

Tamworth Borough Council 2012/2013 Budget Consultation

Background

As part of a regular annual process Tamworth Borough Council reviews its Council Tax and Charges strategy for the development of the budget. This process ensures that funding is put into areas of highest priority. An important element of this process is to understand the views of residents, tenants, businesses, and local voluntary groups on what these priorities are.

Overview

Consultation on the key issues affecting the 2012/2013 budget consultation will be carried out through focus groups, a blog and an online survey. Focus groups will be held with residents, tenants, public and third sector, businesses and young people. Residents will be recruited through the citizen's panel, tenants will be recruited through the tenant participation database, businesses will be recruited through the think local database and young people will be recruited through schools.

There will be two online surveys. A survey that is tailored for businesses and a full survey aimed at residents. The online residents survey will be promoted using social networking/media sites and through email contact databases. The business survey will be promoted through business social networking sites and business email contact databases.

The two approaches (focus groups and surveys) will be consistent, following the same question set. The blog will be more informal where residents can give more general views on what they think of the services Tamworth Borough Council provides and where improvements need to be made.

Time Table

Planning	from 1 st July 2011
Blog	launched 1 st August 2011
Online survey (Residents)	launched 1st September 2011
Online survey (Businesses)	launched 1st September 2011
Focus groups	completed by 16th September
Surveys taken offline	16 th September 2011
Report	by 7 th October 2011

Objectives

- Identify important priorities to target for savings
- Advise on acceptable levels of fees, charges and council tax

Focus groups and will be run in-house by Charlotte Green with support from the Performance and Corporate relations team. A mix of internal and external venues will be used for the focus groups, as appropriate.

A small budget has been set a side within the Corporate Consultation budget to undertake this work.