

Summary of Consultation

Introduction

The Council regularly seeks the views of residents and partners on the priorities for investment, service provision and improvement through a variety of means to enable participation in the development of the budget. This includes using the People's Panel, which has now run over fifteen years alongside individual consultations which focus on specific changes to service provision.

This year's Council's Budget report will be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the 10 February 2023 ahead of the final decisions by Council on the 23 February 2023 and Cabinet on the 27 February 2023. Formal comments from the public and stakeholders on the proposals were also invited to be submitted by the 15 February 2023 (8 working days before the final decision).

In addition, the consultation meetings have also taken place with representatives of the City's business community, voluntary sector and young people. In summary the engagements a shared understanding of the difficult financial environment in which the Council is operating and outlined the Council's desire to work together for the overall benefit and prosperity of the Hull within the constraints placed on it financially.

Businesses and the voluntary, community, and social sectors were informed of the key budget proposals and invited to provide feedback. In addition, representatives of young people, including the Youth Parliament attended a meeting to provide feedback on their concerns and priorities. The main aim being to raise awareness of the Council's financial proposals, priorities for investment, improvements, and savings, together with the potential impacts relevant to their areas of interest.

In addition to inviting comment on the specific budget proposals relating to 2023/24, the Council continues to engage with residents through the People's Panel on the provision of Council services and their relative priorities. This provides insight into the importance that residents place on different services and an understanding of the priorities of our customers.

The priorities identified through resident engagement based on research conducted during August and September 2022 were identified as:

Most Important in Making a Place A Good Place To Live	Most In Need of Improvement in Your Local Area
1. Access to health services (60%)	1. Clean streets (49%)
2. Clean streets (52%)	2. State of roads and pavements (49%)
3. Levels of crime and ASB (51%)	3. Levels of crime and ASB (47%)
4. Affordable, suitable housing (31%)	4. Levels of traffic congestion (39%)
5. Parks and open spaces (30%)	5. Access to health services (31%)

Appendix A (i)

Over the past two years, public transport and access to health services have both increased in resident's relative importance and likelihood of people stating that they are in need of improvement.

Asked about measuring Hull's success, the majority of respondents believe that the Council should focus on jobs and the economy (70%), infrastructure, roads and transport (61%), and crime and community safety (57%), with a high proportion also believing that it should focus on health and social care (48%).

More recently, the Council has initiated work to develop a new Community Strategy working with local communities, the voluntary and community sector, together with public and private partners in order to create a long-term vision for the city.

The first phase of engagement has highlighted the positive perception of people and communities in the city and people as the key asset. The provision of services is also highlighted particularly in the domains of the cultural offer, entertainment, green space and the city centre. The civic engagement and support and visibility of elected members is highlighted by some communities. This is balanced with some key areas which individuals and communities have highlighted in terms of priorities. Access to information at this stage appears a significant theme and the key issues of travel, environment, retail offer in the city, community safety, health, digital access and housing.

This early work will lead into further engagement during 2023 to involve stakeholders in helping to develop the Council's knowledge and understanding of the combined priorities for the future for the city. This will culminate in the development of a formal strategy to be considered for approval by Council in autumn 2023, which will support prioritisation of resources in future years.

Young people, the Voluntary and Community and the Business sector have also engaged with the Council regarding the budget proposals.

10 young people from Young Leaders, HYPP, Youth Council and the Young Mayor, met with Councillor Jackie Dad, Councillor Linda Tock and David Bell on 31 January.

- Recognition of the need for partnership working across the City with all agencies working together to address longstanding issues
- Benefit for the Council of engagement with young people to inform priorities
- Concern over access to mental health services, and bullying, both in and out of school
- The value of youth provision and need to feel safe when accessing facilities
- The speed of emergency responses particularly the ambulance service
- The desire for community activities and neighbourhood improvements
- The importance of cheap transport for young people

Appendix A (i)

- Young people's concerns over the environment and the green agenda including recycling and green energy
- Highly valued leisure and parks provision
- The importance of feeling safe

The Director of Finance also provided an overview of the Council's budgetary position to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors at their Assembly Meeting held on the 18 February 2023. This was attended by a broad range of organisations from across the sector, which provided feedback on the following areas:

- Acknowledgement that all parts of public sector are facing the similar financial pressures
- The common difficulties in recruiting staff with the required skills and experience
- Concerns that the above constraints will inevitably impact on service delivery
- Given the pressures faced by all parties the necessity of building on the partnership development work over recent years and seeking joint responses
- The merit in continuing the dialogue with the Council as services are shaped across the City

The Leader, Chief Executive and Director of Finance met with a range of representatives from the business sector on 3 February. The background and context to the Council's budgets were discussed with particular emphasis placed on the following:

- The Council's planned capital investment programme
- A shared view of the importance of a thriving economy
- Challenges of staff recruitment in both the public and private sectors
- Benefits of selling the strengths of the area in terms of both recruitment and the visitor economy
- The need for all parties to continue to make the case to Government for additional investment in the City
- To develop the partnership working between businesses, schools, training providers and University to address the skills deficit and provide opportunities for the young people of Hull