

# Public Document Pack



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## **GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (REVIEWS)**

**(REVIEW OF SKATEBOARDING BY-LAW)**

### **TO FOLLOW**

**DATE: THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2009**  
**TIME: 10.00 AM**  
**PLACE: COUNCIL HOUSE, PLYMOUTH (NEXT TO THE CIVIC  
CENTRE)**

**Committee Members–**  
Councillor Coker, Chair  
Councillors Ball and Martin Leaves

**TO FOLLOW – Please find attached additional information for your  
consideration under agenda item number 5.4.**

**BARRY KEEL**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

## **GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (REVIEWS)**

### **5.4. Breakdown of Questionnaire Results**

Members of the Task and Finish Group will be provided with a breakdown of the skateboarding questionnaire results.



## Skateboarding Review Public Consultation Consultation Survey Results

Client: Assistant Director for Development & Regeneration (Transport & Highways)  
Release: Final  
Version: 0.5  
Date: 27/11/2009  
Author: Jamie Yabsley / Tony Davis

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## Document Control

### Revision History

Release	Version	Date	Reason for Change
DRAFT# A	0.1	24/11/09	Initial draft
DRAFT# A	0.2	25/11/09	Additional work to document
DRAFT# A	0.3, 0.4,0.5	26/11/09	Additional work to document by Tony Davis / Kim Hayden

### Distribution

This document has been approved by the following.

Release	Name	Post
Version 0.5	Gill Peele	Business Manager
	Tony Davis	QA & Support Manager
	Jamie Yabsley	Senior Project Officer

# 1. Background

## 1.1 Introduction

The Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel met on Wednesday 28 October 2009 to review Plymouth's Skateboarding By-Law. One of the actions to come from this meeting was to carry out a small informal Public Consultation to gauge public opinion with regard to Skateboarders using public spaces in the City Centre for recreational skateboarding. The results of the consultation are to be available for the next meeting of the Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel on Thursday 3 December 2009.

The consultation is to be carried out by questionnaire in the city centre; with a target of one hundred samples across as diverse a cross section of the public as can be achieved. The questionnaire is not designed for the skateboarders; they will be the subject of a separate consultation carried out by the Youth Parliament.

The Public Consultation was carried out successfully during weeks 33 and 34 by Officers from the Plymouth City Council Development and Regeneration Department Business Support Team. This document shows the basic data and the analysis of the results obtained.

# 2. Results

## 2.1 Overview

This consultation exercise was carried out across two days at the beginning of November. The exercise was aimed at capturing the thoughts of the residents of Plymouth on skateboarding within the City Centre.

The survey was designed to only keep the customer for 30 seconds with the option for the customer to spend more time talking candidly if they wished to do so.

For this survey, the personal details were split as such.

**Gender:** Male or Female

**Age:** Over or under 30 – This was estimated by the surveyor.

**Assisted Walking:** Walking or not walking with aid

The questions for this survey were as follows.

We asked the customer if they had an opinion on skateboarding in the City Centre.

This question gave us a yes or no answer, a no meant the end of the survey and a yes was followed with the remainder of the survey as follows.

- Are you for or against skateboarding in the City Centre?
- Do you think there should be an outright ban on skateboarding in the City Centre?
- Do you think Plymouth City Council should provide an alternative site for skateboarders?
- If necessary do you think Plymouth City Council should build an alternative site for skateboarders?

At the end of the Yes or No responses the customer was asked if they had any specific suggestions or comments to make regarding skateboarding in the City Centre. These responses are shown later in this document.

Given the increasing number of charities and other companies trying to stop passers by it was a difficult task to get people to stop and speak for the fear of us trying to get money from them or to sell them something. This said, the majority of customers over 30 were willing to stop to give their thoughts and the under 30s were not so willing.

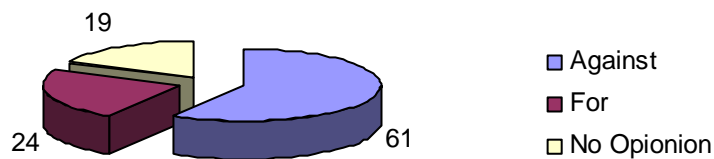
This simply meant asking and stopping more under 30s until we were happy we had a balance view.

## 2.2 The Results

The number of customers surveyed for this consultation exercise was 104.

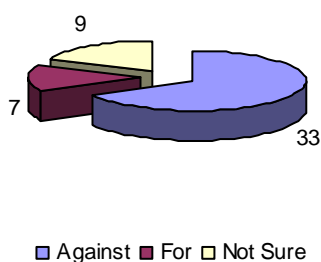
- 104 customers surveyed 49 were over 30, 55 were under 30, 51 were male and 53 were female and 11 relied on assisted walking.
- 61 were against skateboarding in the City Centre, with 24 for it, and 19 with no opinion.

Are you For or Against Skateboarding In the City Centre?

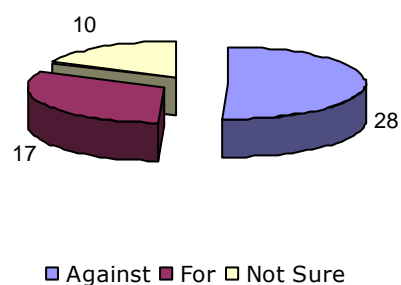


- There was no significant gender related difference.
- There was a small age related difference with more under 30's being for skateboarding than over 30's. However in both cases the majority were still against.

Over 30s For or Against Skateboarding in the City Centre



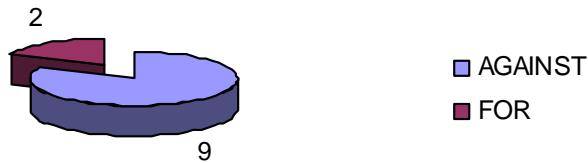
Under 30s For or Against Skateboarding in the City Centre



- Of the 11 customers who rely on assisted walking a large majority were against skateboarding.

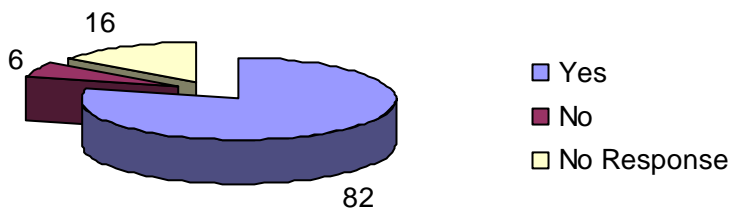
**Are you For or against Skateboarding In the City Centre?**

Response from the Assisted Walking Group Surveyed



Out of the 93 people who had a view about skateboarding in the city centre, 51 would be seeking an outright ban but an overwhelming 82 out of the 93 wanted an alternative site provided by Plymouth City Council. The chart below represents the number of responses.

**Do you think the Council should provide an alternative site?**



There is a very even split in the demographics of those that would like an outright ban of skating within the City Centre.

**2.3 Open Feedback**

Some of the open suggestions by customers, for alternative sites and suggestions in general were as follows

- Already have skate parks provided – not used
- Anywhere away from City Centre
- As long as not on or near war memorials
- As long as they don't bother individual
- Ban specific areas of City Centre only
- Central Location / On Bus Route
- Central Park
- West Hoe or The Hoe



- City Centre built for Skateboarders with so much concrete
- Must be close to City Centre
- Concerned about walking around town / with young children
- Concrete parks needed, metal parks are rubbish in the wet
- Don't want somewhere built that will cost too much
- Damage already done / alternative sight would not be used
- Damage to decorations, intimidation due to large groups
- George Park & Ride
- Use old Woolworths building
- Make it accessible and appealing for kids
- Must have somewhere to go
- Needs to be proper skate park
- No ban required as skateboarders have nowhere else to go
- No real skateboarding done, just messing about
- Not personally concerned / concerned for elderly
- Outside Civic Centre - nice open space
- Provide more parks in city
- Signs already ignored
- The flyover by Sainsburys

These suggestions should be taken into account if Plymouth City Council decides to act on the issue of skateboarding.

### **2.4 Summary**

The results of this survey show a clear majority, 72% of those who expressed an opinion, in favour of banning skateboarding from public areas in the City Centre. There was an equally clear majority 74% of those who wanted a ban, were also in favour of providing an alternative site for the skateboarders, before introducing a ban.

The customers surveyed were divided into groupings based on age, gender and whether they required assistance walking (walking sticks, wheelchairs etc.). We achieved a very even split between age and gender and surveyed a significant number who required assisted walking. There was no statistically significant difference in the results from these groupings.

There is as always the usual health warning with public consultations. A random sample of 104 members of the public cannot be considered definitive. However in this case we have such a clear outcome that we can use it as a good indicator.

**Appendix A**  
**3.1 Copy of Questionnaire**

**Skateboarding Review**



Excuse Me:- The Council is conducting a review of skateboarding in the City Centre.

Do you have a view about skateboarding in the City Centre

OK – What are your thoughts.

Yes	No
-----	----

Thank you for your time.

Prompt:- Are you for or against.	For
	Against

Do you think there should be an outright ban in the City Centre.

Yes	No
-----	----

Do you think the Council should provide an alternative sight.

Yes	No
-----	----

Do you have any alternative suggestions.

--

If necessary do you think the Council should build an alternative site.

Yes	No
-----	----

Thank you for your time..

Age

<30	>30
-----	-----

Gender

M	F
---	---

Assisted Walking

Yes	No
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## Appendix A 3.2 –Table of Survey Results

Responses >	Yes / Against						Total	No / For						Total	Not Sure						Totals	
	Gender		Age		Mobility			Gender		Age		Mobility			Gender		Age		Mobility			
	Male	Female	Over 30	Under 30	Assisted Walking	Non Assisted Walking		Male	Female	Over 30	Under 30	Assisted Walking	Non Assisted Walking		Male	Female	Over 30	Under 30	Assisted Walking	Non Assisted Walking		
<b>Survey Answers</b>																						
Do you have a view about skateboarding in the City Centre?	44	49	46	47	11	82	93	7	4	3	8	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104
Are you For or against Skateboarding In the City Centre?	29	32	33	28	9	52	61	10	14	7	17	2	22	24	12	7	9	10	0	19	19	104
Do you think there should be an outright ban in the City Centre?	22	29	30	21	7	44	51	22	20	16	26	4	38	42	7	4	3	8	0	11	11	104
Do you think the Council should provide an alternative sight?	41	41	42	40	10	72	82	2	4	3	3	0	6	6	8	8	4	12	1	15	16	104
If necessary do you think the Council should build an alternative site?	35	39	36	38	8	66	74	4	9	9	4	1	12	13	8	9	4	13	2	15	17	104
Do you have any alternative suggestions?																						

### Survey Statistics

Number of Persons Surveyed	104
Male	51
Female	53
Under 30	55
Over 30	49
Assisted Walking	11
Non Assisted Walking	93

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