

## York West Swimming Facilities

### 1.0 Background and methodology

From 13 November to 5 December 2006, residents were invited to express their views about proposals to radically improve swimming facilities in West York. Residents were asked how they would prefer the council to spend the £4 million which will be generated from the sale of the Barbican site. The respondents were asked to rank three possible options:

1. Build a new five lane 25m pool and learner pool onto the new Oaklands sports centre. Edmund Wilson Pool would then close.
2. The refurbishment of Edmund Wilson Pool. The improvements would include a new entrance lobby and lift, refitted changing rooms, essential repairs to the pool's fabric, returning the gym to the first floor.
3. The council should consider investing the capital in another local site to build a new five lane 25m pool and learner pool.

Around 30,000 residents in Acomb, Holgate, Rural West York, Dringhouses and Woodthorpe, and Westfield were asked to complete a postal questionnaire and return using a free post address. Residents in these wards received a postal questionnaire as they would be the most affected by the proposals. The talkabout panellists were also invited to submit their views in the talkabout 27 questionnaire. The panel consists of over 2,000 residents and is broadly representative of the city in terms of age, gender, socio-economic group and area. All other residents from across the city were invited to take part in an online survey accessed from the council's website. Two public meetings were also held on 28 November 2006 so residents could obtain more information about the options and discuss the proposals in more detail.

The responses from all three research methods were cross referenced to ensure the same resident could not submit their views more than once.

### 2.0 The sample profile

A total of 1,907 residents participated in the consultation; over half had completed the postal questionnaire:

Method	% of sample
Postal questionnaire delivered to residents in West York (1045)	55%
talkabout 27 survey (731)	38%
Online survey (131)	7%

With a sample size of 1,907, results are accurate +/- 2.24% at a 95% confidence interval.

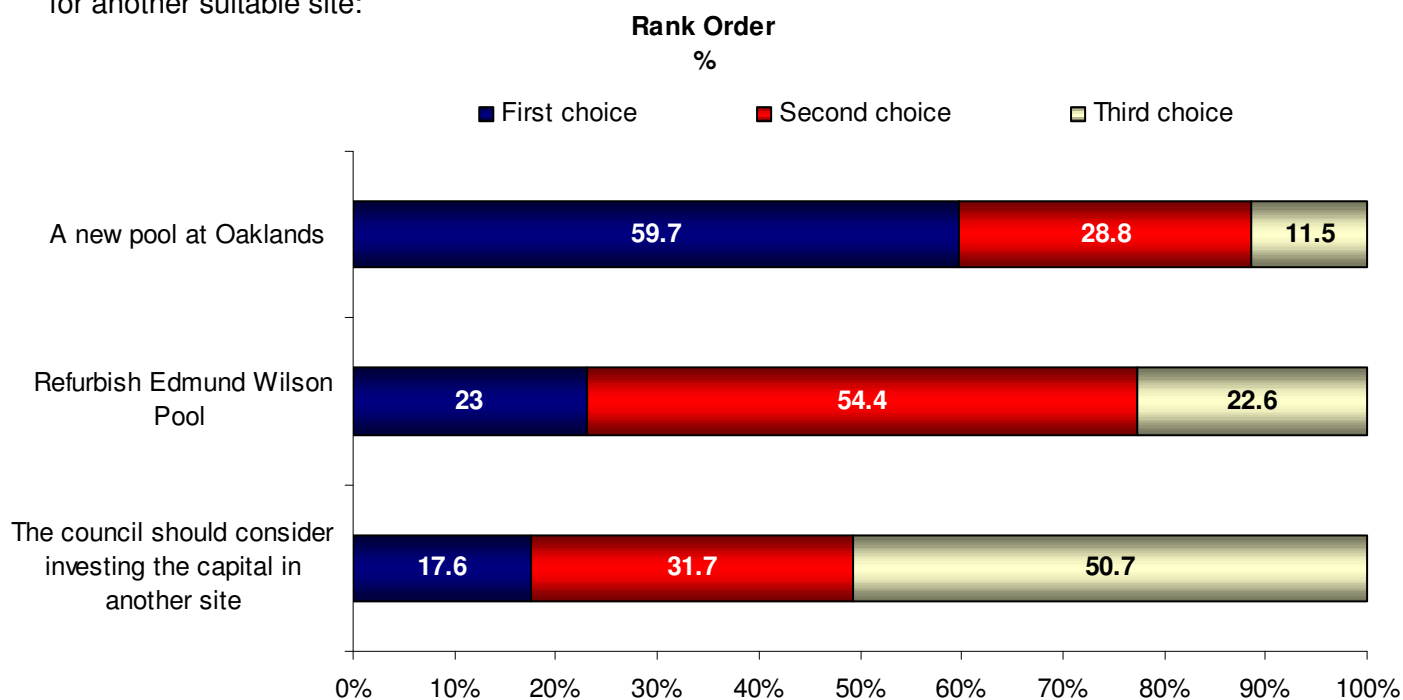
The table below illustrates the proportion of the sample in each ward area. Over two-thirds (68%) of the sample live in West York (Acomb, Holgate, Rural West York, Dringhouses and Woodthorpe, and Westfield.)

Ward Area	% of sample
Holgate	15
Rural West York	14
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe	14
Westfield	13
Acomb	12
Micklegate	4
Huntington & New Earswick	3
Bishopthorpe	3
Skelton, Rawcliffe & Clifton Without	3
Haxby & Wiggington	3
Strensall	2
Clifton	2
Heworth	2
Fishergate	2
Hull Road	1
Heworth Without	1
Derwent	1
Fulford	1
Wheldrake	1
Osbaldwick	1
Bishopthorpe	1
Guildhall	1
Other/don't know	1

### 3.0 Results from the quantitative consultation

#### 3.1 Total response

A new pool built at Oaklands was the preferred option for three-fifths of the total sample, almost one-quarter (23%) favour refurbishing Edmund Wilson Pool whilst just 18% want the council to look for another suitable site:



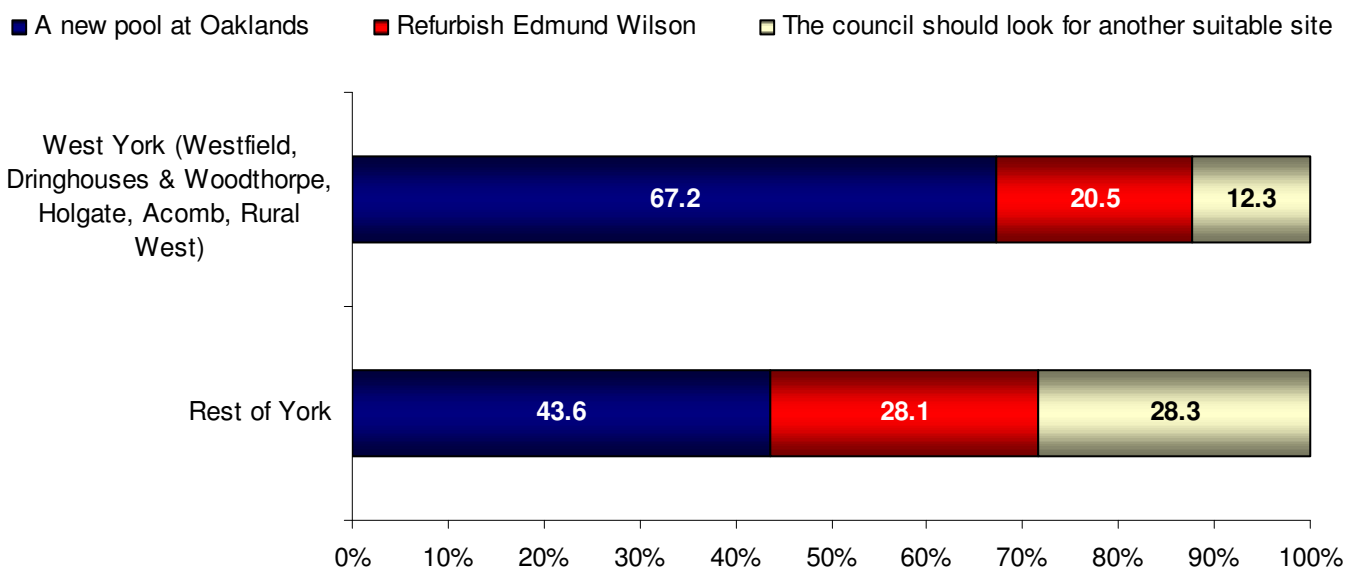
### 3.2 Response by area

The chart below shows the proportion of the sample in West York and the proportion of the sample in the rest of the city identifying each option as their first choice.

Over two-thirds of those in West York favour a new pool at Oaklands. This was particularly popular amongst those in Holgate, Acomb and Westfield with seven out of ten in these wards<sup>0</sup> saying a new pool at Oaklands is their preferred option.

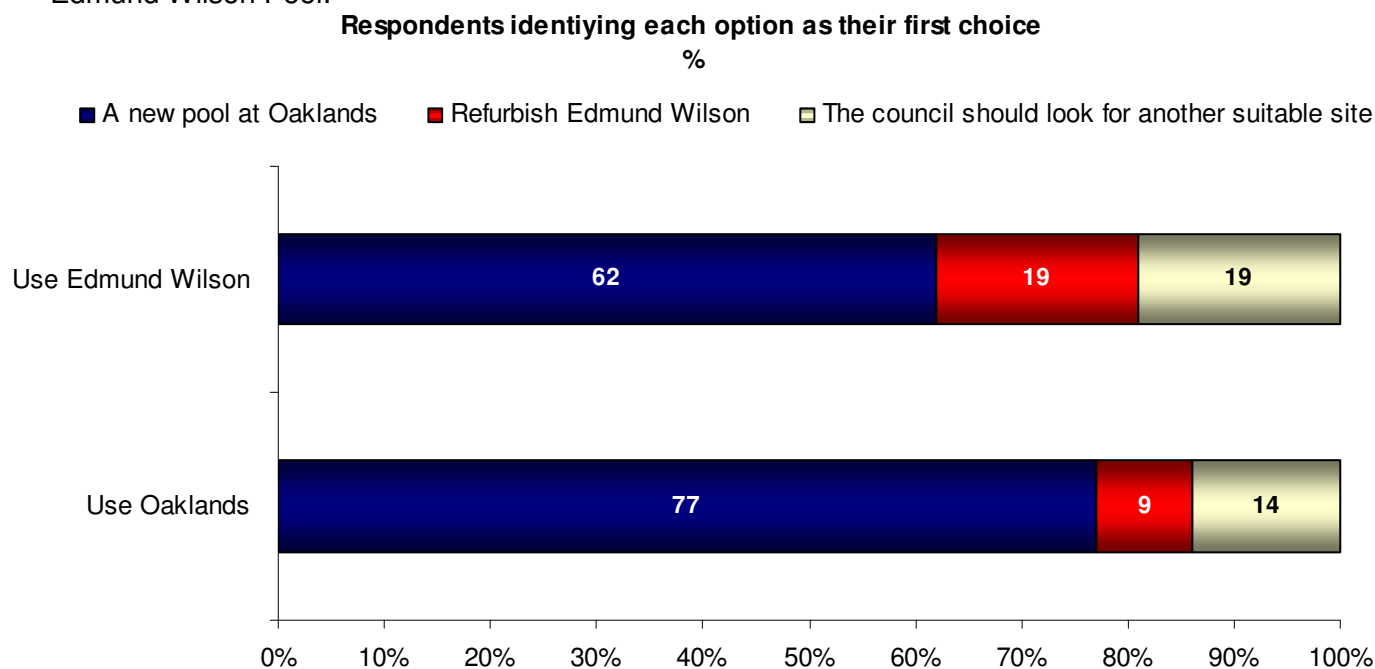
Although a new pool at Oaklands was also the most popular choice amongst residents from other areas of the city, less than half (43.6%) point to this as their favourite option.

**Respondents Identifying each option as their first choice**  
%



### 3.3 Response by facility use

The chart below shows the opinions of those respondents who currently use Oaklands and the Edmund Wilson Pool:



A new pool at Oaklands was the preferred proposal amongst users of Edmund Wilson and Oaklands; however, the Oaklands users were more likely identify this as their favourite option (+15%).

#### 4.0 Additional comments

Respondents were also asked if there was anything else they would like to say about the swimming facilities in York. The results from this question will be available 20 December 2006.

#### 5.0 Qualitative Consultation Meetings

##### 5.1 Public meetings

Two public meetings were held on 28 November at Oaklands sports centre attended by a total of 25 people. The clear balance of opinion expressed at both meetings was that users did not want to lose Edmund Wilson for it to be replaced by a pool with a lower specification (and especially of only 5 lanes) when the proposed competition pool to be built in partnership with the University is subject to planning approvals and a funding package being put together.

The meetings were therefore of the view that the Council should defer any decision at this time. In the meanwhile the Council should also investigate further the potential to provide a new 6 lane pool on an alternative local site close to the current pool.

Specific concerns were also expressed about a pool at Oaklands in terms of traffic, parking and access.

##### 5.2 York City Baths Club

A consultation meeting with York City Baths Club was held to understand the impact of the two options proposed. A summary will follow.