

LIMERICK, LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR MAYOR!



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Summary results from the Limerick Public Consultation on Directly Elected Mayor

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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- develop awareness around regarding the new style of Mayor,
- to increase interest in the new Mayor as an opportunity for positive change,
- to promote ownership of the initiative by encouraging participation,
- to support a collective Limerick identity and
- to identify Limerick as an innovator.

The intention was:

- to provide an opportunity for genuine exploration and dialogue
- to create a county-wide conversation about what a DEM might mean for Limerick.
- to help set the context and framework for discussions concerning the nature and scope of the DEM's role.

the process of consultation just as important as the outcome.

- 21 hosted community conversations (8 LYS, 8 PPN, 5 CWELL)
- 927 survey responses + submission from 136 Liveable Limerick + 1 Limerick Environmental Trust

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- Limerick people want more accountability
- Limerick people want a change from the current system of governance
- Limerick people are potentially engaged citizens but many feel left out.
- General scepticism and low level of regard for the council and local politicians.
- Whatever the new Mayor does, local government needs to be better able to communicate with local communities to address the deficit in confidence regarding local politicians and local government
- Worth noting that only 29% of participants had any prior experience of community consultation and that 64% said that they would like to be consulted in the future.

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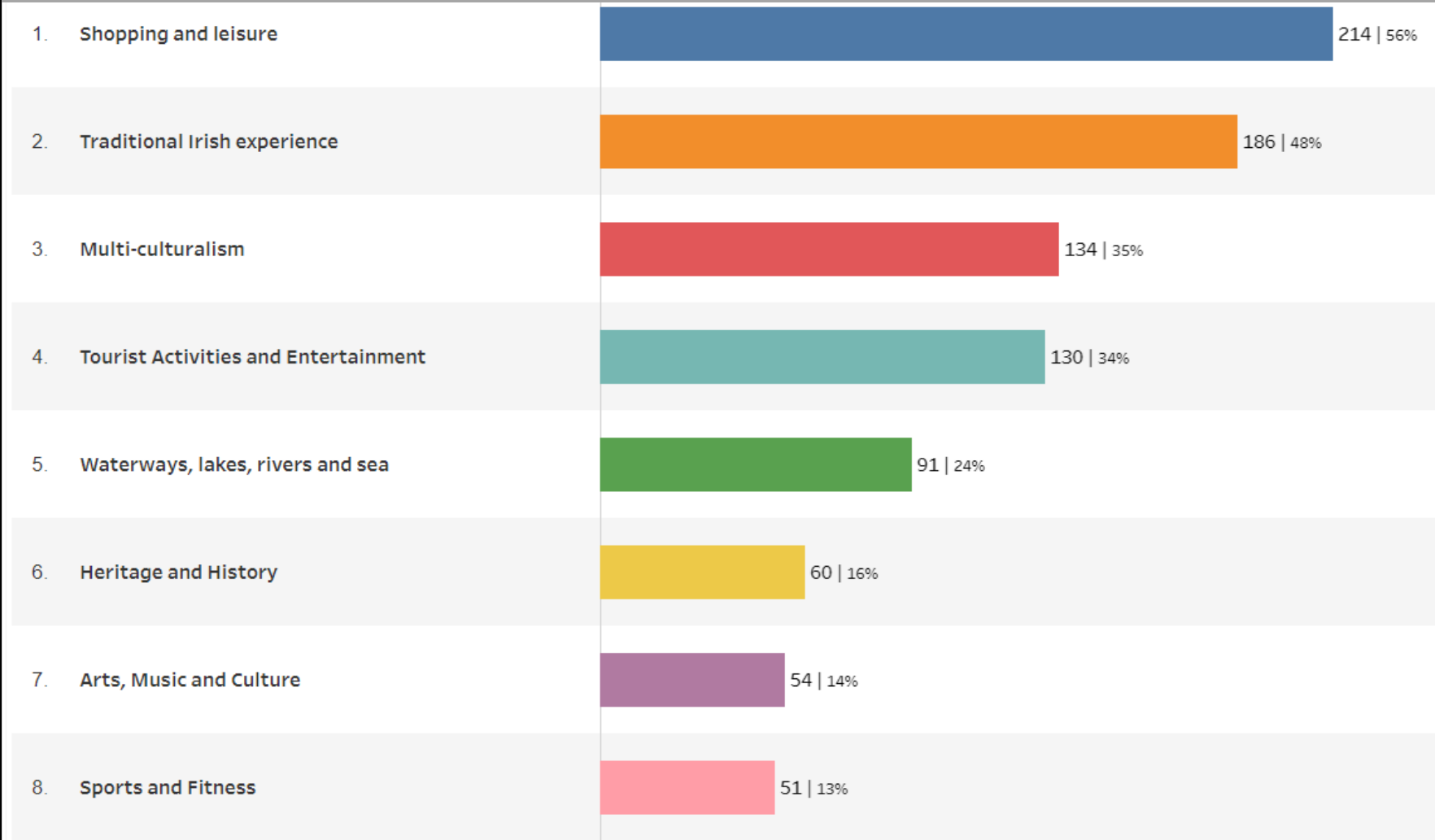
WHAT KIND OF A PERSON DO YOU THINK IS BEST ABLE TO DO THIS JOB AND WHAT SKILLS / EXPERIENCE WOULD YOUR IDEAL MAYOR HAVE?

- Democratic reform and accountability was given as the single biggest rationale for creating a DEM
- experience in ‘infrastructure and planning’ was identified as the key desired experience

This, together with answers to ‘Limerick’s biggest challenges’ points to a consensus of interest in ***the system of local government*** rather than with any one area of interest over another.

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WHAT'S BEST ABOUT LIMERICK?



CHAMPIONING LIMERICK – KEY TAKEAWAYS...

- there is agreement between Limerick people's perception of Limerick's challenges and those outlined in the Limerick 2030 plan.
- there is no evident consensus between Limerick leaders and Limerick people about what is best about Limerick.
 - Building a positive 'place proposition', that is, a confident self-awareness of what is positive about Limerick is regarded as a key factor in Limerick's rejuvenation.
 - The current place proposition strategy needs more support to create the necessary buy-in from Limerick people.

LIMERICK CHALLENGES – KEY TAKEAWAYS...

- Limerick people identify the same challenges as Limerick leaders.
- Most of the challenges identified are already addressed in *Limerick 2030*
- The evident consensus between local government and Limerick people regarding the main challenges for the city is not being harnessed in any positive way to address identified challenges.
- A strong consensus about the challenges faced by Limerick needs to be matched by an equally strong counter-narrative about what is best about Limerick.

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Final thoughts..

- Many Limerick people are sceptical and cynical of local government and local politicians.
- Limerick people think that local government can be better.
- A hard message to hear, but it is an important one.
- Limerick people have not lost faith in democratic systems & processes. For the most part, they view the establishment of a Directly Elected Mayor as an opportunity to improve local government and deliver local services.
- Limerick's DEM is an opportunity to galvanise interest and support for local government, harnessing public interest into strategies for rejuvenation.
- A positive, proactive response to public consultation, signalling a renewed and engaged local government could be the missing proposition!

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Over to you...

