

Neighbourhood Plan Consultation – Sept 21st 2023 to 2nd Nov 2023

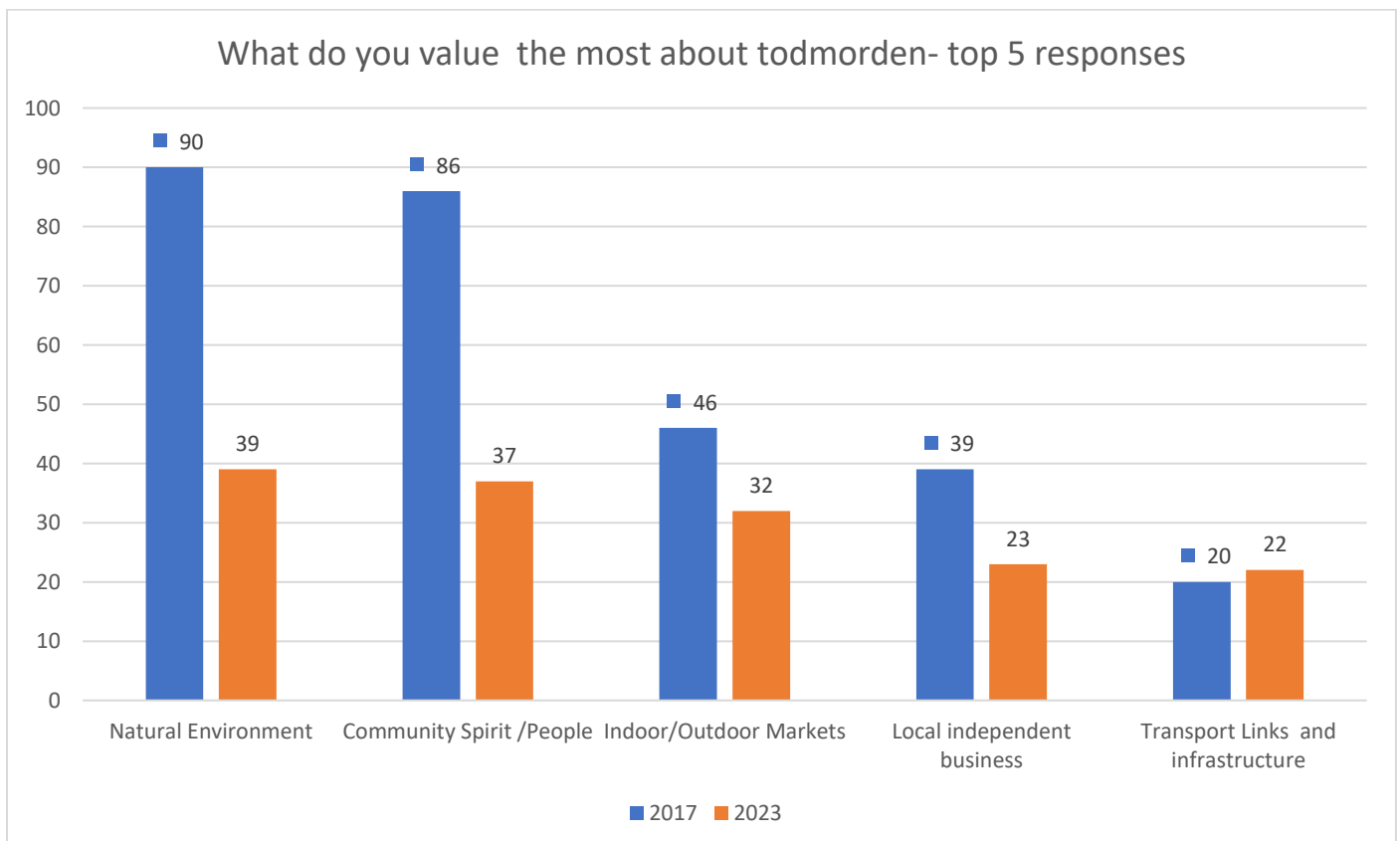
Validation of 2017 key data

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2017 a series of workshops were held to provide a base of information by which to determine what policies may be needed within the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 Delays in Calderdale MBC progressing the Local Plan meant that the Neighbourhood Plan would also be delayed.
- 1.3 Whilst policies were formulated and included as part of the consultation draft the opportunity was taken to introduce a survey (paper and online) to either validate or identify substantive differences to four key questions that would enable us to consider whether any focus or change in policies are required.
 - What do you value most about Todmorden?
 - What new development does Todmorden need?
 - What are your worries for the future of Todmorden?
 - What are your 3 most important aspects in any new development?
- 1.4 The consultation event saw over 75 persons attending and at the end of the consultation period 47 survey responses were received

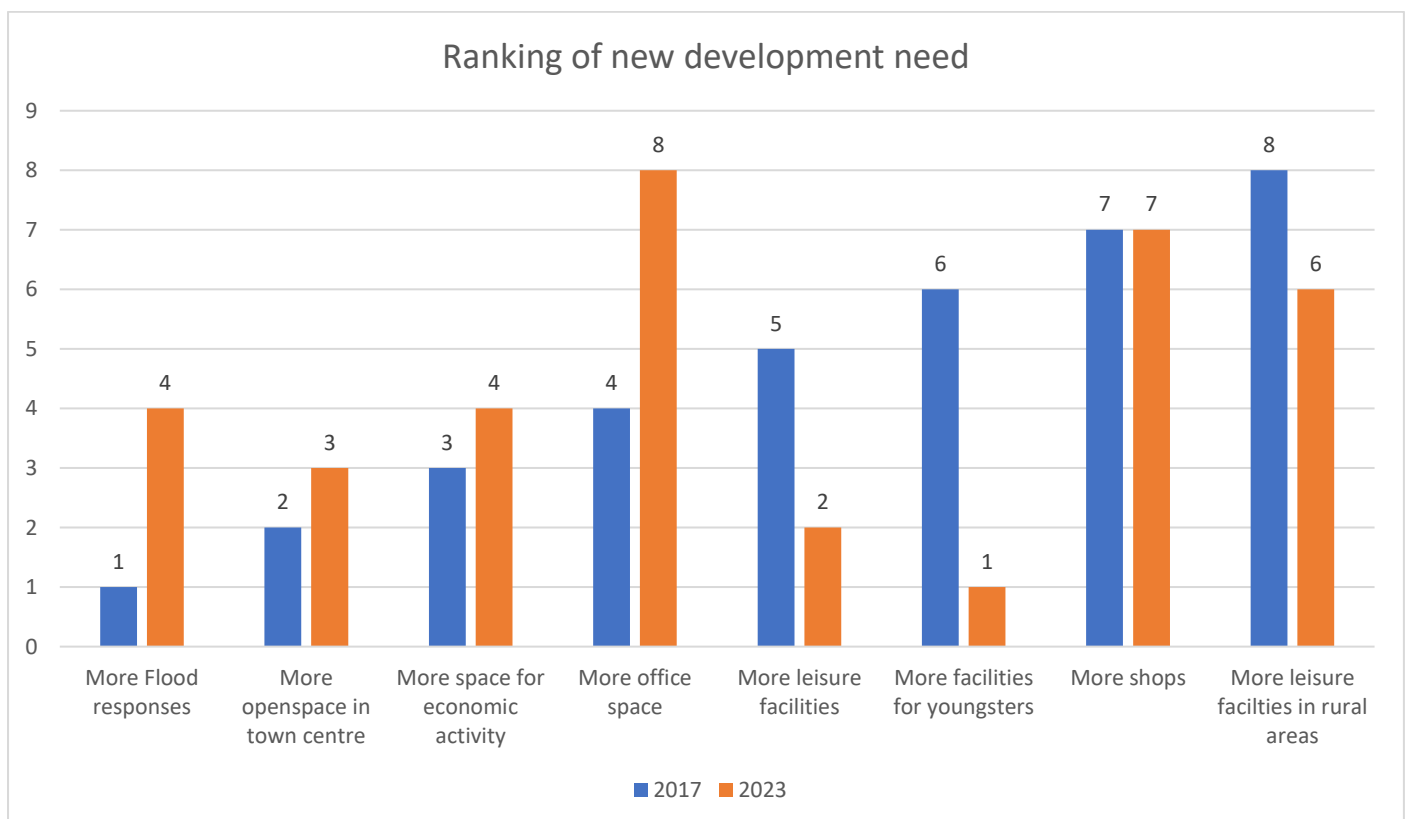
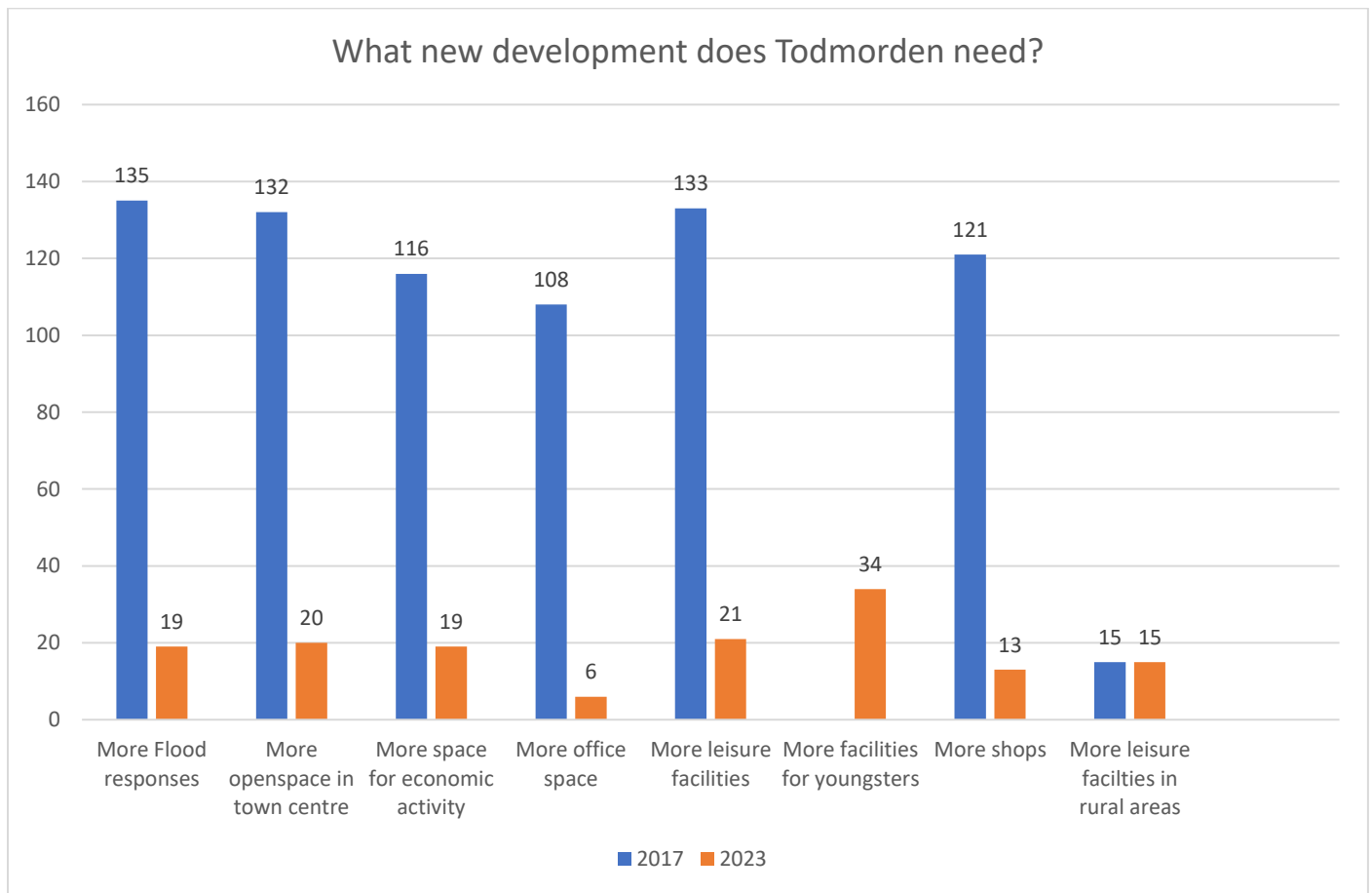
2. Consultation Responses

2.1 What do you value most about Todmorden?



2.1a There were 10 factors to consider. Whilst the sample size now may be substantially less than in 2017 residents felt exactly the same in terms of what the top 5 would be and in the same order.

2.2 What new development does Todmorden need?



2.2a When considering by ranking of new development need there are four variances to consider in terms of policy amendment /addition.

More facilities for youngsters- ranking from 6 to 1

More leisure facilities – ranking from 5 to 2

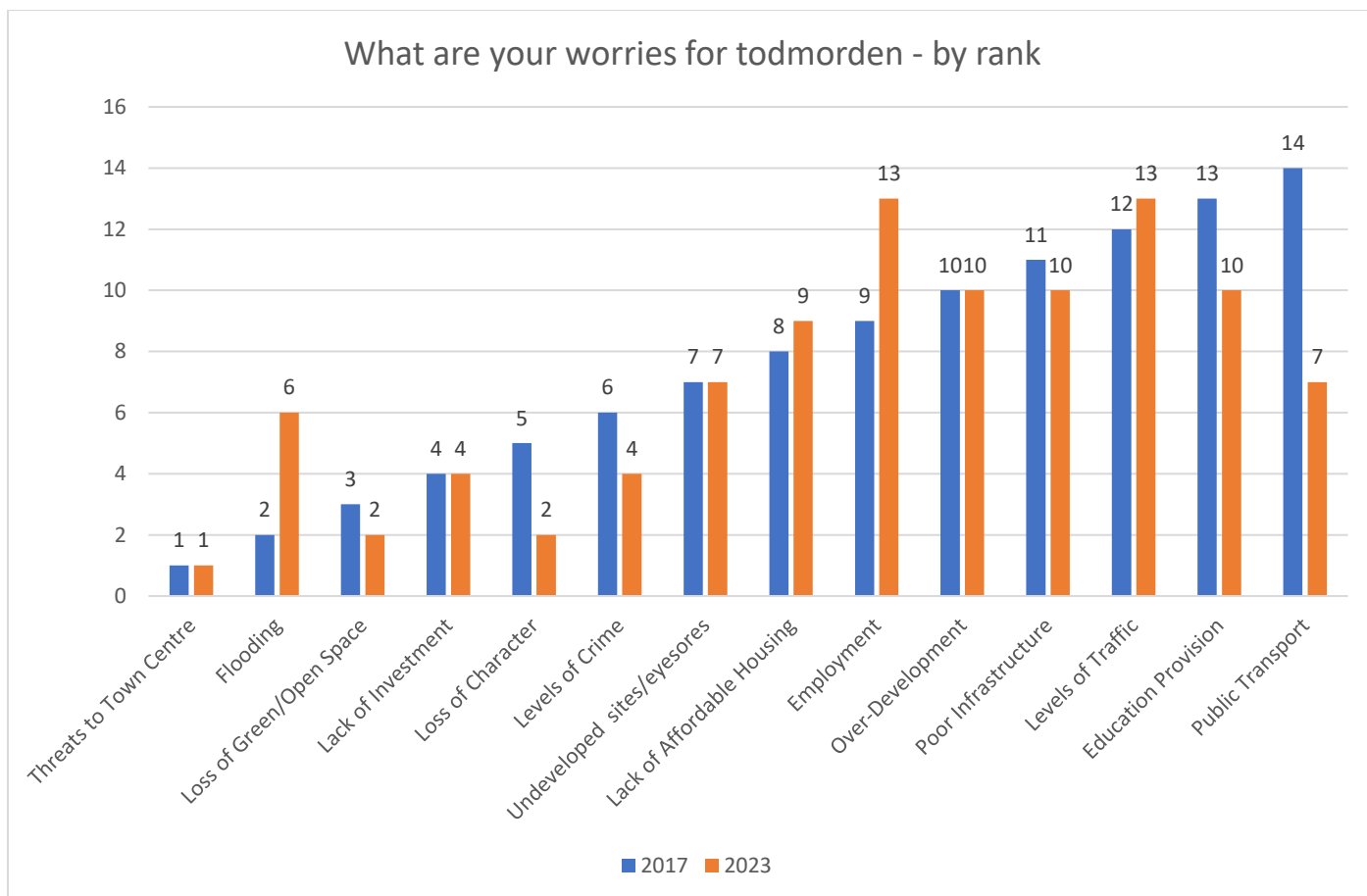
More flood responses -ranking from 1 to 4

More office space – ranking from 4 to 8

2.2b Without more in depth focus group work on each of these measures it is difficult to draw a comparison as to what has changed priority, but potential suggestions could be: -

- Concerns about increasing youth related anti-social behaviour.
- Concerns re flooding have lessened as impact of 2105 event lessen in memory and more infrastructure work has taken place to mitigate future flooding impact.
- Need for more office space may be influenced by type- small incubator space- as impact of covid pandemic potentially created more self-employed/small business demand.

2.3 **What are your worries for the future of Todmorden?**



2.3a When considering by ranking of worries for the future use of there are five variances, where movement is 3 places or above to consider in terms of policy amendment /addition

Public Transport – ranking 14 to 7

Employment – ranking 9 to 13

Flooding - rank 2 to 6

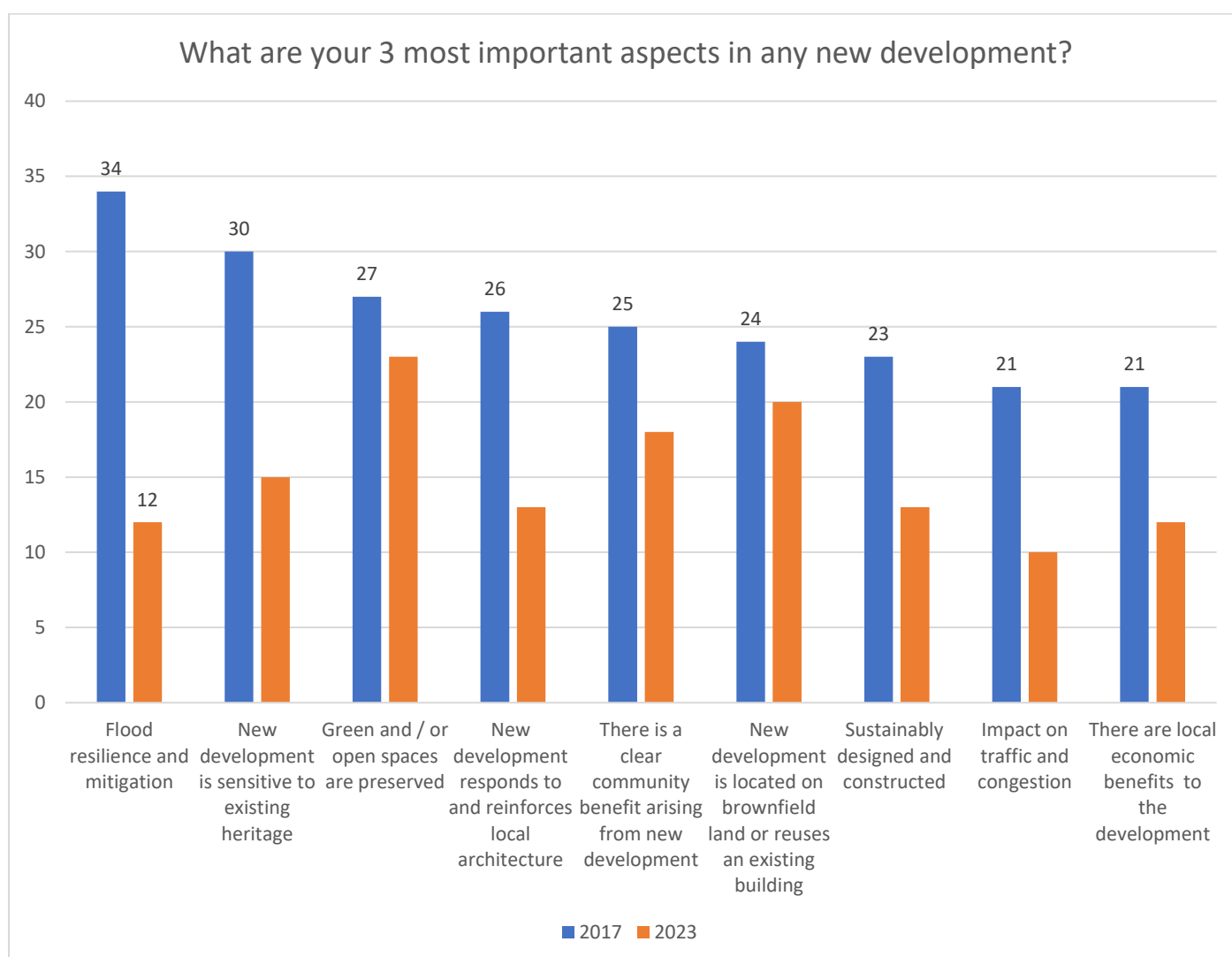
Education provision – rank 13 to 10

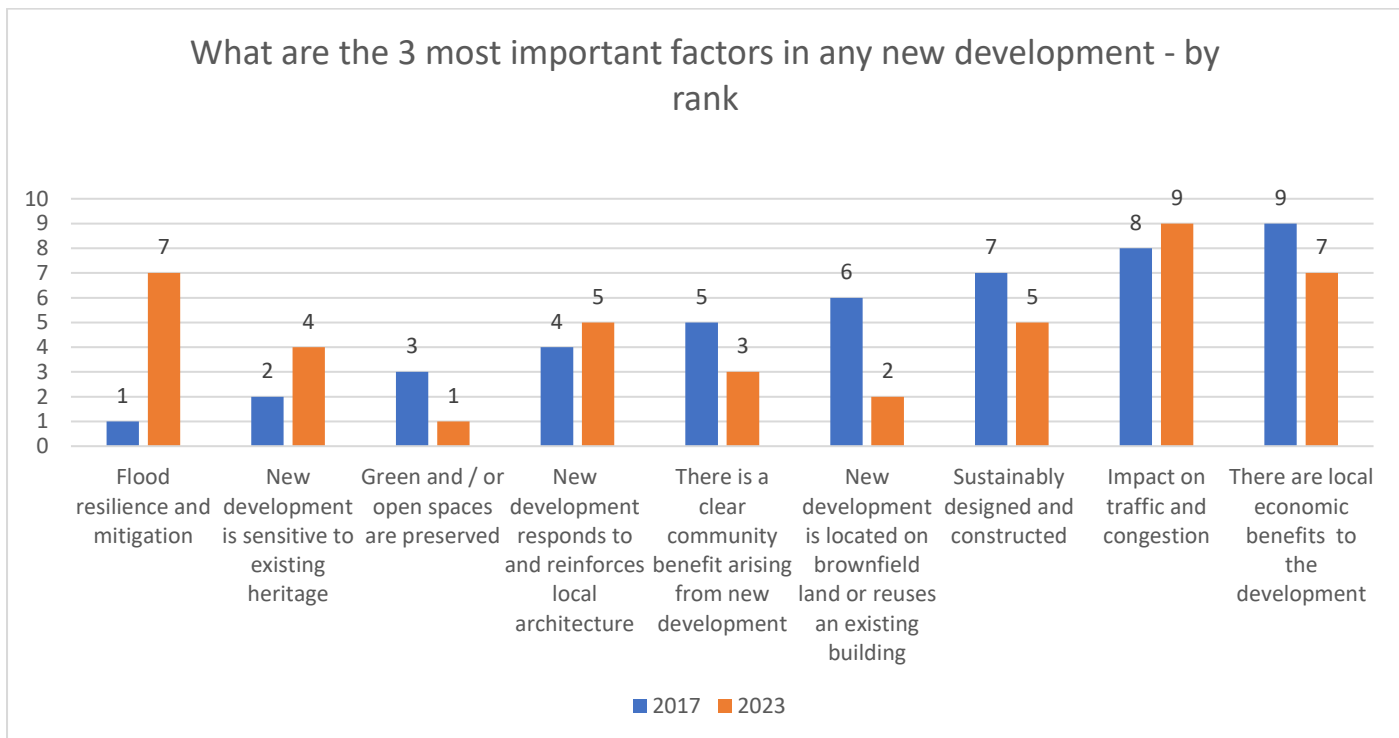
Loss of Character – rank 5 to 2

2.3b Without more in depth focus group work on each of these measures it is difficult to draw a comparison as to what has changed priority, but potential suggestions could be:-

- Emerging concerns in 2109 about reduction in bus services ahead of then the covid pandemic and return of bus services.
- Census data revealed 78.2% are in employment
- Flooding concerns as with paragraph 2.2a appear to be of less importance.
- General concerns about education prevail
- Concerns may be reflective of concerns about development impact on the look and feel of Todmorden.

2.4 What are your 3 most important aspects in any new development?





2.4a When considering by ranking of worries for the future use of there are two variances, where movement is 3 places or above to consider in terms of policy amendment /addition.

Flood resilience and mitigation – rank 1 to 7

New development is located on brownfield land or reuses - rank 6 to 2 an existing building

2.4b Without more in depth focus group work on each of these measures it is difficult to draw a comparison as to what has changed priority, but potential suggestions could be:-

- Reinforces paragraphs 2.2b and 2.3b that flooding is not as high on the agenda of residents’ concerns as in 2017.
- Reflects also loss of character concerns.

Policy Framework

3.1 Overall policies were informed by the 2017 consultation and workshop events and reflected people main concerns at that time taking into account:-

- What do you value most about Todmorden?
- What new development does Todmorden need?
- What are your worries for the future of Todmorden?
- What are your 3 most important aspects in any new development?

3.2 The comparative responses to these four questions between 2017 and 20-23 indicate that there is no substantive change needed to the overall Policy Framework, but that some modification may be needed to reflect changing emphasis arising out of the 2023 response under certain policy headings.

3.3 The Table below summarises where consideration may need to be given to either introduce new policies and or strengthen/change the focus in existing policies.

Survey Heading	Response	Policy consideration
<p>What do you value most about Todmorden – top 5 answers</p>	<p>Natural Environment</p> <p>Community Spirit</p> <p>Indoor/Outdoor Markets</p> <p>Local Independent Business</p> <p>Transport Links and Infrastructure</p>	<p>No proposed change – Policy still reflects importance. NE1, NE2,NE3,CR1</p> <p>Reflected in approach to community facilities and services. (CCR1,CCR2,CCR3) and in our vision re Community /Aspirations regarding Accessibility and Inclusivity, (H&,TC2,TM1,TM2) Food Growing(CCR1) Skills Development (CCR2) , Flood and Water Management (H4,H8,NE1)</p> <p>Generally supported by Town Centre Policy TC3.given it still features as number 3 most valued, should a separate policy be developed specific to supporting the Markets eg regeneration proposals ?</p> <p>Whilst supported re Shop Fronts (TC1) and general comment, if including markets then combine with this</p> <p>Fully supported by policies (TM1 and TM2). Policy TM3 EV Charging Points may need to include to support retrofit opportunities.</p>
<p>What new development does Todmorden need?</p>	<p>Youth facilities –movement 6 to 1</p> <p>More leisure facilities – movement 5 to 2</p>	<p>CCR1 promotes arts culture and leisure through use of flexible community space. Given shift in priority of youth facilities (evidenced by increasing concerns re ASB (Development Committee reference) should the policy be strengthened to specifically support new and or change of use to create youth focussed provision?</p> <p>CCR1 covers but potential to include within policy above including to support in more rural areas.</p>

Survey Heading	Response	Policy consideration
What are your worries for the future Todmorden?	<p>Public Transport- movement 14 to 7</p> <p>Loss of character – movement 5 to 2</p> <p>Flooding ranking movement 2 to 6</p> <p>Education provision – movement 13 to 10</p>	<p>This increase in concern is perhaps reflective of recent years difficulties in accessing public transport and potential reduction in service provision. Whilst train station platform access is covered in TM2, service provision is not part of the remit other than to support potential new development/ infrastructure a part of best in placemaking and design.</p> <p>Policy HG1 covers reinforcing distinctive character of Todmorden.</p> <p>Whilst concern seems to be reducing given the importance of this issues there is no proposal to amend current policy H4,H8 and NE1</p> <p>Policy CCR1 includes facilities to support skills, education and enterprise. If concerns about delivery of education then not within remit of this plan.</p>

Survey Heading	Response	Policy consideration
What are your 3 most important aspects about development	<p>Flood resilience and litigation – movement 1 to 7</p> <p>New Development is located on brownfield land or reuses an existing building - movement 6 to 2</p>	<p>Whilst concern seems to be reducing given the importance of this issues there is no proposal to amend current policy H4,H8 and NE1</p> <p>H5 covers conversion of existing mills and similar large buildings. Should we strengthen this to reflect concerns about unused/derelict gateways into Todmorden and support reuse/conversion on brownfield sites at gateways.</p>