

Question Number	Item No	Raised By	Question Raised	Answer
1	Item 6	Mr John Dix	At paragraph 6.4, Box 4, of the Priorities and Spending Review Report there is an assumption that concessionary fares are a variable cost. Given that concessionary fares cost £16 million this year, or £110 per household why has withdrawing from the scheme never been considered or posed to residents as an alternative to cuts to children’s services and adult social care.	The Council does not have the flexibility legally to withdraw from this scheme as it is imposed by statute.
2	Item 6	Mr John Dix	Given that elsewhere in the meeting papers the council has identified problems with public consultations, what measures will you take to ensure that any consultation on priorities and spending review accurately reflect the views of all residents.	<p>The Council has already involved residents in developing our priorities for the coming five years. As outlined on page 32 of the PSR report, a specialist research company has already run research events on behalf the council with representative groups of residents and further events with groups from residents with protected characteristics. The findings of this consultation have informed officers during the development of options for future services. A report of this first round of consultation has been published as part of a Call for Evidence.</p> <p>The Council is now running this second wave of consultation, a Call of Evidence aimed primarily at organisations. This was suspended for election purdah but is now live again.</p>

				<p>When details emerge of specific changes to the services received by residents there will again be a further round of consultation with service users and other stakeholders on a service by service basis.</p> <p>The findings of the Residents’ Perception Survey, now undertaken every six months, have also formed as part of the evidence base for the Review.</p> <p>The questioner will note that a Consultation Policy is being presented to this meeting. This Policy outlines when and how the council intends to consult in the future. This policy proposes expanding the size of the Barnet Citizen’s Panel in order to increase the number of responses to surveys to closer to 1100. This number provides for an accuracy of a survey response to within plus or minus three per cent and is an industry standard model for ensuring accuracy in polling data. The Panel is structured to be representative of Barnet’s residents.</p>								
3	Item 6	Mr John Dix	Why is there no mention of bearing down on the costs of the CSG and Re contracts especially as Capita were paid £55.3 million towards these contracts in the financial year 2013/14?	<p>Opportunities to reduce the cost of the CSG and Re contracts have been identified as options to be considered by the Policy and Resources and Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committees respectively. The table in the report shows that the greatest % savings options by delivery unit is for CSG, and the potential savings for Re would turn the service from a net cost to a net surplus for the Council.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1124 1134 1749 1377"> <thead> <tr> <th>Delivery Unit</th> <th>Total budget (£m)</th> <th>Total of potential savings (£m)</th> <th>% saving against budget</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Adults and Communities</td> <td>82.0</td> <td>13.5</td> <td>16%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Delivery Unit	Total budget (£m)	Total of potential savings (£m)	% saving against budget	Adults and Communities	82.0	13.5	16%
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4	Item 8	Mr John Dix	Why did only 20 people participate in the consultation and engagement strategy and why were there no responses from the voluntary sector or other public sector stakeholders on the	As stated in the report the Council went to some lengths to promote the consultations and Community Barnet also promoted the consultations within the voluntary sector. The consultations were widely promoted through a press release; featured prominently on the council website; featured in Community Barnet's newsletter, were emailed to 900 individual residents, and extensively promoted via Facebook and through weekly tweets to the council's 7,000+ followers.																																								

			<p>transparency consultation. What does this tell you about the council's consultation process</p>	<p>Traditionally consultations focused on what residents perceive, rightly or wrongly, as being about the inner working of the council receive far fewer responses than those about wider issues that impinge directly on service users. Past consultations about the library service or council tax benefit for instance have had thousands of responses.</p> <p>Typically when councils publish transparency or consultation policies they do so without public consultation. This Council felt it was an impairment that residents should be able to give their views.</p>
5	Item 10	Mr John Dix	<p>Has the committee set out anywhere what are its terms of reference and how items are selected to be dealt with by this committee. Without that it is impossible to ascertain if the workplan is appropriate.</p>	<p>The Constitution sets out the terms of reference of all committees including Policy and Resources Committee (Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, Annex A: http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s15040/15a.%20Responsibility%20for%20Functions%20-%20Annex%20A.pdf).</p> <p>Council officers provide support and advice to each of the Committees to confirm items on the Work Programmes. The Work Programme is an item for consideration at each of the Committee meetings, and any changes agreed to the contents of the Work Programme would be published online in a revised Work Programme at the beginning of each month.</p> <p>The Constitution also provides that a Member of a committee can submit a Member's Item for consideration by the Committee, on a matter within the Committee's terms of reference. The process for this is set out in Meetings Procedure Rules, Members' Rights (http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s15009/17.%20Meetings%20Procedure%20Rules.pdf).</p>