

## **Dublin Citizens' Assembly**

### **Briefing Note on Survey of Councillors**

#### **Introduction**

All Councillors from the four local authorities were invited, in June 2022, to complete a survey for the Dublin Citizens' Assembly. Councillors were asked for their views on the main benefits and challenges of a Directly Elected Mayor (DEM), powers to be devolved, or transferred, to a DEM and the most suitable model for local government structure.

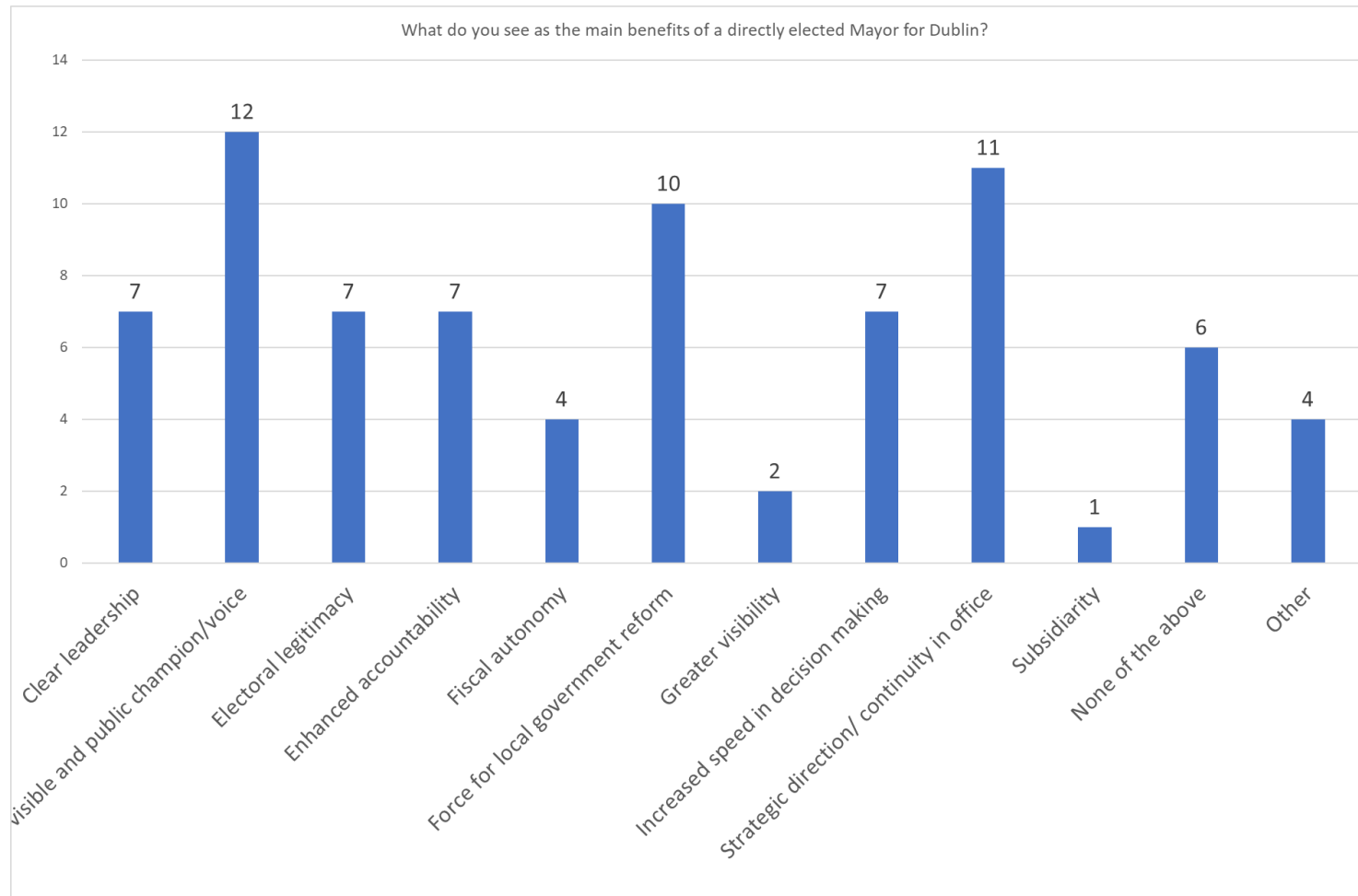
The summary of the responses is outlined below.

#### **Overview:**

- There are 183 Councillors across the 4 Dublin local authorities. 33 survey responses were received to this survey.
  - 7 from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown
  - 12 from Dublin City Council
  - 10 from Dublin Fingal
  - 5 from South Dublin

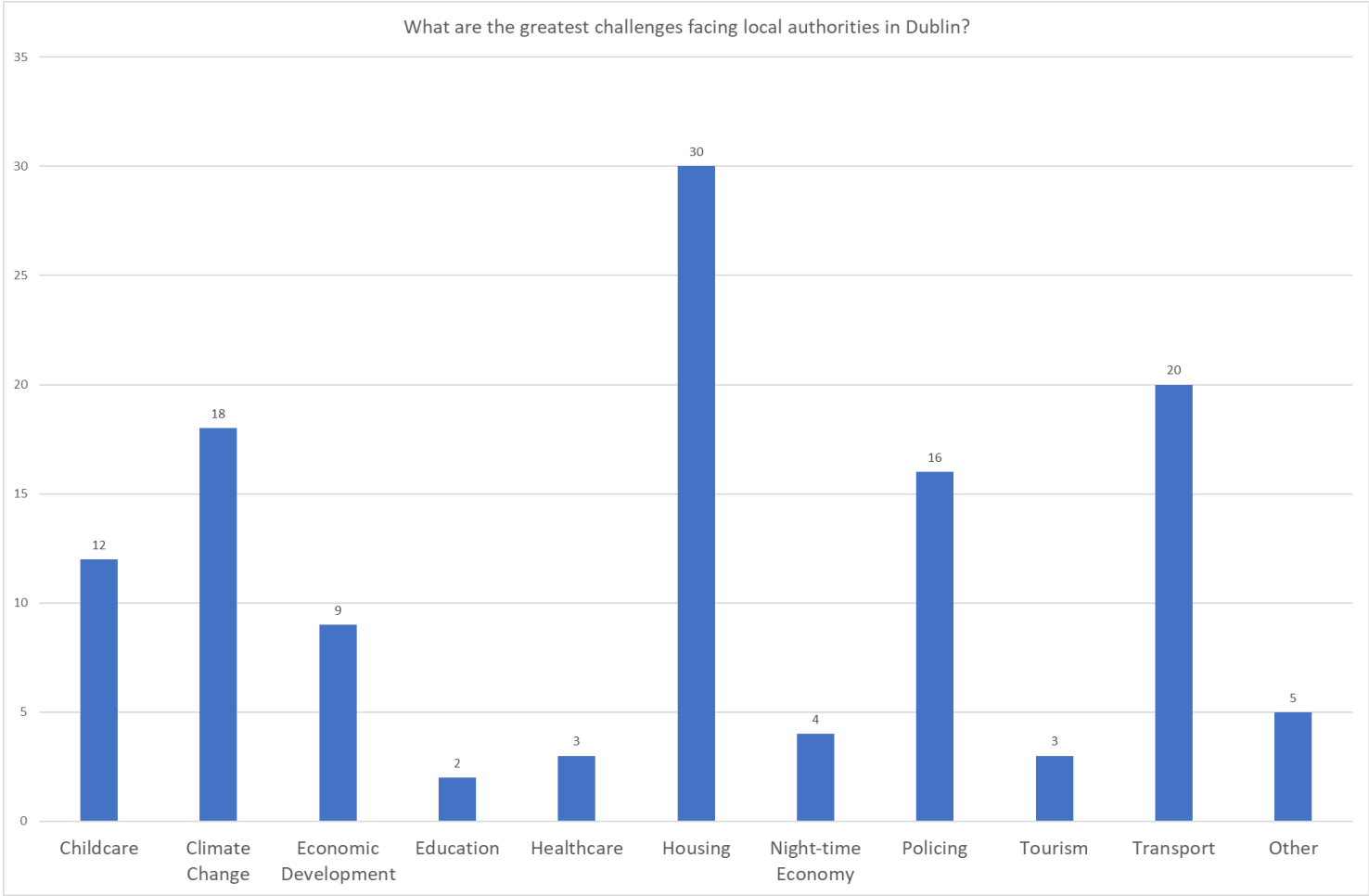
## Benefits

In order of popularity, the main benefits of a DEM are a) Dublin's visible and public champion/voice; b) Strategic direction/continuity in office; c) Force for local government reform



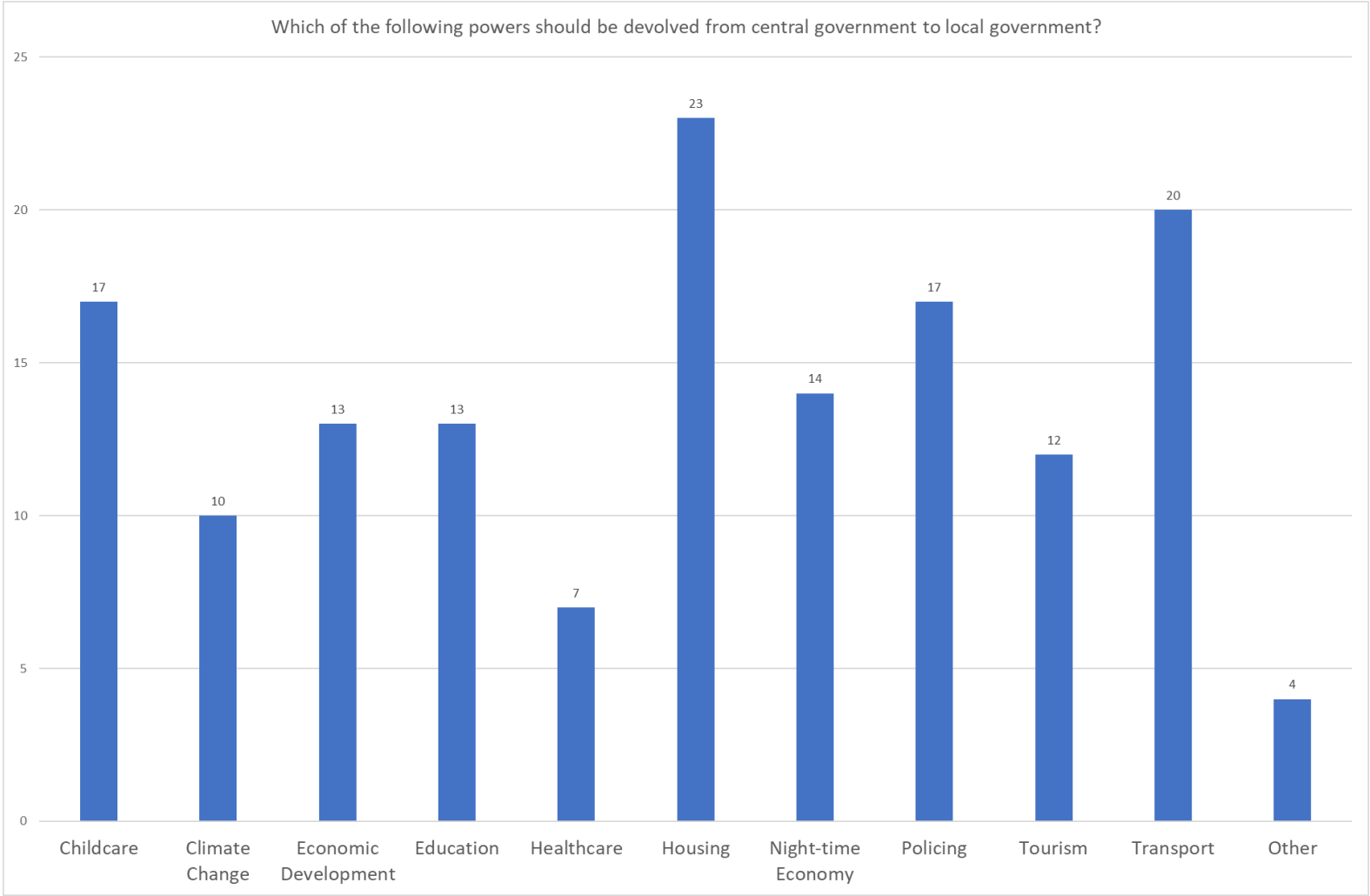
Challenges

In order of popularity, the greatest challenges facing local authorities are a) Housing; b) Transport; c) Climate Change; d) Policing



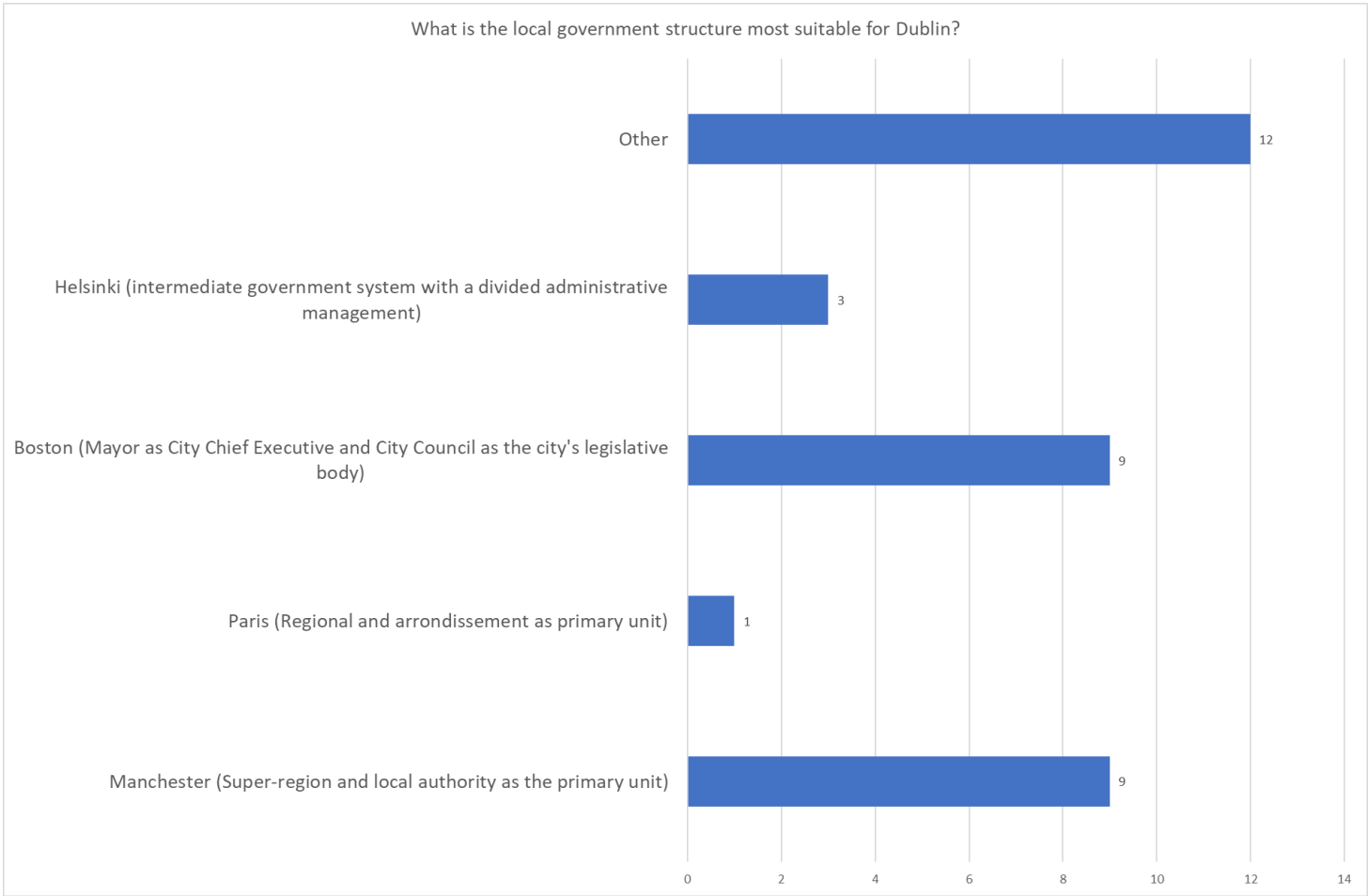
**Powers to be devolved**

In order of popularity, the powers that should be devolved to local authorities are: a) Housing; b) Transport; c) Policing; d) Childcare



# Preferred model for a Directly Elected Mayor

There was no clear preferred model for local government structure. However, the Boston and Manchester models emerged as the most popular from those provided.



### **Comments on the local government structure most suitable for Dublin**

- “ I think we have to look at other models but develop our own. Very important to have layers of local representation and what reforms take place do not take from councillors.
- “ I am not familiar with any of these. Again, I find it concerning that the question implies a Directly Elected Mayor.
- “ A directly elected Mayor for each of the existing 4 Dublin Councils. Why a Greater Dublin Mayor which will include Swords Balbriggan Howth Dun Laoire etc but not include Leixlip Maynooth Bray Ashbourne Drogheda etc.?
- “ DEM sitting above the 4 existing retained Council structures.
- “ Don't know enough on each structure to comment at the moment.
- “ Don't know.
- “ Paris but less complicated. I believe the local authorities need to go because it doesn't concentrate enough on the existing Local Areas. the Geographical area covered by the 4 LAs with super mayor and then bring it down to smaller units than LAs. Each LA is not representative of the geographical area of Dublin. The division as we have doesn't make any sense on a geographical point of view. Ex: the coast is divided between 3 LAs! At the same time not enough focus is given to the more micro territories, neighbourhoods areas
- “ Leave it as is and devolve actual competencies to the four local authorities in policy areas as listed above. There is zero positive reasons for Fingal to conglomerate with the other three Dublin LA's.
- “ No change.
- “ Mix of London model with a stronger Regional Council.
- “ An amalgam of the London system though with stronger Regional Council.
- “ London.