

CABINET

13th October 2011

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

BUDGET CONSULTATION 2012-2013

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Not applicable

PURPOSE

To inform Cabinet of the consultation undertaken with residents, tenants, businesses and the voluntary sector to feed into the budget setting process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet endorse the report and take account of the findings along with other sources of information when setting the 2012/13 Budget.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications arising from this report

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

There are no legal/risk implications arising from this report

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications arising from this report

CONCLUSIONS

Priorities for spending

- There are two areas which are believed to warrant additional expenditure: tackling anti-social behaviour and street cleaning.
- Respondents feel the council should be doing more to educate and change attitudes towards littering.
- Respondents would like to see more events that bring communities together to tackle their own issues e.g. community litter pick days.
- Respondents feel that spending more on areas, such as sport and leisure and regeneration, will tackle issues of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Refuse collection and recycling is seen by residents as an area where Tamworth Borough Council performs well.
- The development of the town centre is a priority for residents and businesses. There is much support for linking Ventura Park and the town centre.
- Respondents didn't believe that the cleanliness and upkeep of Tamworth was good and felt that resources were concentrated on the castle grounds. They expressed the need for expenditure to be more evenly distributed across the Borough so that local neighbourhoods are more attractive places to live.
- Respondents would like to see more support for businesses and job creation.
- Respondents feel that more needs to be done to promote what Tamworth Borough Council does.

Charges

- Respondents felt that charges for leisure and public spaces could be increased.
- Respondents would not like to see any increase in parking charges or town centre

rents and would actually like to see reductions in these charges. Respondents felt that car parking charges needed to be reduced to encourage the use of the town centre.

Saving costs

- Many respondents feel the Council should look at internal cost savings rather than cutting services or increasing charges.

Council Tax

- When asked which level of increase for Council Tax respondents would like, the majority opt for a 0.67% or a 1%.
- Only 21.3% of respondents chose the proposed increase of 2%.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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.

Consultation on the key issues affecting the 2012/2013 budget consultation was carried out through focus groups and surveys. Focus groups were held with residents and tenants. Residents were recruited through the citizens' panel; tenants were recruited through the tenant participation database.

There were three online surveys available; a residents' survey, a business survey and third sector survey. A total of 152 responses were received for the residents' survey, 20 business surveys were returned and 3 voluntary and community sector surveys were returned. 41 people attended the focus groups.

REPORT AUTHOR

Charlotte Green

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Not applicable

APPENDICES

Budget consultation 2012-2013 full report