

17th October 2012**REPORT OF THE LEADER****Budget Consultation 2013/2014****EXEMPT INFORMATION**

There is no exempt information

PURPOSE

To inform Cabinet of the outcomes arising from consultation undertaken with residents, tenants, businesses and voluntary sector in accordance with the Corporate budget setting process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet endorse the report and take account of the findings along with other sources of information when setting the 2013/14 Budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Feedback from the Consultation process has highlighted the following:

Priorities for spending

- There are four areas which are believed to warrant additional expenditure: tackling anti-social behaviour, street cleaning, improving the economic, physical, social and environmental conditions of Tamworth and parks and open spaces.
- Around half of respondents see littering and dog fouling as a major issue in Tamworth.
- Respondents feel that spending more on areas such as sport and leisure and increasing employment 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 would like to see more quality employment brought into Tamworth.
- Respondents would like to see a better quality of shops in the town centre.

Charges

- 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 should be free of charge 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 Taxes respondents would like, the majority opt for 0.67% or 1%.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

It is a statutory duty to consult before the development of the budget. Budget consultation ensures our compliance with this.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As part of an 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.

REPORT AUTHOR

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICES

Budget consultation 2013/2014 – Full report