

Additional Information – Council Budget Papers

The budget consultation formally closed on Monday 20 February 2012 which is after the date Full Council papers were published, in order to give people the maximum time to respond. This paper therefore provides Council with the responses received after the Cabinet meeting on Friday 10th February 2012.

A further 14 comments have been made through 7 respondents and these can be found from page two of this document.

In total there were 187 comments made through 48 respondents and consultation events. All responses received during the budget consultation process, and the responses given, can be found within the Full Council documents (pages 206 - 250) and at the end of this document.

The following table gives a summary of the comments received on the budget proposals, along with the source of the comment.

Area	Scrutiny	Neighbourhood Councils	Parish Council	Disability Forum	Greater Peterborough Partnership	Other (Email / letters/ petitions)	Business Briefing	Churches Together	Union	Youth Council	Social Landlords	Voluntary Sector
School Crossing Services	0	16	1	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diamond Jubilee / Olympic Torch / Christmas Lights	4	2	0	0	0	9	1	1	0	0	0	0
Council Tax	0	2	0	0	0	6	0	1	1	0	0	0
Invest to Save	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants to Parish Councils	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fewer than four comments per area	25	14	5	2	3	11	0	3	0	1	1	4
General comments not affecting the budget	12	3	4	2	0	8	1	3	0	3	0	4
TOTAL	44	39	22	4	3	51	2	8	1	4	1	8

Budget Responses received after Full Council papers were published

Category	Source	Issue	Responses
Adult Social Care	Email	You're quoted as saying that the proposed increase in our local taxation is "entirely" due to an increase in the cost of adult social care which "came out of the blue" and was "due to a change in demographics". Can you give me some more factual detail about what activities are involved and the reason for having to accept such an increase, please	<p>This issue has been responded to directly including the reference to additional information requested. In summary:</p> <p>All of the budget reports published by Cabinet have included details of the pressures in Adult Social care, and how we intend to deal with them. I attach the extract which should provide you with the additional detail you have requested.</p> <p>Nationally, a combination of an increasingly elderly population, and other adults developing more complex needs, is placing significant pressure on adult social care services. Peterborough is no exception to this, and it is clear that in the last year we have experienced significant increases in demand for our services.</p> <p>To give you an example, at the start of the year around 1,500 older people required our support. Within nine months of this financial year, an extra 200 older people needed our support. This pattern is the same across all client groups. The extra money has been spent providing the support that these vulnerable people need. Where this support is needed, the Council has a statutory duty to provide that care.</p> <p>I hope that this response provides the additional information you needed.</p>
Adult Social Care	Churches Together	Page 37 - Adult social care - I guess there isn't really an adequate answer here, but encouraging people to stay in their homes for longer, can so easily mean that people do not receive the	We note your comment. There is a need to review adult social care services and budgets and detail of this has been included within the budget consultation document. A combination of an increasingly elderly population, with people living longer, and other adults developing more complex needs is placing

Category	Source	Issue	Responses
		care and interaction that they vitally need.	significant pressure on adult social care budgets.
Bridge Maintenance	Churches Together	Page 33 - Lincoln Road footbridge – is this the one that is used by all the kids who used to go to Bretton Woods who now go to The Voyager – how will it impact them?	The Lincoln Road Footbridge is the one used by the children from Bretton who now go to Voyager although the survey results confirm the majority of the children use the signalised pedestrian crossing that was constructed at the time of the closure of Bretton Woods. The survey was undertaken of the usage of both the footbridge and the crossing at the start and end of the school day. In the morning 1 person used the footbridge compared to 145 who used the crossing in the direction of Voyager. Correspondingly in the afternoon 10 people used the footbridge compared to 109 who used the crossing in the direction of Bretton. Thus a well used alternative already exists for the children going to and from the school.
Budget Strategy	Churches Together	I feel that the Council has tried to balance the books as best it can and fully understand why emphasis has been placed on Children's Services and Care for the Elderly. It has always amazed me , that a tree inspection and a TPO comes without a fee as I was prepared to pay when I moved in to 'xx' Lincoln Road !	We note your comment.
Capital Programme	Churches Together	Page 31 If I've understood this correctly, I dread to think of the traffic chaos that will be caused by putting a pedestrian crossing next to one of the busiest roundabouts in Peterborough – and impact on roundabouts in the wider area. Even if it is safer for the pedestrians, which I'm not convinced	This proposal on the replacement of the Bourges Boulevard subway at Russell Street has been discussed at length including the safety issues with the current subway. The council believes that this proposal will improve the anti social behaviour and crime that has occurred at this subway and it will be done in conjunction with traffic management.

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		about because of the road traffic, will it not be more dangerous for the queues of cars trying to get round the roundabout.	
Capital Programme	Churches Together	Page 32 - Disabled facility grants – if they're so valuable, why are they being cut the following year (or is this capital works that will all be done by the end of that year)?	Last year our budgets plans reduced the budgets for Disabled Facilities Grants. We have this year increased the budgets back to the previous level given the pressures in this area.
Capital Programme	Churches Together	Page 32 - Improved facilities at Hampton – welcomed but what, realistically can £100k do? What sustained youthwork is there i.e. ongoing funding of staff costs.	The Council received a petition from young people in Hampton requesting some form of urban sports facility for their area. This has subsequently been reviewed as part of the budget process. This funding has been included within the budget and subsequently consultation with local residents on how this could be used will determine what facilities young people in Hampton will receive.
Council Tax	Email	Rather than increase tax, the Council should look closely at the discretionary spend, by councillors and the staff. We might start by reducing the number of councillors, as there seems to be far too many for the level of responsibility they hold	The level proposed has been discussed at length including the option of taking the cash freeze grant offered by government for those councils freezing council tax in 2012/13. Based on the current budget proposals for 2012/13, we believe that this increase strikes the right balance between investing in our city, delivering efficiencies and keeping council tax as low as possible. Discretionary spend is reviewed as part of setting the budget and proposals that are put forward. Where ever possible the council will look to provide efficiencies rather than service reductions.
Council Tax	Email	Council tax rise??? please don't tell me at this present time you are putting up our council tax when you know full well	The level proposed has been discussed at length including the option of taking the cash freeze grant offered by government for those councils freezing council tax in 2012/13. Based on the

Category	Source	Issue	Responses
		that most of us have a pay freeze what a grabbing council you no most of us are on low pay so we cut down on food or heating for our homes	current budget proposals for 2012/13, we believe that this increase strikes the right balance between investing in our city, delivering efficiencies and keeping council tax as low as possible
Council Tax	Churches Together	Overall, despite the press its had in the ET, the Council's strategy on increasing council tax this year appears to make good sense.	We note your comment.
Council Tax	Unions	A joint Unite / Unison statement was presented to Cabinet at their meeting of 10th February by the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Safety This was supportive of budget strategy and council tax increase	We note your comment.
One Off Events	Churches Together	Page 33 - Olympic Torch / Diamond Jubilee – despite the comments in the ET I would support the need to celebrate and join in national events – which inevitably cost money.	We note your comment.
Residents Parking	Email	What's all this I hear about your plan to raise the prices on Parking Permits? This sounds like a virtual tax on persons actually being allowed to park in front of their own homes: We already have road tax and council tax to pay - without this nonsense. On behalf of the Residents of Alma Road and Waterloo Road I'm going to be objecting to these proposed plans- We can barely even park in front of our	We note your comment and confirm that this proposal is withdrawn from the budget in order that we can carry out a full survey of all our on street parking and residents parking to ensure the right balance is obtained across each of the individual areas.

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		<p>own homes on certain days and evenings as it is. So, if you think you are going to add more onto the already overpriced, and damn greedy parking scheme of yours, you have another think coming: If you need to raise more cash, get your traffic wardens round our locale on a <i>'dates suggested'</i> (evenings and mid days) - you will make a small fortune from enforcing penalties against those who regularly flaunt the permit scheme and are parking haphazardly in the spaces we are already paying a small fortune for!</p>	
Residents Parking	Email	<p>Hello, I hear about your plan to raise the prices on our Parking Permits again ... I live at xx Alma Road, and you know what, often I am unable even to actually park in front of my house, so even having a permit is no guarantee of a space for my car outside of my own home. And you want to put the cost up?? Many of us in Alma Road are <i>'annoyed'</i> about these damn greedy proposals of yours, and we will be doing everything we can to block them.</p>	<p>We note your comment and confirm that this proposal is withdrawn from the budget in order that we can carry out a full survey of all our on street parking and residents parking to ensure the right balance is obtained across each of the individual areas.</p>