

Street Trading Policy Consultation 2022-23

STREET TRADING POLICY 2022-23 CONSULTATION REPORT

1. Introduction

A public engagement exercise was undertaken in December 2022-January 2023 following publication of a draft proposed Street Trading Policy 2023 which had been , approved for consultation purposes by the City Council’s General Purposes Licensing Committee (GPLC). The key components of the exercise were:

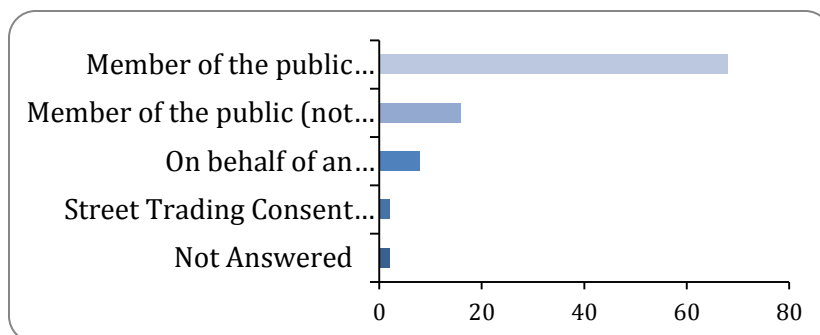
- an online questionnaire focusing on the proposed changes entitled “*Your views on the proposed Street Trading Policy 2023*”
<https://consultation.oxford.gov.uk/regulatory-services-and-community-services/street-trading-policy-review-2022-23>
- direct mailing to all current street trading consent holders of printed versions of the online documents
- direct emailing to key internal and external stakeholder teams asking them to respond via the online consultation portal.

The activity ran from 12/12/2022 to 13/01/2023.

2. Participation

Online Survey

There were 96 online responses to the survey. 91 of these gave their name and 87 gave email contact details (for follow-up purposes only). 94 respondents said in which given capacity they were responding, as follows:



Option	Total	Percent
Member of the public (Oxford resident)	68	70.83%
Member of the public (not Oxford resident)	16	16.67%
On behalf of an organisation/company/community group	8	8.33%
Street Trading Consent Holder	2	2.08%
Other	0	0.00%

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Not Answered	2	2.08%
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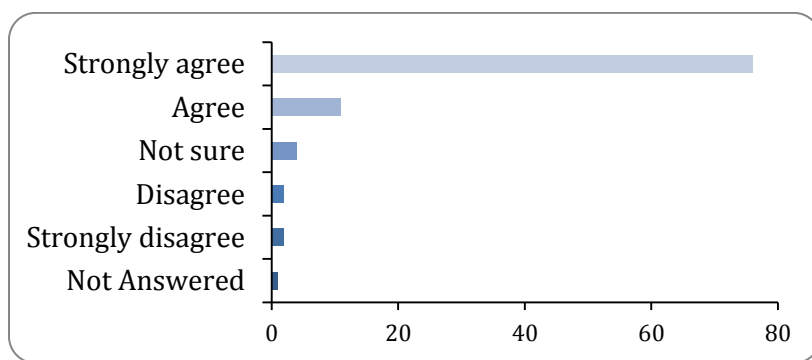
Those persons responding on behalf of an organisation/company/community group, described or gave the name of 8 groups

Of the 96 respondents, when asked if we could contact them to advise on the outcome of the consultation 74 (77%) said yes and 22 (23%) replied no.

3. Responses to the Consultation Questions

3.1. Single Use Plastic in Street Trading

There were 95 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	76	79.17%
Agree	11	11.46%
Not sure	4	4.17%
Disagree	2	2.08%
Strongly disagree	2	2.08%
Not Answered	1	1.04%

Other comments

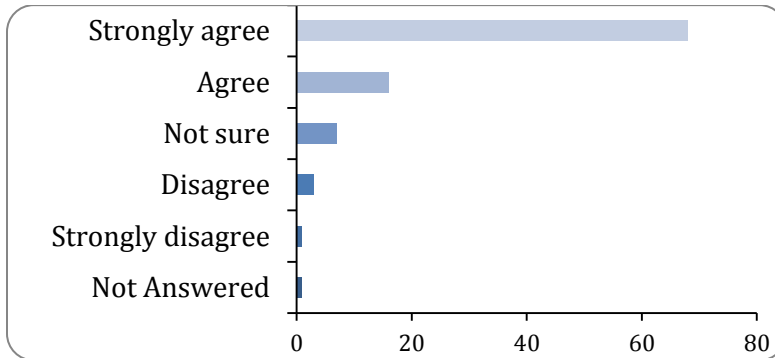
There were 32 responses to this part of the question, mostly in support as indicated by the response data. Individual comments requiring a response are being answered by the Business Regulation Team and colleagues

Officer comment: Central government is introducing a ban on the sale of single use plastics from October 2023. Draft Regulations have been published and guidance is under development. The emerging legislation and guidance is likely to be relevant to this Question.

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3.2. Plastic and helium balloons and sky lanterns

There were 95 responses to this part of the question.



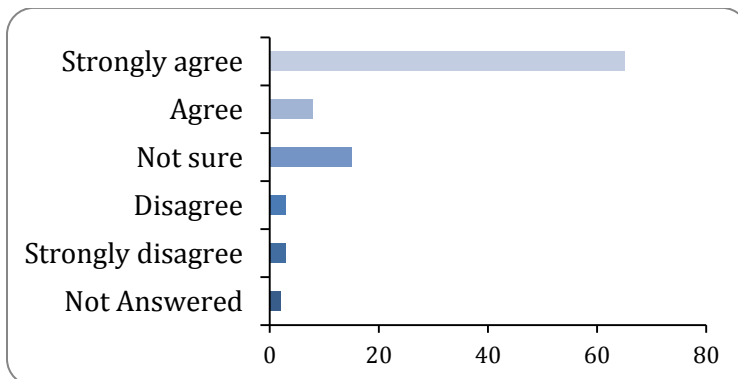
Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	68	70.83%
Agree	16	16.67%
Not sure	7	7.29%
Disagree	3	3.12%
Strongly disagree	1	1.04%
Not Answered	1	1.04%

Other comments

There were 26 responses to this part of the question, mostly in support as indicated by the response data. Individual comments requiring a response are being answered by the Business Regulation Team and colleagues.

3.3. E-cigarette sales

There were 94 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	65	67.71%
Agree	8	8.33%

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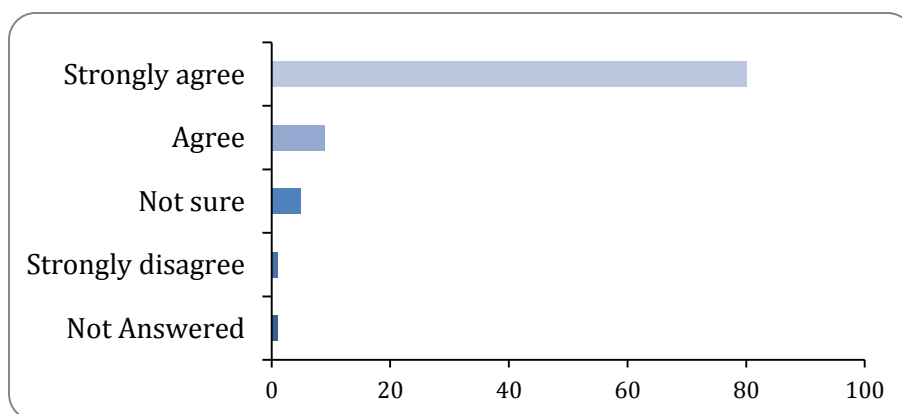
Not sure	15	15.62%
Disagree	3	3.12%
Strongly disagree	3	3.12%
Not Answered	2	2.08%

Other comments

There were 19 responses to this part of the question, mostly in support as indicated by the response data. Individual comments requiring a response are being answered by the Business Regulation Team and colleagues.

3.4. Litter bin for customer use

There were 95 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	80	83.33%
Agree	9	9.38%
Not sure	5	5.21%
Disagree	0	0.00%
Strongly disagree	1	1.04%
Not Answered	1	1.04%

Other comments

There were 31 responses to this part of the question, mostly in support as indicated by the response data. Individual comments requiring a response are being answered by the Business Regulation Team and colleagues

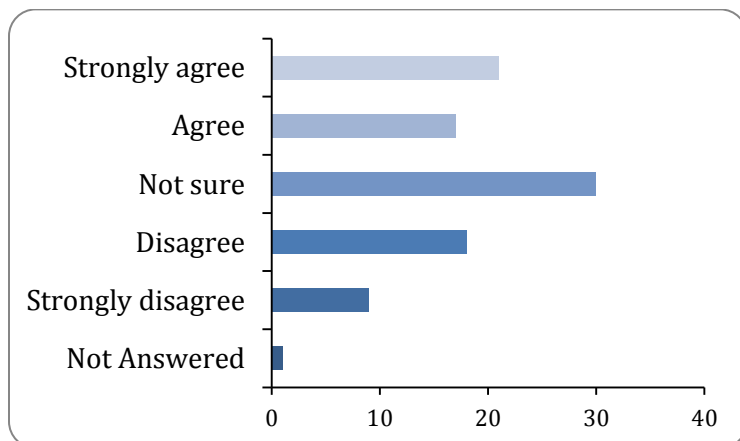
Officer Comment several respondents asked about the implementation of this requirement given that some street trading locations are better provided with public litter bins than others. Whilst officers consider that the provision of a trader- located bin is

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likely to help reduce street litter, the Committee may wish to consider that the requirement applies when there is no existing public litter bin within 20 metres

3.5. Street trading at special events

There were 95 responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	21	21.88%
Agree	17	17.71%
Not sure	30	31.25%
Disagree	18	18.75%
Strongly disagree	9	9.38%
Not Answered	1	1.04%

Other comments

There were 33 responses to this part of the question. The data suggests less strong support for this amendment, with several respondents advised against allowing any exemption from environmental requirements and restrictions. For example:

“Free of charges yes. But not allowed to operate in a way forbidden for other traders.”

“Charities and community events are not exempt. They should be responsible.”

Officer comment verbatim comments indicate that respondents may have misunderstood the scope of exemption for community and charity events. The proposed amendment relates solely to whether fees are charges apply and does not exempt any Street Trading activity from the provisions of the Street Trading Policy

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3.6. Any other comments about the Street trading Policy

There were 32 responses to this part of the question, covering a wide range of topics. A repeated concern was that the single use plastic measure would take some time to comply with given that most traders will have stock to use up and may need to find new suppliers.

It's important that these changes are done in a way to minimise the "hit" small, independent businesses have to take. Making sure they have enough time, information and support to adapt