

## **Business Planning 2016/17-2019/2020**

## **General Budget Consultation 2016/17**

### **Interim Consultation Report**

**December 2015 -February 2016  
Consultation  
Communications**

# SECTION 1

## Executive Summary

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out the detailed consultation findings from the formal General Budget Consultation 2016/17. The consultation will close on 12 February and this interim report gives the latest position at the time of drafting on 3 February 2016. An update will be published on the 12 February based on responses received by 9 February. The update will include further analysis on equality data.

The final consultation results will be included in the report to Full Council on 1 March 2016, which will make the final decision on the council's budget for 2016/17.

## 2. Summary of approach

### 2.1 Preliminary consultation and engagement

The council has already undertaken a range of consultation and engagement to inform the council's development of the Corporate Plan strategic priorities and 5 year Commissioning priorities and plans, along with indicative savings proposals to inform the MTFS. The preliminary consultation was designed to:

- a. Inform the Priorities and Spending Review by gathering insight to explore where savings and income generation can be made across the council;
- b. Understand residents' views of council priorities and valued services;
- c. Gain an in-depth understanding of stakeholders' priorities and how they would want the council to approach the budget and allocation of resources over the next five years.

Last year formal consultation took place on the Strategic Plan to 2020. The results of which were presented to Policy and Resources Committee in February 2015 and Full Council in March 2015, before signing off the final Strategic Plan and MTFS to 2020.

### 2.2 Formal general budget consultation on the council's budget 2016/17 (18 December- 12 February 2016)

A summary of the key findings as at the 3 February is outlined on the following pages. Detailed findings to can be found under Section 2 of this report.

#### 2.2.1 Summary of method

The general consultation consisted of an online questionnaire published on <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk/> together with a consultation document which provided detailed background information about the council's budget setting process and the financial challenges the council faces. Paper copies and an easy read version of the consultation was made available on request

As part of the council's statutory duty to consult with National Non Domestic Rate (NNDR) Payers, letters were sent out to all the council's NNDR payers inviting them to take part in the consultation.

The consultation was widely promoted via the council's Residents' magazine, Barnet First; Barnet Online; local press; Twitter; Face book; Area Forums; and posters in libraries and other public places.

Super-users, i.e. users of non-universal services, were also invited to take part in the consultation through Community Barnet; Communities Together Network, Youth Board, and Delivery Unit newsletters/circulars and super user mailing lists.

A separate questionnaire was sent to the Citizens' Panel<sup>1</sup> to ensure the views of a representative sample of the borough's population were captured on the proposal not to increase Council Tax in 2016/17, and whether or not the council should introduce the 2% 'adult social care precept' Council Tax increase

### 2.2.2 Response to the consultation

As at the 3 February 2016, a total of 345 questionnaires have been completed, 43 by the general public available on Engage Barnet, and 302 by the Citizens' Panel.

The Citizens' Panel response was weighted to ensure the achieved sample was representative of the borough's population.

Due to the small sample size of the general public consultation (43), these findings should be treated with caution. For this reason the findings have been reported on separately, so that comparisons can be made with the much larger representative sample from the Citizens' Panel.

## 3. Summary of key findings

### 3.1 Council's proposal not to increase general Council Tax in 2016

302 Citizens' Panel members and 33 respondents completing the general public answered this question.

The Citizens' Panel sample are more likely to agree with the proposal not to increase general Council Tax compared to those responding to the general public consultation.

- Table 1 over the page shows that nearly two thirds of the Citizens' Panel (56 per cent) **agreed** with the council's proposal not to increase general Council Tax in 2016/17. A further third disagreed (32 per cent), and 12 per cent said they did not know or were not sure.
- In contrast, just over half of those responding to the general public consultation, **disagreed** with the councils proposal not to increase council tax in 2016/17 (52 per cent, 17 out of 33). Only a third agreed (36 per cent, 12 out of 33 respondents) and 12 per cent (4 out of 33) said they were not sure or did not know.

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<sup>1</sup> The Citizens' Panel is made up of 2000 Barnet residents, selected to be representative of the adult population of the borough in terms of ward, age, gender, ethnicity, housing tenure, faith and disability

Table 1: Council’s proposal not to increase general Council Tax in 2016/17

Do you agree with the council’s plans not to increase the proportion of Council Tax bills which can be spent on general local services?	Citizens’ Panel		General Public	
	%	Number	%	Number
Yes	56%	169	36%	12
No	32%	96	52%	17
Don't know/Not sure	12%	36	12%	4
Total	100%	302	100%	33

### 3.2 Reasons given by those who agreed with the proposal not to increase general Council Tax in 2016/17

Of those who indicated they agreed with the proposal 49 per cent of Citizens’ Panel and 25 per cent (3 out of 12 respondents) of the general public respondents did not give a reason for their response. Of the respondents who did give a reason, the top five most frequently cited reasons were:

- **‘Barnet council tax is very high already / Enough is being charged’.** Nine per cent of Citizens’ Panel respondents, who agreed with the proposal, cited this as a reason for why they supported the proposal not to increase general Council Tax. None of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.
- **“Earnings / Incomes have not increased in reality / Many people struggle already / I cannot afford it Good for pensioners / those on low income/ on fixed income.** Seven per cent of the Citizens’ Panel who agreed mentioned this as a reason for their support. None of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.
- **‘Services: Seem to be coping with the cuts / Assume council confident services will be maintained’** Five per cent of the Citizens’ Panel gave this as a reason for their support. 25 per cent (4 out of 12) of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- **‘Services: Social Care / Adult Care/ services for the vulnerable need an increase in funding’** Five per cent of the Citizens’ Panel cited this as a reason for why they agreed with the proposal not to increase general Council Tax. Again none of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.
- **‘Council workers are inefficient / waste money / Council needs to manage itself better/ Can make more savings on overheads’** Four per cent of the Citizens’ Panel cited this as a reason for why they supported the proposal not to increase general Council Tax. None of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.

### 3.3 Reasons given by those who did not agree with the proposal not to increase general Council Tax in 2016/17

Of those who indicated they did not agree with the proposal, 36 per cent of the Citizens' Panel sample, and 24 per cent (3 out of 17 respondents) of the general public sample did not give a reason for their response. Of the respondents who did give a reason, the top five most frequently cited reasons were:

- **'Services: Services generally need increase in funding'**. 27 per cent of Citizens' Panel respondents who disagreed cited this as a reason for why they did not support the proposal not to increase general Council Tax. 4 out of 17 of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.
- **'Services: Social Care / Adult Care/ services for the vulnerable need an increase in funding'**. 7 per cent of the Citizens' Panel mentioned this as a reason why they disagreed. 1 out of 17 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- **'Services: If not increased concern that level of services would decrease/ Services should be protected/ An increase is necessary'** 7 per cent of the Citizens' Panel gave this as a reason for why they did not support the proposal. 3 out of 17 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- **'People need to understand they have to pay for services'** 7 per cent of the Citizens' Panel cited this as a reason for why they did not support the proposal not to increase general Council Tax. 1 out of 17 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- **'Services: Maintenance of roads and pavements already low'** 6 per cent of the Citizens' Panel cited this as a reason for why they disagreed with the proposal. As before none of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.

### 3.4 Council Tax –Social Care 'Precept'

Respondents were also asked for their views on whether they think the council should increase Council Tax by 2% in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept', on the basis that the money is specifically reserved for adult social care.

The results of the Citizens' Panel and the general public consultation are very similar in that nearly three fifths of each sample think the council should increase Council Tax by 2% via the 'social care precept' next year.

- The Citizens' Panel responses is almost identical to their response to not to increasing the general council Tax in 2016/17. Table 2, over the page, shows that almost three fifths of the Citizens' Panel (56 per cent) think the council should increase Council Tax by 2% via the 'social care precept' A further third disagreed (33 per cent), and 11 per cent said they did not know or they were not sure.
- Similarly, nearly three fifths of those responding to the general public consultation think the council's should increase Council Tax by 2% via the 'social care precept'

(55 per cent, 18 out of 33). However, a further two fifths think the council should not increase Council Tax by 2 per cent via the ‘social care precept’ (45 per cent, 15 out of 33 respondents). No respondents said they were not sure or did not know.

**Table 2: Respondents views on whether the council should increase Council Tax in 2016/17 via a ‘social care precept’**

Do you think that the council should increase Council Tax by 2 per cent in 2016/17 via a ‘social care precept’? <sup>1</sup>	Citizens’ Panel		General Public	
	%	Number	%	Number
Yes	56%	170	55%	18
No	33%	100	45%	15
Don't know/Not sure	11%	30	0%	0
Total	100%	302	100%	33

### 3.5 Reasons why respondents think the council should increase Council Tax by 2 per cent in 2016/17 via a ‘social care precept’

Of those who indicated they agreed with this increase in Council Tax, 44 per cent of Citizens’ Panel and 33 per cent (6 out of 18 respondents) of the general public respondents did not give a reason for their response. Of the respondents who did give a reason, the top five most frequently cited reasons were:

- **‘Adult social care needs further funding / Care for the elderly and vulnerable needs more attention/Agree this is required’.** 31 per cent of Citizens’ Panel respondents cited this as a reason why they think the council’s should increase Council Tax by 2 per cent via the ‘social care precept’. 4 out of 18 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- **‘2 per cent / £22 would be manageable / affordable by all/most people/** 15 per cent of Citizens’ Panel respondents cited this as a reason for why they support an increase in Council Tax by 2% via the ‘social care precept’. 7 out of 18 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- **‘The population is ageing. More resources are required for them./ Barnet has a large population of older adults** 12 per cent of the Citizens’ Panel gave this as a reason for their support. 1 out of 18 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- **‘If Council Tax is not increased concern that level of services would decrease/ Service should be protected’** 6 per cent of the Citizens’ Panel cited this as a reason why they think the council’s should increase Council Tax by 2% via the ‘social care precept’. 1 out of 18 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.

<sup>1</sup> Do you think that the council should increase Council Tax by 2% in 2016/17 via a ‘social care precept’, which would generate up to £3 million - equivalent to an additional £22 per year for a Band D property - on the basis that the money is specifically reserved for adult social care, including care for the elderly?



## 3.6 Reasons why respondents do not think the council should increase Council Tax by 2 per cent in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept'

Of those who indicated they do not think the council's should not increase Council Tax by 2 per cent via the 'social care precept', 42 per cent of Citizens' Panel and 27 per cent (6 out of 18 respondents) of the general public respondents did not give a reason for their response. Of the respondents who did give a reason, the top five most frequently cited reasons were:

- **'Barnet council tax is very high already / Enough is being charged'** 8 per cent of Citizens' Panel respondents cited this as a reason why they do not think the council should increase Council Tax by 2% via the 'social care precept' 4 out of 15 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- **'Make savings in other department areas to help this one'** 5 per cent of Citizens' Panel respondents cited this as a reason why they do not support an increase in Council Tax by 2% via the 'social care precept'. None of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.
- **'Families should be more responsible and look after their elderly family members'** 5 per cent of the Citizens' Panel gave this as a reason why they do not want a 2 per cent 'social care' Council Tax increase. None of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.
- **'Earnings/ Incomes have not increased in reality / Many people struggle already'** 4 per cent of the Citizens' Panel cited this as a reason why they do not think the council's should increase Council Tax by 2 per cent via the 'social care precept'. 3 out of 15 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- **'Suspicion/doubt that this additional taxation would be properly targeted towards the elderly'** 4 per cent of the Citizens' Panel cited this as a reason as a reason why they do not want a 2 per cent 'social care' Council Tax increase. None of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.

## 4. Overall budget and savings for 2016/17

The Citizens' Panel were not asked questions on the overall budget and saving proposals for 2016/17. These were only asked of the general public.

The consultation findings outlined on the following pages are from the general public consultation. At the time of writing 43 responses have been completed.

### 4.1 Overall budget and savings for 2016/17

Respondents were asked if they had any comments to make on the overall budget, and in particular on how the 2016/17 proposed savings have been allocated across the different Theme Committees.

Of those who responded to the whole general public consultation 23 out of 43 gave a response to this question. The top five most frequently cited reasons were:

Four respondents indicated they agreed with the overall approach, citing:



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- *I agree with proposals (2);*
- *Well thought out I think they are well thought out and the most vulnerable will be looked after ;*
- *The Theme Committee approach to identify effective saving is more effective than standard percentage slicing across all areas of Council spend.*

Five respondents asked for further clarity on the savings and approach:

- *Are savings based on services being commissioned or being in-house?*
- *How well are commissioned services being delivered?*
- *What savings are based on cutting services?*
- *What is the new model of social work practice?*
- *Do not understand 'Community Leadership' committee or its purpose.*

Three respondents felt that further efficiency savings could be made, citing:

- *Cut processes rather than services*
- *Review corporate support contracts due in 2016 and look at profit margins*
- *Value for money is required rather than reducing budgets*

### 4.2 Theme Committee Saving Proposals 2016/17

Respondents were asked the following questions on the saving proposals within each Themed Committee for 2016/17:

- Do you have any comments to make about the savings being proposed within this Committee's budget for 2016/17?
- Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within this Committee's budget for 2016/17?
- If you disagree, please give reasons for your answer:
- If you disagree, do you have any alternative suggestions for where the council could make these savings or generate income?

Table 3 over the page summaries the headline findings on the extent of which respondents agreed or disagreed with the savings proposed within each committee. Further analysis on the open ended questions is provided in section 2.

**Table 3: Summary of headline findings on the extent of which respondents agreed or disagreed with the savings proposed within each committee.**

Theme Committee	Consultation Findings
Policy and Resources	Opinion was mixed on the saving proposals within this committee, with no clear majority agreeing or disagreeing - 10 out of 24 respondents agreed, 11 out of 24 disagreed. One respondent indicated they Neither agree nor disagree and two indicated Don't know/Not sure.
Adults and Safeguarding	More respondents disagreed with the proposed savings within the Adults and Safeguarding Committee's - 16 out of 25 respondents disagreed compared to 7 out of 25

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	who agreed. One respondent indicated they Neither agree nor disagree and one indicated Don't know/Not sure.
Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding	Opinion was mixed on the proposed savings within the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, with more respondents disagreeing - 14 out of 24 respondents disagreed compared to 8 out of 24 who agreed. One respondent indicated they Neither agree nor disagree and one indicated Don't know/Not sure.
Environment	Opinion was mixed on the proposed savings within the this committee - 11 out of 23 respondents agreed compared to 10 out of 23 who disagreed. Two respondents indicated they Neither agree nor disagree.
Assets, Regeneration and Growth	Opinion was slightly more mixed on the saving proposals within this committee, with no clear majority agreeing or disagreeing - 7 out of 19 respondents agreed compared to 6 out of 19 who disagreed. Four respondents indicated they Neither agree nor disagree and two indicated Don't know/Not sure.
Community Leadership	The majority of respondents agreed with the budget proposals within this committee - 10 out of 15 respondents agreed and 5 out of 15 disagreed.
Housing	Slightly more respondents disagreed with the proposed savings within the Adults and Safeguarding Committee's - 3 out of 6 disagreed. Three respondents indicated they Neither agree nor disagree.

## **SECTION 2**

# **Business Planning 2016-2020**

# **General Budget Consultation**

**2016/17**

## **Detailed Findings**

## 1. BACKGROUND

As is usual practice, the budget proposals for 2016/17 have been subject to a formal public consultation. The consultation will close on 12 February and this interim report sets out the latest position at the time of drafting on 3 February 2016. The final consultation results will be included in the report to Full Council on 1 March 2016, which will make the final decision on the Council's budget for 2016/17.

### 1.1 Preliminary consultation and engagement

The council has already undertaken a range of consultation and engagement to inform the council's development of the Corporate Plan strategic priorities and 5 year Commissioning priorities and plans, along with indicative savings proposals to inform the MTFS.

The preliminary consultation was designed to:

- a) Inform the Priorities and Spending Review by gathering insight to explore where savings and income generation can be made across the Council
- b) Understand residents' views of Council priorities and valued services
- c) Gain an in-depth understanding of stakeholders' priorities and how they would want the Council to approach the budget and allocation of resources over the next five years.

Last year this formal consultation took place on the Strategic Plan to 2020. The results of which were presented to Policy and Resources Committee in February 2015 and Full Council in March 2015, before signing off the final Strategic Plan and MTFS to 2020.

The Strategic Plan consultation was designed to consult on the combined package of the Corporate Plan; Commissioning Priorities; and budget to 2020.

The consultation aimed to:

- Create a stronger link between strategy, priorities and resources;
- Place a stronger emphasis on commissioning as a driver of the business planning process;
- Focus on how the council will use its resources to achieve its Commissioning Plans.

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Table 1 below outlines the phases of consultation and engagement to date:

**Table 1: Consultation and Engagement that has informed the council's business planning to 2020**

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Phase 1: Setting out the challenge	<i>Summer 2013</i>	The council forecast that its budget would reduce by a further £72m between 2016/17 and 2019/20, setting the scene for the PSR consultation
Phase 2: PSR consultation to inform development of options	<i>October 2013 - June 2014</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement through Citizen's Panel Workshops which focused on stakeholder priorities and how they would want the Council to approach the Priorities and Spending Review</li> <li>• An open 'Call for Evidence' asking residents to feedback ideas on the future of public services in Barnet.</li> </ul>
Phase 3: Engagement through Committees	Summer 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on developing commissioning priorities and MTFS proposals for each of the 6 committees</li> <li>• Engagement through Committee meetings and working groups</li> </ul>
Phase 4: Strategic Plan to 2020 Consultation	December 2014 – February 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A series of 6 workshops with a cross section of residents recruited from the Citizens Panel and Youth Board, plus two workshops with users of council services.</li> <li>• An online survey</li> </ul>

## 2 Formal Budget Consultation 2016/17

### 2.1 Overview

The preliminary consultation and engagement has informed the development of the council's 2016/17 budget proposals to be put forward for formal consultation.

To allow for an eight week budget consultation, a general budget consultation began after Policy and Resources Committee on the 18 December 2015 and will be concluded on 12 February 2016. This report outlines the headline interim findings as of the 3 February 2016.

The interim consultation findings will be updated and re-published on the 12<sup>th</sup> February for Policy and Resources Committee to consider, which will include the detailed interim findings as of the 8 February.

The final consultation findings and full report will be taken to Full Council on 1 March 2016.

## 2.2 Technical details and method

### In summary, the consultation was administered as follows:

- The General Budget consultation was open for eight weeks, from the 18th December 2015 to 12th February 2016.
- The consultation was published on Engage Barnet <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk> together with a consultation document which provided detailed background information about the council's budget setting process and the financial challenges the council faces.
- Respondent's views were gathered via online survey. Paper copies and an easy read version of the consultation were also made available on request.
- As part of the council's statutory duty to consult with National Non Domestic Rate (NNDR) Payers, letters were sent out to all the council's NNDR payers inviting them to take part in the consultation.
- The consultation was widely promoted via the Council's Residents' magazine, Barnet First; Barnet Online; local press; Twitter; Face book; Area Forums; and posters in libraries and other public places.
- Super-users, i.e. users of non-universal services, have also been invited to take part in the consultation through Community Barnet; Communities Together Network, Youth Board, and Delivery Unit newsletters/circulars and super user mailing lists.
- A separate questionnaire was sent to the Citizens' Panel<sup>1</sup> to ensure the views of a representative sample of the borough's population were captured on the proposal not to increase Council Tax and whether or not the council should introduce the 2% 'Adult Social Care Precept' Council Tax increase

## 2.3 Questionnaire design

The questionnaire was developed to ascertain residents' views on the overall size and individual components of the 2016/17 budget in general terms. In particular the consultation invited views on the:

- Overall budget and saving proposals;
- the savings being proposed within each Theme Committee;
- the proposal not to increase general Council Tax;
- whether or not the council should introduce the 2% 'Adult Social Care Precept' Council Tax increase.

In order to enable a further understanding and in-depth analysis the questionnaire also included:

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<sup>1</sup> The Citizens' Panel is made up of 2000 Barnet residents, selected to be representative of the adult population of the borough in terms of ward, age, gender, ethnicity, housing tenure, faith and disability

- Open ended questions, where respondents were invited to write in any comments on the savings proposed within each Committee, and if they disagreed with the committee's savings to say why and where they would suggest the council could make alternative savings;
- Open ended questions were also included on the Council Tax questions to explore reasons if they supported or opposed the proposals;
- Key demographic questions were also included which covered equality questions.

Throughout the questionnaire, and where applicable, hyperlinks were provided to relevant sections of the consultation document, and to the detailed savings for each Committee. Those respondents who elected to receive a paper copy were also sent the consultation document, and the detailed 2016/17 savings. Where relevant, the questions referenced the page numbers of corresponding sections of the consultation document and savings.

### 2.4 Response to the consultation

As at the 3 February 2016, a total of 345 questionnaires have been completed, 43 by the general public available on Engage Barnet, and 302 by the Citizens' Panel.

This report will be re-circulated on the 12<sup>th</sup> February to include results as of 8 February 2016.

The Citizens' Panel response was weighted to ensure the achieved sample was representative of the borough's population. Due to the small sample size of the general public consultation (43), these **findings should be treated with caution**. For this reason the findings have been reported on separately, so that comparisons can be made with the much larger representative sample from the Citizens' Panel.

As outlined under paragraph 2.2, the Citizens' Panel were only asked questions on the different options for Council Tax and were not asked questions on the council's 2016/17 Budget.

### 2.5 General Public response and profile

Table 2 over the page shows the profile of those who responded to the general public questionnaire. Of the 43 responses received, those who replied were mainly residents (84 per cent, 28 out of 43).

Despite writing to all NNDR payers, only five responses were received from businesses based in Barnet (two of these were residents as well as a business in based Barnet). Two letters were also received from businesses, in response to writing out to all NNDRs, and their comments have been also included in the coding of verbatim comments.

30 per cent of the sample (18 out of 54 respondents) chose not to answer this question.



**Table 2: General Public Sample Profile**

Type	Number	%
Resident	28	84%
Business	3	9%
Resident and business based in Barnet	2	5%
Public sector organisation	0	0%
Voluntary/community organisation	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Not answered	10	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>

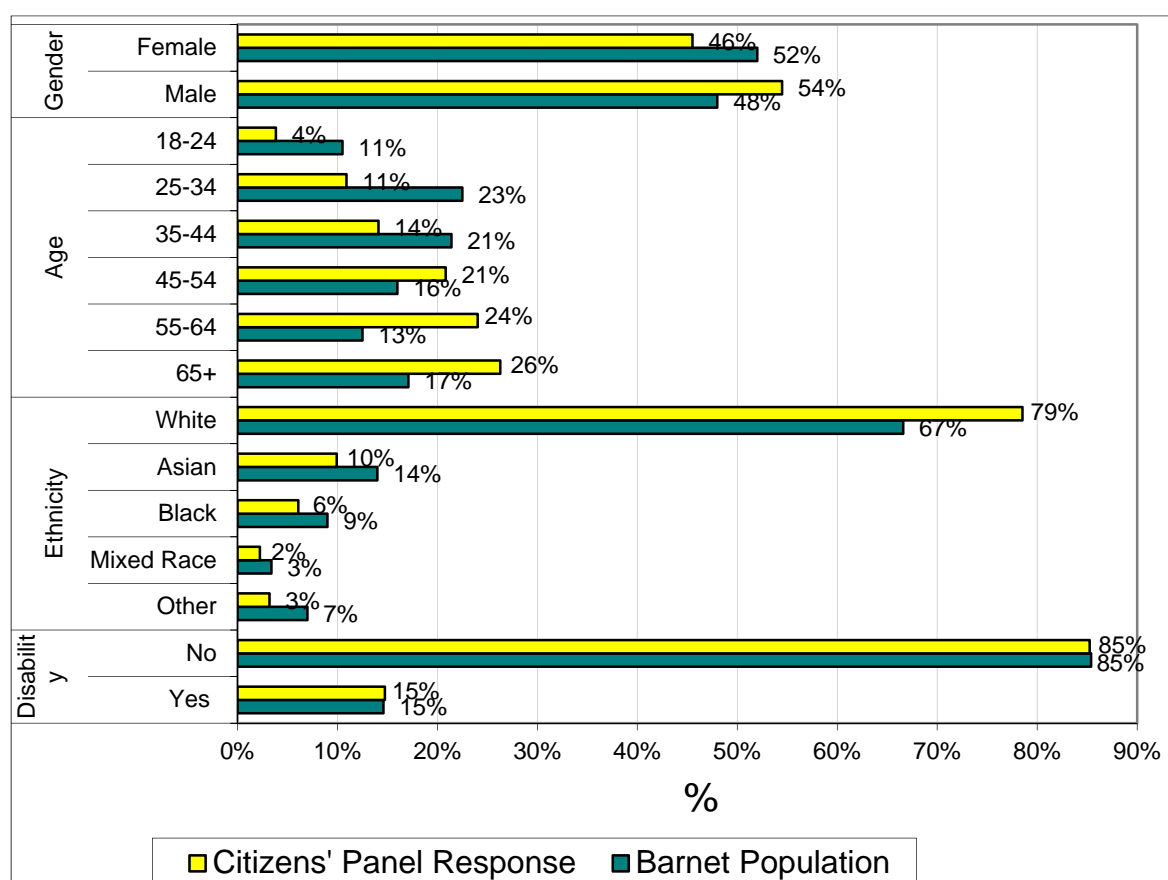
## 2.6 Citizens' Panel response and sample profile

A combined postal and online survey method<sup>1</sup> was mailed out to 2000 members of Barnet's Citizens' Panel, to date, a total of 302 surveys have been completed (102 postal and 268 online) giving a response rate of 19 per cent.

At the time of writing the chart below shows the demographic profile of those who responded to the panel survey compared to the population of Barnet.

The sample that responded closely matches Barnet's population profile. Weighting has been applied to tackle the issue of under and over representation in the sample, and it is the weighted data that is reported on in this report.

**Chart 1: Citizens' Panel Sample profile – key demographics**



<sup>1</sup> When panel members are recruited they are given the choice of which method they prefer to receive their surveys; either online sent to their e mail address, or hard copy sent to their postal address.

## 2.9 Calculating and reporting on results

The results are based on “valid responses” only, i.e. all those providing an answer (this may or may not be the same as the total sample) unless otherwise specified. The base size may therefore vary from question to question depending on the extent of non –response.

## 3 Results in detail:

### 3.1 Council Tax

#### 3.1.2 Council’s proposal not to increase general Council Tax in 2016/17

Respondents were asked if they agreed with the council’s proposals not to increase the proportion of Council Tax bills which can be spent on general local services.

Full analysis on the equality monitoring questions will be done in the final report.

The Citizens’ Panel sample are more likely to say ‘Yes’ they agree with the proposal not to increase general Council Tax compared to those responding to the general public consultation.

- The table below shows that almost three fifths of the Citizens' Panel (56 per cent) **agreed** with the council’s proposal not to increase general Council Tax in 2016/17. A further third disagreed (32 per cent), and 12 per cent said they did not know or were not sure.
- In contrast, just over half of those responding to the general public consultation **disagreed** with the council’s proposal not to increase council tax in 2016/17 (52 per cent, 17 out of 33). A third agreed (36 per cent, 12 out of 33 respondents) and 12 per cent (4 out of 33) said they were not sure or did not know.

**Table 3: Council’s proposal not to increase general Council Tax in 2016/17**

Do you agree with the council’s plans not to increase the proportion of Council Tax bills which can be spent on general local services?	Citizens’ Panel		General Public	
	%	Number	%	Number
Yes	56%	169	36%	12
No	32%	96	52%	17
Don't know/Not sure	12%	36	12%	4
Total	100%	302	100%	33

### 3.1.3 Reasons given by those who agreed with the proposal not to increase general Council Tax in 2016/17

Respondents were asked to give reasons for their answer.

Table 4 over the page gives full details of the type of comments received on why respondents agreed with the proposals not to increase general Council Tax. The table is ranked by the Citizens' Panel sample most frequently mentioned reasons.

Of those who indicated they agreed with the proposal 49 per cent of Citizens' Panel and 25 per cent (3 out of 12 respondents) of the general public respondents did not give a reason for their response. Of the respondents who did give a reason, the top five most frequently cited reasons were:

- ***'Barnet council tax is very high already / Enough is being charged'***. Nine per cent of Citizens' Panel respondents who agreed cited this as a reason for why they supported the proposal not to increase general Council Tax. None of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.
- ***'Earnings/ Incomes have not increased in reality / Many people struggle already / I cannot afford it Good for pensioners / those on low income/ on fixed income.'*** Seven per cent of the Citizens' Panel who agreed mentioned this as a reason for their support. None of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.
- ***'Services: Seem to be coping with the cuts / Assume council confident services will be maintained'*** Five per cent of the Citizens' Panel gave this as a reason for their support. 25 per cent (4 out of 12) of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- ***'Services: Social Care / Adult Care/ services for the vulnerable need an increase in funding'*** Five per cent of the Citizens' Panel cited this as a reason for why they agreed with the proposal not to increase general Council Tax. As before none of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.
- ***'Council workers are inefficient / waste money / Council needs to manage itself better/ Can make more savings on overheads'*** Four per cent of the Citizens' Panel cited this as a reason for why they supported the proposal not to increase general Council Tax. Again none of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.

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**Table 4: Reasons why respondents agree with the council’s proposal not to increase general Council Tax in 2016/17**

Do you agree with the council’s plans not to increase the proportion of Council Tax bills which can be spent on general local services in 2016/17? Please give reasons for your answer	Citizens’ Panel		General Public	
	%	Base <sup>1</sup>	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
<b>THOSE WHO AGREE</b>				
		169		12
No comment	59%	100	25%	3
Barnet council tax is very high already / Enough is being charged	9%	15		
Earnings/ Incomes have not increased in reality / Many people struggle already / I cannot afford it	7%	12	33%	4
Services: Seem to be coping with the cuts / Assume council confident services will be maintained	7%	12		
Services: Social Care / Adult Care/ services for the vulnerable need an increase in funding	5%	8		
Council workers are inefficient / waste money / Council needs to manage itself better/ Can make more savings on overheads	4%	7		
Any future rises need to be gradual ones	3%	5		
Don't understand why an increase should be necessary. Where is the case for it./ Need more detailed information	2%	3		
There are other areas where savings can be made to reduce wastage. Bin collections, street lighting, social services	1%	2		
Those who earn most should pay more / Those in the most valuable houses should pay more / Revalue house prices	1%	2		
Other <sup>2</sup>	6%	10		5
<b>Total number of different types of comments</b>		176		12

### 3.1.4 Reasons given by those who did not agree with the proposal not to increase general Council Tax in 2016/17

Table 5 gives full details of the type of comments received on why respondents did not agree with the proposals not to increase general Council Tax. The table is again ranked by the Citizens’ Panel sample most frequently mentioned reasons.

Of those who indicated they agreed with the proposal 36 per cent of Citizens’ Panel and 24 per cent (3 out of 17 respondents) of the general public respondents did not give a reason for their response. Of the respondents who did give a reason, the top five most frequently cited reasons were:

- **‘Services: Services generally need increase in funding.** 27 per cent of Citizens’ Panel respondents who disagreed cited this as a reason for why they did not support the proposal not to increase general Council Tax. 4 out of 17 of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.
- **‘Services: Social Care / Adult Care/ services for the vulnerable need an increase in funding’** 7 per cent of the Citizens’ Panel mentioned this as a reason

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they agree with the proposal.

<sup>2</sup> Those that only received one response have been coded into other.

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why they disagreed. 1 out of 17 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.

- **‘Services: If not increased concern that level of services would decrease/ Services should be protected/ An increase is necessary Services’** 7 per cent of the Citizens’ Panel gave this as a reason for why they did not support the proposal. 3 out of 17 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- **‘People need to understand they have to pay for services’** 7 per cent of the Citizens’ Panel cited this as a reason for why they did not support the proposal not to increase general Council Tax. 1 out of 17 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- **‘Services: Maintenance of roads and pavements already low’** 6 per cent of the Citizens’ Panel cited this as a reason for why they disagreed with the proposal. As before none of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.

**Table 5: Reasons why respondents disagree with the council’s proposal not to increase general Council Tax in 2016/17**

Do you agree with the council’s plans not to increase the proportion of Council Tax bills which can be spent on general local services in 2016/17? Please give reasons for your answer	CITIZENS’ PANEL		General Public	
THOSE WHO DISAGREE	%	Base <sup>1</sup>	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
		96		17
No comment	36%	35	24%	4
Services: Services generally need increase in funding	27%	26	24%	4
Services: Social Care / Adult Care/ services for the vulnerable need an increase in funding	9%	8	6%	1
Services: If not increased concern that level of services would decrease/ Services should be protected An increase is necessary	7%	6	18%	3
People need to understand they have to pay for services	7%	6	6%	1
Services: Maintenance of roads and pavements already low	6%	6		2
Council workers are inefficient / waste money / Council needs to manage itself better/ Can make more savings on overheads	6%	6	24%	4
2% would be manageable / affordable by all/most people/	5%	5	41%	7
Those who earn most should pay more / Those in the most valuable houses should pay more / Revalue house prices	4%	4	6%	1
Services: Lost services cost more to restore at a later date / More cost effective to protect them now	4%	3		1
The 1% reduction was a mistake at the time / The level has been too low	3%	3	6%	1
Services: Refuse and street cleanliness needs more funding	3%	3		
Services: Fabric of community services needs maintaining	2%	2		
The council should be taking more than 25% of the revenue raised	2%	2		

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they disagree with the proposal.

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Do you agree with the council's plans not to increase the proportion of Council Tax bills which can be spent on general local services in 2016/17? Please give reasons for your answer	CITIZENS' PANEL		General Public	
	%	Number	%	Number
Any future rises need to be gradual ones	2%	2		1
Earnings/ Incomes have not increased in reality / Many people struggle already / I cannot afford it	2%	1		2
Council Tax should be increased by 4% in 2016/17	0%		12%	2
Other <sup>1</sup>	4%	13	23%	4
<b>Total number of different types of comments</b>		141		39

### 3.1.5 Council Tax –Social Care 'Precept'

Respondents were also asked for their views on whether they think the council should increase Council Tax by 2 per cent in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept', on the basis that the money is specifically reserved for adult social care.

The results of the Citizens' Panel and the general public consultation are very similar in that nearly three fifths of each sample think the council should increase Council Tax by 2 per cent via the 'social care precept' next year.

- Table 6 over the page shows that almost three fifths of the Citizens' Panel (56 per cent) said 'Yes' the council's should increase Council Tax by 2 per cent via the 'social care precept'. A further third disagreed (33 per cent), and 11 per cent said they did not know or were not sure.
- Similarly, nearly three fifths of those responding to the general public consultation said 'Yes' the council's should increase Council Tax by 2 per cent via the 'social care precept' (55 per cent, 18 out of 33). However, a further two fifths think the council's should not increase Council Tax by 2 per cent via the 'social care precept' (45 per cent, 15 out of 33 respondents). No respondents said they were not sure or did not know.

**Table 6: Respondents views on whether the Council should increase Council Tax in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept'**

Do you think that the council should increase Council Tax by 2% in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept'? <sup>2</sup>	Citizens' Panel		General Public	
	%	Number	%	Number
Yes	56%	170	55%	18
No	33%	100	45%	15
Don't know/Not sure	11%	30	0%	0
Total	100%	302	100%	33

<sup>1</sup> Those that only received one response have been coded into other.

<sup>2</sup> Do you think that the council should increase Council Tax by 2% in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept', which would generate up to £3 million - equivalent to an additional £22 per year for a Band D property - on the basis that the money is specifically reserved for adult social care, including care for the elderly?

### 3.1.6 Reasons why respondents think the council should increase Council Tax by 2% in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept'

Table 6 gives full details of the type of reasons received why respondents think the council's should increase Council Tax by 2 per cent via the 'social care precept'. The table is again ranked by the Citizens' Panel sample most frequently mentioned reasons.

Of those who indicated they agreed with this increase in Council Tax, 44 per cent of Citizens' Panel and 33 per cent (6 out of 18 respondents) of the general public respondents did not give a reason for their response. Of the respondents who did give a reason, the top five most frequently cited reasons were:

- ***'Adult social care needs further funding / Care for the elderly and vulnerable needs more attention/Agree this is required'***. 31 per cent of Citizens' Panel respondents who agreed cited this as a reason why they think the council's should increase Council Tax by 2 per cent via the 'social care precept'. 4 out of 18 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- ***'2 per cent / £22 would be manageable / affordable by all/most people'*** 15 per cent of Citizens' Panel respondents cited this as a reason for why they support an increase in Council Tax by 2% via the 'social care precept'. 7 out of 18 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- ***'The population is ageing. More resources are required for them / Barnet has a large population of older adults'*** 12 per cent of the Citizens' Panel gave this as a reason for their support. 1 out of 18 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- ***'If Council Tax is not increased concern that level of services would decrease/ Service should be protected'*** 6 per cent of the Citizens' Panel cited this as a reason why they think the council's should increase Council Tax by 2% via the 'social care precept'. 1 out of 18 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.



**Table 6: Reasons why respondents think the council should increase Council Tax by 2% in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept'**

Do you think that the council should increase Council Tax by 2% in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept'? <sup>1</sup>	Citizens' Panel		General Public	
	%	Base <sup>2</sup>	%	Base <sup>2</sup>
<b>THOSE WHO AGREE</b>		170		18
No comment	44%	74	33%	6
Adult social care needs further funding / Care for the elderly and vulnerable needs more attention/ Agree this is required	31%	52	22%	4
2% / £22 would be manageable / affordable by all/most people/ Agree with increase for this purpose	15%	25	39%	7
The population is ageing. More resources are required for them./ Barnet has a large population of older adults	12%	21	6%	1
If Council Tax not increased concern that level of services would decrease/ Service should be protected	6%	10	6%	1
These people have paid taxes all their lives and deserve care now/ It's their turn now	1%	2	0%	0
Next year the rise should be 4% / No less than 2% / Raise by more than 2%	1%	2	6%	1
Other <sup>3</sup>		25	0%	0
<b>Total number of different type of comments</b>		184		21

### 3.1.7 Reasons why respondents do not think the council should increase Council Tax by 2% in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept'

Table 7 gives full details of the type of reasons received on why respondents do not think the council's should not increase Council Tax by 2% via the 'social care precept' The table is again ranked by the Citizens' Panel sample most frequently mentioned reasons.

Of those who indicated they do not think the Council's should not increase Council Tax by 2 per cent via the 'social care precept' 42 per cent of Citizens' Panel and 27 per cent (6 out of 18 respondents) of the general public respondents did not give a reason for their response. Of the respondents who did give a reason, the top five most frequently cited reasons were:

- **'Barnet council tax is very high already / Enough is being charged'** 8 per cent of Citizens' Panel respondents cited this as a reason why they do not think the Council's should increase Council Tax by 2% via the 'social care precept' 4 out of 15 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.

<sup>1</sup> Question in full: Do you think that the council should increase Council Tax by 2% in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept', which would generate up to £3 million - equivalent to an additional £22 per year for a Band D property - on the basis that the money is specifically reserved for adult social care, including care for the elderly?

<sup>2</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they agree with this type of Council Tax increase.

<sup>3</sup> Those that only received one response have been coded into other.

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- ***'Make savings in other department areas to help this one'*** 5 per cent of Citizens' Panel respondents cited this as a reason why they do not support an increase in Council Tax by 2% via the 'social care precept'. None of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.
- ***'Families should be more responsible and look after their elderly family members'*** 5 per cent of the Citizens' Panel gave this as a reason why they do not want a 2 per cent 'social care' Council Tax increase. None of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.
- ***'Earnings/ Incomes have not increased in reality / Many people struggle already'*** 4 per cent of the Citizens' Panel cited this as a reason why they do not think the Council's should increase Council Tax by 2% via the 'social care precept'. 3 out of 15 of the general public consultation also gave this reason.
- ***'Suspicion/doubt that this additional taxation would be properly targeted towards the elderly'*** 4 per cent of the Citizens' Panel cited this as a reason as a reason why they do not want a 2 per cent 'social care' Council Tax increase. None of the general public consultation respondents gave this reason.

**Table 7: Reasons why respondents do not you think that the council should increase Council Tax by 2% in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept'**

Do you think that the council should increase Council Tax by 2% in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept'? <sup>1</sup>	Citizens' Panel		General Public	
	%	Base <sup>2</sup>	%	Base <sup>2</sup>
<b>THOSE WHO DO NOT AGREE</b>				
Base		100		15
No comment	42%	42	27%	4
There is no benefit to me or to my family now or in the next ten years/ I would not use these services so I am paying someone else's fees	17%	16	7%	1
Barnet council tax is very high already / Enough is being charged	8%	8	27%	4
Make savings in other department areas to help this one	5%	5		
Families should be more responsible and look after their elderly family members	5%	5		
Earnings/ Incomes have not increased in reality / Many people struggle already	4%	4	20%	3
Why single out one service/ Other services also require more funding	4%	4		
Suspicion/doubt that this additional taxation would be properly targeted towards the elderly	4%	4	7%	1
Council should not waste money	3%	3	7%	1
Barnet should get better value from its contractors generally	3%	3		

<sup>1</sup> Full question : 'Do you think that the council should increase Council Tax by 2% in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept', which would generate up to £3 million - equivalent to an additional £22 per year for a Band D property - on the basis that the money is specifically reserved for adult social care, including care for the elderly?'

<sup>2</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated did not agree with the increase.

Do you think that the council should increase Council Tax by 2% in 2016/17 via a 'social care precept'? <sup>1</sup>	Citizens' Panel		General Public	
Don't understand why an increase should be necessary. Where is the case for it./ Need more detailed information/ Publish spending	2%	2		
Those who earn most should pay more / Those in the most valuable houses should pay more.	2%	2		
Local councils should not have to fund what is a national problem	2%	2		
Other <sup>1</sup>		9		2
<b>Total number of different type of comments</b>		109		16

#### 4. Overall budget and savings for 2016/17

As outlined under paragraph 2.5.1 the Citizens' Panel were not asked questions on the overall budget and saving proposals for 2016/17. The questions were only asked of the general public

The consultation findings outlined below are from the general public consultation. At the time of writing 43 responses have been completed.

##### 4.1 Overall budget and savings for 2016/17

Respondents were asked if they had any comments to make on overall budget. in particular on how the 2016/17 proposed savings have been allocated across the Theme Committees.

Of those who responded to the whole general public consultation 23 out of 43 gave a response. Of the respondents who did give comments, the most frequently cited reasons were:

Four respondents indicated they agreed with the overall approach, citing:

- *I agree with proposals (2);*
- *Well thought out I think they are well thought out and the most vulnerable will be looked after ;*
- *The Theme Committee approach to identify effective saving is more effective than standard percentage slicing across all areas of Council spend.*

Five respondents asked for further clarity on the savings and approach:

- *Are savings based on services being commissioned or being in-house?*
- *How well are commissioned services being delivered?*
- *What savings are based on cutting services?*
- *What is the new model of social work practice?*
- *Do not understand 'Community Leadership' committee or its purpose.*

<sup>1</sup> Those that only received one response have been coded into other.

Three respondents felt that further efficiency savings could be made, citing:

- *Cut processes rather than services*
- *Review corporate support contracts due in 2016 and look at profit margins*
- *Value for money is required rather than reducing budgets.*

## 4.2 Policy and Resources Committee proposed budget savings 2016/17

### 4.2.1 Overall response to the budget savings proposed in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the savings that have been proposed within Policy and Resources Committee's budget for 2016/17. 24 respondents answered this question.

Table 9 shows opinion was mixed on the saving proposals within this committee, with no clear majority agreeing or disagreeing. 10 out of 24 respondents agreed, and 9 out of 24 disagreed. The remainder said they neither agree nor disagree (1 respondent) or they don't know (2 respondents).

**Table 9: Overall response to the budget savings proposed for Policy and Resources Committee**

<b>Overall, and taking into consideration the savings target this committee has to make, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within this Committee's budget for 2016/17?</b>		
	%	Base
Strongly Agree	13%	3
Tend to agree	29%	7
Neither agree nor disagree	4%	1
Tend to disagree	21%	5
Strongly disagree	25%	6
Don't know / not sure	8%	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>

### 4.2.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents who disagreed were asked to say why. Table below 10 gives full details of reasons received for disagreeing with the savings being proposed for Policy and Resources Committee.

Of those who indicated they disagreed with the savings, 7 out of 11 respondents did not give a reason for their response. Of the respondents who did give a reason, the top five most frequently cited reasons were:

*'Policy is less important than children's and other services'*. (1 respondent)

*'It is not explained how efficiency savings will be made'* (1 respondent)

*'There is too much focus on slashing services instead of looking at overhead expenditures'* (1 respondent)

*'Don't understand how savings of 2% will be made if budget includes costs rising by 2.5%'* (1 respondent)

*'Beat down the prices from third parties / Negotiate harder'* (1 respondent)

**Table 10: Reasons why respondents disagree within savings proposal in Policy and Resources Committee**

Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposal for Policy and Resources Committee		
	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
		11
No comment	64%	7
Policy is less important than children's and other services.	9%	1
It is not explained how efficiency savings will be made	9%	1
There is too much focus on slashing services instead of looking at overhead expenditures	9%	1
Don't understand how savings of 2% will be made if budget includes costs rising by 2.5%	9%	1
Beat down the prices from third parties / Negotiate harder	9%	1

#### 4.2.3 Alternative suggestions for savings

Residents who disagreed with the proposed savings were asked to suggest alternative savings. Table 11 below gives full details of alternative savings that were given.

Of those who disagreed, 5 out of 11 did not suggest alternatives. Of the residents that did suggest alternatives, the most cited alternatives were.

*'Reduce special payments to committee chairpersons.'* (2 respondents)

*'Do not overpay staff'* (2 respondents)

**Table 11: Alternative suggestions re the savings within Policy and Resources Committee**

Alternative suggestions re the savings within Policy and Resources Committee		
	%	Base <sup>2</sup>
		11
No comment	55%	6
Reduce special payments to committee chairpersons	18%	2
Do not overpay council staff, especially the incompetent / Cap salaries at £100,000	18%	2
Scrap the Capita outsourcing contract	9%	1
Cut consultants	9%	1

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.

<sup>2</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.

**Alternative suggestions re the savings within Policy and Resources Committee**

Reduce gain share payments to Capita	9%	1
Confiscate properties of overseas owners and left empty, then rent them out to social tenants,	9%	1
Share services with other Boroughs	9%	1
Withdraw housing and translation services to those who have not paid into the system	9%	1
Withdraw grants to community groups that only help one race/religion	9%	1
Don't pay contractors and subcontractors ridiculously overinflated prices for services.	9%	1
Increase council tax by 2% in addition to the 2% for social care	9%	1

**4.2.4 General comments**

Residents were asked if they had any comments to make on the specific savings that have been proposed within Policy and Resources Committee's budget for 2016/17. 14 out of 26 did not provide comments.

Table 12 gives full details of general comments that were made about the savings for Policy and Resources Committee.

Of those that did provide comments, the most frequently occurring comments were:

*'Negotiate more on third party contracts'* (3 respondents)

*'Cut overpaid senior officers'* (3 respondents)

*'Disagree with proposed savings'* (2 respondents)

*'Permanent staff should not suffer job cuts'* (2 respondents)

*'Why increase by 2.5% when inflation is only 2%?'* (2 respondents)

*'Stop using agency staff'* (2 respondents)

**Table 12: General comments about the proposed savings within Policy and Resources Committee**

<b>Comments about savings within Policy and Resources Committee</b>		
	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
No comment	54%	14
Save more than 2% on third party contract. / Demand better quality at a lower cost/ Agree with negotiation of service contracts	12%	3
Cut overpaid senior officers / Align benefits packets to the private sector	12%	3
Disagree with proposed savings.	8%	2
Is this another way of saying cutting pay or cutting jobs / Permanent staff should not suffer job cuts	8%	2
Why increase by 2.5% when inflation is only 2%	8%	2

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.



Comments about savings within Policy and Resources Committee		
Stop using agency staff / Curtail spending on consultants	8%	2
Agree with 4% increase in 2016/2017	4%	1
Agree with proposed savings	4%	1
CSG Capita contract is out of council's control	4%	1
This committees budget savings should not be proportionately less than the savings on children's services	4%	1
Do not call them savings when they are cuts	4%	1
This will affect the poorest in the Borough	4%	1
Raise council taxes	4%	1
Higher rate for the most expensive properties	4%	1
Make more cuts re overhead costs and costs of committees	4%	1
Reduce Policy & Resource Committee's budget more and more quickly	4%	1
Voluntary and community organisations operating locally could achieve some of the communication and engagement outcomes at a lower cost	4%	1
How can there be so much to be saved by 'efficiencies' when efficiencies have supposedly been imposed every year for four years or more?	4%	1
Bring your staffing costs down by ensuring better efficiencies in staff	4%	1
Do not cut costs relating to auditing: No auditing means no one to check on mistakes.	4%	1
The savings on external contracts should be net of gain share.	4%	1
Save money by contracting translation services and other benefits i.e. housing to those who have never paid into the system.	4%	1

## 4.3 Adults and Safeguarding Committee

### 4.3.1 Overall response to the budget savings proposed in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the savings that has been proposed within Adults and Safeguarding Committee's budget for 2016/17.

25 respondents answered this question.

Table 13 shows that a majority of correspondents disagreed with the savings proposals within this committee. 7 out of 25 agreed and 16 out of 25 disagreed. The remainder said they neither agree nor disagree (1 respondent) or they don't know (1 respondent).



**Table 13: Overall response to the budget savings proposed in the Adults and Safeguarding Committee**

<b>Overall, and taking into consideration the savings target this committee has to make, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within this Committee's budget for 2016/17?</b>		
	<b>%</b>	<b>Base</b>
Strongly Agree	8%	2
Tend to agree	20%	5
Neither agree nor disagree	4%	1
Tend to disagree	28%	7
Strongly disagree	36%	9
Don't know / not sure	4%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>

### 4.3.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents who disagreed were asked to say why.

Table 14 gives full details of reasons given for disagreeing with the savings being proposed for Adults and Safeguarding Committee.

Of those who indicated they disagreed with the savings, 7 out of 16 did not give a reason for their response. Of those that did give a reason, the top five most frequently cited reasons were:

*'This service needs to be protected/ vulnerable people need to be protected.* (4 respondents)

*'Demand is growing for these services/ ageing demographics'* (2 respondents)

*'Strip out directorate overheads'* (1 respondent)

*'In order to help people retain autonomy and independence'* (1 respondent)

*'Concern about over-use of unqualified volunteers/ Risks harm to people'* (1 respondent)

**Table 14: Reasons why respondents disagree within savings proposal in Adults and Safeguarding Committee**

<b>Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposals for Adults and Safeguarding Committee</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Base<sup>1</sup></b>
No comment	44%	7
This service needs to be protected / Vulnerable people need to be protected	25%	4
Demand is growing for these services / Ageing demographics	13%	2
Do not want any council tax increases	6%	1

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.

## Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposals for Adults and Safeguarding Committee

In order to help people retain their autonomy/independence more support (not less) is required.	6%	1
Strip out directorate overheads	6%	1

### 4.3.3 Alternative suggestions for savings

Residents who disagreed with the proposed savings were asked to suggest alternative savings.

Table 15 gives full details of alternatives savings that were given.

Of those who disagreed, 7 out of 16 did not suggest alternatives. Of the residents that did suggest alternatives, the most cited alternative was:

*'Increase Council Tax'* (5 respondents)

**Table 15: Alternative suggestions re the savings within Adults and Safeguarding Committee**

Alternative suggestions re the savings within Adults and Safeguarding Committee?	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
	6%	16
No comment	44%	7
Increase Council Tax	31%	5
Take back services outsourced to Capita	6%	1
Cut councillors perks	6%	1
Get rid of top heavy chief officers	6%	1
Sell off underused buildings	6%	1
Cut the extras such as art and Christmas lights	6%	1
No savings in this area	6%	1

### 4.3.4 General comments

Residents were asked to give general comments about the proposed savings. 14 out of 28 did not provide comments.

Table 16 gives full details of general comments that were made about the savings for the Policy and Resources Committee.

Of those that did provide comments, the most frequently occurring comments were:

*'Do not remove budget from services where there are recognised demand pressure'* (7 respondents)

*'Concern that vulnerable people will suffer reduction in service'* (4 respondents)

*'Agreement with proposals'* (3 respondents)

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- 'Reduce overheads involved with running directorate'* (3 respondents)
- 'Unsure that personal budgets will cover increases in cost of home care'* (3 respondents)
- 'Focus on contract efficiencies'* (2 respondents)
- 'Bring services back in house'* (2 respondents)

**Table 16: General Comments about the proposed savings within Adults and Safeguarding Committee?**

Comments about savings within Adults and Safeguarding Committee		
	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
		28
No comment	50%	14
Do not remove budget from services where there are recognised demand pressures/ don't cut off any more than is proposed from this important budget	25%	7
Concern that vulnerable people will suffer a reduction in service	14%	4
Agreement with the proposals	11%	3
Reduce overheads involved with running the directorate	11%	3
Unsure that personal budgets will cover increases in cost of home care / Unsure about the practicality of personal budgets	11%	3
Bring services back in-house	7%	2
Focus on contract efficiencies / Maintain quality of care if trying to drive down contract payments	7%	2
Give more help to voluntary organisations in the community	4%	1
Agree with reduction on expenditure on safeguarding	4%	1
Reduce Business rates to help local businesses	4%	1
Reduce parking restrictions to help local businesses	4%	1
Focus effort at targeting delivery of services	4%	1
Young people with disabilities living independently will need support and safeguards	4%	1
Will social workers be able to manage their obligations?	4%	1
Belief that this will support 'those in need'.	4%	1
Increase council tax for Adult Social Care by 2% to avoid the need for any savings.	4%	1

### 4.4 Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

#### 4.4.1 Overall response to the budget savings proposed in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the savings that has been proposed within Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee's budget for 2016/17.

24 respondents answered this question.

Table 17 shows that a majority of correspondents disagreed with the savings proposals within this committee. 8 out of 24 agreed and 14 out of 24 disagreed. The remainder said they neither agree nor disagree (1 respondent) or they don't know (1 respondent).

**Table 17: Overall response to the budget savings proposed in the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee**

<b>Overall, and taking into consideration the savings target this committee has to make, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within this Committee's budget for 2016/17?</b>		
	<b>%</b>	<b>Base</b>
Strongly Agree	8%	2
Tend to agree	25%	6
Neither agree nor disagree	4%	1
Tend to disagree	33%	8
Strongly disagree	25%	6
Don't know / not sure	4%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>

#### 4.4.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents who disagreed were asked to say why.

Table 18 gives full details of reasons received for respondents disagreeing with the savings being proposed for Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee.

Of those who indicated they disagreed with the savings, 7 out of 16 did not give a reason for their response. Of those that did give a reason, the most frequently cited reasons were:

*'The proposals suggested in the library consultation are not workable'* (2 respondents)

*'Unclear how savings will be made / Revenue will be raised'* (2 respondents)

**Table 18: Reasons why respondents disagree within savings proposal in the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee**

Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposal for Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee		
	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
No comment	50%	14
The proposals suggested in the library consultation are not workable	14%	2
Unclear how savings will be made / Revenue will be raised	14%	2
Need to take a holistic view	7%	1
Support the community then it will support the council	7%	1
These services are vital for our community	7%	1
Decrease expenditure more gently than planned	7%	1
This is targeting the most vulnerable again	7%	1
Pay top staff less then there would be more budget available	7%	1
Follow the Lewisham model re libraries	7%	1
The proposed cuts library system will have a negative impact on children in particular.	7%	1
As much support as possible should go into early years where the biggest changes in life chances can be made.	7%	1

#### 4.4.3 Alternative suggestions for savings

Residents who disagreed with the proposed savings were asked to suggest alternative savings.

Table 19 gives full details of alternatives savings that were given.

Of those who disagreed, 5 out of 11 did not suggest alternatives. Of the residents that did suggest alternatives, the most cited alternatives were:

*'Encourage libraries to become more self-sufficient'* (3 respondents)

*'Sack all consultants'* (2 respondents)

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.

**Table 19: Alternative suggestions re the savings within Children, Education, Libraries and Skills Committee**

**Alternative suggestions re the savings within Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee?**

	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
No comment	36%	11
Encourage libraries become more self-sufficient and more entrepreneurial in the way they are run and managed / I am in favour of rationalising the library services	21%	3
Sack all consultants / A moratorium on use of consultants	14%	2
No savings are needed	7%	1
More support for voluntary organisations	7%	1
Make a small charge to library users	7%	1
Build up a community fund for libraries / Place libraries in the community remit	7%	1
Investigate feasibility of generating income through co-locating services in libraries.	7%	1
Stop subsidising council housing so much / Many tenants are able to pay market rents.	7%	1
End whole life tenure of council houses.	7%	1
Stop 'Right to buy'	7%	1

#### 4.4.4 General comments

Residents were asked to give general comments about the proposed savings. 13 out of 26 did not provide comments.

Table 20 gives full details of general comments that were made about the savings for the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee.

Of those that did provide comments, the most frequently occurring comments were:

*'Disagree with library proposals'* (6 respondents)

*'Early intervention does not necessarily lead to reduce demand'* (2 respondents)

*'No robust business case to support need to save £15 million'* (2 respondents)

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.

**Table 20: General Comments about the proposed savings within Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee?**

<b>Comments about savings within Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</b>		
	<b>%</b>	<b>Base<sup>1</sup></b>
		26
No comment	50%	13
Disagree with library proposals/ S3 Your proposals for the library services are immoral. You have no right to do this to the library service.	23%	6
Early Years Review - early intervention does not necessarily result in a reduction in demand for support at a later date	8%	2
No robust business case to support need to save £15 million	8%	2
Bring services back in-house	4%	1
Employ local people who know the area and care about the community to deliver services	4%	1
Agree with proposals. Sensible and sustainable.	4%	1
The savings projected seems disproportionate compared with the projected savings from the Policy and Resources Committee budget,	4%	1
Suggest savings in 2016 and then not again until 2020	4%	1
I'm not clear that there is sufficient demand for foster care	4%	1
S3 Is this saying that £546K is cut from library services to pay for Family Services?	4%	1
Accept that libraries have to suffer cuts	4%	1
Increase council tax to pay for vulnerable children, disabled, cared	4%	1
S3 - Early years services are vital. no locations should be shut down	4%	1
Early years services are badly run and is a wasted opportunity	4%	1

## 4.5 Environment Committee

### 4.5.1 Overall response to the budget savings proposed in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the savings that has been proposed within Environment Committee's budget for 2016/17.

23 respondents answered this question.

Table 21 shows that Opinion was mixed on the saving proposals within this committee, with no clear majority agreeing or disagreeing. 11 out of 23 respondents agreed and 10 out of 23 disagreed. The remainder said they neither agree nor disagree (2 respondents).

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.



**Table 21: Overall response to the budget savings proposed in the Environment Committee**

<b>Overall, and taking into consideration the savings target this committee has to make, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within this Committee's budget for 2016/17?</b>		
	<b>%</b>	<b>Base</b>
Strongly Agree	9%	2
Tend to agree	39%	9
Neither agree nor disagree	9%	2
Tend to disagree	22%	5
Strongly disagree	22%	5
Don't know / not sure	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>23</b>

#### 4.5.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents who disagreed were asked to say why.

Table 22 gives full details of reasons received for respondents disagreeing with the savings being proposed for Environment Committee.

Of those who indicated they disagreed with the savings, 5 out of 10 did not give a reason for their response. Of those that did give a reason, the reasons cited were:

*'Waste of public resources'* (1 respondent)

*'Collections should be different/less'* (1 respondent)

*'Our environment should be improving in this modern day and age. Instead standards are going down'* (1 respondent)

*'In general there seems too much reliance on volunteer forces'* (1 respondent)

*'Most people in the borough can afford an increase in Council Tax'* (1 respondent)

*'Street cleaning is essential for a good environment. More resources should be put into enforcement'* (1 respondent)

**Table 22: Reasons why respondents disagree within savings proposal in Environment Committee**

Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposals for Environment Committee		
	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
		10
No comment	50%	5
Waste of public resources	10%	1
Collections should be different/ less	10%	1
Our environment should be improving in this modern day and age. Instead standards are going down.	10%	1
In general there seems too much reliance on volunteer forces	10%	1
Most people in the borough can afford an increase in Council Tax	10%	1
Street cleaning is essential for a good environment. More resources should be put into enforcement	10%	1

#### 4.5.3 Alternative suggestions for savings

Residents who disagreed with the proposed savings were asked to suggest alternative savings.

Table 23 gives full details of alternatives savings that were given.

Of those who disagreed, 6 out of 10 did not suggest alternatives. Of the residents that did suggest alternatives, the most cited alternative was:

*'Decrease general waste collections to fortnightly'* (2 respondents)

**Table 23: Alternative suggestions re the savings within Environment Committee**

Alternative suggestions re the savings within Environment Committee		
	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
		10
No comment	60%	6
Decrease general waste collections to fortnightly,	20%	2
Councillors should take a lead in volunteering: every councillor who is not in full-time employment should volunteer at least 4 hours a week	10%	1
It makes no sense whatsoever to bully people in terrace/detached homes into recycling at fear of being fined,	10%	1
The recycling provision offered to flat dwellers is rubbish.	10%	1
Up the fines for fly tipping.	10%	1

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.

#### 4.5.4 General comments

Residents were asked to give general comments about the proposed savings. 12 out of 25 did not provide comments.

Table 24 gives full details of general comments that were made about the savings for the Environment Committee.

Of those that did provide comments, the most frequently occurring comments were:

*'Agree with proposals'* (3 respondents)

*'Standards are falling in the borough'* (2 respondents)

**Table 24: General comments about the proposed savings within Environment Committee**

Comments about savings within Environment Committee		
	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
		25
No comment	48%	12
Agree with proposals. Sensible and sustainable. / An excellent idea if followed through	12%	3
Our borough is gradually going down in standards of street/pavement provision with no intention evidenced to improve / It is like having no service already./ Hard to see how savings can be made	8%	2
In favour of a community payback scheme	4%	1
Should be encouraging people to walk and cycle more	4%	1
Encourage more people to take their waste to local recycling centres	4%	1
Do not outsource waste and recycling services	4%	1
R2 Hard to see how council can effectively monitor/ensure recycling, particularly of food waste	4%	1
Careful planning of alternate-week collection required / Risk of encouraging fly tipping	4%	1
E4 - it is not appropriate to expect residents to maintain common areas, parks etc. You are the council. You do it.	4%	1
E6- new lighting provision is an absolute disgrace. LED lights are not suitable for residential areas, they are too intense, and cause light pollution on an uncomfortable scale.	4%	1
G2- Charging unreasonable inflated charges for the removal of bulk refuse is discriminatory and unfair.	4%	1
Increase general council tax by 2%	4%	1
The waste disposal vehicles are new. I am not clear what this saving will be.	4%	1

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.

## 4.6 Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee

### 4.6.1 Overall response to the budget savings proposed in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the savings that has been proposed within Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee's budget for 2016/17.

24 respondents answered this question.

Table 25 shows that opinion was mixed on the saving proposals within this committee, with no clear majority agreeing or disagreeing. 7 out of 24 agreed and 6 out of 24 disagreed. The remainder said they neither agree nor disagree (2 respondents) or they don't know (2 respondents).

**Table 25: Overall response to the budget savings proposed in the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee**

<b>Overall, and taking into consideration the savings target this committee has to make, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within this Committee's budget for 2016/17?</b>		
	<b>%</b>	<b>Base</b>
Strongly Agree	16%	3
Tend to agree	21%	4
Neither agree nor disagree	21%	4
Tend to disagree	11%	2
Strongly disagree	21%	4
Don't know / not sure	11%	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>

### 4.6.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents who disagreed were asked to say why.

Table 26 gives full details of reasons received for respondents disagreeing with the savings being proposed for Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee.

Of those who indicated they disagreed with the savings, 2 out of 6 did not give a reason for their response. Of those that did give a reason, the most frequently cited reasons were:

*'Regeneration and redevelopment that has taken place has not benefited former social tenants'* (2 respondents)

**Table 26: Reasons why respondents disagree within savings proposal in Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee**

**Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposal for Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee**

	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
No comment	33%	2
Regeneration and redevelopment that has taken place has not benefited former social tenants	33%	2
Waste of public resources	17%	1
Mismanagement by council	17%	1
Most housing in Borough is unaffordable by the majority of people	17%	1
Social housing stock needs to be maintained	17%	1

**4.6.3 Alternative suggestions for savings**

Residents who disagreed with the proposed savings were asked to suggest alternative savings.

Table 27 gives full details of alternatives savings that were given.

Of those who disagreed, 2 out of 6 did not suggest alternatives. Of the residents that did suggest alternatives, the most cited alternative was:

*'Reduce the number of staff'* (2 respondents)

**Table 27: Alternative suggestions re the savings within Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee**

**Alternative suggestions re the savings within Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee?**

	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
No comment	33%	2
Reduce number of staff	17%	1
Make management more efficient	17%	1
Provide better parking facilities on high streets	17%	1
Reduce business rates	17%	1
Provide relief for service providers	17%	1
Confiscate or compulsory purchase properties that are left empty for months at a time, then rent them out to social tenants,	17%	1
Use the Tarling Road money to keep libraries open instead	17%	1
A total moratorium on use of consultants, including Capita, outside of the core contract.	17%	1

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.

#### 4.6.4 General comments

Residents were asked to give general comments about the proposed savings. 11 out of 20 did not provide comments.

Table 28 gives full details of general comments that were made about the savings for the Policy and Resources Committee.

Of those that did provide comments, the most frequently occurring comments were:

*'Agree with proposal'* (3 respondents)

*'This is a need to renew housing stock'* (2 respondents)

**Table 28: General comments about the proposed savings within Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee**

#### Comments about savings within Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee

	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
No comment		20
Agree with proposals. Sensible and sustainable./ Encouraging figures	55%	11
There is a need to renew housing stock / Must not deplete existing housing stock	10%	2
Consider these proposals are a disgrace	10%	2
Current 'regeneration' schemes have produced social injustice and provoked anger	5%	1
How do we ensure these targets are met?	5%	1
I have yet to see regeneration projects of any significance actually take place in our North Finchley area	5%	1
Parking is a large part of what is killing off our high street.	5%	1
Sell off underused assets and relocate services to other venues	5%	1
Social cleansing of estates to eject families in need in favour of those able to pay higher rents or buy the new properties is cynical and unethical	5%	1
The benefits need to be made clear to the public	5%	1

#### 4.7 Community Leadership Committee

##### 4.7.1 Overall response to the budget savings proposed in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the savings that has been proposed within Community Leadership Committee's budget for 2016/17.

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.

15 respondents answered this question.

Table 29 shows that a majority of correspondents agreed with the savings proposals within this committee. 10 out of 15 respondents agreed and 5 out of 15 disagreed.

**Table 29: Overall response to the budget savings proposed in the Community Leadership Committee**

Overall, and taking into consideration the savings target this committee has to make, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within this Committee's budget for 2016/17?		
	%	Base
Strongly Agree	20%	3
Tend to agree	47%	7
Neither agree nor disagree	-	-
Tend to disagree	7%	1
Strongly disagree	27%	4
Don't know / not sure	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

#### 4.7.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents who disagreed were asked to say why.

Table 30 gives full details of reasons received for respondents disagreeing with the savings being proposed for the Community Leadership Committee.

Of those who indicated they disagreed with the savings, 7 out of 16 did not give a reason for their response. Of those that did give a reason, the most frequently cited reasons were:

**Table 30: Reasons why respondents disagree within savings proposal in the Community Leadership Committee**

Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposal for Community Leadership Committee		
	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
No comment	80%	5
Not making any savings on it does not make sense	20%	1

#### 4.7.3 Alternative suggestions for savings

Residents who disagreed with the proposed savings were asked to suggest alternative savings.

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.



Table 31 gives full details of alternatives savings that were given.

Of those who disagreed, 3 out of 5 did not suggest alternatives. Of the residents that did suggest alternatives, the most cited alternatives were:

*'Unless I know what the committee actually does then in my opinion, it shouldn't exist'* (1 respondent)

*'Get rid of the cultural premium, translation services, cultural pussy footing around'* (1 respondent)

**Table 31: Alternative suggestions re the savings within Community Leadership Committee**

Alternative suggestions re the savings within Community Leadership Committee?	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
		5
No comment	60%	3
Unless I know what the committee actually does then in my opinion, it shouldn't exist.	20%	1
Get rid of the cultural premium, translation services, cultural pussy footing around	20%	1

#### 4.7.4 General comments

Residents were asked to give general comments about the proposed savings. 9 out of 15 did not provide comments.

Table 32 gives full details of general comments that were made about the savings for the Policy and Resources Committee.

Of those that did provide comments, the most frequently occurring comments were:

*'The committee should reduce its costs and expenses'* (2 respondents)

*'Its role seems pretty unimportant'* (2 respondents)

*'Agree with the proposals'* (2 respondents)

**Table 32: General comments about the proposed savings within Community Leadership Committee**

Comments about savings within Community Leadership Committee	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
		15
No comment	60%	9
The Committee should reduce its costs and expenses	13%	2
It's role seems pretty un-important / It's desired outcomes are questionable	13%	2

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.

## Comments about savings within Community Leadership Committee

	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
Agree with proposals. Sensible and sustainable.	13%	2
Why does this Committee exist?	7%	1
We need greater resources for Community leadership as there is a great deal of talent within the Borough which is not being tapped.	7%	1
Saving money on duplicated IT is sensible	7%	1
Everyone should have exactly the same available funding.	7%	1

## 4.8 Housing Committee

### 4.8.1 Overall response to the budget savings proposed in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the savings that has been proposed within Housing Committee's budget for 2016/17.

6 respondents answered this question.

Table 33 shows that half of correspondents disagreed with the savings proposals within this committee. 3 out of 15 respondents disagreed and 2 said they Don't Know.

**Table 33: Overall response to the budget savings proposed for the Housing Committee**

<b>Overall, and taking into consideration the savings target this committee has to make, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within this Committee's budget for 2016/17?</b>		
	%	Base
Strongly Agree	-	-
Tend to agree	-	-
Neither agree nor disagree	50%	3
Tend to disagree	33%	2
Strongly disagree	17%	1
Don't know / not sure	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>

### 4.8.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents who disagreed were asked to say why.

Table 34 gives full details of reasons received for respondents disagreeing with the savings being proposed for Housing Committee.

Of those who indicated they disagreed with the savings, 7 out of 16 did not give a reason for their response. Of those that did give a reason, the most frequently cited reasons were:

**Table 34: Reasons why respondents disagree within savings proposal in Housing Committee**

Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposal for Housing Committee		
	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
No comment	33%	6
It is worrying that the council thinks it's an economy not to do non-urgent maintenance and repairs. Waiting for matters to become urgent means the maintenance or repair may cause greater problems and will certainly cost more.	33%	1
More attention should be given to making sure local people in housing need benefit from it.	33%	1

### 4.8.3 Alternative suggestions for savings

Residents who disagreed with the proposed savings were asked to suggest alternative savings.

Table 35 gives full details of alternatives savings that were given.

Of those who disagreed, 1 out of 3 did not suggest alternatives. Of the residents that did suggest alternatives, the alternatives cited were:

*'Do repairs when the problems occur'* (1 respondent)

*'Make people pay market rent'* (1 respondent)

*'No right to buy'* (1 respondent)

**Table 35: Alternative suggestions re the savings within Housing Committee**

Alternative suggestions re the savings within Housing Committee?		
	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
No comment	33%	3
Do repairs when the problems occur.	33%	1
Make people pay market rent.	33%	1
No Right to buy	33%	1

### 4.8.4 General comments

Residents were asked to give general comments about the proposed savings. 10 out of 20 did not provide comments.

Table 36 gives full details of general comments that were made about the savings for the Policy and Resources Committee.

Of those that did provide comments, the most frequently occurring comments were:

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.

*'More affordable housing needs to be built'* (6 respondents)

*'Please try to protect this budget'* (2 respondents)

**Table 36: General Comments about the proposed savings within Housing Committee?**

Comments about savings within Housing Committee	%	Base <sup>1</sup>
No comment	50%	10
More affordable housing needs to be built / Housing stock needs to be maintained	30%	6
Please try to protect this budget as much as possible	10%	2
Agree with the proposed saving as a sensible and sustainable way forward.	5%	1
Private ownership should be encouraged.	5%	1
Stopping non-essential works is good idea	5%	1
Would like to see the council actually delivering the outcomes listed in its priorities	5%	1
Barnet Homes needs to be more efficient	5%	1
I am concerned about stopping non-essential works and re-prioritisation.	5%	1
I disagree with large scale purchasing of housing outside the borough	5%	1

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated there disagreed with the savings.