



Westmorland
& Furness
Council


The Coro

Developing
The Coro



westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk



Scope of Engagement

- This engagement happened whilst project at a formative stage.
- Have to work within parameters such as finance, building layout and financial sustainability; but there are no plans, no predetermined options, no preconceived ideas.
- Engagement process had two main purposes:
 1. Following on from, and delivering, the October Cabinet decision we sought the views of Ulverston stakeholders and community on the vision for The Coro.
 2. In order to inform the NLHF development phase submission, to understand how the community would like us to use this opportunity if the funding application is successful.



Engagement Timeline

12/08 to
5/09

Engage with key stakeholders - informing you of the comms and engagement process. Inviting you to participate, build an understanding of the process, seeking views and opportunities for involvement.

6/09 to
10/10

Public facing engagement. Working with targeted groups and general public. Use a variety of engagement channels.

10/10 to
24/10

Analyse outcome engagement process. Share insights from engagement with Cabinet Members, Staff and Key Stakeholders. Use feedback to inform next stages and, in particular, the NLHF submission.



Engagement - Activity

- 348 Surveys completed
- 15 General and Targeted Engagement Events
- 3 Workshops
- Market Survey
 - 2 Focus Groups
- About 500 contacts



Engagement Themes

Aspirational and Inspirational
Not just about the building but
Coro being an enabler for cultural
and community activity in wider
town
Accessibility for community
groups
More focus on young people
Happy to be asked
Want to be informed going
forward

Community Participate
Quality
Finished!
Famous!
Collaborate
Profile Accessible Proud
Sustainable



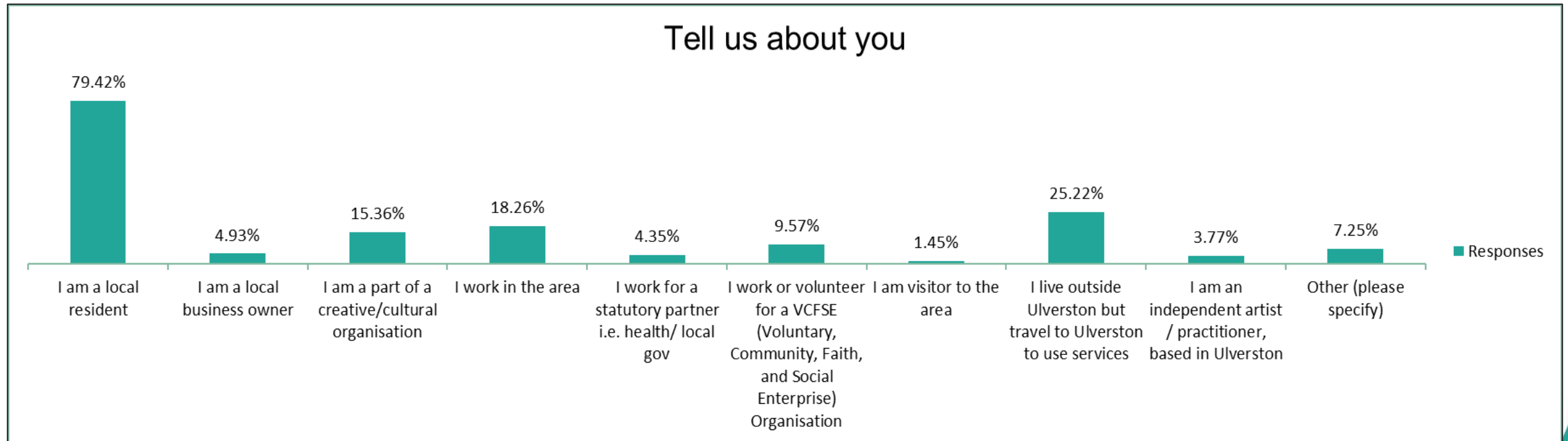
Engagement –Priorities from Workshops

- Build on existing strengths- the building's beauty, scale and civic role.
- Invest in accessibility and inclusion to make the Coro a place for everyone.
- Strengthen programming and visibility, with a clear, confident identity.
- Modernise the building and external environment to support engagement.
- Use evidence and insight to inform decision-making and reduce risk.
- Secure partnerships and strategic leadership to secure long-term sustainability.
- Address financial and operational risks early and openly.

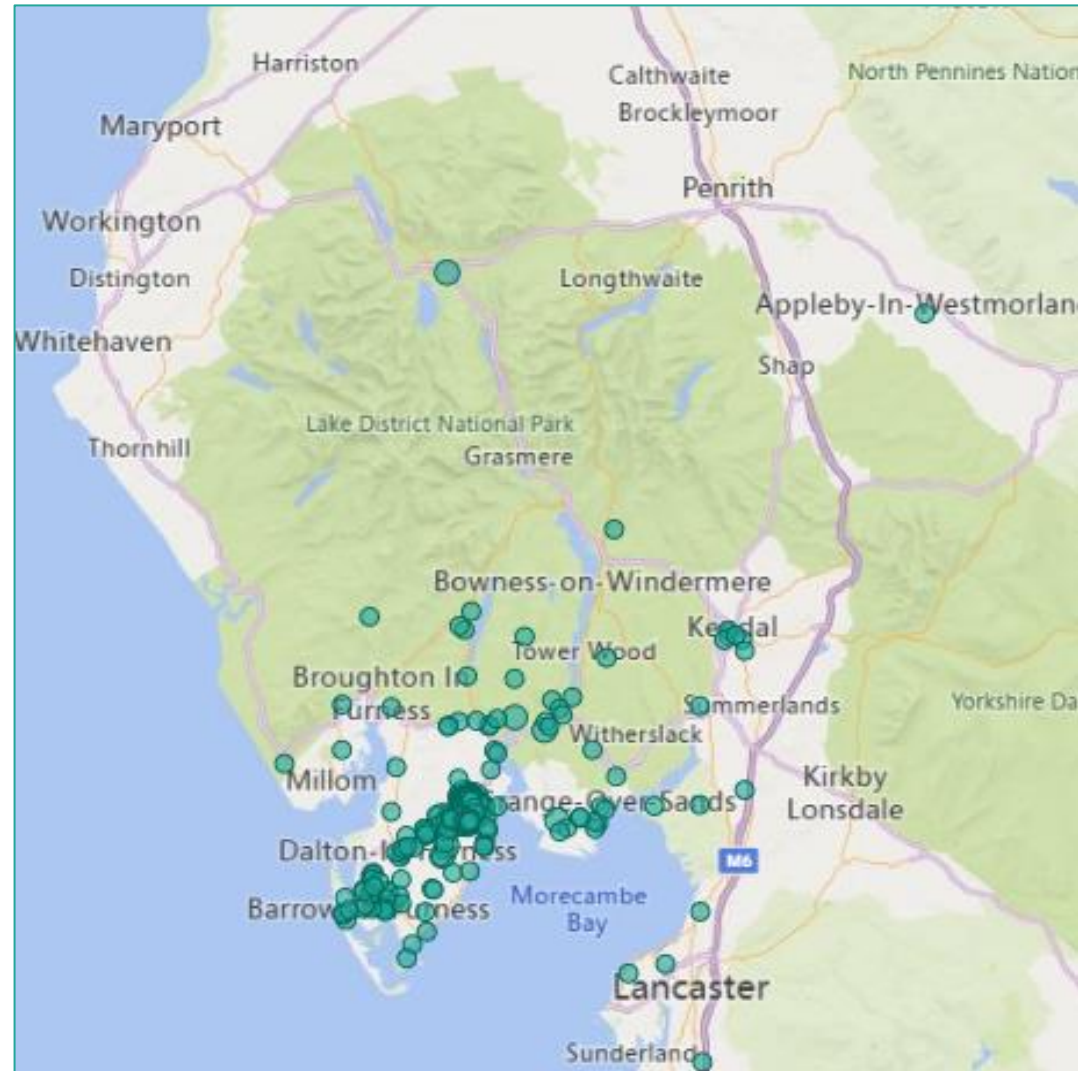


Respondent Demographics

- 79.42% of respondents stated they are a local resident and 25.22% live outside Ulverston, but travel to the area to use services

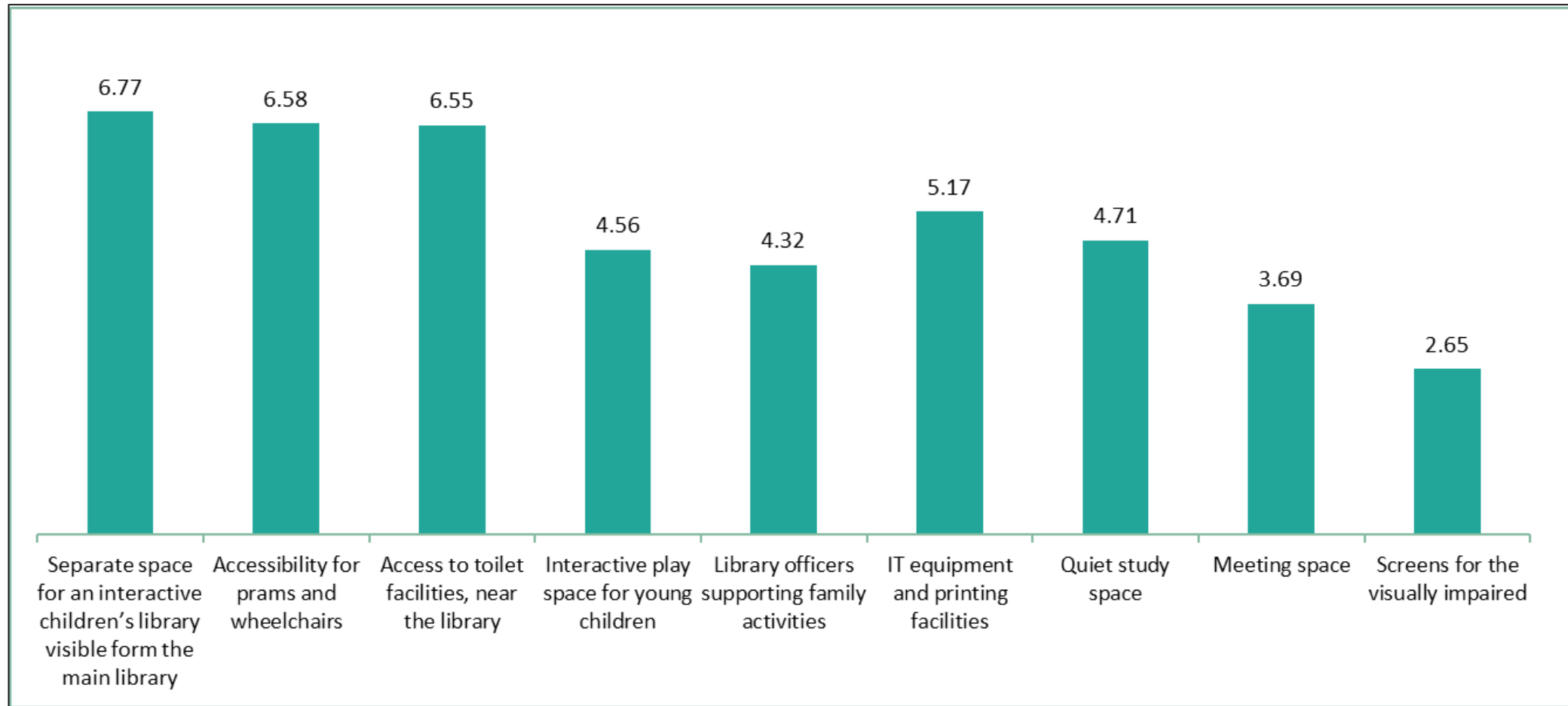


Survey Respondents- Postcode of Respondents



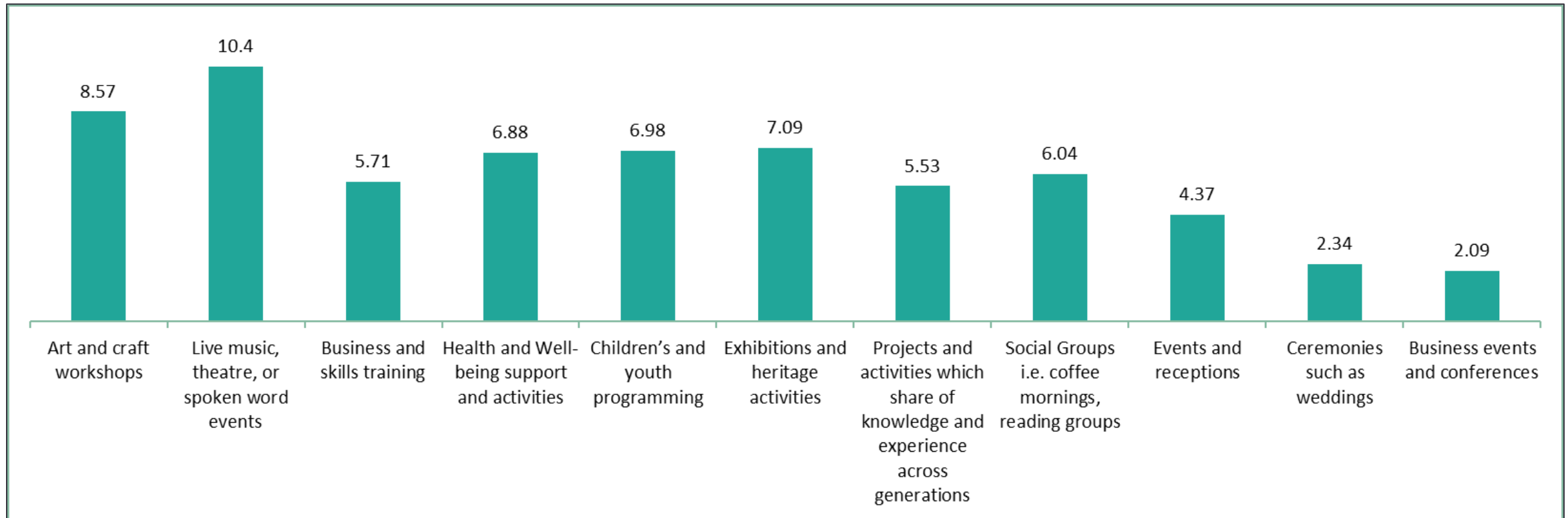
Coronation Hall - Library

- **"A separate space for an interactive children's library "** received the strongest support from respondents, scoring 6.77 on average.



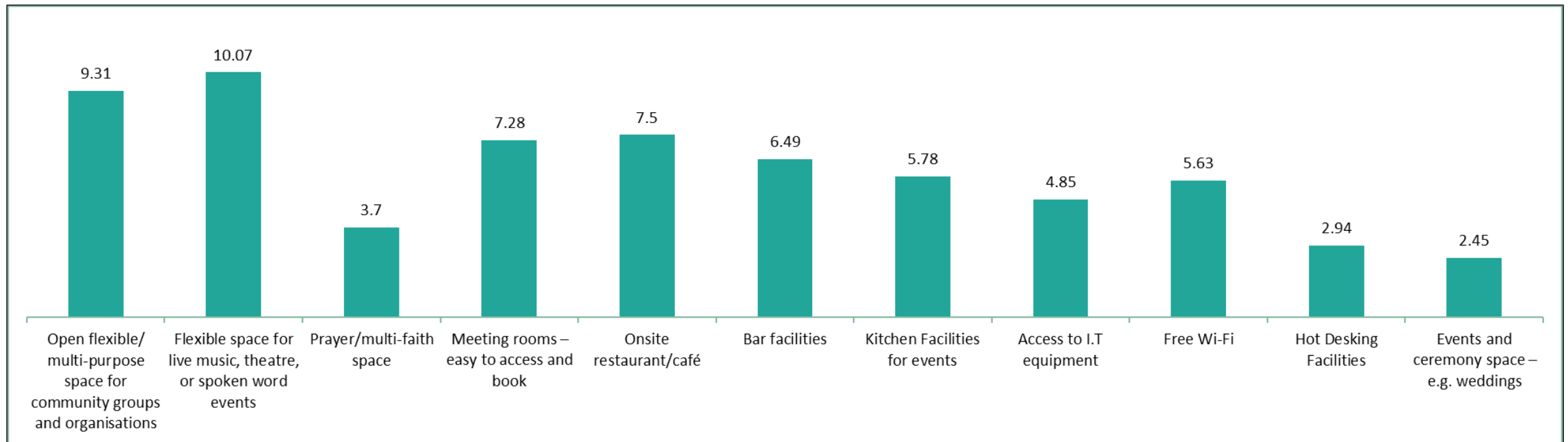
Coronation Hall- Activities & Events

- Respondents ranked '**Live music, theatre, or spoken word events**' as the most important activity for the Coronation Hall, with an average score of 10.4.



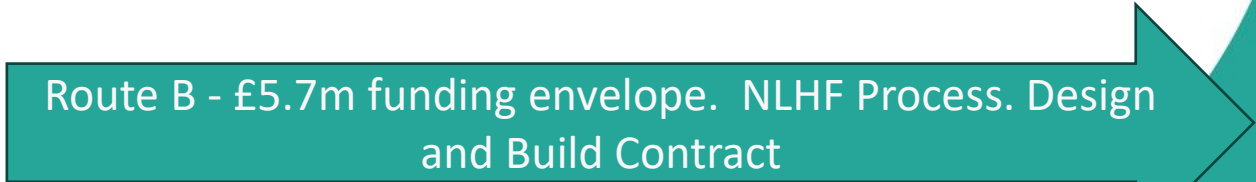
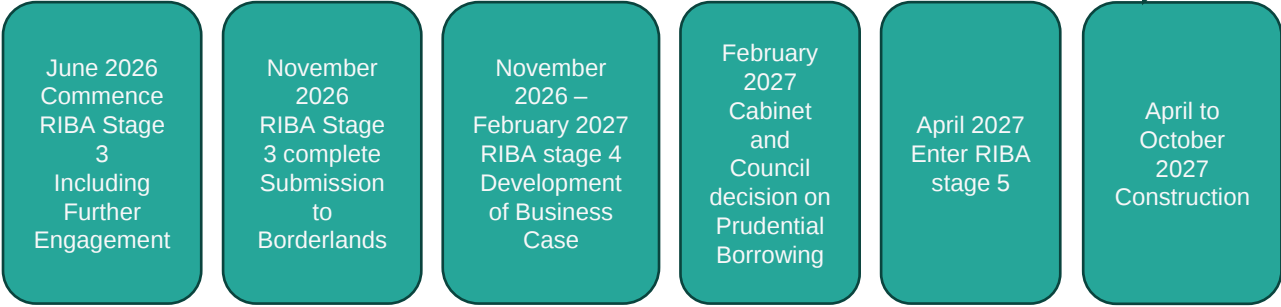
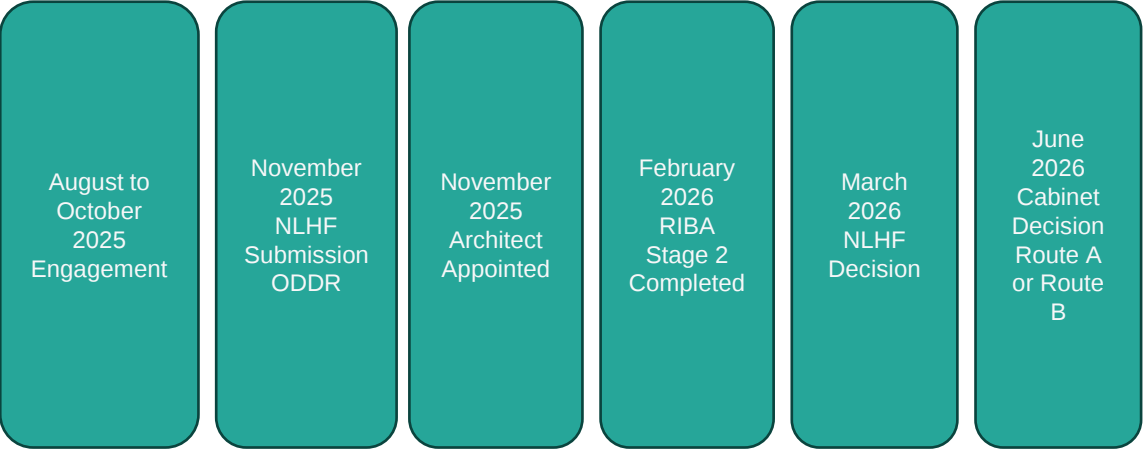
Coronation Hall- Additional Facilities

- Flexible theatre space (10.07) and open community areas (9.31) ranked highest among facility preferences.



What's Next

Coronation Hall Indicative Timeline



What's Next

- NHLF Development Plans submitted by 12 November 2025
- Architect being appointed with RIBA Stage 2 due to be completed early next year
 - Purpose: Develop initial design concepts
 - Key Tasks: Undertake surveys, Create sketches, models, and outline specifications and assess the feasibility of the design
- Both of these processes will be informed by
 - Outcome of Engagement
 - Financial Envelopes of £2.533million(Route A) and £5.733million (Route B)
 - Constraints imposed by the building
 - Financial sustainability of the building
 - Operational requirements
 - Previous work undertaken by UCH and W&F Council



What's Next

- NHLF decision about Development Phase bid expected end of March 2026
- Until then – and as an integral part of the RIBA Stage 2 work – continued engagement with stakeholder through community reference group.
 - 1 rep from each of Ulverston Town Team, Ulverston Town Council, MP, BID
 - 1 Rep from each of VCFSE, Festivals and Users Groups
 - 1 rep from Locality Board,
 - 3 Ward Members
- Will meet regularly to receive updates from the Architect and provide feedback
- Programming Group refreshed
- Additional work on Coro starting in New Year – in addition to other investment



Questions?

