

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet

On 8th February 2011

Report Title: **Headline comments from *Shaping our Future* consultation: a public consultation on the Council's budget**

Report of **Stuart Young, Assistant Chief Executive**

Signed :

Contact Officer :

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Information**

1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)

- 1.1. To report back to the Cabinet the headline issues arising from a public consultation on the Council's budget.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

- 2.1. Not applicable

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

- 3.1. Not applicable

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. That the report be noted.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

- 5.1. Not applicable

6. Other options considered

6.1. Not applicable

7. Summary

7.1. During October-December 2010 the Council carried out a public consultation called [*Shaping our Future*](#) which asked people living, working or studying in the borough to have their say to help us balance our budget in the face of planned cuts. Approximately 740 completed questionnaires and 1,040 comments and ideas were received.

Respondents were asked to express the relative importance to them of ten service areas by indicating their preferred level of spend per service area from the approximate £4,500 the council currently spends per household. Most encouraging was that respondents allocated an amount broadly in line with how the council spends its budget, with the following differences.

Overall residents gave a clear indication that, whilst they value the services the Council provides, they expect it to achieve efficiencies by working with others, making better use of assets, encouraging volunteering and community involvement, and finding ways of raising more income.

Details of the consultation results are attached as Appendix 1.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

8.1. Not applicable

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

9.1. Not applicable

10. Head of Procurement Comments – [Required for Procurement Committee]

10.1. Not applicable

11. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

11.1. Not applicable

12. Consultation

12.1. Details of the consultation results are attached as Appendix 1.

13. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

13.1. Details of the consultation results are attached as Appendix 1.

14. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

14.1. Not applicable