



**in Lancashire**

# **Life in Lancashire Wave 12**

Fieldwork 29 September – 8 November

**Prepared by** Steven Knuckey  
Data Analyst  
Lancashire County Council  
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# 1 Executive Summary

This wave of the Life in Lancashire panel is about community cohesion and perceptions of Lancashire's position in Europe. All 2,724 members of the panel were mailed one mailing and a reminder was sent to the panel members who did not respond to the initial mailing. In total 2,006 replies were received at a response of 74%.

## 1.1 Community Cohesion

- Most panel members say that nearly everyone in their neighbourhood is of the same ethnic origin (62%).
- Half of the panel agree that people from different backgrounds get on well in their local area. However, a third of respondents either say they don't know, there are too few people in their local area or everyone in the area has the same background.
- Seven in ten of the panel think that people from different backgrounds can live harmoniously (72%). There is a marked difference in agreement by ethnicity, with 94% of panel members from an ethnic minority agreeing with the statement.
- Only one in ten of the panel say there has been any change in race relations in the last 12 months. The same proportions of BME panel members say things have got better as got worse (13%).
- Panel members say they most often meet and talk to people from different backgrounds at the shops (47%) and work (45%).
- More panel members trust people in their neighbourhood (86% trust all / some) than know them (71% know many / all). Only 28% say they know all the people in their neighbourhood, which is markedly lower than for the same question on the Life in Lancashire 2003 survey, where 42% said they knew everyone in their area.
- One in ten of the panel did not agree that people look out for one another in their local area. This was significantly higher for the under 25s (23%) and social group DE (18%).

While half of the panel agree that their local area is one where people from different backgrounds get on well together, the districts of Burnley (39%), Hyndburn (29%) and Pendle (37%) all disagree more than average. These compare with Preston, which also has a relatively high proportion of ethnic minorities, yet has one of the highest agreements of any district, with 53% saying that people from different backgrounds get on well. It may be useful to

look into the reasons why Preston is better at community cohesion than the East Lancashire districts.

The results illustrated in this report (along with the results from Life in Lancashire 2003) will provide a baseline measure for tracking changes in the relations between Lancashire's communities.

## 1.2 Feeling you belong

- Over four in five of the panel agree they feel they belong their local area.
- Five in six panel members feel they belong to Lancashire. The only difference by district is that Lancaster is significantly low with only 37% agreeing strongly.
- The highest proportion of panel members agrees that they belong to England (87%). This is highest amongst the over 60s (70% strongly agree). Britain also scores highly (80% agree).
- Europe is the area respondents feel least allied to. Nearly as many disagree (22%) they belong as agree (29%). People from social group DE are most likely to disagree (40%).

A large proportion of people say they do not know whether Lancashire County Council speaks up for Lancashire, especially nationally and in Europe. It may be necessary to communicate better the work the Council does nationally and in Europe.

### 1.3 Lancashire in Europe

- Most of the panel say they “know a little” about the European Union (62%).
- More think the EU is a good thing than a bad thing. This increases to half thinking it is a good thing and two in five saying it is a bad thing, for those who say they know a lot about it.
- Four of the top five images panel members have of the EU are negative, (not enough control at frontiers, bureaucracy, loss of identity, waste of money). The top answer was freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU.
- There are about as many people have a negative image of the EU as a positive one.
- Three people in ten say the UK has not benefited at all from being part of the EU.
- A third of the panel say the EU gives them the feeling of mistrust, the next most given feeling is hope. This is highest amongst BME residents.
- There is greater opposition to EU enlargement than support.

The highest proportion of residents answer that they don't know how much Lancashire has benefited from being a member of the European Union (44%). This ties in with the section on feeling you belong, where the majority don't know whether Lancashire County Council speaks up for the County in Europe. It may be necessary to communicate the European work of the Council better. This should be about the tangible benefits that make a difference to people, such as any awards or grants the Council has achieved for example. Europe in itself will tend to polarise people by their preconceptions whereas clear benefits will add support.

## 2 Introduction

Lancashire County Council has used Life in Lancashire regularly since August 2001. A panel of willing participants is recruited and is approached on a regular basis to seek their views on a range of topics and themes. Panel members are voluntary participants in the research they complete and no incentives are given for completion.

The panel has been designed to be a representative cross-section of the county's population. The results for each survey are weighted in order to reflect the demographic profile of the county's population.

The panel provides access to a sufficiently large sample of the population so that reliable results can be reported at a county wide level. It also provides data at a number of sub-area and sub-group levels.

Each Life in Lancashire wave is themed. Firstly, it enables sufficient coverage on a particular topic to be able to provide insight into that topic. And secondly, it comes across better to the residents completing the questionnaires if there is a clear theme (or 2-3 clear themes) within each survey.

The panel is refreshed periodically. New members are recruited to the panel and some current members are retired on a random basis. This means that the panel remains fresh and is not subject to conditioning i.e. the views of panel members become too informed with County Council services to be unrepresentative of the population as a whole. The current panel was recruited in September 2003 with a topup recruitment undertaken in June 2004, so this effect should still be small.



### 3 Research Objectives

The research objectives for wave 12 focus on the topics of community cohesion and Lancashire's position in Europe. The main questions areas looked at:

- Perceptions of their neighbourhood and the people they live amongst.
- Finding out the things that people feel affect their quality of life.
- Investigating how well people get on together.
- Finding out about levels of involvement in the community.
- Perceptions of Europe and Lancashire's position within it.

## 4 Methodology

Wave 12 of Life in Lancashire was sent to 2,724 members of the panel on 29 September. A reminder was sent to non-respondents on 27 October. The fieldwork ended on 8 November 2004.

No incentive for respondents to complete the questionnaire was given. In total 2,006 questionnaires were returned, giving an overall response rate of 74%.

All data are weighted by gender, age, ethnicity and district to reflect the Lancashire overall population, and figures are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated. The weighted responses have been scaled down to match the effective response of 1577, which is the equivalent size of the data if it had not been weighted and was a perfect random sample.

### 4.1 Limitations

The table below shows the sample tolerances that apply to the results in this survey. Sampling tolerances vary with the size of the sample as well as the percentage results.

Number of respondents	50/50 + / -	30/70 + / -	10/90 + / -
50	14%	13%	8%
100	10%	9%	6%
200	7%	6%	4%
500	4%	4%	3%
1000	3%	3%	2%
2000	2%	2%	1%

On a question where 50% of the people in a sample of 1000 respond with a particular answer, the chance are 95 out of 100 that the answer would be between 47% and 53% (ie +/- 3%), versus a complete coverage of the entire Lancashire population using the same procedure.

## 5 Main Research Findings

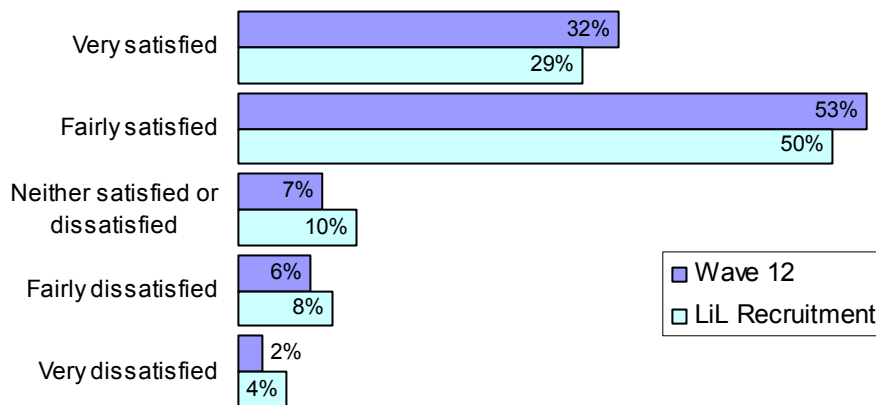
A marked up questionnaire can be found in Appendix 8.2.

### 5.1 Perceptions of local area

As in the recruitment of the Life in Lancashire Panel, members were asked how satisfied they are with the area they live in. The proportions for this wave are shown in the chart below

Overall, slightly more panel members are satisfied with their local area than on the panel recruitment in September 2003. While this would be a significant increase, this may be due to either the panel makeup being slightly different due to non-response or a slightly different question wording on the recruitment questionnaire. (“Thinking about the area where you live, on the whole, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with it as a place to live?”)

**Chart 1 - Overall, how satisfied are you with your local area as a place to live?**

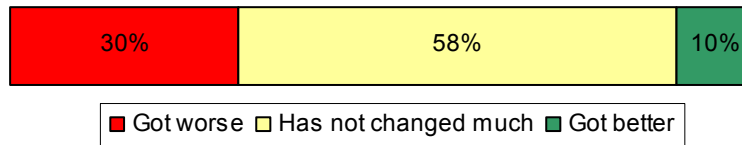


Base: All respondents (Wave 12 unweighted 2006, weighted 1577; Recruitment 2587)

As would be expected, this varies with the location of the respondent. As in the recruitment questionnaire and the Life in Lancashire 2003 Survey by MORI, Ribble Valley residents are the most satisfied with where they live with 95% satisfied. Satisfaction in Burnley (77%), Hyndburn (71%) and Pendle (74%) are all significantly lower than the districts in western Lancashire. Residents describing their home’s location as rural are significantly more likely to be satisfied than those in urban areas or market towns. The over 60s are more likely to be satisfied than people aged under 45 and people from social grade AB are more satisfied than any other. People from a black or minority ethnic (BME) background (61%) are less satisfied than white panel members, though this does appear to be due to the district of residence, except for in Preston.

The next question followed on from this by asking whether the local area had improved or got worse.

**Chart 2 - On the whole, do you think that over the past two years your local area has got better or worse?**

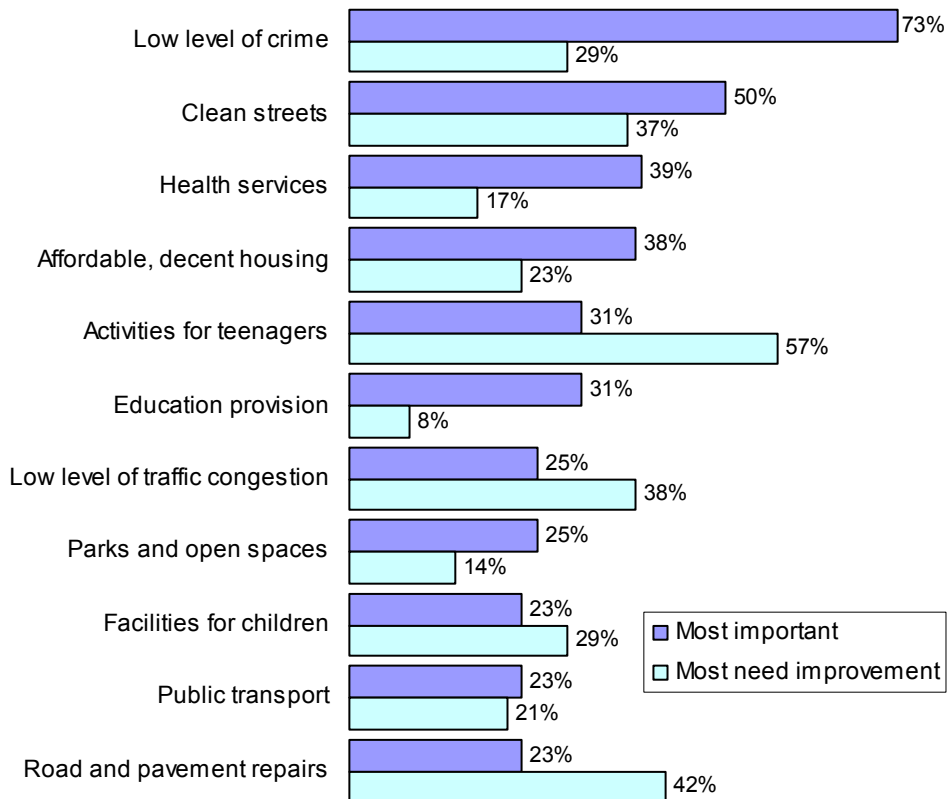


Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

Three times as many panel members think their area has got worse than got better. Hyndburn (50%), Pendle (52%) and Rossendale (45%) residents are the most likely to think things are worse, significantly worse than many other districts. Members from social grade DE are more likely to think things are worse than the higher grades.

To decide which are the most important areas for improvement panel members were given twenty possible priorities and asked to choose which were most important and which were most in need of improvement. The ten most important are shown in Chart 3 below.

**Chart 3 - a) Thinking generally, which of the things below would you say are most important in making somewhere a good place to live?  
b) Thinking about your local area, which of the things below, if any, do you think most need improving?**  
(Please tick up to five boxes)

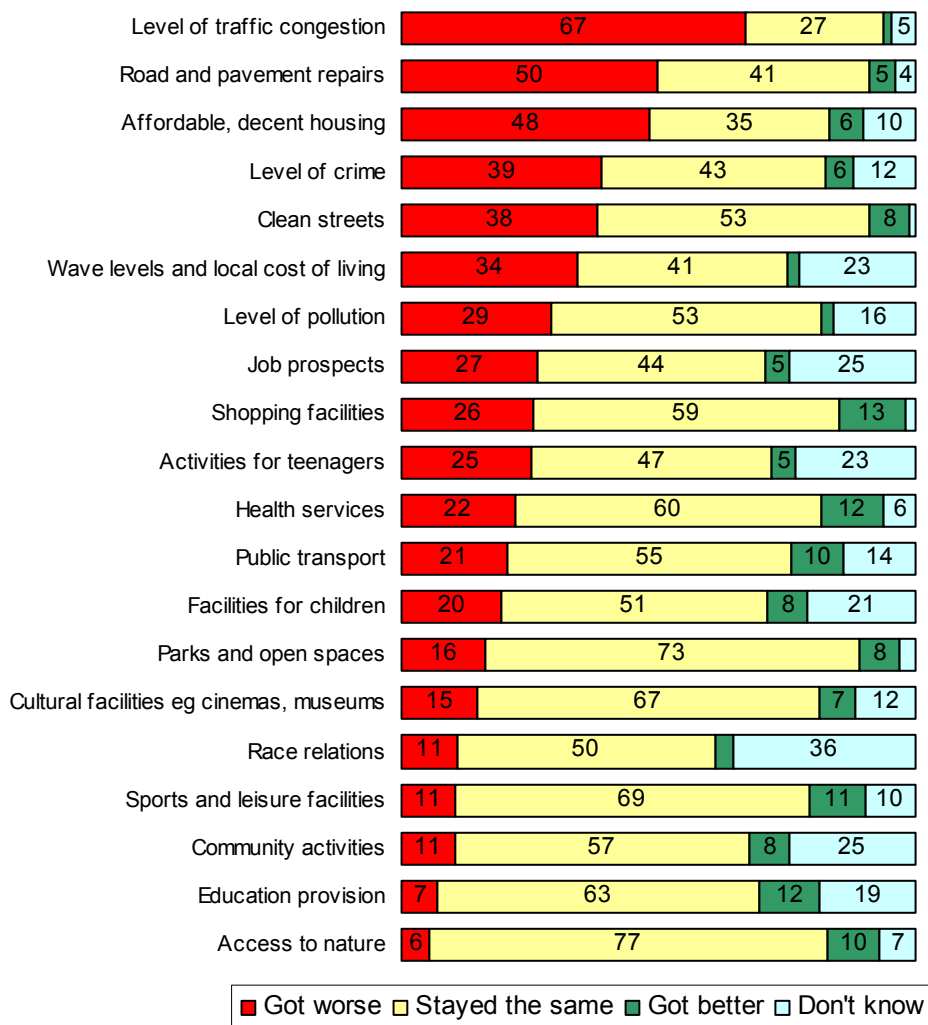


Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

While a low level of crime and clean streets are seen as the most important factors, they are not considered to need the most improvement. The two factors most needing improvements are providing activities for teenagers and road and pavement repairs.

Looking at factors that have got better or worse in the last three years, traffic congestion, roads and affordable housing are seen as deteriorated most.

**Chart 4 - Thinking about your local area, please indicate for each of the following, if things have got better or worse over the last three years, or has it stayed the same?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

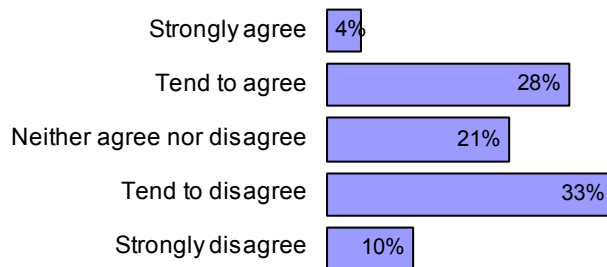
There are some differences by demographics here. Residents of Hyndburn consider that many factors have got worse, with job prospects, roads and pavements, health services and clean streets all with higher proportions saying they have got worse than average across the panel. However Hyndburn scores highest of any district for cultural facilities, being the only

district with more people thinking it has got better than worse. Rossendale residents are also more likely to say that many factors have got worse, such as clean streets, cultural facilities, road and pavements and shopping.

### 5.2 Having your say

Panel members were asked how much they feel they can influence local decisions.

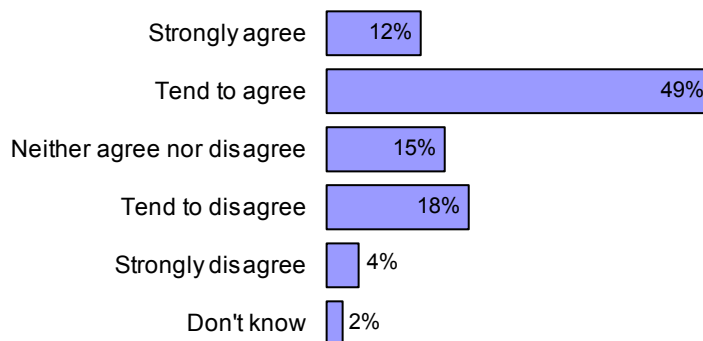
**Chart 5 - Do you agree or disagree that you can influence decisions affecting your local area?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

Perhaps unfortunately considering the respondents are all panel members for their county council, more feel they cannot influence decisions than do. There are no differences by district but 25-44s are significantly less likely to feel they can influence decisions, (just 26% agree). There is also a difference by ethnicity, with white respondents significantly less likely to agree (32%) compared to non-whites (41%).

**Chart 6 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “By working together, people in my local area can influence decisions that affect the local area”?**



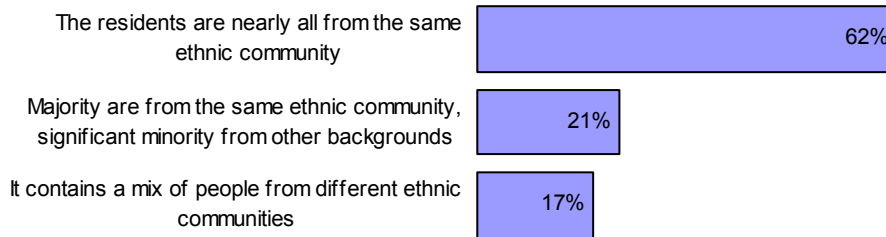
Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

There is a marked increase on what panel members expect can be achieved by working together compared with what they consider for themselves. Again 25-44 year olds are significantly less likely to agree.

### 5.3 Getting on together

The next section of the survey dealt with how well panel members considered people get along in their neighbourhood. The first question on this was to determine how much ethnic diversity the member thought there was in their neighbourhood.

**Chart 7 - How would you describe the ethnic (eg white, black, Asian, Chinese) communities in your local area?**

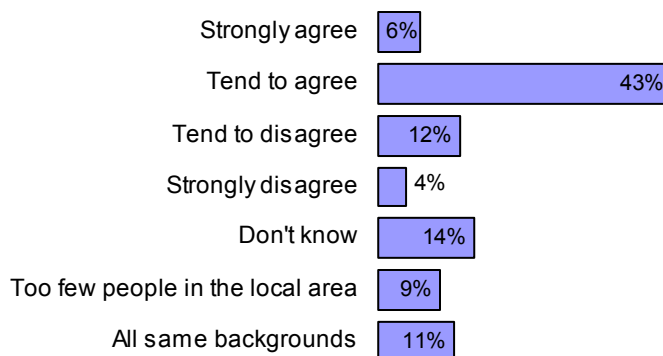


Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

Two thirds think that almost all of the people in their area are from the same ethnic community. There are differences by subgroup however. People from an ethnic minority are significantly more likely to say their neighbourhood is mixed (44%) as are residents of Hyndburn (33%) and Preston (33%). People from rural areas, social group AB and who own their own homes are significantly more likely to say everyone is from the same background, where they live.

Only half of the panel agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area (49%). The majority of these only tend to agree (43%) rather than strongly agree. However, a large proportion of people say they either don't know (14%), there are too few people where they live (9%) or everyone is from the same background (11%). Only 16% of the panel disagree that people get on overall, but this is higher in Burnley (38%), Hyndburn (29%), and Pendle (37%).

**Chart 8 - To what extent do you agree or disagree that your local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together?**

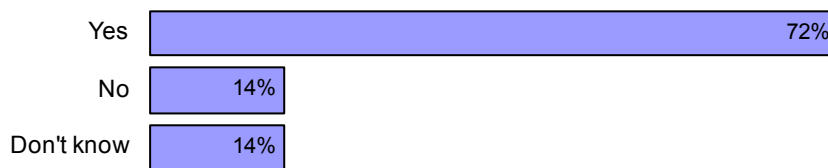


Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

Seven in ten of the panel think that people from different backgrounds can get on together, as shown in the chart below. Only one in seven does not agree, while the remainder are unsure. This is significantly higher amongst men (18%), and social groups C2, D and E (all 22%). Burnley, Hyndburn and Pendle all score significantly lower.

There is a marked difference in agreement by ethnicity. Seven in ten people from a white background agree that people from different backgrounds can live harmoniously together, comparing with 94% of panel members from an ethnic minority.

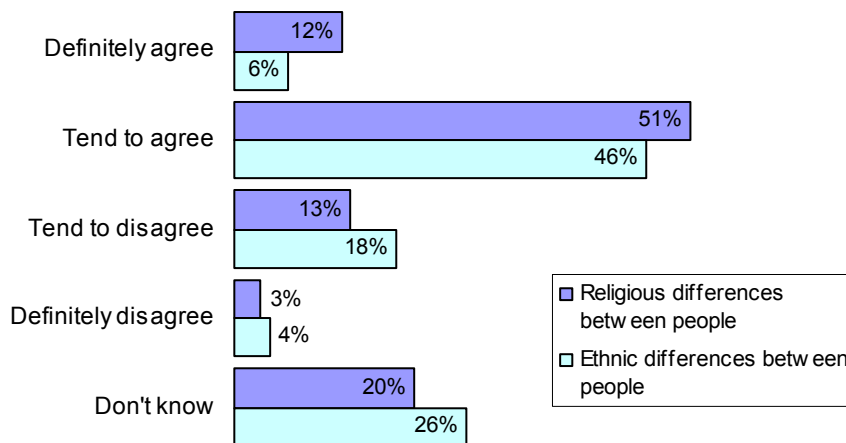
**Chart 9 - Do you think that people from different backgrounds can live harmoniously together?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

The next two questions concerned the respect of differences between people. Three in five people agreed that people respected religious differences in their area. One in six disagreed while one in five didn't know. Panel members aged less than 25 were twice as likely to disagree (32%). There were no significant differences between districts.

**Chart 10 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following about your local area? It is a place where residents respect...**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

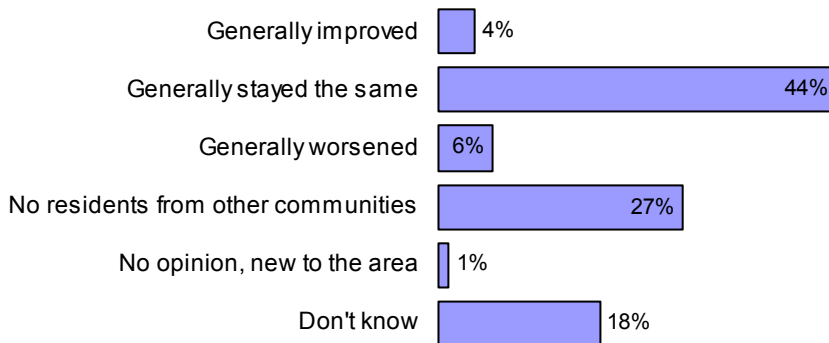
A similar proportion agrees that ethnic differences are respected. This is significantly higher amongst BME panel members, with 64% agreeing.

The next question asked how relationships between different communities have changed in the last year. Most people either said it had stayed the



same (44%) or did not offer an opinion. Only one in ten members said it had changed.

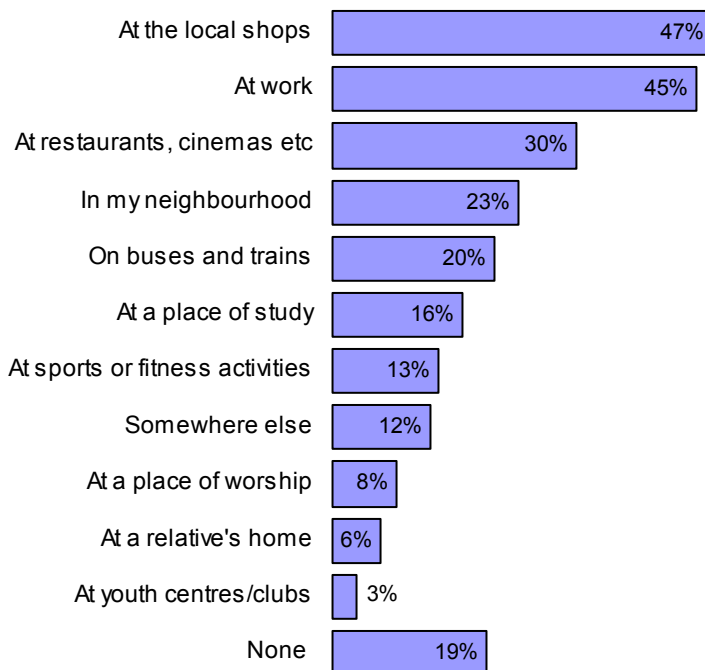
**Chart 11 - How has the relationship between residents from different ethnic communities changed over the last 12 months in your local area?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

Pendle residents are the most negative, with one in five saying that things have got worse in the last 12 months (18%).

**Chart 12 - Here is a list of a number of everyday situations. In which of these situations, if any, would you say you regularly meet and talk with people of a different ethnic origin to you?**



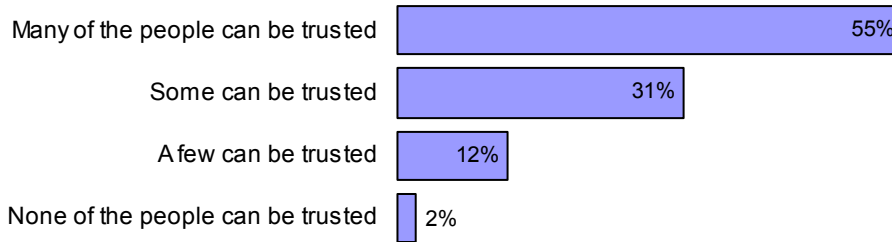
Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

One in five of the panel says they never meet with anyone from a different ethnic origin. This varies particularly by age with only 6% of under 25s saying this compared with 34% of the over 60s.

### 5.4 Trusting, knowing and looking out for one another

Five in six of the panel say that at least some of the people in their neighbourhood can be trusted, with over half saying many people can be trusted. This is similar to the same question asked on the Life in Lancashire 2003 survey where 58% said many of the people in their neighbourhood could be trusted.

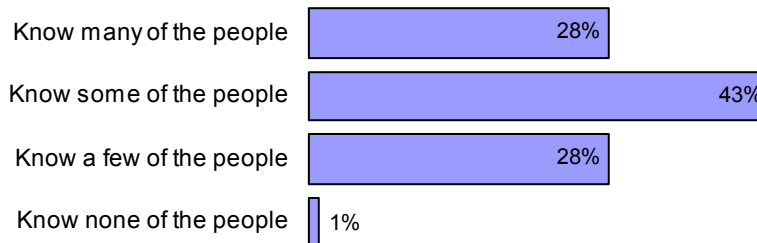
**Chart 13 - Thinking about all the people who live in your local area, would you say that...**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

Only three in ten of the panel (28%) say they know many of the people in their neighbourhood, which is lower than on the Life in Lancashire 2003 survey (42%). This is lower still for people in urban areas and under 25s.

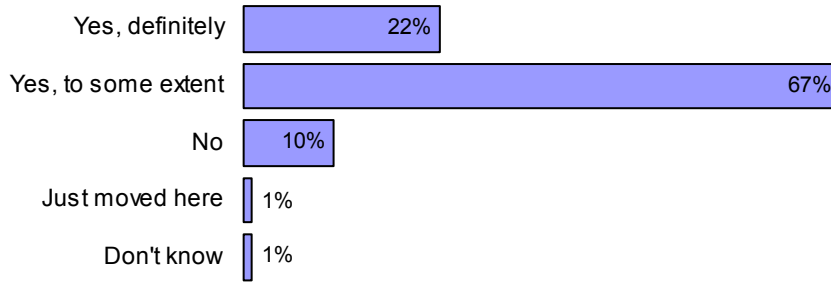
**Chart 14 - And, still thinking about all the people who live in your local area, would you say that you...**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

Panel members were then asked whether neighbours look out for one another where they live. Only one in ten people disagreed with this. This is significantly higher for the under 25s (23%) and social group DE (18%). One in five members replied that they definitely agreed with the statement, this was 29% for rural residents.

**Chart 15 - Would you say that your local area is a place where neighbours look out for each other?**

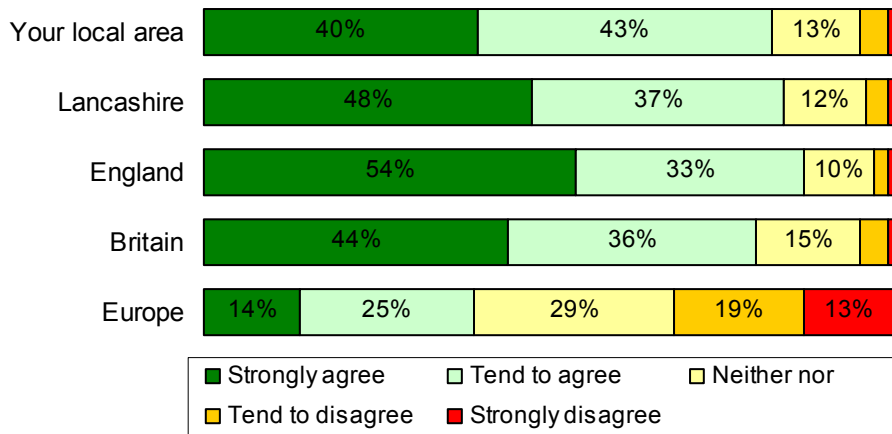


Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

### 5.5 Feeling you belong

The next set of questions dealt with how much panel members feel they belong to the regions they live in, (local area, Lancashire, England, Britain and Europe). They are shown in the chart below.

**Chart 16 - Please say how strongly you agree or disagree that you feel you belong to each area listed below?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

Over four in five of the panel agree they feel they belong their local area. This is significantly lower for the under 25s with only 48% agreeing. Perhaps unsurprisingly, people who have lived in Lancashire for less than 10 years also are less likely to agree at 53%.

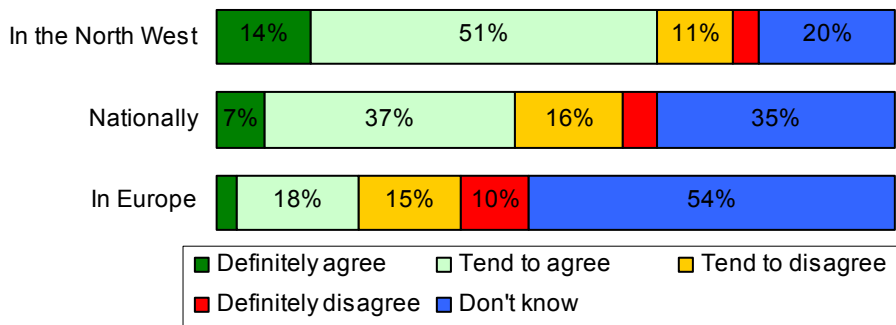
Five in six panel members feel they belong to Lancashire. This is particularly high for the over 60s, 90% agree, 63% strongly agree. Another significantly high group are people from ethnic minorities with 59% strongly agreeing they belong to Lancashire. The only difference by district is that Lancaster is significantly low with only 37% agreeing strongly.

The highest proportion of panel members agree that they belong to England (87%). This is highest amongst the over 60s (70% strongly agree). Britain also scores highly (80%).

Europe is the area respondents feel least allied to. Nearly as many (22%) disagree they belong as agree (29%). People from social group DE are most likely to disagree (40%).

Looking at how much panel members consider whether Lancashire County Council speaks up for the county and its people gives the chart below. Many people don't know whether or not it does, especially in Europe. There are few differences here by demographic, though under 25s are more likely not to know about whether the County Council speaks for Lancashire (35%). It may be necessary for better communication of the work Lancashire County Council does in Europe.

**Chart 17 - For each of the following, do you agree or disagree that Lancashire County Council speaks up for Lancashire and its people...**



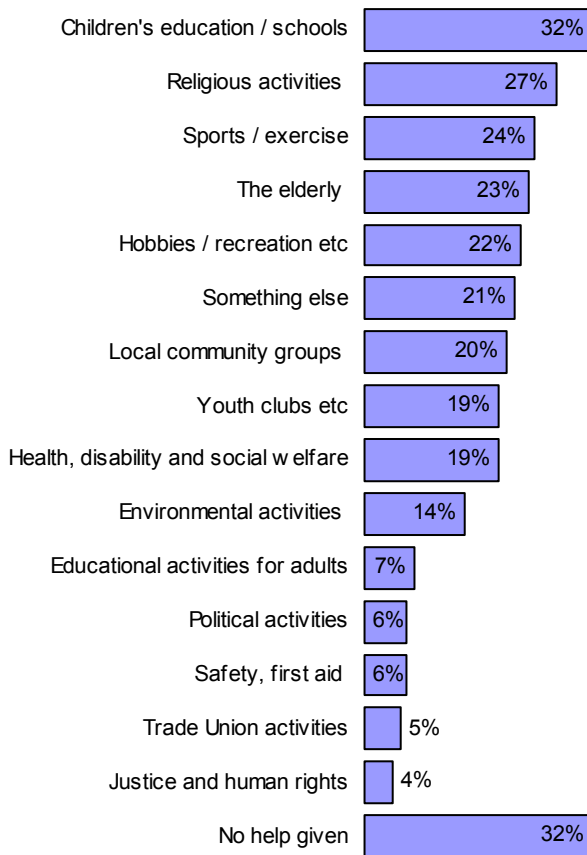
Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

## 5.6 Voluntary Work

Two of the questions on the Wave 12 questions focussed on what voluntary work panel members are involved in.

Children’s’ education (32%), religious activities (27%) and sports (24%) are the most common voluntary work. A third (32%) did no voluntary activities.

**Chart 18 - Which, if any, of the following have you given any unpaid help to in your free time in the last 12 months?**

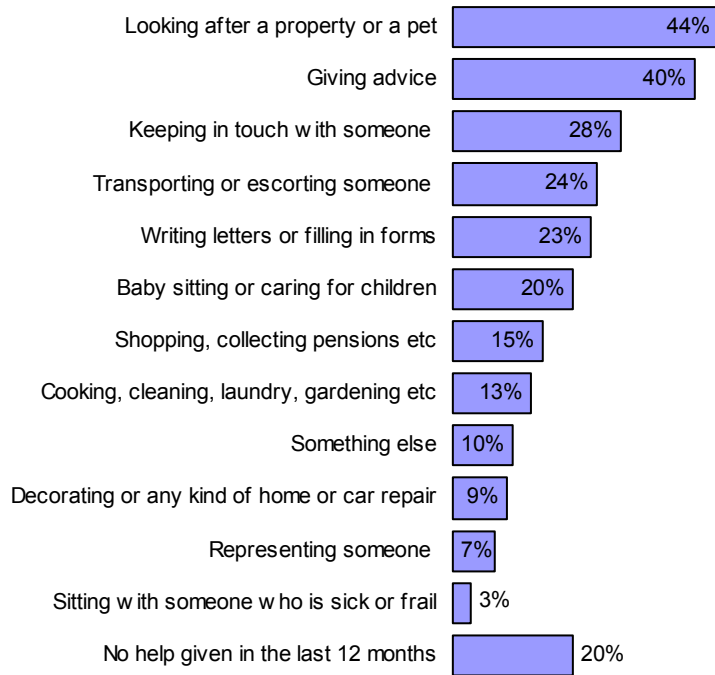


Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

There are some differences by subgroup. Respondents aged 25-44 are most involved with children’s activities, presumably because they are most likely to have children of school age. People from an ethnic minority are twice as likely to be involved in religious activities as white panel members. Panel members over 65 are also more likely than average to be involved in religious activities.

The second question concerned activities panel members have done for non-relatives. Looking after a pet or property for someone who is away is the most common at 44%, followed by giving advice at 40%. A fifth of the panel say they have not given any help in the last 12 months.

**Chart 19 - Which, if any, of the following have you given any unpaid help to in your free time in the last 12 months?**

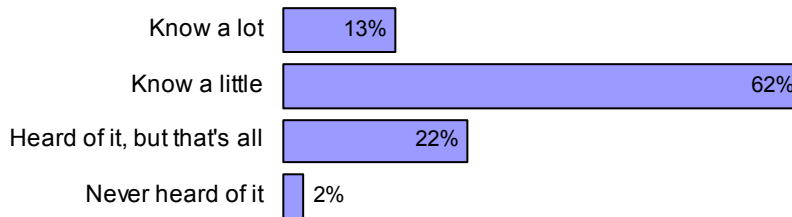


Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

## 5.7 Europe

The final part of the questionnaire dealt with Lancashire’s place in Europe. The first question asked how much panel members thought they knew about the European Union. The majority of panel members say they know a little about it (62%). Only 2% have never heard of it.

**Chart 20 - How much would you say you know about the European Union?**

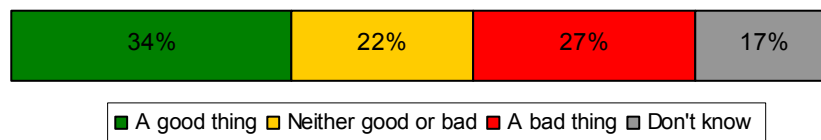


Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

Men are three times more likely to say they know a lot about the EU (21%) than women (7%). Panel members from BME backgrounds are more likely to say they have never heard of it (9%) and people from social group AB say they know more than any other.

A third of the panel think that the UK’s membership of the European Union is a good thing. This is significantly more than the 27% who think it is a bad thing. A sizeable minority of about a sixth say they don’t know.

**Chart 21 - Generally speaking, do you think that the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union is...?**

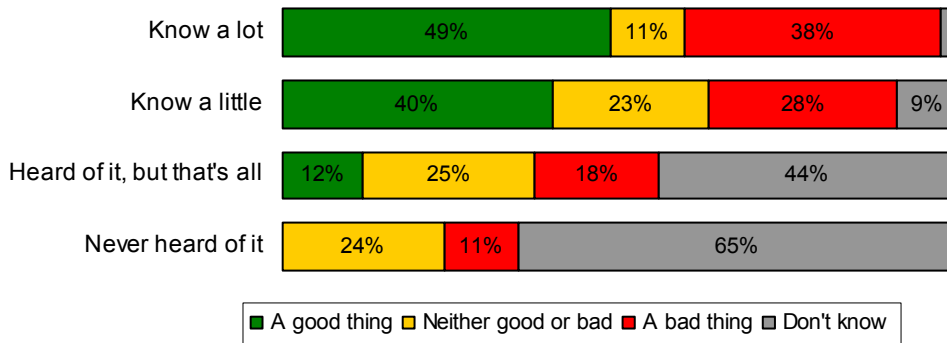


Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

People who have lived in Lancashire for less than 10 years are the most positive about the UK’s membership, with 57% thinking it is a good thing. There are also differences by age, with the over 60s most likely to think it is a bad thing at 36%. In contrast nearly half of under 25s consider it a good thing (45%).

Comparing the two questions we find, as might be expected, that opinion increases with knowledge. This is shown in the chart below.

**Chart 22 - Knowledge of EU versus Opinion**



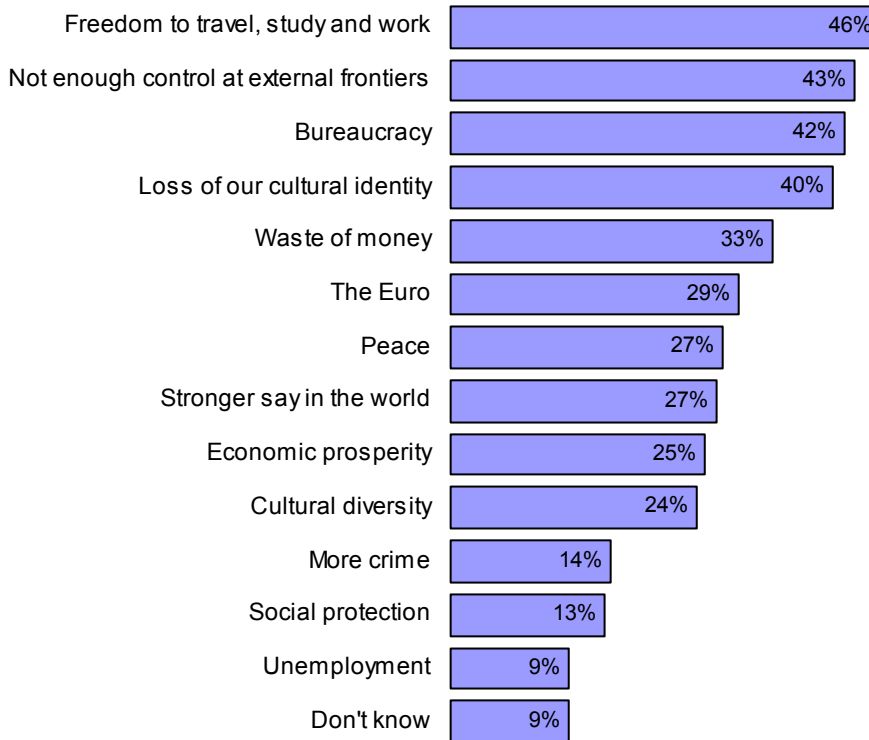
Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

Respondents saying they know a lot or a little about the EU are more likely to say it is either a good or a bad thing. They are slightly more likely to be positive than negative.

The next question gave a variety of options of what the European Union means to the respondents. The answers are shown in the chart below.



**Chart 23 - Which of the following does the European Union mean to you personally?**

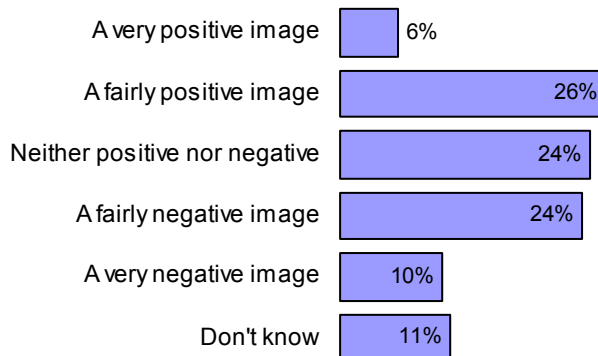


Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

Only one of the top five meanings is positive, **freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU**, though this is the highest answer. People from an ethnic minority are especially likely to give this answer at 67%. Men are more likely to name **peace** as a meaning (36%) compared to women (20%).

About a third of the panel think the European Union has a negative image (34%) and about the same proportion see it positively (32%).

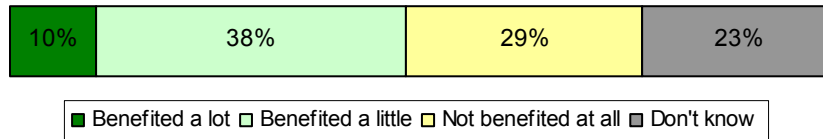
**Chart 24 - In general, what positive or negative image does the European Union conjure up for you?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

People who have lived in Lancashire for less than 10 years are again more positive, with about half (47%) having a positive image of the EU. Also, panel members from a BME background are generally more positive, with 46% fairly or very positive comparing with just 30% of white panel members.

**Chart 25 - Taking everything into consideration, how much, if at all, has the United Kingdom benefited from being a member of the European Union?**

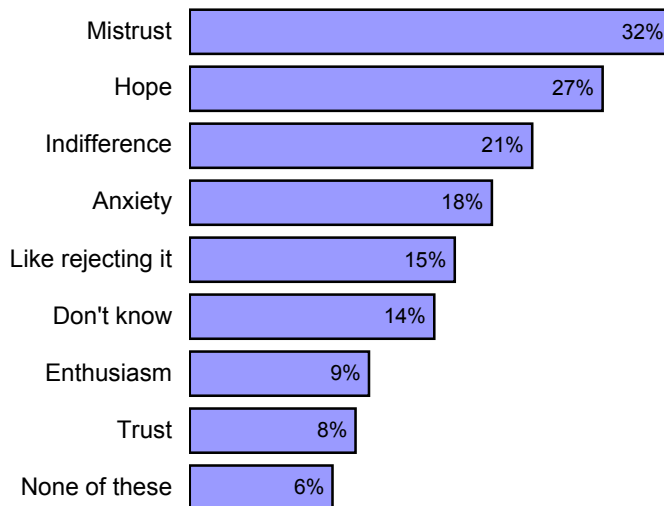


Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

The highest proportion thinks that the UK has benefited a little, though a sizeable minority answer that they don't know. Men are more likely to say that the UK has benefited, with 56% compared to only 41% of women. Women are three times as likely to say they don't know as men.

Having earlier asked what the European Union meant to the respondent, the next question asked what feeling the EU gives them.

**Chart 26 - What, if anything, does the EU give you the feeling of?**



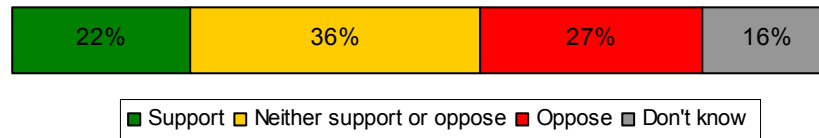
Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

A third of the panel say the EU gives them the feeling of mistrust, making it the highest answer. Both hope and indifference score highly. Hope is almost twice as likely to be mentioned by BME residents, at 44%, compared to only 26% of white panel members.

More Life in Lancashire members said they opposed enlargement of the EU (27%) than supported it (22%). Greatest support for enlargement comes from

the youngest 16-24 age group at 29% and people who have only lived in Lancashire for less than ten years (36%). Greatest opposition to enlargement comes from the over 60s (37%) and men (33%).

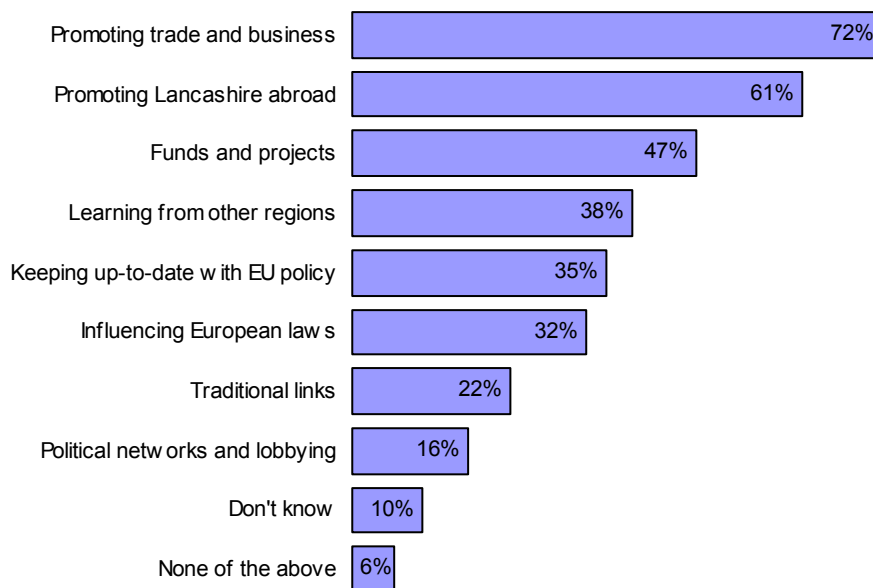
**Chart 27 - Do you support or oppose the enlargement of the European Union to include new countries?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

Panel members were given a list of possible reasons for Lancashire County Council to have links with Europe. Promoting trade and promoting Lancashire were the key reasons given, as shown in the chart below. There are few differences by subgroup, though BME panel members are much more likely to cite learning from other regions and countries (59%) than white members (36%).

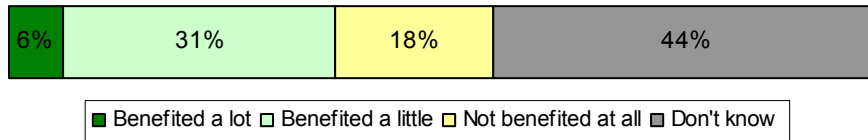
**Chart 28 - Now thinking about Lancashire, for which of the following reasons do you think it is important for Lancashire County Council to have links with Europe?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

The final question on Europe asked whether Lancashire in particular had benefited from being a part of the EU.

**Chart 29 - And, taking everything into consideration, how much, if at all, has Lancashire benefited from being a member of the European Union?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 2006, Weighted 1577)

The highest proportion of the panel says they don't know whether Lancashire has benefited from EU membership. This may be an opportunity to let more people know the benefits.

## 6 Summary

### 6.1 Your neighbourhood

- Eight in ten (79%) of the panel are satisfied with where they live.
- Three times as many think their local area is getting worse than getting better.
- Crime, clean streets and health are considered the most important factors in making somewhere a good place to live.
- Activities for teenagers, road repairs and traffic improvement considered to be in most need of in panel members' local area.
- Traffic, road maintenance and quality, affordable housing are the factors most panel members consider to have got worse.
- Residents of Hyndburn are the most likely to say many aspects have got worse, though they are most positive about culture. Rossendale residents are next most likely to think many factors have got worse.

### 6.2 Having your say

- More panel members disagree (43%) than agree (32%) that they can affect decisions made in their area. This is particularly the case for 25-44 year olds among whom 51% disagree they can affect decisions.
- The majority agree that by working together, local people can influence local decisions that affect the area (61% agree).

### 6.3 Getting along together

- Most panel members say that nearly everyone in their neighbourhood is of the same ethnic origin (62%).
- Half of the panel agree that people from different backgrounds get on well in their local area. However, a third of respondents either say they don't know, there are too few people in their local area or everyone in the area has the same background.
- Seven in ten of the panel think that people from different backgrounds can live harmoniously (72%). There is a marked difference in

agreement by ethnicity, with 94% of panel members from an ethnic minority agreeing with the statement.

- Most agree that religious (63%) and ethnic (52%) differences are respected, though a fifth and a quarter respectively of the panel say they don't know.
- Only one in ten of the panel say there has been any change in race relations in the last 12 months. The same proportions of BME panel members say things have got better as got worse (13%).
- Panel members say they most often meet and talk to people from different backgrounds at the shops (47%) and work (45%).
- More panel members trust people in their neighbourhood (86% trust all / some) than know them (71% know many / all). Only 28% say they know all the people in their neighbourhood, which is markedly lower than for the same question on the Life in Lancashire 2003 survey, where 42% said they knew everyone in their area.
- One in ten of the panel did not agree that people look out for one another in their local area. This was significantly higher for the under 25s (23%) and social group DE (18%).

#### 6.4 Feeling you belong

- Over four in five of the panel agree they feel they belong their local area. This is significantly lower for the under 25s with only 48% agreeing. Perhaps unsurprisingly, people who have lived in Lancashire for less than 10 years also are less likely to agree at 53%.
- Five in six panel members feel they belong to Lancashire. This is particularly high for the over 60s, 90% agree, of which 63% strongly agree. Another significantly high group are people from ethnic minorities with 59% strongly agreeing they belong to Lancashire. The only difference by district is that Lancaster is significantly low with only 37% agreeing strongly.
- The highest proportion of panel members agrees that they belong to England (87%). This is highest amongst the over 60s (70% strongly agree). Britain also scores highly (80% agree).
- Europe is the area respondents feel least allied to. Nearly as many disagree (22%) they belong as agree (29%). People from social group DE are most likely to disagree (40%).

## 6.5 Voluntary Work

- Children's education (32%) and religious activities (27%) are the most common areas of voluntary work.
- Looking after a pet or property for someone who is away is the most common area of unpaid help at 44%, followed by giving advice at 40%. A fifth of the panel say they have not given any help in the last 12 months.

## 6.6 Europe

- Most of the panel say they "know a little" about the European Union (62%).
- More think the EU is a good thing (34%) than a bad thing (27%). This increases to half (49%) thinking it is a good thing and two in five (38%) saying it is a bad thing, for those who say they know a lot about it.
- Four of the top five images panel members have of the EU are negative, (not enough control at frontiers, bureaucracy, loss of identity, waste of money). The top answer was freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU (46%).
- There are about as many people have a negative image of the EU (34%) as a positive one (32%).
- Three people in ten (29%) say the UK has not benefited at all from being part of the EU.
- A third of the panel say the EU gives them the feeling of mistrust, the next most given feeling is hope (27%). This increases to 44% amongst BME residents.
- There is higher opposition (27%) to EU enlargement than support (22%).
- Panel members are most likely to say they don't know whether Lancashire has benefited from being an EU member (44%). Promoting trade (72%) and promoting Lancashire abroad (61%) are the top reasons for Lancashire County Council to have links with Europe.

## 7 Conclusions

### 7.1 Community Cohesion

Nearly four in ten of the panel consider that at least a significant minority of the people in their local area come from a different ethnic background. Half of the panel agree that their local area is one where people from different backgrounds get on well together. There is not a significant difference in this comparing by whether the local area is of mixed or similar ethnicity. However the districts of Burnley (39%), Hyndburn (29%) and Pendle (37%) all disagree more than average. These compare with Preston, which also has a relatively high proportion of ethnic minorities, yet has one of the highest agreements of any district, with 53% saying that people from different backgrounds get on well. It may be useful to look into the reasons why Preston is better at community cohesion than the East Lancashire districts. The proportions of panel members saying that people in their local area respect religious and ethnic differences are very similar to this, with Preston again seen as getting along better than East Lancashire.

A seventh of the panel think that people from different backgrounds cannot live harmoniously together while seven in ten (72%) think they can. This increases to 19 in 20 of BME panel members (94%). There is no significant difference by district so across the county people do agree that people can get along. This tells us that there is the possibility of improvement across Lancashire.

Relationships between different ethnic communities are generally considered to have stayed the same; only one person in ten says they are better or worse. Only Pendle residents are significantly different to this, being three times as likely as the main panel to say things are worse (18%).

A similar proportion of the panel said they trust many of the people in their area (55%) to the same question on the Life in Lancashire 2003 survey. The proportion saying they know many of the people in their local area (28%) is lower than the earlier survey (42%) however. Only one person in ten thinks their local area is not one where people look out for one another. There are no significant differences by area.

The results illustrated in this report (along with the results from Life in Lancashire 2003) will provide a baseline measure for tracking changes in the relations between Lancashire's communities.



## 7.2 Feeling you belong

The vast majority of panel members agree that they feel they belong to their local area, Lancashire, England and Britain. Lancaster residents are less likely to consider themselves as belonging to Lancashire. Europe gives a much lower feeling of belonging. Nearly as many people disagree as agree they belong to it. Panel members from social groups DE are twice as likely to say that they do not feel they belong to Europe.

A great deal of people say they do not know whether Lancashire County Council speaks up for Lancashire, especially nationally and in Europe. It may be necessary to communicate better the work the Council does nationally and in Europe.

### 7.3 Europe

The majority of respondents consider they know at least a little about the European Union. Slightly more think they EU is a good thing (34%) than a bad thing (27%). Respondents are more likely to think it is a good or bad thing when they say they know more about it, with a slight lean towards good.

The image of the EU overall is evenly positive and negative. The specific images and feelings tend to be negative though the most common image and the second most frequent feeling are both positive. Panel members aged less than 25, people from ethnic minorities and people who have lived in Lancashire for less than 10 years especially are the most positive towards Europe.

More Life in Lancashire members oppose enlargement (27%) than support it (22%). The greatest opposition is from the over 60s (37%).

The key priorities panel members have for Lancashire County Council in Europe are promoting trade and business, promoting Lancashire abroad and getting involved in funds and projects.

The highest proportion of residents answer that they don't know how much Lancashire has benefited from being a member of the European Union (44%). This ties in with the section on feeling you belong, where the majority don't know whether Lancashire County Council speaks up for the County in Europe. It may be necessary to communicate the European work of the Council better. This should be about the tangible benefits that make a difference to people, such as any awards or grants the Council has achieved for example. Europe in itself will tend to polarise people by their preconceptions whereas clear benefits will add support.

## 8 Appendix

### 8.1 Socio-Economic-Group Definitions

These groups are based on Market Research Society definitions and on the respondent. They are graded as A, B, C1, C2, D and E.

#### Group A

- Professional people, very senior managers in business or commerce or top-level civil servants.
- Retired people, previously grade A, and their widows

#### Group B

- Middle management executives in large organisations, with appropriate qualifications
- Principle officers in local government and civil service
- Top management or owners of small business concerns, educational and service establishments
- Retired people previously grade B, and their widows

#### Group C1

- Junior management, owners of small establishments, and all others in non-manual positions
- Jobs in this group have very varied responsibilities and educational requirements
- Retired people, previously grade C1, and their widows

#### Group C2

- All skilled manual workers, and those manual workers for responsibility for other people
- Retired people, previously grade C2, with pensions from their job
- Widows, if receiving pensions from their late partner's job

#### Group D

- All semi skilled and unskilled manual workers, and apprentices and trainees to skilled workers
- Retired people, previously grade D, with pensions from their late job
- Widows, if receiving pensions from their late partner's job

#### Group E

- All those entirely dependant on the state long term, through sickness, unemployment, old age or other reasons
- Those unemployed for a period exceeding six months (otherwise classified on previous occupation)
- Casual workers and those without a regular income

## 8.2 Marked Up Questionnaire