

Budget Consultation 2012

Final budget consultation results

Co-operative Council Delivery Team



Overview – Budget consultation

Budget consultation opened on 23 December and closed on 31 January.

Upon close of the consultation period we have consulted with and received feed back from approximately 2840 people.

- Survey responses – 1618
- Council Tax cut out from 'Your Voice' – 779
- Comments, suggestions and ideas – 62
- Forums, groups and event - 381

Budget survey 2012

Overview – Budget survey

These are findings from the Budget survey. All results are based on unweighted data.

Total of 1618 survey responses – 1058 web, 560 paper

571 of these responses are from Community Panel members.

Low responses from:

- Under 35s
- Deprived areas

Key demographic differences focus on statistically significant differences.

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Guiding principles - Overall

	%
Find better ways to run services and avoid wasting money	59%
Deliver the right services based on the needs of our local people	50%
Act responsibly within a severely restricted budget; balancing decisions to use Council money with the need to protect essential services	40%
Be open and transparent in how resources are spent across the Borough, but spend money on issues and areas where needs are greatest	37%
Seek to minimise the level of Council Tax increase, balanced against growing demands for Council services and protecting them from cuts	26%
Involve residents as widely as possible in our budget decisions and new ways of delivering services	25%
Sell some of the Council's land and property to reduce borrowing, cut running costs, and – where there is a strong business case – to fund priority facilities and schemes	23%
Look for external investment e.g. Government grants, to address priorities	18%
Reduce reliance on borrowing to reduce debt repayment costs	17%
Set aside some additional money to deal with any unforeseen circumstances caused by the current economic situation	8%

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Guiding principles – Demographic differences

Respondents from 20% most deprived areas were more in favour of 'Deliver the right services based on the needs of our local people' than those from less deprived areas.

BME respondents were more in favour than White British respondents of the options 'Seek to minimise the level of Council Tax increase, balanced against growing demands for Council services and protecting them from cuts', 'Look for external investment e.g. Government grants to address priorities', 'Set aside some additional money to deal with any unforeseen circumstances caused by the current economic situation' and 'Reduce reliance on borrowing to reduce debt repayment costs'.

Carers were more in favour of 'Involve residents as widely as possible in our budget decisions and new ways of delivering services' than those without caring responsibilities.

Those with a LTLI were more in favour than those without of 'Set aside additional money to deal with any unforeseen circumstances caused by the current economic situation'.

Female respondents were more in favour than male respondents of 'Act responsibly within a severely restricted budget balancing decisions to use Council money with the need to protect services'.

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Suggestions for additional guiding principles

There were a total of 373 comments on additional guiding principles. The top themes are shown in the table below

Reduce staff /reduce pensions/ wages / recruitment costs /move staff to departments where needed / ensure vfm from staff / reduce consultation costs	37	10%
Base spending on needs of the community / cuts to areas who are able to cope	30	8%
Trim 'luxuries' provide only basic frontline/statutory services / less internal services / don't spend what you haven't got	25	7%
Listen to the views of public / communicate honestly with residents	22	6%
Less waste and duplication bureaucracy/ ensure jobs are done well / to time / only when needed	20	5%
Reduce councillors / expenses	20	5%
Increased monitoring of value for money / ensure tendering is best vfm	11	3%
Reduce council tax / rates / do not increase council tax	9	2%
Less political bias / work as one / less politics, work for residents	9	2%

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Plans for major services

	Agree	Disagree	Net
Children and family services proposals	76%	7%	69%
Adult services proposals	87%	3%	83%
Environmental services proposals	87%	5%	82%

Female respondents were more likely than their male counterparts to agree with plans for children and family services (81% to 75%)

White British respondents were more likely to agree with proposals for environmental services than BME respondents (89% to 80%)

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Comments on Children and Family Services

There were a total of 306 comments received about the proposed savings for children and family services, the top themes are shown below.

Early intervention can save money / better outcomes for child / prevention better than cure	73	24%
Too much support people need to stand on their own feet / subsidies not handouts / ensure not better of than working families	30	10%
Do not understand what the results of this statement will be / need more info / cannot see how this saves money	20	7%
Children should go where is best for them outside the Borough or not	19	6%
Parents to take more responsibility / parenting classes	15	5%
People need to help themselves through support groups etc / need to contribute so they appreciate the help	11	4%
Services for young people are essential for the future of the Borough / need to support these most vulnerable	10	3%
Children should be fostered in their local area / fostering outside the Borough is expensive	10	3%
Good theory, not sure in practice	9	3%

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Comments on Adult Services

There were a total of 272 comments received on the savings proposals for Adult Services. The top themes are shown below

Independence / empowerment / encouragement is important	39	14%
Different for different people should not be imposed / some people cannot care for themselves	32	12%
Depends on budget impact / cant see how this is a saving	15	6%
Too vague need more examples / need more information / need cost benefit info	11	4%
Proper support at correct time / support workers available always	8	3%
Do not withdraw human interaction of carers / reablement leads to isolation	8	3%
Care for elderly in own homes	7	3%
Ensure benefits are not abused (false claimants)	7	3%
Family unit should support (children take care of parents) and not expect society to do so	7	3%
Supporting people to help themselves is inexpensive compared to care	7	3%

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Comments on Environmental Services

There were a total of 370 comments received on the savings proposals for Environmental Services. The top themes are shown below.

Do not cut recycling services (centres) / recycling should be a high priority / support recycling	91	25%
Council does a good job of waste management / recycling / environmental maintenance currently	20	5%
Better education / publicity to prevent litter, improve recycling etc	17	5%
Recycling is too complicated / too many different containers / need better containers / storage issues	17	5%
Encourage residents to upkeep local area / reduce red tape to allow residents to look after area	16	4%
Volunteering opportunities / utilise unemployed / community payback	10	3%
Maintain current collections	10	3%
Clamp down on fly tipping	10	3%

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Investments

	Agree	Disagree	Net
We are proposing a new capital programme which includes up to £6.15m of new capital improvements to Brookside	40%	27%	13%
Adult services proposals	87%	5%	82%

Respondents in 20% most deprived areas were more likely to agree with the Brookside proposal than those from 20% least deprived.

BME respondents were more positive about the Brookside proposals than their White British counterparts.

Those from Lakeside CLC (containing Brookside ward) were more likely to agree with the Brookside proposals than those from any other area.

Respondents with a long term limiting illness (LTLI) were more likely to agree with the proposals for Adult Social Care than respondents without an LTLI.

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Comments on Brookside Investments

There were a total of 480 comments on the proposals for investment in Brookside. The top themes are shown below.

What about other estates / areas / too much money for one area	90	19%
Not a resident of the area / do not know the area	63	13%
Area is in desperate need of improvement	41	9%
Not a priority at the moment	33	7%
No point as improvements will not be looked after / will residents appreciate and look after the improvements	32	7%
Residents should do the work themselves / residents should have larger involvements volunteer groups etc	31	6%
Improve what there is at lower cost	25	5%
Need to reduce crime / increased police presence	25	5%
Should encourage commercial organisations to make this investment	23	5%
Money would be better spent elsewhere (other services/ projects/jobs)	21	4%

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Comments on Adult Social Care Investment

There were a total of 243 comments on the proposed Adult Social Care investments. The top themes are shown below.

Should have all the support they can / these people need help / should not be forgotten	38	16%
Telford has an aging population / people are living longer	15	6%
Need to ensure only funding genuine need / recipients contribute where able	14	6%
Need to increase funding	14	6%
More money should be spent on front line not managers / not enough front line staff	12	5%
Need more information on service / budget impacts	12	5%
Family should take more responsibility / encourage families to help	10	4%
Keep people in their own homes as long as possible	9	4%
Care needs to be high standard	9	4%

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Cuts: most supported

	agree	disagree	net
Q8c. Introduce a Street Lighting Efficiency Programme	84%	11%	73%
Q8o. Increase independent travel	78%	9%	69%
Q8n. Remove concessions on golf for all groups	73%	11%	62%
Q8l. To introduce a flat rate £1 charge for swimming for all concessionary groups	76%	13%	62%
Q8m. Standardise concessionary gym membership to £21.50pcm	66%	10%	56%
Q8s. Increase the price of school meals	70%	18%	52%
Q8q. Reduce the number of statements of education need (SEN) and out of county placements.	63%	16%	48%
Q8e. Introduce a £50 annual pavement licensing scheme	63%	23%	41%
Q8f. Raise charges for bulk collections from £15 to £18 for up to six items	64%	23%	41%
Q8r. Charges to be applied for some short breaks for children with disabilities	59%	21%	38%

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Cuts – least supported

	agree	disagree	net
Q8a. Reducing the number of Community Recycling Centre sites from four to three, closing the Newport CRC and reducing the opening of the other sites to five days a week	61%	31%	30%
Q8j. Further reduction in the library book fund from £234,240 to £209,240 per annum	56%	26%	31%
Q8b. Reducing the frequency of litter picking across the Borough and road sweeping	48%	39%	9%
Q8k. The removal of automatic concessionary status for new over 60's accessing leisure	45%	39%	5%
Q8i. Revise charges for Resident Permit Scheme and Season Tickets in Ironbridge	33%	38%	-5%
Q8p. Increasing charges from £8 to £12 per hour for low level support to vulnerable adults, who do not meet the eligibility threshold for community care support	36%	43%	-7%
Q8d. Reviewing the number of routes gritted in ice and snow from next winter	37%	50%	-13%
Q8g. Increase parking charges annually by 10% in Council owned car parks in Telford Town Centre	29%	59%	-30%
Q8h. Increase parking charges annually by 20% in Council owned car parks in Ironbridge	24%	62%	-38%

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Cuts - Demographics

Environmental Services

Respondents from Newport CLC were more likely to disagree with plans to reduce the number of CRCs, deprivation also affected opinion on this question with those from the most deprived areas much more likely to agree with the proposal compared to those from least deprived areas. Men were more likely to disagree with this than woman and those under 16 were more likely to support the proposal than those aged 65+.

Men and White British respondents were more likely to disagree with reducing the frequency of litter picking than there female and BME counterparts.

Those with a limiting long term illness and those with a caring responsibility were more likely to oppose a Street Light Efficiency Programme than those without, BME respondents were also more likely to disagree with this proposal than White British respondents. Those from the least deprived areas were more likely to agree with this proposal than those from the most deprived areas.

Female respondents were more likely to disagree with reviewing gritting routes than men. White British respondents were more likely to oppose this saving than BME respondents.

Those with a LTLI, carers, BME respondents and those from the most deprived areas were more likely to disagree with raising charges for bulk collections.

Budget survey 2012

Cuts – Demographics cont

Parking

BME respondents were more likely to agree to an increase in parking charges for Council car parks at Telford Town centre.

White British respondents were more likely to disagree with increased parking charges in Ironbridge.

White British respondents and those from South (MA and ADA) CLCs were more likely to disagree with revised charges for the Resident Permit Scheme and Season Tickets in Ironbridge.

Leisure

Carers and those from most deprived areas were more likely to disagree with the removal of automatic concessionary status for new over 60s accessing leisure.

BME respondents were more likely to agree with standardising concessionary gym memberships than White British respondents. Carers were more likely to disagree with this than those without a caring responsibility.

Men, those aged 45 and over and those from the least deprived areas were more likely to support removal of concessions on golf for all groups.

Budget survey 2012

Cuts – Demographics cont

Social Services

Women, those with an LTLI, carers and BME respondents were more likely to disagree with the proposal to increase independent travel.

Women, those with a LTLI and those caring for someone were more likely to disagree with increasing charges for low level support.

Female respondents and carers were more likely to disagree with reducing the number of statements of education need (SEN) and out of county placements. Those aged 16-64 were more likely to disagree with this proposal than those aged 65+.

Carers and those from the most deprived areas were more likely to disagree with the proposal to apply charges for some short breaks for children with disabilities.

Women, those with a LTLI, carers, BME respondents and those from the most deprived areas of the Borough were more likely to disagree with the proposal to increase the price of school meals.

Budget survey 2012

Council Tax

Budget survey (number of respondents to this question 1487)

Option 1 – Take the one-off Government grant of £1.4m and freeze Council Tax for 2012/13 only. This will mean in 2013/14 Council Tax will either need to rise by around 82p per week (5%) for the average home or we will have to make further front-line service cuts	36%
Option 2 – Decline the one-off grant and increase Council Tax levels in 2012/13 by 41p per week (2.5%) for the average home. This will help us avoid additional service cuts or a higher tax rise in 2013/14.	41%
Option 3 – Decline the one-off grant and increase Council Tax in 2012/13 by 58p per week (3.5%) and then either remove some of the proposed service cuts or reduce any Council Tax rise in 2013/14.	23%

Men were more likely than women to support Option 1.

Your Voice

An additional 779 responses to the Council Tax question have been received via the cut out in 'Your Voice'.

Option 1 – 40%
Option 2 – 30%
Option 3 – 30%

Budget Consultation Event

An additional 21 responses to the Council Tax question were given at the consultation event

Option 1 – 19%
Option 2 – 10%
Option 3 – 71%

Overall responses (total number of responses 2287)

Option 1: 37% Option 2: 37% Option 3: 26%

Budget survey 2012

Further Comments on the budget challenge

There were 317 further comments on the budget challenge. The top themes are shown below

Do not increase council tax / reduce council tax / cannot afford council tax increase / stop parish precepts increase	42	13%
Take council tax grant / should not turn down extra government funding / benefits to council as same as council tax increase but without cost to residents	41	13%
Increase council tax / small increase acceptable for visible results / small increase every year	31	10%
Re-band houses for council tax	24	8%
Reduce staff bill / ensure good performance from staff / less managers	20	6%
Situation could get better next year / inflation may not be so high next year / may be additional grants	18	6%
Need to be more efficient not grow budget annually / spend less money	15	5%
Biased survey leading questions / positively worded / too many questions asked in one / not enough information provided in questions / contradicting questions	14	4%
Find further savings within the organisation / reduce costs / cut service	14	4%
Services to share buildings e.g libraries and schools	13	4%

Budget survey 2012

Priorities - Overview

	Agree	Disagree	Net
A growing local economy to create jobs	93%	2%	91%
Clean and well maintained neighbourhoods	91%	3%	88%
Residents feeling safe and proud of where they live	86%	4%	82%
Vulnerable children and adults are protected	84%	2%	82%
Improved lives for all	83%	5%	77%
Telford and Wrekin – A co-operative Council	75%	7%	68%
Housing choices to meet the needs of all	71%	14%	57%

Budget survey 2012

Priorities - Demographics

Men and those from the least deprived areas were more likely to disagree with the priority 'Improved lives for all'

Female respondents were more likely to agree with the priority 'vulnerable children and adults are protected'.

Those with a LTLI, carers and those from the most deprived areas were more likely to agree with the priority 'Housing chances to meet the needs of all'

Men were more likely than women to disagree with 'Telford & Wrekin – A Co-operative Council'. Those who were caring for someone were more likely to agree with 'Telford & Wrekin – A Co-operative Council'.

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Comments – A growing local economy to create jobs

There were a total of 214 comments around the priority 'a growing local economy to create jobs'. The top themes are shown below.

Make young people feel more valued so they contribute more / address attitude of young people	29	14%
More apprenticeships / promote the value to businesses / apprenticeships for those with disabilities	20	9%
More jobs / reduce unemployment / in rural areas as well	19	9%
More support for those over 24 - education / job / should not be at the expense of older workers opportunities	18	8%
Generate jobs to deliver income that stays in the Borough	17	8%
Need to improve prospects of younger generation / Other options than work for young people / volunteer schemes / council incentive schemes	16	7%
Promote tourism / locations	13	6%
Apprentices must be valued not just seen as cheap labour / need to ensure there are jobs for them afterwards / employers have a responsibility to support them	13	6%
Need better education / training / skills that employees need	8	4%
I don't think this is achievable / not within councils ability	8	4%

Budget survey 2012

Comments – Improved lives for all

There were a total of 205 comments on the proposed priority 'Improved lives for all'. The top themes are shown below.

Do not build new schools use what is there/ nothing wrong with current schools / do schools need to be rebuilt to improve results / rebuilding will not improve results	33	16%
Broad statement / statement not clear too much involved	16	8%
Should invest in teaching staff	16	8%
Newport missed out in building school for future	13	6%
Need culture change / tackle underlying problems	12	6%
Education is vital to the future / children need a good start in life	11	5%
Responsibility should sit with families	6	3%

Budget survey 2012

Comments – Vulnerable children and adults are protected

There were a total of 133 comments on the proposed priority 'Vulnerable children and adults are protected'. The top themes are shown below.

Statement too vague / mixed messages / statement not question	12	9%
Not always best to keep families together /can be better for children to be removed from problem families and given a new start	11	8%
More family planning advice	6	5%
How will you do this	6	5%
CYP need to be happy and safe / essential aim	5	4%
Families to take more responsibility	5	4%
Speed up fostering/adoption make process easier	5	4%
Too many children placed in care / need to support children in own families	4	3%
Encourage people to support themselves less state dependence	4	3%
Don't think this is deliverable with current cuts	4	3%
Support families to build relationships / maintain family home	4	3%
Need high quality staff / need enough staff / need to ensure staff are well paid	4	3%

Budget survey 2012

Comments – Clean and well maintained neighbourhoods and streets

There were a total of 255 comments on the proposed priority 'Clean and well maintained neighbourhoods and streets'. The top themes are shown below.

Recycling should be high priority should not be cut	29	11%
How will this happen with proposed cuts / statement contrary to cuts	29	11%
Roads and footways are priority	20	8%
Clean streets are important for residents, investors and tourism / people take care of clean areas more	18	7%
Fines for littering / more enforcement	16	6%
More education to prevent litter encourage recycling etc	13	5%
Closure of CRC will result in fly tipping / reduce recycling rate	12	5%
Vague question / not enough information / do not understand / too many questions / not a question	11	4%
Turn off street lights (on during day, more 12-6am) / replace with high efficiency lights	11	4%
Support local communities to take pride in neighbourhood / community litter picks	10	4%

Budget survey 2012

Comments – Residents feeling safe and proud of where they live

There were a total of 189 comments on the proposed priority 'Residents feeling safe and proud of where they live'. The top themes are shown below

The streets are not safe / I feel unsafe / ASB is high / I am afraid to report things / people are not reporting crime	13	7%
Harsher penalties for law breakers / ASB perpetrators	13	7%
More police presence / police act quicker	10	5%
How will partnership plan work / how will the aim be delivered	9	5%
Volunteering can not be depended on / government takes advantage of volunteering / do not replace paid jobs with volunteers	8	4%
Need action not words / these are aims and ideals not plans	7	4%
Generic statements designed for response	6	3%
Families guilty of antisocial behaviour should lose entitlement to support	6	3%
This is an issue for the police not the council/ volunteers	5	3%

Budget survey 2012

Comments – Housing choices to meet the needs of all

There were 347 comments on the proposed priority 'Housing choices to meet the needs of all'. The top themes are shown below.

Lots of empty houses already / do not need more houses	43	12%
Use brownfield sites first / only build on brownfield / retain green space	41	12%
Mixed housing prevents communities developing / do not want mixed communities / owner occupiers do not want to live by affordable properties	37	11%
Need lower rents / more affordable housing / more social housing / more rental properties	35	10%
Too much overcrowding on small plots / too much building / need more space gardens around houses / allotments and open spaces/well designed - not boxes	23	7%
Need services / facilities to meet increased demand / local (walking distance) facilities / doctors / public transport	23	7%
There are no jobs / are there sufficient jobs to justify this	14	4%
Better regulation of private rent	13	4%
What is affordable	11	3%
Tension between those who work hard and save to purchase a property and those who are given a house and the opportunity to buy it at reduced rates	9	3%
Need to ensure people look after their homes	9	3%

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Comments – Telford and Wrekin – A Co-operative Council

There were a total of 271 comments on the priority 'Telford and Wrekin – a Co-operative Council'. The main themes are shown below.

Need more information / do not understand what this means	24	9%
Good idea, need action / less talk more action / how will you actually do this/ hope this works in practice	20	7%
Provided this does not increase costs / will this increase costs / what cost to the tax payer	12	4%
Just a name, does not change service / resource for rebranding would be better spent on services	11	4%
I cannot see this working / I await for evidence of success	10	4%
Political statement, effort will be wasted if we see a change of administration	10	4%
encourage community participation /more information on how public can help as volunteers	8	3%
The council has always done this / should do this anyway regardless of names	8	3%
Really good idea / would make the borough a better place	8	3%
Should not rely on volunteers to provide services the council does not want to / we are paying council to deliver these services	8	3%

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Forums – Deaf Club

Key messages:

- Pleased to hear 46 Million is going to Adult Social Care. Really positive, endorse it
- Great to have proper consultations, thanks
- 6 million on school improvement is plenty
- Under Equality Act 2010 it is illegal to have long term effects upon a person's health
- We need to be more aware that suing and lawsuits might be in the way

Accessing Services

- There is a high risk that deaf people are mis-diagnosed with mental health problems
- I am still looking for support with my deafness
- People are not understanding where to go – need to communicate better

Budget survey 2012

Forums – Deaf Club cont

Housing Issues

- Process is incredibly frustrating. The stipulations / restrictions are being made by those it has been outsourced to. For example stating that properties are only suitable for one child families
- People are getting very overcrowded in properties today
- It would be beneficial if there was a camera in doorways of flats and houses
- I'm living in flats – we are allowed no pets – I wanted a hearing dog

Culture and leisure

- Club members are not using libraries or going swimming. This is because there is a communication issue, people wouldn't know where to start trying to use these services

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Forums – Senior Citizens Forum

Council Tax questions

- Option 3 – 3.5% are you at liberty to rise to this level?
- Newport – David Cameron keen on new houses etc. Why is the local authority forcing 100s houses + supermarket in Newport
- Will our points on the budget be taken into account or is it a foregone conclusion?
- Brookside – it is always in a state why put money into it – a load of areas are in a state. People who live in Brookside don't look after it
- Why did we allow regeneration in Wellington to go ahead without checking electrics first – now take longer to do it properly
- 1.4m in balance – is this a contingency fund. What is the total contingency fund for next financial year?
- Town and Parish Councils which carry over substantial amounts of money – is this part of partnership deals
- 70% of work is out to the private sector. Do the cuts take into account contractors. What will that mean?

Budget survey 2012

Forums – Senior Citizens Forum cont

Comments / Questions

- Why is the government cutting the council budget?
- What allowance is there in the budget for the membership of being a co-operative council?
- Why do we need a co-operative council (only for labour council so far?!)
- Not voted for co-operative council having difficulty understanding what is a co-operative council
- What percentage of work is outsourced?
- 200 jobs being cut in what areas?
- What is the difference between safeguarding and care and support (for both adults and children)?
- Council buildings (Civic) sold to Asda, what is the situation at the moment?
- Where is the school/education budget in the pie chart? Any opportunities to make school savings?
- What money is set aside for redundancy payments?

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Forums – Young People's Forum

- I think that the Council should switch every other light off Telford and Wrekin
- Increasing the cost of bulk collections could increase the rate of fly tipping
- Lots of Ironbridge residents use the car parks to park their cars every day, increasing the car parking charges will affect them badly
- Increasing car parking charges in Ironbridge might put people off
- Cut library staff rather than book stock money, books are the reason that people use the library if you cut the stock people might not use the library
- Children need access to books and library books are a good way of encouraging children to read
- Don't understand why out of county placements and children with SEN are mentioned in the same budget statement, there doesn't seem to be any connection between them.

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Forums – Rural Forum

Investment

- Investment in Brookside is it primarily council money? There is lots of money going on several areas, what are you doing to check efficiency
- Comparison Councils Milton Keynes and Peterborough do not inspire me.. I see them as not running so well
- I agree with the new way of working with children – it will reduce the costs. You will be successful in this
- Preventative working will keep people at home, the way will work but it is difficult to see – it could be 10 years before you see these savings
- Can you dip into reserves
- What about efficiency – can you look more at areas where you haven't been gold starred?
- Lots of things we don't like (Environmental services)

Budget survey 2012

Forums – Rural Forum cont

Parish Councils

- Every Parish Council is in a difficult position with budgets. Tendency to transfer responsibilities out might be a nightmare to manage
- I hope that in retrospect Parish Councils are not held responsible for having raised the load
- It concerned me that you say Parish Councils are not carrying weight
- Do you envisage a standard approach?
- I believe we should amalgamate with smaller Parishes – to get jobs done

Recycling

- Do you use every opportunity to tell public that they are letting down when they don't recycle?
- While we are in such dire financial straits we will never have a better opportunity to drum in the importance of recycling
- The message (to public) should be the cost per kilo of dumping
- Say to public exactly where glass goes / cardboard goes etc
- Recycling – up to Parish Councils to promote 'duty' and work in partnership

Budget survey 2012

Forums – Rural Forum cont

Volunteers

- I think you should seriously look at Health and Safety because you cannot get volunteers
- You can shop and arrange for insurance – sometimes insurance has been got twice (Council has its insurance and contractors have theirs)
- What about using organisations, scouts etc, to pick up litter?
- Rotary? Lions?
- I thought criminals picked up litter
- There will be practical problems with getting groups to pick up litter (e.g. Health and Safety) but I think the principle is sound
- We want positive people that will help!
- Do a risk assessment and do what you can!

Budget survey 2012

Forums – Rural Forum cont

CRCs

- This is a 'double whammy' for Newport – it is an older community which is quite set aside – people have to travel to other sites
- CRC is a very valuable commodity or Newport
- Are you going to invest in an alternative site in Newport
- Could s106 monies help another site take root
- How much will any resulting fly tipping cost?
- Fly tipping has been constant where I live since the changes
- What do I have to do to keep it open?
- What about having just two days?
- There is a new building tax coming in, could these monies be used to keep it open?
- Newport is increasingly being developed – there will be increasing tonnage for CRCs – have you monitored the green impact
- Getting rubbish from people's homes is most important.. In the past this issue has nearly bought the country to its knees

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Forums – Rural Forum cont

CRCs cont

- You haven't talked about relocation of the site, just the problems / restrictions of the current site
- Young families have said the most important thing to them is garden waste and recyclables
- Can the developers come in on this? S106 monies – can they be earmarked?
- You (the Council) are in danger of being seen for bribery if you keep CRC and developments go ahead.

Council Tax

- Accepting grant gives time to make more cuts
- Does the Council have a preferred option?
- Option 2 is good for the Council – not for population
- Why are we spending £4 million on an ice rink when we are broke?
- There should be good savings in Local Authorities through Academies
- I am very concerned re the situation re ASC – there is an increase in older people and people living longer – we need an increase in spending. Consider increase in council tax to save vulnerable people.

Budget survey 2012

Forums – Rural Forum cont

General comments

- (Council Tax question) put some base figures showing subsequent increases
- I found tonight very interesting
- I feel able to make more informed choice based on what I have heard tonight
- Would like feedback
- You are consulting with a small group here, it is so important that you do consult with people who do understand it.

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Forums – Parent and Carers Forum

- Early intervention (in Children's Services) must remain a priority.
- Please confirm that funds will be protected for vulnerable children, and those with statements of educational need are not reduced for those that need it.
- Non-statement children, but those with additional needs should be fully supported throughout education and the transition into employment.
- Transition issues are important.
- Can we have a passport system in schools which will give children the right support.
- My long term goal for my son is to be guided with the right support from myself as a parent and services, to get him into employment.
- Can we be more efficient and make cuts to environmental services. Encourage people to get involved and help out with litter picks etc. e.g. scout groups
- Can we get in touch with people who do community services to help clear up.

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Forums – Parent and Carers Forum cont

- Does the Council still get the money from the government for people who have housing benefit and council tax benefits?
- For those claiming benefits how does that impact on society? I have seen families split up because it is more cost effective for people to live apart as they will get more benefits. People go into private rentals and look well off. More people are trying to con the benefit system – what can we do about that?
- How will we make academies accountable for non-statemented children but with additional needs. What about in two years time when money is tighter what support will be there for our children? What will happen long-term when we are trying to reduce impact now?

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Forums – Business Board

General comments

- It was felt that the Board needs to link with Shropshire but the focus should also be within the Black Country area
- Public budget consultation very light on issues to do with business
- The board has had previous involvement in procurement and is happy to be more involved
- The board agreed that the opportunity must be taken to input into this process.

Budget survey 2012

Budget Consultation Event

Priorities

- Great to be able to have a say, good presentation with clear options. Good Luck!
- Quality of life – rural areas are low priority. No support to any of the village halls. Have to go out of the Borough to do the things we want to. Feel like Telford has lost out to Shrewsbury in recent years.
- Priorities are helpful – but what are we going to do to achieve them?
- Re saving – if someone want/needs a service they should be prepared to pay for it. The same applies to Council Tax
- Haven't made clear what the minimum/statutory amounts are that we have to spend on certain services.

Leisure

- By how much are the court fee's going to be increased from 1 April in Oakengates and Stirchley leisure centre (short tennis)

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Budget Consultation Event cont

Adult Social Care

- Ref: the presentation – where were all the elderly/children/vulnerable adults before this “hard” budget?
- No mention of dementia – growing problem
- The quality of some domiciliary care services is not good enough. Largely unregulated – too risky (low aspiration/allusion with inadequate level of care)

Children and family services

- School meals too expensive
- Do we educate children and young people in nutritional value and food preparation
- Also teach RE cost wakeup
- Ref: the presentation where were all the children/elderly vulnerable adults before this council were elected?
- Payroll giving to fund needs of handicapped should be co-ordinated by T&W
- Will the changes in SEN mean that children will not get the services they need?
- Are you going to cut respite services for seriously disabled children?
- What does the £20m spent on safeguarding pay for
- Some parents see a statement of SEN as a status symbol

Budget survey 2012

Budget Consultation Event cont

Council Tax

- With Option 1 I would hope it gives time for effective and efficient options for next year
- Why is there a 3.5% limit why not 5%
- If Option 3 predominates this evening, it may just be because of the type of attendees here tonight
- We must protect the vulnerable who can least help themselves
- Additional local tax on us well off folks!

Environmental services

- To cut costs – look at procurement practice / more competitive
- Road investment
- Support Aug litter picking

Open Comment Wall

- No cuts should be made
- It wasn't clear enough (or organised) how to vote using the boxes and the slips
- Look at: procurement effective working practice to save money no more whining!

Budget survey 2012

Budget Consultation Event cont

Tonight's session was good because..

- Tonight was well presented with good information / well explained
- It is important to consult
- Don't agree it was clearly expressed
- Loved the tools to get feedback
- Information
- Relaxed
- Easy to chat/ask questions + challenge
- Good idea to be able to comment through boxes. Meant event the quiet ones could have a say well done!
- Good idea to let people express views
- Polite people
- Easy to talk to people
- A lot of thought has gone into each department's presentation + proposals
- It gave everyone the opportunity to ask questions
- Enjoyed it learned more

Tonight's session wasn't good because..

- It was good but not enough explanation of the 3 options + the impact for council tax
- No question/ answer session immediately after presentation
- Each service area should have given a short presentation
- No getting straight to the point about questions asked
- Difficult to get to grip with issues in melee around each stall
- No real information on staff reductions
- We need feedback from result of tonight
- Difficult to hear from the back (but good screens)
- No real answers to any questions politically motivated
- No real answers to questions!

Budget survey 2012