

## **Appendix 2**

### **Leisure Review Consultation**

Final Report on the results of the Leisure Review Consultation

#### **About this report**

This report provides an overview of the feedback from the public consultation on the Leisure Review: Future Delivery Options.

The report contains the following sections:

- Overview of the public consultation process
- Report 1: Feedback from the consultation questionnaire
- Report 2: Overview of other responses received

The Independent Research Report by Launchpad Research of the public drop-in information sessions and targeted focus groups is published separately.

#### **Overview of the public consultation process**

A comprehensive public consultation process has been undertaken starting on 2 November 2022 and initially intending to close on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022, however the closing date was extended to 20 December 2022 to allow more time for people to participate. There were a number of ways that residents were able to share their views including;

##### Web Page

A fully accessible web page was developed and launched with the “Listen and Translate” software tool, providing information and access to a questionnaire to complete to provide views and comments on the Council’s proposal. In total, and until 20 December this webpage has had 3, 412 views since its launch on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022. Supporting articles published in the news section of the Councils website had a total 290 views.

##### On-line Questionnaire

An on-line consultation questionnaire was developed to identify the main impacts that closing some leisure centres would have on individuals. Respondents were able to identify which specific leisure centre they used and there was the opportunity to include free text to describe the impact in more detail. During the consultation period 6,612 on-line questionnaires were submitted.

##### Paper questionnaires

Paper versions of the on-line questionnaire were made available at Gateshead Civic Centre, all of the leisure centres and Gateshead International Stadium together with a box for surveys to be returned, or a pre-paid envelope if residents wanted to take the paper questionnaire away to complete and return by post. All respondents were able to request a version of the survey in an alternative format to meet their needs; whether this be large print, in a different language, braille or colour contrast for visual

impairment. A large number of paper versions were also provided to the Jewish community. In total 807 paper questionnaires were received and inputted into the on-line system.

### E Mail Correspondence

A shared email address, leisureconsultation@gateshead.gov.uk, was created for people to ask questions or provide views and feedback. In total there have been over 100 emails received via this email address, all of which have been replied to. Any views gathered this way were also fed into the consultation process.

### Drop in sessions

A number of drop in sessions were held at various times of the day and at each centre as per table below:

| Facility                        | Date                      | Time                | Approx. no. of attendees |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Birtley Leisure Centre          | Friday 11 November 2022   | 10.30am - 12.30pm   | 15                       |
| Birtley Swim Centre             | Saturday 19 November 2022 | 9.30am - 11.30am    | 14                       |
| Blaydon Leisure Centre          | Thursday 10 November 2022 | 7.15pm - 9.15pm     | 25                       |
| Dunston Leisure Centre          | Saturday 19 November 2022 | 12.30pm - 2.30pm    | 400                      |
| Gateshead Leisure Centre        | Friday 11 November 2022   | 5.00pm - 7.00pm     | 200                      |
| Gateshead International Stadium | Thursday 17 November 2022 | 5.30pm - 7.30pm     | 7                        |
| Heworth Leisure Centre          | Thursday 10 November 2022 | 12.00 noon - 2.00pm | 9                        |

The sessions were designed to enable residents and other stakeholders to call in and ask specific questions or provide face to face feedback. They were also attended by our commissioned market research company Launchpad who recorded the views and comments made by the attendees.

### Focus Groups

Launchpad also held 4 focus group sessions which provided for more in-depth discussions with an average of 8 organisations per session, to gain more detailed knowledge of the impacts on those organisations and their users and to explore ways in which services could continue to be delivered without Council funding or intervention. The groups took place as follows:

| Session | Date | Time | Location |
|---------|------|------|----------|
|---------|------|------|----------|

|                  |                  |               |                                 |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Swim Clubs       | 23 November 2022 | 18.30 – 20.00 | Gateshead International Stadium |
| Additional Needs | 25 November 2022 | 10.00 – 11.30 | Gateshead Civic Centre          |
| Schools          | 29 November 2022 | 12.00 – 13.30 | Gateshead Civic Centre          |
| Jewish Community | 29 November 2022 | 10.30 – 12.00 | Bewick Centre                   |

The focus group sessions targeted specific key stakeholder groups identified by the Council with a number of organisations/groups contacted to take part.

#### Customer Services Team

The Council's customer services team were also fully briefed and equipped to complete phone surveys should anybody want to have their say in this way.

#### Communication and Promotion of the consultation

To ensure that all stakeholders, service users and Gateshead residents were aware of the consultation, the following activity was undertaken to raise awareness of the consultation:

- We sent emails to 21,000 leisure centre users for whom we had an email address and consent to marketing;
- We sent emails alerts to around 1,900 people who have previously registered an interest in consultations;
- We sent emails to all leisure service partners and wider stakeholders for whom we had an email address;
- A press release was issued with coverage across major news channels, ITV, BBC, Northern Echo and The Chronicle;
- A news article appeared in the December/Winter issue of Gateshead Council News, hand delivered to each household in Gateshead (approximately 90,000) and made available in Council buildings;
- We promoted the consultation via a news article on the home page of the Council's website for 2 weeks, in addition to the website content within the consultation pages;
- The Go Gateshead website had a banner on the home screen linking people to the consultation;
- We displayed posters in all leisure centres promoting in person and online consultation sessions including a QR code to make accessing the consultation quicker;
- Social media posts on Facebook and twitter were viewed more than 41,000 times.
- We promoted the consultation process in two editions of Gateshead Now (2 and 16 November 2022, 16 December), our fortnightly e-bulletin, which goes out to 35,000 subscribers

- Towards the end of the consultation process we issued reminders via our social media channels.
- The Leader, Deputy Leader and Director of Public Health gave press interviews on the Leisure Review and consultation process.

### **Overview of responses received**

- 7,419 responses to the main consultation questionnaire
- Over 100 Emails, letters and comments received
- A set of letters from Save Leisure Gateshead, local campaign group
- A formal question asked at Council meeting on 24 November 2022 by Save Leisure Gateshead, local campaign group
- A letter from a local GP Glenpark Medical Practice, Dunston
- A letter and petition from St Philip Neri RC primary school, Dunston
- Meeting held with local MPs
- Meetings held at request of stakeholders to discuss individual leisure centres – Gateshead and Whickham Amateur Swimming Club, Swim Fun swim school, Orthodox Jewish Community leaders, Save Leisure Gateshead, Gateshead Community Leisure and Competition line UK (company who have a contract to operate Birtley LC)
- Letters received from 4 local MPs, Ian Mearns – Gateshead, Liz Twist – Blaydon, Kate Osborne – Jarrow, Richard Holden – North Durham
- 4 Petitions received
- 10 Freedom of Information requests related to the Leisure Review and Consultation.

## **Report 1: Feedback from the Consultation Questionnaire**

In total 7,419 responses were received to the Consultation Questionnaire. This includes paper responses received by post or submitted at leisure centres or returned to the civic centre. All paper responses were added manually to the online responses so they could be analysed as a single set.

Not all respondents answered all questions in the survey. The number of respondents for each question is indicated in the charts/tables.

Coding Frameworks were used to help analyse verbatim responses to open questions within the survey. Participant responses were analysed for key points, and those points were assigned to a 'category' – a group of comments that are making a similar point. A participant's response to a single question can consist of several points. This enables us to quantify how many people are making a similar point.

A copy of the Coding Framework used will be published with this report.

## **Respondent Profile**

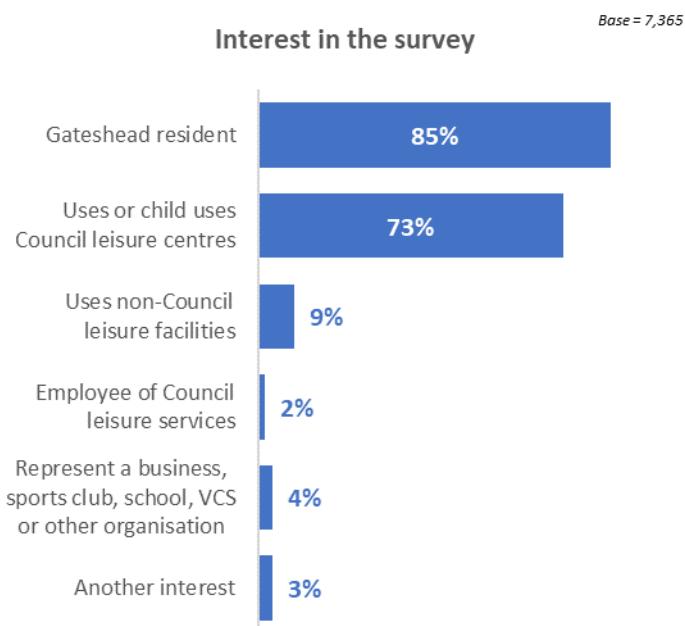
A summary of the demographic breakdown of respondents is provided below:

- 60% of respondents identified as Female, 36% as Male, 4% preferred not to say.
- 18% of respondents identified as limited a little by their physical or mental health, with a further 10% limited a lot. The following conditions or illnesses were the top three reported; mental health, mobility and stamina or breathing or fatigue.
- 21% of respondents identified as care-givers
- 87% of respondents identified as heterosexual
- 88% of respondents identified as White British, 3% as White Other and 3% from Mixed, Black or Asian ethnicities
- 85% of survey respondents (6,254) stated they were a Gateshead resident. 4,918 respondents answered the question asking for their postcode. Of these, 3,899 provided a full postcode that was also within Gateshead. The largest response came from people living in areas around the leisure centres identified as most at risk (10% Saltwell and 9% Dunston Hill and Whickham East wards) as well as from Low Fell (10% from Low Fell). The remaining 1,019 respondents answering the postcode question either provided an incomplete postcode or a postcode outside of Gateshead. These could be out-of-borough Go Gateshead service users or a business / group or organisation / or individuals with an interest in our leisure service, or may simply be residents who did not provide their full postcode.
- Responses by age were 4% under 25, 39% aged 25-44, 37% aged 45-64, 17% aged 65 or over.
- 46% of respondents identified as Christian, 5% Jewish and 1% Muslim. 37% stated they had no religion and 10% that they preferred not to say.

The full demographic breakdown of survey respondents can be found in the **About You** response charts attached.

The table below presents an overview of the type of interest in the survey. People could indicate they were responding in more than one category.

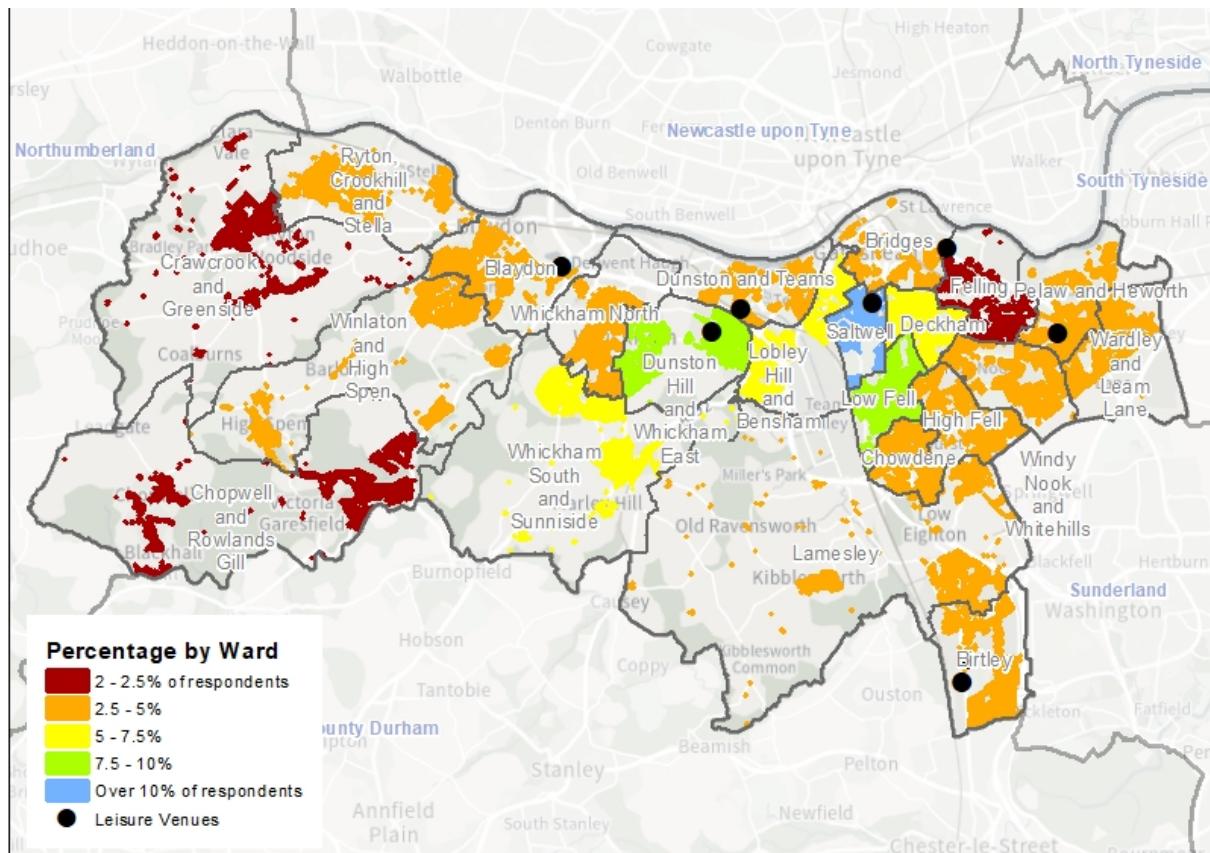
**A. What is your interest in this survey? Please tick all that apply.**



Of the 247 respondents who indicated another interest in the survey, a large proportion told us their interest was in the health and wellbeing of residents, on behalf of other family members who use leisure centres, they work in the health sector, have concerns on behalf of the local community, or work in or for a school.

Respondents representing 83 organisations indicated their response was the formal response of their organisation. A list of these organisations is attached as an appendix.

A map of survey responses by ward is attached, also identifying the location of each leisure centre. The response rate per ward is a percentage of all those who provided a full Gateshead postcode (3,899).

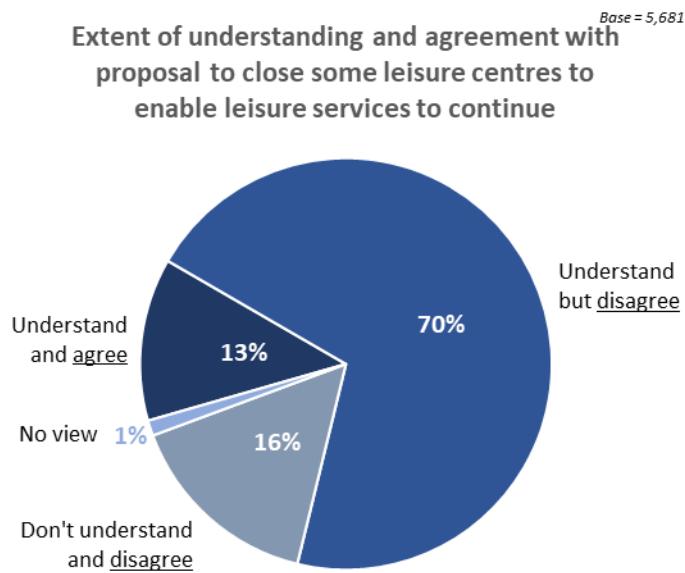


Map – leisure survey response rate per ward

## Our Proposals

Our proposal to close some leisure centres across the borough will allow us to afford to provide a full and thriving leisure service in the remaining centres

**C. To what extent do you understand and agree or disagree that the proposal to close some leisure centres will enable us to continue providing a leisure service in Gateshead in the future?**



As shown in the chart above, the vast majority of respondents to this question (70%) understood but disagreed with the proposal to close some leisure centres. A smaller number (16%) did not understand the proposal but disagreed.

Analysis of the 4,734 comments made shows that the following themes emerge in order of the greatest number of responses. Many responses contained multiple points of view, so each comment have been coded into all categories they related to.

- Facility is needed locally (2,099) – some comments named a particular leisure centre as being vital to the local community / area
- Impact on health and wellbeing (1,819) – these comments refer to health and wellbeing benefits of leisure provision / negative impact closure would have on people's health and wellbeing or mental health. This can include reference to obesity levels increasing or costs to NHS in longer term.
- Negative comment made about Gateshead Council (926) - comments that refer to perceived poor performance / management by the council as a contributing factor to the current situation, including impact of delays to reopening leisure facilities during Covid-19.
- Impact on swimming (699) - comments that reflect concerns about the impact closure would have on people's ability to swim with a reduced number of public pools in Gateshead or the provision of swimming lessons as a key life skill.
- Important community space (454) - comments that refer to the leisure centres more generally as being important to the community, as a community space or local amenity.
- Impact on Travel time / cost (380) - comments that refer to concerns over people's ability to travel to alternative centres, whether for time constraints, due to lack of transport or due to increased costs of travelling further away.

A much smaller number of responses referred to accessibility issues, timing and opening hours, capacity of the remaining leisure centres to meet demand and affordability impact. 80 comments were made about equality issues relating to protected characteristics. Where they relate to a particular leisure centre at risk of

closure they are included in the Integrated impact assessment (equality analysis) for that leisure centre.

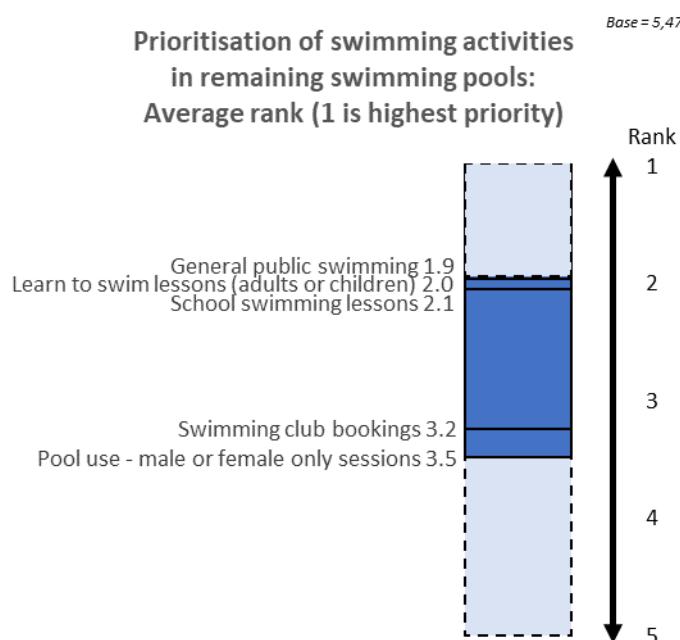
13% of respondents to this question stated they understood the proposal and agreed that closing some leisure centres now would enable provision of the remaining leisure service in Gateshead to continue. 344 comments made expressed support or agreed with the proposal to some extent. Examples of these are shown below:

*"The closure of less well performing and outdated sites would be preferable to closing all sites"*

*"I know that consolidating services at existing locations into fewer locations will reduce the cost of offering those services. I can appreciate how leisure facilities will be hugely impacted by rising energy prices."*

#### **D. If one or more of the centres with a swimming pool closed, how should we prioritise the swimming activities we offer in the remaining swimming pools?**

We asked respondents to rank the 5 types of swimming activities in order of priority from 1 to 5, where 1 is most important. We requested they only use each rank once. In the analysis of the question, we created average ranks of each swimming activity based on the responses given.



5,471 responses were received to this question. The average ranks show that the top three swimming activities are; General Public swimming, Learn to Swim lessons and School swimming lessons. These three all had average ranks of around 2 out of 5 with little difference between them.

Swimming club bookings and Pool use for male or female only sessions were on average a lower priority.

## **E. Do you have any alternative suggestions on how to ensure that we are able to continue to provide a leisure service in Gateshead in the future?**

Analysis of the 3,510 responses made to this question shows that the top themes of alternative suggestions reported were;

- Expand or improve the existing offer at Go Gateshead Leisure centres (878)
- Reprioritise Council expenditure – to support costs of the existing leisure service (655)
- Improved advertising and promotion of Go Gateshead (341)
- Efficient Council – make efficiencies either across the Council and within Leisure services to support Go Gateshead (330)
- Increase Prices (294)
- Seek External Funding (293)

Other response themes with smaller numbers included; to remain as is / do not close leisure centres (215), to invest in and refurbish or redevelop leisure provision (206).

Some themes referred to the proposal to seek an external provider to manage the Go Gateshead leisure service. Suggestions included; to partner with a specialist leisure provider (184), to work with the private sector (131) or to seek a partner/ run the service independently (107).

### **Usage of Leisure Centres**

Respondents were asked to indicate which leisure centres in the service they currently use or plan to use in the next 6 months, with a set of questions for each leisure centre indicated.



### **Birtley Leisure Centre**

414 responses were submitted specifically for Birtley Leisure Centre. The full answer charts for Birtley Leisure Centre can be found at the end of this report.

In summary;

- 64% attend to use the gym, followed by 45% attending fitness classes
- 71% travel to Birtley by car, followed by 21% who walk to the leisure centre.
- 60% can travel to the centre within 10 minutes

- If they could not access Birtley leisure centre, 47% would visit a non-council leisure facility
- If Birtley leisure centre were to close, the most popular alternative Go Gateshead site to use would be Gateshead Leisure Centre, followed by Birtley swimming centre.
- The biggest impact of having to use an alternative site would be travel time (71%), followed by cost increase (51%) and having to change the time they visit (48%)
- The main reason for not using another council leisure centre was that it is not convenient or close (83%), followed by travel costs (45%).

### **Birtley Swimming Centre**

723 responses were submitted specifically for Birtley Swimming Centre. The full answer charts for Birtley Swimming Centre can be found at the end of this report.

In summary:

- 90% attend to use the main pool, followed by 43% attending for the small/improver pool
- 73% travel to Birtley by car, followed by 18% who walk to the leisure centre.
- 57% can travel to the centre within 10 minutes
- If they could not access Birtley swimming centre 42% would visit another council leisure facility
- If Birtley pool were to close, the most popular alternative Go Gateshead site to use would be Gateshead Leisure Centre. Dunston, Heworth and Birtley Leisure centres were the next most popular alternatives and all with very similar average ranks.
- The biggest impact of having to use an alternative site would be longer travel time (74%), followed by having to change the time they visit (49%) and cost increase (46%)
- The main reason given for not using another council leisure centre was that it is not convenient or close (83%), followed by travel costs (40%).

### **Blaydon Leisure Centre**

1,423 responses were submitted specifically for Blaydon Leisure Centre. The full answer charts for Blaydon Leisure Centre can be found at the end of this report.

In summary,

- 81% attend to use the main pool, followed by 41% attending the gym
- 85% travel to Blaydon by car, followed by 7% who walk to the leisure centre.
- 57% can travel to the centre within 10 minutes
- If they could not access Blaydon leisure centre 45% would visit another council leisure facility
- If Blaydon were to close the most popular alternative Go Gateshead site to use would be Dunston Leisure Centre, closely followed by Gateshead Leisure Centre.
- The biggest impact of having to use an alternative site would be travel time (81%), followed by having to change the time they visit (51%) and cost increase (48%)

- The main reason given for not using another council leisure centre was that it is not convenient or close (77%), followed by travel costs (32%).

### **Dunston Leisure Centre**

1,896 responses were submitted specifically for Dunston Leisure Centre. The full answer charts for Dunston Leisure Centre can be found at the end of this report.

In summary;

- 79% attend to use the pool, followed by 40% attending the gym
- 71% travel to Dunston by car, followed by 21% who walk to the leisure centre.
- 58% can travel to the centre within 10 minutes
- If they could not access Dunston leisure centre 44% would visit another council leisure facility
- If Dunston were to close, the most popular alternative Go Gateshead site to use would be Blaydon Leisure Centre, closely followed by Gateshead Leisure centre.
- The biggest impact of having to use an alternative site would be longer travel time (74%), followed by having to change time they visit (50%) and cost increase (44%)
- The main reason given for not using another council leisure centre was that it is not convenient or close (73%), followed by travel costs (38%).

### **Gateshead Leisure Centre**

2,778 responses were submitted specifically for Gateshead Leisure Centre. The full answer charts for Gateshead Leisure Centre can be found at the end of this report.

In summary;

- 69% attend to use the main pool, followed by 42% attending the gym
- 50% travel to Gateshead by car, followed by 41% who walk to the leisure centre.
- 62% can travel to the centre within 10 minutes
- If they could not access Gateshead leisure centre 38% would visit a non-council leisure facility
- If Gateshead were to close, the most popular alternative Go Gateshead site to use would be Dunston Leisure Centre, closely followed by Heworth leisure centre. However, all leisure centres were quite closely ranked as alternatives to Gateshead leisure centre, perhaps reflecting the central nature of Gateshead.
- The biggest impact of having to use an alternative site would be travel time (77%), followed by cost increase (56%) and having to change time they visit (49%)
- The main reason given for not using another council leisure centre was that it is not convenient or close (83%), followed by travel costs (44%).

### **Heworth Leisure Centre**

769 responses were submitted specifically for Heworth Leisure Centre. The full answer charts for Heworth Leisure Centre can be found at the end of this report.

In summary;

- 72% attend to use the main pool, followed by 45% attending the gym
- 58% travel to Heworth by car, followed by 35% who walk to the leisure centre.
- 64% can travel to the centre within 10 minutes, and in fact more than half of those can travel to the centre within 5 minutes
- If they could not access Heworth leisure centre 40% would visit another council leisure facility
- If Heworth were to close the most popular alternative Go Gateshead site to use would clearly be Gateshead Leisure Centre. This is followed by Gateshead International Stadium.
- The biggest impact of having to use an alternative site would be travel time (77%), followed by cost increase (49%) and having to change time they visit (46%)
- The main reason given for not using another council leisure centre was that it is not convenient or close (77%), followed by travel costs (36%).

**Table 1 – responses for individual leisure centres (highest % response given)**

| (Number of Respondents for each LC)                  | Birtley Leisure Centre (414)            | Birtley Swimming Centre (723) | Blaydon Leisure Centre (1,429) | Dunston Leisure Centre (1,896) | Gateshead Leisure Centre (2,778) | Heworth Leisure Centre (769) |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Q1 – Frequency of use or plan to use this LC?</b> | 54% weekly                              | 58% weekly                    | 59% weekly                     | 63% weekly                     | 59% weekly                       | 50% weekly                   |
| <b>Q2 – Usually visit centre with?</b>               | 53% on own / 53% with family or friends | 74% with family or friends    | 62% with family or friends     | 63% with family or friends     | 66% with family or friends       | 64% with family or friends   |
| <b>Q3 - Facilities and activities use?</b>           | 64% gym                                 | 90% main pool                 | 81% main pool                  | 79% main pool                  | 69% main pool                    | 72% main pool                |
| <b>Q4 –Main method of travel?</b>                    | 71% car                                 | 73% car                       | 85% car                        | 71% car                        | 50% car                          | 58% car                      |
| <b>Q5 – Usual travel time to centre?</b>             | 35% 10 minutes                          | 33% 10 minutes                | 41% 10 minutes                 | 33% 10 minutes                 | 33% 10 minutes                   | 33% 5 minutes                |
| <b>Q6 – Where go if centre closed?</b>               | 47% non council facility                | 42% another council LC        | 45% another council LC         | 44% another council LC         | 38% non council facility         | 40% another council LC       |
| <b>Q7 – alternative council LC</b>                   | Gateshead Leisure Centre                | Gateshead Leisure Centre      | Dunston Leisure Centre         | Blaydon Leisure Centre         | Dunston Leisure Centre           | Gateshead Leisure Centre     |
| <b>Q8 – Impact of using another facility</b>         | 71% longer travel time                  | 74% longer travel time        | 81% longer travel time         | 76% longer travel time         | 77% longer travel time           | 77% longer travel time       |

|  |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Q9 – why not use another council LC</b> | 83% not convenient or close | 83% not convenient or close | 77% not convenient or close | 73% not convenient or close | 83% not convenient or close | 77% not convenient or close |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

The responses given on impact of having to use an alternative site (Q8) across all 6 leisure centre sites were very similar in many respects, with some key differences, and are shown in table 2 below.

| <b>Leisure Site (No. Respondents stating they use the LC)</b>            | <b>Birtley LC (94)</b> | <b>Birtley SC (269)</b> | <b>Blaydon LC (557)</b> | <b>Dunston LC (746)</b> | <b>Gateshead LC (873)</b> | <b>Heworth LC (264)</b> |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| % of users saying cost would increase                                    | 51%                    | 46%                     | 48%                     | 44%                     | 56%                       | 49%                     |
| % of users saying longer travel time                                     | 71%                    | 74%                     | 81%                     | 74%                     | 77%                       | 77%                     |
| % of users saying need to switch transport mode                          | 24%                    | 18%                     | 13%                     | 19%                     | 38%                       | 31%                     |
| % of users saying no longer able to access independently                 | 13%                    | 8%                      | 7%                      | 8%                      | 16%                       | 6%                      |
| % users saying no longer able to do the sport/leisure activity they want | 39%                    | 28%                     | 27%                     | 30%                     | 39%                       | 25%                     |

| to  |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| % users saying would have to change visiting time | 48% | 49% | 51% | 50% | 49% | 46% |

Similarly, the responses given to Q9 – reasons for not using another council leisure centre, were consistent across all 6 leisure centre sites. The top two reasons given being it is not convenient or close by, followed by impact on travel costs.

### **Impact of Potential Closure of local leisure centres**

Respondents were asked to indicate the impact that a potential closure would have on them, their family and their ability to access leisure services or facilities, and any possible measures we could take to reduce any negative impact and make it easier for them to access leisure services and facilities.

Open text answers were given and coded into themes, with answers including multiple themes allocated to each relevant response category. A much smaller number of respondents completed this question for each leisure centre.

Birtley Leisure Centre – 165  
Birtley Swimming Centre - 254  
Blaydon Leisure Centre - 571  
Dunston Leisure Centre - 787  
Gateshead Leisure Centre – 1,215  
Heworth Leisure Centre – 249

This analysis summarises the themes emerging from Q10 for each leisure centre. In general, the comments we received from users across all 6 leisure centres were consistent, with some local variation.

With regards to impacts should a centre with a swimming pool close, respondents would be particularly concerned about their ability, or the ability of family members to go swimming, and for children and schools to access swimming lessons in order to learn a key skill.

Those respondents that use the leisure centres for non-swimming activities are concerned they will not be able to do the same activities in other locations or use other facilities easily.

The majority of comments made reflect concerns about the impact the closure would have on people's health and wellbeing, including the impact on the wider health system. Others point to the impact closure would have on their or other people's ability to engage in social activities, including loss of access to a safe space to socialise, build confidence and participate in sports. Various respondents point to the role leisure centres have as a community hub or indicate concerns about the wider impact on the community and local area if the facility were to close.

Many respondents indicate that closure of a leisure centre or swimming pool would lead to a reduction in exercise and physical fitness. Specific reasons for this include;

- the cost of travel or the cost of using alternative facilities (including private local ones) will impact them financially and/or would reduce their or others desire or ability to access leisure services
- The time or distance required to travel to alternative facilities (or lack of transport options) would reduce their or others desire or ability to access leisure services
- Concerns that alternative facilities would be less accessible (including for disabled users) or suitable for their needs.

Some respondents stated that they may or would stop undertaking leisure or physical activity if their local leisure centre were to close.

### **Specific impacts reported**

A smaller number of respondents stated specific concerns about their leisure centre being the only one with particular leisure activities/ specialist facilities for example;

- soft play provision at Gateshead leisure centre
- the depth of the pool at Dunston leisure centre for specialist swimming activities such as synchronised swimming and diving
- single sex swimming sessions at Gateshead leisure centre

### **Minimising negative impacts**

With regards to minimising the negative impact on people's ability to access leisure services in future, many respondents think or imply the negative impact can't be mitigated, other than by the centre staying open.

Many suggested effective mitigation would need to involve the provision of adequate alternative facilities in the local area or a complete replacement of the current facility.

Others suggested improving the quality and range of services offered by the other council leisure centres in Gateshead.

Various respondents suggested access would be improved by;

- measures to reduce the costs to users of using alternative facilities, including fees, travel costs, membership etc.
- measures involving the provision of transportation to alternative facilities
- extended centre opening times and fitness class times to maximise access
- improved pool access through longer opening hours, including full access to the public at weekends, early morning and in the evenings.

For all centres we received comments that indicate respondents are concerned the other leisure centres and facilities in the remaining leisure service do not have

adequate capacity to deal with additional demand that closure of centres would bring.

### **Equality Data Comparison**

Analysis of the About You survey information provided by respondents (demographic profile including data on protected characteristics) against known Gateshead comparative data for all residents shows that;

- we received a larger response from females (60% of respondents) compared to population data of 51%
- we received a smaller response from under 25s (4% of respondents) compared to population data of 27%
- we received a larger response from those limited by their health a little or a lot (28% of respondents) compared to population data of 22%
- we received a larger response from carers (21% of respondents) compared to population data of 11%
- we received a larger response from those who are of Jewish religion (5% of respondents) compared to population data of 1%

## **Report 2: Overview of other comments received**

We received over 100 comments in relation to the consultation via other channels, including the Leisure Centre Consultation inbox, phone calls to the customer service centre and emails, letters or Freedom of Information (FOI) requests made to officers or councillors.

The comments received are comparable with the feedback we have received via the consultation questionnaire.

Included in this report;

- Exemplar Comments received via email, phone and letter
- Consultation responses
- Petitions received
- FOI requests

### **Comments from residents/individuals received via email, phone and letter:**

Examples of personal comments made by individuals by email into  
[leisureconsultation@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:leisureconsultation@gateshead.gov.uk)

*Please don't close my leisure centre I'm 70 years old and love going there – email*

*I am sad and so angry to hear gateshead leisure centre is at risk of closing. It has been and still is a massive part of our lives and community. Our local primary schools have their lessons there weekly. Local children have their sports clubs there and I myself not only use the gym for fitness but also to benefit my mental health. Any closures are going to be so harmful to people's fitness and wellbeing. Hundreds of people are already upset by this awful news.*

Questions received relating to the consultation process were responded to directly and added to the Frequently Asked Questions page online.

Requests to provide a paper copy of the survey into the mailbox were all responded to.

### **Consultation response received from groups or organisations**

A letter and petition from the pupils of St. Philip Neri R.C. Primary School, Dunston submitted by the School Council, Health & Safety group and Eco Committee.

*"We are writing to you to ask you not to close our local pool and leisure centre in Dunston. We are shocked and extremely disappointed and saddened to hear that our future health and wellbeing is threatened by this dreadful news.*

*We will be flabbergasted and heartbroken if you close our local pool. The pool is important to us, our future is important to us, our health is important to us."*

A letter from Richard Holden, MP for North West Durham, on behalf of a concerned constituent whose daughter uses Dunston Pool for Synchronised swimming.

A letter from Kate Osborne, MP for Jarrow, on behalf of concerned constituents focused on future of Heworth Leisure Centre.

A submission from Liz Twist, MP for Blaydon, on behalf of concerned constituents and local swimming clubs, focused on future of Dunston Leisure Centre and possible inclusion of sports hall at Birtley Leisure Centre. Submission includes recent examples of success provided by the local swimming clubs who use Dunston Swimming Pool – Gateshead and Whickham Amateur swimming club and Gateshead Synchronised Swimming Club.

A letter and follow up letter from Save Leisure Gateshead, local campaign group with a focus on Gateshead Leisure Centre

A letter from Glenpark Medical Practice, Dunston, on behalf of their patients who use the leisure and pool facilities at Dunston.

*“We understand the financial difficulties facing Gateshead Council, but our concern is whether people will be able to afford to travel to alternative leisure facilities in Gateshead if Dunston Leisure Centre closes, and whether participation in physical activity will fall as a result. We wish to support Dunston Leisure Centre remaining open”.*

An impact statement from the Jewish Community Council of Gateshead, with a focus on Gateshead Leisure Centre and Swimming Pool.

*“The Gateshead Leisure Centre sits on the doorstep of the local Jewish community. Whilst the closure of the centre would deprive the community in a number of ways, it is the closure of the pool that gives the community as a whole cause for alarm. In summary, closure of the pool will: directly contribute to health inequalities and deprive an entire community of the opportunity to swim.”*

An anonymous submission attached to a paper survey analysing deprivation levels across Gateshead in relation to existing council leisure facilities, public transport costs and car ownership and local health levels. A further analysis of current pool timetables and peak usage.

FOI request received from Save Leisure Gateshead and responded to.

4 Petitions received from;

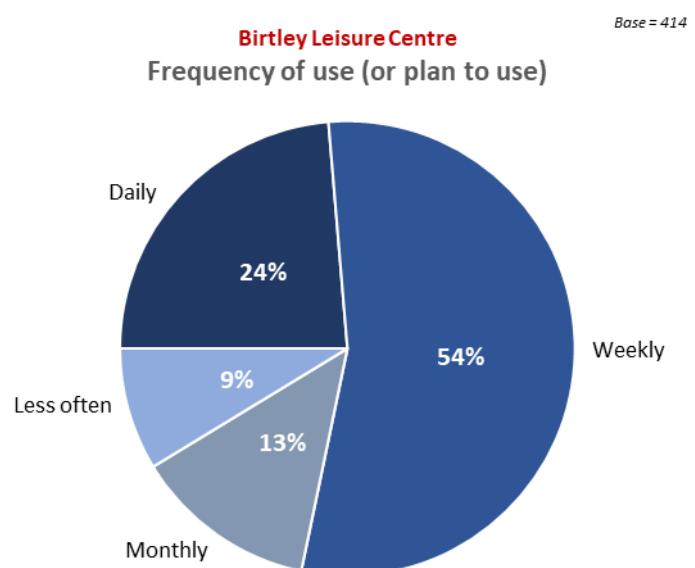
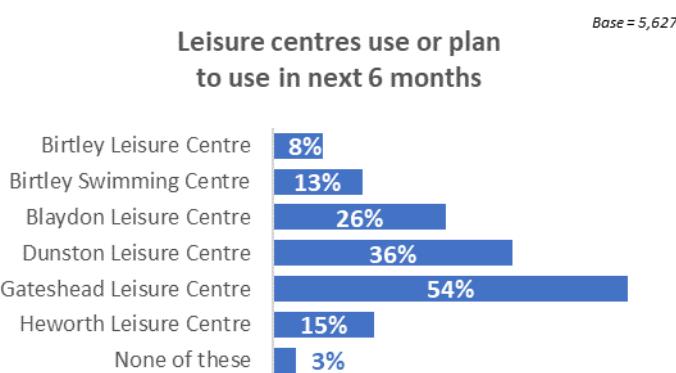
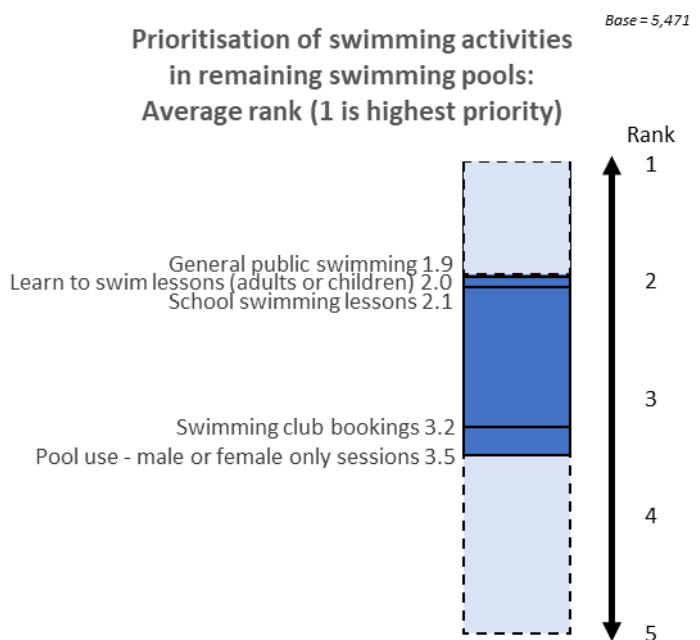
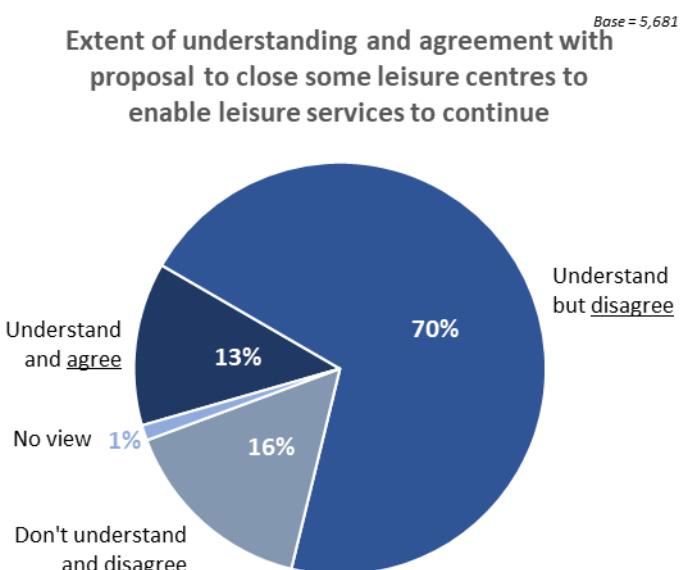
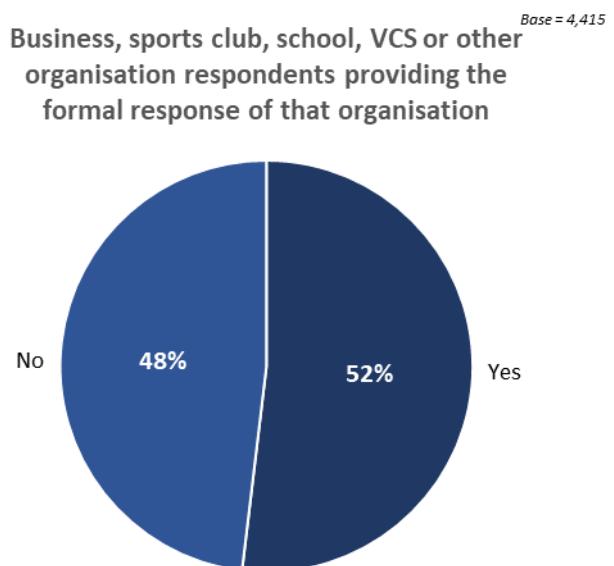
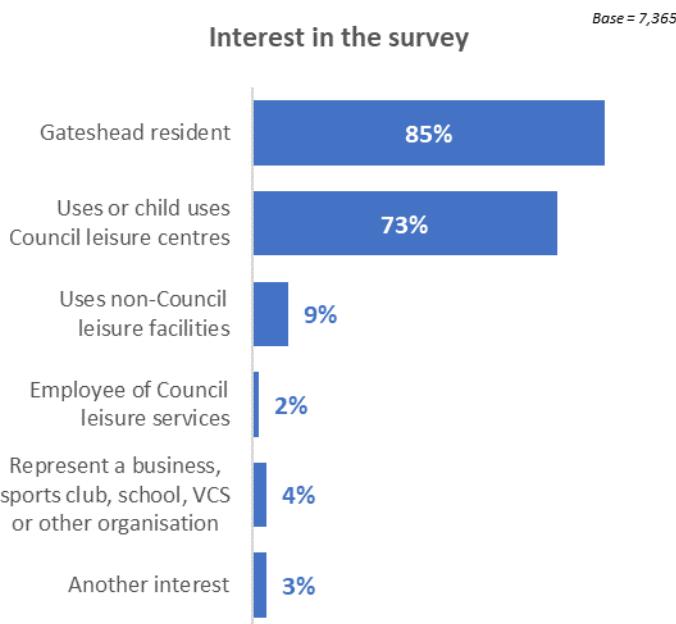
- Save Leisure Gateshead (Online) – 1,859 signatures
- Michael Clark - Dunston Leisure Centre 1,827 signatures
- Dunston Leisure Centre (online) - 5,733 signatures
- Pupils of St Phillip Neri Primary School Dunston – 131 signatures

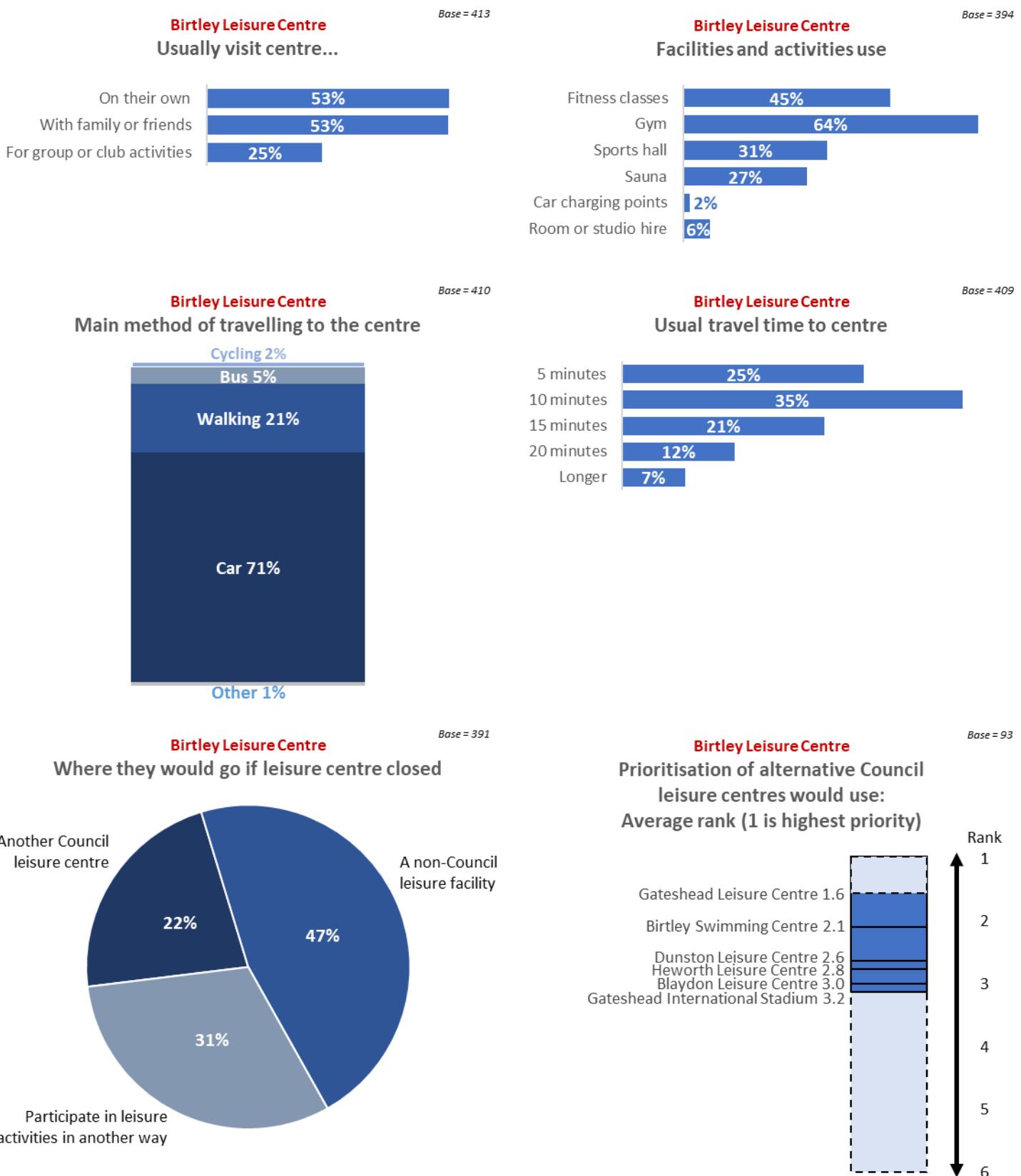
## **Appendix A: List of 83 organisations submitting formal response to the consultation**

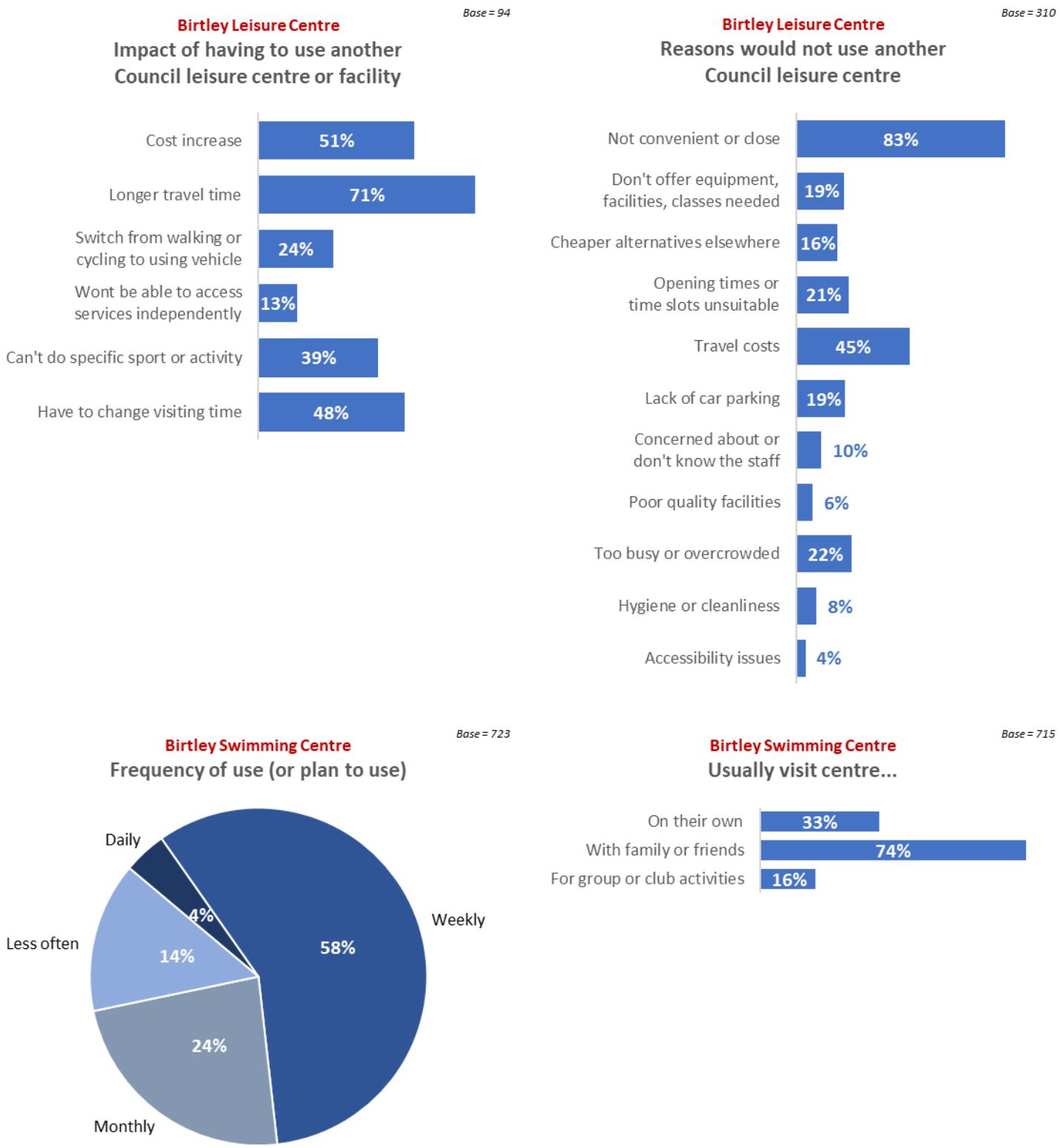
1313 Whickham Squadron RAF air cadets  
21st Gateshead Scouts  
39th Gateshead Scouts  
A Gateshead Business  
Active Age North East  
Ateres Girls High School  
Ball Hockey UK  
Bede Community Primary School  
BEIS YAAKOR swimming  
Beth Jacobs Youth Club  
Birtley Juniors FC  
Birtley swimming club  
Blaydon Community FC  
Blaydon swimming club  
Bowes Belles WI  
Bridges Medical Practice, Gateshead  
Brighton Avenue Primary School  
BSAC Tyneside 114  
Carr Hill Primary Community Primary School  
Chopwell Primary School  
Clover Hill Community Primary School  
company providing Supported Living to individuals with disability  
Dunston Hill CPS  
Dunston squash club  
Fell Dyke Community Primary School  
Felling Magpies  
football group using Gateshead Leisure Centre  
Front Street Primary School  
Gateshead and Whickham amateur swimming club  
Gateshead Badminton Club  
Gateshead Community Organisation  
Gateshead FC Community Foundation  
Gateshead Fell Cricket Club  
Gateshead Green Party  
Gateshead Harriers  
Gateshead Jewish Boarding School  
Gateshead Netball Club  
Gateshead Parent Carer Forum  
Gateshead Redheugh Boys Football Club  
Gateshead Synchronised Swimming Club  
GESHER  
Gibside School  
Go Gateshead  
Grace College

Haskel School  
Jewish Community Council of Gateshead  
Kaizen karate club  
Kells Lane Primary School  
Kelvin Grove Primary School  
Keser Torah Boys School  
Kibblesworth Academy  
L'chu Vonim  
Leam Lane community bowling club  
Leam lane football  
lesions centred  
Life and limb puppets.  
Low fell running club  
Newcastle eagles  
NHS  
North East Pets Limited  
Northern Storm Korfball Club  
Northumbria Police  
Oxclose Badminton club  
Riverside primary academy  
Sacred Heart Primary school- Byermoor  
Saltwell Harriers  
Sara Jobling Consultancy Limited  
Scouts  
Sheffield Knights and Hull Riverkings Ball Hockey Club  
South Street Community Primary School  
Spa Physiotherapy Clinic  
Sport camp Gateshead  
St Aidans CE Primary School  
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
St Oswald's Catholic Primary School  
Stanley Stingers Ball Hockey Club  
Strength & Balance Programme/ Pulmonary Rehab Programme  
The Drive Community Primary School  
Wardley Primary School  
Whickham Fellside Youth FC  
Whickham School  
Windy Nook Primary school  
Zayis Rannon

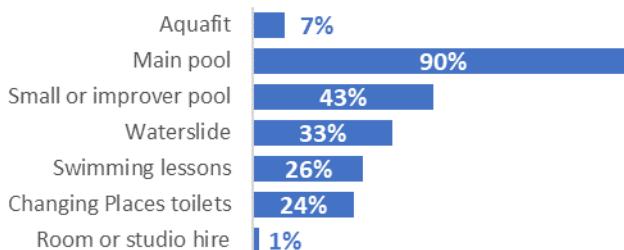
## Appendix B – Final Leisure Survey Charts (full results/open text response charts at end)







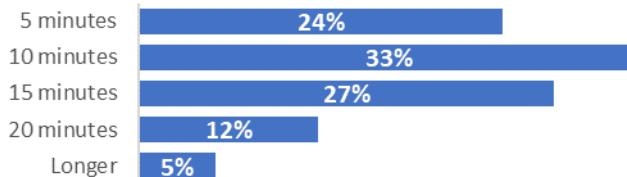
**Birtley Swimming Centre**  
Facilities and activities use



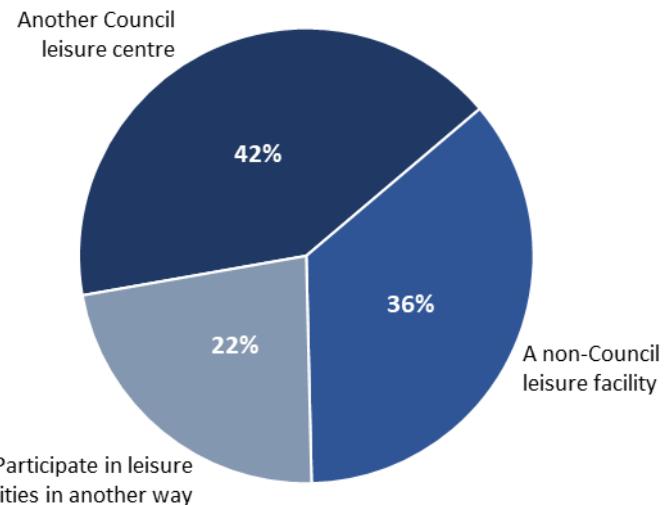
**Birtley Swimming Centre**  
Main method of travelling to the centre



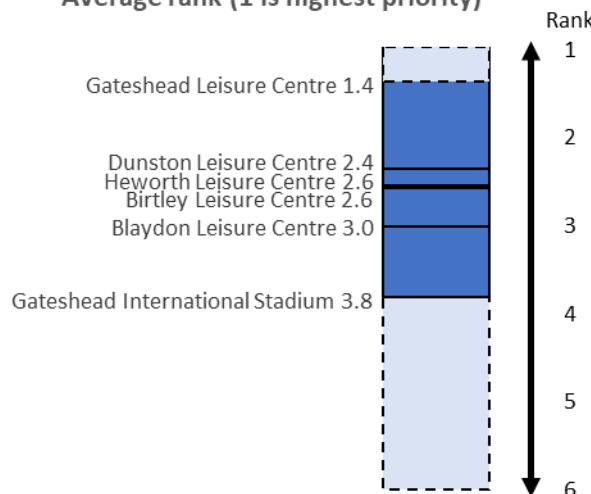
**Birtley Swimming Centre**  
Usual travel time to centre



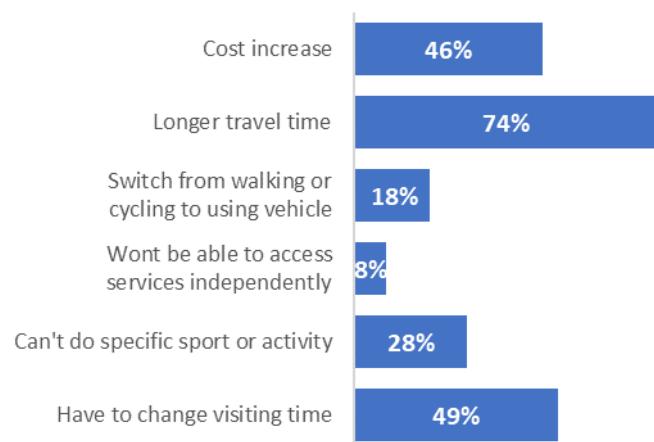
**Birtley Swimming Centre**  
Where they would go if leisure centre closed

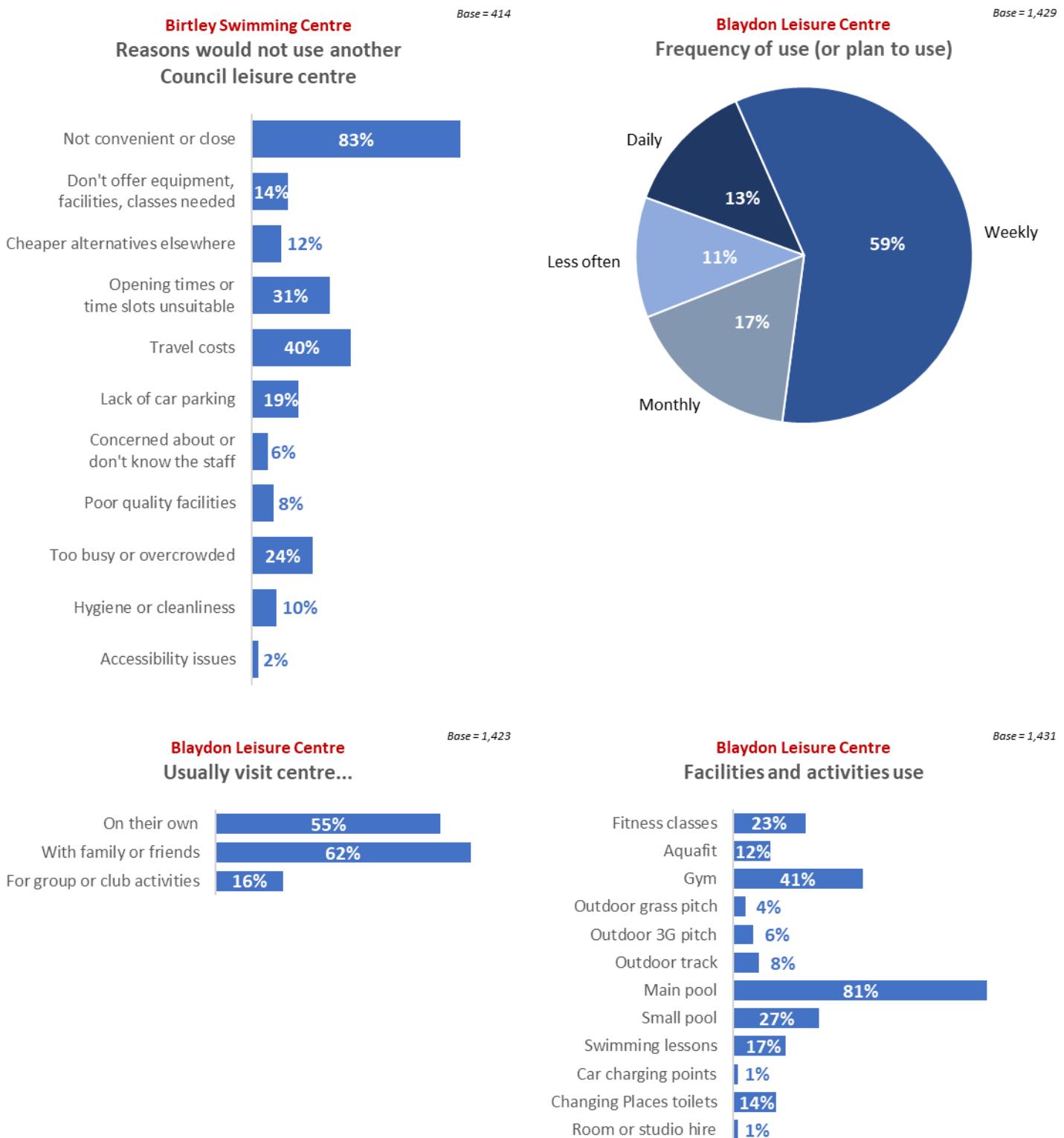


**Birtley Swimming Centre**  
Prioritisation of alternative Council  
leisure centres would use:  
Average rank (1 is highest priority)



**Birtley Swimming Centre**  
Impact of having to use another  
Council leisure centre or facility





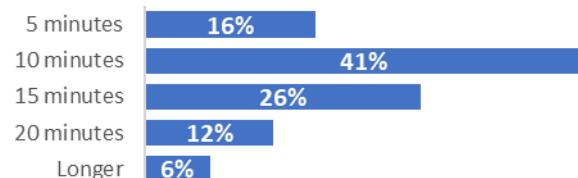
**Blaydon Leisure Centre**  
Main method of travelling to the centre

Base = 1,432



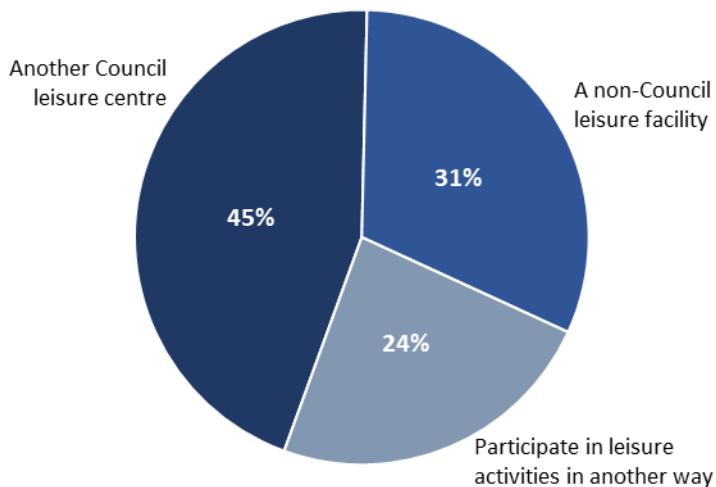
**Blaydon Leisure Centre**  
Usual travel time to centre

Base = 1,427



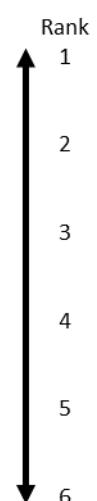
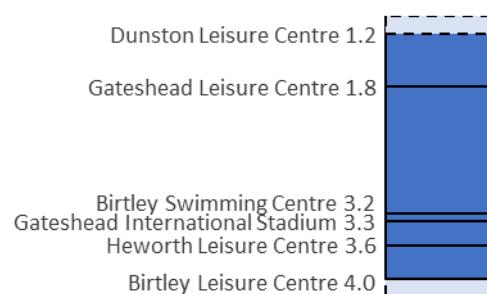
**Blaydon Leisure Centre**  
Where they would go if leisure centre closed

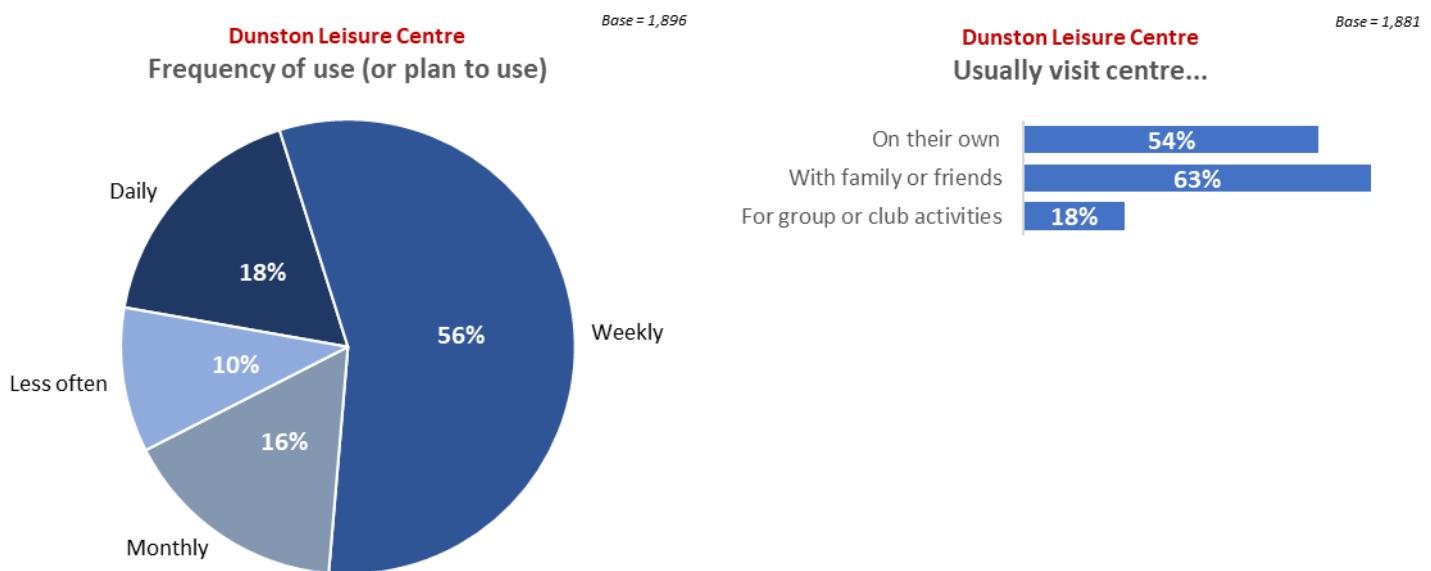
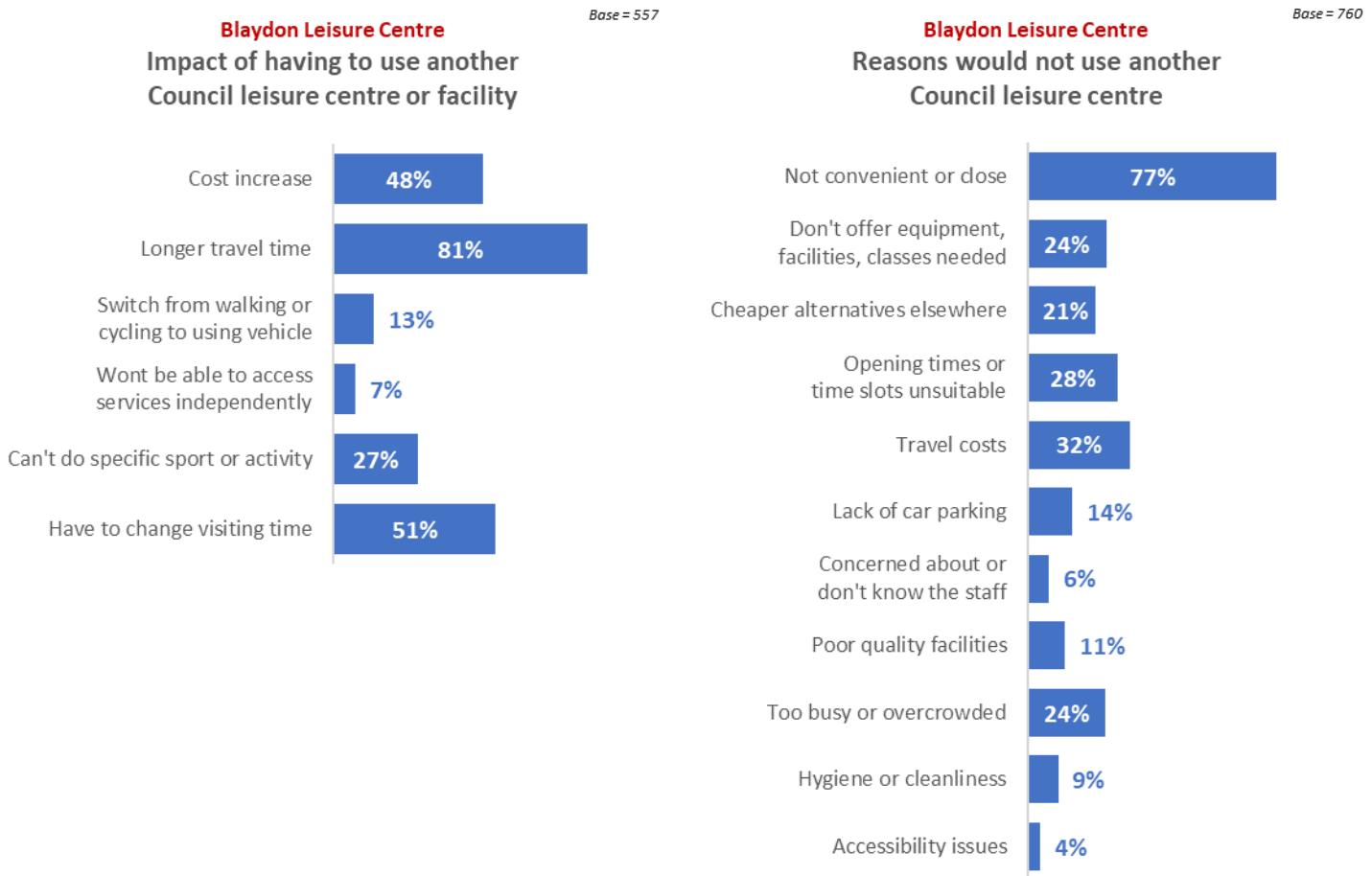
Base = 1,388

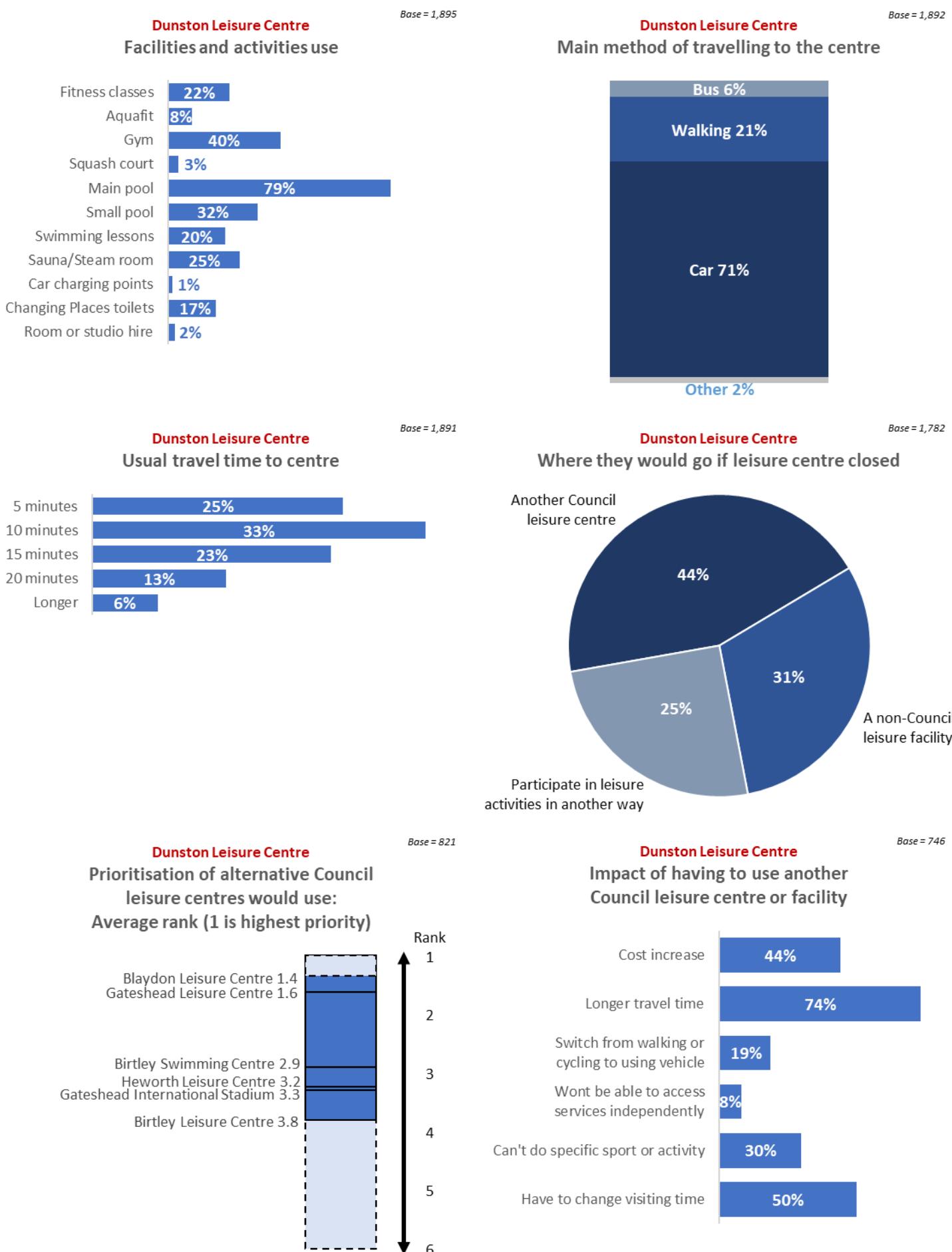


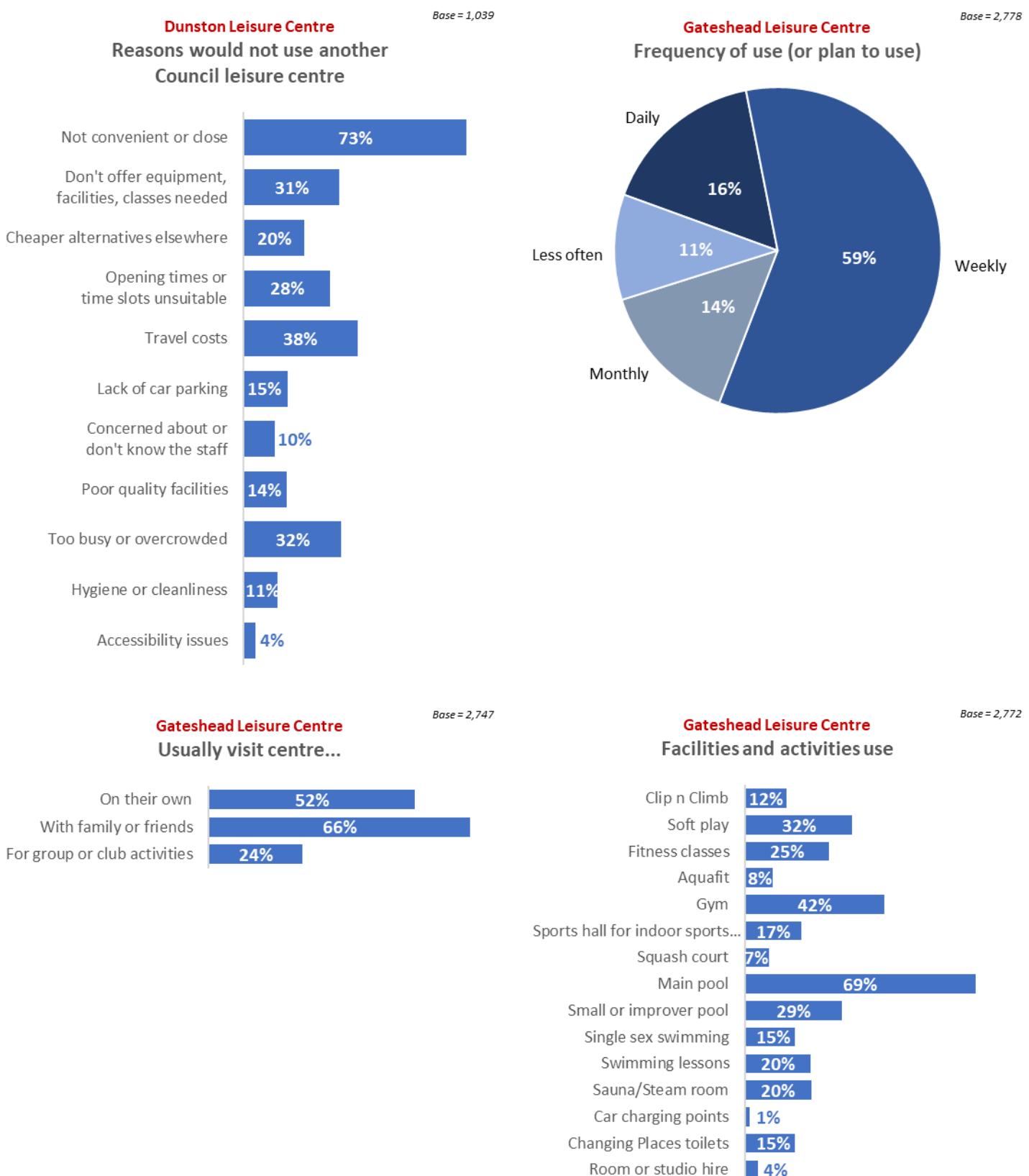
**Blaydon Leisure Centre**  
Prioritisation of alternative Council  
leisure centres would use:  
Average rank (1 is highest priority)

Base = 639









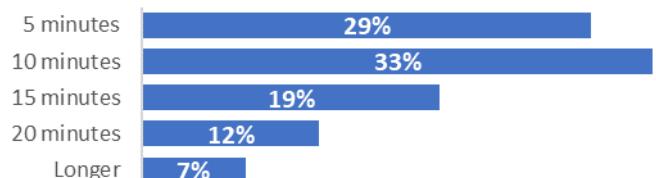
**Gateshead Leisure Centre**  
Main method of travelling to the centre

Base = 2,775



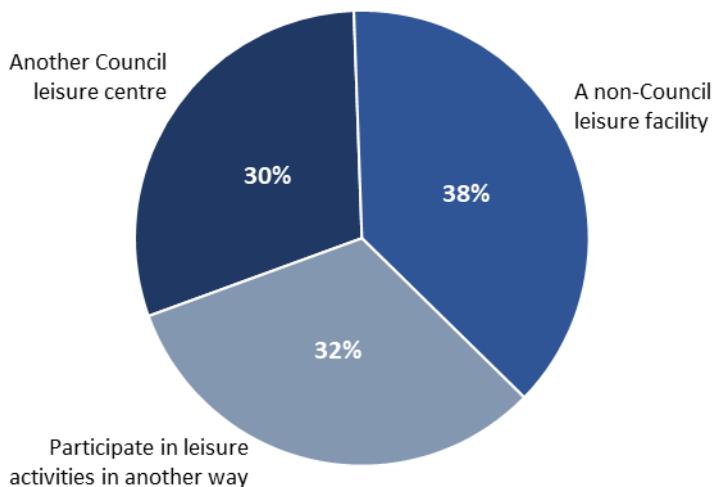
**Gateshead Leisure Centre**  
Usual travel time to centre

Base = 2,775



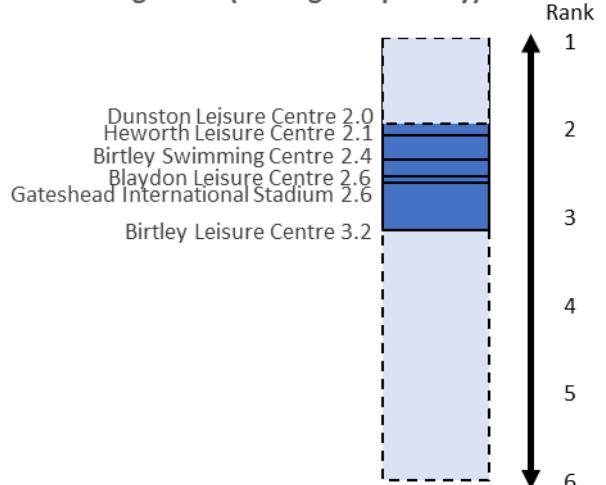
**Gateshead Leisure Centre**  
Where they would go if leisure centre closed

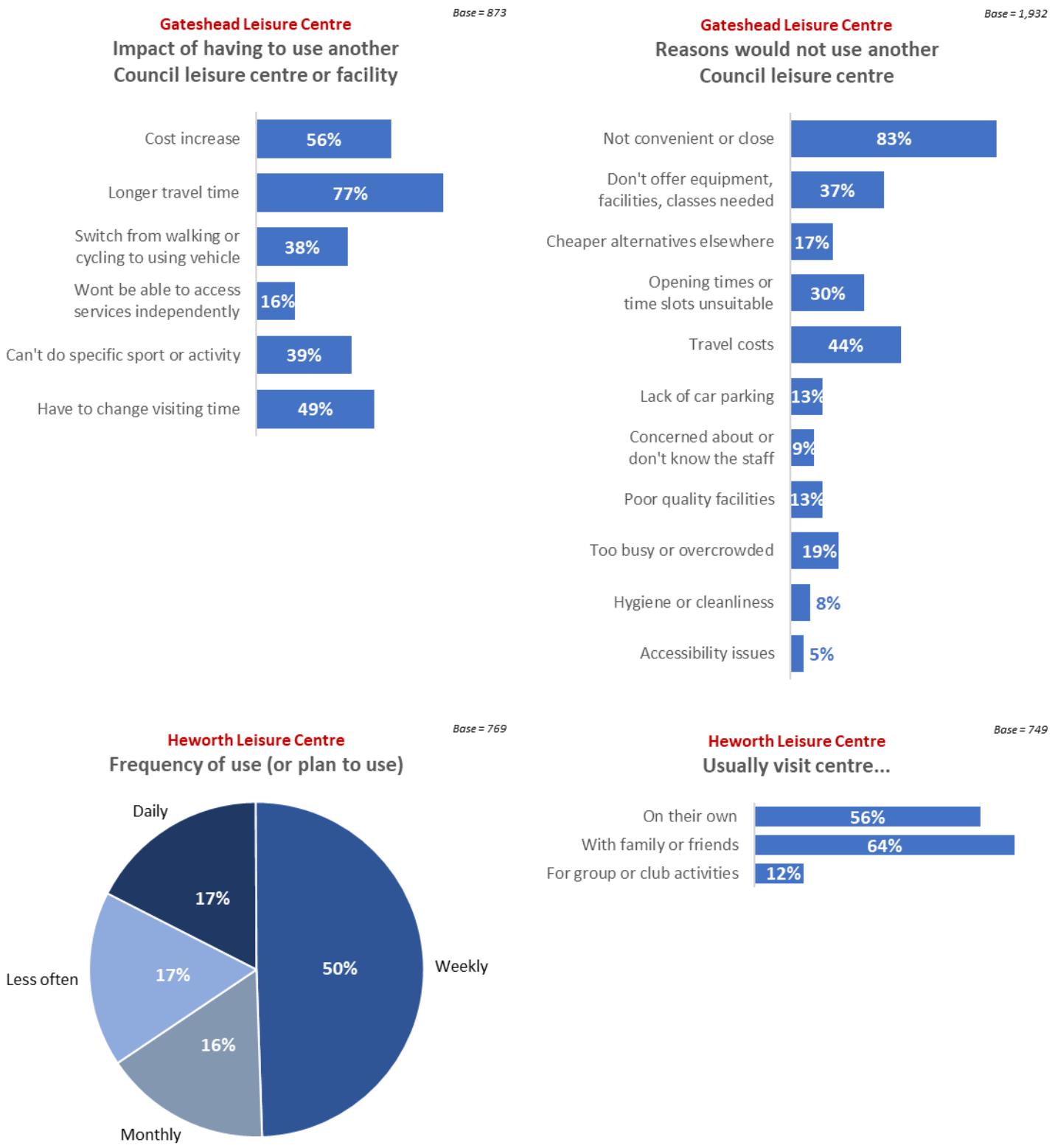
Base = 2,491

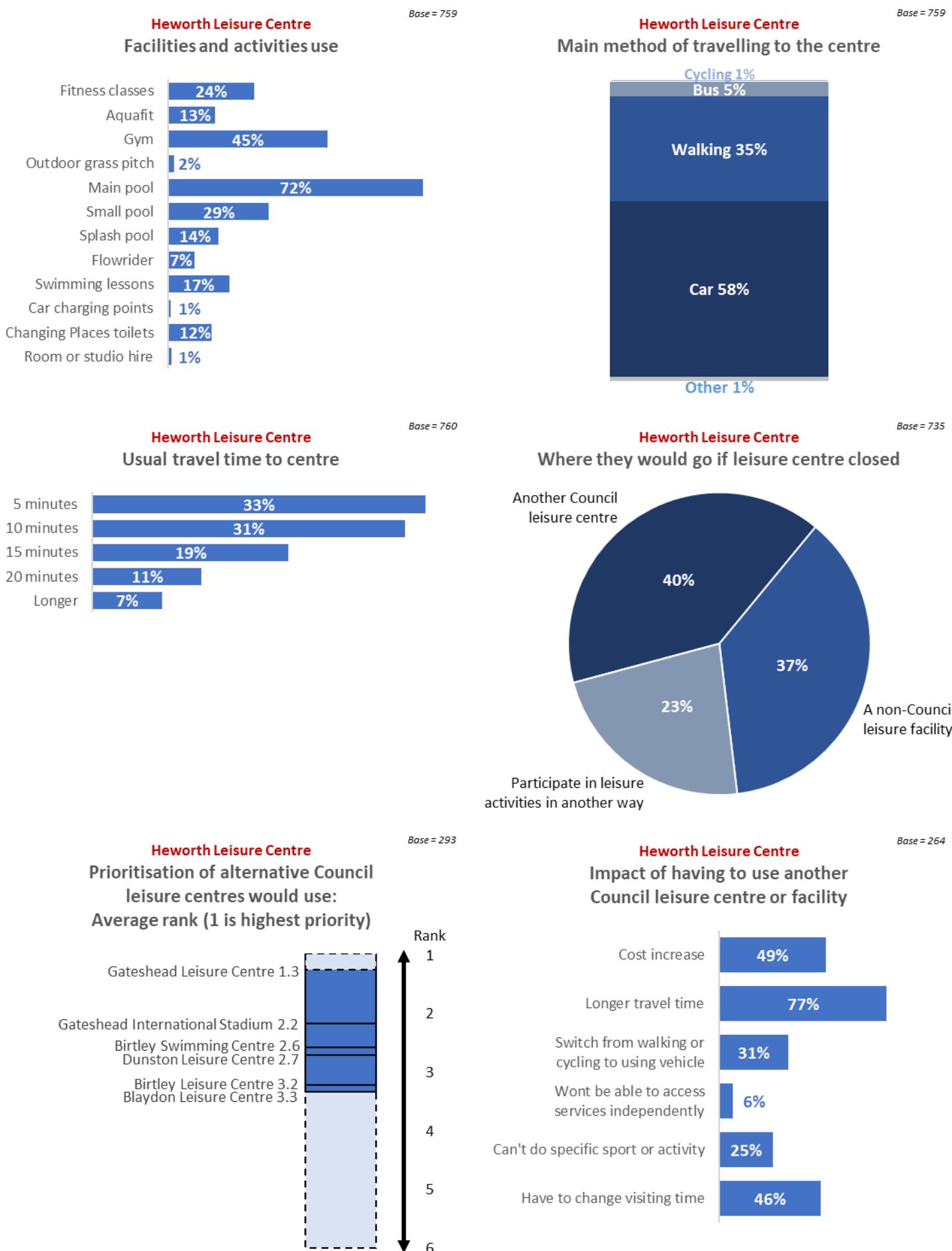


**Gateshead Leisure Centre**  
Prioritisation of alternative Council  
leisure centres would use:  
Average rank (1 is highest priority)

Base = 779







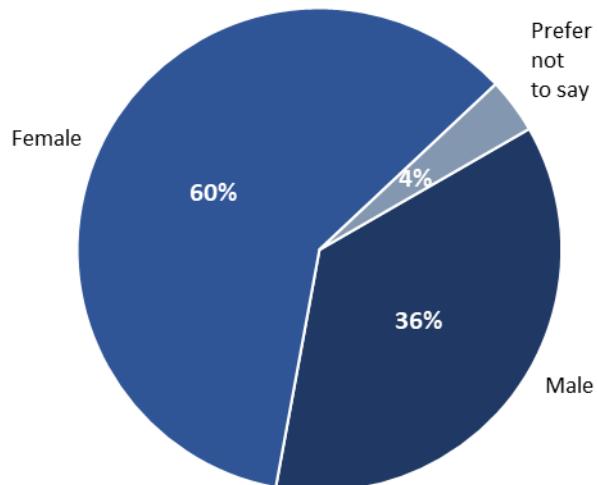
**Heworth Leisure Centre**  
Reasons would not use another  
Council leisure centre

Base = 449



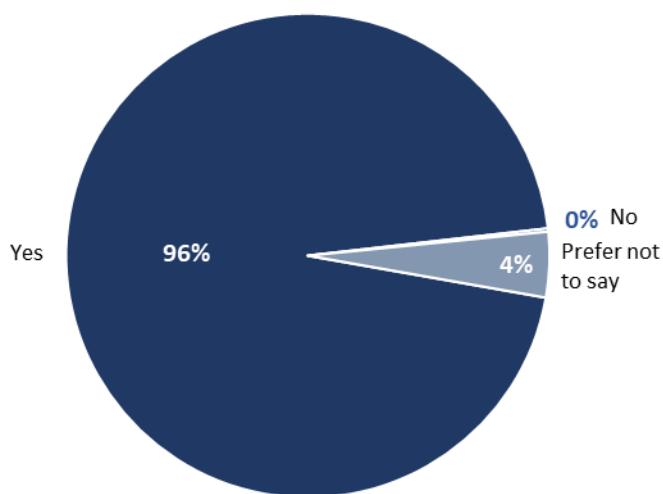
**Sex**

Base = 5,052



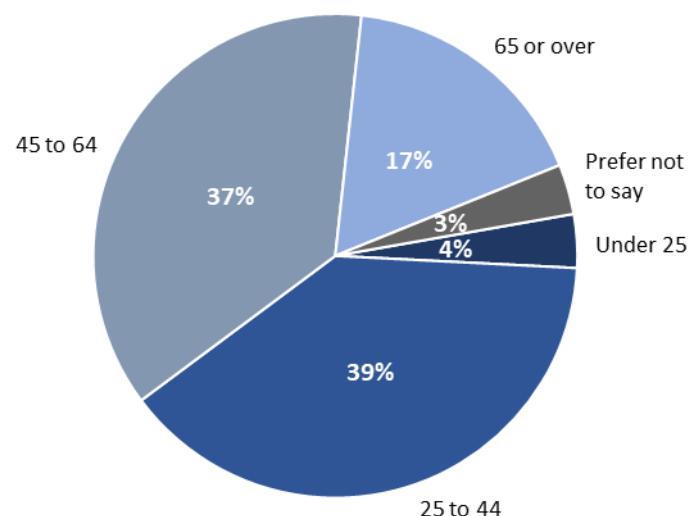
**Gender identity same as sex?**

Base = 4,978



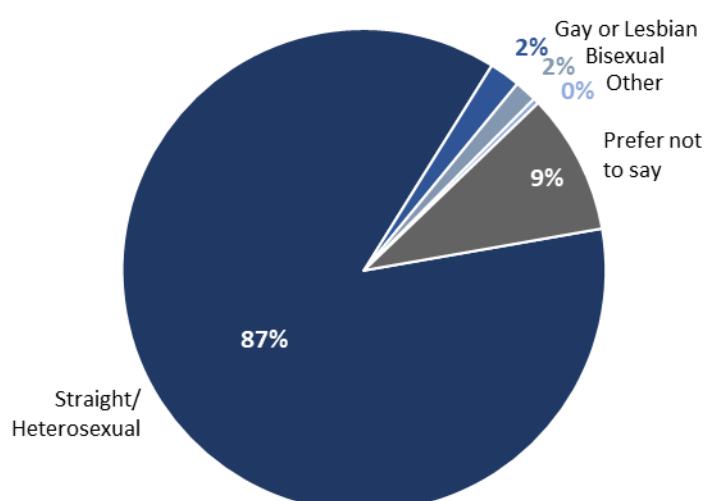
**Age**

Base = 5,089



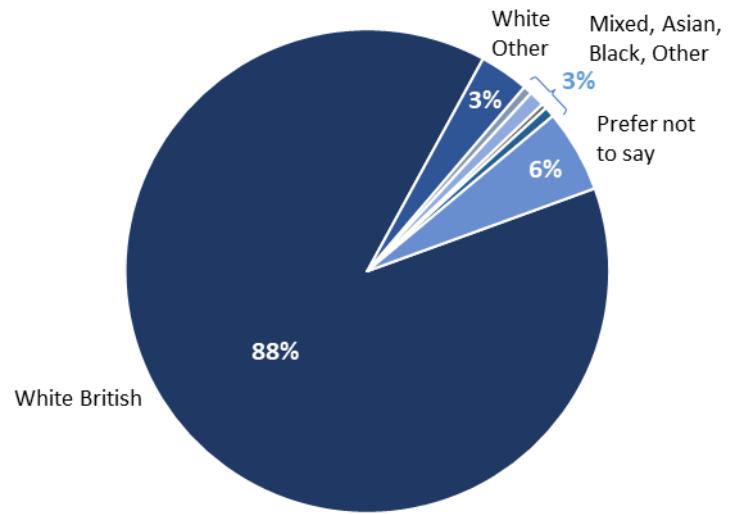
Base = 4,933

### Sexual orientation



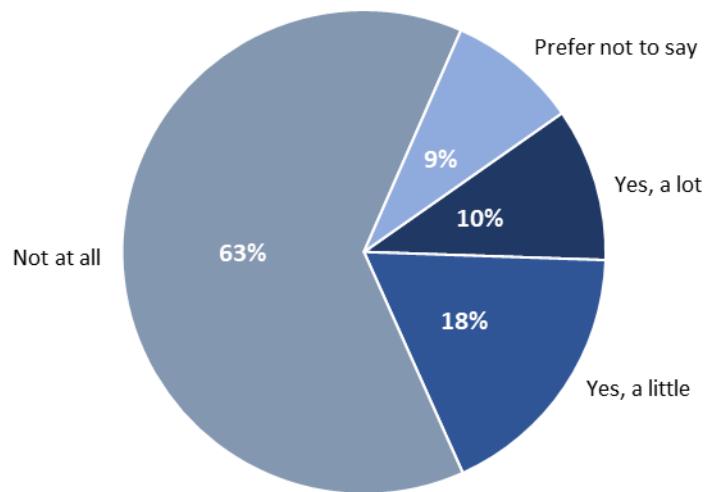
Base = 5,061

### Ethnicity



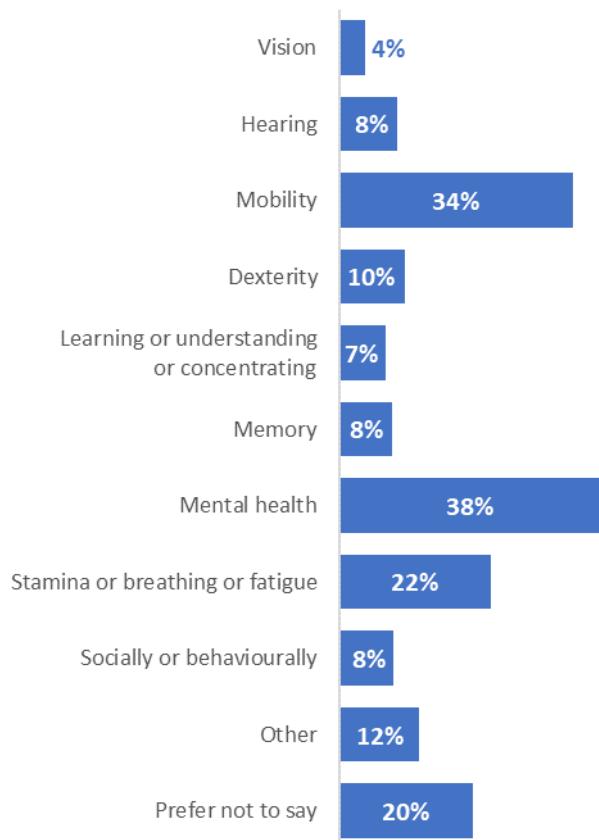
Base = 5,011

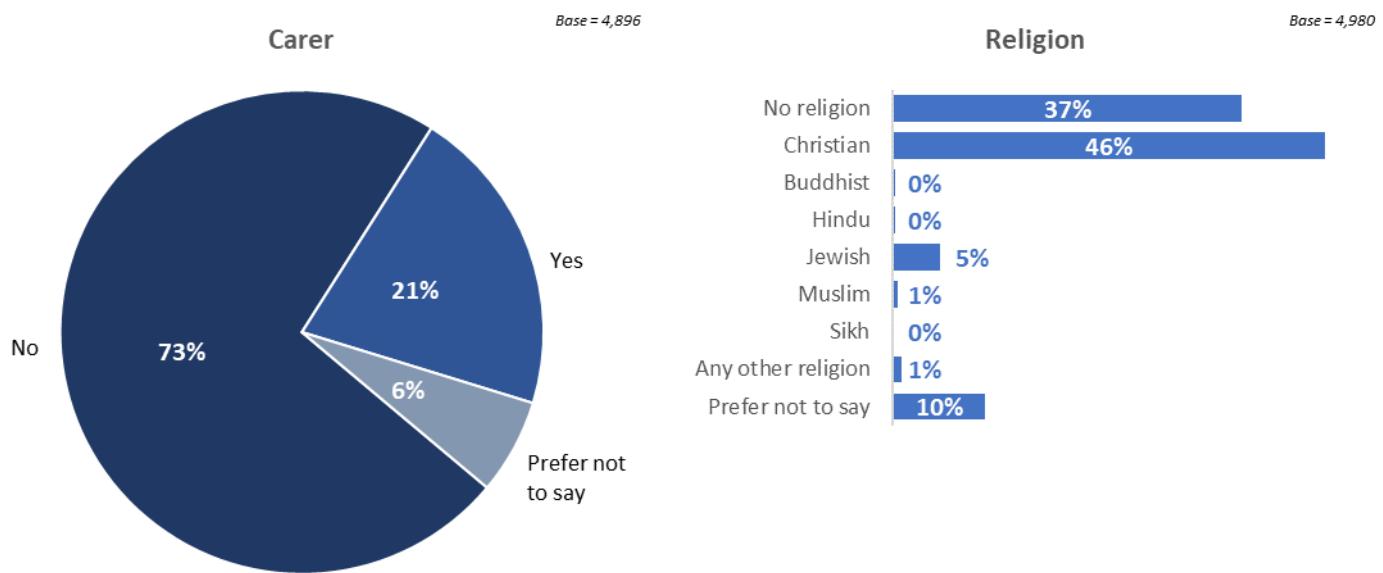
### Limited because of physical or mental health



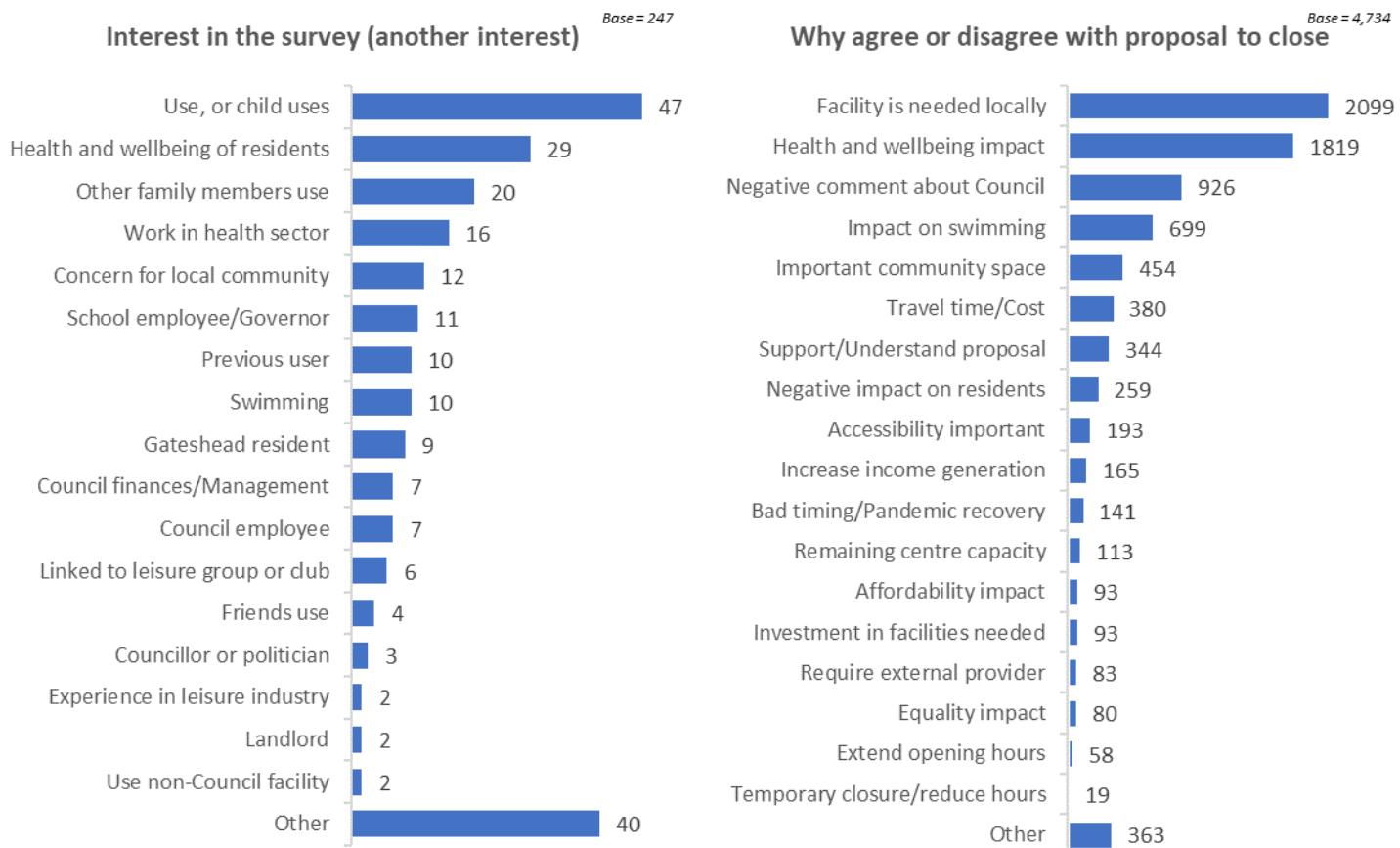
Base = 1,693

### Conditions or illnesses they are affected by

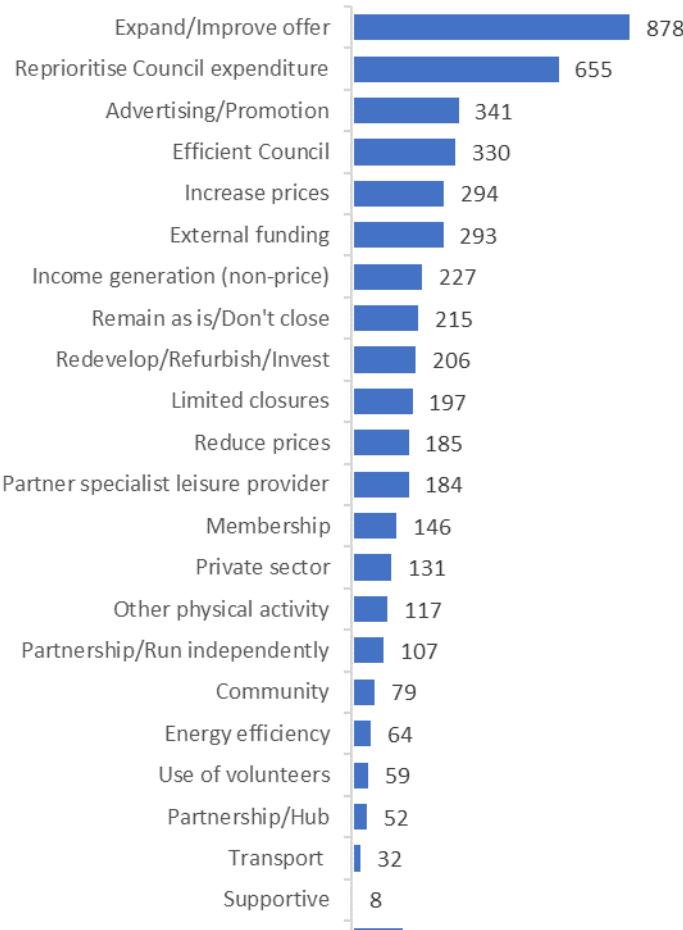




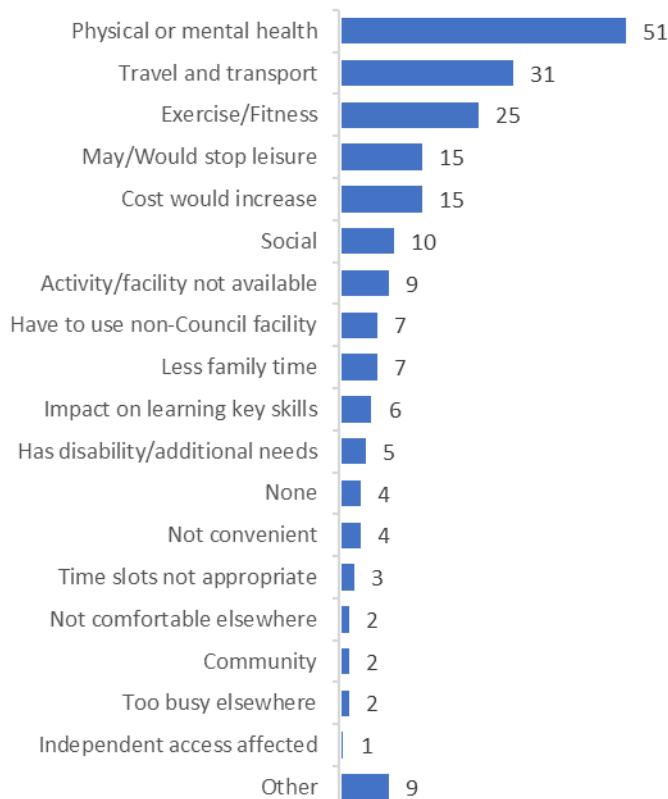
## Open Text Comments Charts



### Alternative suggestions for provision of leisure services in Gateshead



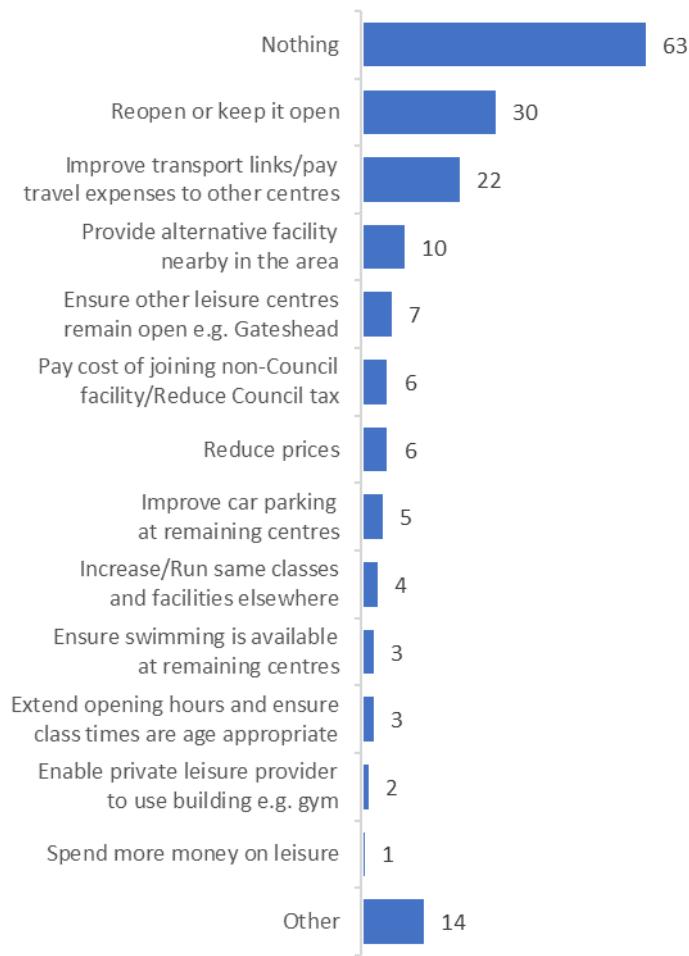
### Birtley Leisure Centre Other major impacts of leisure centre closure

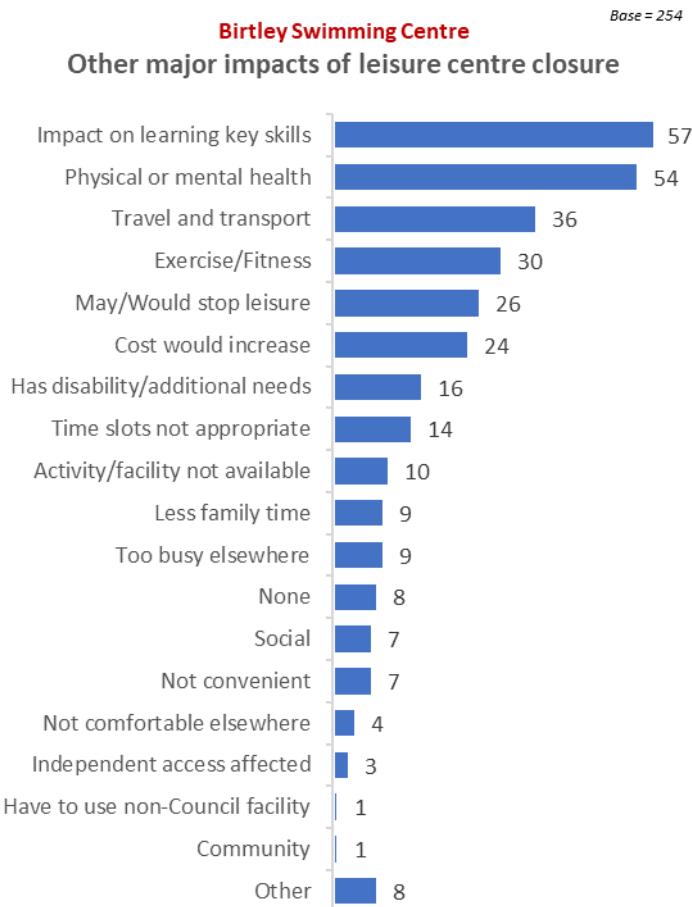


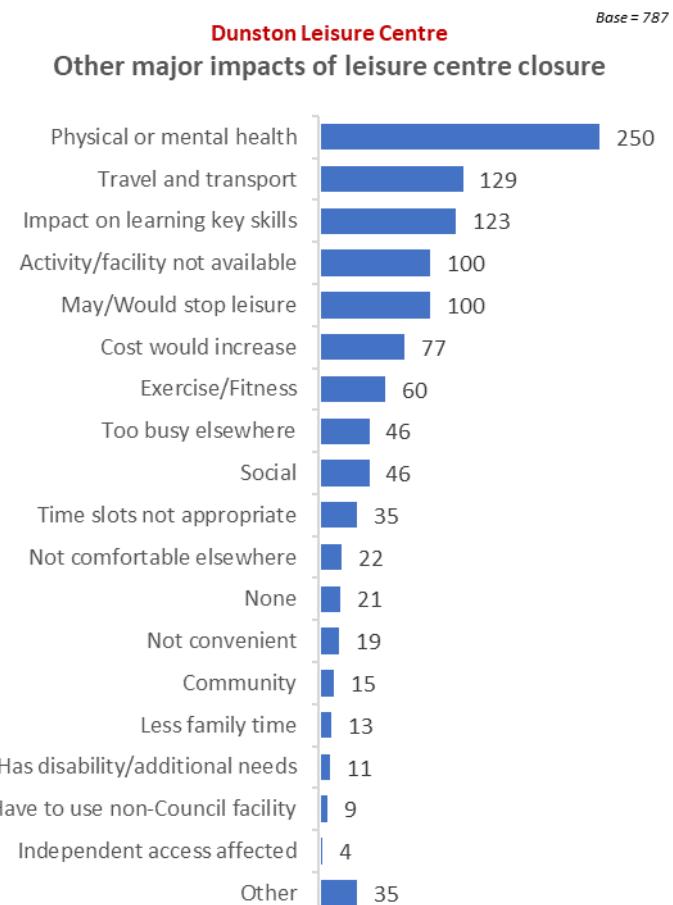
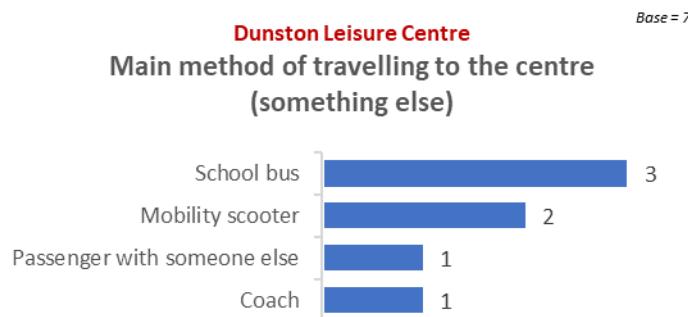
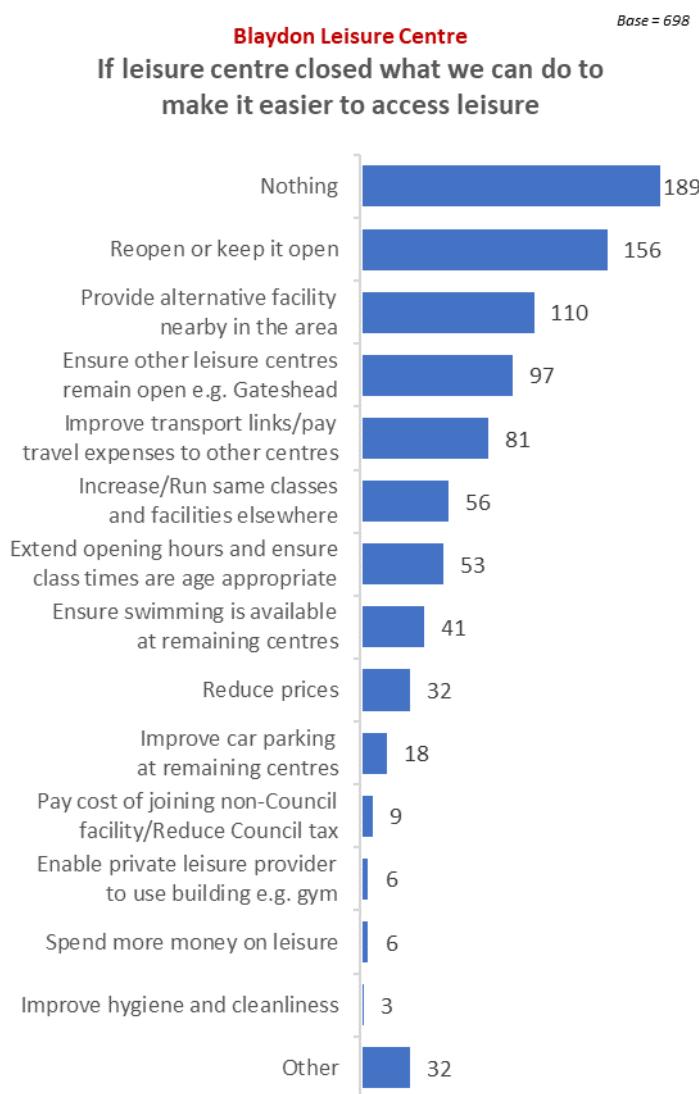
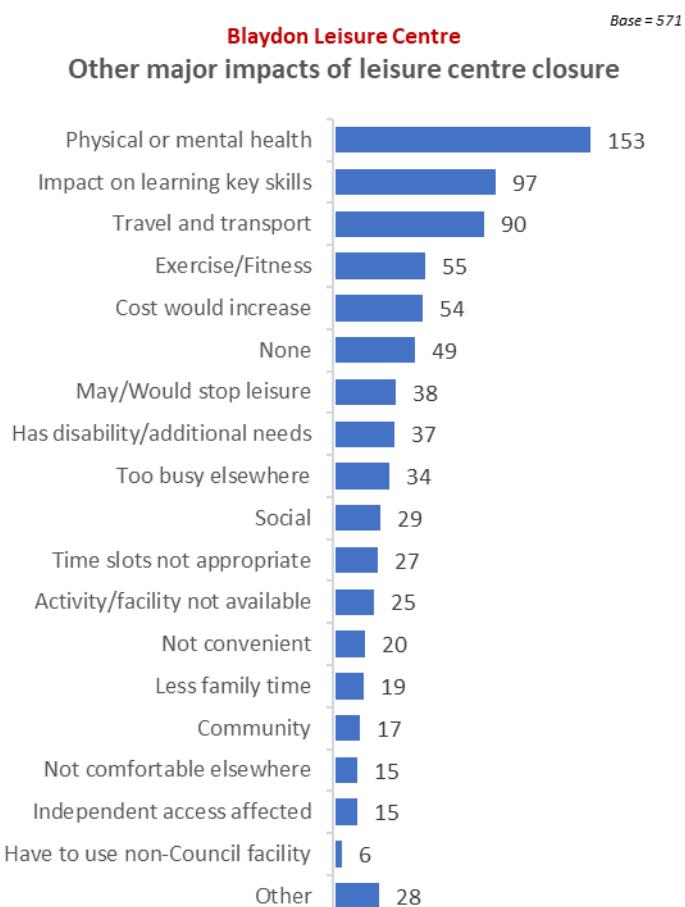
### Birtley Leisure Centre Main method of travelling to the centre (something else)

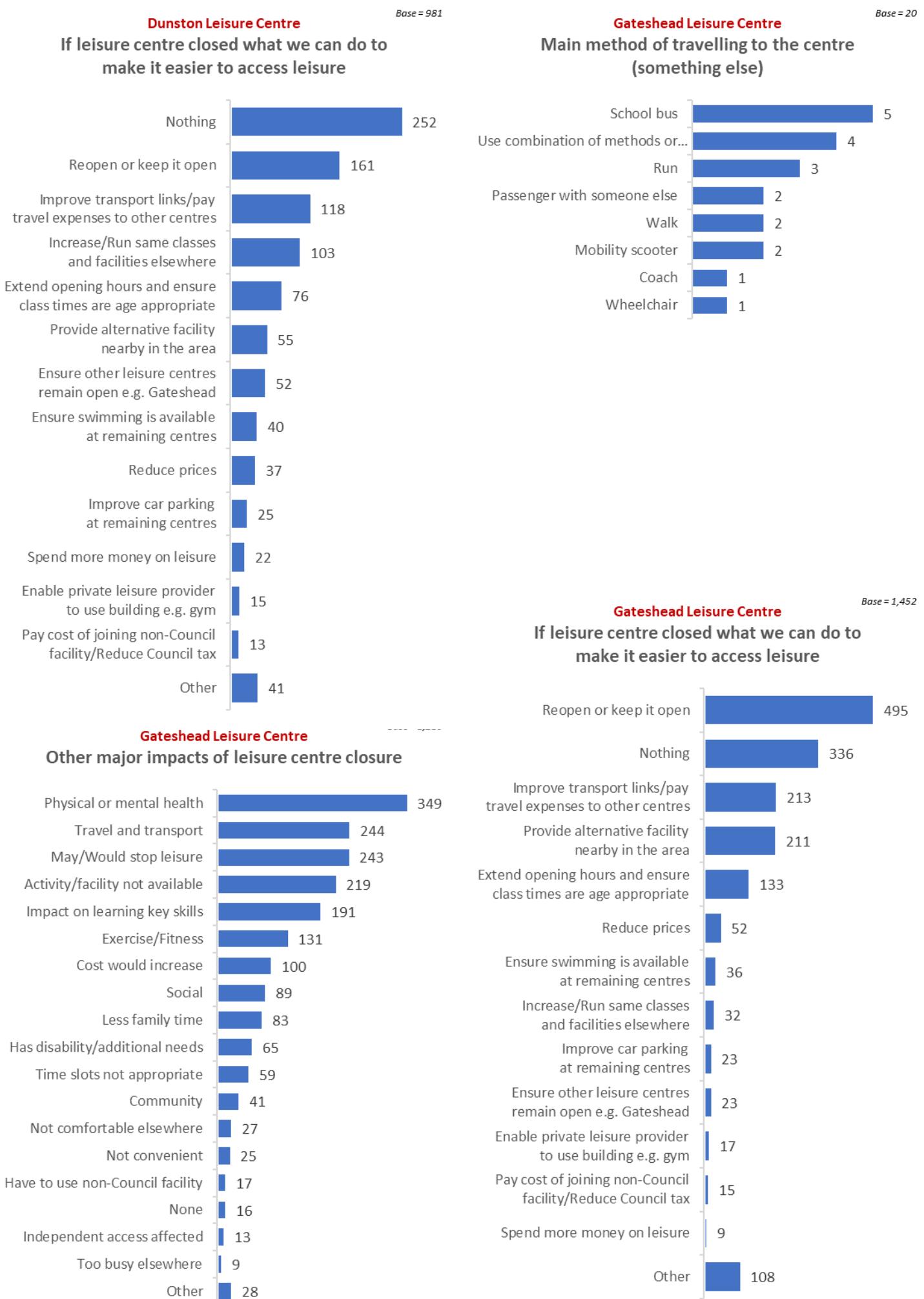


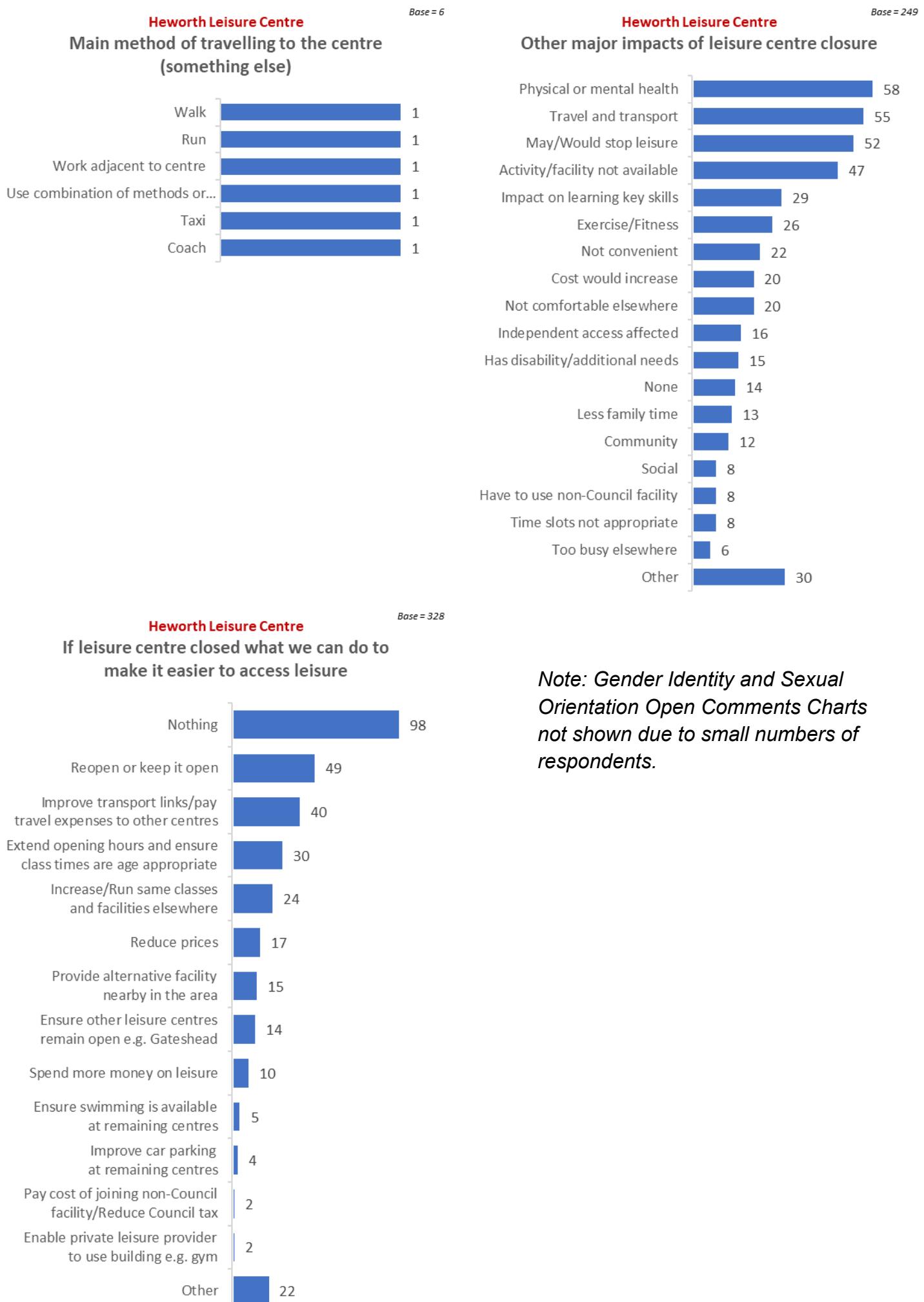
### Birtley Leisure Centre If leisure centre closed what we can do to make it easier to access leisure











## Appendix C – Coding Framework (open text survey questions)

Description of the ‘categories’ used in analysis of responses to Open Questions

### A. What is your interest in this survey?

I have another interest in the consultation

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Use, or child uses                | User of a Council leisure centre, or has a child who uses a Council leisure centre.   |
| Health and wellbeing of residents | Are generally concerned about the health and wellbeing of residents of Gateshead.   |
| Other family members use          | Has another family member (not a child) who uses a Council leisure centre.  |
| Work in health sector             | Works in the health sector e.g. the NHS, mental health services, physiotherapist etc.   |
| Concern for local community       | Are generally concerned about the impact of leisure centres on the local community.   |
| School employee/Governor          | Works at or for a school, or is a school governor.  |
| Previous user                     | Has used a Council leisure centre in the past.  |
| Swimming                          | Has a specific interest in swimming activities.   |
| Gateshead resident                | Lives in Gateshead  |
| Council finances/Management       | Expresses an interest in use of funding, including Council Tax, by the Council.   |
| Council employee                  | Is an employee of Gateshead Council.  |
| Linked to leisure group or club   | Is connected to a leisure group or club such as a swimming club, bowling club etc.  |
| Friends use                       | Has friends who use Council leisure centres.  |
| Councillor or politician          | Is an elected member of Gateshead Council or is representative of another political party.  |
| Experience in leisure industry    | Work or have previously worked in the leisure industry.   |
| Landlord                          | Is a housing landlord.  |
| Use non-Council facility          | Is a user of non-Council leisure facilities.  |
| Other                             | Comments that cannot be classed in any of the above categories. For example, small numbers of respondents who are foster carers, considering moving to Gateshead, former residents of Gateshead, are concerned about other family members who do not necessarily use Council leisure centres, have family members employed by the Council, etc. |
| Unclear/Not applicable            | Unclear/Not applicable [Not shown on charts]  |

C. To what extent do you understand and agree or disagree that the proposal to close some leisure centres will enable us to continue providing a leisure service in Gateshead in the future?  
Why do you answer that why?

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Facility is needed locally | Comments about a particular leisure centre facility and its vital role in the local community. |
|----------------------------|--|

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Health and wellbeing impact     | Comments that refer to health and wellbeing benefits of leisure provision / negative impact closure would have on people's health and wellbeing or mental health. This can include reference to obesity levels increasing or costs to NHS in longer term. |
| Negative comment about Council  | Comments that refer to perceived poor performance / management by GC as a contributing factor to the current situation, including impact of delays to reopening leisure facilities during Covid-19.   |
| Impact on swimming              | Comments that reflect concerns about the impact closure would have on people's ability to swim or the provision of swimming lessons as a key life skill   |
| Important community space       | Comments that refer to the Leisure Centres as being important to the community, as a community space or local amenity.  |
| Travel time/Cost                | Comments that refer to concerns over people's ability to travel to alternative centres, whether for time constraints, due to lack of transport or due to increased costs of travelling further away.  |
| Support/Understand proposal     | Supportive of council's approach or state that having some leisure facilities are better than no service. Understand the financial position and see no alternative.   |
| Negative impact on residents    | Comments that reflect concerns about the negative impact closure would have on individuals and the local area / local community in general  |
| Accessibility important         | Comments that reflect views that leisure provision should be accessible and provide an opportunity for all to participate.  |
| Increase income generation      | Comments that suggest generating additional income for Leisure Services including renting out space, bring-in franchises, parties, increasing corporate membership, increasing prices, improving promotion of services.                                   |
| Bad timing/Pandemic recovery    | Comments that suggest this is not the right time to be talking about closing leisure centres, coming out of Covid pandemic.   |
| Remaining centre capacity       | Concerns expressed over capacity of remaining leisure centres and pools if some facilities close, including comments about current capacity of some activities with limited numbers.  |
| Affordability impact            | Comments that indicate the cost of travel or the cost of using alternative facilities (including private ones) will impact them and / or would reduce desire or ability to access leisure services should the local centre close.                         |
| Investment in facilities needed | Comments that reflect views that GC should invest in leisure facilities, ie to make them more attractive to use, and/or should replace existing facilities if it is to close some   |
| Require external provider       | Comments that reflect/agree with Cabinet paper of partnering with specialist leisure provider either private sector or community partnership  |
| Equality impact                 | Comments relating to impact on people with a protected characteristic such as age or disability and their access to services including requirement for male or female only sessions.  |
| Extend opening hours            | Comments suggesting opening hours should be extended at leisure centres   |
| Temporary closure/reduce hours  | Comments about the possibility of temporary closure or reducing opening hours.  |
| Other                           | Comments that cannot be classed in any of the above categories. Only used if the comment forms all or a substantial part of the response  |

|         |                               |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| Unclear | Unclear [Not shown on charts] |
|---------|-------------------------------|

**E. Do you have any alternative suggestions on how to ensure that we are able to continue to provide a leisure service in Gateshead in the future?**

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Expand/Improve offer                | Comments that suggest that leisure centres should be managed/run better, run like business, longer opening hours, more activities/services should be offered, or the quality of services improved, better booking system, better staffing                 |
| Reprioritise Council expenditure    | Comments that suggest that Council expenditure on other service areas can be switched to Leisure Services   |
| Advertising/Promotion               | Comments that suggest that usage can be increased through better advertising/promotion of service offer   |
| Efficient Council                   | Comments which suggest that the Council should be run better/more efficiently, or Council tax should be raised  |
| Increase prices                     | Putting up prices for services/activities/memberships or some groups  |
| External funding                    | Comments which suggest that external funding should be sought including Government funding (including Levelling up Funding for Leisure Centres instead of the Quays), charitable grant or crowdfunding.   |
| Income generation (non-price)       | Comments that suggest generating additional income for Leisure Services including renting out space, corporate sponsorship, bring-in franchises, parties, increasing corporate membership, charging for parking (separate category for increasing prices) |
| Remain as is/Don't close            | Remain as is or don't close   |
| Redevelop/Refurbish/Invest          | Comments suggesting leisure centres are redeveloped, rebuilt or refurbished, and more money is invested in leisure services   |
| Limited closures                    | Comments which suggest closing one or more sites/services/activities or staggering opening times across sites to focus resources on other sites, reducing hours to keep services open   |
| Reduce prices                       | Reduce prices for services/activities /memberships. Includes reductions for some groups.  |
| Partner specialist leisure provider | Comments that reflect/agree with Cabinet paper of partnering with specialist leisure provider (not specifying private sector or not for profit)   |
| Membership                          | Comments which suggest that there should be changes to membership arrangements (not solely increasing prices)   |
| Private sector                      | Comments which suggest that leisure centres should be sold to or run by the private sector/privatised or in partnership with private sector   |
| Other physical activity             | Increase opportunities for physical activity other than leisure centre e.g. outdoors  |
| Partnership/Run independently       | Comments which suggest that ownership or operation of leisure centres should be independent of the Council but not specified what this should be  |
| Community                           | Comments which suggest that leisure centres should be run by or in partnership with an organisation which benefits the community including community trust, charity or social enterprise, voluntary   |

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
|                        | organisations, clubs   |
| Energy efficiency      | Reduce costs through energy efficiency   |
| Use of volunteers      | Comments suggesting use of volunteers to run leisure services  |
| Partnership/Hub        | Comments which suggest that Leisure Centres should be run in partnership with other statutory services e.g. NHS or neighbouring authority or as multi-service hubs |
| Transport              | Suggestions around improving transport links to leisure centres  |
| Supportive             | Supportive of council's approach   |
| Other                  |  |
| Unclear/Not applicable | Including 'No' and 'see previous answer' [Not shown on charts]   |

**Q4 (all leisure centres). What is your main method of travelling to this centre?**

**Something else**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Car   | Car   |
| Coach   | Coach   |
| Mini bus  | Mini bus  |
| Mobility scooter                                  | Mobility scooter  |
| Passenger with someone else                       | Passenger with someone else   |
| Run   | Run   |
| School bus  | School bus  |
| Taxi  | Taxi  |
| Train   | Train   |
| Use combination of methods or different each time | Respondent uses a combination of travel methods e.g. passenger in someone else's car to a centre and then bus home. Or, respondent changes their method of travel each time e.g. sometimes walk, but sometimes drive a car. |
| Walk  | Walk  |
| Wheelchair  | Wheelchair  |
| Work adjacent to centre                           | Work adjacent to centre   |
| Other   | Other   |
| Unclear/Not applicable                            | Unclear/Not applicable [Not shown on charts]  |

**Q10 (all leisure centres). If there would be any other major impacts on you or your family accessing leisure services or facilities , please briefly outline these below...**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Physical or mental health | Impact on physical or mental health of respondent or their family.   |
| Travel and transport      | Travelling elsewhere to other Council leisure centres or non-Council facilities. This may include comments on uncertainty about how to travel elsewhere e.g. what bus routes are available. It may also include concerns about the impact of travel on the environment, distance to travel elsewhere, and the extra time required. |
| Exercise/Fitness          | Impact on ability to exercise and potential to lose fitness.   |
| May/Would stop leisure    | Leisure centre closure would mean, or potentially mean, the respondent could not attend a leisure facility at all.   |
| Cost would increase       | Cost increases may be due to additional travel expenses, or extra expense of having to use non-Council leisure facilities.   |

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Social                             | Impact on friendships made at the leisure centre or visiting the leisure centre is a source of social interaction for the respondent and others.   |
| Activity/facility not available    | The activity or facilities that respondents or family members use are not available or easily accessible elsewhere e.g. specialist pool facilities, swimming slide, ability to book basketball sessions on a regular basis, etc.   |
| Have to use non-Council facility   | Closure of the Council leisure centre would make it necessary to consider/join a non-Council leisure facility  |
| Less family time                   | Time spent together in family activities would reduce.   |
| Impact on learning key skills      | The ability of leisure centre users to learn key skills such as amongst others, team sports, competitive leagues, and often swimming skills, would be impacted.  |
| Has disability or additional needs | Closure would impact on respondent or family member with disability or additional needs.   |
| None                               | Closure would have no impact.  |
| Not convenient                     | Other centres are not convenient due to proximity or accessibility.  |
| Time slots not appropriate         | Other centres may not be open at a time respondent can access. This may be due to the respondent's work, school pattern or other commitments, or it may be because of reduced hours in other centres. Specific activities may also be limited e.g. public swimming sessions. |
| Not comfortable elsewhere          | Respondent or family members do not feel comfortable elsewhere. This may be due to additional needs such as autism   |
| Community                          | Impact on the local community.   |
| Too busy elsewhere                 | Knock on effect of closure is potential overcrowding of other facilities.  |
| Independent access affected        | Impact on the ability for those with additional needs or for young family members to access a leisure centre independently.  |
| Other                              | Other major impacts, including safety concerns, impact on business, feeling it will be detrimental to the local area, parking difficulties, ASB in remaining buildings, loss of employment, post-natal classes, environmental impacts, etc.                                  |
| Unclear/Not applicable             | Unclear/Not applicable [Not shown on charts]   |

**Q11 (all leisure centres). If this leisure centre closed what, if anything, could we do to help make it easier for you to access leisure services and facilities in future?**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Nothing  | Respondents stated nothing could be done.   |
| Reopen or keep it open                                       | Request not to close or to reopen the centre after it has closed (perhaps following improvements).  |
| Improve transport links/pay travel expenses to other centres | Improve transport links such as bus routes, make public transport cheaper, increase frequency of buses, pay for transportation to alternative centres.                                      |
| Provide alternative facility nearby in the area              | Replace the centre closing with an alternative centre nearby.   |
| Ensure other leisure centres remain open e.g. Gateshead      | Ensure other leisure centres remain open. Gateshead leisure centre mentioned often.   |
| Pay cost of joining non-Council facility/Reduce Council tax  | Pay the additional cost of having to join a non-Council facility, make agreements with non-Council facilities to offset the extra cost, or subsidise this through reduction in Council tax. |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Reduce prices   | Reduce prices, including membership, at other leisure centres.  |
| Improve car parking at remaining centres  | Improve car parking facilities at remaining centres.  |
| Increase/Run same classes and facilities elsewhere  | Ensure that classes and facilities are available in remaining leisure centres. Includes increasing availability to counteract greater demand in less centres.   |
| Ensure swimming is available at remaining centres   | Includes not only pool availability but also activities such as public swimming, lane swimming, swimming lessons, public  |
| Extend opening hours in remaining centres and ensure class times are suitable for children's ages | Extend opening hours, including requests for longer opening on weekdays and weekends both in the morning and the evenings. This includes requests to make sessions available at age appropriate times e.g. swimming lessons for children open for sufficient length of time to get to after school day ends.  |
| Enable private leisure provider to use building e.g. gym  | Enable a private leisure provider to use vacated buildings. Birtley gym was specifically named as it is already run privately.  |
| Spend more money on leisure   | Redirect funding from other services such as traffic management, transport, councillors, etc. into leisure services.  |
| Other   | Other suggestions to make accessing leisure easier including changing class size restrictions, investing in staff, making more badminton, squash and netball courts available, improving the contact/booking system, changing individual centre memberships to all centre memberships, returning to pre-covid levels of service, improving disabled access at leisure centre e.g. steps into pools, providing more outdoor activities in the local area, consideration of part-time opening, better managing overcrowding, etc. |
| Unclear/Not applicable  | Unclear/Not applicable [Not shown on charts]  |

**I. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?**

**Please tell us your gender identity**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Questioning need to capture gender | Respondent questions the need to capture gender identity. |
| Non-binary                         | Non-binary  |
| Female                             | Female  |

**K. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?**

**Please tell us your sexual orientation**

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Pansexual                          | Pansexual  |
| Questioning need to capture gender | Respondent questions the need to capture gender identity |
| Heteroflexible                     | Heteroflexible   |
| Queer                              | Queer  |
| Male                               | Male   |
| Asexual                            | Asexual  |
| Unclear                            | Unclear [Not shown on charts]                            |