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# Developing the Council's 2013/14 budget: consultation findings

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## Budget Consultation February 2013

### Document Governance

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Lead author & contact details	Helen Homer, Telford & Wrekin Council Email: helen.homer@telford.gov.uk Tel:01952 380138
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## Budget Consultation February 2013

## Budget Consultation February 2013

### Contents

1	Executive Summary .....	1
2	Introduction .....	3
3	Community Panel Budget Survey .....	5
4	Public survey.....	7
5	Budget consultation event.....	10
6	Community Groups and Forums .....	11
7	'Additional Comments' .....	11
	Appendix I Community Groups and Forums .....	12
	Young People's Forum.....	12
	Ketley Bank Residents Association .....	12
	PODS (Parents Opening Doors).....	13
	Carers Partnership Board.....	14
	Senior Citizens Forum .....	14
	Taking Part Committee .....	14
	Voluntary Sector Chief Officers Group .....	16

### 1 Executive Summary

Following notification of the Council's 2013/14 grant from government, the Council developed a proposed 2013/14 budget building on the medium-term service and financial strategy developed in 2012. This medium-term strategy set out the following principles:

- In line with our co-operative values, work together with and involve our residents and employees in developing our strategy;
- Adopt a commercial approach and facilitate growth as a 'Business Supporting, Business Winning Council'
- Minimise the impact of savings on front-line service delivery particularly for vulnerable adults, children and neighbourhood services
- Minimise the impact of savings on our employees as far as possible
- Based on consultation, reject a one-off government grant to freeze Council Tax and increase Council Tax by 2.5% for the next two years.

The 2013/14 budget continues the organisation's focus on continuing to attract new jobs, investment and promoting growth in the borough while protecting as far as possible Council Services. In response to the financial pressures on public services in the Borough, the Council has also developed a Fair Deal Campaign to ask Government to provide a grant which better reflects the level of service demand in the Borough.

To understand the communities' views on these two themes, a programme of public consultation was undertaken from early January, closing February 10<sup>th</sup>. This included a Community Panel questionnaire, and online web survey open to the public and Council employees, a public engagement meeting and the following stakeholder meetings:

- Telford and Wrekin Parish Forum
- Senior Citizens Forum
- Telford Business Board
- Taking Part Forum
- Chief Officers Group
- Joint Information and Consultation Forum (JICF)
- Parents Opening Doors – PODS
- Young People's Forum
- Ketley Bank Residents Association
- Carers Partnership Board

In total, some 1,539 people were involved with this consultation programme, building on the 7,000 comments and ideas we received in 2012 to shape our medium term service and financial strategy.

**The Council's plans to encourage jobs, growth and protection of services were broadly supported across the consultation:**

- **96% of Community Panel respondents**
- **72% of public respondents to an online survey and article in 'Your Voice'**
- **70% of participants at the budget public consultation event at The Place.**

The most common stated reasons by a small number of participants for not supporting these plans was 'concern over growth plans and in particular, whether the Council should be investing

## **Budget Consultation February 2013**

in the scheme' (Community Panel respondents) and 'opposition to the proposed Council Tax increase (Public survey respondents).

**The Council's campaign for a Fair Deal for Telford and Wrekin was broadly supported across the consultation:**

- **95% of Community panel respondents**
- **82% of public respondents**
- **87% of budget consultation event respondents**

The most common reason for not supporting the campaign was concern over the current or future level of Council Tax and the government support grant should be taken.

Where we have received specific questions through the consultation process, where possible we will respond. These responses will be published on the Council's website. A progress report on this will be presented to Cabinet in May.

### 2 Introduction

Following notification of the Council's 2013/14 grant from government, the Council developed a proposed 2013/14 budget, building on the medium-term service and financial strategy developed in 2012.

The 2013/14 budget is primarily focused around continuing to attract new jobs, investment and promoting growth in the borough while protecting as far as possible Council Services. In response to the financial pressures on public services in the Borough, the Council has also developed a Fair Deal Campaign to ask Government to provide a grant which better reflects the level of service demand in the Borough.

To understand the communities views on these two elements, a programme of public consultation was undertaken from early January, closing February 10<sup>th</sup> including:

- A survey of the Community Panel composed of 1,252 local residents who act as a sounding board to inform the Council's policy and service development
- An online survey and a questionnaire in 'Your Voice' as a paper pullout
- A public budget consultation event at The Place, Oakengates on January 16.
- Budget presentation at a range of community groups/forums.

These explored two themes:

1. Our plans to encourage jobs, growth and protection of services, including £250m investment in the Southwater Scheme, £200m Building Schools for the Future programme and working to make it easier for businesses to come here and grow, offering support to attract new firms and help create new jobs.
2. A proposed Fair Deal Campaign for Telford and Wrekin as we estimate that in 2013/14 the Council has 'disproportionately' lost some £10m as a result of the high levels of government cuts to local authorities, undercount of our population and a 'stabilising' damping mechanism, which means the government withholds money that it calculates the Borough should receive and reallocates it to other authorities.

In total some 1,539 people were involved with this consultation programme, building on the 7,000 comments and ideas we received in 2012 to shape our medium term service and financial strategy. This report sets out the findings of the latest consultation programme.

Where available results have been broken down by demographics, with the following areas based on ward boundaries:

- Newport – Newport East, Newport North, Newport South, Newport West
- Rural – Church Aston & Lilleshall, Edgmond, Ercall Magna, Wrockwardine
- Wellington – Shawbirch, Dothill, Haygate, College, Park, Arleston, Ercall
- North Telford – Apley Castle, Hadley & Leegomery, Ketley & Oakengates, Wrockwardine Wood & trench, Donnington, St Georges, Muxton, Priorslee
- South Telford – Lawley & Overdale, Horsehay & Lightmoor, Dawley Magna, Malinslee, The Nedge, Brookside, Cuckoo Oak, Madeley, Woodside, Ironbridge. .

**Where table data in this report does not sum to the total number of respondents for the various component surveys, this is either because demographic information was not available or because participants had chosen not to answer a particular question.**

## **Budget Consultation February 2013**

A number of participants raised specific questions through the consultation process, which we will respond to where possible. These responses will be published on the Council's website in due course. A progress report on this will be brought to Cabinet in May.



### 3 Community Panel Budget Survey

Questions about the Council's budget were included in the January Community Panel survey sent to 1,252 members and was completed by 515 Panel members across a range of demographics.

**Table 1: Demographics of Community Panel respondents**

		Count	%
Age	16-44	47	11%
	45-64	191	43%
	65+	203	46%
	<i>Total</i>	<i>441</i>	<i>100%</i>
Gender	Female	233	46%
	Male	279	54%
	<i>Total</i>	<i>512</i>	<i>100%</i>
Long term limiting illness	No	353	75%
	Yes	118	25%
	<i>Total</i>	<i>471</i>	<i>100%</i>
Ethnicity	Other ethnicity	24	5%
	White British	459	95%
	<i>Total</i>	<i>483</i>	<i>100%</i>
Area	Newport	49	10%
	North Telford	152	30%
	Rural	64	12%
	South Telford	169	33%
	Wellington	79	15%
	<i>Total</i>	<i>513</i>	<i>100%</i>
Deprivation ranking	20% most deprived nationally	95	19%
	20-40% least deprived	113	22%
	40% most deprived - 40% least deprived nationally	100	20%
	20-40% most deprived nationally	110	21%
	20% least deprived	94	18%
	<i>Total</i>	<i>512</i>	<i>100%</i>

As shown in table 2, the vast majority of Panel respondents (96%) support the Council's plans.

**Table 2: Do you broadly support our plans to encourage jobs, growth and protection of services?**

	All responses		Gender		Age			LTLI		Ethnicity	
			Female	Male	16-44	45-64	65+	No	Yes	Other ethnicity	White British
No	21	4%	2%	7%	2%	6%	4%	4%	5%	5%	4%
Yes	456	96%	98%	93%	98%	94%	96%	96%	95%	95%	96%
<i>Total</i>	<i>477</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>259</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>183</i>	<i>334</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>429</i>

## Budget Consultation February 2013

**Table 3: Do you broadly support our plans to encourage jobs, growth and protection of services?**

	All responses		Area					Deprivation				
			Newport	North Telford	Rural	South Telford	Wellington	20% most deprived <sup>56d</sup>	20-40% most deprived	40% most deprived to 40% least deprived	20-40% least deprived	20% least deprived
No	21	4%	4%	2%	10%	4%	5%	0%	4%	2%	10%	5%
Yes	456	96%	96%	98%	90%	96%	95%	100%	96%	98%	90%	95%
<i>Total</i>	<i>477</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>93</i>

If respondents did not agree with the plans or an aspect of them, they were asked to explain why. A total of 60 respondents provided additional comments. The main concern highlighted by these respondents was about the Council's investment in Southwater.

**Table 4: If you do not broadly support our plans or elements of our plans, please tell us why?**

	Count
Concern over growth plans - Southwater including whether it is required and whether the Council should be investing in the scheme	16
Broadly positive comments on proposals	8
Concern over growth plans - Building Schools for the future	6
Require more detail on proposals to make an informed comment	6
Opposition to the proposed Council Tax increase	4
Non-specific comment	4
Concern over growth - impact on Borough Towns / communities e.g. Newport	4
Improve transport infrastructure - including roads	4
Ensuring that specific services are protected	3
Concern over growth plans - impact of development on the environment / sustainability	3
More support for manufacturing sector	3
Concerns with the consultation process	2
Need to do more to improve affordable housing / address homelessness	2
Council, in how it makes decisions, needs to do more to support existing businesses/growth	2
Do more to support the unemployed of all ages	1

The vast majority of Panel respondents, table 5, also supported the Council's campaign for a Fair Deal for Telford and Wrekin with 95% in support.

**Table 5: Do you broadly support the Council's campaign for a Fair Deal for Telford and Wrekin?**

	All responses		Gender		Age			LTLI		Ethnicity	
			Female	Male	16-44	45-64	65+	No	Yes	Other ethnicity	White British
No	22	5%	2%	6%	2%	6%	3%	3%	4%	9%	4%
Yes	454	95%	98%	94%	98%	94%	97%	97%	96%	91%	96%
<i>Total</i>	<i>476</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>184</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>424</i>

## Budget Consultation February 2013

**Table 6: Do you broadly support the Council's campaign for a Fair Deal for Telford and Wrekin?**

	All responses		Area					Deprivation				
			Newport	North Telford	Rural	South Telford	Wellington	20% most deprived	20-40% most deprived	40% most deprived to 40% least deprived	20-40% least deprived	20% least deprived
No	22	5%	5%	1%	7%	6%	7%	3%	4%	2%	7%	6%
Yes	454	95%	95%	99%	93%	94%	93%	97%	96%	98%	93%	94%
<i>Total</i>	<i>476</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>87</i>

If respondents did not support the campaign for a Fair Deal for Telford and Wrekin, they were asked why. For those who expressed a negative view, the key reason (10 respondents) was that Council Tax was already too high and/or that the Council should take the Government Support Grant.

**Table 7: If you do not support the campaign for a Fair Deal for Telford and Wrekin, please tell us why?**

	Count
Broadly support campaign	16
No to Council Tax rises / take government support grant / Council Tax too high	10
Need more detail to make a decision	9
Council wastes too much money/inefficiency/financial management	6
Sounds like whinging	4
Concern over population argument	3
Non specific comment	1
Not clear what the benefits of lobbying would be	1
It is the Council's fault for allowing the Government to get away with this historically	1
Need to support job creation in the Borough	1
Would support Fair Deal if it stopped migrants coming to the Borough and claiming benefits	1

## 4 Public survey

Members of the public and employees were able to respond to questions on the budget through an online survey or a tear out slip in the January Your Voice publication. Both of these opportunities focused on the two questions around the Council's proposals to drive the growth agenda and the Fair Deal Campaign.

A total of 592 responses to the public consultation were received, 22 of these through the 'Your Voice' pull out and the remaining 570 online. Responses were received from across the Borough and people from a range of demographics.

## Budget Consultation February 2013

**Table 8: Demographics of respondents to the public consultation.**

Gender	Female	230	43%
	Male	307	57%
	<i>Total</i>	<i>537</i>	<i>100%</i>
Age	under 40	102	19%
	40-64	345	64%
	64+	93	17%
	<i>Total</i>	<i>540</i>	<i>100%</i>
Area	Newport	25	6%
	North Telford	109	27%
	Rural	50	12%
	South Telford	155	38%
	Wellington	65	16%
	<i>Total</i>	<i>404</i>	<i>100%</i>
Council Employee	No	455	84%
	Yes	89	16%
	<i>Total</i>	<i>544</i>	<i>100%</i>

As table 9 shows, 72% of respondents supported the Council's plans to encourage growth.

**Table 9: Do you broadly support our plans to encourage jobs, growth and protection of services?**

	All responses		Gender		Age			Area				
			Male	Female	Under 40	40-64	65+	Newport	North Telford	Rural	South Telford	Wellington
No	149	28%	11%	29%	18%	22%	22%	26%	18%	26%	19%	21%
Yes	392	72%	89%	71%	82%	78%	78%	74%	82%	74%	81%	79%
<i>Total</i>	<i>541</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>285</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>321</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>62</i>

Respondents who did not support the Council's plans or an element of them were asked to explain. A total of 127 respondents offered additional comments, with the most common response being an opposition to the proposed Council Tax increase.

## Budget Consultation February 2013

**Table 10: If you do not broadly support our plans or elements of our plans, please tell us why?**

	Count
Opposition to the proposed Council Tax increase	52
Concerns with the consultation process	16
Concerns over waste, poor allocation of funds, high levels of staff/councillors/wages, value for money	16
Non-specific comment	11
Concern over growth plans - whether Southwater is required and whether the Council should be investing in the scheme	10
How benefit changes, including Council Tax Support, are being implemented	6
Council, in how it makes decisions, needs to do more to support existing businesses/growth	6
Require more detail on proposals to make informed consent	5
Ensuring that specific services are protected	4
Concern over growth - impact on Borough Towns / communities e.g. Newport	4
Should focus on maintenance rather than regeneration	3
Need more emphasis on savings	3
Concern over growth plans - impact of development on the environment / sustainability	2
Concern over growth plans - Building Schools for the Future	2
Contract out services to other providers for savings	2
Greater financial transparency	2
More support for areas across the Borough not just towns / south estates	2
Ensure collection of debts / correct billing	2
Cut budgets to specific services	2
Broadly positive comments on proposals	1
More support for manufacturing sector	1
Improve transport infrastructure - including roads	1
Concerns about short term savings creating long term cost e.g. preventative care	1

**The majority of respondents, 82%, broadly supported the Council's campaign for a Fair Deal for Telford and Wrekin (table 11).**

**Table 11: Do you broadly support the Council's campaign for a Fair Deal for Telford and Wrekin?**

	All responses		Gender		Age			Area				
			Male	Female	Under 40	40-64	65+	Newport	North Telford	Rural	South Telford	Wellington
No	96	18%	5%	17%	12%	12%	11%	18%	8%	17%	9%	8%
Yes	433	82%	95%	83%	88%	88%	89%	82%	92%	83%	91%	92%
<b>Total</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>59</b>

## 5 Budget consultation event

A public consultation event was held on 16 January at The Place, to allow people to hear first hand about the Council's plans for its 2013/14 budget.

A total of 66 people booked a place at the event with 38 of these turning up, as well as an additional 28 who had not booked a place, a total of 66 members of the public. In addition to the public, the event was attended by 11 Cabinet members and 21 officers.

Residents had the opportunity to discuss the proposed plans and any particular concerns and suggestions they might have with officers and members one-to-one. A full list of comments collected at the event has been included in Appendix 1.

In addition to open discussion, attendees were encouraged to respond to the two budget consultation questions.

**Table 12: Do you broadly support our plans to encourage jobs, growth and protection of services?**

	Count	%
No	10	30%
Yes	23	70%
<i>Total</i>	33	100%

**Table 13: If you do not broadly support our plans or elements of our plans, please tell us why?**

	Count
Ensuring the protection specific services: Rights of Way	5
Concern over growth plans - whether Southwater is required and whether the Council should be investing in the scheme	3
Improve transport infrastructure - including roads	3
Opposition to the proposed Council tax increase	2
Non specific comment	2
Concerns with the consultation process	1
How benefit changes, including Council Tax support, are being implemented	1
Council, in how it makes decisions, needs to do more to support existing businesses/growth	1
Do more to support recycling - wider range, more facilities	1
Commission out services to other providers for savings	1
Council should focus on maintenance rather than regeneration	1

**Table 14: Do you broadly support the Council's campaign for a Fair Deal for Telford and Wrekin?**

	Count	%
No	4	13%
Yes	26	87%
<i>Total</i>	30	100%

### 6 Community Groups and Forums

A number of community groups/forums were visited during the Budget consultation, plans were presented and group members had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. More than 266 people were informed about the proposed budget plans in this way, the groups visited were:

- Telford and Wrekin Parish Forum = 30 in attendance
- Senior Citizens Forum = 120 in attendance
- Telford Business Board = 15 in attendance
- Taking Part Forum = 33 in attendance
- Chief Officers Group = 10 in attendance
- Joint Information and Consultation Forum (JICF) = 4 in attendance
- Parents Opening Doors – PODS = 18 in attendance
- Young People’s Forum = 12 in attendance
- Ketley Bank Residents Association = 11 in attendance
- Carers Partnership Board = 13 in attendance

Appendix I sets out a summary of the questions, comments and discussion from each group. Many of the discussions focused on topics particular to the group e.g. discussion of availability and cost of services for children with disabilities and developing joint solutions with the voluntary community. There were some more general themes across several of the discussions:

- Concerns / need more information about ‘bedroom tax’ - who it applies to, how to get support, may cause additional problems i.e. homelessness
- Questions over regeneration plans for specific areas including Sutton Hill, Ketley Bank and Stirchley
- Dissatisfaction with levels of litter / lack of litter picking in the Borough
- Questions over Government funding and how this affects Telford and Wrekin / Council should be fighting decisions

### 7 ‘Additional Comments’

Members of the public were encouraged to comment on the budget proposals via a number of methods, including post, email, telephone and text. More than 100 different comments were received in this way – this includes those following the public budget consultation event which was held on 16 January. Comments we received via email or telephone have been published on the Council’s website at [www.telford.gov.uk/budget](http://www.telford.gov.uk/budget).

Analysis of these comments has identified a number of themes:

- Opposition to the proposed Council tax increase
- Concerns with the consultation process
- Ensuring that specific services are protected, including for example:
  - Protection of vulnerable adults and children
  - Rights of way
  - Road improvement/’potholes’
  - Sports and culture activities
- How benefit changes, including Council Tax support, are being implemented – this includes comments on both the need to use benefit changes to encourage people into work and to protect vulnerable communities.

## **Appendix I Community Groups and Forums**

### **Young People's Forum**

Held on 6 February 2013, 12 people in attendance

Have any young people felt any affects of the recession/Council budget cuts over the last year or so?

- Increase in bus fares (possibly less routes being subsidised by the Council)
- School writing club has stopped due to lack of money
- Less money for art in school e.g. no money for paper towels
- Hole in the roof at Sutherland School

Will young people use Southwater

- Would use it if it is nice.
- A lot of things in Telford are ok but not quite
- Want a place in Telford to be proud of
- A young person is looking at Southwater in their BTEC construction
- We want something that you member Telford by
- My French exchange student said that they thought Telford was beautiful
- Is Southwater like a method of cutting down youth employment?
- We want Telford to be better than average
- Are they getting rid of the existing cinema

Will you stay in Telford as you get older – what would make you stay?

- If we had good services and facilities i.e. Wellington leisure centre and library is good
- Some areas look a bit drab
- Would come back to visit parents
- If the right industry was here i.e. gaming - maybe would stay
- Having an art gallery
- More jobs and a university

Suggestion:

Get back to schools about the things that are coming to Telford in the future – new industry etc. We can also learn from young people about what services and business they want in Telford in the future.

### **Ketley Bank Residents Association**

Held on 6 February 2013 - 11 people in attendance

Key questions, comments and issues raised by the Ketley Bank Residents Association:

- As housing building is on the increase in Telford, does this include 'social housing'?
- Get those on Community Service to pick up the litter
- Is there anyway that disabled people can get support on Bedroom Tax?
- If you have children abroad serving in the forces – where do they stay when they come home? – (In reference to Bedroom Tax)
- Invest in ING
- Why is nobody fighting the Government about the unfairness on grants etc.?



## Budget Consultation February 2013

- There is no transparency in Central Government.
- Points raised on the new Council Tax Support Scheme and the impact – danger there will be more people in care and homelessness
- Questions raised about older people and WHT
- Why is Ketley Bank not mentioned on the map in the recent edition of Your Voice.
- When will Ketley Bank be regenerated?
- Discussion on poor housing stock in Sutton Hill.

### PODS (Parents Opening Doors)

Held on 4 February 2013 – 18 people in attendance

- More marketing and promotion is needed on the capital funding pot under short breaks
- When is the track at Oakengates getting a nearby toilet?
- Is there any form of replacement for the Polo Service?
- Can you meet with PODS?
- It is felt that leisure staff and coaches are not fully confident and skilled to work with CYP with additional needs – what can be done about this? Parents want the opportunity for their children to mix with children without disabilities
- Can free swimming be extended past 16 years for CYP with disabilities?
- How much do we pay out to residents who claim for damage to the cars e.g. pothole damage. It has been quoted in the press about 12million?
- Shropshire short breaks offer all day for £15 is that possible in TW?
- Leisure offer £1 per activity in school holidays but children with disabilities are being charged £4 under shortbreaks. It feels that CWD are penalised.
- If the Council is encouraging more jobs – what work are we doing to encourage more affordable child care opportunities – particularly for children with additional needs?
- The group would like an update on BSF and particularly be able to raise some questions around admissions and transport etc. Can you arrange to meet with the group?
- Due to the build in Stirchley the library is moving and being reduced. Importantly can you tell the group where all the very valuable literature on autism has gone? Library staff have been asked but they don't know?
- Is it possible to offer subsidies for children with disabilities for music lessons?
- The group would like an update on the Family Connect Service – can you arrange to meet with them?
- The group felt that NHS medical consultants do not signpost to support services – on diagnosis of disability. Is it possible to put information leaflets and packs into family rooms at the hospitals?
- How are carers with children with disabilities recognised in the Carer Strategy and in HWB priority for carers. How can PODS feed into the strategy?
- The group would like to meet with you to discuss post 16 education for disabled children. Can you arrange to meet with them?
- The group would like more information on changes to benefits particularly the Bedroom Tax. Can you arrange to meet with them?
- Where is the income from the sale of 24 buildings going to?
- What do you do with income from charging for short breaks?
- Where does road tax go?
- When will Stirchley be regenerated?

## Budget Consultation February 2013

### Carers Partnership Board

Held on 5 February 2013 – 13 people in attendance

- Awareness not to cut carer services as Carers are a key asset to maintain people at home
- Concerns raised regarding a culture change in both staff and recipient of services. Expectations versus wants and needs!
- Real concerns that the budget cuts will impact on personalisation. One Board member referred to this as counteracting forces: which will take choice away and place increased pressure on carers.
- Dilnott Enquiry was raised with regard to paying for residential/nursing care. Still waiting when this will be implemented probably not till after next general election.

### Senior Citizens Forum

Held on 14 January 2013, 120 people in attendance.

#### Do you broadly support our plan?

Yes	No	Don't know
11	1	0

If you don't support our plans or a particular element of it, please tell us why?

- Stop wasting taxpayers money fighting plans already passed in favour of Sainsbury supermarket in Newport
- However concerned with Council rates increase. Always present % on Band B it is greater in Band D

#### Do you support the Council's campaign for a Fair Deal for Telford and Wrekin?

Yes	No	Don't know
11	1	0

General comments and concerns raised

- fly tipping remains an problem
- services for litter picking have been cut and we need them
- Fast food shops should be charges for the costs of picking up their litter
- should be instant fines for people who litter and patrols for outside schools
- full litter bins in Muxton need emptying more frequently
- what do people on community orders do?
- add another statistic to presentation - 850 Council jobs - what % is this of the original workforce?

### Taking Part Committee

Held on 15 January 33 people in attendance.

Comments and questions raised regarding:

### Care and Support Services

- Do you think cost of caring for elderly is going to go up?
- What if elderly person not able to do it (personal budgets) themselves?
- How about doing more contracting work? (for personal budgets)
- What if it doesn't work? (personal budgets)
- I think the issue of personal budgets is a key thing to take from here
- Unit 10 has been a really good service (and a cooperative service)

### Employment

- Any specific plans for jobs for disabled people?
- People can't get jobs – that's the Governments fault.....Cameron. We need people to work for tax so we have more money

### On Fair deal for Telford

- Do they (the government) say to you why they do that?
- Are they (the government) discriminating because T&W is a labour Council?
- If Govt keep cutting back we are going to have nothing
- Why not take grant?
- Is there a lot of pressure on you because of all the cuts?
- Are there more cuts next year?

### On Safeguarding

- Definitely on that one!! (putting extra money into keeping children safe slide)
- What about keeping vulnerable adults safe? (Follow up - information relating to Adult Social Care expenditure)

### On leisure Centres

- How will they be better?
- tell people how much cheaper roughly
- Who made decision to keep free swimming?

### Recycling

- the sad thing is not many people put things in bins
- we should all do that (recycle)

### Car Parking

- We should cut back on car parking charges in hospitals
- We should cut back all over the place
- We could do with new car park at Town Centre
- We are really struggling for disabled parking at ice rink – are there any plans for more spaces? (For following up)
- You shouldn't have to pay for Car Park

### Council Plans

## Budget Consultation February 2013

- Are you going to try and keep local services?
- As a cooperative Council, what are the plans for T&W to work with social enterprises? It is a buzz word but not happening (follow up required, approach Cllr Davies –group would welcome further discussions)

### On Engagement

- Are you going to let us know when things do change?
- I think you should come back in 6 months (Follow up visit agreed by Bill)

### Other Follow ups

- Lack of meeting space availability –TCAT
- Streetlights keep going off in Lancaster Avenue
- Why does it take so long to see a doctor ( followed up in subsequent presentation by a commissioner)

### Voluntary Sector Chief Officers Group

Held 24 January 10 people in attendance

**Q.** Do we capture the feedback that we get from radio interviews as part of the budget consultation process as residents give their feedback when Cllr McClements is interviewed in the radio? It was suggested that this should be included within the information captured via the consultation.

**A.** We will look into that.

**Q.** Shropshire Council appears to be taking a different approach to T&WC in terms of exploring different business opportunities. There was a concern that Councils could take on business opportunities just because they make a profit. What checks and balances are in place to prevent the Council from taking an aggressive approach to business

**A.** The aim of T&WC developing commercial projects is to provide funding to support service delivery. There is a commercial board that scrutinises any commercial developments by the Council.

**Comment:** Can the Council make sure that it considers the impact if it starts to introduce charges as it can have a knock on effect e.g. if we were to introduce charges for pest control it could lead to a problem with vermin in the Borough

**Comment:** The presentation at the Taking Part Group was appreciated. Will the Council make sure that it continues to invest in Adult Social Care particularly around services to vulnerable adults

**Comment:** How do we capture the value that the voluntary sector brings to the Borough and could the Council work more closely with the voluntary sector to develop joint solutions.

**Discussion:** The group talked about how the proposed Voluntary Sector stakeholder event could be used to have discussions around potential solutions and how the Voluntary Sector and Council work together more closely. These discussions would need to take place earlier in the year to be able to feed into the budget process.

## Budget Consultation February 2013

**Comment:** Concern was expressed about how the Council categorises Vulnerable Adults as Welfare Reforms will impact upon many more people than the Council currently would categorise as a Vulnerable Adult

**Comment:** The bedroom tax will have an impact on those who are Foster Carers.