

## Budget Consultation Report

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### 1. Executive Summary

- This year, a total of 541 questionnaires were completed. 533 of these were completed through the council's online engagement platform, 6 were completed in hard copy and sent via post, and 2 organisational responses from FORE and The Library Campaign were received via email.
- Respondents were asked which proposals they supported and which they didn't. There was support shown for the need and principle of putting cost saving measures into the budget, moving away from the current leisure centre provider and for funding the Schools Streets programme. There was also support shown by some residents for adjusting library hours rather than have any closures, investing in social housing and new sites for modular provision and investment in health and social care in the borough. Other proposals which gained some support were the raise in council tax, removal of hard copy magazines in libraries and improving methods of enforcement in the borough.
- In contrast, there was concern shown by some respondents for amendments to the existing library service, particularly introducing self-service and reducing hours. There was also a lack of support from some for the ongoing refurbishment of the Civic Centre and the council taking leisure services in-house and investing in Pendarren house.
- Respondents were asked what the council should look to do in order to meet its budget challenge and save money, generate income or achieve better value. Suggestions included raising Council Tax, enforcement fees and charges. There were also suggestions to adapt the business model of libraries and start charging for certain services, with a number of respondents recommending a subscription fee. There were suggestions to think again about certain projects, use Haringey space for commercial reasons and bring in experts to advise on cost saving practices.

### 2. Consultation Process

#### 2.1 Introduction

The budget proposals for **2024/2025** have been subject to a formal public consultation. This report sets out the findings from the Council's consultation on its budget for **2024/25** which also refreshes its Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to cover the period up to 2028. This report presents the findings of this consultation to Cabinet, to inform the final decision on the Council's budget for **2024/2025**.

#### 2.2 Technical Details & Method

The general consultation consisted of an online questionnaire published on: [haringeybudget2024.commonplace.is](http://haringeybudget2024.commonplace.is) together with a Budget Consultation Booklet which provided background information about the council's budget setting process and the financial challenges the council faces.

The consultation was widely promoted via the council's business e-newsletter, the council's website and social media and a subscriber launch email from the Haringey Engagement Hub. The consultation survey was open for responses between 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

## Appendix 7

All responses to the consultation have been read in full by officers to identify the substantive matters raised in the comments received. The analysis of the responses sought to categorise matters raised in relation to the areas of the council's budget proposals. The aim of this report is to provide the council and the wider public with a summary of these matters raised.

The sections in this report cover:

- The responses to Q1 and 2 regarding the levels of support and lack of support for the proposals in the policy
- The responses to Q3, Q4 and Q5 regarding suggestions to gain better spend, gain savings or create income generation
- A summary of responses to Q6 covering equalities impact responses.
- A summary of Q7 covering any further comments on proposals
- A summary of Q8 covering suggestions for future engagement on Budget Consultations.

A complete set of responses are available for download on the [Budget Consultation project page](#) on the Haringey Engagement Hub.

### 2.2.1 Questionnaire Design

The questionnaire was developed to ascertain residents' views on the proposals put forward in the draft budget. In particular, the consultation invited views on the:

- Proposals which respondents supported and why.
- Proposals which respondents didn't support and why.
- Any proposals that respondents think we should consider which might save money, generate income or achieve better value from council spend.
- Comments outlining whether respondents thought individuals with protected characteristics may be impacted by proposals.
- Any other comments.

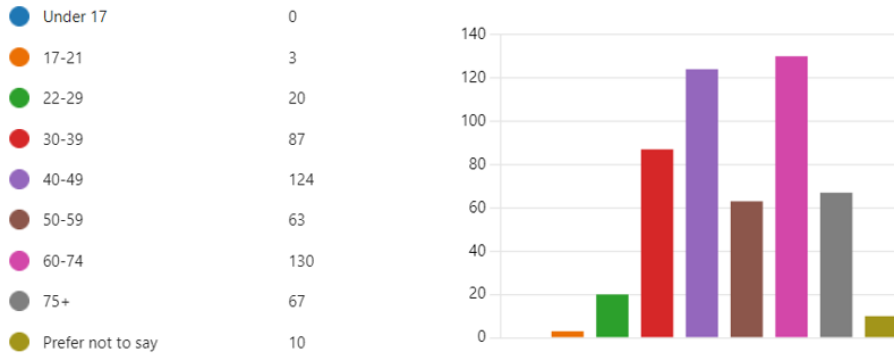
### 2.2.2 Questionnaire Analysis

A number of themes arose from the consultation. These are reported in greater detail where they were raised repeatedly by different respondents to the consultation. The number of respondents for other themes were too low to draw any clear conclusions.

### 3. Responses to the Consultation

#### 3.1 Respondents Demographic Data

##### Age



The largest group of respondents who answered this question were aged between **60-74** (130 responses) and **40-49** (124 responses).

87 respondents selected **30-39**, while 67 individuals identified as **75+**. 63 respondents selected **50-59**, 20 selected **22-29** and 3 respondents selected **17-21**.

10 respondents preferred not to say.

##### Sex

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Male              | 139 |
| Female            | 345 |
| Prefer not to say | 25  |
| Other             | 2   |



This question asked respondents which best describes their sex. 345 respondents identified as **Female** with 139 identifying as **Male**. 2 respondents selected **Other**.

25 respondents selected **Prefer not to say**.

Home ownership status

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> Home owner/Occupier       | 418 |
| <span style="color: orange;">●</span> Landlord                | 3   |
| <span style="color: green;">●</span> Private renter           | 56  |
| <span style="color: red;">●</span> Social tenant              | 18  |
| <span style="color: purple;">●</span> On the housing register | 4   |



This question asked respondents about their home ownership status. 418 respondents selected **Home Owner/Occupier**, 56 selected **Private Renter** 56. 18 respondents selected **Social Tenant** with 4 respondents selecting **On the housing register**. 3 respondents selected **Landlord**.

Gender Identity

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> Yes                | 5   |
| <span style="color: orange;">●</span> No               | 412 |
| <span style="color: green;">●</span> Prefer not to say | 44  |



Trans is an umbrella term to describe people whose gender identity is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth. This question asked whether respondents considered themselves to be trans. The vast majority of respondents (412) selected **No** with 44 respondents selecting **Prefer not to say**.

5 respondents selected **Yes**

Disability

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> Yes                | 69  |
| <span style="color: orange;">●</span> No               | 385 |
| <span style="color: green;">●</span> Prefer not to say | 40  |

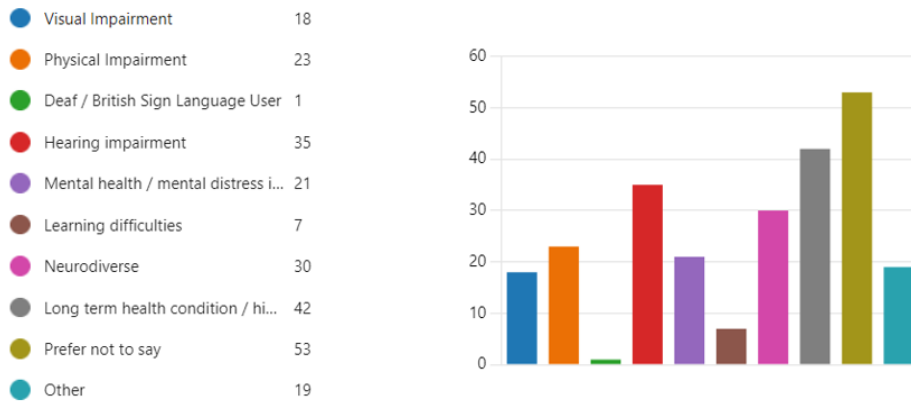


Under the Equality Act 2010, a person is considered to have a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

## Appendix 7

This question asked respondents to identify whether they have any disabilities or any long-term mental or physical conditions. As the graphs shows, the majority of respondents (385) stated that they **Do Not** have any disabilities. 69 respondents **did** consider themselves to have a disability.

40 respondents **preferred not to say**.



From those respondents who identified a disability. 42 respondents live with a **Long term health condition**, 35 respondents had a **Hearing impairment**.

There were 30 respondents who identified as **Neurodiverse**, 23 indicated living with a **Physical impairment** and 21 indicated issues related to **Mental health or mental distress**.

18 respondents had a **Visual impairment**, 7 respondents stated they had learning difficulties and 1 respondent selected Deaf/British Sign Language user.

19 respondents selected **Other** and 53 **Preferred not to say**

### Ethnicity

The majority of respondents to the Budget Consultation would describe themselves as being **White British** (276).

79 respondents selected **White – Any other background**. 13 respondents selected **White Irish** and 1 respondent selected **White Gypsy or Traveller** as their ethnicity.

There were 4 respondents described their background as **Black African** and 4 respondents who selected **Black Caribbean**. 1 respondent selected **Any other black background**.

There were 8 respondents described their ethnicity as **Asian (Indian)**, 3 respondent selected **Asian Chinese** and 3 described their ethnicity as **Asian Bangladeshi**. 3 respondents selected **Asian Pakistani** with 2 respondents selecting **Asian – Other**.

6 respondents selected **Other – any other ethnic background**. 3 respondents selected **Other – Turkish** and one respondent selected **Other - Arab**

## National Identity

Respondents were asked, 'How would you describe your national identify?'

The majority of respondents to the Budget Consultation identify as being **British** (294) with 94 people identifying themselves as **English**. There were 20 respondents who selected **Irish**, 8 respondents who considered themselves as **Italian** and 7 respondents who selected **Welsh**.

6 respondents selected **American**, 5 respondents selected **Scottish**. 4 respondents who considered themselves as **German** and 3 respondents selected Turkish. 2 respondents selected **Bangladeshi, Columbian, Cypriot, Ghanaian, Spanish, American and Indian**.

The following countries were represented by 1 respondent each: **China, Eritrea, Jamaica, Poland and Somalia**

## Language

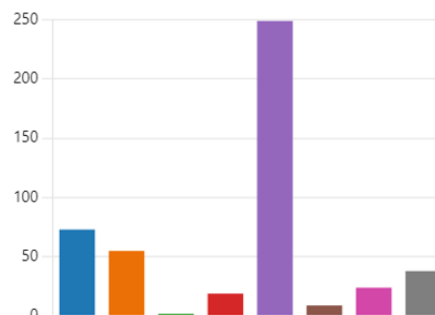
446 respondents selected their main language as English

10 respondents selected **French**, 8 selected **Spanish**, 5 selected **Italian** and 4 selected **German** and **Portuguese** respectively.

2 Respondents selected **Greek** and 1 selected Albanian. 7 Respondents selected **Other**.

## Marriage and Civil Partnership

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Single            | 73  |
| Co-habiting       | 55  |
| Seperated         | 2   |
| Widowed           | 19  |
| Married           | 249 |
| Civil Partnership | 9   |
| Divorced          | 24  |
| Prefer not to say | 38  |



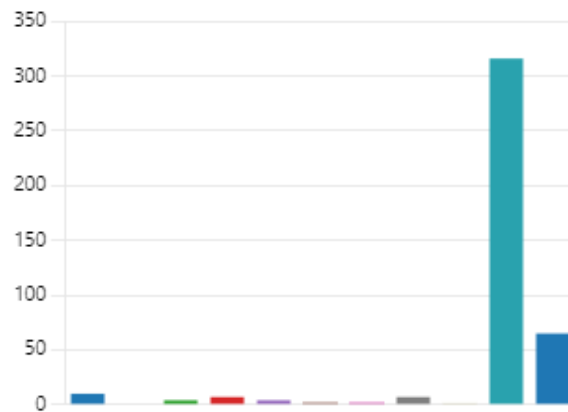
249 respondents selected **Married**, 73 as identified as **Single** and 55 respondents are **Co-habiting**.

**24** respondents selected **Divorced**, 19 selected **widowed**, 9 selected in a **Civil Partnership** and 2 selected **Seperated**.

38 respondents selected **Prefer not to say**.

Socioeconomic Status

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| ● Universal Credit                 | 10  |
| ● Income-based Jobseeker's Allo... | 0   |
| ● Working Tax Credit               | 4   |
| ● Child Tax Credit                 | 7   |
| ● Pension Credit                   | 4   |
| ● Housing Benefit                  | 2   |
| ● Income-related Employment an...  | 2   |
| ● Council Tax Reduction Support    | 7   |
| ● Income support                   | 1   |
| ● None of the abover               | 316 |
| ● Prefer not to say                | 65  |

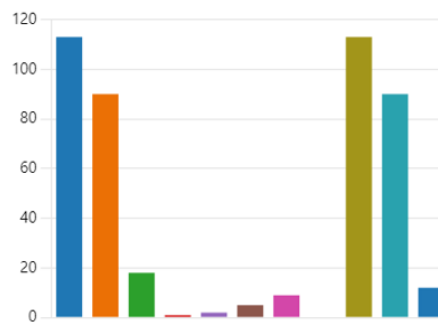


10 respondents selected Universal credit, 7 respondents selected that they receive **Council Tax Reduction Support**, 7 respondents selected **Child Tax Credit**, 4 selected **Working Tax Credit** and Pension Credit respectively.

2 respondents selected **Housing Benefit** and 2 respondents selected **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)**. 1 respondent selected **Income Support**.

Religion or belief

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| ● Atheist           | 113 |
| ● Christian         | 90  |
| ● Jewish            | 18  |
| ● Rastafarian       | 1   |
| ● Buddhist          | 2   |
| ● Hindu             | 5   |
| ● Muslim            | 9   |
| ● Sikh              | 0   |
| ● No religion       | 113 |
| ● Prefer not to say | 90  |
| ● Other             | 12  |



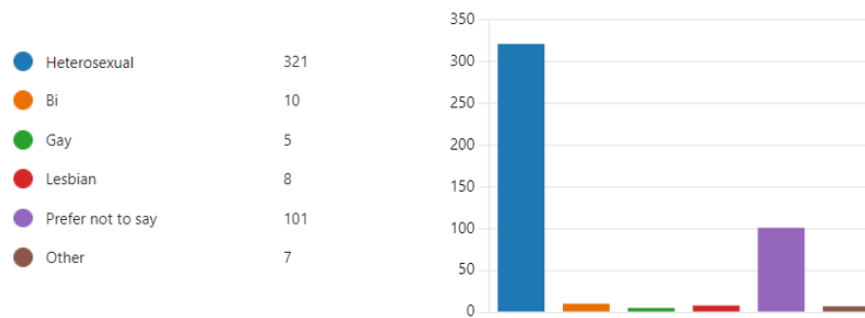
There were 113 respondents who selected **Atheist** and 113 who selected **No religion**

There were 90 respondents who selected **Christian**, 18 who selected **Jewish**, 9 who selected **Muslim** and 5 who selected **Hindu**. 2 respondents selected **Buddhist** and 1 respondent selected **Rastafarian**.

There were 90 respondents who selected **Prefer not to say** and 12 respondents who selected **Other**.



## Sexual Orientation



Respondents were asked ‘What best describes your sexual orientation?’ The majority of respondents described themselves as **Heterosexual/Straight** (321), 10 respondents selected **Bisexual** and 8 selected **Lesbian**. 5 respondents selected **Gay**.

101 respondents selected **Prefer not to say** and 7 selected **Other**

## 4. Detailed Findings

### 4.1 Q1 – Which proposals do you support and why?

#### Budget Management

Residents recognised the tough decisions the council had to make for this year’s budget and appreciated the council taking steps to prevent special measures being enforced by the Government.

#### Leisure Facility Management

18 residents supported the council ending its relationship with Fusion who were managing the leisure facilities within the borough and moving control of facilities in-house.

Hope was expressed that this would lead to lower costs, increased membership, and better maintained facilities.

#### Schools Streets programme

12 respondents supported the continuation of the School Streets programme. Those who responded thought it was vital for keeping children and families safe and reducing pollution-related illness.

#### Library hours

30 respondents supported adapting the borough’s library service with the variation of opening hours to suit each libraries needs and maximise resources when footfall was highest, rather than have a closure of any individual libraries.

It was felt, in some instances, that the money required to maintain full service was better spent in areas such as health and social care. There was also support for allowing other services to use the library buildings after hours.

## Appendix 7

9 respondents supported the removal of hard copy newspapers and magazines with 3 mentioning PressReader as an alternative but also flagging that support may be needed for some to access this service.

### Housing

2 respondents supported increasing the borough's social housing portfolio with 1 recognising the challenge of providing truly affordable housing.

4 people supported the proposal to identify new sites for modular lodge provision to house families when they first become homeless.

1 respondent supported the council's proposal to set rents for new council lets at 5% above the rent formula, in line with the rent standards.

### Social Care

15 respondents supported proposals relating to adult social care in the borough.

1 respondent supported the new Transitions Service to provide support for young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

### Climate change initiatives

2 respondents supported the council investing in measures which will help support decarbonisation and achieve climate change targets during the ongoing climate emergency.

### Raise in Council Tax.

There were 11 respondents who supported the proposal to increase council tax and to levy the 2% Adults Social Care Precept to provide an increased budget for the council to benefit residents.

### Removal of hard copy magazines and newspapers in libraries

10 respondents supported the removal of hard copy magazines and newspapers. Reasons given included cost and environmental issues.

There was also support from some of the respondents for the use of PressReader as an alternative.

### Enforcement, fines and charges.

6 residents supported enforcement and fines to deter illegal parking, Housing Act breaches and to prevent environmental crime. Some of these respondents put forward specific locations in the borough where they felt this was being overlooked.

There were also calls to increase the amount of speed cameras and for the council to base the amount charged for parking on the type and size of the vehicle in question.

There were recommendations to put money obtained back into highways improvements and the borough's Walking and Cycling Action Plan.

### Healthcare

7 respondents supported the self-service sexual health facilities as respondents believe it's a proven model that relieves pressure on GPs and is cost effective.

There was also support from 9 respondents for the review into Mental Health Services, bringing them back in house and cut any unnecessary outsourcing costs. There was also support from 2 residents for increasing the 'Continuing Healthcare' funding.

### Other

One individual cited support for Wood Green regeneration.

2 respondents supported investment in Pendarren House, with 1 of them commenting on the positive impact it had when they visited as a child. 1 respondent supported the loan to Alexandra Palace to continue offering cultural activities. 3 respondents showed support for the council making wider usage of its advertising space portfolio, subject to ensuring products advertised were appropriate.

## 4.2 Q2– Which proposals do you not support and why?

### Changes to Library funding

378 respondents were concerned about reductions in resources for libraries in the borough. There were concerns that this would impact the worst off in society. Respondents also raised concerns that it inevitably would lead to the closure of certain smaller libraries.

There were various comments highlighting resident's pride in the existing library programme and detailing how important libraries are to the local community, with respondents explaining how Haringey's libraries have aided them and their families, particularly children. It was also stressed that libraries are used for much more than just obtaining books.

It was felt by many respondents that the libraries are particularly important when the cost of living is so high as they are a place where residents can not only have access to books and education but other facilities beneficial to residents. 46 respondents mentioned libraries importance as warm spaces. 29 respondents noted that the toilet facilities available were important and highlighted that in some cases, may be the only public bathroom available in the area.

There were concerns that cuts to the budget would result in reduced literacy and education for deprived populations and lead to poorer physical and mental health in the future. There were also concerns regarding the negative impact it may have on social mobility in the borough.

Some respondents questioned whether the council could have confidence in the saving amounts predicted. There were also concerns that, whilst there would be short term savings for library costs, the knock-on negative impacts would lead to larger costs for the council in areas such as social care and children's services.

There were also concerns over the decision to reduce costs following the expenditure of public money on the refurbishments of many libraries in the borough.

One group have advised they believe the social economic benefits are five times higher than the amount of Haringey's library budget. They also felt it should be considered that the library is already having to adapt its service to deal with cuts in other areas and adapt its support for residents due to ongoing issues such as extreme weather.

### Reduction in library hours

There were 135 respondents who specifically cited a reduction in hours that libraries would be open as a negative. It was felt that, particularly as in winter, they provide a warm and safe space for people to use during the day. They are also viewed as a free and available venue to help people combat isolation and loneliness.

Other reasons given included that it would be unsuitable to have varied hours as residents had varied work patterns. Other concerns expressed were for library users with protected characteristics, who could only go at times that typically would not be busy.

3 respondents challenged the proposals to change library hours based on footfall patterns. It was also highlighted that some residents value less busy hours, for instance, older people, job-seekers, childminders and parents or carers of young children who may bring their children to libraries early in the morning when there was low footfall for groups and classes. It was also stressed by some that it was better for some children with special educational needs and disabilities to attend during these hours.

### Self-service machines in libraries

39 respondents commented on their lack of support for self-service machines. People commented on how any reliance on self-service machines would impact their usage of libraries negatively, making them unwelcome and less safe. Concerns were flagged about the reliability of self-service machines where they are already installed and the need for librarians to support people to use them.

It was felt by many that the benefits of having trained librarians was being undervalued.

There were concerns about safety or the perception of safety if there were no librarians working. There were also concerns for anti-social behaviour and theft of stock to take place in this event.

Residents told how library staff are essential to assisting users and create a community link. It was felt by some that having a digital replacement for staff would have the same impact for residents as closing libraries.

3 respondents commented on the impact to the librarians who may lose jobs at a time where the cost of living is so high. Many respondents commented that they felt the introduction of updated IT and CCTV was not a valid replacement.

There were concerns raised by respondents about whether volunteers were suitable to fill in, describing how often librarians have to deal with complex issues including running literacy initiatives and community building events as well as signposting patrons to other services and these activities were not something a volunteer without full training and experience could deliver. There were also concerns raised about the likelihood of actually getting people to volunteer.

10 respondents referred to a neighbouring council who have tried, in their view, unsuccessfully to deliver a similar operating model. Some of the respondents reported that user numbers had dropped significantly.

### Removals of newspapers in libraries

16 respondents raised concerns about the removal of hard copy newspapers, particularly without sufficient staff available to help people use PressReader. Some of these respondents commented that in doing this, the council were not being inclusive.

There were 3 respondents who expressed concerns about the PressReader service. 1 pointed out that it largely oriented to a US readership and does not provide for some of Haringey readers' most local papers.

### Civic Centre refurbishment

2 respondents voiced concerns over the continued investment in the refurbishment of the Civic Centre particularly in the context of proposed changes to the library service.

### Leisure Services

20 respondents voiced concerns over taking Haringey's leisure facilities in-house. Whilst it was generally recognised that Fusion had not delivered against expectations, concerns were cited about the costs associated with this proposal and the council's expertise to run leisure services in comparison with alternative specialist providers.

Several responses proposed that the council approach other third parties who had more experience to run it on their behalf and manage costs more effectively.

### Other

1 respondent did not support investment in Pendarren house feeling that it is neglected and of low capital value. An alternative was proposed, namely, to use nearby facilities in Lee Valley.

3 respondents did not support an increase in the advertising space portfolio. 1 respondent proposed charging higher rates to advertisers as an alternative. Another respondent was concerned about digital advertising screens and whether they were more likely to appear in the east of the borough than the west.

### 4.3 Detailed Findings for Q3, Q4 and Q5

*Q3 As we look to meet our budget challenge through the development of further proposals, are there any changes or proposals you think we should consider which might save money, generate income or achieve better value from council spend?*

*The council will need to identify additional savings or sources of income between now and February in order to achieve a balanced budget. As we look to develop further measures:*

*Q4 Are there any changes or proposals you think we should consider which might save money or achieve better value from council spend?*

*Q5 Are there any changes or proposals you think we should consider which might generate income?*

### Council Tax and other charges

There were calls from 24 residents to raise either Council Tax or other taxes such as those levied on businesses in the borough. The majority of suggestions were to raise council tax. There was one respondent who proposed higher charges for garden waste, particularly in the context of a subsidy for library services. Another respondent proposed higher charges for

leases to larger companies. 1 respondent proposed a revaluation of property and expansion of property bands to achieve a better balance of charges.

### Enforcement, fines and fees

9 respondents proposed higher charges for parking. Some support was expressed for higher parking charges for larger vehicles such as SUVs. Other suggestions included fines for parking on pavement kerbs, the option to purchase an annual visitor parking permit and doing away with online permits on the basis they make the job more challenging for parking enforcement officers.

Some residents suggested higher fines for Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme violations to both bring in income and ensure compliance. There were also requests for some to have more areas with tighter speed limits and enforcements. One respondent proposed higher permit charges for second and large vehicles in CPZs. Another expressed the view that all parking permits should cost more otherwise the council is subsidising car ownership.

Not all respondents adopted this stance with at least one respondent expressing the view that further expansion of LTNs and CPZs would be for income generation purposes.

5 respondents called for additional speed cameras in the borough with 3 of these naming specific locations.

There were also suggestions to add an additional levy on high streets.

4 respondents wished to see more enforcement against rogue landlords. These responses linked poor letting practices to abuse of tenants, poor property maintenance and illegally dumping rubbish such as old mattresses.

The council were also encouraged by respondents to increase vigilance and prosecutions for littering, fly tipping and unhygienic waste disposal.

### Leisure Services

As seen in the responses provided to questions 1 and 2, there was support and a lack of support for bringing leisure services in-house. 2 residents supported the move, proposing charging for some leisure activities and seeking compensation from Fusion. 7 respondents thought there were financial benefits to be had by searching for another specialist provider rather than bringing it in-house. Some of the respondents had also expressed these views in questions 1 and 2.

### Management of libraries (Selection of stock, subscription fees, paid events, reduction of hours)

Several ideas were raised about how to manage libraries in a manner that could save money. Ideas included having fee-raising activities and subscriptions.

Ideas also included rotating paid staff throughout the libraries, so each library has at least day a week with professional staffing. There were also suggestions to remove underused stock such as the DVD collection.

There were also suggestions to stop upgrading libraries and calls to rent out space in the library to commercial organisations to bring in income.

Some residents asked for fundraising and direct donations to libraries to be allowed.

## Appendix 7

Some proposals called on the council to develop further the working relationships with Library Friends groups to help work on proposals that will benefit the council and ultimately residents. There were also numerous suggestions to rent out space in the library to commercial organisations in order to bring in income.

There was also questioning whether certain costs like heating in the summer was necessary.

There were recommendations for charging to use the library. There were also suggestions to charge to host commercial events and partner with publishers for events.

### Haringey People

5 respondents proposed ending the production and printing of Haringey People. 1 respondent thought that it was sufficient to have a digital version only. 1 respondent proposed a digital version with limited hard copies available in libraries. At least 4 further respondents proposed ceasing publishing a council magazine without citing the publication's exact title.

### Staff and Outsourcing

Respondents expressed various concerns about the number of staff the council employ, particularly those not delivering frontline services and the rate of salaries in senior grades. 1 respondent was concerned about pay inequalities between differently grades. They felt there were cost savings to make by reducing the headcount at the council.

There were suggestions to manage council expenses by cutting printing costs, restricting mileage allowances, and having staff reductions to save money.

There were also suggestions to use fewer contractors and agency staff with concerns expressed about the quality of some contractors.

5 suggestions were made for the council to stop outsourcing tasks to consultancies. 1 respondent took the opposite view recognising that in some instances consultants can add temporary capacity where needed.

### Property

A few respondents suggested the council use its portfolio of properties to bring in revenue via renting space or selling assets. There were also calls to get better solicitors to help the council in contract negotiations, particularly when selling properties.

There were calls for the council to ensure they got the best price when selling property. There was also the suggestion to sell naming rights of property to corporations.

### Housing

There were suggestions to ensure all social housing was occupied with tenants. Some residents thought that social tenants should be encouraged to maintain their properties rather than the council paying for it.

There was also a suggestion to obtain agreements from developers to allow the council to use any unoccupied premises for council business.

Some respondents expressed concern regarding loss of income where council properties are illegally sub-let or where properties are standing empty.

### Music events

5 respondents encouraged the council to charge higher fees to host music events in Finsbury Park. 1 of those respondents disliked the events but felt that in the current financial context the council should earn more from such events. A further respondent supported the cessation of such events altogether on the basis of noise and littering nuisance.

### Other

One proposal was to stop projects which did not lead, in the respondent's view, to significant benefit to residents and could be deemed as superficial. Other respondents asked for the council to invest in the arts and to work with the GLA more.

There was also a request to bring in experts to advise the council on where to save money.

1 respondent proposed it would be better value for residents to re-allocate the whole budget for carbon management to other areas of the Planning & Building Standards budget.

Proposals of areas in which to stop investment included road safety measures, floodlight provision for tennis courts and the ongoing scheme to resurface Parkland Walk.

The value for money of the current waste services contract was questioned.

Some respondents mentioned the benefits of investing in SEN children and their families, and the long-term reduction this measure would have on adult social care resources. There were also calls for investment in cycle lanes and the benefits for residents who wouldn't need to pay for public transportation.

There was also a recommendation from a respondent to remove phone boxes from the areas the vandalism that may take place to them had knock on effects in the community.

### 4.4 Q6 Equalities Impact

*The council has a responsibility, under the Equality Act 2010, to consider whether our proposals disproportionately impact any groups of residents who share a protected characteristic. (Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex, Sexual Orientation) Please tell us if you feel that any of our proposals will have a bigger, negative, impact on a specific group of or groups of residents or a bigger positive impact.*

It was highlighted that leisure and fitness centres and libraries are used by elderly residents not only for fitness and information centres, but also for socialising so they could be negatively impacted if the council are not equipped to bring the facilities in house.



The lack of available toilets if library hours are shortened will also negatively impact older people and potentially pregnant people.

Some respondents commented that the proposed budget cuts will disproportionately impact those who are more vulnerable to social isolation and those who are economically disadvantaged.

It was suggested that those with learning difficulties may find it difficult to use an online service to read a paper, or use a self-issue/return machine, the same with people from an older generation.

There were concerns about the budget proposals negatively impacting:

- Older residents
- Disabled residents
- Those with special needs
- Those who are economically disadvantaged
- Children and Young people
- Ethnic minority groups and those for whom English isn't their first language.
- Parents of young children
- Pregnant women

### 4.5 Q7 Other Comments

*Do you have any other comments on our proposed budget for 2024/25?*

A number of respondents used this section to reaffirm concerns about reduction of library budget and proposals to vary hours along with moving to self-service machines. 1 respondent said that PressReader was hard for them to use.

There were also calls for more funding for leisure centres along with requests to better maintain parks and trees in the borough.

### 4.6 Q8 Suggestions for Future Budget Consultation Engagement

*We want to continue to find new and engaging ways to give residents a genuine opportunity to offer informed views on future budget proposals, in line with the Haringey Deal. Please let us know any suggestions you have for how we can do this in the future.*

There were a number of ways residents suggested engaging with them. These suggestions are listed below:

- Emailing newsletters
- Asking Councillors to directly communicate with residents
- Advertise consultations wider including in local press
- Asking businesses to contribute
- Create an app to give people up to date information
- Place surveys on Haringey Council website front page
- Complete door knocking exercises
- Put posters in the community
- Have longer consultations

## Appendix 7

- Engage more with community groups
- Ensure all consultations are easy read
- Put more information in Haringey People
- A longer consultation period
- Hold a Citizens Assembly
- Hold Town hall style events
- Hold at a more suitable time of the year