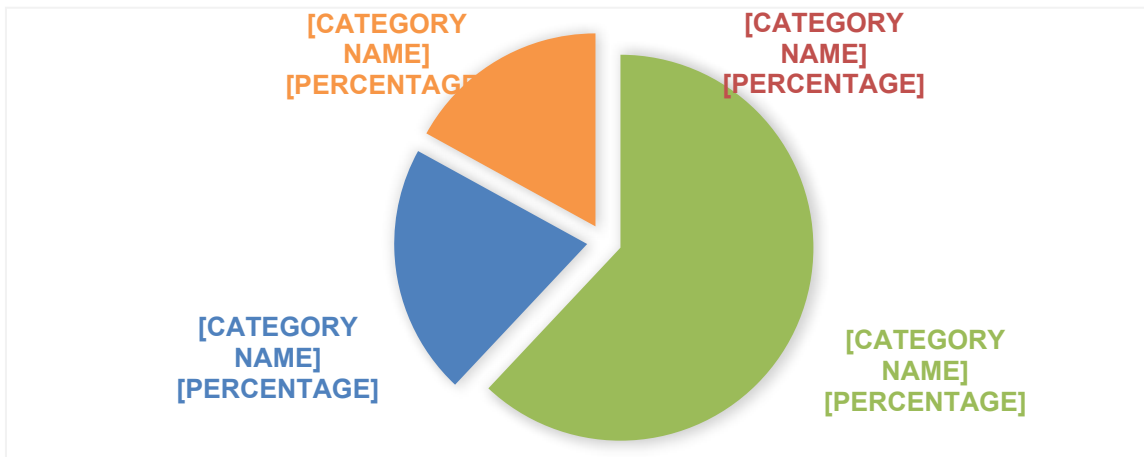
1.7. Thinking about Strategic Priority 3: Safe Confident and Resilient Communities, do you agree or disagree with the following...?

The respondents were asked to give their thoughts on this priority. 88% agreed it was appropriate and 84% agreed it was the right one for Swansea.

'The priority is appropriate'



'The priority is the right one for Swansea'



The respondents that disagreed with either statement gave these reasons why:

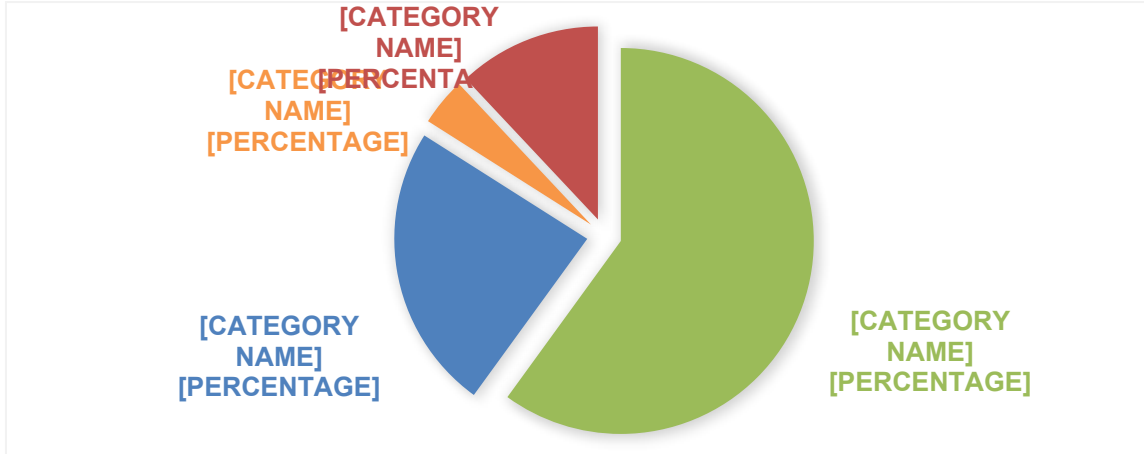
Not clear about the difference between this one and no.5 (Hate Crime). This seems to be about Cohesion, so why not call the priority Confident & Cohesive Communities?

why is objective 5 at the bottom and not the prime objective of this priority? I didn't think hate crime and extremism in Swansea was greater than that of antisocial behaviour? Again focusing on the governments need and not needs of community

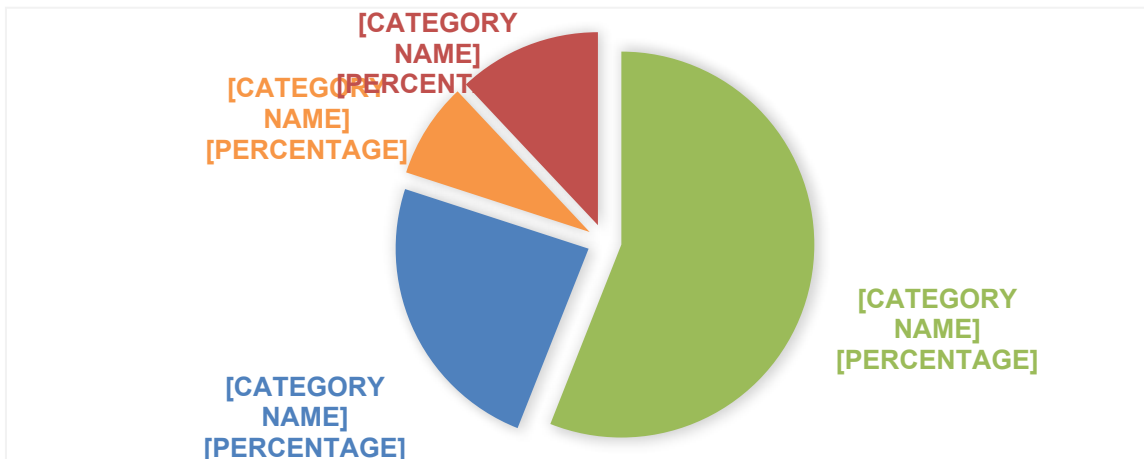
1.8. Thinking about Strategic Priority 4: Evening and Night Time Economy, do you agree or disagree with the following...?

The respondents were asked to give their thoughts on this priority. 84% agreed it was appropriate and 80% agreed it was the right one for Swansea.

'The priority is appropriate'



'The priority is the right one for Swansea'



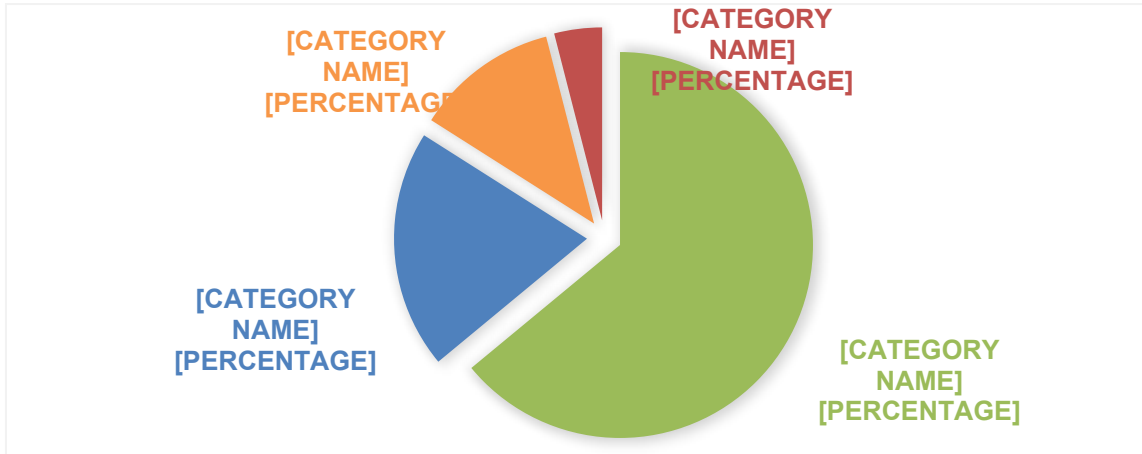
The respondents that disagreed with either statement gave these reasons why:

The strategy will provide a strategic framework? seriously that's your strategy. Why didn't you just say that this priority is to make further strategies and plans, but we are not planning on actually doing anything. This section literally does not assist whatsoever

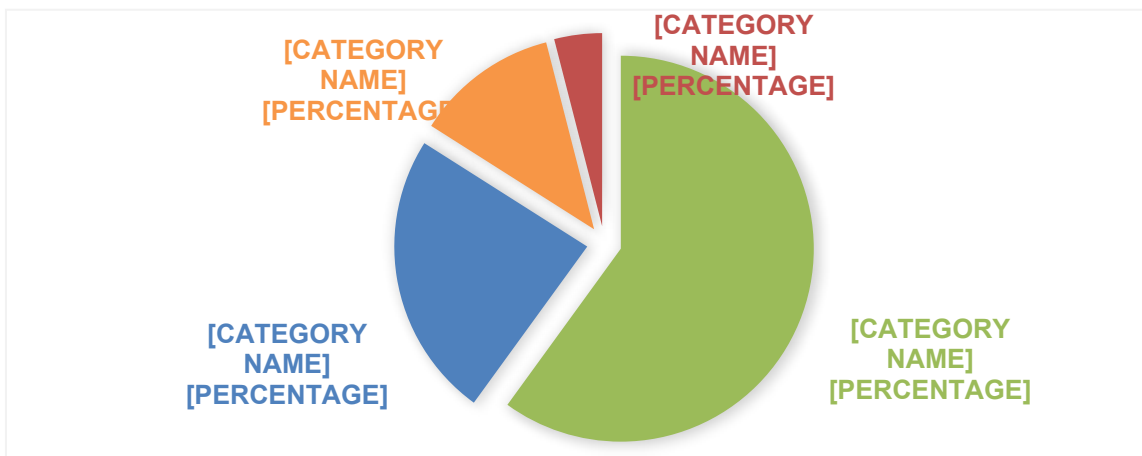
1.9. Thinking about Strategic Priority 5: Hate Crime and Community Tension Monitoring, do you agree or disagree with the following...?

The respondents were asked to give their thoughts on this priority. 84% agreed it was appropriate and 84% agreed it was the right one for Swansea.

‘The priority is appropriate’



‘The priority is the right one for Swansea’



The respondents that disagreed with either statement gave these reasons why:

Domestic violence is given far too much money as a drug agencies. The night time economy is for business owners – the council too the best of my knowledge do not own pubs/clubs. Hate Crime and tension monitoring is a police role not council role

Housing is the crux;

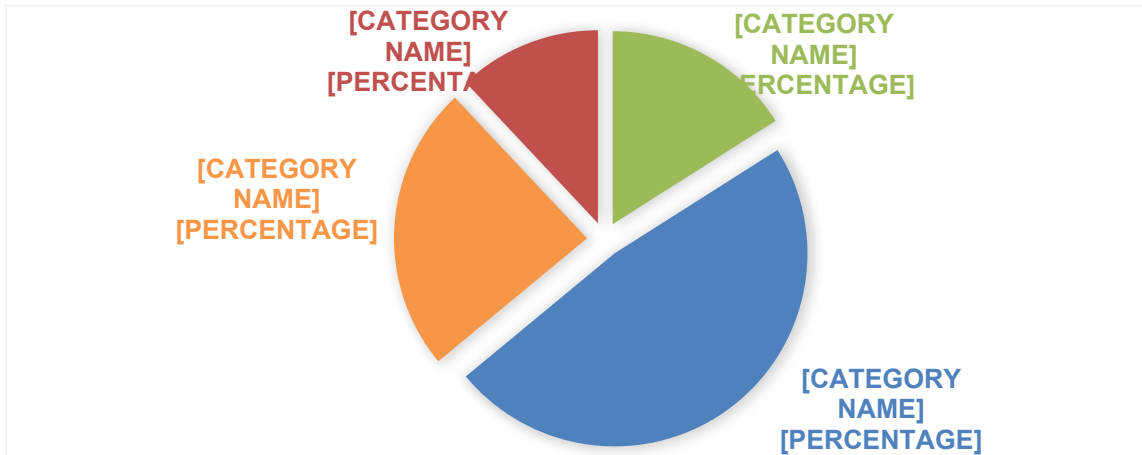
Strange – for all these questions asking if vision is appropriate well you aren’t going to say you disagree but it’s what you are going to do about them

typical police diction – most people would nit understand that or could tell you what you are actually aiming to do! However the priority itself is a vital component to safer communities

Would prefer the focus to be on tackling perpetrators and prevention

1.10. Do you agree or disagree that it is clear how progress of the Strategy will be measured?

The respondents were asked to give their thoughts on this. 64% agreed it was clear.



The respondents that disagreed gave these reasons why:

I suppose good that you are putting in a progress strategy up front but what is the base level now you are going to judge any improvement from, what special or vested interest group will be monitoring the strategy and providing more jobs for the boys / girls to sit on more committees to talk about all this.

It doesn't go far enough and has no specific measures. Also no mention of exactly what will be done. 'Raising awareness' is overused. Practical action and intervention is needed.

Lack of confidence in management.

None of these things are ever measured effectively therefore a waste of public money

There is a lot happening in Swansea in local communities and neighbourhoods or by voluntary groups - to fully assess the progress of the Strategy, it would be good to also have community engagement events to allow the community to comment on progress and feed in information about smaller initiatives happening in their area.

There is no detail or clarity with the Strategy as to how progress will be measured/

There will need to be improved feedback from the Steering Group which has been lacking in the past.

COMMENTS

1.11. If you have any other comments relating to the draft strategy, please write in here:

Any strategy is only as good as the co-operation of the partners. It must be remembered that the group is not a legal entity in its own right and is a sum of the parts. There will have to be equality in both input and power of the partner agencies for the Plan to be a success.

Are there any other areas that manifest themselves in anti-social behaviour that are missing? Gambling for instance and other addictions may lead to behaviour that is not conducive to a safe environment for other people. Is there anything that would cover these types of awareness and education issues in the same way as relationships, substance abuse awareness programmes? Should there be a link to the Financial Inclusion/Anti-Poverty strategy if income inequalities are an issue for safety and resilient communities?

EYST has not had any involvement in Safer Swansea Partnership for a number of years, and it is unclear why. Involvement of us and other BME groups at an earlier stage would be better.

I feel there's insufficient information about how the strategy will be implemented

Mention of specific role and contribution of individual agencies would be helpful, eg role of probation in reducing offending rates and increasing employment of ex offenders, role of BID in ente etc, mention of budget and cost sharing, mention of opportunities for community participation and volunteering and contribution thereof, eg students.

The results and findings of the Plan must be freely available to the public, either by post or web.

This seems to be less of a Safer Swansea strategy and more of an anthology of other strategies with relevance to making Swansea safer. That is still a useful exercise, but greater detail on what Swansea's role and responsibility is as part of Welsh Government strategies is, or conversely a shorter document signposting to these other strategies would perhaps be more relevant to partners. The strategic priorities are in a different order in the main document than they are in the final diagram, and there is a reference to 'mate crime' which should presumably be 'hate crime'.

We also have a duty to keep those in Custody safe

Who supervises the city centre Rangers?

Why is there no mention of Neighbourhood Watch as a partner considering their contribution to Safer Swansea?

Within the draft there is no mention of the effect that high concentrations of transient populations have on the safety of a community, the sense of cohesion of a community and the level of tension in a community. In certain areas of Swansea this is a hugely important topic, particularly with regard to areas of high concentrations of Houses of Multiple Occupation. Perceptions in these areas are of high levels of anti social behaviour and high levels of Community tension. It is difficult to engage in processes of Community cohesion because of the high number of temporary residents who will soon move on and be replaced with others. As soon as one group settle down a little, another arrives and it is back to square one. This also has an interaction with elements of the Night Time economy, which is not just within the city centre but also in the inner suburbs such as Uplands Ward. Resources get concentrated in the Centre and there are insufficient for these other areas. I note that there is no mention of either of the Universities as a partner or consultee or any mention of liaison with them. They should be included in some way as their co-operation with local policing, community cohesion projects and the further development of their own disciplinary policies is essential in attempts to deal with the high percentage of transient populations and skewed age demographic in the particular areas around the Universities, development .

4. Conclusion

This report provides an overview of the responses received through the consultation.

Any percentages shown have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number

In response to the public consultation, the following amendments have been made to the strategy.

- Strategic Priority 3 was retitled Stronger Communities which links to one of the key objectives in the Swansea Public Services Board Local Well Being Plan
- Under the heading 'Performance Framework' the following sentence has been included. 'The strategic priorities are not listed in order of importance, as each one has an equal level of standing'