
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire

Supporting document 07.
Results of the on-street survey
(carried out by The Research Box)

GFRS governance review



Background

In order to widen the consultation concerning the PCC's proposals to assume responsibility for GFRS beyond the online survey and stakeholder engagement, the OPCC commissioned [The Research Box](#) to carry out on-street rapid public consultation in each of the six districts across the county.

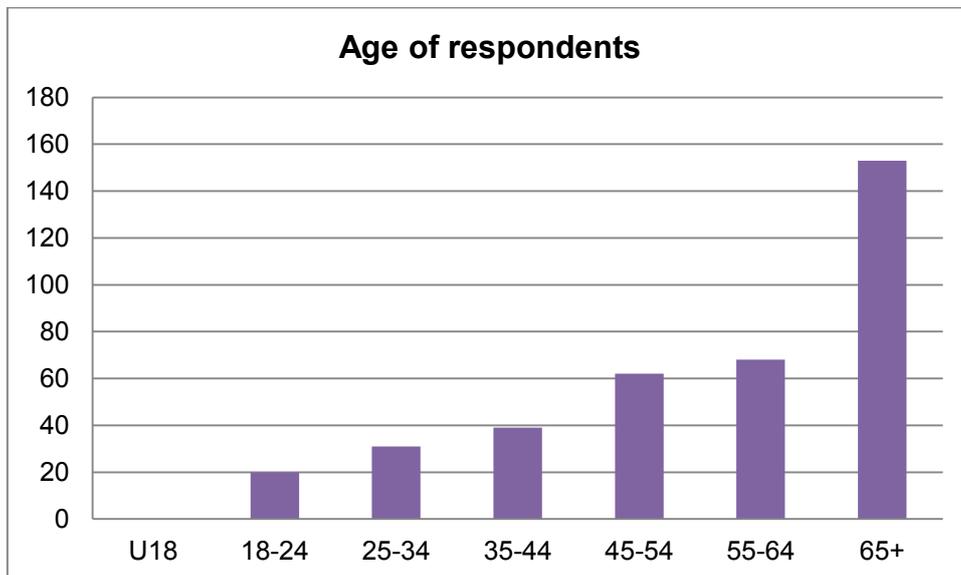
The survey questions differed to the online survey as it was assumed that interviewees would not necessarily be aware of the proposal. This is in contrast to those choosing to take the online survey who would have accessed the consultation via the OPCC website or social media which contained background information and the business case. As such, many of the on-street questions were designed to bring the respondent to a point where they could appraise the idea of PCC governance of GFRS.

The consultation took place between 13th and 21st December in the following principle towns of the county:

- Cheltenham
- Cirencester (Cotswolds)
- Coleford (Forest of Dean)
- Gloucester
- Tewkesbury
- Stroud

In total 374 face to face interviews were carried out with local residents. 161 people identified as male and 213 as female with one individual stating that they would prefer not to say.

The ages of respondents are shown in the graph below and show people aged over 65 were more likely to have participated in the on-street survey. Two people preferred not to state their age and one individual did not answer this question.



The breakdown of on-street respondents' ages contrasts with those choosing to take the online survey. Three quarters (76%) of people taking part in the on-street survey were aged 45 or over with 41% aged 65 or over. (By contrast 49% of online respondents were aged over 45 and 19% were aged 65+).

Age band	On-street survey	Online survey
U18	0%	0%
18-24	5%	3%
25-34	8%	12%
35-44	11%	17%

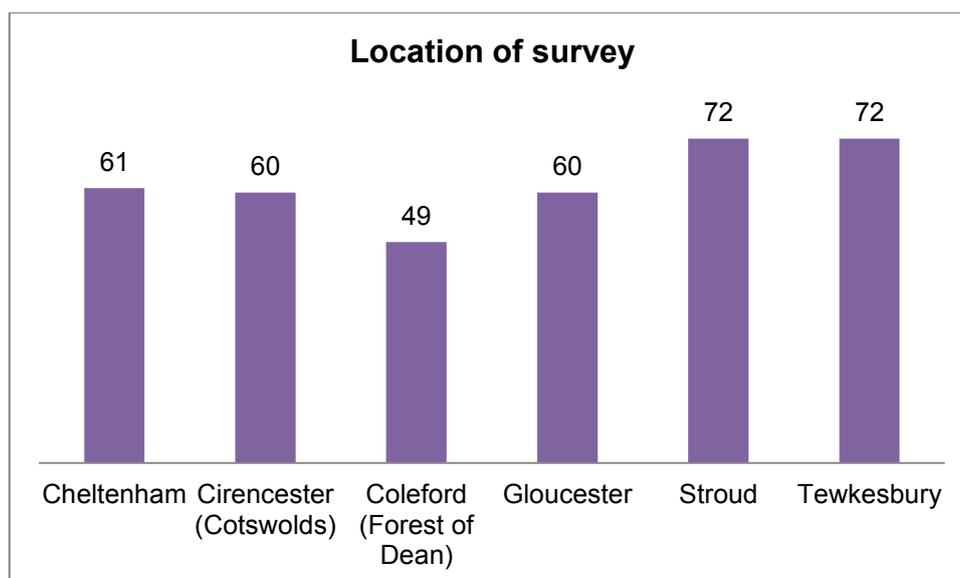
Age band	On-street survey	Online survey
45-54	17%	22%
55-64	18%	23%
65+	41%	19%
Prefer not to say	0%	4%

The on-street respondents described their ethnicity as follows:

- White British – 95% (357)
- White Other – 2% (7)
- Asian / Asian British – 0% (1)
- Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups – 0% (0)
- Other – 0% (0)
- Black / African / Caribbean / Black British – 1% (2)
- Prefer not to say – 2% (4)

Although the respondents to the online survey also predominantly described themselves as white British (80%), there was a greater proportion of respondents that described their ethnicity as other than white British (20% online compared to 5% with the on-street survey).

Whereas the location of residents was based on where respondents lived in the online survey, the location for the on-street survey is based on where the consultation was carried out. This meant that the distribution across the county was more evenly spread.

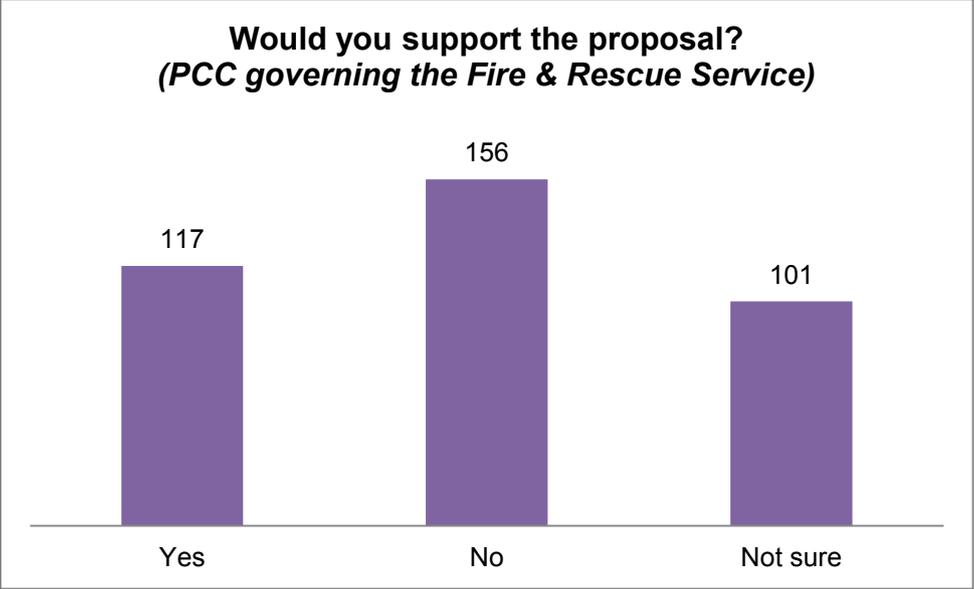


The results of the survey are discussed below.

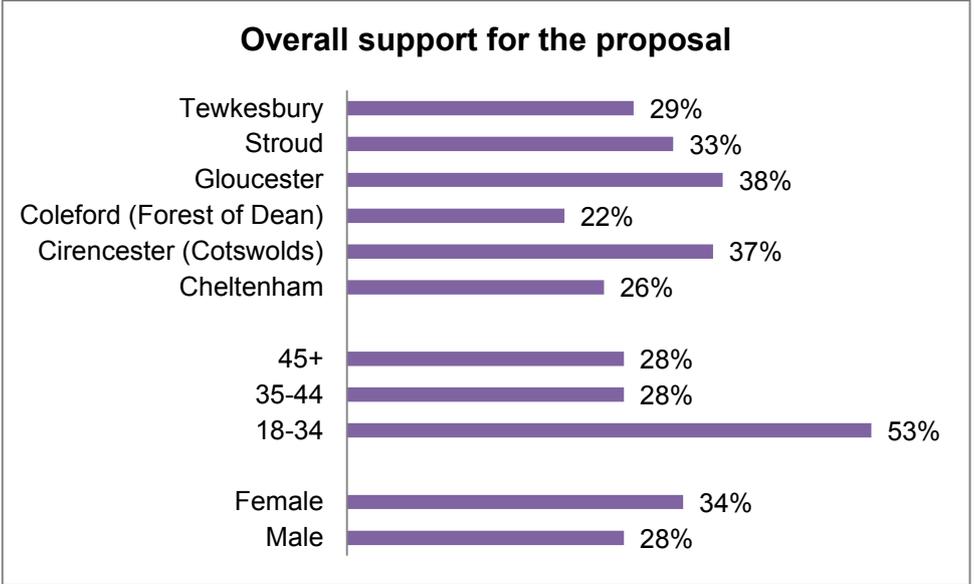
Should the PCC be governing the Fire and Rescue Service?

After a number of questions about knowledge of current governance models for the Fire and Rescue Service and the Constabulary in Gloucestershire, respondents were asked whether they would support the proposal for a change in GFRS governance.

On balance, more residents said that they would not support the proposal (42%) than those that said they would (31%). Unlike the online survey, the on-street survey included an option of being 'not sure' – 27% of residents chose this option.

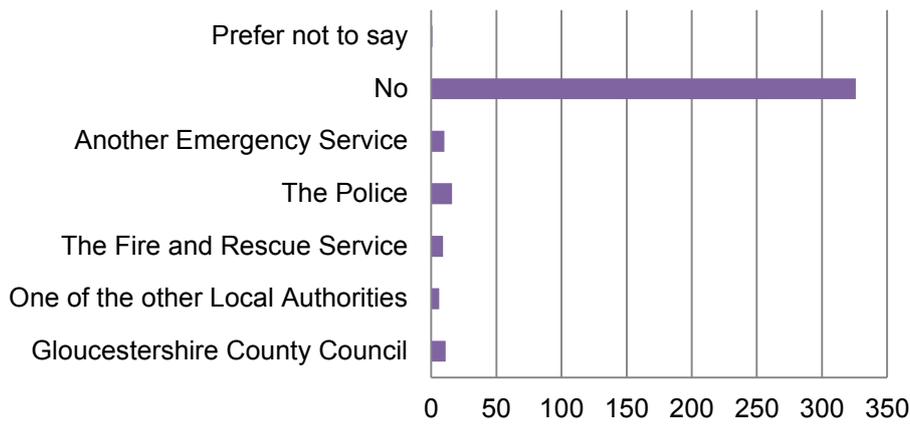


Analysis shows that of those interviewed females and those aged under 35 were more likely to support the proposal. Strongest support for the proposal was evident in Cirencester and Gloucester and weakest in the Forest of Dean and Cheltenham.



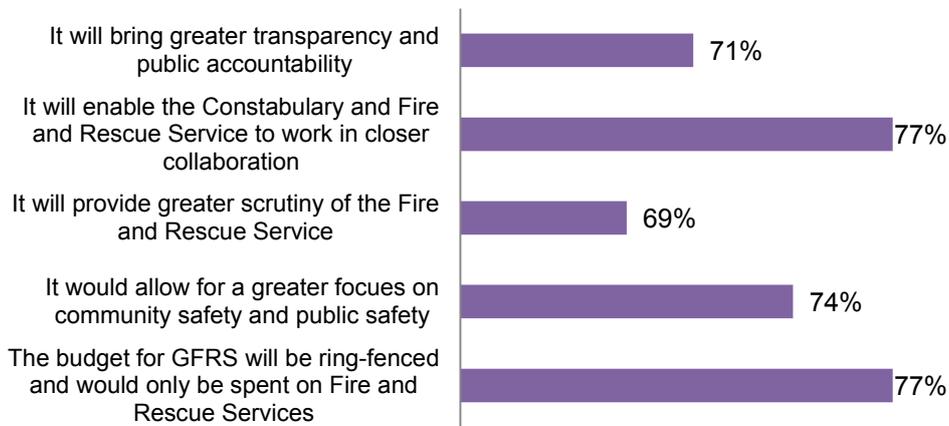
Individuals were asked whether they or a family member worked for the local emergency services or one of the local authorities. The results show that the majority of people (326 / 87%) were responding as individual members of the community, 4% as employees (or their family were employees) of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service or Gloucestershire Constabulary, and 3% as employees (or family were employees) of Gloucestershire County Council (online survey: 20% GFRS / GC employees, 2% GCC employees and 73% individual members of the community).

Respondent (or family member) works for one of the following Gloucestershire organisations



Residents were given a list of potential benefits identified by the OPCS that could be achieved with a change of governance. They were asked to consider the importance of these benefits. Budget ring-fencing was seen as slightly more important than the other potential benefits and scrutiny of GFRS was seen as the least important aspect. The graph below indicates the proportion of respondents indicating the benefits were either very or quite important to them:

Importance of benefits suggested by proposal (very or quite)



Respondents were asked an open ended question about whether they could see any other potential benefits to the proposal. Responses tended to centre around better communication, better incident responses and sharing of resources:



- “Better communication between the two organizations, sharing responsibilities and pooling resources”
- “It would save costs in administration”

