



**in Lancashire**

# **Wave 19 Lancashire in Europe**

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# 1 Executive Summary

This wave of the Life in Lancashire panel dealt with Lancashire in Europe. All 1827 members of the panel were sent two mailings of the survey. In total 1467 questionnaires were returned, giving an overall response rate of 80%. The responses to the survey are weighted to reflect the population of Lancashire.

## 1.1 Key findings

- **Two-fifths of the panel do not think that Lancashire receives any direct funding from the European Union (41%).** In view of this, it may well be worth considering communicating the impact the European Union has on the county.
- The amounts estimated by those who do think there is some funding vary widely, with **around £5 million** from 2007 to 2013 the most common suggestion. Taking into account all estimates and those who do not think there is any funding, the mean average is **around £30 million** over the six years.
- One in six members of the panel says they are **aware of some European funded work in their area (18%).** Ninety-three respondents named a specific example of funding, with universities and colleges the most common answer (24).
- Only three-quarters of respondents **knew that a directly elected parliament existed (77%).** Awareness was higher amongst those aged 60 years or over and 45 to 59 years (84% and 85% aware), than those aged 25 to 44 years (68% aware).
- A third of the panel answer they would **contact their MEP** with a matter of concern (35%).
- Only one in five members of the panel considered themselves **informed about the European parliament.** Only about one in seven consider themselves **informed about how to contact their MEP.**
- The top priority for the public in Lancashire for the Brussels Office is to **attract European funding** to the county, followed by **influencing legislation** that affects the area.

## 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, ie the views of panel members become too informed with county council services to be unrepresentative of the population as a whole.

### 3 Methodology

This wave of Life in Lancashire was sent to 1827 members of the panel on 18 July 2007. A reminder was sent on 8 August 2007. The fieldwork ended on 17 August 2007.

No incentive was given for respondents to complete the questionnaire. In total 1467 questionnaires were returned, giving an overall response rate of 80%.

All data are weighted by 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 1267, which is the equivalent size of the data if it had not been weighted and was a perfect random sample.

#### 3.1 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 chances 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.

In charts or tables where responses do not add up to 100%, this is due to multiple responses or computer rounding.

## 4 Main Research Findings

### 4.1 Lancashire in Europe

The aim of this section of the Life in Lancashire survey is to investigate into the awareness of the Lancashire public about the European Union, and what they feel the priorities of the Lancashire Brussels Office should be.

The first question asked panel members to say whether they thought Lancashire gets any direct funding from Europe

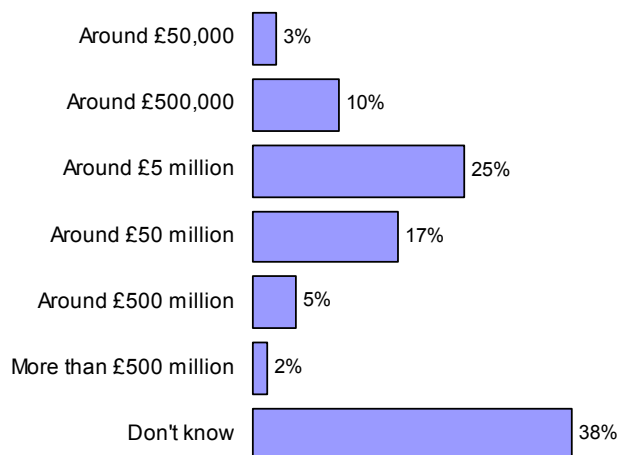
**Chart 1 - Do you think Lancashire gets any direct funding from Europe?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 1467, Weighted 1267)

Two in five members of the panel do not think Lancashire gets any direct funding from Europe. That Lancashire does receive European funding could be an important factor to communicate with the wider public. Demographically, men (67%) were more likely to think there is funding than women (53%), and panel members from socio-economic group<sup>1</sup> AB (68%), were more likely to than other groups.

**Chart 2 - About how much would you expect the amount proposed for Lancashire for 2007 to 2013 to be?**



Base: All respondents thinking that Lancashire gets some direct funding (Unweighted 891, Weighted 692)

Those who thought that Lancashire does receive some European money were next asked how much they expected Lancashire to get across the

<sup>1</sup> For socio-economic group definitions, see Appendix 5.1

next round of funding for 2007 to 2013. They were most likely to say that they didn't know (38%). Those who did make a suggestion were most likely to pick around £5 million, though sizeable minorities picked figures above and below that. The mean average amount suggested is around £75 million by those who think there is any funding. Taking into account those who thought there is no funding, the average figure drops to about £30 million.

One in six members of the panel says they are **aware of some European funded work in their area** (18%). There are no differences demographically.

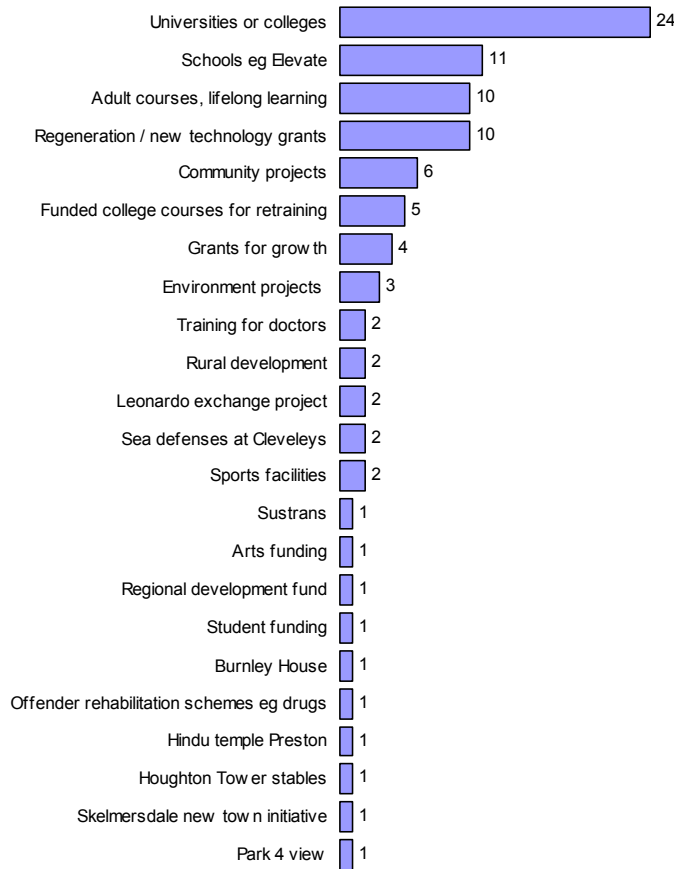
**Chart 3 - Are you aware of any European funded work in schools, colleges and universities, other training centres, businesses, community centres or elsewhere in your area?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 1467, Weighted 1267)

Ninety-three respondents named a specific example of funding, with universities and colleges the most common answer (24). Lancaster and Edge Hill universities were both given as examples. The complete list of perceived European funded projects is shown in the chart below.

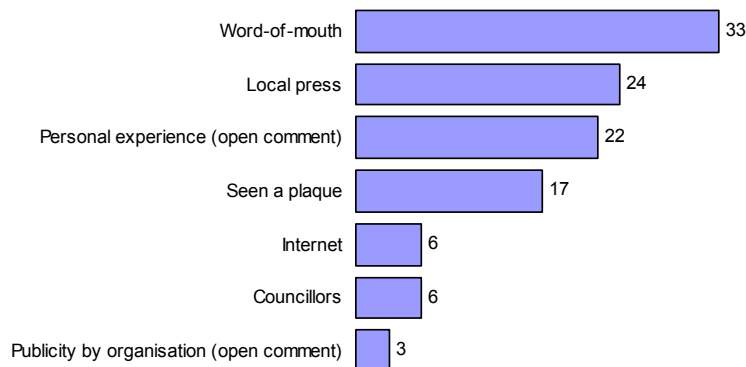
**Chart 4 - If so please enter the name of it here.**



Base: All respondents naming a piece of European funded work (93)

Those respondents who named a piece of work they thought had European funding were asked where they had heard about it. They were given a set of options, and the space to add their own open answers. These are both shown in the chart below.

**Chart 5 - How did you hear about this work?**



Base: All respondents naming a piece of European funded work (93)

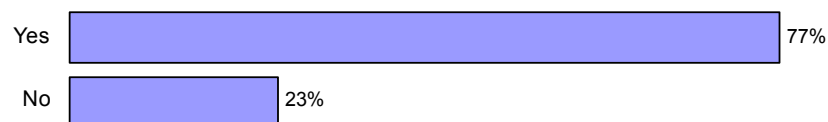
Word-of-mouth (33), the local press (24), and the spontaneously answered, personal experience (22) are the most common answers.



## 4.2 The European Parliament

The next set of questions dealt with knowledge of the European Parliament. Three-quarters of respondents **knew that a directly elected parliament existed**, though this means that one in four did not (23%). Respondents who are in the two older age groups are more likely to know about the parliament. This is five in six of those aged 60 years and over or 45 to 59 years (84% and 85% aware respectively), compared with only two-thirds of those aged 25 to 44 years (68%). Male respondents were also more aware than female (87% against 70%), and white respondents more aware than BME (78% against 53%). There were also strong differences by social grade, with nine in ten of those from socio-economic group AB aware (91%), the rate falling through the grades down to only two-thirds of those from group DE (68%).

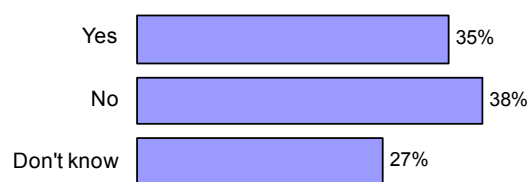
**Chart 6 - Did you know that there is a directly elected European Parliament?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 1467, Weighted 1267)

Similar proportions of the panel could see themselves **contacting their MEP** as not (35% and 38%), with a quarter unsure. Respondents over 60 years are the most likely to agree (40%), significantly more than those aged 25 to 44 years (28%), reflecting the higher awareness of the parliament among older panel members highlighted earlier.

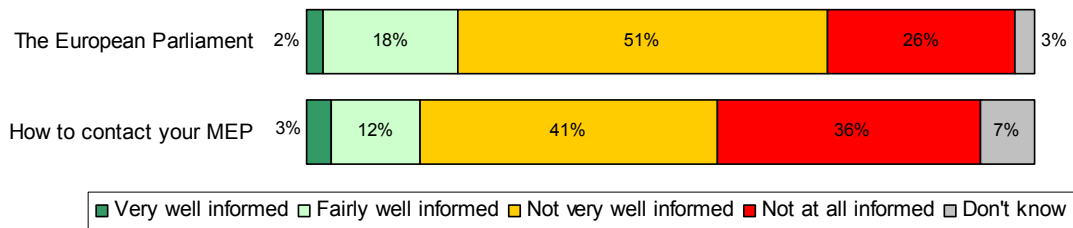
**Chart 7 - Would you ever contact your MEP (Member of the European Parliament) about an issue of concern?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 1467, Weighted 1267)

The next question asked **how well informed people considered themselves on the European parliament**. The panel did not consider themselves well informed, with only one in five answering that they were very or fairly well informed (20%). Half considered themselves not very well informed, and a quarter not at all informed. As previously, men are slightly more likely to consider themselves informed than women (23% versus 16%).

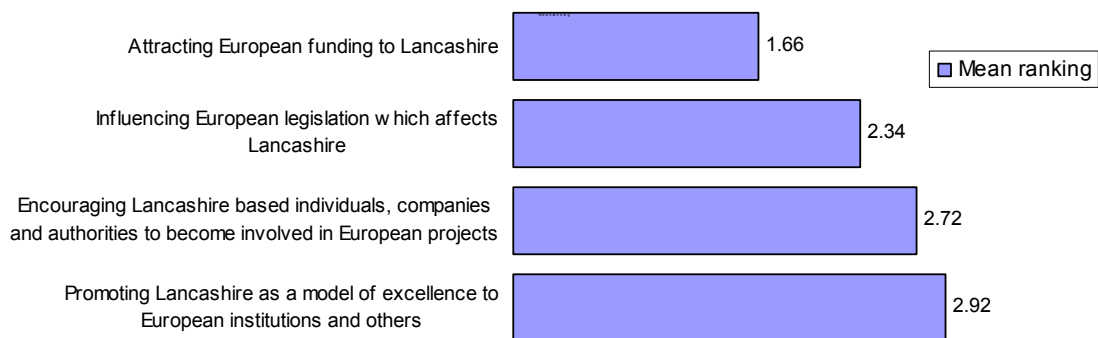
**Chart 8 - How well informed do you consider yourself on each of the following?**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 1467, Weighted 1267)

Similarly, the majority say they are not informed with **how to contact their MEP**, with a third not at all informed (36%) and two in five not very well informed (41%). Only about one in seven consider themselves well informed (15%). There were no significant differences demographically.

**Chart 9 - Lancashire County Council is the main supporter of the Lancashire Brussels Office, based in Brussels. Please rank each of the following roles of the office in order of their importance, from 1 to 4 (where 1 is the most important).**



Base: All respondents (Unweighted 1467, Weighted 1267)

The last question on the section gave a set of functions of the Lancashire Brussels Office and asked for these to be rated in terms of priority. The top priority is to **attract European funding to Lancashire**, which is the most important factor for half the panel (50%). About three in ten (24%), thought **influencing European legislation that affects Lancashire** was the highest priority. Only a minority thought that the greatest priority was to **encourage individuals, companies and authorities from Lancashire to become involved in European projects**, or to **promote Lancashire as a model of excellence in Europe** (14% and 12% respectively).

## 5 Appendix

### 5.1 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
- Principal 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