

COUNCIL ADDENDUM	AGENDA ITEM No. 13(b)
5 MARCH 2014	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr David Seaton – Cabinet Member for Resources	
Contact Officer(s):	John Harrison, Executive Director of Resources Steven Pilsworth, Head of Strategic Finance	Tel. 452520 Tel. 384564

BUDGET 2014/15 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) TO 2023/24

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The purpose of this addendum to the Full Council report on the Budget 2014/15 and Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2023/24 is to provide an update to Cabinet on further budget consultation responses received since the Full Council papers were released and the closure of the formal budget consultation on 4 March 2014.
- 1.2 This additional information is referenced in paragraph 2.9 (page 4) of the report to Full Council on Budget 2014/15 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2023/24 (Item 13b):

'Items to follow

The consultation remains open until 4 March, with any further comments to be presented to Council on 5 March as an addendum. This will also include any comments arising from the Connect Group budget consultation meeting.'

2 BUDGET CONSULTATION

- 2.1 The budget consultation formally closed on Tuesday 4 March 2014 which is after the date Council papers were published, in order to give people the maximum time to respond. This paper therefore provides Council with the responses received since 19 February 2014 which were reported to Cabinet on 24 February.
- 2.2 Since the 19 February, the council received further feedback with 46 new responses via the public consultation (appendix 1a), plus an additional comment to those already received (appendix 1b) and comments from Bretton Parish Council (appendix 2), comments from the Connect Group meeting (appendix 3) and a further 28 responses to the on-line survey (appendix 4).
- 2.3 In total, the consultation received 443 comments made through 121 respondents via the public consultation, 64 responses via the on-line survey and organised consultation events. The key areas receiving five or more comments were as follows:

Subject	Number of Comments		
	Council report	Addendum	TOTAL
Garden Waste Collection	62	60	122
General – includes suggestions and areas not directly related to budget proposals	84	22	106
Council tax	39	25	64
St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool	33	2	35
Children's Centres	16	3	19
Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax	14	1	15
Capital Programme	10	1	11
Garden Waste Collection and General	4	6	10
Adult Social Care proposals	7	2	9
Community Leadership Fund	8	0	8
Renewables	6	0	6
5 or less comments	28	10	38
TOTAL	311	132	443

- 2.4 The council also received one petition and acknowledged a further two e-petitions set up on the council's website. Of the petitions received, the council received one petition in relation to St Georges Hydrotherapy pool, received by the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Neighbourhoods and noted two e-petitions set up on the council website as follows:
1. Stop the garden tax – 10 respondents
 2. Save the East Rural Children's Centre (Eye and Thorney) – 48 respondents
- 2.5 The on-line survey asked some specific questions as laid out in the budget consultation. The additional comments since the report to Cabinet on 24 February provided the following feedback:
- Introduction of the new charge for the brown bin garden waste service (21 comments). Concerns included people will put green waste into black bins and it will cause an increase in landfill and flytipping and associated costs to the council.
 - One person said the council leader is much more realistic with his 'big ideas'
 - There was a comment about the council's proposals around day centres possibly increasing loneliness and isolation
 - A total of 14 people said council tax should be frozen and 11 said it should not. Three respondents did not answer the question. One respondent suggested a 1% increase would be more acceptable whereas another suggested a 4% increase
- 2.6 The survey also asked for suggestions to help balance the books, with a range of suggestions across several service areas and can be seen in appendix 4.
- 2.7 After consideration of all responses received to date on the budget consultation, the Cabinet Member for Resources (after consulting Cabinet colleagues) has recommended there is no change to budget consultation proposals.
- 2.8 A table showing an analysis of comments by respondent or consultation event can be seen at appendix 5.

Appendix 1a - Public Consultation – Further Responses

	Category	Comment	Response
61b	Garden Waste Collection & General	<p>I think it is a disgrace to propose stopping brown bin collection or charging for it.</p> <p>If the Council needed to save money then it should not have wasted the hundreds of thousands on the part time partially functioning Cathedral Square Fountains.</p> <p>Or how about the Million plus spent on a solar energy farm plan ?</p> <p>Please lodge my complaint and I will be willing to debate with any council representative should they wish to discuss, although I feel I will not here from anyone.</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>It's important to detach the issue of garden waste collection from fountains and energy parks.</p> <p>The two are financed very differently and we're not always allowed to move money around between different pots.</p> <p>We need to make savings on our running costs (like your day-to-day household bills) and at the moment we are facing a £19 million gap in our budget for 2014/15.</p> <p>We've had to look carefully at where the day-to-day money is going and make some difficult decisions.</p> <p>As far as the fountains are concerned, you may not know that we are looking at what options we have to recover some (if not all) of the cost from the contractors.</p> <p>On the energy parks, this is a long-term investment in an income stream which would raise us money for vital services over the next quarter of a century (and hopefully more).</p> <p>And of course, there will be enough electricity generated to power many tens of thousands of homes.</p>
74	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I am in favour of the proposed charges for the brown bin collection and would not want to lose this service.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>We're pleased that you value the service and want</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>us to continue to collect waste from your property.</p> <p>If the proposed new charge goes ahead, we'll let you know what you need to do and how to pay.</p>
75	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Sirs</p> <p>Ref above, I agree that a charge could be made for collection of brown bins since they are not used by everyone. However, I think the proposed of £36 is too high and will far exceed the cost of collection. I have been giving this some thought and had decided anywhere near £1 weekly was too much. A cost of 50p per week is more realistic. I would have thought that a charge of £10 per bin per year would more than cover the cost and leave some cash left for essential services.</p> <p>If residents decide £36 is excessive, it means more vehicle runs to the tip or bonfires, neither of which are very good for our planet or a Council which prides itself on its 'Green' credentials.</p> <p>Is the Hungry Harry bin working out? If not, that is something we could do without. We could also do without excess verge cutting around estates.</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>There is more to getting rid of garden waste than merely collecting/emptying bins by the roadside.</p> <p>We have to pay to dispose all of the waste we collect, so the proposed charge has been calculated to reflect the total, overall, cost of taking garden waste away and disposing of it.</p> <p>If the charge is introduced, Peterborough will not be alone. More than 100 local authorities across the country now have some kind of fee for taking garden waste away.</p> <p>The Hungry Harry scheme allows the council to improve recycling rates within Peterborough and not incur unnecessary landfill costs. The current contract cost is £264k per annum to provide this effective service and avoids the council having to pay landfill costs of a similar amount.</p>
76	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I will not be paying to have my brown bin collected I already pay for it in my Council Tax</p> <p>If the council want to save money why dont they tear up all those slabs in Cathedral Square along with the non existing ridiculous so called water fountains Those horrible monstrocities which they call seats after all they cost only 12.6 million pounds</p> <p>Im sure they could get a few quid for them from Spriggs Demolition</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>First off, I'd like to put the record straight: you do not pay for garden waste collection specifically as part of your council tax.</p> <p>Council Tax is the main source of locally raised income for many local authorities. This helps make up the difference between the amount a local</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		Oxney Rd.	<p>authority wishes to spend and the amount it receives from other sources, such as government grants.</p> <p>Your council tax payment contributes towards a range of services that the Council chooses to provide. This includes both statutory and discretionary services.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is a discretionary service, which, in the past, we chose to provide for free and whilst this was free to you as a resident of Peterborough, it has always cost us money.</p> <p>Given the financial pressures we now face, we are now proposing to charge for collections in future.</p> <p>The £39 a year cost for households that wish to pay for collections in future (£36 for the year for anyone signing up before 27 May 2014) will cover the <i>total</i> cost to the council of collections and waste disposal.</p> <p>I'm sorry to hear that you don't like the seats, but, again, I must correct your figures.</p> <p>The cost of redeveloping Cathedral Square was £12m. However, 75% of this was paid through external grant funding.</p>
77	Garden Waste Collection	<p>good morning</p> <p>its all very well having a price freeze on council tax,</p> <p>but you are making a charge of £36.00 to empty our brown bins, will this be for 12 months.</p>	<p>Good morning to you too.</p> <p>The proposed £39 charge is for a year's worth of collections (£36 for the year for anyone signing up before 27 May 2014).</p> <p>We are faced with having to make some very difficult decisions to close a £19 million gap in our budget.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>THIS WILL MAKE PEOPLE DUMP RUBBISH ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND MAKE THE WHOLE AREA UNTIDY AND THERE WILL BE HORENDOUS QUES AT THE DOGS THORPE TIP AS ALOT OF PEOPLE CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY TO EMPTY BINS</p> <p>WHAT REALLY IS THE POINT OF THIS EXERCISE.</p>	<p>Over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.</p> <p>However, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide services for those who need our help and support the most (such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need).</p> <p>Unfortunately, it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do. This includes providing services that we are not legally required to.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is one of them.</p> <p>If the proposed new charge is agreed it will be an opt-in service. You will not have to pay the charge if you do not wish to have garden waste collected.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill after charges were introduced.</p>
78	Garden Waste Collection	<p>In response to the consultation, I wish to make the following points:</p> <p>1) the collection of garden waste is a valuable service, and one I use more than any of the other waste collections.</p> <p>2) I am not convinced by the case put forward by the Council in the budget document.</p> <p>3) how will your contractors determine which brown bins put out on collection day are from tax-payers who have paid for the service?</p> <p>4) will the bins of tax-payers who are not paying for the service be taken away and disposed of? What arrangements have been made for the disposal of thousands of brown bins? What is the estimated cost? How has this been calculated in the predicted savings?</p> <p>5) what penalty will tax-payers incur for putting out a brown bin without</p>	<p>Thanks for sending us your comments.</p> <p>We're pleased to hear that you value the collection of garden waste.</p> <p>The bin crews will have access to information as to who has paid the annual charge and who hasn't.</p> <p>This information will be carried on each vehicle.</p> <p>No, we won't be collecting bins from households that chose not to pay. The bins are allocated to the</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>paying the charge? How will this be policed (presumably not by the contractors)?</p> <p>6) will extra facilities be provided for garden waste disposal at the householders' refuse site in Dogsthorpe? There are already queues on summer and autumn weekends.</p>	<p>property, not the occupier or household, and will remain on site.</p> <p>As explained above, the crews will have data/information on board their vehicles, so they will know, at a glance who has paid the charge and who hasn't.</p> <p>We will look at what we can do to improve the Dogsthorpe site.</p>
79	St George's Hydrotherapy Pool	<p>Dear Sir</p> <p>I am sorry I wasn't able to sign the petition about the hydrotherapy pool closing, so I am protesting now.</p> <p>My son lives in residential care in Market Deeping now and attends the pool every week, and with the Gloucester Centre closing in March, I am devastated.</p> <p>I can't look after my son now because of my age. He is mentally and physically handicapped, and really needs to go to the pool, he needs more physio than he gets. I still care about my sons welfare very much and wish the Council cared more.</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>The issue of St George's hydrotherapy pool was discussed at a meeting of Cabinet (the most senior group of councillors) on 24 February 2014.</p> <p>It was agreed that the pool would stay open beyond April and that options for how it would be paid for in the long term would be explored.</p> <p>This is the formal agreement from the meeting as published on our website:</p> <p><i>Cabinet FURTHER RESOLVED to agree, in principle, to keep the hydrotherapy pool open for a maximum of two years, subject to:</i></p> <p><i>1. The necessary income and funds being raised to fund the service, including financial support from the NHS; and</i></p> <p><i>2. The facility not requiring capital investment during that period.</i></p>
80	Garden Waste	<p>I am not in agreement with the charge, even though it is proposed to start at a reasonable level, because all that will happen is that garden waste</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>I'm pleased that you think the proposed charge of</p>

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	Collection	will get put into the black bin. I do not have a great deal of garden waste and do not often fill my brown bin.	<p>£39 a year is a “reasonable level” (£36 for the year for anyone signing up before 27 May 2014).</p> <p>We’ve carefully worked out the charge to make sure that it covers the cost of emptying garden bins, collecting the waste and disposing of it – all of which costs us money.</p> <p>And, lots of people don’t realise that collecting garden waste is not a statutory service. It’s a discretionary service, which we chose to provide, for free, up to now.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill (via black bins) after charges were introduced.</p>
81	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I obtained the email address from the Peterborough Telegraph web site</p> <p>My concerns about brown bin payment are as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Will people be given an option to have their bins removed? * What measures can be put in place to prevent bins from being stolen and used by those who have not paid? * how will it be possible to prevent others using a bin paid for by someone else - we know this will be down the householder however, * not everyone has storage to keep the bin out of reach of those using them without paying * do we not already pay for this service via our council tax and was this service not imposed on us as part of this package already * is this just not a measure to prevent there having to be a referendum on the increase of council tax beyond the 2% mark - keep it to under 1.99% 	<p>Thanks for your comments and questions.</p> <p>I’ll do my best to answer them.</p> <p>No, browns bins won’t be taken away. Bins “belong” (are allocated) to the house/property and therefore will remain on site.</p> <p>I’m not too sure stolen bins will be a major issue. Crews will know which households have opted to pay for the service (they’ll carry information on board the bin trucks) and will only collect from properties on the system.</p> <p>Likewise, I’m not too sure that there will be a major</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>and just add another tax - sorted</p> <p>* will those who do not wish to have a bin be able to have the bin collected - but will there then be a charge for the collection of the bin that we no longer wish to use</p> <p>* how long before you charge for food bin collection, green bin collection</p>	<p>issue with people filling their (paying) neighbours' bins. If this does prove to be an issue, I encourage householders to contact us.</p> <p>No, you do not "pay" specifically for brown bin collections as part of your council tax. Council Tax is the main source of locally raised income for many local authorities. This helps make up the difference between the amount a local authority wishes to spend and the amount it receives from other sources, such as government grants.</p> <p>Your council tax payment contributes towards a range of services that the Council chooses to provide. This includes both statutory and discretionary services.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is a discretionary service we are not obliged to provide, but we have done up to now at no cost to residents. That's despite the fact the council has always had to cover the cost of disposing of all the garden waste that we take away from homes.</p> <p>No, this has nothing to do with "avoiding" an increase in council tax.</p> <p>We have no plans to charge for other collections.</p>
82	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Peterborough City Council,</p> <p>I have had to write to you in regards to the potential idea of there being an increase in Council Tax Rates due to Brown Bin Collections.</p> <p>May I make a point that the idea of having a 'Brown Garden Waste Bin' was enforced upon residents of Peterborough who were deemed worthy</p>	<p>Hello. Thank you for writing in.</p> <p>I'm sorry you think the service was "imposed".</p> <p>Our intention has only ever been to provide a free collection service which residents would value and</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>of such a commodity and there are those who in our cul-de-sac do not have a 'Brown Bin'.</p> <p>Could I please ask you this?</p> <p>Should this £40 per year increase be enforced, am I to assume that those who don't have a Brown Bin will not be liable to pay the £40 yearly fee?, with that said, will those who now have a Brown Bin and don't want to pay the potential £40 per year increase have a choice as to whether to keep the Brown Bin or hand it back in order to save money?</p> <p>I do feel that there is an unethical agenda behind all this, what with forcing a Brown Garden Waste Bin upon the residents of Peterborough, only for a few years later enforcing a fee for the upkeep of them.</p> <p>Nobody asked for this service, surely PCC took it upon themselves to have a predicted budget or forecast in mind with such a service in such a short space of time, or was this part of the plan?, to enforce a service, get the people of Peterborough to depend on it, to need it; only to then enforce the carrot on a stick and charge a premium for it a few years later?, totally unfair and unethical.</p> <p>Your thoughts please?, I look forward to your reply.</p> <p>Kindest Regards</p>	<p>use.</p> <p>I can't say why your particular street wasn't given brown bins.</p> <p>The charge will not "be enforced".</p> <p>Households that do not wish to have garden waste collected will not have to pay.</p> <p>Bins will remain as they are allocated to each house/property, not the owner.</p>
83	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Regarding the proposed charges for emptying brown bins, we would like to say that we feel it is actually an increase in our rates. Not all residents will opt to pay, so you may lose out. Also, we feel that this may lead to flytipping, causing extra work to council workers, as they will then need to clean up places due to this.</p> <p>No-one asked for the brown bins in the first instance, but had to comply anyway, although they have proved to be very useful.</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>There is no such thing as "rates" anymore. Each house pays something called the council tax. Council Tax is the main source of locally raised income for many local authorities. This helps make up the difference between the amount a local authority wishes to spend and the amount it receives</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>How much profit was made on making compose in the past? Surely that would cover most costs!</p> <p>If a system was not working, why has it taken until now to charge for it?</p> <p>We would not be happy to pay via phone or on-line, so could an alternative method of payment please be added? Paying by cheque or payslip over the counter at a bank or post office would be preferable. Thank you</p>	<p>from other sources, such as government grants.</p> <p>The collection of garden waste is, and has not, been specifically part of your council tax. Your council tax payment contributes towards a range of services that the Council chooses to provide. This includes both statutory and discretionary services.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is a discretionary service, which, in the past, we chose to provide for free and whilst this was free to you as a resident of Peterborough, it has always cost us money.</p> <p>I'm glad you think the bins have proved to be useful. We do too. Many residents tell us they value the service and make good use of it (see other comments in this document).</p> <p>The charge is being proposed now because we can no longer afford to do everything we've done up until now. We face a £19 million gap in our finances for 2014/15 and something had to give. It is not a decision we have taken lightly.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill (via black bins) after charges were introduced.</p> <p>There are numerous ways in which you can pay any bill you have with the council. We encourage payments via our website as the cost to process payments this way is much cheaper.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
84	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Whilst I can see the sense in making a charge and all the valid reasons it brings I fear that the city will see an upsurge in people not bothering to look after their gardens, concreting or tarmacking even more lawns and a bigger than ever fly tipping of greens?</p> <p>For people like my wife and I who use all our recycling bins each week and visit the tip with excess garden waste etc. we will pay but those people who never bother anyway will just continue to make more waste.</p> <p>I can see this making our city even dirtier.</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>I'm pleased that you think we're doing the right thing and thanks for making such an effort to recycle as much as you can.</p> <p>Charging is something we've thought long and hard about and isn't a decision we've taken lightly.</p> <p>I'm not too sure there will be a surge in people who fail to look after their gardens or chose to rip up their lawns as a result.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill (via black bins) after charges were introduced.</p>
85	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Just a quick message to et you know that I will not pay for a brown bin collection, am completely against the proposed charge and will be expecting you to collect my brown bin, at your expense, should you go ahead.</p> <p>You imposed these bins on people and gave them no choice in having one, even if they didn't want it or use it, at considerable expense to the council. It's up to you to manage your budget and provide services, not up to us to keep paying for things you forced on us in the first place.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>Unfortunately, if you chose not to pay the charge (if it goes ahead) your brown bin will not be collected.</p> <p>I'm sorry to hear that you feel something was "imposed". That wasn't the intention. We thought it made sense to offer a service that allowed residents to recycle as many materials as they could.</p> <p>It was part of our ambition for Peterborough to be as clean and as green as possible.</p>
86	Garden waste	Hello.	Thanks for your comments.

	Category	Comment	Response
	Collection	<p>I must strongly disagree with any proposed charges for this service.</p> <p>I pay over £1670.00 per year in council tax and this should be included in your charges. I will not pay any extra charges and i'm sure many others won't. You may be running a service that is totally unprofitable because the low take up and having to pick up waste which has been dumped.</p>	<p>First off, I'd like to put the record straight: you do not pay for garden waste collection specifically as part of your council tax.</p> <p>Council Tax is the main source of locally raised income for many local authorities. This helps make up the difference between the amount a local authority wishes to spend and the amount it receives from other sources, such as government grants.</p> <p>Your council tax payment contributes towards a range of services that the Council chooses to provide. This includes both statutory and discretionary services.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is a discretionary service, which, in the past, we chose to provide for free and whilst this was free to you as a resident of Peterborough, it has always cost us money.</p> <p>Given the financial pressures we now face, we are now proposing to charge for collections in future.</p> <p>It has never been about making a profit.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill (via black bins) after charges were introduced.</p>

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87	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I should like to complain strongly against the introduction of an annual charge for emptying our brown bin. As a pensioner with a relatively large garden this is a most unwelcome charge. I can't afford the extra £39 p.a and the journey to the tip is a tiresome inconvenience. As a previously loyal ratepayer it is a mean, pathetic and discriminatory measure which will antagonise many and please just a few local penny pinching councillors. It will serve only to breed deceit as garden rubbish finds its way into black and green bins and onto street verges and public car parks.</p> <p>It becomes clear that the proposal will be self defeating and require additional oversight and maintenance.</p> <p>Surely there is someone on the Council who can appreciate the hostile reaction this measure will arouse. Hopefully it is not too late for common sense to prevail and for the views of the humble ratepayer to be taken on board. Cutting costs should not mean eliminating essential services</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>Let me assure you, this isn't anything to do with "penny pinching councillors". In fact, that's unfair.</p> <p>We are in very challenging times. In 2014/15 the council faces a £19 million gap in its finances. This is a serious issue and, regrettably, there is no magic wand we can wave to resolve the problem.</p> <p>We are having to make some very tough decisions and we've had to think very carefully about some of the proposals in the budget.</p> <p>Collecting garden waste and disposing of it costs us the best part of £1 million a year. This is money we need to prioritise towards protecting the most vulnerable people in our city.</p> <p>That said, we know that our decisions will have an impact, and that they won't always be popular.</p> <p>It's worth pointing out that garden waste collection is not strictly an "essential service". It is something we have chosen to offer, for free, in the past.</p> <p>We are not obliged to provide brown bins, but it is something we thought we should do.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill (via black bins) after charges were introduced.</p>

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88	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I just don't understand Peterborough City Council. This is truly ridiculous when one minute PCC say they want to be known as a green city yet the next minute there is a proposal to charge for garden waste!</p> <p>Is it not common sense to reward citizens use of recycling waste bins not penalising?!</p> <p>Surely it would make more sense to charge for black bin disposal to encourage people to be more responsible for their waste?</p> <p>I would like to know how much it cost to initially implement and now run the failed hungry Harry scheme? No one uses them anymore!</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>Council Tax is the main source of locally raised income for many local authorities. This helps make up the difference between the amount a local authority wishes to spend and the amount it receives from other sources, such as government grants.</p> <p>Your council tax payment contributes towards a range of services that the Council chooses to provide. This includes both statutory and discretionary services.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is a discretionary service, which, in the past, we chose to provide for free and whilst this was free to you as a resident of Peterborough, it has always cost us money. However, we are obligated to collect and dispose of household waste (black bin waste) as a statutory service.</p> <p>We are currently facing a £19 million gap in our budget for 2014/15 which has meant we have had to look carefully at what services we provide and make some difficult decisions.</p> <p>The Hungry Harry scheme allows the council to improve recycling rates within Peterborough and not incur unnecessary landfill costs. The current contract cost is £264k per annum to provide this effective service and avoids the council having to pay landfill costs of a similar amount.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
89	Garden Waste Collection & Council Tax	<p>Having been invited via a number of local media to respond to current budget proposals, I make the following comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I find it astonishing that the Council is dishonest enough to claim it is not increasing the Council Tax when in fact that is exactly what it is doing by implementing a charge for a service currently paid for by that same Council Tax! I am not so naïve as to fail to understand that monies received by the Council can only be stretched so far, but why the dishonesty by trying to disguise this move as anything other than an increase? Don't treat your citizens as idiots, and shame on your integrity! 2. Once the principle of charging for individual services is accepted, how far does this go? If the argument is that some residents do not make use of the brown bin service, then can I please opt out/have a rebate on my Council Tax since I don't use, amongst others, the schools or housing services (two huge outlays from the budget), or other smaller services such as the library service (there are many others). Why single out a service which is well documented to be good for citizens' health, and good for the environment, as one for which an additional/separate charge should be made? And if you are going down this road, why bother with the principle of a communal charge at all?! 3. If you insist on going ahead with this absurd and discriminatory proposal, how are you going to ensure that those who opt out of paying the Council Tax supplement for Brown Bins (let's call it what it is!) don't deposit their garden waste into others' brown bins? And please don't fob off this question by saying "we'll consider this in due course" I simply don't think the proposal is workable, and this and other aspects of unworkability need to be considered <i>before and not after</i> you vote on whether or not to implement it! 4. On a more general note, I think the Council is being both naïve and unrealistic by continuing to trumpet the fact that it hasn't increased the 	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>We're not being dishonest at all.</p> <p>For absolute clarity: you do not pay specifically for garden waste collection as part of your council tax.</p> <p>Council Tax is the main source of locally raised income for many local authorities. This helps make up the difference between the amount a local authority wishes to spend and the amount it receives from other sources, such as government grants.</p> <p>Your council tax payment contributes towards a range of services that the Council chooses to provide. This includes both statutory and discretionary services.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is a discretionary service, which, in the past, we chose to provide for free and whilst this was free to you as a resident of Peterborough, it has always cost us money.</p> <p>The cost of this is almost £1 million a year. This is money we need to prioritise towards protecting the most vulnerable people in our city.</p> <p>We do not see that one neighbour trying to use a paying neighbour's bin without permission is going to be a huge problem.</p> <p>We don't rush decisions (in fact the process can be laboriously slow). We have thought very carefully about how a paid for service would work.</p> <p>It would be foolish to propose changes or present</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>Council Tax for "X number of years. We all know that the cost of public services continues to rise; surely a modest increase (perhaps 0.5% or less) each year would be more sensible, and perhaps even more palatable to the public since, after seen no increase for a number of years, I predict their reaction to the eventual inevitable increase is likely to be one of shock and annoyance.</p> <p>I have copied this email to the three Park Ward counsellors, and sincerely hope they will take these views into account when deciding how they vote; I will be asking them in due course.</p>	<p>this as a cost saving without proper planning.</p> <p>We face a £19 million hole in our finances for 2014/15 and it is likely that all options (including a possible rise in council tax) will be considered in the coming year. Ultimately, it is a decision for our politicians to take.</p> <p>The council understands the financial pressures that residents face and remains committed to keeping council tax low. The current government has offered council's the opportunity to freeze council tax and in doing so, has offered to provide grant funding each year. Each year, the council has weighed up the benefit of accepting the freeze grant and value for the tax payer. In 2014/15, the grant is worth £0.7m. For comparative purposes, a two per cent increase in council tax would generate an additional £1.2m in income, however, the council would lose the council tax freeze grant of £0.7m, resulting in additional net benefit to the council of £0.5m. In summary, an increase in spending power of £0.5m would require local council tax payers to contribute £1.2m. Therefore, the council budget assumes a council tax freeze in 2014/15.</p>
90	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear sir/madam</p> <p>I Strongly oppose charging for garden waste. For the past 5 years I have maintained an area of grassland outside both my neighbours and my house. This land is the responsibility of the Persimmon Homes however they have failed to maintain this area and the public open spaces on this development. I have persistently complained to Persimmon and the</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>Thank you also for taking pride in your local community.</p> <p>I would suggest it would be useful to raise the issue of the lack of maintenance with your local ward</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		council(Nick Harding) without any progress. Now the council want to charge for my services to the community by charging for the disposal of the Grass cuttings.	councillor. He or she should be able to help you resolve this. At the very least they will be able to guide you through what needs to be reported.
91	Garden Waste Collection	Whilst I appreciate that the proposed charge may be necessary and I would pay the charge for the collection, would it be a consideration that the subsequent compost is then supplied and delivered to those residents (who wish to receive it) who pay the charge for collection FOC.	Thanks for your comments. The organisation that takes the garden waste away already turns it into compost for re-sale.
92	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I have been following the articles in the Peterborough telegraph regarding the proposed councils idea to start charging householders for the emptying of the brown bins.</p> <p>I for one am against this and given the choice will not be paying it and the council can have their brown bin back, as I do not wish for it to be on my property (I own my house).</p> <p>Whilst I appreciate the fact that some people do not use the bins anyway and others use it far more, this obviously depends on the size of garden one has. My garden is very small, all slabs with flower borders and a few small bushes/shrubs. before the introduction of the bins a few years ago I managed perfectly well for over 25 years in cutting my garden back in the autumn months and bagging it up and taking to the local council tip, so I am sure I can manage perfectly well to do this again.</p> <p>Considering we were never asked about these bins in the first place they were just imposed upon us, and for some people they were nothing but an inconvenient item to find storage for or cluttering the garden up. Mine has to be kept out the front of the house to make it easy to put out for collection, as if it goes in my back garden it is extremely awkward to get it all round the paths and houses to the front. We dont all have the luxury of living in a house in a proper street with access from front to back via a</p>	<p>Hello. Thank you for sending in your comments.</p> <p>If the service goes ahead, it will be “opt in”, so you won’t have to pay if you don’t want to.</p> <p>We won’t be collecting brown bins though. They “belong” (are allocated) to each household and so will remain on site.</p> <p>We, via our contractors Amey, will clear leaves from land that we are responsible for.</p> <p>We’ve been carrying out an extensive consultation on the whole budget (not just bins) and you’ve kindly responded to it.</p> <p>Sending out letters to all households in Peterborough is very expensive and wouldn’t have been appropriate. We used the local newspaper, radio and TV to alert people to it.</p> <p>There have also been links on our website, our Facebook site and our Twitter feed.</p> <p>The proposed charge is £39 for a year’s worth of collections (£36 for the year for anyone signing up</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>gate.</p> <p>My bin is usually full up and put out about 5 times max. between end September and Mid December, there is not usually anything much goes in during spreing and summer months, and the council do not collect it for 3 months of the year, so they are hardly providing a comprehensive service, considering half of what goes in it are all the leaves from THEIR TREES on THEIR LAND that blow into my garden that I have to pick up and dispose of.</p> <p>So if a charge is imposed I shall go back to what I have always done in the past. BUT as I am sure I will be one amongst many, are the council going to make more of an effort and come and pick up all the leaves regularly during the autumn and winter months. Then again I suppose it depends where one lives.</p> <p>I think the council should of sent out letters to every household in Peterborough and asked their opinion first, and do a questionnaire to see how many households would be likey to either keep or get rid of the brown bins. I do wonder how they have arrived at the figure of £40. Why not just increase the council charge by and extra £10 a year for ervy household, or if as they say an onboard computer system identifies whether a particular bin qualifies for emtying, ie the householder paying the amount, then why cant a system be devised that everyone gets to keep their bins but you pay for example a sum of £1 each time it is emtied, and a bill sent out every 6 months. That seems a much fairer way.</p> <p>well I will wait with baited breath for the results outcome like so many but will probably remain disgruntled about the whole matter.</p>	<p>before 27 May 2014).</p> <p>It has been calculated to cover the total cost of emptying bins, transporting the garden waste and disposing off it – all of which costs us money.</p> <p>The idea of a “pay as you throw” sort of scheme is an interesting one, but would, I suspect, be very costly to run and administer.</p>
93	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>[PERSONAL INFORMATION WITHHELD]- regarding the Council's ludicrous idea of charging for Brown Bins.</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>I never take anything personally, but thank you for</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>Please do not take this personally - unless you back this idea.</p> <p>May I politely point out :-</p> <p>A) I already pay nearly £1,700 a year in Rates, for what I do not really know - but the Bin collection does seem to be one slight positive. I say slight as I had a path built when we did the alterations in order that the bins could be placed on them when they are collected and emptied. Whilst I duly place the relevant Bins on the path with the handles facing the road to make things easier for the collection staff, them seem to be intent on putting them back anywhere but back on the path - mainly on my lawn which does make me angry as it damages the lawn in the winter months. Why can they not put it back where they found it!!</p> <p>B) Such action will enrage those of us who pay these high rates, which with an election coming up is I would suggest not the cleverest of ideas.</p> <p>C) Encourage those who pay little or no rates to "fly tip" their brown bin rubbish, or put some in with the Black Bin.</p> <p>D) Does the Council have such a short memory that it forgets that it was the Council who introduced the Brown Bins in the first place!</p> <p>E) To state in the paper that there will be a period of grace before the "FREE" bins become chargeable - they are not free that is part of the reason our rates are so high.</p> <p>If certain people would concentrate on the important things and not his own ideas that he cannot justify the expense for. What a brilliant idea to create an energy park - but not at the expense of farmland. It would probably get flooded anyway.</p> <p>Please pass on my disgust and anger to the idiot(s) who came up with this ill conceived idea. Tell them to think again and remember the pen is mightier than the sword - especially at election time.</p> <p>Oh Yes I nearly forgot - my neighbours agree with me on this one as well.</p> <p>May I trust that you will be voting against this proposal next week.</p>	<p>the polite warning!</p> <p>Just a quick clarification, you do not pay "rates" any more. The charge is called the council tax. Council Tax is the main source of locally raised income for many local authorities. This helps make up the difference between the amount a local authority wishes to spend and the amount it receives from other sources, such as government grants.</p> <p>Your council tax payment contributes towards a range of services that the Council chooses to provide. This includes both statutory and discretionary services.</p> <p>It covers many as well as like planning, transport, libraries and leisure facilities, trading standards and roads/highways (among others).</p> <p>I am sorry to hear that the bins aren't being replaced correctly. Please call 01733 747474 and let us have some more information. We can then raise this issue with our contractor.</p> <p>Every household in Peterborough pays the council tax as it's a legal requirement. There are of course discounts which may reduce liability down.</p> <p>Yes, it was us that introduced the garden waste collection because we thought it was the right thing to do at the time. The world has moved on though and unfortunately we now face a massive financial challenge.</p> <p>Our government grant has been cut and the cost of</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>looking after the most vulnerable people in our city is rising all the time.</p> <p>For 2014/15 we currently have a budget gap (aka "black hole") of £19 million. We cannot continue as we are and have to think differently about how we provide, and pay for, services in future.</p> <p>We have prioritise resources accordingly and subsidising the garden waste collection service to the tune of £800,000 a year is no longer an option.</p> <p>I will pass on your comments to the right people.</p> <p>Each councillor will be given a copy of yours (and everyone else's) comments so they can digest the view of our residents.</p> <p>Thank you, once again, for sending in your feedback.</p>
94	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Sir</p> <p>I read in the E.T. that you have plans to charge nearly £40 a year for the use of the brown bin (garden rubbish). Me being a 68 year old state pensioner. Allso on state pension credit.</p> <p>I hardly use the brown bin. At most I use it about once a year. I have a little lawn and the grass cutting go in my compost bin. I have no trees.</p> <p>I think nearly £40 a year is far to much for to pay.</p> <p>I hope you will take this into great consideration!</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p>	<p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service or they can share a bin with a neighbour.</p> <p>We would encourage people to home compost if they have the space available or they will still be able to take their garden waste to the household recycling centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough</p>
95	Garden Waste	<p>Dear Sir</p>	<p>If the proposed new charge for the garden waste collection service is agreed it will be an opt-in</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
	Collection	<p>About a payment for emptying brown bins.</p> <p>Im coming 80 years, my wife is not far behind me.</p> <p>I think this payment of £39 pounds a year, is a bit steep for pensioners. For instance, we havent got a car to take garden waste to the tip <u>so what do we do with it.</u></p> <p>In turn you sell compost whats made out of garden waste, to farmers and the public.</p> <p>I know you want to save money but just think about pensioners for ones.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>P.S. What do with it, put garden waste in black bin</p>	<p>service. Residents do not have to pay the charge if they do not wish to use the new service or they can share a bin with a neighbour.</p> <p>We would encourage people to home compost if they have the space available.</p>
96	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Sir</p> <p><u>Re Brown Bin</u></p> <p>I would like to express my views about the proposed charge for the Brown Bin recycling which the Council has in mind.</p> <p>Yes, I am all for recycling, and do my utmost to make sure the correct items go into the appropriate bins. Should we be charged for emptying of the Brown Bin. It does not seem fair, if we pay a fee, then put the bins out, only to find someone else has placed their garden waste in it. Do not say that does not happen, it certainly does. As I have found other peoples rubbish in my black and green bin.</p> <p>We are not all able to take our garden waste to the local tip. As we pay our Council Tax, surely emptying bins, should not be decided on who pays and who does not.</p> <p>By the article in the PT it seems it could be all cut and dried.</p>	<p>Council Tax is the main source of locally raised income for many local authorities. This helps make up the difference between the amount a local authority wishes to spend and the amount it receives from other sources, such as government grants.</p> <p>Your council tax payment contributes towards a range of services that the Council chooses to provide. This includes both statutory and discretionary services.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is a discretionary service, which, in the past, we chose to provide for free and whilst this was free to you as a resident of Peterborough, it has always cost us money.</p> <p>Given the financial pressures we now face, we are now proposing to charge for collections in future.</p> <p>The £39 a year cost for households that wish to pay</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		Yours faithfully	for collections in future (£36 for the year for anyone signing up before 27 May 2014) will cover the <i>total</i> cost to the council of collections and waste disposal
97	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Sirs</p> <p>I was appalled to read that you are proposing to levy a charge on collecting brown bins.</p> <p>If this hare brained scheme goes ahead I will refuse to pay it and simply put my garden waste into my black bin.</p> <p>I thought Peterborough was trying to be environmental capital of the UK? Funny way to go about it.....</p>	<p>Council Tax is the main source of locally raised income for many local authorities. This helps make up the difference between the amount a local authority wishes to spend and the amount it receives from other sources, such as government grants.</p> <p>Your council tax payment contributes towards a range of services that the Council chooses to provide. This includes both statutory and discretionary services.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is a discretionary service, which, in the past, we chose to provide for free and whilst this was free to you as a resident of Peterborough, it has always cost us money.</p> <p>Given the financial pressures we now face, we are now proposing to charge for collections in future.</p> <p>The £39 a year cost for households that wish to pay for collections in future (£36 for the year for anyone signing up before 27 May 2014) will cover the <i>total</i> cost to the council of collections and waste disposal</p>
98	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>i wish to strongly object to the proposed charges for garden waste collection in Peterborough .</p> <p>Recycling is important for the environment for one thing ,i fear the charges will just encourage fly tipping of garden waste around the</p>	<p>We are faced with having to make some very difficult decisions to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.</p> <p>However, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide services for those who need our</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>Peterborough area , further costing the council money in removing it , i fail to see how it would work considering ive heard other people saying that theyl put there garden waste in someones bin who has paid ? how is that fair is the council going to provide lockable bins to prevent this ?.</p> <p>it seems another attempt to hit the tax payer in the pocket further, when reductions to spending on councilors expenses etc would be more suitable.</p> <p>Yours Faithfully</p>	<p>help and support the most (such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need).</p> <p>Unfortunately, it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do. This includes providing services that we are not legally required to.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is one of them.</p> <p>If the proposed new charge is agreed it will be an opt-in service. You will not have to pay the charge if you do not wish to have garden waste collected.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill after charges were introduced.</p>
99	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Which idiot came up with the idea of charging for brown bins to be emptied?? don't you realise that it is going to cause MORE FLY tipping bonfires everywhere people falling out over them? . For goodness sake live in the real world not in your ivory castles</p> <p>Yours in disgust</p>	<p>We are faced with having to make some very difficult decisions to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.</p> <p>However, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide services for those who need our help and support the most (such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need).</p> <p>Unfortunately, it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do. This includes providing services that we are not legally required to.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is one of them.</p>

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			<p>If the proposed new charge is agreed it will be an opt-in service. You will not have to pay the charge if you do not wish to have garden waste collected.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill after charges were introduced.</p>
100	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>I feel, the budget for Peterborough has already been fully approved/signed and sealed.</p> <p>People are given the opportunity to have their say, knowingly, that only a small minority will do so, which is not enough to meet the criteria to make satisfactory changings.</p> <p>My concern is the proposed charge for the brown bins, £39.00 per year, the council may save £800.000 per year by charging for the collection of the brown bin, but how much of the £800.000 will be allocated for the collection of the rubbish that has not been properly disposed of ?</p> <p>This is a concerning issue for the residents and one issue that may be avoided if the service remained the same.</p> <p>I also think the charge of £39.00 per year is just an extra added cost which people with low income cannot afford,</p> <p>originally we were provided with one bin which we placed in our bin cupboard, this was replaced by a black wheelie bin which would not fit into the cupboard and was forced to store in our garden. After a period of time the green and brown bin was introduced which was to help Peterborough's status as a green city, meaning we would have 3 bins in</p>	<p>We are faced with having to make some very difficult decisions to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.</p> <p>However, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide services for those who need our help and support the most (such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need).</p> <p>Unfortunately, it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do. This includes providing services that we are not legally required to.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is one of them.</p> <p>If the proposed new charge is agreed it will be an opt-in service. You will not have to pay the charge if you do not wish to have garden waste collected.</p> <p>The £39 a year cost for households that wish to pay for collections in future (£36 for the year for anyone signing up before 27 May 2014) will cover the <i>total</i> cost to the council of collections and waste disposal.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>our gardens, which we are already paying rent for our gardens.</p> <p>Any additional costs for the disposal of waste is not really acceptable as we already pay our council tax and rent, it seems that we keep paying additional charges, which are being introduced by the council, for the same service or services that the council introduced in the first instance.</p> <p>I think this situation should be looked into and a solution, where the waste can be disposed of in the correct manner where it does not mean we are incurring additional charges, and this situation is rectified where all parties are happy with the same agreement.</p> <p>yours faithfully</p>	<p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill after charges were introduced.</p>
101	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Sir</p> <p>I have continuously voiced my dismay at the thought of charging residents of Peterborough twice for the same service.</p> <p>The brown bin collection was launched with bravado and forced upon us as Peterborough residents whether we wanted it or not.</p> <p>If this increase is approved I would reserve the right to return the bin as it is council property invading my private property. I am not obligated by law to keep this as it is a service I will no longer require.</p> <p>We were informed that the brown bin service would be effectively self-funding because the compost produced would be sold on and the cost of maintenance was part of our current council tax payment. It has been said by a council Director that the demand in winter does not make collection a worthwhile project based on statistics. We have not been shown where these statistics come from as brown bins are not chipped and as we are currently experiencing one winter is far different from another.</p>	<p>We are faced with having to make some very difficult decisions to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.</p> <p>However, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide services for those who need our help and support the most (such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need).</p> <p>Unfortunately, it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do. This includes providing services that we are not legally required to.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is one of them.</p> <p>If the proposed new charge is agreed it will be an opt-in service. You will not have to pay the charge if you do not wish to have garden waste collected.</p> <p>The £39 a year cost for households that wish to pay</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>You cannot brag to the country about how green Peterborough is then charge twice for the same service, that in itself is a disgrace.</p> <p>We already have a major fly tipping problem in Peterborough, the council are effectively making a rod for it's own back by trying to add up to £40 per year on council tax by stealth.</p> <p>I suggest that this proposed tax stealth is not voted for based on the facts you have now been given.</p>	<p>for collections in future (£36 for the year for anyone signing up before 27 May 2014) will cover the <i>total</i> cost to the council of collections and waste disposal.</p> <p>No, we won't be collecting bins from households that chose not to pay. The bins are allocated to the property, not the occupier or household, and will remain on site.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill after charges were introduced.</p>
102	Garden Waste Collection	<p>After the supply of brown bins to all residents what a waste to not use them .</p> <p>It made more sense to charge everyone £1.00 per week on council tax to gain more.</p> <p>By charging an set amount not everyone will use them so waste will go in black bins or dumped to the cost of the council to clear also this will not help the environment.</p> <p>Yours</p>	<p>We are faced with having to make some very difficult decisions to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.</p> <p>However, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide services for those who need our help and support the most (such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need).</p> <p>Unfortunately, it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do. This includes providing services that we are not legally required to.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is one of them.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill after charges were introduced.
103	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I would urge you to reconsider charging for brown bins. If you proceed with this there will be an increase in fly tipping which will be far more costly. Peterborough is aiming to become environment capital of the UK, charging for the brown bins flies in the face of this and makes a mockery of it; I thought the idea was to encourage people to recycle, charging will not achieve this</p>	<p>We are faced with having to make some very difficult decisions to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.</p> <p>However, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide services for those who need our help and support the most (such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need).</p> <p>Unfortunately, it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do. This includes providing services that we are not legally required to.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is one of them.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill after charges were introduced.</p>
104	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I am commenting on the proposal to change for brown bin collections.</p> <p>It seems to me that the proposal to charge to collect brown bins is a variation on the notion of double jeopardy. Surely it is not ethical to charge for collecting the garden waste which the council then goes on to sell!!!!!! See where my notion of double jeopardy is coming from?</p> <p>The council provided the brown bins,(residents did not ask for them) the council claims to be striving to be an environmentally friendly city, the council claims to not be putting up council tax.....well this is surely a rise</p>	<p>We are faced with having to make some very difficult decisions to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.</p> <p>However, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide services for those who need our help and support the most (such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need).</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
	General	2 - staff redundancies - never popular but they happen in the real world outside of the public sector.	vulnerable and families in need).
	Capital Programme	3 - the proposed increase of lanes on Fletton parkway should be postponed until it is affordable .ie. not resulting in extra charges for bin collections. The traffic congestion isn't that bad, I drive through it at rush hour regularly.	Unfortunately, it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do. This includes providing services that we are not legally required to. Garden waste collection is one of them.
	General	4 - a reduction of 5% in the adult social care & well being budget. Saving £2.45m. That doesn't seem excessive in any way.	The council is committed to improving the city centre and making it become more vibrant, dynamic and diverse. Offering a high quality built environment, employment, and learning and leisure opportunities by encouraging new investment into the city. These schemes (long causeway and Bourges Boulevard) are funded by capital investment.
	General	5 - a reduction in the communities budget of 2% would pay for the brown bin collection. Saving £886,000. A tiny proportion of the budget that is more likely than not lost in waste.	
	General	6 - a 10% reduction in resource spending through better procurement processes. The public sector is renowned for its shocking lack of ability to procure properly. Saving £3.29m The council boast of low council tax in Peterborough but this is linked to the below average wages many of the cities residents earn. I'm sure my views like many others will be ignored. If you do decide to implement the brown bin tax I won't be paying it & you can arrange collection of my brown bin.	The budget assumes a reduction in staff of 53.5 full time equivalents. The work on the Fletton parkway is funded through capital investment and is necessary to improve the infrastructure to accommodate growth within Peterborough. The budget proposals being consulted upon already consider reductions in social care and communities as outlined in the budget consultation document. We agree on the issue of procurement. Every opportunity is explored with the aim of achieving further value for money where possible. We tightly control costs in these areas and we constantly review contracts that we have to make sure that we get maximum value for every penny we spend.

	Category	Comment	Response
106	Garden Waste Collection	<p>We strongly object to the City Council's proposal to charge an annual payment for the collection of brown bin waste.</p> <p>This proposal seems to contradict recycling policies because much of this waste will now end up in landfill or be fly-tipped. Why can this scheme not be financially viable by selling the compost made from collected waste?</p> <p>It seems unfair that householders should pay an annual charge for collections which only take place over part of the year. This year the recycling calendar diary sent out to households said that bins would be collected in February but they were not.</p> <p>Please reconsider the proposal which we feel would be unfair to householders.</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill (via black bins) after charges were introduced.</p> <p>The organisation that takes the garden waste away already turns it into compost for re-sale.</p> <p>We are proposing to empty brown bins all year round: fortnightly in most months reducing to monthly over winter.</p>
107	Garden Waste Collection & General	<p>Dear Coucillor Elsey, I would like to comment on your proposed introduction of charges for collection of garden waste to be discussed at the council meeting on Wednesday.</p> <p>I feel it would be a shortsighted decision as residents who won't pay, and I am afraid it will be many, will instead have several alternatives. They will put garden rubbish in their black bins, which will increase the amount of landfill or they will dump their garden waste if not on streets then in woodland around the city..We live close to Grimshaw Woods in Bretton where many man hours been spent recently coppicing and tidying the woodland, presumably at great expense. That is an excellent tipping site and we have reported incidents there in the past. The budget for dealing with fly tipping for the council will certainly have to increase.</p> <p>Another alternative will be for householders to have regular bonfires and the pollution and hazards that will bring.</p> <p>On a personal level we object as only last Autumn we purchased a second brown bin for £35 which we were advised would be a one off charge. Would we now have to pay £80 a year for our two bins to be emptied?</p> <p>Will the council be collecting in all the unused brown bins, surely a logistical nightmare or will they be left around to become a risk to</p>	<p>Thank you for responding to the consultation, your feedback is valuable, you raise some very valid points and I take seriously every residents opinion.</p> <p>Before I answer your specific observations, please believe that nobody within the current administration wants to invoke a charge against garden waste, nor do we wish to be implementing any of the cuts which are necessary for us to balance our budget, which is a legal requirement.</p> <p>We find ourselves in this situation as a direct result of the previous governments "spend now, worry tomorrow" policies which has seen the country brought to its knees financially and has led to the most severe cuts in local authority funding in modern history as the present government attempts to bring</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>households if anti social people decide to set fire to them close to property?</p> <p>I understand the council needs to save money but can I suggest an alternative idea to means test the elderly for free bus passes and for pensioners like myself who would not qualify for a free pass then perhaps introduce a £1 charge per journey on presenting say a different coloured concessionary pass.</p> <p>I do hope your council will decide on Wednesday this is not a sensible policy to adopt and look at the alternatives.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p>	<p>the country's finances under control.</p> <p>I will endeavour to answer all of your reservations as best I can:</p> <p>We expect that as has been the case across the country, most people will both understand the difficult decisions we are faced with and will act appropriately. There are exceptions to every rule and there will be some who just don't care and as such will put their garden waste in their black bin or will "fly tip" their garden waste. Having studied the data collected from all councils (103 in total, many neighbouring) who have introduced this charge, the increased levels of black bin contamination and or fly tipping incidents from garden waste is less than 3% and having calculated the impact upon landfill charges and fly tipping collections until such times as our new energy from waste plant is operational, this still generates a saving of £800K</p> <p>As detailed above, the figures quoted are fully inclusive of additional clean up incidents of fly tipping which has nationally proved to be less than 3%. I fully accept what you say about Grimshaw Woods and can assure you we will continue to identify culprits of fly tipping and will prosecute which can levy a fine of up to £50,000.00.</p> <p>The council is not nor would it ever be responsible for bonfires which are lit within the confines of a private garden, residents will be expected to act in accordance with the law, as they are at present. I</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>also believe (though I profess to be no expert) that green garden waste would be incredibly difficult to burn.</p> <p>The short answer is no, you will not have to pay for two bins. I have made it quite clear that we will not penalise those residents who have demonstrated their commitment to our Environmental Capital aspirations by purchasing second or even third brown bins. You will pay a “service” charge of £39 (£36 if you sign up in the given period) and that will entitle you to have one, two or three brown bins emptied.</p> <p>This charge as I have already stated is entirely discretionary, so if you do not wish to participate that’s your right. With regard to collecting brown bins, the bin is not and was not allocated to an individual, it was allocated to the property. As such it needs to remain with the property irrespective of your using the service as at some time in the future you may not dwell at your current house and the incumbent occupier may wish to.</p> <p>I would point out, this charge represents 70 pence per week. It will provide you with a better service than you currently have as the collection will be fortnightly with the exception of December and January which will be monthly, so you will get a 12 monthly service as opposed to 9 monthly. You can have more than one bin and it will still be collected as part of your charge.</p> <p>We will absolutely not be implementing charges</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>levied against your other two categorised bins nor will we be increasing the charge for the next three years.</p> <p>I really hope that whilst you may not like the answers I have given, you can see how incredibly difficult the decisions we are faced with are and that we are acting in the best interests of all our residents as a whole.</p> <p>Just as a backdrop, the alternatives I faced were:</p> <p>Charging for garden waste collections for those who wish to participate</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Increasing council tax by a minimum of 2% to every resident</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Closing all of the following:</p> <p>Every library save Central Library, the Museum and the Key theatre.</p> <p>I am sure you will agree, all unpleasant and hope you can understand my reasoning for my chosen option.</p> <p>You may also like to know that Liverpool – ex</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>European capital of culture has this year closed 60% of its libraries, Newcastle has reduced swimming capacity to one pool for the whole city.</p> <p>I hope this is of use but if you do require any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>
108	Garden Waste Collection & General	<p>So the council wish to impose a charge on the use of brown bins. I thought our current tax included a charge for disposing of rubbish - now the council wish to charge all residents twice. This is diabolical proposal and yet another attempt by our council to discriminate against sections of the community who are least able to help themselves eg pensioners, the unemployed and the disabled. An imposition of a charge on top of the council tax for clearing rubbish would have a detrimental effect on large sections of the community which would further result in an increase of fly-tipping, residents not keeping gardens tidy and disputes about illegal dumping. Not all residents are in the happy position of being able to visit the household refuse dump at Dogsthorpe to use the facilities there - lifting and carrying alone precludes many elderly and disabled people and transport difficulties preclude many others.</p> <p>I say NO to a charge on disposing of rubbish and if the council wish to cut back on expenses then please look at other areas eg, councillors expenses for attending meetings etc.</p>	<p>Hello. Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>May I correct you please? The cost of providing garden waste collections is not specifically part of your council tax.</p> <p>Council Tax is the main source of locally raised income for many local authorities. This helps make up the difference between the amount a local authority wishes to spend and the amount it receives from other sources, such as government grants.</p> <p>Your council tax payment contributes towards a range of services that the Council chooses to provide. This includes both statutory and discretionary services.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is a discretionary service, which, in the past, we chose to provide for free and whilst this was free to you as a resident of Peterborough, it has always cost us money.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill (via black bins) after charges were introduced.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>Changing (reducing) councillors' allowances seems to be a popular idea. Unfortunately, reducing the amount they are entitled to claim for doing their civic duty would not come close to covering the cost of the garden waste collection service.</p> <p>You may also like to know that at a meeting of Full Council in December, councillors rejected a recommendation by an independent panel to increase their allowances. It means councillors' allowances have been frozen for the past five years.</p>
109	Garden Waste Collection & General	<p>Dear Councillors</p> <p>It is reported in the Peterborough Telegraph that imposing a £40.00 yearly collection charge on the garden waste Brown Bins will save £800.000 which is the same figure claimed last year when the bus routes such as the 406 were scrapped. I ask why is it we must pay for or lose essential services while the council can waste money on fountains, football grounds etc. Which does nothing for the people of Peterborough other than over inflate the egos of a few councillors. I can assure you when this £40.00 charge comes into force I will eject your Brown Bin from my property and leave it in the street for you to collect. I highly recommend other disgruntled Peterborough residents do the same because in doing so it will at least register our protest.</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>The law defines garden waste collection as a "discretionary" (rather than "essential") service. We've chosen to provide this service up to now, for free for residents.</p> <p>The world has moved on an awful lot since the service was introduced.</p> <p>We are in very challenging times. In 2014/15 the council faces a £19 million gap in its finances. This is a serious issue and, regrettably, there is no magic wand we can wave to resolve the problem.</p> <p>We are having to make some very tough decisions and we've had to think very carefully about some of the proposals in the budget.</p> <p>Collecting garden waste and disposing of it costs us the best part of £1 million a year. This is money we need to prioritise towards protecting the most vulnerable people in our city.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
110	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>We have read in the Evening Telegraph that the Council are intending to charge £39 per annum for emptying the brown bins.</p> <p>Please find listed below some points why we think this will be a bad decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will lead to more fly tipping. • Other residents placing their waste into the bins that are put out for collection. • People will put the garden waste into bags and into their black bins, therefore, costing the council more money because it will be going into landfill and not being re-cycled into fertiliser. • What will happen to the thousands of brown bins that are not used, will they be discarded in the street and added to the litter problem that is already a disgrace for a City. <p>As pensioners on a tight budget, we find this charge disgraceful. We were of the opinion that we are already paying for this service through our Council Tax. What will be the council's next move: charging for black/green bins, having to pay for the fire brigade when there is a fire before they will attend, where will it all end?</p> <p>In the Evening Telegraph it states we can have our say, but we are sure this decision has already been made. The meeting on Wednesday will be just a formality.</p> <p>Your faithfully</p>	<p>I will try to address your points.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste.</p> <p>Research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill (via black bins) after charges were introduced.</p> <p>We do not think there will be a problem with residents sneakily putting their garden waste in a paying neighbours' bin. In fact, we'd encourage people to consider sharing bins and perhaps the cost.</p> <p>The bins are allocated to each property and do not belong to the individual householder. They must remain on site.</p> <p>We do not run the fire and rescue service so are unable to comment on their budget proposals or service plans.</p> <p>We now live in very challenging times. In 2014/15 the council faces a £19 million gap in its finances. This is a serious issue and, regrettably, there is no magic wand that we can wave to resolve the problem.</p> <p>We are having to make some very tough decisions and we've had to think very carefully about some of the proposals in the budget.</p> <p>You can be reassured that you ARE having a say – after all, you've taken the time to respond to this</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>consultation.</p> <p>All the comments/feedback received so far have been shared with all councillors. They will be able to read your views while making up their minds about the budget proposals.</p> <p>The meeting is open to the public to attend on Wednesday 5 March 2014 at 7pm.</p>
111	Garden Waste Collection & General	<p>I would prefer not to be charged to have the brown bin collected. People will just get put the garden rubbish in the black bin as before which will cause problems with landfill and I can see that some people will resort to dumping it as they will be too lazy to take it to the tip. frankly until you get the access to and from the tip sorted to allow for a higher volume of traffic to get in and out easily you will just encourage people not to bother. There is not enough room for vehicles to get in easily, empty the rubbish and get out quickly. People do not want to be sat in their cars for up to half a hour to get rid of rubbish, particularly on a Sunday when more people have the time to go. If you insist on charging us to get rid of the garden rubbish, then you need to use that money to improve the facilities and access at the tip not spend the money on other services.</p> <p>Also how are you going to police it? How are you going to protect the bins of people who have paid from the people who haven't? There will be areas where unscrupulous people will put their rubbish in a bin that is out for collection and paid for by someone else. Particularly in these financial challenging times people will find a way not to pay and let someone else pay instead.</p> <p>I don't mind paying if the system is fair and that you use the money to improve the tip but I do mind very much if you are just generating more money to squander on areas that don't need money (benefits and</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>You are under no obligation to pay the charge, if it is introduced. It will be on an "opt in" basis and we will leave it up to you to decide.</p> <p>We do acknowledge the issues that some residents experience when using the site at Dogsthorpe. This is something we're looking to improve.</p> <p>Crews will have information on board each collection truck which will tell them who has opted to pay the charge. Only bins from "paying households" will be emptied.</p> <p>Covering the cost of this discretionary service would save £800,000 per year that can help protect more important front-line services such as caring for the elderly and vulnerable and looking after children in need.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		councillors expenses)	
112	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Sir,</p> <p>I write to express my disgust at the proposed introduction of a charge of £39 per annum for the use of brown bins.</p> <p>With the obvious reductions in the services provided by the council over the last few years, the council should be in no doubt that this latest proposal may well prove to be the last straw for many tax payers.</p> <p>Councillors will not only find themselves out of a job, but they will also find themselves having to find far more than the proposed saving of £800,000 per year to clear up the results of green waste fly tipping all over our already filthy city.</p> <p>Yours faithfully,</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>We are aware that not everyone will like the spending proposals for next year's budget.</p> <p>We are in challenging times though.</p> <p>In 2014/15 the council faces a £19 million gap in its finances. This is a serious issue and, regrettably, there is no magic wand that we can wave to resolve the problem.</p> <p>We are having to make some very tough decisions and we've had to think very carefully about some of the proposals we've made.</p> <p>As far as "councillors out of a job" is concerned, you do, of course, have your opportunity to provide further "feedback" by way of the ballot box.</p>
113	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I thought I would add my thoughts to the pot.</p> <p>I understand you are looking at ways to save money, but I do feel paying to have brown wheelie bins emptied would be a backwards step.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -adding to amount in landfill, which I thought EU/ our Gov were setting targets to lower the amount -with smaller gardens and many grass cuttings we generate more compostable material than we can cope with -adding to greenhouse gasses if garden waste is now put in black bins -adding to congestion on roads around and inside the tip if people choose not to pay but visit themselves 	<p>Thanks for your comments. We appreciate them.</p> <p>We don't like making difficult decisions, but we do not have any choice. Next year we have a budget gap of £19 million.</p> <p>Finding savings or raising additional income which will close that gap is going to be a massive challenge. It has forced us to think again about what we do and how we provide services.</p> <p>We launched the garden waste collection service a few years back and offered it free-of-charge for residents even though it cost us many hundreds of</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		<p>-adding to wear & tear on roads around and inside the tip if people choose not to pay but visit themselves</p> <p>-more impatient drivers when long queues build up at the tip/knock on affect to your staff if people choose not to pay but visit themselves</p> <p>-adding to poorer air quality re more vehicles on roads and queueing at tip if people choose not to pay but visit themselves</p> <p>-more fly tipping occuring and needing to be cleared up-so cutting brown bins collections may add to this budget</p> <p>-will the the food bin be the next to go? bags @ 10p+ have not been a popular options among my friends</p> <p>-there has been an excellent job advertising & getting householders to use the brown bin don't undo this good work</p>	<p>thousands of pounds.</p> <p>Regrettably, we simply can't afford it in its current form any more.</p>
114	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Refuse collection is included in the council tax. Dividing it into three bins does not mean the brown bin collection is free anymore than the black or green one. It will lead to people not paying which will in turn lead to fly tipping.</p> <p>Garden waste will be put into black bins or could go into the brown bin of someone who has paid. Also there will probably be more bonfires.</p> <p>I hope this is taken into account when making the decision</p>	<p>Hello. Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>May I correct you please? Garden waste collection is not covered specifically by your council tax.</p> <p>Council Tax is the main source of locally raised income for many local authorities. This helps make up the difference between the amount a local authority wishes to spend and the amount it receives from other sources, such as government grants.</p> <p>Your council tax payment contributes towards a range of services that the Council chooses to provide. This includes both statutory and discretionary services.</p> <p>Garden waste collection is a discretionary service, which, in the past, we chose to provide for free because we thought this was the right thing to do.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>However, whilst this was free to you as a resident of Peterborough, it has always cost us money.</p> <p>Regrettably, we can no longer afford to offer it, for free, in its current form.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste.</p> <p>Research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill (via black bins) after charges were introduced.</p>
115	Garden Waste Collection	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>We would like to register our concern at the proposal to charge for brown bin collection.</p> <p>We moved to Peterborough partly because of its claim to be a city that looks after the environment. Like many others who live in the many houses built since 1980 our garden is not big enough for a major composting exercise, though we do compost what we can. We are not close to a recycling centre. If a charge is made for brown bins we shall simply have to put our recyclable waste in the black bin, which is what we have had to do over the winter months when there has been no collection. We suspect everyone will do this, but it is not environmentally sustainable in the long term.</p> <p>We support the maintenance of a fortnightly free collection from the brown bins.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments about the proposed charge to take away garden waste.</p> <p>We are faced with having to make some very difficult decisions to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.</p> <p>However, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide services for those who need our help and support the most (such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need).</p> <p>Unfortunately, it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do. This includes providing services that we are not legally required to. Garden waste collection is one of them.</p> <p>If the proposed new charge is agreed it will be an opt-in service. You will not have to pay the charge if you do not wish to have garden waste collected.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill after charges were introduced.
116	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I have seen the news in the Telegraph that there is a proposal to charge for emptying the brown bins.</p> <p>I live on a retirement site in PERSONAL INFORMATION WITHHELD. We do have a gardening service and the gardeners collect up and dispose of the waste material e.g. grass cuttings, weeding etc. As residents, we have some brown bins in which we can dispose of items such as plant cuttings and small amounts of pruning. None of us on site has our own brown bin as there are only small amounts to be disposed of over the course of a year. All the bins on site are each shared between 2 to 4 bungalows (29 bungalows in total). Some residents in the group would perhaps not even use the bin, as they are unable to physically do so, whilst others may use the bin frequently as they are keen gardeners.</p> <p>Please tell me how it is possible to make a charge between such a diverse group, particularly as there could well be disagreements between the residents involved as to the amount each used the bin. This can also give rise to problems as properties are bought and sold and new residents would use the bins on a smaller, or larger, basis. It strikes me as potentially being extremely difficult to reach a fair distribution of costs between the various residents on our site, and probably other sites put into a similar situation.</p> <p>In the event, nobody has ever asked for the bins to be put on site in the first place, they were put there by the Council in order to meet Government requirements relating to recycling.</p> <p>It seems very unfair that the residents in Peterborough should be expected to bear the £800,000 costs of (presumably E.U.) regulations</p>	<p>Thanks for your comments and questions.</p> <p>We are faced with having to make some very difficult decisions to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.</p> <p>However, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide services for those who need our help and support the most (such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need).</p> <p>Unfortunately, it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do. This includes providing services that we are not legally required to. Garden waste collection is one of them.</p> <p>If the proposed new charge is agreed it will be an opt-in service. You will not have to pay the charge if you do not wish to have garden waste collected and we would encourage you to compost garden waste or take it to the Household Recycling Centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe.</p> <p>The £39 a year cost for households that wish to pay for collections in future (£36 for the year for anyone signing up before 27 May 2014) will cover the <i>total</i> cost to the council of collections and waste disposal.</p> <p>I cannot comment specifically on the issue of shared</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
		being enforced.	bins. In these circumstances, there would need to be special arrangements in place locally. Browns bins won't be taken away. Bins "belong" (are allocated) to the house/property and therefore will remain on site.
117	General	<p>Budget (English version)</p> <p>Or Medium Term Financial Strategy (?) in your jargon.</p> <p>Is there an English version, or even better an plain English version that we can read and comment on?</p> <p>Even the council web site page that describes your role is jargon:</p> <p>"John Harrison, is the council's statutory Section 151 Officer"</p> <p>What on earth does that mean to anyone other than a council member or officer? The rest of the page is quite informative for those who haven't lost the will wondering what section 151 is a section of.</p> <p>NAME WITHHELD</p> <p>PS I don't want to know where 'section 151 officer' comes from; I'd like it put in English in the first place</p>	<p>The council works hard to ensure that the documents it publishes are in a suitable format for the public. With this in mind, the council prepares the main budget reports presented to our Cabinet and council meetings in a clear and concise language to explain the accompanying documents that form the medium term financial strategy. The council officers and members are also available for answering any comments that the public may have, particularly on the more technical aspects of the accompanying documents.</p> <p>Given the technical aspects of the documents, and that the council undertakes a consultation on the budget each year, the council publishes an easy to read overview of the budget proposals to enable all interested persons to feedback on the budget. The document can be found here:</p> <p>http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/CouncilAndDemocracy-Budget-Proposals20142015.pdf</p> <p>I note your comment on section 151 officer and use of jargon. To explain, this refers to section 151 of the Local Government Finance Act 1972 which requires the council to have proper arrangements in place to</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>manage its financial affairs.</p> <p>If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>
118	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I notice that the council are discussing whether to charge for brown bin collections. Here are some thoughts - some people will not pay and put their garden waste in their black bin. How much will it cost to bill brown bin users, or will it be added to council tax? Whilst the lorries are out collecting will it waste fuel to only collect a few bins in each area? Hopefully no-one will lose their job.</p> <p>Personally I appreciate brown bin collection - we have a big garden with lots of shrubs and trees, but I won't appreciate people dumping their waste, or adding it to general refuse. Also more should be made of the fact that you sell compost. I would buy it but don't know where you sell it.</p>	<p>We appreciate your feedback on the proposed new paid for garden waste collection service.</p> <p>We are faced with having to make some very difficult decision to close a £19 million gap in our budget. I'm pleased to read that you value the garden waste collection service and have been using it.</p> <p>We thought long and hard before proposing to introduce a charge. However, over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.</p> <p>Despite this, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide service for those who need our help and support the most such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need.</p> <p>Unfortunately, it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do. This includes providing services that we are not legally required to. Garden waste collection is one of them.</p> <p>The brown bin garden waste collection services currently costs the council about £800,000 a year to run.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in fly-tipping after charges are introduced.</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>We would discourage people from using their black bins to dispose of garden waste as this will then go to landfill. If the proposal is agreed and you do not wish to sign up for the new garden waste service we would encourage you to compost garden waste or take it to the Household Recycling Centre in Welland Road, Dogsthorpe.</p> <p>The Household Recycling Centre at Dogsthorpe buy some garden waste from our compost contractor and sell it for £3.50 a bag. It is not a scheme operated by the council. The compost can be bought in bulk from our compost contractor, Organic Recycling, but again this would have to be privately as we do not get involved in those transactions.</p>
119	Garden Waste Collection	<p>I have learnt that the City council is considering charging for the collection of garden waste by brown bins.</p> <p>Although this is apparently at the discretion of the council, as a ratepayer I firmly believe that the Council should continue to offer this service as part of their general service for the benefit of the community. This should continue to be paid for by the general rating system.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments about the proposed charge to take away garden waste.</p> <p>We are faced with having to make some very difficult decisions to close a £19 million gap in our budget. Over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.</p> <p>However, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide services for those who need our help and support the most (such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need).</p> <p>Unfortunately, it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do. This includes providing services that we are not legally required to. Garden waste collection is one of them.</p> <p>If the proposed new charge is agreed it will be an</p>

	Category	Comment	Response
			<p>opt-in service. You will not have to pay the charge if you do not wish to have garden waste collected.</p> <p>More than 100 councils across the country already charge to collect garden waste and research has shown those areas have not seen a significant increase in flytipping or in the amount of waste that goes to landfill after charges were introduced.</p>

Appendix 1b

Additional comments and proposals were also received from one respondent regarding the proposals on closing Children's Centres. These comments along with the response by Cabinet are set out as follows:

Dear Councillor

In preparation for this evening's Full Council meeting, myself and others have prepared an alternative budget. Starting from an assumption of keeping the children's centres open (Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance 2010, p17) we have looked logically at what can be done to keep all fifteen children's centres open in Peterborough.

Firstly, we need to bear in mind there are costs to the current proposals which have not yet been quantified:

- Over time, there will be additional social work costs of dealing with issues later because they are no longer nipped in the bud by children's centres due to restricted access. It costs significantly more to take a child into care than give parenting advice early on.
- Additional staff will be required as more time will be spent on unproductive tasks such as travelling to/from homes as part of outreach rather than time spent working with each family.
- Outreach staff will spend significantly more money on travel due to visiting many more families in their home
- There will be an extra cost to PCC to cover travel costs of those who do not live within walking distance of a hub (as advised by Councillor Sheila Scott)
- There is a contractual cost involved in de-designating the Werrington children's centre of £1464.

We estimate these costs will be in the region of £220k per year, albeit less in the first year, escalating over time.

We believe there are savings to be made, not just at children's centres, but by looking sensibly across the whole budget. We therefore propose:

- Installing solar panels on the roofs of the centres. This will enable electricity costs to be significantly reduced and income from returning electricity to the National Grid. Taking into account installation costs, this should realise in excess of £15k per year
- Charge rent to NHS midwives and Health Visitors for using children's centres premises. They have a statutory duty to provide care, and so should expect to budget for their own overheads. It is possible they may not have bid for it this year but, if given sufficient notice, they will be forewarned to bid for the funding from 2015/16 onwards.
- Vire £500k from the Amey budget. They have a high budget and it is reasonable to expect them to make significant cutbacks on non-essentials. For example, by trimming trees slightly less often, asking more companies to sponsor flowers and bedding plants rather than PCC, and so on.
- Vire £50-100k from the Communications budget. Examples of how this could be done include encourage greater online use; put binding on external publications not

council agenda packs; reduce production costs of glossy pamphlets sent to council tax payers homes (mostly considered junk mail) and replace with a note on council tax bills referring to budget breakdown on website/library

- Save £100k as there will be no need for mitigation costs if all the centres remain open (1hr sessions, P&F Mind, training parents, etc)
- Do not proceed with the £2 million Long Causeway project. This will save £45k in 2014/15 and £130k in 2015/16 onwards in interest payment
- Do not put doors on St Peters Arcade. This is an unpopular decision in any case and an unnecessary expense.
- Do not proceed with the £1.35 million IT data storage project. This will save £81k per year. This is a high risk venture which could prove extremely expensive for PCC. £1.35m is a high cost, and should not cost this much in any case. The technology is not secure enough yet. We recommend PCC do not proceed with this project until the emerging eLaw legislation is brought in 2015/16. Otherwise, PCC could be caught foul of the legislation and have to pay a significant one-off cost in order to comply.
- Raise income through renting children's centres out for hire as breakfast, after school or holiday clubs where they do not already exist, or exist but are not charged rent. We modestly estimate this will raise at least £50k but in reality could raise at least double this.

Further potential income could be generated from charging rent to Job Centre staff, and further private hire, i.e. parties, baby signing, and so on.

Further savings could be obtained by reducing the heating on the upper floors at Bayard Place and Town Hall in addition to other suggestions above.

Additional benefits not quantified here include:

- saving PCC and children's centre staff jobs;
- the potential to create jobs from enterprisers offering out of school clubs;
- reducing the impact of troubled families on families, NHS and education;
- maintaining open access for all under 5's and their parents/guardians. This will meet the need for early years provision for all under 2 year olds and under 3 year olds who do not form part of a low income household;
- maintaining current free or low cost of sessions;
- maintain current low cost or free parent education courses. This will improve parenting skills, especially where parents have had poor role models themselves, or where parents live some distance from their own family.

Over all, we sincerely believe that, where there is a will, there is a way to keep the children's centres open. We are willing to continue to work with council officers and councillors to ensure all the savings are made and centres remain open because we truly believe it will be a mistake to close the centres. If the children's centres are not kept open it will, ultimately, cost families and PCC dearly in the long run.

Yours sincerely

NAME WITHHELD

Save Peterborough's Children's Centres Campaign

Cabinet response

The savings included in the Cabinet's budget proposals for the next 2 years are outlined below. Alternatives would need to match this level of savings:

	2014/15	2015/16
Savings to find		
Net published number	£931,000	£1,181,000
mitigation spend	£100,000	£100,000
total savings from proposals	£1,031,000	£1,281,000

Each of the points raised in the letter are responded to below, along with an update as to whether the savings can be achieved:

	2014/15	2015/16	Cabinet Response
Exit cost	£1,464	£1,464	It should be noted that many of the options listed below (especially Amey) would incur significant costs of change. These have not been taken into account in the response.
Later intervention			The likelihood of incurring additional costs remains unproven. As the letter outlines 'albeit less in the first year'. The Council could not base a budget on such assumptions
Travel/subsistence			The likelihood of incurring additional costs remains unproven. As the letter outlines 'albeit less in the first year'. The Council could not base a budget on such assumptions
Electricity	£15,000	£15,000	No modelling has been undertaken on costs of installation, whether roofs are strong enough to support panels etc. Numbers are modest so not removed at this stage
NHS rental			It remains unlikely that we would be able to charge rental to the health providers. Given financial pressures for partners, then any rental costs would only be met by making savings and potentially reducing services itself. Under the Cabinet proposals, the health services offered at Centres could be maintained.
Amey	£500,000	£500,000	A saving of this level would have a significant impact on the services provided to communities. A summary of this is outlined below: 1. The draft budget for 2014-15 proposes a £1.1m reduction in PCC spend on services provided by Amey (formerly Enterprise Peterborough). This includes c£800k on charging for garden waste and £300k on a range of other areas.

	2014/15	2015/16	Cabinet Response
			<p>2. The major services provided by Amey on behalf of PCC are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste and Recycling • Street Cleansing • Grounds maintenance – parks, trees and open spaces <p>3. Waste and Recycling – the budget currently stands at £3.7m. The council is proposing to charge for garden waste collection which will reduce the net cost by c£800k. Over and above this there is limited room for further immediate savings without a fundamental change in the service provided (eg the withdrawal of food waste collection).</p> <p>4. Street Cleansing – the budget currently stands at £1.8m (street sweeping, litter clearance, bin emptying, graffiti and fly-tip removal, city centre cleansing).</p> <p>5. Grounds Maintenance – the budget currently stands at £1.9m (park maintenance, including Central Park, Itter Park and Bretton Park, bowling greens, grass-cutting, tree maintenance, wildlife, bedding and shrub maintenance, upkeep of ponds, ditches, maintenance of play areas and sports pitches, cemeteries and the crematorium).</p> <p>6. The combined budgets for street cleansing and grounds maintenance are £3.7m. This will be reduced by c£300k in 2014/15 as a result of proposals already included in the budget. This includes a move to a 3 weekly grass cutting regime and a shift to a lower maintenance regime by replacing flowerbeds with shrubs.</p> <p>7. A further saving of £0.5m on the remaining £3.4m equates to c15%. To achieve this level of saving would require a significant reduction in the service specified for both service areas. The potential impact is summarised below:</p> <p><u>Street cleansing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly reduced frequency and intensity of street sweeping and litter collection - moving from daily, twice-weekly, weekly rounds to at best weekly and more widely fortnightly or even less (Millfield would move from a twice-weekly cleanse to fortnightly) • Reductions in the provision of 'bring-bank' sites (for recycling) and, in parallel, a reduction in fly-tip collection - we would be dependent on people using the paid-for service • Reducing the intensity of cleansing in the City Centre (Cathedral Square) -

	2014/15	2015/16	Cabinet Response
			<p>increasing the visible detritus of chewing gum, pigeon faeces etc.</p> <p><u>City Centre</u> These proposals could have a very visible negative impact in terms of the cleanliness of neighbourhoods and the standard of Cathedral Square.</p> <p><u>Parks, trees and open spaces</u> Revisit our ambitions re desirability of Green Flag status for major parks and make city-wide savings on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grass-cutting, • litter collection, • shrubs, borders and seasonal bedding as well as bowling greens etc. <p>A very significant visible impact on the quality (attractiveness and experience) of our parks, as would include mothballing putting and bowling greens; not tending the grass to the same standard and having plain/grassed-over borders rather than attractive blooms and shrub-beds and borders; across the city, grass verges could be moved to a six-weekly cycle, with litter-picking alongside, rather than the new, proposed three-weekly cycle; we could also relax the shrub-cutback and shelter belt regimes to the minimum required for health and safety purposes (feedback from the ward walks has been to move in the opposite direction).</p>
Communications	£20,000	£20,000	<p>The level of saving claimed could not be achieved from the approach suggested.</p> <p>The Council sends one leaflet to all households with the council tax bill. As well as information the bill, it includes information relating to services, as well as information from partners such as Police and Fire. Advertising is secured to minimise the cost, which is currently around £20,000. The Council could cease the leaflet entirely and put the information on the website, however that would potentially disadvantage those who cannot access the Web.</p> <p>With regards to Council papers, We are already working towards not printing Council documents with Cabinet using an on-line app. Public attending do need copies though. The total budget is £26k, so savings from stopping binding on a handful of items would be minimal.</p>

	2014/15	2015/16	Cabinet Response
			The saving from stopping the council tax leaflet is included
Mitigation	£100,000	£100,000	
Long Causeway	£45,000	£130,000	This project would continue the works undertaken as part of public realm to cathedral square and Bridge Street. These works have been successful in attracting new business into the City (Carluccio's, patisserie Valerie, Wildwood etc) Despite this, it remains a choice open to the Council so is included.
St Peters Arcade			External doors will not be put on the arcade
IT data storage			A one-off capital investment is required to replace our Town Hall-based servers to a data centre out of the city that is hosted by an external provider. This will improve the efficiency of our systems, provide a level of disaster recovery that we currently do not have, reduce the costs of expensive weekend maintenance and maximise the level of flexibility that our staff have to work across the city. This will generate revenue savings in future years. If the Council did not undertake this project, it would have to undertake works within the town hall server room, including replacing the servers, that would cost more.
Hire	£50,000	£50,000	
Total	£731,464	£816,464	
Shortfall	£299,536	£464,536	

On this basis, even if the Council could accept the significant implications of the Amey savings proposals, then the alternatives would be in excess of £400,000 short of the required savings levels.

Appendix 2



BRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairperson

Councillor Catherine Lee
46 Benland
Bretton
Peterborough
PE3 8EB
Tel: 01733 263019

Clerk to the Council

Bernard Champness
Parish Offices
Unit 2 Pyramid Centre
Bretton, Peterborough
PE8 8NY
Tel 01733 263019
brettonparishcouncil@btconnect.com

3/03*

05 March 2014

Peterborough City Council,
Town Hall
Bridge Street
Peterborough
PE1 1HF

Dear Cabinet members of Peterborough City Council

Bretton Parish Council has gone through the Budget papers as shown on the Peterborough City Council Website. We wish to highlight six concerns that we would like Peterborough City Council to look at again, to remove these proposals from the Budget and find savings and extra resources elsewhere.

1) Withdraw in its entirety the proposals to close and change Children's Centres and their services

2) Withdraw the proposal to charge extra for brown Bin Garden waste collections. This could increase incorrect disposal, dumping and burning.

3) Withdraw the proposal to reduce the grant to Parish Councils

4) Oppose reduced grass cutting from cutting to a specific length to 3 weekly cuts which even involves the Council to purchase New Cutting machines to cope with the extra length!

5) Oppose the move to change Trees and Woodlands inspections from 5 year to 7 year inspections.

6) Oppose the proposal to stop providing the "weekly Groundsman" on any City Council operated pitches which would mean Sports Clubs would have to take full responsibility for facilities and pitches before, during and after matches which would affect viability and finances of Sports Clubs. Both the local leagues and all clubs are particularly concerned that insurance costs will rise, teams will not maintain changing facilities, key collection and return arrangements will become an issue and responsibility for damage to equipment and premises will be placed on club management and players.

Yours Sincerely

Bernard Champness

Clerk to Bretton Parish Council

Cabinet response:

Thank you for your comments which have been included in the report to Full Council.

Just to put the proposed budget into context: we are faced with having to make some very difficult decisions to close a £19 million gap in our finances. Over five years we will have lost £40 million of our government funding.

However, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to provide services for those who need our help and support the most (such as the elderly and vulnerable and families in need).

Unfortunately, it means we cannot continue to do everything we currently do. We are having to take some tough decisions and have given the budget proposals very careful consideration.

Appendix 3 – Connect Group

Extract of Minutes of Connect Group Meeting – 14 February 2014

Attendees : Gillian Beasley, Adrian Chapman (1st hour), Paul Ballard, Sister Mary Clare Mason, Mark Jackson, Clive Morton, Steven Pettican (1st hour), Revd Lesley Moseley, Simon Machen (item 3.4 only), Sarah Swift (minutes)

No	Item
4.	<u>Major Policy Items</u>
4.1	<p>PCC Budget 2014/15 :</p> <p>GB advised that consultation on the Cabinet’s budget proposals for 2014/15 had commenced on 3 February, would be taken to Cabinet on 24 February and agreed at Full Council on 5 March. She then gave an overview and mains points were discussed as follows :</p> <p>Commitments : GB pointed out there were currently no mention of Health and Wellbeing functions which PCC assumed responsibility for last year and confirmed these will be integrated.</p> <p>City Achievements : It was agreed that despite budget pressures, good things are still happening within the City such as much improved GCSE results and the creation of 3500 jobs.</p> <p>Settlement 2014/15 & 2015/16 : GB explained that the grant for the coming year is £9m less than the current year due in main to the economy not performing as well as the Government had expected. The main concern is for 2015/16 as the Council will be approximately £11.5m worse off than had been forecast when budget planning started. Ultimately this equates to a £44m reduction over a 5 year period.</p> <p>AC commented that the cuts made had been uniform across all Local Authorities with no account taken of their capacity for investment and growth.</p> <p>Pressures : Main pressures relate to Government changes in provision for adults with learning disabilities in residential care and the funding of long term social care.</p> <p>Capital Investment on Key Projects: The main area of investment is for the provision of new school places over the next 2 years (£45m). GB confirmed that Peterborough has some of biggest ‘in year’ entrants in the country.</p> <p>Scale of the financial challenge : GB confirmed that Local Authorities cannot legally have a deficit and it’s critical the Council look at how resources are used across the City.</p> <p>Efficiencies : Main areas being considered are -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformation and modernisation of Adult Social Care – the current approach is quite traditional and need to move forward from this • Attempting to reduce education support services by encouraging peer support • Reducing costs of Looked After Children by recruiting our own foster carers as opposed to paying the huge costs associated with using agencies. GB confirmed a recent promotional campaign had generated a lot of positive interest • Having a more joined up approach to Public Health services • Looking at ways of reducing support costs provided by Serco • Reduction in funding to Vivacity by supporting them to bring in external funding and

Appendix 4 – Additional Survey Results

Survey Monkey

Since the last report a further sixteen people have responded to the budget survey on www.peterborough.gov.uk/budget and comments were made as follows:

- Twenty one commented on the brown bin proposal including concerns it would increase flytipping and landfill, it was a backward step for the Environmental Capital bid and it would increase costs to the council
- Several commented that they would prefer to see council tax rise – ranging up to 4%

How else could the council balance its books? There were a number of suggestions which included:

Increase council tax

Dispense/reduce external consultancy expenditure

Entice councillors who could manage additional work themselves

Heavy fines for dog fouling

Stop funding projects such as the water fountains

Scrap the food waste collection service

Stop producing newsletters/leaflets

Reduce IT costs

Cancel free Wi-fi in the city

Ban overtime

Be more commercially aware

Scrap extra lane on Fletton Parkway/improvements to Long Causeway/Bourges Boulevard

More redundancies/reduce salaries

Merge departments

Collect bad debts

Should council tax be frozen?

A total of 14 people said council tax should be frozen and 11 said it should not. Three respondents did not answer the question.

If the council tax was increased by the Government's current two per cent threshold – what should the council invest the extra £500,000 it would generate.

Ignore government and double increase to four per cent

Retain free brown bin collections

Retain support for children's centres

Reverse some of the cuts

Improve roads

Improve waste facilities

Any other suggestions

Summarise the budget cuts to a couple of pages not 63 so it's easier to understand

Charge extra for parking and services used by people outside of Peterborough

Ensure cabinet members are mixed and experienced professionals

Freeze councillors expenses

Reduce number of councillors

End cabinet system

Scrap the food waste service

Keep brown bins for the disabled

Get Ikea to Peterborough

Create More jobs

No more projects such as the Cathedral Square fountains

Reduce spend on projects

Ensure future developments consider cost of children's school places and roads

Appendix 4

	Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?	If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?	Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?
37	I strongly disagree with the proposal to charge for Garden Waste Brown Bin collections and the fact that you are proposing to charge for the collection of one bin but if you have 2 or 3 brown bins there will be no additional charge, surely this is another case of the rich who have large gardens & need 3 brown bins getting the best deal.	Why are Tax Payers like myself paying to improve a stand at the football ground this is totally an unessential service and if anything should be privatised to raise money and save costs the football ground would be an obvious choice. Also why in times of budget cut are the council wasting money on city centre so called improvements, water fountains! what was wrong with the flower beds and after all the time and money spent on bridge street it does not really look much different.	Yes		My only other comment is if you are really trying to gather public opinions, why attach a 63 page document that some people my find difficult to understand when you could summaries the budget cuts and changes to services in a couple of pages.
38	I would prefer to see council tax to rise.	I would like to see council tax rise by 4percent and redundancies to be made amongst traffic enforcement officers. I would axe all allowances for cabinet members and councillors.	No	No I would double the increase to 4 percent and take no notice of a weak minority government	Charge additional for parking and services for people who travel into Peterborough from outside the area. Council tax is much cheaper in Lincolnshire and elsewhere.If they come here to work or shop etc they should pay additional charges.

	Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?	If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?	Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?
39	yes				
40	Yes	Protect and growth in essential services such as education, elderly & children's facilities. Additionally dispense with fantasy programmes disguised as 'Biodiversity' which only serve to cut essential service costs. Completely dispense with external consultancy expenditure, instead recruiting professionally qualified and experienced personnel, enact a programme to entice suitably qualified people to become city councillors who will be able to manage additional work themselves rather than relying on external professionals.	Yes		Ensure that cabinet positions are from mixed and experienced professionals to protect the community from singular political party decision making, failing this revert to a city council without a cabinet ensuring all councillors residents voices are taken into account when making decisions.
41	The introduction of charges for brown bin collection would be a retrograde step for a city that styles itself as an "Environment Capital"	You will finish up paying just as much to clear up the extra flytipped waste and monitoring the use of brown bins so you won't need to do anything instead.	No	Retain brown bin collections. Retain support for child day care centres. Anyway, who says it needs to be as much as 2%? 2% is a MAXIMUM figure. Even 1% (i.e. below inflation) would help, yet be more acceptable.	Ensure there are no more vanity projects in future, e.g. the Cathedral Square fountains which are a complete waste of taxpayers' money and caused significant disruption during their construction.

	Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?	If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?	Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?
42	Yes, the proposal to charge for collection of brown bins is ludicrous. The income generated will be insignificant. I for one will use the black bin, if others do likewise Landfill will increase with a consequent increase in costs to the council. Do the stated costs of the service take in to account the income generated from compost produced or the savings to the council avoiding purchase of compost for parks and landscaping generally.	Look at the unintended consequences of your actions. brown bin charges = increase in landfill costs. reduced highway spend = increased accidents and compensation claims, higher insurance premiums.	No	avoiding reductions in rural bus services, and reinstating the ones cut last year. Other similar services vital to sustainable rural communities and affecting the vulnerable / elderly of those communities	no
43	do not charge for the brown bin		Yes		
44			No		
45	Brown Bin Collection should be free! - Failure to do so will no doubt increase the amount of fly tipping and hence cost PCC more in the long run.	Suggest the council leader' is much more realistic with his 'big ideas'	Yes		

	Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?	If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?	Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?
46	I fear if charges are made for garden bins, refuse bins will be used instead creating more landfill.	Heavy fines for dog fouling.could volunteers do that? Use volunteers to work alongside your employed staff in parks and flowerbed planting,it's being done in other towns.	No	To continue funding some of the very necessary services you may have to cut.	Not at the moment. Good luck.
47	The proposal to charge for brown bin collection is outrageous ! This service was introduced by you and now you want to charge for it ! This is just yet another tax by another means.	Stop spending money on stupid things like water fountains in the town centre that are never switched on!!! an no one wanted in the first place. Reduce consultancy expenditure Enhance the awful household waste transfer centre so it is actually useable like in other towns thus reducing the reliance on the bin collections in the first place.	Yes		Simply one! for once actually listen to the feedback give by residents, fiascos like the water fountains in the town that the public opinion on was negative towards but was pushed through anyway degrades your tax payers confidence and willingness to adapt to change driven by cost savings that should not need to be found it money was not wasted in this way.

	Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?	If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?	Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?
48	I am opposed to charging for the collection of brown recycling bins. This is a stealth tax and must be avoided.	Do away with councillor and cabinet members allowances Reduce the numbers of parking wardens. Charge people living outside the city to come into it by having dual charges for all council services. Sell council land that is not being used Increase council tax by 3%	No	In reversing some or any of the cuts	That the Cities two Conservative MP's.a Conservative Council pressurise the Tory dominated government to give Peterborough special status. Social deprivation is growing and increasing and nothing is being done to address it despite all the rhetoric.
49	I will not be paying for a brown bin. All my garden waste will either be dumped on the field outside my house or will be put in the black bin, and I will burn my brown bin in a public place.		Yes		
50	Charging for brown bin collection is false economy - it will increase fly tipping and lead to more mess and a poorer quality environment - costing more than it will generate	Cut communication costs such as leaflets and newsletters.	No	Keeping brown bin collection	
51	I'm stunned by the proposal to charge for brown bin collections and				

	Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?	If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?	Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?
	<p>the assertion that black bin (landfill) waste would not go up as a result. Common sense would suggest that this is highly unlikely and I question survey findings that say otherwise. If you want to increase costs for waste services, charge for black bin waste going to landfill. My neighbour who recycles nothing will be wholly unaffected by a brown bin charge!! To charge for recycling services is utterly illogical and sends a bizarre message.</p>				
52	<p>paying for brown bin collection</p>	<p>The waste you do not collect in brown bins will end up in the black bins and go to land fill attracting land fill tax. Scrap the waste food collection service instead in our close only 3 or 4 homes use it any way but we all use the brown bin.</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>scrap the waste food collection service its a waste of effort. get IKEA to build an outlet in Peterborough. Create jobs and folks coming to the City.</p>

	Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?	If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?	Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?
53	The move away from day centres for the elderly, and forcing them to use public transport shows how little compassion is involved in your decisions. In the same area you talk of the need to tackle loneliness and isolation yet these cost savings will cause an increase in both. It seems the council is keen to spend money on internal IT projects for its staff yet	Reduce expenses of IT projects, charge Peterborough Football Club regardless of its income or ensure they pay the money back when the ground is fully open again, cut consultancy fees, ban overtime, be more commercial in your outlook.	No	By ensuring you serve the people of the city - reverse those proposals impacting elderly day centres, transport costs, Hydrotherapy pool.	Ensure that for all future developments, people costs such as elderly residents, children's school places, and road costs etc are properly costed and charged - sustainable development and growth is the only way forward. for too long vanity for being a growing city has impacted on the existing residents - our quality of life is reducing in this city.

	<p>Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?</p>	<p>If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?</p>	<p>Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?</p>	<p>Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?</p>	<p>Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?</p>
	<p>it reduces key services to the people it serves, which gives the impression of a self serving organisation. In terms of the re-development of Peterborough football club - if we are subsidising them whilst the ground is re-developed, can you advise why there is no benefit to us in future years? A football club is a commercial interest and as a resident I have no idea why I am being asked to fund it whilst key servicing impacting vulnerable people are being cut. 7 people will cost £130k each to support in the community (Winterborne reforms). Really?? Can the council explain such a significant cost in more detail? Charge for brown bin collection. So we have</p>				

	Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?	If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?	Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?
	gone from a council extolling its green credentials to one that is happy for residents to burn, dump, place in black bins, green waste. Unbelievable. I'd be ashamed of this budget - it harms the people and environment of Peterborough. £100 on railings for the market - really??? Who makes up these numbers for you?				
54	I think I'd like to make loads, sadly the proposals are impossible to follow for anyone who didn't write them	Stop all spending on vanity city centre projects Cancel the 'free' city centre wifi Amongst many others	No	Making the roads and pavements safe to use	Write the proposals in plain English Make sure people don't have to search for the original proposals to see what the amendment is Stop wasting my money

	Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?	If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?	Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?
55	Refuse collection - i understand this could incorporate a charge for brown bin collection. i would like to point out that a considerable amount of garden rubbish that goes into my brown bin is the debris from the trees on council land at the back of my property. I will object to paying the council to take away its own rubbish especially as i have contacted the council in the past to request that the height of their trees be reduced and which they have refused to do.				
56		yes	Yes		freeze all councillors expenses until they are published and agreed by the council tax payers of peterborough

	Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?	If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?	Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?
57	Yes, the proposed brown bin charge. I am conscious that garden waste provides you with an income stream. Waste collection is one of the fundamental roles of municipal organisations and we already pay a large sum of money to the council	I understand that the policy of the council is to spend as much as possible. The budget must be considered in terms of it all coming from taxpayers pockets. The council needs to ensure that its administration is efficient and cost effective.	Yes		
58	Do not agree with a fee for brown bin collections and will not pay it. The answer is black bag rubbish and put it in the black bin.	Perhaps costs could be reduced by a freeze, or even a reduction, on councillors expenses.	Yes		Reduce the number of councillors, there are far too many.
59	INCREASE COUNCIL TAX	INCREASE COUNCIL TAX	Yes		SELL THE FOOTBALL GROUND

	Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?	If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?	Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?
60	Charging for garden waste is ridiculous. It will cause increase dumping & possibly increase costs further. We get very little for our council tax as it is.	Staff redundancies & better procurement processes. Scrap the additional lanes on the Felton parkway. The traffic really isn't that bad. Scrap the so called 'improvements' to long causeway & bourges blvd - if they are as bad as cathedral square it is yet further waste of tax payer money. Moyes end stand should be paid for by the club not the tax payer. It will not benefit the vast majority of resident.	Yes		A significant reduction in the number of councillors.
61	I agree paying £4 per month for the collection of brown bins But do not expect an increase in council tax.	Cut the income for anyone being paid more than the Prime Minster that position runs the country not just a small area such as Peterborough.	Yes	As I said before, cut incomes that pay more than the Prime Minster.	Cut back spending council tax payers on useless and wasteful projects.

	Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?	If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?	Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?
62	I do not agree to the charge for the brown bin collection. Despite what you report I am certain that most people will simply put their lawn mowings etc amongst the rest of their normal waste in the grey bin. Unless someone is going to pick through it how can you say there has been little evidence of this not increasing in areas where the charge has already been introduced	Merge more departments to reduce barriers between them and senior management posts. Increase the council tax slightly. It is un-realistic to believe the same service can always be provided for less. Freezing the council tax continue longer.	No	Waste facilities - such as the inadequate site at Dogsthorpe where cars can hardly turn at the end and refuse phase to be lifted up steps and by continuing the brown bin collection otherwise a lot of this waste will just end up hidden amongst the grey bin waste	If the Dogsthorpe site was larger and better laid out it would be used more. Take a look at the facility in Carnforth, in North Lancashire. It is excellent and makes Dogsthorpe look very poor indeed.
63	Abolish council tax support for the disabled.	Increase council tax for those able bodied.	No	To finance the abolition of council tax support for the unemployed disabled.	Keep the brown bin for the disabled, how else can they dispose of garden waste ?

	Are there any comments you'd like to make about any of the proposals?	If you do not agree with any of the proposals tell us what you think we could do instead to balance our books?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen?	Do you agree that council tax should be frozen? - If no, where would you suggest we invest the extra £500,000 generated by increasing council tax by the government's current two per cent threshold?	Are there any other suggestions you would like to make?
64	Brown bin collection should remain free if not waste will be put in grey bins and disposed of in other ways.	Collect your bad debts. There are so much money tha you have not collected. In any household the first thing you do if you need money is collect your debts. That is common sense why does so many people owe the council money. All you need to do is fet in touch by phone and negotiate when payments will be made then the council will not be in such trouble.	Yes		Budgets on departments should be reviewed and then money will not be wasted, at the end of the financl year. Common sense is what is needed.

Appendix 5

Subject	Scrutiny	Survey Results	Connect Group	Communities & Cohesion Board	Joint Commissioning Forum	Union	Youth Council	Voluntary Sector	Greater Peterborough Partnership	Parish Council	Disability Forum	Other Respondents	Total
Garden Waste Collection	9	31								1		81	122
General	11	27	2	4	1	3	1	4	2	2	1	48	106
Council tax	1	58				1			1			3	64
St Georges Hydrotherapy Pool	6	16								1	1	11	35
Children's Centres	7	6	1		1			1				3	19
Garden Waste Collection and Council Tax												15	15
Capital Programme	3											8	11
Garden Waste Collection and General												10	10
Adult Social Care	4	1	1		1						1	1	9
Community Leadership Fund	6											2	8
Renewables									1	1	1	3	6
5 or less comments	4	5	1	0	0	2	0	3	1	2	2	16	38
Grand Total	52	145	5	4	3	6	1	8	5	7	6	201	443