

Appendix I

Update on Budget consultation February 2018

Brent Connects

- 1.1. Five consultation events were planned between January and February 2018 at locations throughout the borough. The meetings had the following levels of attendance:

Date	Location	Attendance
17 January	Brent Connects Wembley	27
30 January	Brent Connects Kilburn	23
6 February	Brent Connects Willesden	44
8 February	Brent Connects Kingsbury & Kenton	20
19 February	Brent Connects Harlesden	34

- 1.2 At the meetings either the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council delivered a presentation outlining the overall financial position and the difficult budget choices faced by the Council. The Leader and Deputy Leader then took questions from the audience and provided answers, supported by senior officers where appropriate for matters of technical detail.
- 1.3 Feedback and opinions offered from these events varied considerably. As an example of the range of opinions expressed:
- One resident asked how the proposals affect Brent's Council Tax Support Scheme. The question was answered at the meeting, that the scheme will not be changing as a result of the proposals.
 - One resident asked if the proposals have impacted on school performance. The question was answered at the meeting, that 96% of schools in Brent are good or outstanding.
 - Other points raised were generally questions of clarification rather than specific feedback on the budget proposals. For example, one resident made a statement of support for the funding provided to families with no recourse to public funds, whereas another asked about the budget used to support people with dementia.
 - A number of queries were raised about the council's reserves and how they compare to other London Boroughs, which was answered at the meeting. The Council has relatively low reserves compared to other London boroughs but current level is deemed adequate.

Business Consultation

- 1.4 Consultation with local Brent businesses was carried out by writing to the following organisations:
- West London Business (a non-profit business leadership forum),
 - The Federation of Small Businesses,
 - The Town Centre Business Association, and
 - The Business Board.
- 1.5 Only one response was received, which asked for further clarification on the budget setting process rather than a specific comment on the budget proposals.