

**Fairness Commission Survey 2016**

**Background**

In 2011 Newcastle City Council established the Newcastle Fairness Commission to understand how the concept of fairness could be given practical effect in Newcastle. On 28th June 2016 the Newcastle Fairness Commission met again to consider whether Newcastle is a fairer city and if there is more to be done by organisations across the city to make Newcastle a fairer place for its citizens.

The aim of the Let’s Talk Newcastle survey was to allow people who weren’t able to attend the event on 28th June to give their views. A summary of the results was displayed on a screen at the event so those who attended could read and respond during the discussion.

There will be a report to Newcastle City Council later this year, which will include recommendations about what should happen next. These recommendations will be informed by the Fairness Commission event and the results of the survey.

**Results of the survey**

* Of the 52 people who viewed the survey, 40 people made comments.
* Responses covered a wide range of subjects including road schemes, public transport, housing, the environment, older people, students and the closure of local services.
* A number of respondents felt that, to some extent, Newcastle is a fair city. Amongst those who did not agree, there were a number of themes including:
* Different areas of the city are treated differently
* People do not always have an effective voice in decision-making
* Decision-making is not always transparent
* Decisions are not always informed by evidence
* In response to the question ‘What more could organisations in Newcastle do to make this a city where people feel that fair decisions are being made?’ responses included:
* “…strive to get a fair system of voting introduced.”
* “Provide a lot more information before the views of the people are sought, in forms and places that are readily accessible to all members of the community.”
* “Be open to public participation which allows questions to be asked of officers and experts...”
* “…generate creative solutions to management of community groups…”
* “I feel that the balance is largely right.”