

Budget Consultation 2013 – A Summary

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council's Budget Consultation ran from December 3, 2012 to January 21, 2013.
- 1.2. A full Budget Consultation report, including a copy of the presentation, a breakdown of all issues raised at meetings and through the questionnaire, a copy of the questionnaire, copies of correspondence received, the presentation given at meetings, and all questions, comments and answers will be published online on the Council's website in due course.

2. Public Meetings and Area Forums

- 2.1. Four dedicated Budget 2013-14 conversations were held:
 - 12 December 2012 at Bruce Castle Museum, Tottenham;
 - 19 December 2012 at the Royal British Legion, Muswell Hill;
 - 9 January 2013 at South Harringay Junior School; and,
 - 10 January 2013 at Jacksons Lane Arts Centre, Highgate.
- 2.2. The budget was also discussed on:
 - 15 January 2013 at Tottenham Area Forum, College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London, Tottenham
- 2.3. Some planned meetings were disrupted by the winter weather. To give residents further opportunity to comment, therefore, the budget was also discussed at the following two Area Forums, which fell outside of the identified consultation period:
 - 29 January 2013, Wood Green at the Cypriot Centre, Earlham Grove; and,
 - 31 January 2013, Crouch End, Hornsey and Stroud Green at Hornsey School for Girls.
- 2.4. Issues raised at these two late meetings have not been included in data charts in this report, but were taken on board by the Council and have been summarised below.
- 2.5. Meetings were promoted in the local press; advertised on the Council's website; through the 'Have your say' consultation web pages, and in the council's 'What's on?' and Area Forum meetings calendar. Posters and fliers were used for the dedicated Budget 2013 conversations.
- 2.6. Each budget conversation meeting included a short presentation by a senior Council officer on the Council's income, expenditure and current

and future challenges. This was followed by a presentation and question and answer session hosted by Cllr Joe Goldberg, cabinet Member for Finance and Carbon Reduction.

2.7. A total of 116 people attended the Budget 2013 Conversation and Area Forum meetings:

	Budget 2013 at Bruce Castle	Budget 2013 at The Royal British Legion	Budget 2013 at South Harringay Junior School	Budget 2013 at Studio 2 Jacksons Lane	Area Forum at the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
Number of people	26	9	27	28	26	116

People raised 172 questions at these meetings about the following issues and services:

Questions related to:	Number of responses
Adults	6
Housing	23
Health	3
Leisure	4
Children's services	14
Place and Sustainability	44
Localism	4
Service improvement	7
Better use of assets	12
Council finance	11
Business rates	9
Fees and charges	3
Council Tax	8
Radical future thinking	7
Staff costs	13
Challenge the Government	4
TOTAL	172

A range of questions were asked and issues raised at each public meeting.

A complete breakdown of issues raised and responses given will be

published on the council website as part of the full Budget Consultation report in due course.

3. Tottenham (Bruce Castle Museum and the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London):

3.1. The main issues raised at the meetings in Tottenham were the Spurs stadium development; jobs creation, and investment in parks and open spaces.

3.2. The Spurs stadium-led regeneration of Tottenham is key to our plans to transform Tottenham and 'build back better' following the riots of the summer 2011. The stadium will bring around £400million investment into the area and forms part of the council's Plan for Tottenham, which will see the High Road, Seven Sisters, West Green Road, Tottenham Hale and Northumberland Park regenerated. The regeneration of Tottenham will bring new jobs, new homes and a stronger local economy.

3.3. The Council is committed to supporting the local economy and helping to create local jobs for local people. Regeneration of key sites will help generate more employment. Through the Jobs for Haringey programme and Haringey Jobs Fund, we are creating hundreds of sustainable jobs and training opportunities for local residents.

3.4. The Council is committed to maintaining the green flag status of our parks and open spaces, and have invested in a number of improvements. We will continue to explore options for investment in the borough's parks.

4. Muswell Hill (Royal British Legion):

4.1. The main issue raised at Muswell Hill was general funding of council services in the future against a climate of ongoing budget cuts.

4.2. Government funding cuts continue have had a major impact on the Council's budget and we anticipate further cuts to our budget in the coming years. Core services and frontline support for the most vulnerable in our communities remain our priority. Wherever possible, we are making cuts to back office functions and we are constantly exploring new ways of working to increase efficiency, deliver more for less and protect services for residents.

5. St Ann's & Harringay (South Harringay Primary School):

5.1. The main issues raised in St Ann's and Harringay were HMOs and housing concerns and the potential impact of the Spurs stadium development.

5.2. The Council has introduced additional licensing requirements for HMOs and will be increasing enforcement across the borough. We are also

exploring the possibility of a good landlord scheme to target rogue landlords.

5.3. The Council believes that the Spurs stadium development is key to the future regeneration and transformation of Tottenham.

6. Highgate (Jacksons Lane)

6.1. **The main issues raised in Highgate were youth provision; school funding and Council Tax benefit.**

6.2. The council is committed to supporting young people, especially the most vulnerable in the borough. As well as safeguarding, the Council's spending on youth services includes after-school and holiday activities, and schemes to reduce youth unemployment.

6.3. Schools' budgets are set in agreement with the Schools' Forum, which has members representing all of the borough's schools so that together they can agree the fairest way to distribute funding.

6.4. The government has abolished Council Tax benefit. Haringey's new Council Tax reduction scheme has been approved by full Council.

7. Hornsey & Crouch End Area Forum

7.1. **The main issues raised at Hornsey and Crouch End were making the best use of public spaces such as libraries and parks, and early years services for children and young people.**

7.2. We are committed to maintaining the green flag status of our parks and open spaces and have invested in a number of improvements. We will continue to explore options for investment in the borough's parks.

7.3. All of Haringey's nine public libraries remain open, and we have no plans to close any of them. We are looking into expanding what's on offer at libraries, so that we can make the best use of them as a community resource.

7.4. We are committed to ensuring that all of our young people have the best possible start in life through excellent early years support and schools.

8. Wood Green Area Forum

8.1. **The main issues raised at Wood Green were inequality of funding for Haringey compared to inner London boroughs and planning issues – in particular around the site at Pinkham Way.**

8.2. We meet regularly with government ministers, civil servants and the Mayor of London to discuss issues affecting Haringey and to press for

fairer funding.

8.3. The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) has withdrawn its planning application for a waste processing plant at Pinkham Way. The NLWA is in the process of developing a new waste plan for North London.

9. General issues raised across meetings

9.1. In addition to specific issues raised at individual meetings, Haringey Council Tax – including Council Tax levels and the Council Tax reduction scheme – were a common theme across the meetings. The majority of those who attended the meetings agreed with the Council's proposal to freeze Council Tax for the fourth consecutive year in 2013/14.

9.2. A number of residents also raised concerns about the impact of welfare reform, the benefits cap and the introduction of Universal Credit.

9.3. We want to do all we can to support those affected by the benefits cap and are working in close partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau to make sure people have the right advice and information to help them cope with the changes.

9.4. Government funding cuts have a major impact on the Council's budget. We are constantly exploring new ways of working to increase efficiency, deliver more for less and protect services for residents.

10. Online consultation

10.1. The Council created three web pages containing the following:

- An introduction to the Budget by Cllr Joe Goldberg, Cabinet Member for Finance and carbon Reduction;
- Information about how the Council spends the money it gets across four service areas and its Council Tax plans for the coming year;
- Adults, Public Health, Children's Services and Place and Sustainability priorities; and,
- Information about budget conversations and other ways people could have their say.

10.2. An online questionnaire, accessible from these pages, asked people what they thought should be prioritised in the areas of Adults Services, Public Health, Children and Young People's Services and Place and Sustainability.

10.3. It also asked people whether or not they agreed with plans to freeze Council Tax for 2013/14, and their views about cutting support services to protect the frontline.

10.4. 68 questionnaires were completed: 56 online and 12 paper copies.

The following tables summarise the results.

A full breakdown of comments made on the online and paper questionnaire will be included in the Budget Consultation report, which will be published online on the council's website in due course.

Paper Questionnaire results

Question 1

Do you agree that it is right for us to freeze council tax for all Haringey residents for 2013/14?	%
Agree	57
Neither	12
Do not agree	29
No reply	2
TOTAL	100

Question 2

Do you agree that it is right for us to prioritise cuts to administrative functions such as IT, communications, finance and legal services?	%
Agree	77
Neither	16
Do not agree	6
No reply	1
TOTAL	100

Question 3: Which areas of Adults and Housing Services and Public Health do you think we should prioritise?

The following comments were made – the most cited are shaded:

Service area	No.	%
Services for vulnerable people	20	37
Housing	9	17
Public Health Services	9	17
Homelessness	8	15
Protect all Adults and Public Health Services	4	7
Do not spend money on housing	2	4
Other	2	4
TOTAL	54	100

Question 4: Which areas of Children and Young People's services do you think we should priorities?

The following comments were made – the most cited are shaded:

	No.	%
Schools and children's centres (inc. early years)	19	22
Children's safeguarding	17	20
Services for young people	14	16
Services for children	7	8
Fostering	5	6
School places	5	6
Special education services	5	6
Do not prioritise services for children and young people	5	6
Protect all services for children and young people	4	5
Children's health services	1	1
Other	3	4
TOTAL	85	100

Question 5: Which areas of Place and Sustainability do you think we should prioritise?

The following comments were made – the most cited are shaded:

	No.	%
Waste and recycling services	23	26
Prioritise regeneration and economic development	18	20
Do not prioritise	11	12
Parks and open spaces	10	11
Libraries and leisure centres	10	11
Highways	3	3
Protect services provided by Place and Sustainability	3	3
Job Creation	3	3
Traffic calming	1	1
Other	8	9
TOTAL	90	100

Two Scrutiny Committees considered the 2013/14 Budget:

December 11, 2012

December 17, 2012

Details of these meetings were available online and in the printed questionnaire. Minutes of all scrutiny meetings are available at:

<http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=128>

Emails, letters, notes and website feedback
We received the following:

Format	Number received
Emails	10
Letters	1
Note at public meeting	1
Website feedback	15
