

CABINET – 23 FEBRUARY 2015
Budget and Council Tax 2015/16

ADDENDUM FROM THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Paragraph 8.6 of the budget report incorrectly referred to "...54 individual comments." The figure should have been 55. The table following paragraph 8.7 incorrectly omitted a line showing that one response had been received opposing the closure of the Welsh Harp Centre. The corrected version of the table is below.

Budget option.	Number of comments	Summary
Day centres and Adult Social Care Services	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleven of the responses are opposed to Adult Social Care. Most focus on the proposed closure of day-care centres, with seven specifically mentioning objections to the closure of the Millennium Day Care centre. The comments focus on the view that there is insufficient alternative provision locally, in the event of the council's direct services closing. • There is also opposition to Social Care reductions in general particularly reducing social work staff by 20%, and respite care. • One respondent objected to the option for 15 minute day care visits. • The one comment in support of the proposal simply says that Adult Social Services is an obvious area to deliver efficiencies due to the size of the budget.
School crossing patrols	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five of the responses are opposed to reductions in this area. Those against focus on the service being necessary to ensure the safety of children. There are two individual responses and three group ones - one a petition from 250 people regarding the crossing patrol at Islamia Primary School, one co-signed by pupils at Brondesbury C of E Primary School, and one from school governors and staff at Mount Stewart Junior School. • The one response that supports this option states that it should be possible for the schools or volunteers to provide the service themselves.
Council tax	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four responses supported rises in Council Tax to help fund services (two specifically call for a referendum). • One response proposes that all properties that have been extended should be inspected with a view to revaluation to raise the council tax band and generate additional revenue.

Budget option.	Number of comments	Summary
Arts, culture and leisure	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three comments are opposed to ENS25 (closing one of the three leisure centres) - one against closing Willesden Sports Centre, one against closing Bridge-park, one against the proposal in general. • Final response proposes the closure of all libraries as the respondent considers the service to be no longer sustainable on the current funding available.
Corporate - reduce staff/pay/ agency staff.	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All four comments support cuts to numbers of staff, pay-freezes, pay-cuts, (I-pads), expensive celebrations (Civic opening ceremony) and use of temporary and agency staff.
Brent VCS	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two responses from Brent Fairtrade Network - both saying they value their liaison officer and use of council meeting rooms. • One response supporting the provision of capacity building services via VCS. • One detailed proposal from Energy Solutions lobbying for continued Council funding for fuel poverty work for the next two years.
Communication	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two requests to stop hardcopy of Brent magazine and move it online. • One expression of concern stating that not all people are online and Brent assuming that they are is leading to more social isolation for the elderly
Councillor's Allowances	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three requests to reduce councillor allowances - two of which specifically mention the rise from £8k to £10k being unjustified
Environment	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One response supporting charging for specific environmental services (including garden waste collection and bulky waste collection). • One against reductions to street cleaning • One (detailed letter from friends of the earth) against 9 different E&N related budget proposals
Charging for green bins	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two comments opposing the introduction of this charge
Welsh Harp Centre	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One comment opposing the closure of the Welsh Harp Centre
Crime	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One comment opposed to the proposal to stop CCTV and the negative impact this would have on crime levels.
Employment	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One comment proposing reducing spending on employment support services.

Budget option	Number of comments	Summary
Housing	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One comment proposing that the council should means test council tenants and withdraw tenancies from people who have sufficient income to afford private housing.
School expansion	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objection to perceived unnecessary school expansion at Byron Court Primary school - money could be better spent elsewhere
Children's Centres	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respondent supported the proposal to commission services within children's centres from the voluntary and community sector.
Shared services	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One response in favour of more shared services with other boroughs
Miscellaneous comments	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One comment suggesting cuts are targeting elderly people in the north of the borough. One comment proposes stopping grants to private landlords to improve the energy efficiency of their properties.
Total	55	