

Appendix 3

Budget Consultation 2015 – Headline Results

The survey asked how strongly people agreed or disagreed with eight overarching principles which could be used to help guide us in our budget and spending plans. 383 people took part via an online survey form which had been promoted through the Council's e-newsletter sent to around 17,500 email addresses, a press release and promotion on the homepage of the Council's website.

The levels of agreement and disagreement with each statement are shown in the table below. At least 4 out of 5 respondents answering were in agreement with each of the statements.

Statement:	% agree/ agree strongly	% disagree/ disagree strongly
We will continue to provide a free of charge garden waste service (single green bin) to all.	96	4
We will support staff development to ensure that we retain a committed, highly skilled workforce to help us deliver effective services and respond to change in the public sector.	94	6
We will improve the long-term financial success of our One Leisure sites through improved marketing and customer service and by continuing to examine all operating costs in detail.	93	7
We will continue to seek efficiency savings from all services where these can be delivered without significant impact on service delivery.	92	8
We will work with partners to identify further opportunities to share services where this can reduce costs and increase resilience and performance levels.	90	10
We are committed to retaining all five of our One Leisure sports and leisure facilities, securing their future through a joined-up approach to funding sites across the district.	87	13
We will invest in commercial land/property to generate inflation-resilient income to sustain services in years to come.	85	15
We will continue to freeze Council Tax until at least 2020, provided that funding received from Central Government remains within our 'worst case' forecasts.	80	20

Full results for each statement

Statement 1: We will continue to freeze Council Tax until at least 2020, provided that funding received from Central Government remains within our 'worst case' forecasts.

Agree strongly	158	41%
Agree	148	39%
Disagree	43	11%
Disagree strongly	32	8%
Total	381	

Statement 2: We are committed to retaining all five of our One Leisure sports and leisure facilities, securing their future through a joined-up approach to funding sites across the district.

Agree strongly	197	52%
Agree	136	36%
Disagree	33	9%
Disagree strongly	16	4%
Total	382	

Statement 3: We will improve the long-term financial success of our One Leisure sites through improved marketing and customer service and by continuing to examine all operating costs in detail.

Agree strongly	154	41%
Agree	198	52%
Disagree	19	5%
Disagree strongly	9	2%
Total	380	

Statement 4: We will continue to seek efficiency savings from all services where these can be delivered without significant impact on service delivery.

Agree strongly	175	46%
Agree	174	46%
Disagree	18	5%
Disagree strongly	13	3%
Total	380	

Statement 5: We will continue to provide a free of charge garden waste service (single green bin) to all.

Agree strongly	260	69%
Agree	101	27%
Disagree	11	3%
Disagree strongly	5	1%
Total	377	

Statement 6: We will invest in commercial land/property to generate inflation-resilient income to sustain services in years to come.

Agree strongly	91	25%
Agree	219	60%
Disagree	36	10%
Disagree strongly	18	5%
Total	364	

Statement 7: We will support staff development to ensure that we retain a committed, highly skilled workforce to help us deliver effective services and respond to change in the public sector.

Agree strongly	157	42%
Agree	193	52%
Disagree	21	6%
Disagree strongly	2	1%
Total	373	

Statement 8: We will work with partners to identify further opportunities to share services where this can reduce costs and increase resilience and performance levels.

Agree strongly	142	38%
Agree	199	53%
Disagree	27	7%
Disagree strongly	10	3%
Total	378	

Next steps:

Analysis of respondents' comments about each statement will highlight the main reasons why they were for and against them. Additional comments about the Council's budget will also be examined.