

Consultation Feedback

- 1.1. This document contains:
- A summary of consultation responses received to date
 - A list of all consultation responses received to date.

Consultation Response

- 1.2. This note contains all Phase 1 Consultation responses received as at 20 November 2017. A summary of the 28 responses received to date is given in this section.
- 1.3. **Question 1** - 7 respondents answered question 1 which was '*Do you have any comments to make about the first round budget proposals?*'

Response	Number of Responses
Positive	3
Neutral	8
Negative	13
Total	24

- 1.4. **Question 2** – Respondents were asked, after having read the consultation document, how much they understood the Council's proposals. Answers can be broken down as follows:

Response	Number of Responses
A great deal	6
A fair amount	16
Not very much	2
Nothing at all	3
Blank	1
Total	28

- 1.5. **Question 3** – Of the 28 responses received, 23 answered question, which was '*If you have any specific ideas about how the council can save money and protect services, please state these here:*'. A list of subjects raised is given below.

Response Theme
Council Tax Increase
Officer Pay and Councillor Allowances
Sale of property and use of empty properties
Homelessness and Temporary accommodation
Reduction in spending
System Efficiency

Feedback from the Budget Conversation Survey

1.6. The table below details the feedback received from the online survey and cabinet responses

	Do you have any comments to make about the first phase budget proposals?	Having read the phase one proposals document, how much do you now feel you understand about why the council must make total savings of almost £24million in 2018/19 and almost £40million by 2020/21?	If you have any specific ideas about how the council can save money or generate additional income to protect services, please state these here:
1	Think they need to looked at again.	Not very much	Look at the top and go down. do we really need to pay a chief exec the current amount.
2	Council tax should not go up 5% only 2%. I am an O A P and my income does not go up. If you knew how to run a business what you should do is get all your debts in. You do not follow up debts just write them off. It is disgusting.	Not very much	Get in money owed, ring up people and arrange payments monthly. How many car fines etc are not paid.
54 3	Making cuts in public health is ridiculous. Having good public health campaigns helps reduce admission to hospital. It encourages people to consider even starting to look and make changes to one health.	A fair amount	You can't turn the clock back. Council tax should never of been frozen in the past. If this was kept to 1 or 2% you wouldn't have some of the issues you have now. Need to start investment in services not cut backs. Lack of social care causes further admission to hospital. Don't spend money on fancy products. Like westgate. That money can be ploughed back into much needed services. looking at more economical and better tendering services for the planned crossing by Rhubarb bridge and just not going with Skasna.
4	Look for excuses for raising taxes instead of looking for savings. In the next election find another job- you are thieves!!!		liquidate the corruption in the city council
5		A fair amount	Pay councillors less

6	<p>Would be nice to have the comparison alongside this budget vs. the last one to see the difference.</p>	<p>A fair amount</p>	<p>Sell land to build on. There's a lot of land near Castor that would be ideal.</p>
7	<p>Every year people like me who don't have her own house who have salary around 18000 annual , who have family , are experiencing continuous increases .This situation when you cannot buy something for child because ,you need to choice or buy food or pay bills. Because this is how life begins to look like, you have to choose wisely. Prices in stores are rising, energy prices are rising, fuel is rising, children are growing and clothes for them do not become cheaper or even grow with them . And now Council expecting that we will be pay more . Then why I pay tax in my income . Now is the time to think about how to stop squeezing people out of money . Maybe you need stop investing on something . People are tired . Very tired .</p>	<p>Nothing at all</p>	<p>First look on your spending, first try sell some buildings or places they stand empty or not used . It may be time for families or children to become interested in their parents' fate .</p>
5 8	<p>There is a lot of detail and it's not easy to 'see the woods for the trees'; that is without spending a good deal of time assessing each element. A major drain on resources appears to be the increase in homelessness. In addressing this, the Council will no doubt give as much attention to the causes as to the effects; that is on the basis that a study of the former can be done with intention to solve / remove, and the latter from compassion on the affected.</p>	<p>A fair amount</p>	<p>The Council could combine with other Councils around the country to address to Government the evident deficiencies surrounding entitlement of the ordinary person to hold decent accommodation securely. Security may come with ownership of land / property as one method, but an increasing number cannot afford the deposit attaching to such method. It should not be beyond wit of those assuming authority on behalf of the greater whole to come up with another method of secure holding of property and a roof over one's head [Assured Shorthold Tenancy (AST) in the hands of private landlords not - from the budget graphs - being a good 'other method']. Suggestion is made that Councils (including Peterborough) advocate upon Government, and urge acceptance - between themselves as Councils Together Making Common Cause for Reducing Homelessness, the imposition of a LAND TAX, annually taxing land (and thereby any property sitting upon it) so long as that land is characterised by being held for purposes of private speculation out of use, or not</p>

56			<p>sensibly developed for use; and that such tax be graduated from high to lower level on the basis that the longer any assured tenancy is granted to any tenant by whatever private landlord is involved, the lower the tax will be the longer the tenancy term. If any landlord is not able to accept such tax (whether for long or short tenancy), and seeks to dispose of / sell his property to escape the tax, then the relevant Council should have right of first refusal to pay off that landlord to reduced reasonable extent, take over the land / property, and let it out at sensible rate, imposing instead the tax on the tenant who could stay therein for however long as the taxes and associated services are paid, the tenant being under obligation to maintain the property in good condition (who would through the entire conception have real interest in staying resident and keeping the property up to standard). In this embracing way, longer tenancies would arise and tax / income would arise for the relevant Council and community. It is to be supposed that that local Councils cannot raise such a tax - but with the problems recited in the budget proposals being no doubt typical of other Councils besides Peterborough, any sensible Councillor should be willing to unionise effort through working with other area and city Councils to rebel against the notion that poverty of an unfortunate group in our midst is part and parcel of life. It is an abhorrence to be addressed instead of trying to budget for it as if it were part of the nature of community life.</p>
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9	As long as my CT bill is reduced I'm not fussed.	A great deal	Cut every service. Do away with the council. You can't expect CT payers to keep on funding rubbish schemes.
10	Is it fair to ask residents to pay extra for homeless/ unemployed when they themselves rely on us to pay their dues. Someone needs to walk around the town centre on any given weekday to see the extent of the problem. Surely some effort should be made to re employ them and not expect us to pay.	A fair amount	Employ the homeless/unemployed to clean the town as recompense for the house we are paying for, thereby saving on street cleaning etc
57 11	It's good to see some areas recognised as valuable and under resourced, like Environmental Health who keep the food we eat safe, but I think there is insufficient focus on the broad inefficiencies in many areas - for example the process for mileage claims relies on form filling, printing, unhelpful rejections for bureaucratic reasons and wasted officer time that costs much more than the claim. Changing systems to be more efficient rather than losing staff should be the focus.	A fair amount	Change inefficient systems.
12	The Council is stuck between a rock and a hard place.	A fair amount	
13	I do not feel that this council who are mostly the same as the Government Conservatives. are not making this situation clear to them and requesting more. This country is not Broke we give so much to countries abroad, not those affected by Natural Disasters. But others who are not in as much need. We give Billions and then we are told we have to cut back. fight for yourselves and your residents who are constantly being told we have to cut back.	A fair amount	Get it from central government cut back what we are giving in to those who are not in dire need. Otherwise put our Rates up!!!

14	I don't agree with council tax increase!	A fair amount	
58 15	<p>firstly, budget by your means. secondly, prioritise - what is NEEDED and what is "WANTED". but thirdly, with regard to homelessness, the stats show this is due to short hold tenancies and people unable to afford "private market". I am curious as to whether the council have looked in detail at the costs of increasing housing benefit for those who are willing to go through a private landlord? i feel this could be a cheaper alternative to buying many houses at market price. It seems right now, savings are needed and while people live in poverty council tax will continue to rise forcefully by 4.99% each year just to avoid that referendum knowing the council would lose. Why can the council choose where money is spent and at times "wasted" BUT the families you hit with £50 PLUS on an increased council tax bill have no choice? If the families you are hitting with these increases are already struggling, you could potentially make them homeless, make them ill and force MORE strain on your own systems. Personally i believe your budget is flawed and is a massive vicious circle. Also your stats suggest council tax in Peterborough is LOW but in brackets for band D - so basically the rich gets cheaper rates? makes sense?</p>	A fair amount	<p>Increase housing benefit for those who will accept private rented accommodation, this will remove the strain on higher payments for "short term emergency accommodation", it will also cut the waiting list for social housing. Increase council tax for the "band D" properties since you like to brag they get a cheap deal. PRIORITISE.....what is more important? Budget to what you say you can afford. Get criminals cleaning roads, fixing pot holes etc that will save some money. and so many other things but I wrote most in the top box.</p>
16	The report should be available in simple bullet point formats to say exactly where the savings will be so that it is accessible to all.	A fair amount	<p>Stop sending out bailiffs to people who cannot afford council tax in the first place never mind the increased fees added on each time you instruct. Work with this people and find out their situation, work with their landlords, provide support. Stop being evasive and elusive to those vulnerable people who are entitled to extra help. If it were offered in the first place, court costs and admin costs would be avoided. Help those who are living on the streets connect with family and friends to help them recover and get off the streets. Give them access to an address so they can claim benefits and be given a chance to start again. Work better with the housing associations to find out from the people working with</p>

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			tenants what the real issues are. Help people get back into work. Govern work agencies so they must offer a minimum amount of work so it makes work pay
17	As an Organisation instead of telling us ur financial restrictions etc. We pay your high salaries to INFORM us on What PCC is doing with Our money; e.g. where are then new Council Houses for rent or the Care Homes to ease PCH pressures-we know there r insufficient council houses but why aren't u providing more instead of paying private hotels etc to temporarily house ppl & why aren't there more social care places in this Fast expanding City??	A fair amount	Put money into Solving CURRENT homes for rent & social care places PROBLEMS.
18		A fair amount	
19	I think the proposals are clear and reflect the fact that whilst Peterborough is a small Local Authority, it has a very diverse and challenging population which has become increasingly difficult to provide cost effective services.	A great deal	I think we should consider how staff best use their time particularly in the joint working across Peterborough & Cambridgeshire. We need less travel and more innovative ways to hold meetings which are focused on key outcomes/actions
20	i have read the proposals but am still unclear exactly how sor where savings will be made	A fair amount	Adult Social Care: reduce use of locum staff - triage referrals and requests for assessments and work smarter with colleagues so that work is not duplicated or done unnecessarily
21	I would like to know, because I leave the house every day to work, I have to every year, take more money from my pocket, to help many people who do not want to work, say that there is no job here is a lie, I I'm a foreigner, I've been in England for 10 years, even without speaking English correctly, I've never been without a job and I stopped paying my bills on time. If I have a lot of English I can also, in the place I work, Amazon always needs people to work with. I do not have salary increase, because every year I have to decrease my	Nothing at all	It puts the healthy people to work, instead of giving money for free, to pay the bills, as the government does. In case this will once again come out of my pocket, I go out to work every day.

	consumption power, to pay Social Care and etc. This is the government's problem, not mine.		
22	There was no mention of funding from the new Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough or was that under a different name?	A fair amount	If the council has properties that are raising income then does it have properties not being used, which could be suitable for temporary accommodation? It seems ridiculous that the council is paying an extortionate amount housing families etc... in hotels. Perhaps seek advice from Shelter, YMCA, Hope into Action.
23	Keep raising the council tax is not going to solve the problem, you need to stop wasting money on failed projects and pointless expenses that cost money.	Nothing at all	reduce the pay of Chief Executives.
24	Increase above 5% to protect services	A great deal	Increase council tax by 10% and yes I do pay council tax
25	A 5% increase of council tax needs to be seriously thought about. You wish to tackle the problem of the homeless yet an increase will be a cause of further cases not a solution. Families are struggling to pay costs currently, and this will further hinder their efforts. Costs are going up everywhere related to household bills. You will be seeing more cases of depression, ill health as people go without heating, individuals contemplating suicide, families splitting up as the financial strain takes its toll - and these are to name but a few!	A fair amount	
26		A great deal	
27		A great deal	
28	At some point, homeowners will be just unable to pay council tax	A great deal	1)Time to give up on the Unitary authority and consolidate back into Cambridgeshire County Council to gain economies of scale. 2) buy homeless people/immigrants one way tickets out of County. 3) stop all discretionary spending