Diamond Ranking

This is a good tool if there are many options to be ranked, but you only really need precision for the very top and the very bottom.

Write the options out on separate pieces of paper. You may need to make a number of sets of these options. Divide into small groups (3-5 people per group works well). Give each group an identical set of options.

The group's task is to agree a ranking of the options, in a diamond shape. You could tell people that you want just one top item, two on the next row and so on, or you can leave the exact shape up to the group.

When the groups have settled on a ranking they are happy with, share the results and the whole group can discuss what they mean.

Here are some instruction flips I used in a workshop where we had sent the options around in advance, and we also wanted each group to summarise the rationale behind the extreme rankings and to do some more work on their top options. We gave people the option of adding new options too. In this case, we also wanted to be able to follow up with people afterwards, so we wanted their names. All of these are optional - flex the process to meet the aims of your workshop!