

Vital Communities' 2005 Quality-of-Life Survey							
Data from the 12 EASTERN TOWNS in V.C.'s Service Area							
(Newbury, New London, Wilmot, Sunapee, Springfield, Grafton, Orange, Grantham, Croydon, Enfield, Canaan, Dorchester)							
There were 83 respondents from these towns.							
Questions #1-34:							
Ideal Community Component:	My TOWN is Achieving This Ideal:			This REGION is Achieving This Ideal:			
	AGREE:	DISAGREE:	NO OPINION:	AGREE:	DISAGREE:	NO OPINION:	
Good schools	58	14	11	64	13	6	
Friendly people	74	5	4	76	3	4	
Racial and ethnic diversity	11	62	10	23	52	8	
Support for charities (volunteers & donors)	59	11	13	67	8	8	
Religious and spiritual diversity	40	27	16	63	12	8	
Liveable wages	33	38	12	56	22	5	
A well-diversified economy	20	57	6	60	20	3	
Enough job and income opportunities	21	55	7	53	24	6	
A low poverty rate	48	28	7	42	31	10	
Adequate stores and services	36	47	0	65	15	3	
A strong feeling of community	56	23	4	49	26	8	
A clean, healthy environment	82	1	0	74	5	4	
Well-planned development	45	33	5	26	48	9	
A convenient public transit system	20	58	5	29	48	6	
Ample, varied recreational facilities	50	30	3	65	16	2	
A stimulating cultural scene	25	52	6	63	16	4	
An enjoyable entertainment scene	21	55	7	64	16	3	
Enough affordable housing	27	53	3	19	58	6	
Adequate sidewalks and bike paths	29	52	2	31	46	6	
Accessible health care	46	32	5	68	11	4	
Reasonable traffic conditions on our roads	68	13	2	53	29	1	
An effective court system (criminal and civil)	40	11	32	53	5	25	
Available child care	27	28	28	32	22	29	
Available senior care	27	32	24	46	10	27	
A well-functioning safety net for the needy	28	34	21	32	32	19	
Appropriate zoning	46	29	8	35	30	18	
Appropriate building regulations	50	26	7	41	20	22	
Enough open space conserved for the public	50	27	6	46	26	11	
A sense of personal safety	78	4	1	72	4	7	
Vital town centers	41	40	2	59	16	8	
A strong farming economy	10	61	12	29	43	11	
All public service positions filled (e.g., Select Boards)	58	13	12	41	16	26	

Q. #35: Of the ideal components listed above, please list 3 that should be the most critically important for this region to focus on (in order of importance):						
	MOST	2nd most	3rd most			
	Important:	Important:	Important:		TOTAL:	Percentage:
Good schools	25	7	2		34	13.8%
Enough affordable housing	6	9	5		20	8.1%
A clean, healthy environment	7	5	8		20	8.1%
Liveable wages	7	11	5		23	9.3%
Well-planned development	8	7	6		21	8.5%
Enough job and income opportunities	4	5	4		13	5.3%
A strong feeling of community	3	3	5		11	4.5%
A well-diversified economy	4	5	6		15	6.1%
Friendly people	2	1	1		4	1.6%
Enough open space conserved for the public	2	3	3		8	3.3%
Vital town centers	0	1	6		7	2.8%
Accessible health care	2	3	3		8	3.3%
Appropriate zoning	3	3	2		8	3.3%
A sense of personal safety	4	2	4		10	4.1%
Adequate sidewalks and bike paths	0	2	0		2	0.8%
Racial and ethnic diversity	0	0	2		2	0.8%
A convenient public transit system	1	3	3		7	2.8%
A strong farming economy	0	1	2		3	1.2%
A stimulating cultural scene	0	0	3		3	1.2%
A well-functioning safety net for the needy	0	2	2		4	1.6%
Adequate stores and services	0	2	2		4	1.6%
An effective court system (criminal and civil)	0	1	0		1	0.4%
Reasonable traffic conditions on our roads	2	2	3		7	2.8%
All public service positions filled (e.g., Select Boards)	0	0	0		0	0.0%
An enjoyable entertainment scene	0	1	1		2	0.8%
Appropriate building regulations	0	0	2		2	0.8%
Religious and spiritual diversity	0	0	0		0	0.0%
Ample, varied recreational facilities	2	0	1		3	1.2%
Available child care	0	1	1		2	0.8%
Available senior care	0	1	0		1	0.4%
Support for charities (volunteers and donors)	0	1	0		1	0.4%
Total Responses:	82	82	82		246	99.7%
Q. 36: How would you rate the overall quality of life in this region?	Number of Responses:					
Excellent	57					

	Satisfactory	20						
	Needs improvement	6						
Q. 37: Overall, how much impact do you think you can have in making your community a better place to live?		Number of Responses:						
	A big impact	17						
	A moderate impact	45						
	A small impact	21						
	No impact at all	0						
Q. 38: Is the population level:		Number of Responses:						
	About right	66						
	Too high	12						
	Too low	5						
Q. 39: Which one of the following strategies is the best way to handle growth?		Number of Responses:						
	Allow growth only if it won't hurt quality of life	40						
	Permit slow but steady growth	37						
	Stop growth now	3						
	Actively encourage growth	3						
Q. 40: Which of the following would you say best describes the funding level at your town's public schools?		Number of Responses:						
	They get more than enough money to provide a good education	5						
	They get adequate funding to provide a good education	38						
	They don't get enough money to do a good job	27						
	They are grossly underfunded	4						
	Don't know/No opinion	9						
Q. 41: Do our cultural, entertainment and recreation facilities meet the needs of people at all income and age		Number of						

levels?		Responses:						
	Yes	34						
	No; amenities are far too oriented toward people with lots of leisure time & money	19						
	No; too many activities are designed to serve adults rather than children/youth	2						
	No; too many amenities favor the young and active and don't adequately serve older people	2						
	No; there are not enough facilities	20						
	Don't know/No opinion	6						
Q. 42: How confident are you in town government's ability to protect quality of life and meet the needs of growth?		Number of Responses:						
	Very confident	16						
	Somewhat confident	38						
	Not at all confident	25						
	Don't know/No opinion	4						
* end *								