



Surrey Policing: Wave 2

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April, 2020

Methodology

- **Methodology/Sample:** Online and phone survey of randomly-selected sample of 803 adult (18+) Canadians, of which 317 were South Asians, residing in the City of Surrey, BC
 - Online Sample = 497
 - Phone Sample = 306
- **Field Window:** April 17 to 27, 2020
- **Reliability:** Non-probability samples cannot be assigned a margin of error. *As a relative guideline, we have provided margins of error for a probability sample of this size. The margin of error for a probability sample of this size is $\pm 3.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.
- Data has been weighted by age, gender, ethnicity (South Asian), and balanced between three sub-regions based on postal code groupings, as per the latest census data to be representative of the adult population in the City of Surrey.

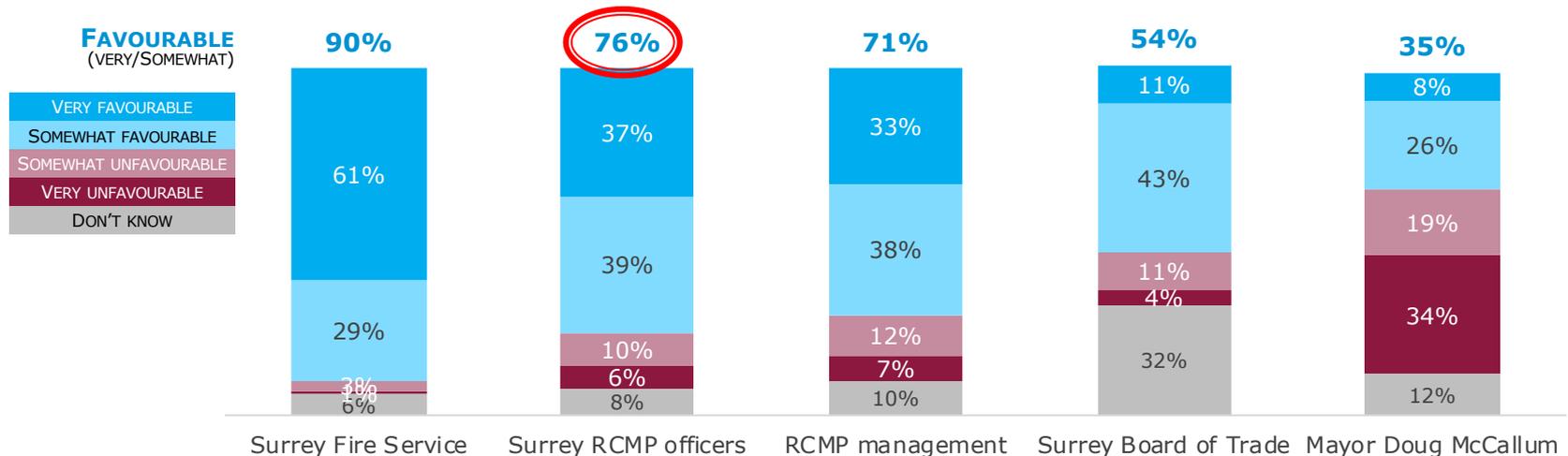


IMPRESSION & PRIORITIES

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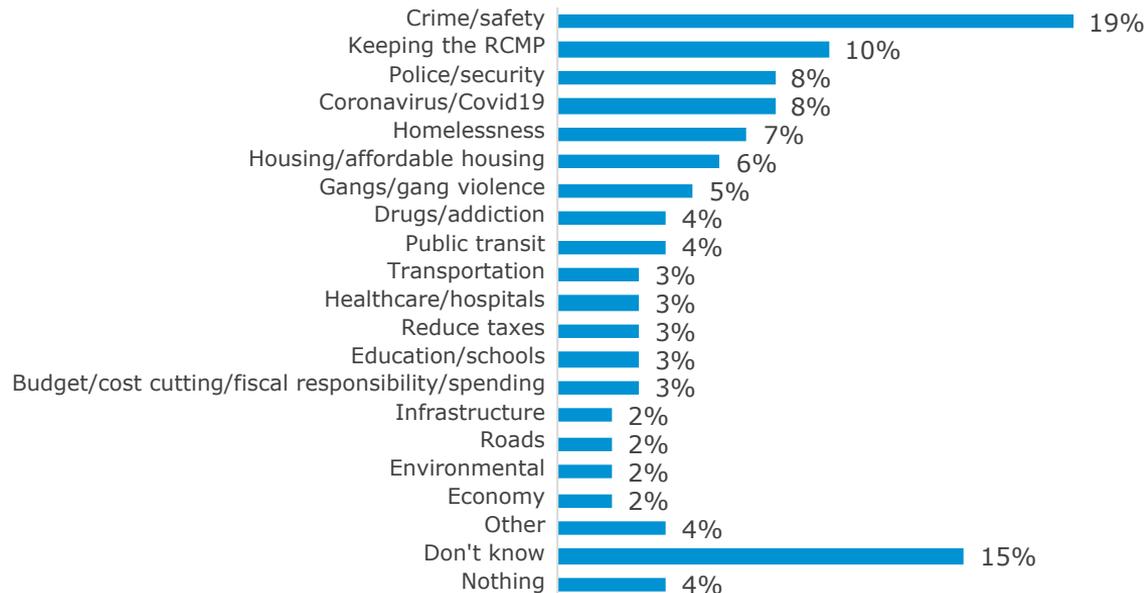
Surrey RCMP Officers and RCMP Management held in high regard

- Over three-quarters of Surrey residents have a favourable opinion of RCMP officers. Over half (52%) of 55+ age group have a “very favourable” impression.
- Over half (53%) of Surrey residents have an unfavourable impression of Mayor Doug McCallum.



Open End: Crime/Safety leads top-of-mind priorities

- When combined, “Keeping the RCMP”, “Police/security”, “Drugs/addiction”, and “Gangs” account for 46% of top-of-mind mentions
- “Keeping the RCMP” was the top priority for over 1 in 5 (21%) of 55+ age group and almost 1 in 5 (19%) South Surrey residents.



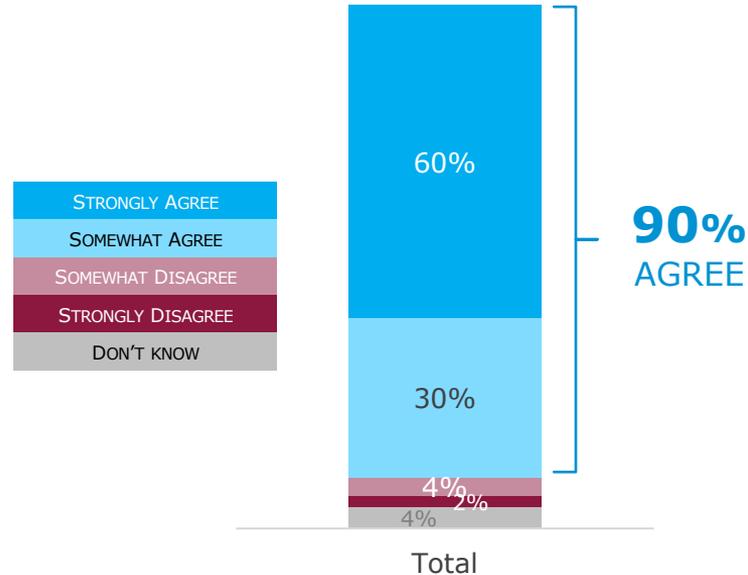
**Note: Responses <2% not shown*

Q2. Thinking about Surrey, what local issue should be the top priority for the Mayor and Council? (N=803)

9 in 10 agree that Council should step back on spending plans due to announced budget shortfall

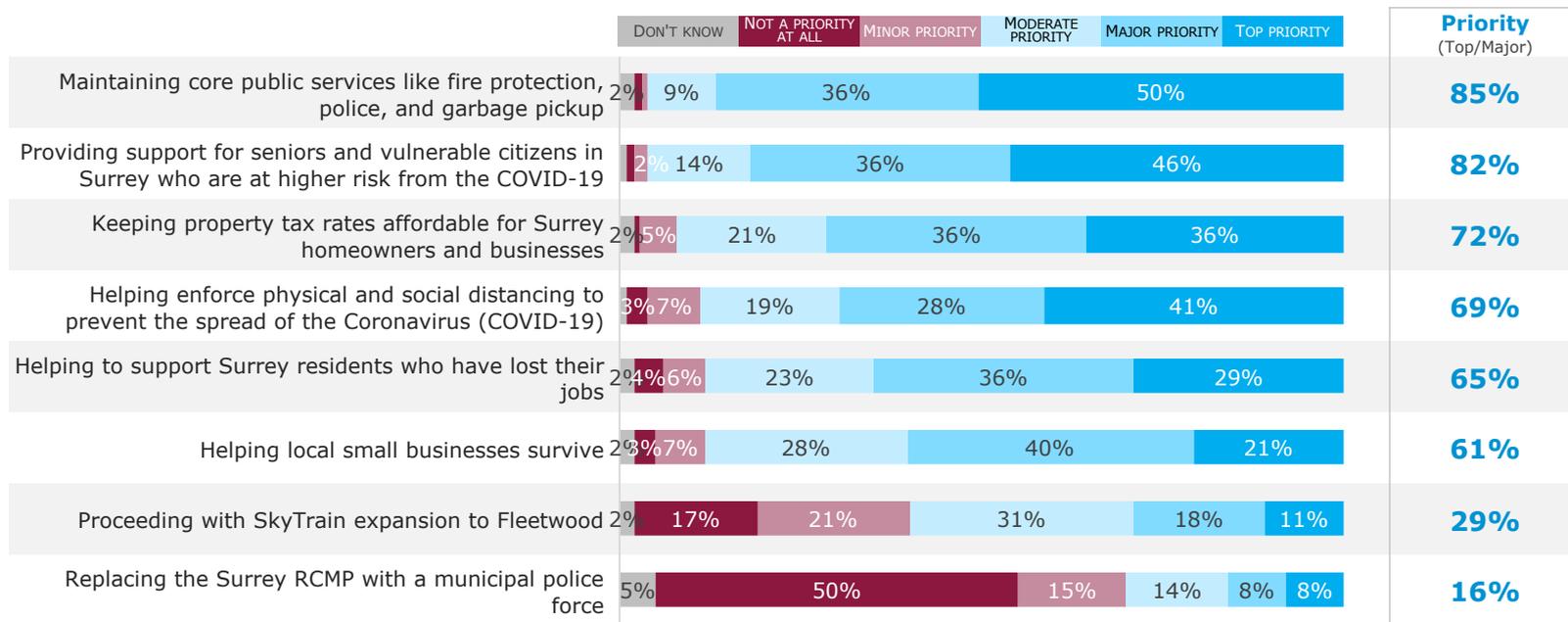
- Broad agreement among demographic groups, with intensity of agreement stronger with older residents.

Mayor and Council need to take a step back and evaluate its spending plans to ensure they are focused on the most urgent priorities



Maintain core services, protect vulnerable are much higher priorities than replacing RCMP

- Surrey residents were asked to give priority level of eight items. Six of eight were seen as top or major priorities by a majority of respondents, ranging from 61% to 85%.
- Extending Skytrain (29%) and replacing the RCMP (16%) were lowest in terms of being ranked as top/major priorities.



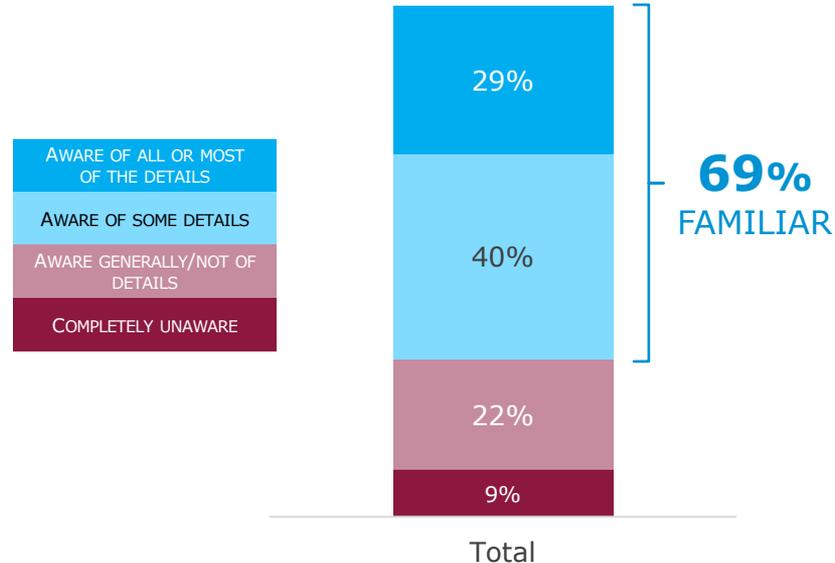


MAYOR'S PLAN

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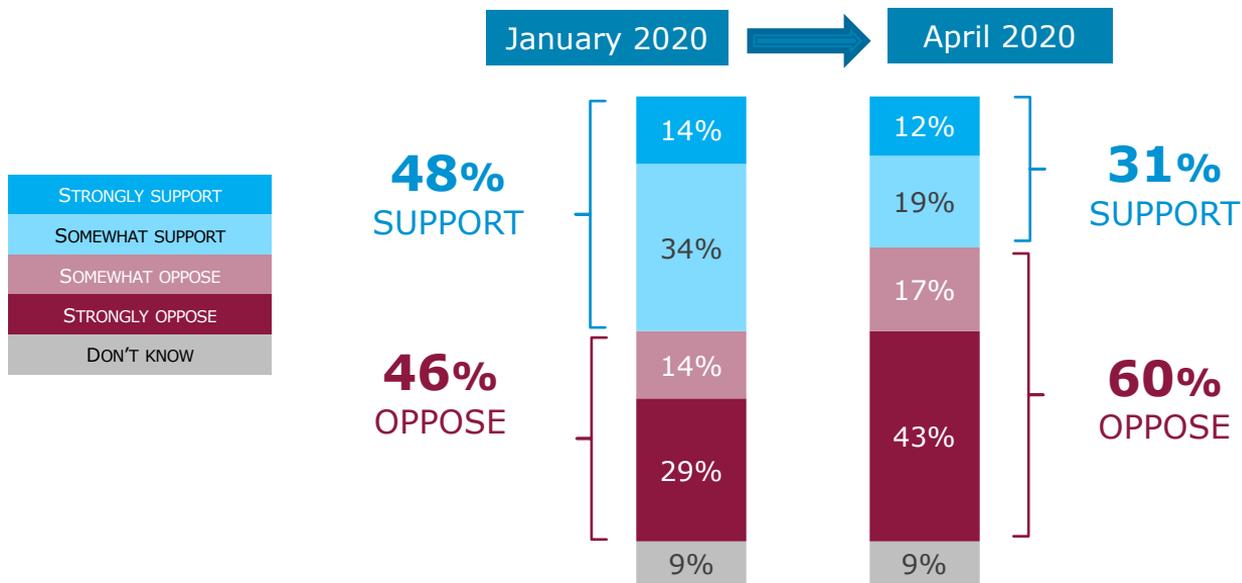
Almost 7 in 10 residents aware of most or some of the details of the Mayor's plan to replace the RCMP

- Familiarity increases with age, ranging from 18-34 (56%, top 2 categories) to 55+ (81%).



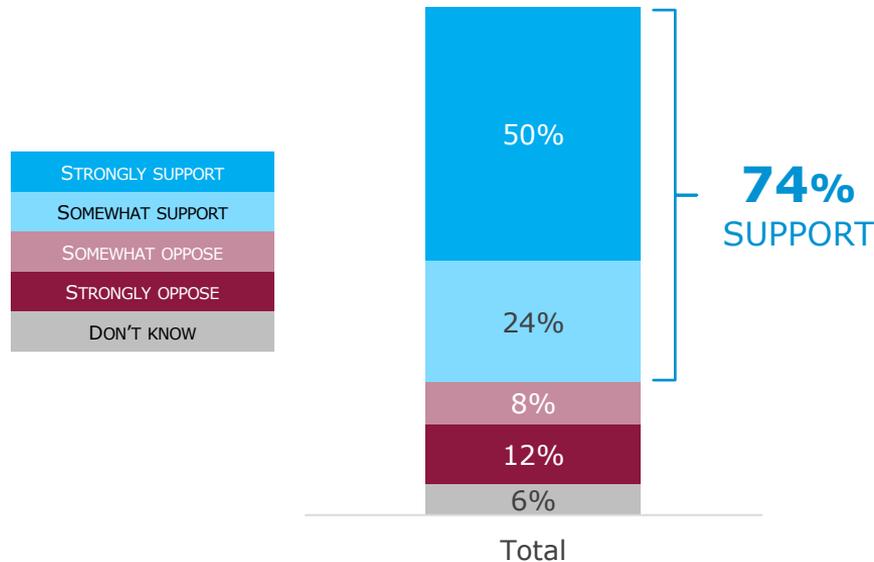
Opposition to replacing the RCMP now outnumbers support by almost 2:1

- Support for the Mayor's plan to replace the RCMP has dropped 17 percentage points from 48% (January) to 31% (April).
- Opposition to the Mayor's plan has increased from 46% to 60%
- Those saying they strongly support the Mayor's plan (12%) are outnumbered by those saying they strongly oppose the plan (43%), up fourteen percentage points since January.



A majority strongly support a referendum on the Mayor's plan to replace the RCMP

- About 3 in 4 Surrey residents support a referendum on the Mayor's plan, including half (50%) that strongly support a referendum.
- The intensity of support for a referendum varies among age groups from 18-34 (34% strongly support) to 55+ (64% strongly support)



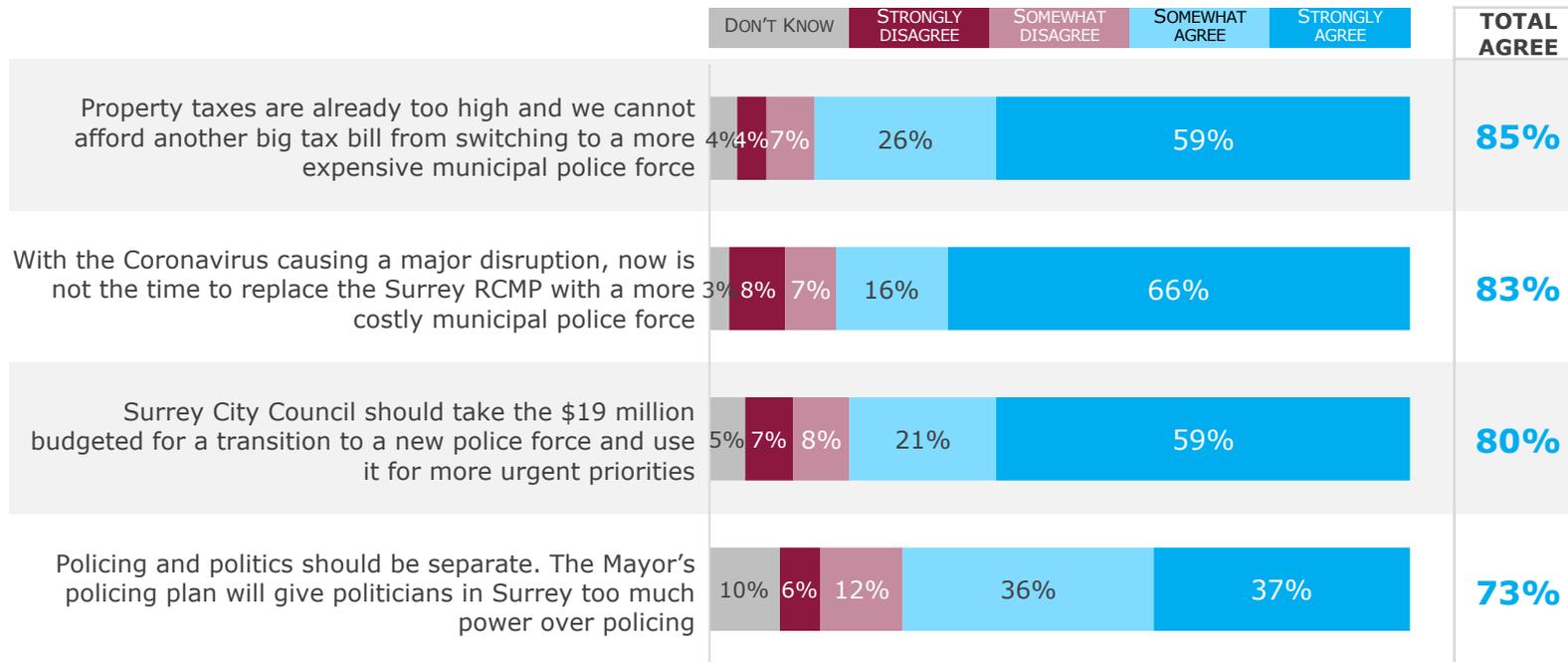


MESSAGE TEST

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2 in 3 strongly agree that with Coronavirus disruption, “now is not the time” to replace RCMP

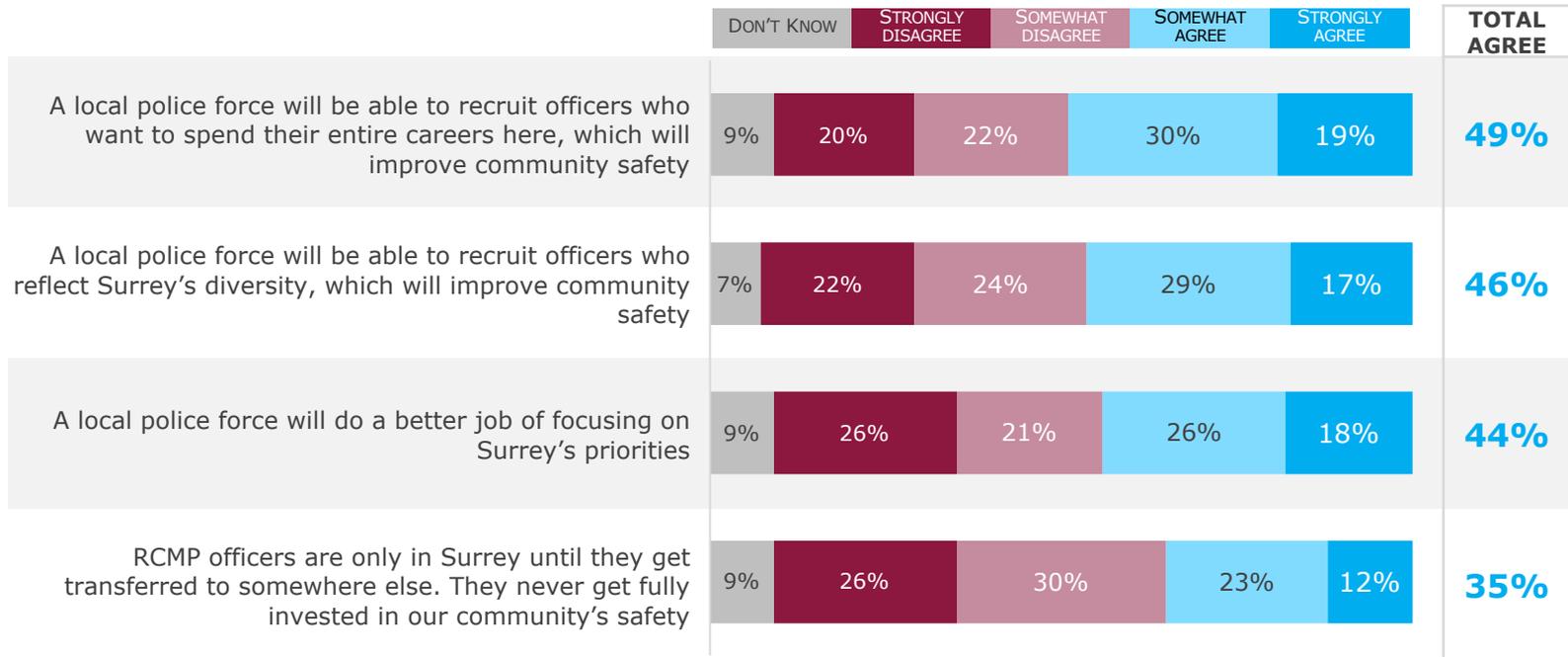
- Messages concerning cost of mayor’s plan, focusing on more urgent priorities, and affordability of property taxes received strong agreement of a majority of respondents, and overall agreement of over 4 in 5.
- About 3 in 4 agreed that “policing and politics” should be separate.



Q8. The following are a list of statements about the Mayor’s plan to replace the Surrey RCMP detachment with a municipal police force. Please indicate to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements. (N=803)

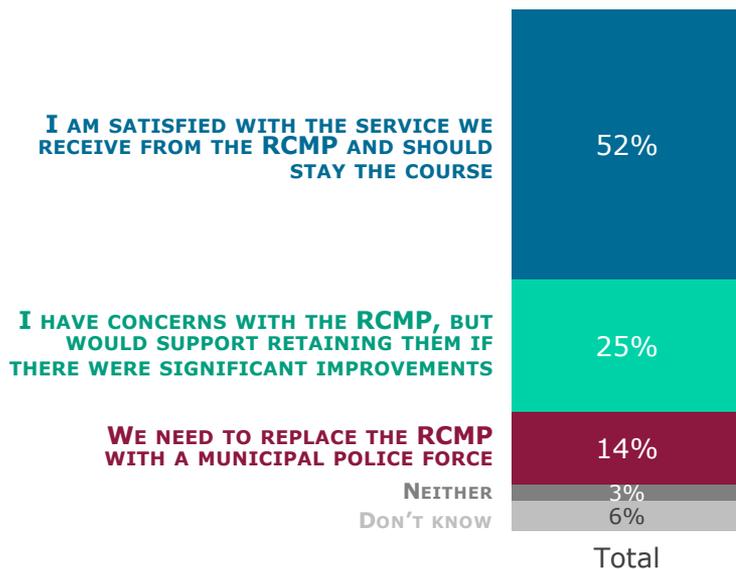
Messages favouring Mayor's plan received mixed response; recruitment messages were strongest

- Messaging on diversity and recruiting officers that will stay in Surrey were strongest



Post-Test #1: over 3 in 4 would stay the course or retain RCMP with improvements

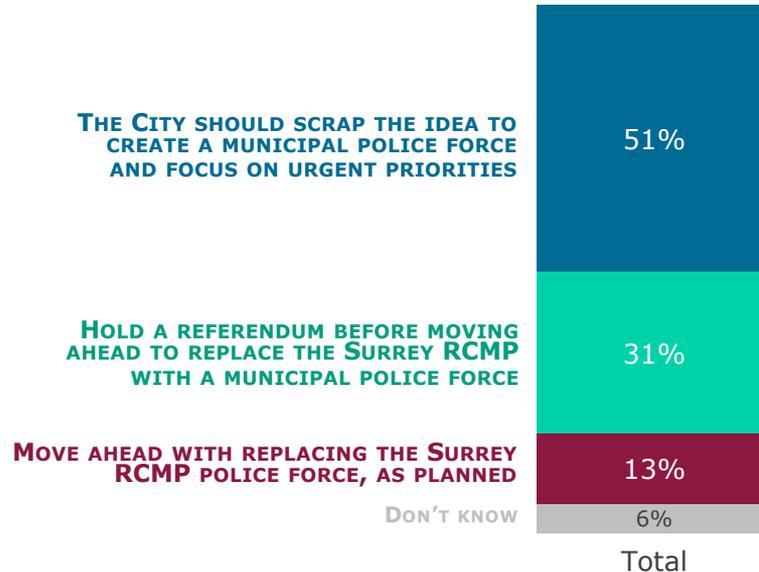
- Following message testing, respondents were provided with options about the Mayor's plan and asked to choose one.
- Overall, half of Surrey residents say they are satisfied with the service ... from the RCMP and want to “stay the course”, while 1 in 4 have concerns but would retain the RCMP with significant improvements.
- One in 7 (14%) chose a third option which was to replace the RCMP with a municipal police force
- About half (49%) of those who supported the Mayor's plan to replace RCMP (earlier in the survey) moved to either “satisfied” (22%) or “concerns...would support retaining” (27%).



Q9. Which of the following statements best reflects your viewpoint? (N=803)

Post-Test #2: over half say the City should “scrap the idea” and 3 in 10 say hold referendum

- Respondents strongly prefer either scrapping the plan or at least holding a referendum, than moving forward with the Mayor’s plan
- As with post-test #1, under 1 in 7 (13%) prefer to “move ahead” with replacing the RCMP, while a significant majority prefer other options
- Over half (51%) say City should scrap the idea – highest among 55+ (59%) and females (57%), while about 3 in 10 (31%) say that the City should hold a referendum before moving ahead

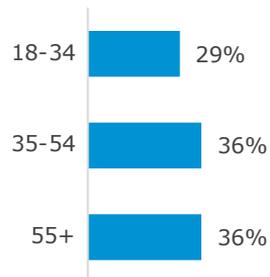


Demographics

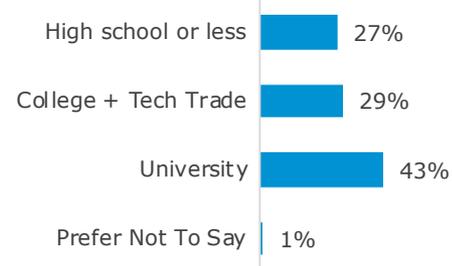
GENDER



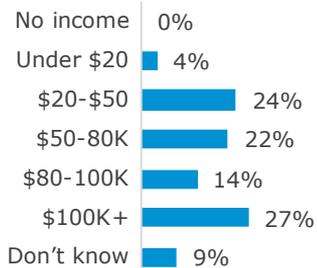
AGE



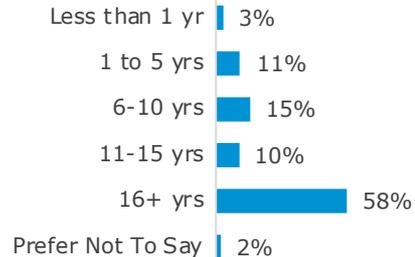
EDUCATION



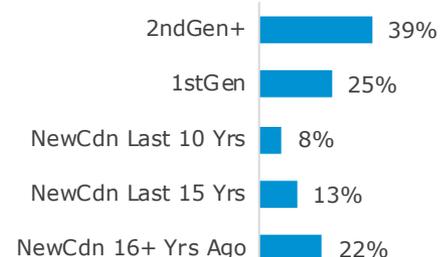
HOUSEHOLD INCOME



YEARS LIVING IN SURREY



IMMIGRANTS





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