

**TOWN OF ABERDEEN – QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY
NOTES FROM JULY 6TH STRAGIC PLANNING MEETING WITH SAGE HILL**

Q1 Has Aberdeen always been your home community?

Aberdeen has always been their home community (15%)
Moved here from less than 100km away (34.41%)
Moved from a large urban centre (25.81%)
Moved here from over 100km (24.73%)

Q2 How long has Aberdeen been your home?

Less than 5 years (26.88%)
5 – 10 years (20.43%)
10 – 20 years (22.58%)
Over 20 years (20.43%)
Always (9.68%)

Q3 Please identify your age group.

18 – 25 (5.38%)
25 – 35 (19.35%)
35 – 45 (29.03%)
45 – 55 (17.20%)
55 – 65 (15.05%)
65+ (13.98%)

Almost 50% of respondents are 45 or over

Q4 Are you satisfied with the amenities that are available in your community?

Very Satisfied (4.30%)
Satisfied (56.99%)
Unsatisfied (32.26%)
Very unsatisfied (6.45%)

Comments included: 32% indicated they have the basics, hockey and dance. Areas of dissatisfaction included groceries, health care, roads, could be more business friendly (fill up the strip mall), minimal options available, run down appearance of town. How to use the Rec Plex better and how to match people to their interests.

Q5 From your perspective what makes Aberdeen Unique?

Close to Saskatoon
Quiet, friendly, relaxed
Have the potential to be a great little town but doesn't seem to be proactive
50% indicated it was friendly and caring, sense of community
Ferry, Rec Plex and Xmas miracles

Q6 People require many things in order to have a truly comfortable life. In terms of accessing those things that you require to feel content; what is the statement that you most agree with?

Have everything they need in the community (2.15%)
Occasionally rely on nearby communities (17.20%)
Rely on what is available throughout the region (16.13%)
Go to a large urban centre to get what they need (64.52%)

- Q7 Lets say for a moment, that in the near future, your community will not face any major dilemmas, but will also not experience any new good fortune; given this scenario what would you say are the long term prospects for your community?**
Will stay the same (37.63%)
Will slowly fade away (22.58%)
Will find a way to flourish (27.96%)
Unsure (11.83%)

Comments included: 66% thought it would stay the same or find a way to flourish. Not enough focus on long-term planning, retention and population growth. Need for growth and new ideas, built on heart and hard work. Division between the old and new. Recognize it takes work.

- Q8 How would you rate your ability to influence the future of your community?**
Very good (4.49%)
Good (50.56%)
Not so good (44.94%)

Comments included: Many avenues to contribute. Not enough emphasis on what needs to be done – infrastructure. Little information from Council meetings, only facebook. New Council is progressive and want to see the town prosper, they are interested in input and open to ideas. Current Council makes decisions behind closed doors – conflict of interest. Include people on acreages. Not being welcomed into the community. Been shut down so why bother. Hard to find a sense of community. Want to find a way to be involved. Don't know how to get ideas.

- Q9 If the right project came along in your community, would you have the skills and/or time you'd like to volunteer?**
Yes (41.76%)
No (13.19%)
Potentially (46.15%)

If so what type of projects interest you? (37.36%). Projects of interest included construction, behind the scenes work from home computer, making the town more attractive/beautification (main street is awful), arena drop in center for older kids, fitness boot camps, fundraising, mechanics, community events, STUFF, more kids programs.

Comments included: 88% would have the skills. Need to identify the skills and match with what is needed.

- Q10 From your perspective, how has your community changed in the past years?**
Improved (40.86%)
Stayed the same (41.94%)
Deteriorated (17.20%)

- Q11 How would you describe the level of mutual trust and respect among community members?**
Increased somewhat (29.03%)
Decreased somewhat (15.05%)
Greatly increased (5.38%)
Greatly decreased (9.68%)
Stayed the same (40.86%)

- Q12 Do you feel that your community provides adequate networks of support for people during times of stress and need?**
 Yes (32.22%)
 To some extent (43.33%)
 Very much so (3.33%)
 Not at all (21.11%)
- Q13 For your current or most recent job, how far do you travel to work each day?**
 Within my home community (28.41%)
 Less than 30k one way (22.73%)
 Between 30k and 80k one way (44.32%)
 Approx 80 to 100k one way (3.41%)
 Over 100k one way (0%)
 Over 100k and stay at work for period of time (1.14%)
- Q14 If you were to continue living in Aberdeen, but were offered a more attractive job outside of your community, which of the following would you consider doing?**
 Leave the region to work for several week periods at a time (3.37%)
 Commute up to 100k one way per day (13.48%)
 Commute up to 50k one way per day (42.70%)
 Commute more than 100k one way per day (1.12%)
 Move to be close to job (29.21%)
 One of the above (23.60%)
- Q15 How would you rate the performance of your local municipal government?**
 The majority of responses indicated that the performance of local government was satisfactory (between 50% to 70%) Areas of concern were identified as maintenance of infrastructure, promoting community progress, responding to local concerns and management of local resources.
- Q16 What are the greatest strengths of the community of Aberdeen?**
 Location (67.39%)
 Lifestyle/way of life (56.52%)
 People (55.43%)
 Housing availability/affordability/quality (51.09%)
 Cost of living (45.65%)
- Comments included: Volunteering spirit of people, local school/Rec Centre both are crucial to the community, Quiet town away from the city/good school.*
- Comments on weaknesses included: lack of employment/business opportunities, Infrastructure, and natural resources.*
- Q17 Why did you choose to live in Aberdeen?**
 Proximity to Urban centre (60.22%)
 Cost of living (49.46%)
 Relaxed lifestyle (49.46%)
 Child rearing/family friendly community (41.94%)

Q18 What, for you, are the greatest benefits of living in Aberdeen?

Proximity to the City (73.12%)
Relaxation/quiet/peaceful/less stress (55.91%)
Housing/availability/affordability/quality (50.54%)
Nearness to family (40.86%)

Q19 From the following please rank the services most important to your quality of life in Aberdeen.

Water/sewer/utilities (91.40%)
Post office (86.02%)
Fuel/garage (76.34%)
School (75.27%)
Communications/internet (70.97%)
Sporting facilities/organizations (56.99%)
Committees/boards/community improvement groups (54.84%)
Grocer (51.61%)

Q20 Take a moment to think about the future of your community. Based on the following list what are the most crucial issues threatening that future?

People's resistance to change (53.93%)
Quality of infrastructure (49.44%)
Business retention (47.19%)
Availability of essential services (grocer/plumber/electrician etc.) (47.19%)
Lack of volunteerism/community cooperation (40.45%)
Access to health care (30.34%)

Comments included: need for cheaper housing, more seniors facilities, green spaces/walking trails, need for more RCMP, thefts as of late, taxes are very high compared to other places.

Q21 Please identify your priorities for improvements in your current home community?

Infrastructure – water, roads etc. (60.22%)
Business growth and retention (54.84%)
Town appearance and cleanliness (49.46%)
Attitude of local people (44.09%)
Opportunities for youth (36.56%)

Comments included: We need a hook to bring people/business in, some of main street looks terrible, financial services, stuck too much on keeping the community a small town, having the small town feel, infrastructure is huge!!!

Q22 From the following list please select the most essential to the quality of life in your community.

Fire and Police (96.67%)
Garage/change a tire, fuel (96.55%)
School (94.44%)
Municipal council leadership (78.57%)
Grocer (75.86%)
Service clubs/sporting clubs (72%)
Town improvement group (71.08%)
Library (52.87%)
Financial institution (41.67%)

Q23 In your opinion what represents the top 3 greatest areas of opportunity and growth for Aberdeen?

Proximity to Urban Centre (43%)
Housing and affordability (34%)
Lifestyle (26%)

Q24 What would you consider to be the top 3 most pressing environmental concerns facing your community?

Infrastructure – sewer/transportation (63.95%)
Dilapidated/condemnable buildings (45.35%)
Availability of green space/leisure and recreation (34.88%)

Comments include: poor drainage/watershed flow through town/unsafe a child could drown, smell between lagoon and bio med, park for non school aged children away from the school.

Q25 What are some of the ways that you are involved in your community?

Pay property taxes (93.55%)
Vote in municipal elections (79.57%)
Shopping locally (61.29%)
Give donations (58.06%)
Volunteer for service groups/committees (43.01%)

Comments included: active member of the church, business based here, help those in need, run a day care, small home based business.

Q26 What businesses/services/industries do we not have in this community that you would like to see and would support?

Full grocery store
Garage
Health Care Services (Dr., Pharmacy, nursing)
Bank
Hardware Store

Q27 If you travel to purchase goods or services that are available locally, could you provide the reasons why?

The main reason was selection/choice/price of goods
Convenience while working or commuting to the city for appointments
Use local resources when available

Q28 What additional programs or facilities do you believe would be feasible and utilized by children/youth/adults/seniors in the community. Feel free to address any or all of the demographics.

Water Park
Seniors housing/assisted living
More activities at the complex (e.g., lacrosse, figure skating, volleyball, arts programs)
Youth programs outside of school/after school program
Second Park for pre-school children
Swimming pool
Dog Park