

## Appendix L

### The Budget 2019/20 2021/22

#### Consultation Report

##### Summary

The Budget 2019/20 - 2021/22 online consultation opened on 15 October 2018 and is due to close on 31 January 2019. Up to and including 10 January 2019 there were one hundred and seventy five (175) respondents.

The online consultation asked Brent residents to respond to a single question: 'We want to know what services are the most important to local people so we can make the best decisions about where to make savings. Help us decide the shape of the council's budget going forward by reading our proposal and inputting your comments about The Budget below.'

The key themes respondents felt were most important are:

- Children & young people
- Children centres and Children & families
- Youth clubs and youth facilities
- Special needs services
- Libraries,
- Leisure centres
- Adult social care
- Older peoples services
- NHS, GP's, hospitals and health
- Social services
- Crime and community safety
- Police
- Anti-social behaviour (ASB) teams
- Housing
- Environmental health
- Refuse collection
- Parking control
- Road maintenance
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Community hubs
- Voluntary services
- Employment

The most popular theme, by some way, was in relation to refuse collection, re-cycling and fly-tipping. Over 20% of respondents to stated refuse collection, re-cycling facilities, clean streets and a clean environment around their homes was important to them.

In regards to clean streets one respondent stated:

'I believe it is important that street cleaning and improving town centres is the most important services as clean streets help to make the area much more attractive for visitors and for residents and helps to improve the reputation of the area. Moreover having clean and attractive town centres help encourage more people to shop locally instead of travelling to 2 large shopping centres or shopping online which in turn further benefits the local economy of the town and help the town to flourish.'

Other popular choices included Children Centres and services around childcare and children. Over 10% of the respondents so far are in favour of keeping Children Centres. With reference to Children Centres one respondent stated:

'Children Centres are very important to me and many others. It has been my link to gaining information and advice since my baby was born. I have made friends and shared experiences with other parents, I am a single mum and sometimes you feel so alone. The centre have been amazing I even did a course whilst my child was being looked after to understand how to introduce books to your child.'

Another respondent stated:

'I believe Brent have some of the best Children's Centres in the country, and the training and support we offer have a positive impact on the families in our Borough.'

Crime, community safety, Police and ASB Teams were another reoccurring theme. Approximately 9% of respondents have indicated Brent Council should prioritise Community Safety, Policing and try to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour.

Adult social care and services for older people and vulnerable people was high in residents list of priorities. In relation to adult social care one respondent stated:

'Help needed by disabled and vulnerable people is the most important service.'

Another respondent stated:

'The most important services in my opinion are Adult Social Care and Children's Services, but my family and I are not users of these services at present.'

On the same theme another respondent stated:

'I don't see how a further a £250k saving can be achieved from the Supporting People budget without a major impact on quality and scope of service to some of the most vulnerable people in Brent.'

Feedback so far to The Budget 2019/20 2021/22 online consultation demonstrates a wide range of views, many common viewpoints and emphasises the fact that Brent residents are concerned over what the budget cuts mean not only for them but for the wider community.