

Appendix G

Business Planning 2017/18-2019/2020

General Budget Consultation 2017/18

5 December 2016 – 19 January 2017

Consultation, Commissioning Group

SECTION 1

Executive Summary

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out the final consultation findings from the formal General Budget Consultation 2017/18 which will be presented to Budget Council, on 7 March 2017.

2. Summary of approach

2.1 Preliminary consultation and engagement

The council has already undertaken a range of consultation and engagement activities to inform its development of the Corporate Plan strategic priorities and five-year commissioning priorities and plans, along with indicative savings proposals to inform the medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) 2015-2020. Further details are provided in Section 2 of this report.

2.2 Formal general budget consultation on the council's budget 2017/18 (5 December 2016 – 19 January 2017)

A summary of the key findings are outlined on the following pages. Detailed findings are also provided in Section 2 of this report.

The 2017/18 general budget consultation asked for views on:

- Options for Council Tax increases next year;
- The overall budget and the saving proposals;
- The budget and savings proposals within each Theme Committee.

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 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; the council's website; local press; Twitter; Facebook; 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, Delivery Unit newsletters/circulars and super-user mailing lists;

- A separate questionnaire was sent to the Citizens' Panel¹ to ensure the views of a representative sample of the borough's population were captured on the different options for Council Tax in 2017/18.

However, on 15 December 2016, during the consultation period, the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2017/18 was announced. Within this settlement the Government set out proposals to provide councils with an additional flexibility to increase the social care precept by a further 1% for 2017/18 on top of the existing 2% social care precept flexibility. Councils therefore now have the flexibility to increase the precept by up to 3% in 2017/18.

When the announcement was made, the public consultation had already been launched and had received 10 completed responses. In order to gather views on the new announcement:

- The public consultation was updated with additional questions to reflect the Government's additional social care precept flexibility;
- The Citizens' Panel had not been mailed out when the announcement was made; the additional questions were therefore added to the Citizens' Panel questionnaires in time for the Citizens' Panel mail out.

As the new information could have impacted on how residents responded to the public consultation, the findings prior to the 15 December announcement and the findings from the updated public consultation, after 15 December, have been reported on separately throughout this report.

2.2.2 Response to the consultation

A total of 783 questionnaires have been completed:

- 10² questionnaires were completed by the general public consultation prior to the Government's announcement on 15 December;
- 81 questionnaires were completed by the general public consultation after the Government's announcement on 15 December;
- 692 questionnaires were completed by the Citizens' Panel after the Government's announcement on 15 December.

The findings have also been reported in order of the largest sample size: Citizens' Panel (692), the updated consultation after 15 December announcement (81), and then the consultation prior to the December announcement (10).

¹ The Citizens' Panel is currently made up of 2,056 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

² There was 1 online questionnaire where the respondent skipped all the questions. This has now been removed from the data set.

There were also four written responses which did not answer the questions included in the public consultation questionnaire. The written responses were from:

- One member of the general public (email response);
- Three businesses (one written letter and two email responses).

These responses have been reported on separately and further details are provided Section 2 of this report.

2.2.3 Response profile

The Citizens' Panel response was weighted to ensure the achieved sample was representative of the borough's population. More information on the Citizens' Panel methodology can be found at paragraph 2.6 of the detailed report.

Due to low completion rate of the diversity monitoring questions to the general public consultations, the response cannot be compared to the borough's population in its entirety and it is therefore difficult to say how representative it was of the borough's population.

It is also important to note that the consultation methods differ and their findings cannot be reported in a single result. For this reason the findings have been reported on separately, so that comparisons can be made between the much larger representative sample from the Citizens' Panel and the open general public consultations. For more information on how the results have been reported and interpreted please refer to 2.7 under Section 2 of this report.

3. Summary of key findings

The key findings from the consultation are outlined on the following pages.

Council Tax – views on options for Council Tax increase in 2017/18

The Citizens' Panel and the online general public consultations were asked for their views on a series of options for Council Tax increases next year.

It should be noted that those who support or oppose the different options for Council Tax increases have only been reported in this section of the report. The full findings of who answered they 'neither support nor oppose' or 'don't know' have been reported on in Section 2 of this report.

Also throughout the report the base size may vary from question to question as respondents did not all provide a response to every question.

3.1 Social Care Precept Council Tax:

3.1.1 The proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept increase in 2017/18

- Overall, the majority of both the Citizens' Panel members (65%), and the majority of general public respondents responding to the updated consultation after 15 December (62%, 50 out of 81 respondents), support the proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept next year.
- There was a larger majority supporting this proposal by those responding to the general public consultation prior to the Government's announcement on 15 December 2016. All 9 respondents who answered the question supported this proposal, with 8 out of 9 strongly supporting it.

3.1.2 Applying a full 3% social care precept increase to Council Tax bills in 2017/18

- Half (48%) of the Citizens' Panel support the Government's new proposal that allows councils to apply a further 1% increase on social care precept – 3% in total.
- 41% of the Citizens' Panel oppose a full 3% social care precept increase to Council Tax bills in 2017/18.
- In terms of the updated public consultation after the 15 December 2016 announcement, nearly three fifths (58%, 44 out of 76 respondents) support a full 3% social care precept increase to Council Tax bills in Barnet next year, and 40% (30 out of 76) oppose this type of increase.
- This question was not asked of the general public consultation prior to the Government's announcement on 15 December.

3.2 General Council Tax

3.2.1 Applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the proposed 2% social care precept in 2017/18

- Just over a third of the Citizens' Panel (36%) support an additional increase on general Council Tax of 1.99% on top of the proposed 2% social care precept,. Nearly three fifths (58%) of the panel oppose this increase.
- Almost three fifths (57%, 41 out of 72 respondents) of those support a 1.99 % increase in the general Council Tax on top of the proposed 2% social care precept increase next year. Two fifths (41%, 29 out of 72 respondents) oppose this type of Council Tax increase.

- 7 out of 8 respondents responding to the general budget consultation prior to the Government announcement on the 15 December 2016 support a 1.99% increase in the general Council Tax on top of the proposed 2% social care precept. 1 respondent opposes this increase.

3.2.2 Applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept increase in 2017/18

- A quarter of the Citizens' Panel (25%) support a 1.99 % increase on the general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept increase next year. Nearly two thirds (64%) oppose this type of increase.
- Half (51%, 36 out of 71 respondents) of those responding to the updated general public consultation support a 1.99% increase in the general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept increase next year, and just under half of the sample opposing this increase (45%, 32 out of 71 respondents).

This question was not asked of the general public consultation prior to the Government's announcement on 15 December.

3.3 Type of reasons why respondents said they support or oppose these Council Tax increases

Respondents were given an opportunity to provide reasons why they support or oppose these increases and many respondents gave a reason.

The types of reasons given were similar across the different types of Council Tax increases and these are summarised below.

3.3.1 Reasons why respondents support a social care precept increase

The most frequently mentioned reason for support of a social care precept increase was that respondents regard social care as being underfunded, followed by respondents indicating that they feel the increase seems acceptable/fair; recognition that we must support the elderly and also the vulnerable; and recognition that we have an ageing population. Some also added the caveat that the money must be ring-fenced.

3.3.2 Reasons why respondents oppose a social care precept increase

The most frequently mentioned reason why respondents oppose a social care precept increase was around affordability; there was also a particular reference to pensioners not being able to afford an increase.

Other frequently mentioned reasons were that Council Tax is already too high; that the council still needs to cut more waste, for example overheads and executives' pay; that the Government should pay more; the effect of lower increases should be monitored first; and funding for other services was needed.

3.3.3 Reasons why respondents support an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 2% or 3% social care precept

The reasons why respondents support an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a social care precept were very similar to the reasons for the support of a social care precept.

The most frequently mentioned reason why respondents support an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the social care precept was again because respondents regard social care as being underfunded. Other frequently mentioned reasons include: it is an acceptable increase; recognition that there is a need to support the vulnerable; other services need an increase in funding; and we need to all accept responsibility and share the cost. Many respondents also mentioned they support but added the caveat they will need to see where the extra money is being spent.

3.3.4 Reasons why respondents oppose an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 2% or 3% social care precept

Again the reasons why respondents oppose an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a social care precept were very similar to the reasons for opposing a social care precept.

The most frequently mentioned reasons why respondents oppose an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 2% or a 3% social care precept was the increase was just too high and concern about affordability; there was again a particular reference to pensioners not being able to afford an increase. Answers also included: the council still needs to cut more waste; and the need to monitor the effect of lower increases first.

Detailed analysis on the reasons given for each type of Council Tax increase is provided in section 2 of this report.

3.4 Analysis of demographic sub-groups who are significantly more likely to support or oppose the different type of Council Tax increases

The Citizens' Panel demographic sub-groups responses have been analysed to identify which groups have a statistically significantly different response from the overall response. The sample sizes of the two public consultations are too small to draw any significant conclusions in terms of demographics.

In terms of the Citizens' Panel there are two main demographic sub-groups that stand out in regards to their responses:

- The Hendon Constituency responses are different from the overall response across each of the four options for Council Tax increases compared to the overall response. They are **less likely to support** the 2% and 3% social care precept increase. They are also **more likely to oppose** the proposed 2% social care precept plus 1.99% and **more likely to oppose** the proposed 3% social care

precept plus 1.99%. To summarise, they were not supportive of any Council Tax increase.

- Users of Housing Services are also **more likely to oppose** any increase in the social care precept or general Council Tax. They are also **less likely to support** a further 2% Social Care Precept.

There are also other different demographic sub-groups whose responses are statistically significantly different from the overall response in terms of whether they support or oppose the different options for Council Tax next year, but did not appear across all four options. Further details can be found on pages 42 to 44 in Section 2 of this report.

4. Overall budget and savings for 2017/18

The Citizens' Panel were not asked questions on the overall budget and savings proposals for 2017/18.

The consultation findings outlined on the following pages are from the general public consultations only.

4.1 Overall budget and savings for 2017/18

Respondents were asked if they had any comments to make on the overall budget, in particular on how the 2017/18 proposed savings have been allocated across the Theme Committees:

- 25 out of 81 respondents who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December gave comments on the overall budget.
- 1 out of 10 respondents who took part in the consultation prior to 15 December gave comments.

In terms of the updated consultation, the 25 responses were varied, with many respondents providing more than one comment. As far as possible the responses are grouped into themes and percentages are based on the total sample who took part in the consultations.

The four most common themes were: concern about a Council Tax increase and its affordability (6%, 5 out of 81 respondents); agreement that the balance across the themes and savings are reasonable (5%, 4 out of 81 respondents); concerns about the Library savings; and concerns about reduced spending on children and education (5%, 4 out of 81 respondents).

The 1 respondent who gave a comment to the consultation prior to 15 December did not mention the aforementioned, and instead felt the council should ensure they protect adult social care and children's social care.

4.2 Theme Committee Savings Proposals 2017/18

The Citizens' Panel were not asked questions on the Theme Committee saving proposals for 2017/18. These were only asked of the general public consultation. Respondents were asked the following questions on the saving proposals within each Theme Committee for 2017/18:

- Do you have any comments to make about the savings being proposed within this Committee's budget for 2017/18?
- Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within this Committee's budget for 2017/18?
- 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 1 summarises the headline findings on the extent to which respondents agree or disagree with the savings proposed within each committee.

Table 1: Summary of headline findings on the extent to which public consultation respondents agree or disagree with the savings proposed within each Committee.

Theme Committee	Consultation Findings ¹
Policy and Resources	<p>Opinion was mixed on the savings proposals within this committee, with no clear majority agreeing or disagreeing. 32% (12 out of 37 respondents) responding to the updated general public consultation after 15 December agree with the savings proposals. 30% (11 out of 37 respondents) disagree, and the remainder neither agree nor disagree 22% (8 out of 37) or did not know 16% (6 out of 37).</p> <p>2 out of 6 of the general public consultation, prior to 15 December, agree with the savings proposals. 2 out of 6 disagree, and 2 out of 6 neither agree nor disagree.</p>
Adults and Safeguarding	<p>Slightly more respondents disagree rather than agree with the proposed savings within the Adults and Safeguarding Committee. 30% (7 out of 23 respondents) responding to the updated general public consultation, agree with the savings proposals within the Adults and Safeguarding Committee. 39% (9 out of 23 respondents) disagree, and the remainder neither agree nor disagree 26% (6 out of 23), or don't know 4% (1 out of 23).</p>

¹ Where percentages do not add up to 100 this is due to rounding.

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Theme Committee	Consultation Findings ¹
	2 out of 4 of the general public consultation, prior to 15 December, agree with the savings proposals within the Adults and Safeguarding Committee and 2 out of 4 disagree.
Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding	<p>Respondents are more likely to disagree with the proposed savings within the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee rather than agree. 23% (9 out of 40 respondents) responding to the updated general public consultation agree with these savings proposals. Half of respondents (50%, 20 out of 40 respondents) disagree. The remainder neither agree nor disagree 13% (5 out of 40) or don't know 15% (6 out of 40).</p> <p>1 out of 7 responding to the general public consultation, prior to 15 December, agree with the savings proposals within the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 5 out of 7 disagree and 1 respondent neither agrees nor disagrees.</p>
Environment	<p>In Environment Committee, respondents are more likely to agree with the proposed savings rather than disagree. Half of respondents (50%, 18 out of 36 respondents), responding to the updated general public consultation, agree with the savings proposals within the Environment Committee compared to 33% (12 out of 36 respondents) who disagree. The remainder neither agree nor disagree (17%, 6 out of 36).</p> <p>4 out of 5, responding to the general public consultation, prior to 15 December, agree with the savings proposals within the Environment Committee and 1 out of 5 disagree.</p>
Assets, Regeneration and Growth	<p>As with Environment Committee, more respondents agree with the proposed savings within Assets, Regeneration and Growth than disagree. Just under half agree (48%, 10 out of 21 respondents), responding to the updated general public consultation, with these savings proposals. 38% (8 out of 21 respondents) disagree and the remainder neither agree nor disagree (14%, 3 out of 21).</p> <p>2 out of 3, responding to the general public consultation prior to 15 December, agree with the savings proposals within the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee and 1 out of 3 disagree.</p>
Community Leadership	Opinion on Community Leadership Committee savings were slightly more mixed within this committee. Slightly more respondents agree with the proposed savings within this committee than disagree. 37% (7 out of 19 respondents)

Theme Committee	Consultation Findings ¹
	<p>responding to the updated general public consultation agree with the savings proposals within this committee, whereas 27% (5 out of 19 respondents) disagree and 37% (7 out of 19 respondents) neither agree nor disagree.</p> <p>1 out of 2, responding to the general public consultation, prior to 15 December, agree with the savings proposals within the Community Leadership Committee, and 1 out of 2 neither agree nor disagree.</p>
Housing	<p>More respondents disagree with the proposal not to make savings in this committee rather than agree. 35% (8 out of 23 respondents), responding to the updated general public consultation, agree with the decision not to make any savings in the Housing Committee. However half, (48%, 11 out of 23 respondents) disagree and 17% (4 out of 23 respondents) neither agree nor disagree.</p> <p>1 out of 2, responding to the general public consultation, prior to 15 December, agree with the decision not to make any savings within the Housing Committee, and 1 out of 2 disagree.</p>

Detailed analysis on the open-ended questions for each committee is provided in Section 2 of this report.

SECTION 2

Business Planning 2017-2020

General Budget Consultation

2017/18

Detailed Findings

1. BACKGROUND

As is usual practice, the budget proposals for 2017/18 have been subject to a formal public consultation.

This report sets out the full findings from the council's consultation on its Business Plan 2017/18. The findings will be considered by Budget Council on 7 March 2017, where the final decision on the council's budget for 2017/18 will be taken.

1.1 Preliminary consultation and engagement

The council has already undertaken a range of consultation and engagement activities to inform the development of its Corporate Plan strategic priorities and five-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.

Table 2 outlines the phases of consultation and engagement to date:

Table 2: Consultation and engagement that has informed the council's business planning to 2020

Phase	Date	Summary
Phase 1: Setting out the challenge	Summer 2013	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	October 2013 - June 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement through Citizens' Panel workshops which focused on stakeholder priorities and how they would want the Council to approach the Priorities and Spending Review • An open 'Call for Evidence' asking residents to feedback ideas on the future of public services in Barnet.
Phase 3: Engagement through Committees	Summer 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on developing commissioning priorities and MTFS proposals for each of the six committees • Engagement through Committee meetings and working groups.

Phase	Date	Summary
Phase 4: Strategic Plan to 2020 Consultation	December 2014 - 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of six workshops with a cross-section of residents recruited from the Citizens' Panel and Youth Board, plus two workshops with users¹ of council services. • An online survey.

2 Formal Budget Consultation 2017/18

2.1 Overview

The preliminary consultation and engagement has informed the development of the council's 2017/18 budget proposals to be put forward for formal consultation.

The 2017/18 General Budget Consultation began after Policy and Resources Committee on 5 December 2016 and concluded on 19 January 2017.

In terms of service-specific consultations the council has a duty to consult with service users where there are proposals to vary, reduce or withdraw services. Where appropriate, separate service-specific consultations have already taken place for the 2017/18 savings. The outcomes of these consultations are being reported into Committee decision making processes.

2.2 Technical details and method

In summary, the consultation was administered as follows:

- The General Budget Consultation was open for six and a half weeks, from 5 December 2016 to 19 January 2017;
- 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;
- Respondents' views were gathered via an 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;

¹ One "service user" workshop was for a cross-section of residents who are users of non-universal services from across the Council. The second workshop was for adults with learning disabilities.

- The consultation was widely promoted via the council's residents' magazine, Barnet First; the council website; local press; Twitter; Facebook; 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, Delivery Unit newsletters/circulars and super user mailing lists;
- A separate questionnaire was sent to the Citizens' Panel¹ 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. More information on the Citizens' Panel methodology and response can be found at section 2.6 of this report.

However, on 15 December 2016, during the consultation period, the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2017/18 was announced. Within this settlement the Government set out proposals to provide councils with additional flexibility to increase the social care precept by a further 1% for 2017/18 on top of the existing 2% social care precept flexibility. Councils therefore now have the flexibility to increase the precept by up to 3% in 2017/18.

When the announcement was made the public consultation had already been launched and had received 10 completed responses. In order to gather views on the new announcement:

- The public consultation was updated with additional questions to reflect the Government's additional social care precept flexibility;
- The Citizens' Panel had not contacted by post when the announcement was made; the additional questions were added to the Citizens' Panel questionnaires in time for the Citizens' Panel mail out.

As the new information could have had an impact on how residents respond to the public consultation, the findings prior to the 15 December announcement and the findings to the updated public consultation after 15 December have been reported on separately throughout this report.

2.3 Questionnaire design

The questionnaire was developed to ascertain residents' views on the overall size and individual components of the 2017/18 budget in general terms. In particular the consultation invited views on the:

- Overall budget and saving proposals;

¹ The Citizens' Panel is currently made up of 2,056 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. See 2.6 for more details.

- The council's proposal to apply a 2% social care precept to Council Tax.
- Applying the Government's additional flexibility to increase the social care precept by a further 1% up to 3% for 2017/18;
- Applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept next year, which would increase Council Tax bills by a total 3.99%;
- Applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 3% social care precept next year, which would increase Council Tax bills by 4.99%;
- The savings being proposed within each Theme Committee.

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

- Open-ended questions on Council Tax which asked respondents to give reasons why they support or oppose the proposals;
- Open-ended questions, where respondents were invited to write in any comments on the savings proposed within each Committee, and if they disagree with the committee's savings to say why and where they would suggest the council could make alternative savings;
- Key demographic questions to help understand the views of different demographic groups.

Throughout the questionnaire and where applicable, hyperlinks were provided to the 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 2017/18 savings for each Committee.

2.4 Response to the consultation

A total of 783 questionnaires have been completed:

- 10¹ completed questionnaires by the general public consultation prior to the Government announcement on 15 December;
- 81 completed questionnaires by the general public consultation after the Government announcement on 15 December;
- 692 completed questionnaires by 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 2017/18 Budget.

¹ There was 1 online questionnaire where the respondent skipped all the questions. This has now been taken out of the data set.

2.5 General public response and profile

Table 3 shows the profile of those who responded to the general public consultations.

Table 3: General Public Sample Profile

Stakeholder	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre-15 Dec 2016	
	%	Number	%	Number
Resident	67%	54	60%	6
Business	0%	0	0%	0
Resident and business based in Barnet	2%	2	10%	1
Public sector organisation	0%	0	0%	0
Voluntary/community organisation	1%	1	0%	0
Other	1%	1	0%	0
Prefer not to say	0%	0	0%	0
Not answered	28%	23	30%	3
Total	100%¹	81	100%	10

As outlined under Section 1 of this report, there were also four written responses which did not answer the questions included in the public consultation questionnaire. The written responses were from:

- One member of the general public (email response);
- Three businesses (one written letter and two email responses).

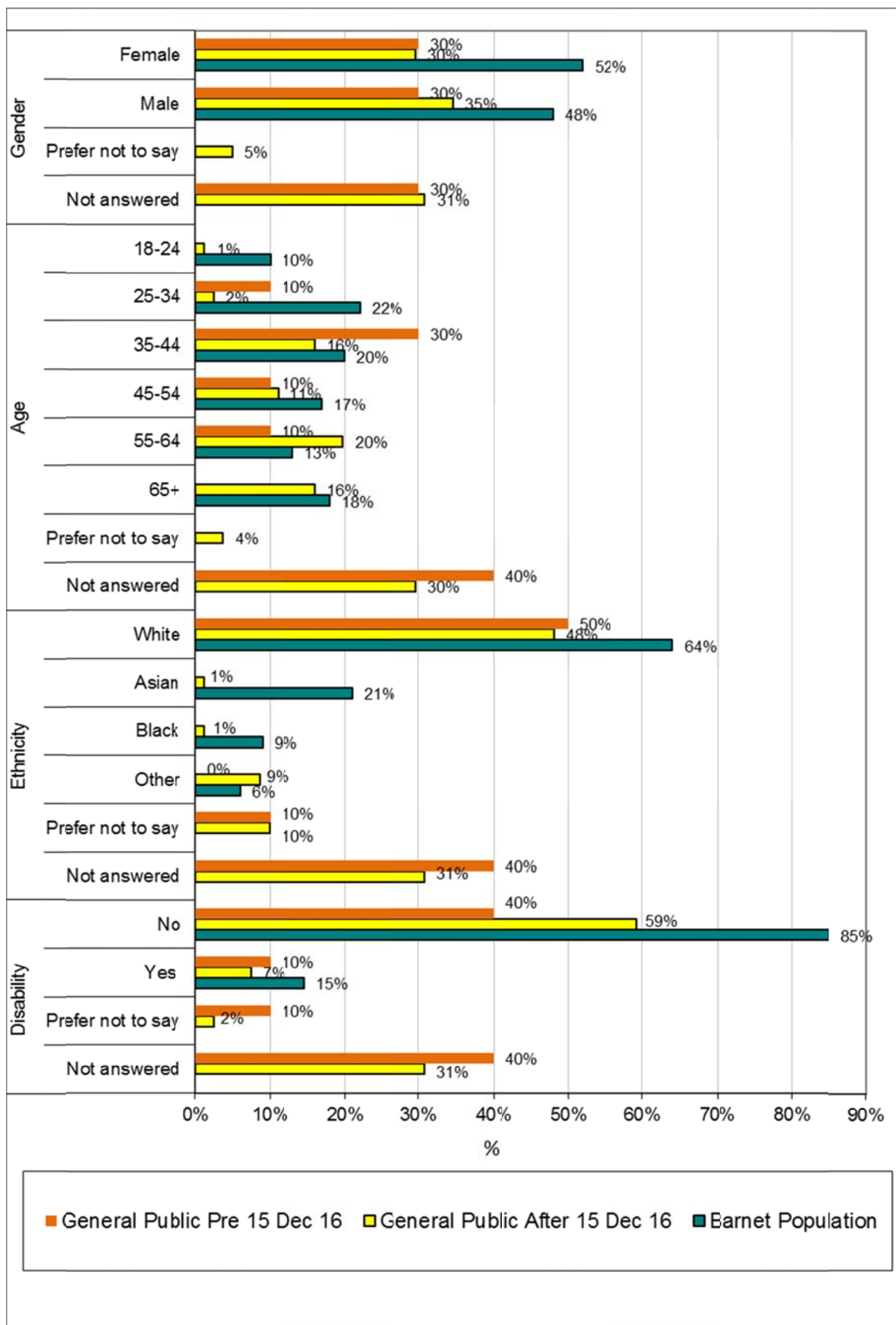
The responses have been reported on separately and further details are provided Section 2, 3.4, of this report.

Chart 1 on the next page shows the demographic profile of those who responded to the online general public consultations in terms of key demographics compared to the population of Barnet.

However, due to the low completion of the diversity monitoring questions, it is difficult to draw any conclusions on how representative it is of the borough's actual population.

¹ Where percentages do not add up to 100 this is due to rounding.

Chart 1: General Public Consultation Sample profile – key demographics



2.6 Citizens’ Panel response and sample profile

A combined postal and online survey method¹ was mailed out to 2,056 members of Barnet’s Citizens’ Panel; a total of 692 questionnaires have been completed (249 postal and 443 online) giving a response rate of 34%.

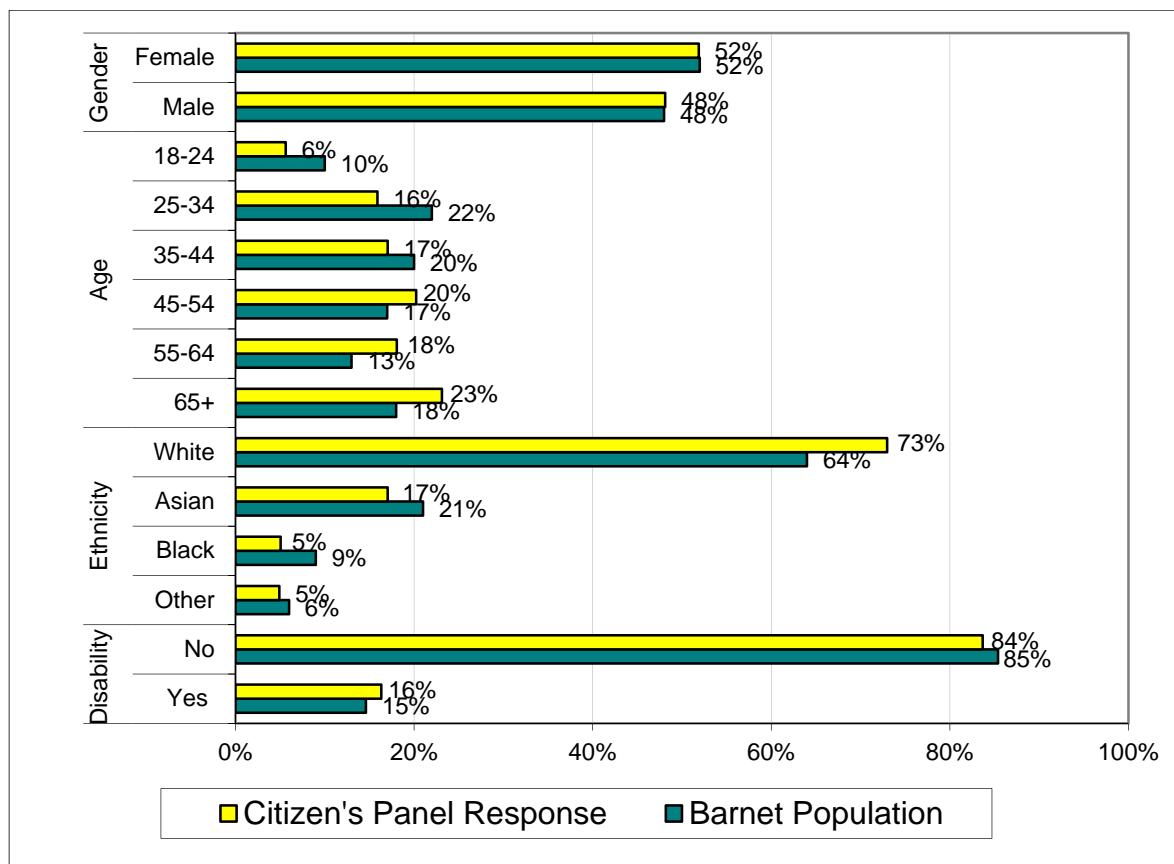
The Citizens’ Panel is selected to be representative of the adult population of the borough in terms of ward, age, gender, ethnicity, housing tenure, faith and disability.

It should be noted that when mailing out a Citizens’ Panel survey there is no guarantee that the achieved response will exactly match the profile of the population, as it depends on which panel members decide to take part in and return the survey.

Chart 2 shows the demographic profile of those who responded to this particular Citizens’ Panel survey compared to the population of Barnet.

The sample that responded closely matches Barnet’s population profile in terms of gender, and disability. However, in terms of age, younger panel members are under-represented and older panel members are over-represented. There is also a slight over-representation of White respondents and under-representation of Black and Asian respondents. **Weighting has been applied to tackle the issue of under- and over-representation in the sample so that it represents the population make-up of Barnet residents, and it is the weighted data that is reported on in this report.**

Chart 2: Citizens’ Panel Sample profile – key demographics



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

2.7 Protected Characteristics

The council is required by law (the Equality Act 2010) to pay due regard to equalities in eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people from different groups.

The protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

To assist us in complying with the duty under the Equality Act 2010 we asked the general public consultation respondents to provide equalities monitoring data and explained that collecting this information will help us understand the needs of our different communities and that all the personal information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be stored securely in accordance with our responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Members of the Citizens' Panel provide equalities monitoring data at the outset of their appointment and this is updated so far as possible and used throughout their term. Because the term of appointment to the Citizens' Panel is 3 years it is not possible to ensure a representative sample of those who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave throughout the three-year period.

Table 4: Protected Characteristic sample profile

Protected Characteristic	Citizens Panel		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	Number ¹	%	Number	%	Number	%
Faith						
Agnostic	20	3%	4	5%	1	10%
Atheist	44	6%	2	2%	1	10%
Baha'i	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Buddhist	5	1%	1	1%	0	0%
Christian	272	39%	21	26%	1	10%
Hindu	45	7%	2	2%	0	0%
Humanist	2	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Jain	5	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Jewish	144	21%	5	6%	1	10%
Muslim	31	5%	0	0%	0	0%
Sikh	3	0%	0	0%	0	0%
No religion	93	13%	10	12%	1	10%
prefer not to say	0	0%	11	14%	1	10%
Other Faith	5	1%	1	1%	0	0%

¹ Answers N/A are those which were not asked on the panel

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Protected Characteristic	Citizens Panel		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	Number ¹	%	Number	%	Number	%
Not answered	23	3%	24	30%	4	40%
Total	692	100%	81	100%	10	100%
Sexuality						
Bisexual	7	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Gay man	2	0%	1	1%	0	0%
Heterosexual	535	79%	41	51%	5	50%
Lesbian	3	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%
Prefer not to say	0	0%	8	10%	1	10%
Not answered	145	19%	30	37%	4	40%
Total	692	100%	81	100%	10	100%
Prefer to define your sexuality in other terms	n/a	n/a	1		0	
Pregnancy						
Pregnant	N/A	N/A	0	0%	0	0%
on maternity leave	N/A	N/A	0	0%	0	0%
prefer not to say	N/A	N/A	0	0%	0	0%
Not answered	N/A	N/A	24		7	
Is your gender the same as that assigned at birth						
yes	N/A	N/A	53	65%	6	60%
no	N/A	N/A	0	0%	0	0%
prefer not to say	N/A	N/A	4	5%	0	0%
not answered	N/A	N/A	24	30%	4	40%
Total	N/A	N/A	81	100%	10	100%

2.8 Interpretation of the results

In terms of the two sets of results, it is also important to note the following:

- The weighted Citizens' Panel survey results are broadly representative of the overall population of Barnet, and therefore are likely to be a useful guide to overall public opinion across the borough;
- Although the general public consultations are not representative of the overall population of Barnet they provide considerable information. However, they should be treated with caution as a guide to overall opinion because the response profile does not match the Barnet population;
- In particular, the pre-15 December consultation findings should be treated with caution due to the small sample size, and also they were provided with different information for Council Tax increases next year;

- It is also important to note because the general public consultations profile is an imperfect reflection of the population, the responses to the Council Tax questions have been analysed separately from the weighted Citizens' Panel survey findings;
- The questions on the overall budget and proposed savings within each Committee for 2017/18 were only asked in the general public consultations, and although not representative of the borough's population, the results do provide an important indication of where there may be particular strength of feeling in relation to the overall proposals and savings;
- Where percentages do not add up to 100, this may be due to rounding, or the question is multi-coded. All open-ended questions that invite respondents to write in comments are multi-coded and therefore add up to more than 100%;
- All open-ended responses to the public consultation and the Citizens' Panel have been classified based on the main themes arising from the comment, so that they can be summarised.

2.9 Calculating and reporting on results

The findings of each sample have been reported in order of the largest sample size: Citizens' Panel (692), the updated consultation after 15 December announcement (81), and then the consultation prior to the 15 December announcement (10).

The results for each question are based on "valid responses" (Citizens' Panel is based on 'valid weighted responses'), 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.

3 Results in detail:

3.1 Council Tax

Respondents were to what extent they support or oppose the different options for Council Tax increases next year.

3.1.2 Council Tax, proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept – increase in 2017/18

Respondents were asked to what extent they support or oppose the council's proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept to Council Tax in 2017/18 to help ease pressure on adult social care budgets:

- Table 5 shows that the majority of Citizens' Panel members (65%), and the majority of general public respondents responding to the updated consultation after 15 December (62%, 50 out of 81 respondents), support the proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept next year.
- There was a larger majority supporting this proposal from those responding to the general public consultation prior to the Government's announcement on 15

December. All 9 respondents who answered the question supported this proposal, with 8 out of 9 strongly supporting it.

- Only a quarter of Citizens’ Panel members (25%) oppose the proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept next year, and 36% (29 out of 81 respondents) of the general public responding to the updated consultation after 15 December, oppose the proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept next year.

Table 5: Proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept increase in 2017/18

	Citizens’ Panel		General Public After 15 Dec		General Public Pre 15 Dec	
	%	Base	%	Base	%	Base
Strongly support	29%	198	48%	39	89%	8
Tend to support	36%	247	14%	11	11%	1
Neither support nor oppose	9%	65	3%	2	0%	0
Tend to oppose	11%	72	5%	4	0%	0
Strongly oppose	14%	96	31%	25	0%	0
Don’t know	2%	14	0%	0	0%	0
Total	100%	692	100%	81	100%	9

3.1.3 Reasons given by those who support the proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept increase in 2017/18

Respondents were given an opportunity to give reasons why they support or oppose a proposal.

It should be noted responses to open ended questions which invited reasons for support or opposing the options were varied, with many respondents providing more than one reason why they support this proposal. The responses to these questions are grouped where there is commonality of responses higher than three, and these have been ranked by the Citizens’ Panel sample most frequently mentioned reasons. Percentages are calculated on the total number of respondents who support or oppose an increase.

Of those who indicated their support for the council’s proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept in 2017/18 the majority of respondents went on to give a reason for their support: 70% of the Citizens’ Panel gave a reason for their support; 74% (37 out of 50 respondents) of the general public responding to the updated consultation after 15 December and 5 out of 9 respondents responding prior to the Government announcement on 15 December also gave a reason for their support.

Table 6 gives full details of the type of comments received on why respondents support the proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept increase in 2017/18.

The most frequently mentioned reason as to why respondents support the proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept increase was recognition that that social care is underfunded, followed by an assertion that the increase seems acceptable/fair; recognition that we must support the elderly and also the vulnerable; and recognition that we have an ageing population.

Table 6: Reasons given for support the proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept increase in 2017/18

To what extent do you support or oppose the council's plans to apply a further 2% social care precept to Council Tax in 2017/18, to help ease pressure on adult social care budgets?	Citizens' Panel After		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base1	%	Base1
THOSE WHO SUPPORT	100%	445	100%	50	100%	9
Gave a reason for their support	70%	310	74%	37	56%	5
Did not give a reason for their support	30%	135	26%	13	44%	4
Reasons stated:						
Social Care services are underfunded / Social Care needs an increase	22%	100	28%	14	11%	1
Rise is acceptable Fair / Reasonable	17%	77	12%	6	22%	2
Specific mention of the elderly needing more care / Helping older people	16%	73	10%	5	11%	1
We must support the vulnerable / Those who need care, including the disabled	14%	64	16%	8	0%	0
Population is ageing / Borough has large elderly population	10%	44	10%	5	0%	0
Should help relieve pressure on NHS / Help keep people out of hospital	7%	31	8%	4	11%	1
All in the community need to accept responsibility / Essential in a civilised society	7%	30	2%	1	0%	0
Inevitable/Necessary/Essential/Priority/ / Vital	6%	28	10%	5	11%	1
Support but: Spending of extra must be accounted for / Transparency required	5%	22	0%	0	0%	0
Personal circumstances / experience means appreciate services and need for funds	4%	18	0%	0	0%	0
Support but: Central Government should take more responsibility for the cost	4%	17	4%	2	0%	0

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they support this proposal.

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To what extent do you support or oppose the council's plans to apply a further 2% social care precept to Council Tax in 2017/18, to help ease pressure on adult social care budgets?	Citizens' Panel After		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
Support but: Must be spent as intended on the social care budget / As long as ring-fenced	3%	14	2%	1	0%	0
Reasonable in view of non -increases in the past	3%	13	12%	6	11%	1
Support but: the increase should be more / This increase is not enough /	2%	9	6%	3	22%	2
Support: but cut out waste	2%	9	0%	0	0%	0
Support but: increase funding for other services also needed / Other services must not be compromised	2%	9	2%	1	0%	0
If nothing done problem will escalate / This will save money in the long run	2%	8	0%	0	0%	0
The role of those working in social care needs to be made easier	2%	7	0%	0	11%	1
This increase is enough. Higher increase not required	2%	7	0%	0	0%	0
Support but: More affluent should pay in more / Highest band homes/mansions should pay more	2%	7	0%	0	0%	0
Support but: Modest increases each year better than no increase then a big increase	2%	7	2%	1	0%	0
The elderly have contributed all their lives	1%	6	0%	0	0%	0
Other comments	6%	25	4%	2	0%	0
Total number of different types of reasons		625		64		10

3.1.4 Reasons why respondents oppose the proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept increase in 2017/18

Respondents were also given the opportunity to give reasons why they oppose the proposal.

Of those who indicated they oppose the proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept in 2017/18 the majority of respondents went on to give a reason: 70% of the Citizens' Panel gave a reason why they oppose the increase; 66% (19 out of 29 respondents) of the general public responding to the updated consultation after 15 December. No respondents opposed the proposal prior to the Government announcement on 15 December.

Table 7 gives full details of the type of reasons why respondents oppose the council's proposals to apply a further 2% social care precept increase in 2017/18.

The most frequently mentioned reason why respondents oppose the proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept increase in 2017/18 was around affordability; there was also a particular reference to pensioners not being able to afford this. Other

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frequently mentioned reasons were that Council Tax is already too high; that the council still needs to cut more waste, for example overheads and Executives' pay. Others feel the Government should pay more and should take more responsibility, whilst some feel funding for other services was needed.

Table 7: Reasons given for opposing the proposal to apply a further 2% social care precept increase in 2017/18

To what extent do you support or oppose the council's plans to apply a further 2% social care precept to Council Tax in 2017/18, to help ease pressure on adult social care budgets?	Citizens' Panel After 15 Dec 2016		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base1	%	Base1
THOSE WHO OPPOSE	100%	168	100%	29	0%	0
Gave a reason why they oppose	70%	117	66%	19	0%	0
Did not give a reason why they oppose	30%	51	34%	10	0%	0
Reasons stated:						
Limited / Fixed income - cannot afford an increase / Income increases by lower % than this / Pressured by other bills	23%	39	14%	4	0%	0
Council Tax already too high	14%	23	17%	5	0%	0
Cut out waste / Cut Executives' pay/ Cut overheads / Cut admin costs	8%	14	3%	1	0%	0
Object to paying for services not used / Should be paid for by those who require it	8%	13	3%	1	0%	0
Central Government should be paying more / Central Government should take more responsibility	6%	10	14%	4	0%	0
Increase funding for other services also needed / Other services must not be compromised	5%	9	3%	1	0%	0
Pensioners (specifically) cannot afford it	5%	8	0%	0	0%	0
Families should contribute more to the care of their elderly relatives	4%	7	3%	1	0%	0
Too many people are not contributing / Those working for cash	3%	5	0%	0	0%	0
Better monitoring/control/ vetting required of claimants	2%	4	3%	1	0%	0
The elderly should have saved more	2%	3	0%	0	0%	0
Elderly people have more disposable income and do not require help	2%	3	0%	0	0%	0
Concern that there will create a precedent / Create a culture of increases	2%	3	0%	0	0%	0

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they oppose this proposal.

To what extent do you support or oppose the council's plans to apply a further 2% social care precept to Council Tax in 2017/18, to help ease pressure on adult social care budgets?	Citizens' Panel After 15 Dec 2016		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number
The community should give more practical help / volunteer	2%	3	0%	0	0%	0
Other comments	14%	24	21%	6	0%	0
Total number of different types of reasons		168		24		

3.1.5 Council Tax, Social Care Precept – the Government’s proposal to allow councils to apply a 3% social care precept increase

On 15 December, as part of the Local Government Finance settlement for 2017/18, the Government set out proposals to provide councils with additional flexibility to increase the social care precept by a further 1% for 2017/18. The proposal will allow councils to increase the precept by up to 3% in 2017/18.

The Citizens’ Panel and those responding to the updated consultation were asked to what extent they support or oppose the option of applying the full 3% social care precept increase to Council Tax bills in Barnet next year.

- Table 8 shows that half (48%) of Citizens’ Panel members support a 3% social care precept increase next year, 41% of the panel oppose the increase and a further 10% said they were neutral and 2% said they did not know.
- Compared to the panel there is more support for this increase from the updated general public consultation. Nearly three fifths (58%, 44 out of 76 respondents) of the updated general public respondents support applying the full 3% social care precept increase to Council Tax bills in Barnet next year.
- 40% (30 out of 76 respondents) of the updated general public consultation respondents oppose the full 3% social care precept increase to Council Tax bills.
- The remainder are neutral or say they don’t know.
- This question was not asked in the general public consultation prior to 15 December.

Table 8: Views on applying the full 3% social care precept increase to Council Tax bills in 2017/18

	Citizens' Panel		General Public After 15 Dec		General Public Pre 15 Dec	
	%	Base	%	Base	%	Base
Strongly support	23%	155	50%	38	N/A	N/A
Tend to support	25%	174	8%	6	N/A	N/A
Neither support nor oppose	10%	66	3%	2	N/A	N/A
Tend to oppose	19%	131	7%	5	N/A	N/A
Strongly oppose	22%	149	33%	25	N/A	N/A
Don't know	2%	12	0%	0	N/A	N/A
Total	100%	685	100%	76	N/A	N/A

3.1.6 Reasons why respondents support the Government's new proposal to allow councils to apply a 3% social care precept increase

Respondents were again given an opportunity to give reasons why they support the Government's new proposal to allow councils to apply a 3% social care precept increase.

Of those who indicated they support a 3% social care precept in 2017/18 the majority of respondents went on to give a reason for their view: 60% of the Citizens' Panel gave a reason why they support the increase and 77% (34 out of 44 respondents) of the general public responding to the updated consultation after 15 December gave a reason. This question was not asked of respondents to the consultation prior to the Government announcement on 15 December.

Table 9 gives full details of the type of reasons why respondents oppose the council's proposals to apply a further 2% social care precept increase in 2017/18.

The most frequently mentioned reason as to why respondents support the further 3% social care precept increase in 2017/18 was again because respondents felt social care is underfunded. Respondents also said the reason why they supported it was that they felt it was an acceptable increase. Followed by recognition that the elderly need more care, but we also need to support the vulnerable. Some also added the caveat that the money must be ring-fenced.

Table 9: Reasons given for opposing a further 3% social care precept increase in 2017/18

To what extent would you support or oppose applying the full 3% increase to Council Tax bills in Barnet next year, to help ease the pressure on adult social care budgets?	Citizens' Panel		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base1	%	Base1
THOSE WHO SUPPORT	100%	329	100%	44	n/a	n/a
Gave a reason for their support	60%	199	77%	34	n/a	n/a
Did not give a reason for their support	40%	130	23%	10	n/a	n/a
Reasons stated:						
Social Care services are underfunded / Cost continues to rise	19%	61	34%	15	n/a	n/a
Rise is acceptable / Do not object	13%	41	9%	4	n/a	n/a
Specific mention of the elderly needing more care	9%	30	14%	6	n/a	n/a
We must support the vulnerable / Those who need care, including the disabled / This will support those most in need	9%	30	14%	6	n/a	n/a
Support but: As long as ring-fenced for social care budget	8%	27	5%	2	n/a	n/a
Inevitable/Necessary/Essential/Priority / In crisis / Vital	6%	19	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Support but: Spending of extra must be accounted for / Transparency required	5%	17	2%	1	n/a	n/a
Population is ageing / Borough has large elderly population	4%	14	5%	2	n/a	n/a
Society should care for everyone / Essential in a civilised society	4%	14	5%	2	n/a	n/a
Reasonable in view of non- increases in the past	4%	13	7%	3	n/a	n/a
Should help relieve pressure on NHS / Help keep people out of hospital	3%	11	16%	7	n/a	n/a
But cut out waste / Run a tight ship / Make savings/ Cut Executive' pay / Cut overheads / Cut admin costs	3%	10	2%	1	n/a	n/a
I can afford but this would be unaffordable for some - Especially for some elderly people	2%	8	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Support but: Recognition that Government support has reduced	2%	8	2%	1	n/a	n/a
If nothing done problem will escalate / This will save money in the long run	2%	6	0%	0	n/a	n/a

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they support this proposal.

To what extent would you support or oppose applying the full 3% increase to Council Tax bills in Barnet next year, to help ease the pressure on adult social care budgets?	Citizens' Panel		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Support but: This increase is not enough / Is a sticking plaster	2%	6	9%	4	n/a	n/a
Support but: Other services must not be compromised	2%	6	2%	1	n/a	n/a
The role of those working in social care needs to be made easier	2%	6	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Support but: the wealthy or more affluent should pay in more	2%	5	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Personal circumstances means appreciate services and need for funds	1%	4	2%	1	n/a	n/a
Other comments	5%	16	9%	4	n/a	n/a
Total number of different types of reasons		352		60		

3.1.7 Reasons why respondents oppose the Government’s new proposal to allow councils to apply a 3% social care precept increase

Respondents were again given an opportunity to give reasons why they oppose the Government’s new proposal to allow councils to apply a 3% social care precept increase.

Of those who indicated they oppose a further 3% social care precept in 2017/18, 57% of the Citizens’ Panel gave a reason why they opposed the increase; and 60% (18 out of 30 respondents) of the general public responding to the updated consultation after 15 December. This question was not asked of respondents to the consultation prior to the Government announcement on 15 December.

Table 10 gives full details of the type of reasons why respondents oppose a further 3% social care precept increase in 2017/18.

The most frequently mentioned reason as to why respondents oppose a further 3% social care precept increase in 2017/18 was again around affordability, there was also a particular reference to pensioners not being able to afford this. Linked to this was the view that respondents reference the increase was too high, followed with respondents feeling that the council still needs to cut more waste, for example overheads and Executives’ pay. Others felt the effect of lower increases should be monitored first, whilst some felt funding for other services was needed.

Table 10: Reasons given for opposing a further 3% social care precept increase in 2017/18

To what extent would you support or oppose the council's plans to applying the full 3% increase to Council Tax bills in Barnet next year, to help ease the pressure on adult social care budgets?	Citizens' Panel		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base1	%	Base1
THOSE WHO OPPOSE	100%	280	100%	30	n/a	n/a
Gave a reason why they oppose	57%	159	60%	18	n/a	n/a
Did not give a reason why they oppose	43%	121	40%	12	n/a	n/a
Reasons stated:						
Limited / Fixed income - cannot afford an increase / Income increases by lower % than this	24%	66	7%	2	n/a	n/a
Too high / Excessive / Too big an increase	15%	41	27%	8	n/a	n/a
Cut out waste / Cut overheads / Cut Executives' pay	7%	20	3%	1	n/a	n/a
Monitor the effect of a lower increase first. More may not be required	6%	16	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Other services must not be compromised / All increases should not be for social services	4%	11	3%	1	n/a	n/a
Object to paying for services not used / Should be paid for by those who require it	4%	11	10%	3	n/a	n/a
Central Government should be paying more	4%	11	13%	4	n/a	n/a
Modest annual increases would be better than no increase and then a large one	3%	9	3%	1	n/a	n/a
Pensioners (specifically) cannot afford it	3%	8	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Review Capita contracts / Capita not good value	2%	6	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Delay further decisions/increases until the effects of Brexit are known	2%	6	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Justification needed for such an increase	1%	4	7%	2	n/a	n/a
Too many people living in the borough are not contributing	1%	4	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Other comments	11%	32	20%	6	n/a	n/a
Total number of different types of reasons		245		28		

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they oppose this proposal.

3.1.8 General Council Tax – applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18

All respondents were asked to what extent they support or oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept next year, which would increase Council Tax bills by a further 3.99% in total next year.

- Table 11 shows that just over a third of the Citizens’ Panel (36%) support an additional increase in general Council Tax of 1.99% on top of the planned 2% social care precept. Nearly three fifths (58%) of the panel oppose this increase. The remainder of the panel are either neutral (4%) or say they don’t know (2%).
- Almost three fifths (57%, 41 out of 72 respondents) of those responding to the updated general public consultation support a 1.99 % increase in the general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept increase next year. Two fifths (41%, 29 out of 72 respondents) oppose this increase. 3% (2 out of 72) said they neither support nor oppose this type of increase.
- Those responding to the consultation prior to the Government announcement on 15 December 2016 showed more support for a 1.99% increase in the general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept (7 out of 8 respondents). 1 respondent opposed this type of increase.

Table 11: Views on applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18

	Citizens’ Panel After 15 Dec		General Public After 15 Dec		General Public Prior to 15 Dec	
	%	Base	%	Base	%	Base
Strongly support	17%	107	44%	32	88%	7
Tend to support	19%	119	13%	9	0%	0
Neither support nor oppose	4%	23	3%	2	0%	0
Tend to oppose	22%	140	6%	4	13%	1
Strongly oppose	36%	222	35%	25	0%	0
Don’t know	2%	14	0%	0	0%	0
Total	100%	625	100%	72	100%	8

3.1.9 Reasons why respondents support an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18

Respondents were given an opportunity to give reasons why they support applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18.

Of those who indicated they support this increase, 63% of the Citizens' Panel gave a reason why they supported the increase and 73% (30 out of 41 respondents) of the general public responding to the updated consultation after 15 December gave a reason. 3 out of 7 respondents gave a reason for their support to the consultation prior to the Government announcement on 15 December.

Table 12 gives full details of the type of reasons why respondents support an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18.

The most frequently mentioned reason as to why respondents support an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18 was again because respondents felt social care is underfunded. Respondents also said they supported the increase because they felt it was an acceptable increase. This was followed by recognition that we need to support the vulnerable. Some also added the caveat that they support but they will need to see where the extra money is being spent. Respondents also frequently said they support this increase as other services need an increase in funding.

Table 12: Reasons why respondents support applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18

To what extent would you support or oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18, which would increase Council Tax bills by a further 3.99% in total next year?	Citizens' Panel		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base1	%	Base1
THOSE WHO SUPPORT	100%	226	100%	41	100%	7
Gave a reason why they support	63%	143	73%	30	43%	3
Did not give a reason why they support	37%	83	27%	11	57%	4
Reasons stated:						
Social care services are underfunded / Social care costs continue to rise with increasing demand	19%	43	39%	16	29%	2

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they support this proposal.

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To what extent would you support or oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18, which would increase Council Tax bills by a further 3.99% in total next year?	Citizens' Panel		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Rise is acceptable / Reasonable	16%	36	29%	12	57%	4
It is important to support the vulnerable /This will support those most in need	15%	33	20%	8	0%	0
Support but: Spending of extra must be accounted for / Transparency required / Justification needed	8%	19	0%	0	0%	0
Support but: Increase funding for other services also needed / Other services must not be compromised	7%	15	12%	5	0%	0
Support but: Must be spent as intended on the social care budget / As long as ring-fenced	6%	13	2%	1	0%	0
Support but: Modest annual increases better/ Do not want too much of an increase in one year	6%	13	2%	1	0%	0
The community must accept responsibility / Share the cost	4%	10	5%	2	0%	0
Support but: Cut out waste / Cut overheads / Cut admin costs	4%	9	2%	1	0%	0
Reasonable in view of non- increases in the past	4%	10	15%	6	14%	1
If nothing done problem will escalate / This will save money in the long run	4%	8	0%	0	0%	0
I can afford but this would be unaffordable for some - Especially for some elderly people	3%	7	0%	0	0%	0
The wealthy / More affluent should pay in more / Highest band homes/mansions should pay more	2%	5	0%	0	0%	0
This will help children too	2%	5	0%	0	0%	0
Should help relieve pressure on NHS / Help keep people out of hospital	1%	3	5%	2	0%	0
Support but: Concern that there will be similar increases every year	1%	3	0%	0	0%	0
Other comments	7%	15	0%	0	0%	0
Total number of different types of reasons		247		54		7

3.10 Reasons why respondents oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18

Respondents were given an opportunity to give reasons why they oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18.

Of those who indicated they oppose this proposal, 58% of the Citizens' Panel gave a reason. 62% (18 out of 29 respondents) of the general public responding to the updated consultation after 15 December; and the 1 respondent who opposed this increase in the consultation prior to the Government announcement on 15 December gave a reason for their support.

Table 13 gives full details of the type of reasons why respondents oppose an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18.

The most frequently mentioned reasons why respondents oppose this increase was respondents felt it was too large an increase in one go, and concern about affordability, there was a particular reference to pensioners not being able to afford this and that the increase was just too high. This was followed with respondents feeling that the council still needs to cut more waste, for example overheads and Executives' pay, and then the need to monitor the effect of lower increases first.

Table 13: Reasons why respondents oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18

To what extent would you support or oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18, which would increase Council Tax bills by a further 3.99% in total next year?	Citizens' Panel		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base1	%	Base1
THOSE WHO OPPOSE	100%	362	100%	29	100%	1
Gave a reason why they oppose	58%	211	62%	18	100%	1
Did not give a reason why they oppose	42%	151	38%	11	0%	0
Reasons stated:						
Too large an increase in one go / Too high	25%	89	45%	13	100%	1
I have a limited / fixed income - My income increases by less than this annually / Too large an increase in one go / Too high	24%	86	7%	2	0%	0
Cut out waste / Cut Executives' pay/ Cut overheads / Cut admin costs	9%	31	7%	2	0%	0
Monitor the effect of a lower increase first, this may not be required	4%	13	7%	2	0%	0
Increase funding for other services also needed / Other services must not be compromised	3%	12	3%	1	0%	0
Object to paying for services not used	3%	12	0%	0	0%	0

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they oppose this proposal.

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To what extent would you support or oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 2% social care precept in 2017/18, which would increase Council Tax bills by a further 3.99% in total next year?	Citizens' Panel		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Recognition that Government support has reduced	3%	12	10%	3	0%	0
Pensioners (specifically) cannot afford it	3%	11	0%	0	0%	0
Outsourcing services results in higher cost to the council	2%	7	0%	0	0%	0
Too many people are not contributing / Dodging the system	2%	6	0%	0	0%	0
Delay further decisions/increases until the effects of Brexit are known / Concern about effect of Brexit	1%	5	0%	0	0%	0
Better monitoring required / vetting required of claimants	1%	5	0%	0	0%	0
Make cuts in other services to fund social care	1%	4	3%	1	100%	1
Other comments	5%	19	3%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of reasons		312		25		2

3.1.11 Council Tax: General Council Tax – applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept increase in 2017/18

The Citizens' Panel and the updated consultation after the Government announcement on 15 December asked respondents to what extent they support or oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept in 2017/18, which would increase Council Tax bills by 4.99% in total next year.

- Table 14 shows that a quarter (25%) of the Citizens' Panel support a 1.99 % increase in the general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept increase next year. 64% oppose this additional general Council Tax increase. The remainder of the panel neither support or oppose (9%) or say they don't know (2%).
- Compared to the panel there is slightly more support from the updated general public consultation announcement for this additional increase. half (51%, 36 out of 71 respondents) support a 1.99 % increase in the general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept increase next year, and just under half of the sample oppose this increase (45%, 32 out of 71 respondents). The remainder neither support nor oppose (4%, 3 out of 71 respondents).

Table 14: Views on applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 3% social care precept in 2017/18

	Citizens' Panel		General Public After 15 Dec		General Public Pre 15 Dec	
	%	Base	%	Base	%	Base
Strongly support	12%	79	44%	31	N/A	N/A
Tend to support	13%	90	7%	5	N/A	N/A
Neither support nor oppose	9%	63	4%	3	N/A	N/A
Tend to oppose	25%	172	6%	4	N/A	N/A
Strongly oppose	39%	268	39%	28	N/A	N/A
Don't know	2%	12	0%	0	N/A	N/A
Total	100%	684	100%	71	N/A	N/A

3.1.12 Reasons why respondents support applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept increase in 2017/18

Respondents were given an opportunity to give reasons why they support applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept increase in 2017/18.

Of those who indicated they support this increase, 53% of the Citizens' Panel gave a reason why they supported the increase, and 69% (25 out of 36 respondents) of the general public responding to the updated consultation after 15 December gave a reason. This question was not asked in the consultation prior to the Government announcement on 15 December.

Table 15 gives full details of the type of reasons why respondents support an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 3% social care precept in 2017/18.

The most frequently mentioned reason as to why respondents support an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 3% social care precept in 2017/18 was again because respondents feel social care is underfunded. Respondents also said they supported the increase as they felt it was an acceptable or a reasonable increase. This was followed by: recognition that we need to support the vulnerable; increased funding for other services needed; and we need to accept responsibility and share the cost.

Table 15: Reasons why respondents support applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 3% social care precept in 2017/18

To what extent would you support or oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept in 2017/18, which would increase Council Tax bills by a further 4.99% in total next year?	Citizens' Panel After		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base1	%	Base
THOSE WHO SUPPORT	100%	169	100%	36	n/a	n/a
Gave a reason for their support	53%	89	69%	25	n/a	n/a
Did not give a reason for their support	47%	80	31%	11	n/a	n/a
Reasons stated:						
Social care services are underfunded / Needs an increase / Cost continues to rise / Demand continues to rise	12%	21	19%	7	n/a	n/a
Rise is acceptable / Reasonable	9%	15	3%	1	n/a	
We must support the vulnerable / This will support those most in need /Must support disabled	11%	19	11%	4	n/a	n/a
Increased funding for other services also needed / A higher increase helps other services	7%	11	25%	9	n/a	n/a
All need to accept responsibility / Need to share the cost / Essential in a civilised society	5%	9	8%	3	n/a	n/a
Support but: Cut out waste / Make savings/ Cut overheads / Cut admin costs	5%	8	3%	1	n/a	n/a
Reasonable in view of non- increases in the past	5%	8	14%	5	n/a	n/a
Support but: Modest annual increases better/ Take care not to increase too much in one year	4%	7	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Do not object / Good idea /Support / Sensible	4%	7	14%	5	n/a	n/a
Support but: I can afford but this would be unaffordable for some	3%	5	6%	2	n/a	n/a
Central Government should be paying more / Recognition that Government support has reduced	2%	3	3%	1	n/a	n/a
Other comments	10%	17	11%	4	n/a	n/a
Total number of different types of reasons		130		42		

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they support this proposal.

3.1.13 Reasons why respondents oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept increase in 2017/18

Respondents were given an opportunity to give reasons why they oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of on top of a 3% social care precept increase in 2017/18.

Of those who indicated they oppose this proposal, 52% of the Citizens' Panel gave a reason and 45% (15 out of 32 respondents) of the general public responding to the updated consultation after 15 December gave a reason. The question was not asked in the consultation prior to the Government announcement on 15 December.

Table 16 gives full details of the type of reasons why respondents oppose an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 3% social care precept in 2017/18.

Then the most frequently mentioned reason why respondents oppose an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 3% social care precept was respondents felt it was just too large an increase in one year. This was followed by respondents saying they could not afford it and there was a further reference that pensioners would not be able to afford it. Respondents again reiterated that the council still needs to cut waste, for example overheads.

Table 16: Reasons why respondents oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of the planned 3% social care precept in 2017/18

To what extent would you support or oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept in 2017/18, which would increase Council Tax bills by a further 4.99% in total next year?	Citizens' Panel		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹	%	Base
THOSE WHO OPPOSE	100%	440	100%	32	n/a	n/a
Gave a reason why they oppose	52%	231	45%	15	n/a	n/a
Did not give a reason why they oppose	48%	209	52%	17	n/a	n/a
Reasons stated:						
Too big an increase in one year	28%	122	21%	7	n/a	n/a
I have a limited / fixed income / My income increases by less than this annually / Unaffordable	15%	64	9%	3	n/a	n/a
Cut out waste /Cut overheads / Cut admin costs	5%	24	3%	1	n/a	n/a
Pensioners (specifically) cannot afford it	4%	17	3%	1	n/a	n/a
More justification for such a rise needed	3%	13	3%	1	n/a	n/a

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they oppose this proposal.

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To what extent would you support or oppose applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept in 2017/18, which would increase Council Tax bills by a further 4.99% in total next year?	Citizens' Panel		General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Already pay high % of income on Council Tax / Council Tax is already too high	3%	11	12%	4	n/a	n/a
Concern all to be spent on social care	2%	10	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Central Government should be paying more / Recognition that Government support has reduced	2%	8	6%	2	n/a	n/a
Monitor the effect of a lower increase first. More may not be required.	2%	8	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Review Capita contracts / Capita not good value / Not good services	2%	7	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Need better vetting of claimants/ More people should be made to stand on own two feet	1%	6	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Too many people are not contributing / Those working for cash/	1%	6	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Delay further decisions/increases until the effects of Brexit are known / Concern about effect of Brexit	1%	5	0%	0	n/a	n/a
Other comments	8%	35	3%	1	n/a	n/a
Total number of different types of reasons		336		20		

3.4 Written response

There was one written response received by email. This was in response to seeing the promotional article in Barnet First. The response said:

- In general terms they would support a 1.99% Council Tax increase and felt this increase is affordable by the majority of households;
- They were against the policy of freezing the Council Tax since 2011, in particular in context to the stringent cuts resulting from this policy to social care, libraries, road repairs, and other areas for which the council is responsible.

There were three business responses received, one by post and two by email. The responses were:

- Two business respondents indicated they did not want any increase in the business rates as it would put more pressure on small businesses. They also mentioned that more could be done to support local businesses;
- Other feedback was with regard to spreading the cuts across all five of the largest budgets and possibly reviewing pavement upgrade expenditure;
- It was suggested that parking could raise revenue.

- It was also commented that families, in addition to carer support, could consider looking after elderly relatives therefore reducing the costs of residential care ‘perhaps families will have to take more care of elderly relatives with the help of carers’, and that ‘none of us can have sufficient information about the budget to identify ideas more clearly’.

3.5 Analysis of demographic sub-groups on who are more likely to support or oppose the different type of Council Tax increases.

The demographics of the Citizens’ Panel responses have been analysed to identify which groups are statistically significantly different from the overall response. The sample sizes of the two public consultations are too small to draw any significant conclusions in terms of demographics.

As outlined in Section 1, the analysis of the Citizens’ Panel found that there are two main demographic sub-groups that stand out in their responses:

- The Hendon Constituency responses are different to the overall response for each of the four options for Council Tax. They are **less likely to support** the 2% and 3% social care precept increase. They are also **more likely to oppose** the proposed 2% social care precept plus 1.99% and **more likely to oppose** the proposed 3% social care precept plus 1.99%. To summarise they were not supportive of any Council Tax increase.
- Users of Housing Services are also **more likely** to oppose any increase in the social care precept or general Council Tax. This is further supported by the respondents **less likely to support** a 2% Social Care Precept.

There are further differences across the different types of increases and these are outlined in full below:

3.5.1 The proposal is to apply a further 2% social care precept to Council Tax in 2017/18

- Respondents who are service users in Adult and Safeguarding Committee or have an Agnostic or Humanist faith are **more likely** to say they **support** the proposal to apply a 2% social care precept to Council Tax next year.
- Respondents who are living in the Hendon Constituency or are users of Housing Services are **less likely to support** the proposal to apply a 2% social care precept to Council Tax.
- Conversely, those residents of ‘other’ tenure or who are users of Housing Services are **more likely to oppose** the proposal to apply a 2% social care precept to Council Tax.
- Respondents living in Chipping Barnet Constituency or who are Agnostic in faith, or on Long Term Sick in relation to employment, are **more likely to support** a 3% social care precept Council Tax increase.

3.5.2 Applying the full 3% precept increase to Council Tax

- Respondents living in Chipping Barnet Constituency or who are Agnostic in faith, or on Long Term Sick in relation to employment, are **more likely to support** a 3% social care precept Council Tax increase.
- Respondents living in Hendon Constituency, or those who are just users of universal services are **less likely to support** a 3% social care precept Council Tax increase.
- Respondents living in the Hendon Constituency or living in Social Housing, or Humanist faith, or are users of Housing Services are **more likely to oppose** a 3% social care precept increase in Council Tax.

3.5.3 Applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 2% social care precept in 2017/18

- Whilst 226 panel members (36%) supported applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax in addition to the planned 2% social care precept, statistically there were **no demographic groups that are more likely to support** this Council Tax increase.
- However, there are many differences in terms of sub-groups regarding those who are **more likely to oppose** this type of increase: respondents living in the Hendon Constituency, or who are aged between 18-24 years old, or who are Asian, or who are Black, or who are Muslim, or Rent Privately, or who are Students, or who are users of Housing Services are **more likely to oppose** a 1.99% general Council Tax increase on top of the proposed 2% social care precept increase in Council Tax.
- Respondents who are White are **less likely to oppose** this increase.

3.5.4 Applying an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept in 2017/18.

- Again, whilst 169 panel members (25%) supported an additional 1.99% increase to general Council Tax on top of a 3% social care precept, statistically there were **no demographic groups that are more likely to support** this Council Tax increase.
- As with the 1.99% increase on top of the 2% social care precept increase, there were many variations within sub-groups regarding those who are **more likely to oppose** this type of increase: Again respondents living in the Hendon Constituency, or who are aged between 18-24 years old, or who are Asian, or who are Black, or who are Humanist, or who are Muslim, or who are homosexual, or who are Students, or users of Housing Services are **more likely to oppose** a 1.99% general Council Tax increase on top of the proposed 3% social care precept increase in Council Tax.
- Respondents who are White are again **less likely to oppose** this increase.

4. Overall budget and savings for 2017/18

As outlined under paragraph 2.5.1 the Citizens' Panel were not asked questions on the overall budget and saving proposals within each Theme Committee for 2017/18. These questions were only asked of the general public.

Respondents to the general public consultations were asked their views on:

- The overall budget and saving proposals;
- To what extent they agree or disagree with the savings being proposed within each Theme Committee.

Throughout the questionnaire respondents were also given the opportunity to write in verbatim comments on:

- The overall budget;
- To give reasons if they disagreed with savings within each Theme Committee;
- If they disagreed with any of the savings within a Committee to give alternative suggestions for savings;
- Any general comments on the Committees savings.

This section of the report provides full details of the type of comments received from these open ended questions which are ranked by the most frequently mentioned comments to the updated public consultation after the 15 December announcement.

Responses to these open-ended questions were much more varied compared to the Council Tax questions. As far as possible the responses have been grouped into commonality of themes, however there were many comments that could not be grouped into themes.

As with the Council Tax questions, the findings have been reported in order of the largest sample size first: the updated consultation after 15 December announcement (81) first, and then the consultation prior to the 15 December announcement (10).

4.1 Overall budget 2017/18

Respondents were asked if they had any comments to make on the overall budget, in particular how the 2017/18 proposed savings have been allocated across the Theme Committees:

- 25 out of 81 respondents who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December gave comments on the overall budget.
- 1 out of 10 respondents who took part in the consultation prior to 15 December gave comments.

Table 17 gives full details of the type of comments received which are ranked by the most frequently mentioned comments to the updated public consultation after the 15 December announcement.

The four most frequently most mentioned comments were: concerns about a Council Tax increase and its affordability (6%, 5 out of 81 respondents); agreement that the

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balance across the themes and savings are reasonable (5%, 4 out of 81 respondents); concerns about the Library savings; and concerns about reduced spending on children and education (5%, 4 out of 81 respondents).

The 1 respondent who gave a comment to the consultation prior to 15 December did not mention the aforementioned, and instead felt the council should ensure they protect adult social care and children's social care.

Table 17: Comments on overall budget and on how the 2017/18 proposed savings have been allocated across the Theme Committees

Do you have any comments to make about how the savings being proposed are divided across all the Theme Committees for 2017/18 budget?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who took part in the public consultations	100%	81	100%	10
Gave a comment	31%	25	10%	1
Did not give a comment	69%	56	90%	9
Type of comments made:				
Concerns about Council Tax increase: pensioners should not be paying Council Tax / Poor people should not be paying any Council Tax at all; or it should be a lot less than it is now / I cannot afford Council Tax increase / Disagree with any Council Tax increase.	6%	5	0%	0
Agree with proposed savings / The balance across the themes seems reasonable / The suggested savings in all areas should be adopted.	5%	4	0%	0
Concerns about Library savings: Reduce the proposed savings / library closures will have a very bad impact on the poorer children in the borough / You should have increased the tax to 2% last year instead of closing libraries/ You have also squandered money on the libraries strategy without any guarantees that you will be able to rent out the space you are creating at great expense	5%	4	0%	0
Do not reduce spending on children and education:	4%	3	0%	0
Agree with spending on elderly and vulnerable adults / I think the idea to increase Council Tax to help the elderly is good.	2%	2	10%	1
Agree to increase to pay for housing needs / I do see why housing makes no cuts seeing as there	2%	2	0%	0

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who took part in the public consultations.

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Do you have any comments to make about how the savings being proposed are divided across all the Theme Committees for 2017/18 budget?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
is so much press about this.				
Don't understand why Community Leadership Committee and P&R have 'got away lightly'.	2%	2	0%	0
Unable to understand the information	2%	2	0%	0
Should not have had zero Council Tax increase / You have brought about this problem yourself by freezing Council Tax for the last 6 years.	2%	2	0%	0
Object to elderly having to use their homes to pay for care whilst others who have made no provision receive funds from a source they have not paid into. Had we been told years ago that care would not be free then we would have made provision	2%	2	0%	0
Agree and happy education given higher priority	1%	1	0%	0
Raise revenue via permit parking/parking meters near train stations	1%	1	0%	0
Cuts will further affect vital services to the extent that there will be a knock-on effect in other areas such as the NHS	1%	1	0%	1
I am concerned about proposed "savings" on non-essential repairs to housing stock. What is "non-essential"? Will the tenant be expected to carry out the repair and what is the approved standard? So-called non-essential repairs soon become essential!	1%	1	0%	0
Consider increases not savings	1%	1	0%	0
It is the most heavily used services which are having the greatest cuts: When people (and voters) consider Council Tax, it is associated with the services we know are provided by the local council and used on a regular basis.... these appear to be being disproportionately impacted.	1%	1	0%	0
It is impossible to say that adults and communities should be cut more or less than children's services - they are both essential.	1%	1	0%	0
Money has been wasted on PR to no benefit for local residents	1%	1	0%	0
I can't see how there can be such a huge difference in savings from 17/18 and 18/20 e.g. adults and safeguarding. I know there is one year and then 3 years but it seems an enormous difference and unlikely to come from the measures detailed in the plan.	1%	1	0%	0
People who have high paying jobs be moved out of subsidised housing after a period thus lightening the load	1%	1	0%	0

Do you have any comments to make about how the savings being proposed are divided across all the Theme Committees for 2017/18 budget?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
Environment: Reduce the proposed level of savings	1%	1	0%	0
Protecting social care for children is a priority	0%	0	10%	1
Total number of different types of comments		39		3

4.2 Policy and Resources Committee proposed budget savings 2017/18

Respondents were asked if they would like to answer questions on Policy and Resources Committee:

- Of those who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December, 40 respondents indicated that they would like to answer the questions on Policy and Resources Committee.
- Of those who took part in the public consultation prior to 15 December, 6 respondents indicated that they would like to answer these questions.

4.2.1 Overall response to the budget savings proposed in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within Policy and Resources Committee's budget for 2017/18.

Table 18 shows that 32% (12 out of 37 respondents) responding to the updated general public consultation agree with the savings proposals within the Policy and Resources Committee. 30% (11 out of 37 respondents) disagree and the remainder neither agree nor disagree (22%, 8 out of 37) or did not know (16%, 6 out of 37).

2 out of 6 of the general public consultation prior to 15 December agree with the savings proposals within the Policy and Resources Committee. 2 out of 6 disagree, and 2 out of 6 neither agree nor disagree.

Table 18: Overall response to the budget savings proposed for Policy and Resources Committee

Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been identified within the Policy and Resources Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Prior to 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base	%	Base
Strongly agree	5%	2	17%	1
Tend to agree	27%	10	17%	1
Neither agree nor disagree	22%	8	33%	2
Tend to disagree	11%	4	17%	1
Strongly disagree	19%	7	17%	1
Don't know / not sure	16%	6	0%	0
Total	100%	37	100%	6

4.2.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents were asked to give reasons why they disagree. Of those who indicated they disagree with the savings in this committee only:

- 8 out of 11 respondents who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December gave a reason for their disagreement.
- None of the respondents who took part in the consultation prior to 15 December gave a reason.

Table 19 provides full details of the type of reasons received.

The 8 responses to the updated consultation are varied, with some respondents providing more than one comment. The most common theme is there is not enough information or the savings have not been identified (2 respondents); and why are we always talking about making savings (2 respondents).

Table 19: Reasons why respondents disagree with the savings proposals in Policy and Resources Committee

Reasons for disagreeing with the savings that have been identified within the Policy and Resources Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who disagree with the savings	100%	11	100%	2
Gave a reason why they disagree	73%	8	0%	0
Did not give a reason why they disagree	27%	3	0%	2
Type of reasons given:				
Cuts are not identified / More information required	18%	2	0%	0
Why are we talking about savings ...you pay for what you getWhy is tax such a hideous concept? / There have been many years of cuts, it's time for a change	18%	2	0%	0
Failed to plan for these eventualities in the past. Now passing on the cost	9%	1	0%	0
If savings are made then services will not be at required level	9%	1	0%	0
Keep within your income	9%	1	0%	0
There should be more savings	9%	1	0%	0
What would be saved by bringing all outsourced services back in-house? How much is Capita being paid?	9%	1	0%	0
Barnet has plenty of money from all the land they have sold off	9%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of reasons		10		0

4.2.3 Alternative suggestions for savings

Respondents who disagree with the proposed savings were asked to suggest alternative savings.

- 5 out of 11 respondents who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December gave alternative suggestions for the savings.
- None of the respondents who took part in the consultation prior to 15 December gave any alternative suggestions.

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who disagree with the savings.

Table 20 gives full details of the type of alternative suggestions for making savings in the Policy and Resources Committee.

The 5 responses to the updated consultation are varied, with some respondents providing more than one alternative suggestion but there is no common theme. The full list of the type of suggestions can be seen in Table 21.

Table 20: Alternative suggestions for making the savings within the Policy and Resources Committee

Alternative suggestions where the council could make these savings or generate income?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who disagree with the savings	100%	11	100%	2
Made an alternative suggestion	45%	5	0%	0
Did not make an alternative suggestion	55%	6	0%	0
Type of alternative suggestions made:				
Generate income: we'll charge for missed hospital and GP appointments. Heavy fines for parking infringements etc.	9%	1	0%	0
Increase Council Tax	9%	1	0%	0
Live within your means	9%	1	0%	0
Forget savings	9%	1	0%	0
Barnet has plenty of money from all the land they have sold off	9%	1	0%	0
Increase Council Tax	9%	1	0%	0
Have libraries work with private sector (e.g. Starbucks)	9%	1	0%	0
Withdraw from housing - you're no good at it and pass to Housing Associations.	9%	1	0%	0
Cut wages of big bosses at the council	9%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of alternative suggestions		9		0

4.2.4 General comments

Respondents 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 2017/18:

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who disagree with the savings.

- 8 out of 40 respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on Policy Resources Committee provided a comment in the updated public consultation after 15 December.
- None of the respondents who took part in the consultation prior to 15 December provided a comment.

Table 21 provides full details of the general comments that were made.

The 8 responses to the updated consultation are again varied, with some respondents providing more than one comment. The only common theme, cited by 3 respondents, is that there should be more savings in this committee. The full list of the type of comments can be seen in Table 22.

Table 21: General comments on the savings within the Policy and Resources Committee

Comments about the individual savings being proposed within the Policy and Resources Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on this committee	100%	40	100%	6
Made a comment	20%	8	0%	0
Did not make a comment	80%	32	100%	6
Type of comments made:				
There should be more savings / Further cuts could be made in this area	8%	3	0%	0
Savings should be a result of minimising profit for contractors, rather than by lowering standards for residents.	3%	1	0%	0
Saving the diving boards and deep water pool at Copthall.	3%	1	0%	0
Managing demand equates to arbitrary cuts	3%	1	0%	0
If savings are made then services will not be at required level	3%	1	0%	0
Keep within your income	3%	1	0%	0
£69 million on back office functions is	3%	1	0%	0

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on this committee.

Comments about the individual savings being proposed within the Policy and Resources Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Number	%	Number
disproportionate				
The money saved can be used to provide for adult social care.	3%	1	0%	0
No more cuts, please/ It's always about savings	3%	1	0%	0
Do away with Policy Officers	3%	1	0%	0
Concentrate on frontline services	3%	1	0%	0
Seems sensible	0%	1	0%	0
Why is tax such a hideous concept? Higher tax would help and support the less financially well off	3%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of comments		15		0

4.3. Adults and Safeguarding Committee

Respondents were asked if they would like to answer questions on Adults and Safeguarding Committee:

- Of those who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December, 23 respondents indicated that they would like to answer the questions on Adults and Safeguarding Committee.
- Of those who took part in the public consultation prior to 15 December, 4 respondents indicated that they would like to answer these questions.

4.3.1 Overall response to the budget savings proposed in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within Adults and Safeguarding Committee's budget for 2017/18.

Table 22 shows that 30% (7 out of 23 respondents) responding to the updated general public consultation agree with the savings proposals within the Adults and Safeguarding Committee. 39% (9 out of 23 respondents) disagree. The remainder neither agree nor disagree 26% (6 out of 23) or don't know/are not sure 4% (1 out of 23).

2 out of 4 of the general public consultation prior to 15 December agree with the savings proposals within the Adults and Safeguarding Committee and 2 out of 4 disagree.

Table 22: Overall response to the budget savings proposed in the Adults and Safeguarding Committee

Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been identified within the Adults and Safeguarding Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Prior to 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base	%	Base
Strongly agree	13%	3	25%	1
Tend to agree	17%	4	25%	1
Neither agree nor disagree	26%	6	0%	0
Tend to disagree	22%	5	25%	1
Strongly disagree	17%	4	25%	1
Don't know / not sure	4%	1	0%	0
Total	100%	23	100%	4

4.3.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents were asked to give reasons why they disagree. Of those who indicated they disagree with the savings in this committee only:

- 7 out of 9 respondents who disagree and who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December gave a reason.
- The 1 respondent who disagrees and took part in the consultation prior to 15 December gave a reason.

Table 23 provides full details of the type of reasons received.

The 7 respondents who responded to the updated consultation are varied, with some respondents providing more than one comment. The only most common themes are that respondents feel the savings are too much for a frontline service that cares for the most vulnerable and our ageing population (3 respondents); that the cuts will result in less support (2 respondents); that the budget should be increased and not cut (2 respondents); and that the council has enough money and is prosperous enough (2 respondents, also mentioned by 1 respondent responding to the consultation prior to 15 December).

Table 23: Reasons why respondents disagree with savings proposals in Adults and Safeguarding Committee

Reasons for disagreeing with the savings that have been identified within the Adults & Safeguarding Committee for 2017/18	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who disagree with the savings	100%	9	100%	2
Gave a reason why they disagree	78%	7	50%	1
Did not give a reason why they disagree	22%	2	50%	1
Type of reasons given:				
Cuts or savings are ridiculous when we have an ageing population / Frontline services to the most vulnerable should not be cut / Care of vulnerable is essential	33%	3	50%	1
Cuts will result in less support given / Level of cuts in support and change within the last 12 months is excessive	22%	2	0%	0
You make enough money already, including when you forced those on the dole and other benefits to give you money for Council Tax / The borough is prosperous	22%	2	50%	1
Budget should rise / I would have this budget rise. Not be cut.	22%	2	0%	0
Proposals are too vague.	11%	1	0%	0
I do not see how you can achieve savings through growth in this sector.	11%	1	0%	0
Agree a joined-up system of social care and the NHS but it comes at a cost.	11%	1	0%	0
The number of vulnerable people will not fall unless they have adequate support in becoming independent.	11%	1	0%	0
Reducing the impact on service users I would see as worthy of review if the increased Council Tax is secured.	11%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of reasons		14		2

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who disagree with the savings.

4.3.3 Alternative suggestions for savings

Respondents who disagree with the proposed savings were asked to suggest alternative savings:

- 7 out of 9 respondents who disagree and took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December provided alternative suggestions for savings.
- 1 out of 2 respondents who disagree and took part in the consultation prior to 15 December provided alternative suggestions for savings.

Table 24 gives full details of the type of alternative suggestions for making savings.

The 7 responses to the updated consultation are varied. The most common themes are: increase Council Tax (4 respondents, also mentioned by the 1 respondent from the pre-15 December consultation); find money from other areas (2 respondents); and that it is wrong to expect this area to generate income (2 respondents).

Table 24: Alternative suggestions re the savings within the Adults and Safeguarding Committee

Alternative suggestions for where the council could make these savings or generate income	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who disagree with the savings	100%	9	100%	2
Made an alternative suggestion	78%	7	50%	1
Did not make an alternative suggestion	22%	2	50%	1
Type of alternative suggestions made:				
Increase Council Tax	44%	4	50%	1
Cuts in less sensitive areas / Find the money from other budgets.	22%	2	0%	0
It is wrong to expect this area to generate income.	22%	2	0%	0
We have a duty to look after our old and vulnerable residents.	11%	1	0%	0
Lobby national government.	11%	1	0%	0
Tax the rich in Totteridge Lane more.	11%	1	0%	0
Cut wages of council bosses.	11%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of alternative suggestions		12		1

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who disagree with the savings.

4.3.4 General comments

Respondents were asked if they had any comments to make on the specific savings that have been proposed within the Adults and Safeguarding Committee's budget for 2017/18.

- 6 out of 23 respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on Adults and Safeguarding Committee provided a comment in the updated public consultation after 15 December.
- 1 out of 4 respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on the Adults and Safeguarding Committee provided a comment in the consultation prior to 15 December.

Table 25 provides full details of the general comments that were made.

The 6 responses from the updated consultation are varied. The only common theme cited by 5 respondents is that the savings are not suitable for this type of frontline service that protects the vulnerable. This is also cited by the respondent who took part in the consultation prior to 15 December.

Table 25: General comments about the proposed savings within the Adults and Safeguarding Committee

Comments about the individual savings being proposed within the Adults and Safeguarding Committee for 2017/18	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on this committee	100%	23	100%	4
Made a comment	26%	6	25%	1
Did not make a comment	74%	17	75%	3
Type of comments made:				
Not a suitable area for cuts generally: There shouldn't be savings on this area of spending / Frontline services to the most vulnerable should not be cut.	22%	5	25%	1
E1, I2, R4 and R8 - Level of change is excessive.	4%	1	0%	0
E1, I2, R4 and R8 - Cuts will result in less support given.	4%	1	0%	0
What does managing demand mean?	4%	1	0%	0
I do not see how you can achieve savings through growth in this sector.	4%	1	25%	1

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on this committee.

Comments about the individual savings being proposed within the Adults and Safeguarding Committee for 2017/18	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
I agree that a joined-up system of social care and the NHS is desirable but this comes at a cost.	4%	1	0%	0
It is much cheaper and better for them to keep elderly residents in their homes and provide care this way.	4%	1	0%	0
Paying carers rock bottom rates of pay isn't good either; they need to be more valued as they do a great job most of the time.	4%	1	0%	0
It strikes me that like the NHS, demand will ALWAYS exceed supply in these areas if the supply is beyond the absolute bare minimum of survival.	4%	1	0%	0
They seem sensible and should be enforced.	4%	1	0%	0
Taxes should rise instead of cuts here.	0%	0	25%	1
Total number of different types of comments		14		3

4.4 Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

Respondents were asked if they would like to answer questions on Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee:

- Of those who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December, 40 respondents indicated that they would like to answer the questions on the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee.
- Of those who took part in the public consultation prior to 15 December, 7 respondents indicated that they would like to answer these questions.

4.4.1 Overall response to the budget savings proposed in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee's budget for 2017/18.

Table 26 shows that 23% (9 out of 40 respondents) responding to the updated general public consultation after 15 December agree with the savings proposals within the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee. 50% (20 out of 40 respondents) disagree and the remainder neither agrees nor disagrees, 13% (5 out of 40) or don't know/are not sure 15% (6 out of 40).

1 out of 7 responding to the general public consultation prior to 15 December agree with the savings proposals within the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 5 out of 7 disagree and 1 respondent neither agrees nor disagrees.

Table 26: Overall response to the budget savings proposed in the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been identified within the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Prior to 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base	%	Base
Strongly agree	5%	2	14%	1
Tend to agree	18%	7	0%	0
Neither agree nor disagree	13%	5	14%	1
Tend to disagree	10%	4	14%	1
Strongly disagree	40%	16	57%	4
Don't know / not sure	15%	6	0%	0
Total	100%	40	100%	7

4.4.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents were asked to give reasons why they disagree. Of those who indicated they disagree with the savings in this committee only:

- 14 out of 20 respondents who disagree and who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December gave a reason.
- 3 out 5 respondents who disagree and took part in the consultation prior to 15 December gave a reason.

Table 27 provides full details of the type of reasons received.

The 7 responses to the updated consultation are again varied. The most common theme for disagreement is concerns about the library savings, cited by 5 respondents and also mentioned by 1 respondent from the consultation prior to 15 December. This is followed by respondents saying this committee should not be making savings and is going against what is needed (3 respondents); the council should be investing in schools or schools cannot afford further cuts (2 respondents); and there should not be cuts to children's services (2 respondents).

Table 27: Reasons why respondents disagree with the savings proposals for Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposals for Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who disagree with the savings	100%	20	100%	5
Gave a reason why they disagree	70%	14	60%	3
Did not give a reason why they disagree	30%	6	40%	2
Type of reasons given:				
Libraries: opposed to library proposals / destruction / cuts are short-sighted / libraries are a valuable resource for poorest and most vulnerable / libraries are important.	25%	5	20%	1
You should not be making savings / You have plenty of money / You are spending millions to make a smaller saving / Why do we have to make savings as this is going against what is needed?	15%	3	0%	0
Council should be investing in schools / Schools cannot afford further cuts.	10%	2	0%	0
Unrealistic as children's services are demand driven/ No cuts to children's services.	10%	2	20%	1
Stop cutting everything / Stretched to the limit.	5%	1	20%	1
Frontline services being cut at the expense of protecting back office.	5%	1	0%	0
We can't afford the bureaucracy you've created.	5%	1	0%	0
Stop wasting money on new PR posts / gifts to the RAF museum.	5%	1	0%	0
Reduce the size of the large school planned for Underhill.	5%	1	0%	0
Youth services are an essential protection and safeguard.	0%	0	20%	1
Early Years services are an essential protection and safeguard.	0%	0	20%	1
Total number of different types of reasons		17		5

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who disagree with the savings.

4.4.3 Alternative suggestions for savings

Respondents who disagree with the proposed savings were asked to suggest alternative savings.

- 12 out of 20 respondents who disagree and took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December provided alternative suggestions for savings.
- 2 out of 5 respondents who disagree and took part in the consultation prior to 15 December provided alternative suggestions for savings.

Table 28 gives full details of the type of alternative suggestions for making savings.

The most common themes to the updated consultation are: increase Council Tax (4 respondents), and control expenditure on consultants, agencies and outsourcing (3 respondents). These were also both mentioned in the responses to the consultation prior to 15 December.

Table 28: Alternative suggestions re the savings within the Children, Education, Libraries and Skills Committee

Alternative suggestions for where the council could make these savings or generate income	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who disagree with the savings	100%	20	100%	5
Made an alternative suggestion	60%	12	40%	2
Did not make an alternative suggestion	40%	8	60%	3
Type of alternative suggestions made:				
Increase Council Tax: Put up Council Tax to give us the services which we expect the council to provide.	20%	4	20%	1
Control expenditure on consultants, agencies and outsourcing / Don't waste money on outsourcing / Renegotiate the Capita/Re contracts to eliminate the automatic RPI annual increases / Do not make extra payments over the core fees.	15%	3	20%	1
Forget savings.	5%	1	0%	0
Cut the number of councillors.	5%	1	0%	0
New residents shouldn't be an excuse for not having enough cash - presumably they pay Council Tax too!	5%	1	0%	0

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who disagree with the savings.

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Alternative suggestions for where the council could make these savings or generate income	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	5%	1	20%	1
You should have put the Council Tax up last year and you would have had enough money without these ridiculous proposals / plans.	5%	1	20%	1
Generate income: heavily fine the businesses and individuals who regularly flout the planning laws e.g. Barnet High Street has a number of examples where regulations have been flouted and yet are still operating with impunity.	5%	1	0%	0
Think outside the box, deals with private companies such as Costa for walk-in centres, libraries etc.	5%	1	0%	0
Not an area suitable for making any income.	5%	1	0%	0
Cut the £800k a year you spend on PR and communications.	5%	1		
Manage wages / Remove the COO role which with pensions contributions would save £200k per annum.	5%	1	20%	1
Total number of different types of alternative suggestions		16		4

4.4.4 General comments

Respondents were asked if they had any comments to make on the specific savings that have been proposed within the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding budget for 2017/18:

- 18 out of 40 respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee provided a comment in the updated public consultation after 15 December.
- 3 out of 7 respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee provided a comment in the consultation prior to 15 December.

Table 29 provides full details of the general comments that were made.

The most common theme to the updated consultation for these general comments is again to do with concerns about the library savings, cited by 14 respondents and also mentioned by 1 respondent from the consultation prior to 15 December. This is followed by agreement with the fostering proposals (2 respondents); and disagreement with the further reductions in Early Years.

Table 29: General Comments about the proposed savings within the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee?

Comments about the individual savings being proposed within the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on this committee	100%	40	100%	7
Made a comment	45%	18	43%	3
Did not make a comment	55%	22	57%	4
Type of comments made:				
Libraries: Do not see how closures will break even / All costing a fortune better spent on maintaining this vital service / Savings are a drop in the ocean / False economy / Will affect and have cost effects widely: elderly (somewhere warm) / School children (somewhere quiet) / Unemployed (Access to IT) / The proposals for Chipping Barnet library are scandalous and illegal/ Have concerns over the libraries strategy / Oppose / Not having many staff is a disaster / Dangerous / How is Equality Act satisfied with toilets being closed / Why are these part of 'Safeguarding'?	33%	14	14%	1
Foster Care: I agree that children are better off in foster homes than care homes / Agree these proposals.	5%	2	0%	0
Early Years: I don't believe that Early Years should be subjected to further reductions after the S1 savings /Support efforts to improve.	5%	2	0%	0
Schools: New school in Underhill should be for local primary children, not a large secondary bringing in children from other boroughs.	3%	1	0%	0
This is an area where budgets shouldn't be cut. The demand here is for the future of society.	3%	1	0%	0
I just don't get why we have to make savings as this is going against what is needed. Spend not savings.	3%	1	0%	0
If we can't afford it be honest don't just put up taxes.	3%	1	0%	0
Retain frontline services.	3%	1	0%	0

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on this committee.

Comments about the individual savings being proposed within the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
I do feel that CAMHS is underfunded and should be supported more fully. There are more young adults/teenagers/children suffering from mental health issues and it is more sensible for these to be treated at an early stage rather than waiting till a crisis happens. It is also much better for children to be seen regularly by CAMHS counsellors than end up at Edgware in mental health unit, which in my experience makes them even worse, not better.	3%	1	0%	0
Youth service: Support proposals to improve.	3%	1	0%	0
Help more able children as well, help them achieve their potential.	3%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of comments		26		1

4.5 Environment Committee

Respondents were asked if they would like to answer questions on Environment Committee:

- Of those who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December, 36 respondents indicated that they would like to answer the questions on Environment Committee.
- Of those who took part in the public consultation prior to 15 December, 5 respondents indicated that they would like to answer these questions.

4.5.1 Overall response to the budget savings proposed in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within the Environment Committee's budget for 2017/18.

Table 30 shows that 50% (18 out of 36 respondents) responding to the updated general public consultation after 15 December agree with the savings proposals within the Environment Committee. 33% (12 out of 36 respondents) disagree and the remainder neither agree nor disagree, 17% (6 out of 36).

4 out of 5, responding to the general public consultation prior to 15 December, agree with the savings proposals within the Environment Committee and 1 out of 5 disagree.

Table 30: Overall response to the budget savings proposed in the Environment Committee

Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been identified within the Environment Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base	%	Base
Strongly agree	14%	5	20%	1
Tend to agree	36%	13	60%	3
Neither agree nor disagree	17%	6	0%	0
Tend to disagree	11%	4	0%	0
Strongly disagree	22%	8	20%	1
Don't know / not sure	0%	0	0%	0
Total	100%	36	100%	5

4.5.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents were asked to give reasons why they disagree. Of those who indicated they disagree with the savings in this committee only:

- 7 out of 12 respondents who disagree and who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December gave a reason.
- None of the respondents who disagree and took part in the consultation prior to 15 December gave a reason.

Table 31 provides full details of the type of reasons received.

The 7 respondents who responded to the updated consultation are very varied and the only common theme is that respondents are against the suggestions of the community input: For example: "Not happy with the suggestion that street cleaning could be used as "community payback".

Table 31: Reasons why respondents disagree with the savings proposal in Environment Committee

Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposals for the Environment Committee	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who disagree with the savings	100%	12	100%	1
Gave a reason why they disagree	58%	7	0%	0

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who disagree with the savings.

Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposals for the Environment Committee	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Did not give a reason why they disagree	42%	5	100%	1
Type of reasons given:				
Against suggestions of community input: For example: "Not happy with the suggestion that street cleaning could be used as "community payback" - smacks of the pillory." / We pay taxes for you to maintain the parks and protect them / To rely on people cleaning their own neighbourhoods is never going to work.	33%	4	0%	0
There is an increase in demand which is being met with a decrease in supply. The basic laws of economics are being defied.	8%	1	0%	0
You are not doing a proper job, recycling is too confusing, many do not bother using brown bins, others just throw it in any old bin.	8%	1	0%	0
You make loads of money from people including the poor/ unemployed via Council Tax.	8%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of reasons		7		0

4.5.3 Alternative suggestions for savings

Respondents who disagree with the proposed savings were asked to suggest alternative savings.

- 8 out of 12 respondents who disagree and took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December provided alternative suggestions for savings.
- None of the respondents who disagree and took part in the consultation prior to 15 December provided alternative suggestion for savings.

The 8 responses to the updated consultation are very varied in terms of the alternative suggestions for making savings in Environment Committee and there is no common theme. Table 32 gives full details of these alternative suggestions for making savings.

Table 32: Alternative suggestions re the savings within the Environment Committee

Alternative suggestions for where the council could make these savings or generate income	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who disagree with the savings	100%	12	100%	1
Made an alternative suggestion	67%	8	0%	0
Did not make an alternative suggestion	33%	4	100%	1
Type of alternative suggestions made:				
Involve ordinary residents in taking care of their environment - planting schemes etc. There are people out here who would be glad of the chance to contribute but need support to get started.	8%	1	0%	0
Impose greater charges on converting properties from business to residential.	8%	1	0%	0
Call a halt to Capita using this borough as a cash cow.	8%	1	0%	0
Increase Council Tax.	8%	1	0%	0
Sort it out but keep it simple.	8%	1	0%	0
I suggest that you concentrate on repairing the potholes in the roads which are costing us all money.	8%	1	0%	0
Reduce salaries of council bosses.	8%	1	0%	0
Increase Council Tax to the wealthy.	8%	1	0%	0
Use the money gained from selling off land.	8%	1	0%	0
Make back office savings.	8%	1	0%	0
Scrap the council magazine.	8%	1	0%	0
Corporate sponsorship of parks.	8%	1	0%	0
Charge £25k planning fee per new home.	8%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of alternative suggestions		13		0

4.5.4 General comments

Respondents were asked if they had any comments to make on the specific savings that have been proposed within the Environment Committee

- 14 out of 36 respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on the Environment Committee provided a comment in the public consultation after 15 December.

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who disagree with the savings.

- 2 out of 5 respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on Environment Committee provided a comment who took part in the consultation prior to 15 December.

Table 33 provides full details of the general comments.

The 14 responses to the updated consultation are again very varied, with some respondents providing more than one comment. Themes only had commonality of 2 respondents saying the similar things and these are around: planting of bedding plants being maintained; standard of street cleaning falling; the council should be penalising /fining people who do not recycle or offering incentives to get people to recycle more; more recycling bins available across the borough; charge extra if people want their household or their recycling bins emptied more often than fortnightly; move to fortnightly bin collection; and lastly reference to parks either opposing cuts to parks or asking the council to invest in the parks (this last theme is also mentioned by one respondent in the consultation prior to 15 December).

Table 33: General comments about the proposed savings within the Environment Committee

Comments about the individual savings being proposed within the Environment Committee for 2017/18	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on this committee	100%	36	100%	5
Made a comment	39%	14	40%	2
Did not make a comment	61%	22	60%	3
Type of comments made:				
Planting of bedding plants should be maintained until / adoption scheme being implemented / E1 Annual bedding important and reduces anti-social behaviour.	6%	2	0%	0
Standard of street cleaning is falling / Street cleaning is minimal.	6%	2	0%	0
Penalise /fine people who do not recycle.	6%	2	0%	0
Offer incentives for recycling / Encourage recycling more.	6%	2	0%	0
More recycling bins available across the borough.	6%	2	0%	0
Charge extra if people want their household or their recycling bins emptied more often than fortnightly / Move to fortnightly bin collection.	6%	2	0%	0

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on this committee.

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Comments about the individual savings being proposed within the Environment Committee for 2017/18	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Count	%	Count
Oppose cuts to parks / Invest in the parks.	6%	2	20%	1
Concerns about the wild areas being too extensive.	3%	1	0%	0
Stop cutting down trees.	3%	1	0%	0
Ridiculous to try to save when there is new housing / More demand.	3%	1	0%	0
We pay taxes for you to maintain the parks and protect them, not sell them off to developers or try to commercialise them, or force residents to run them.	3%	1	0%	0
I am against community payback being used to clean streets. If there is a job to be done, it should be paid, not a punishment.	3%	1	0%	0
Reducing refuse collections/bin size.	3%	1	0%	0
Agree with 'Reduce Demand for Services through targeted enforcement and Education'.	3%	1	0%	0
Street cleaning is efficient.	3%	1	0%	0
Cannot rely on people cleaning their own neighbourhoods.	3%	1	0%	0
It would be lovely if you can stop fly tipping and dumping (Trotters Bottom is a prime example) but I don't see how this can be achieved without manpower going and checking, and then following up. It is rampant in parts of Barnet.	3%	1	0%	0
Lack of confidence that waste is recycled properly once collected.	3%	1	0%	0
Do not have green waste collection in the Winter.	3%	1	0%	0
Too much talk of cuts.	3%	1	0%	0
Street Scene is vital.	3%	1	0%	0
R2: Weekly bin collection should continue.	3%	1	0%	0
Encourage community ownership of recycling.	0%	0	20%	1
Trade off services for input from community: "We'll sweep your streets if you sweep your pavements".	0%	0	20%	1
Encourage community ownership of street scene - get streets competing for targets.	0%	0	20%	1
Total number of different types of comments		29		4

4.6 Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee

Respondents were asked if they would like to answer questions on Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee:

- Of those who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December, 21 respondents indicated that they would like to answer the questions on Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee.
- Of those who took part in the public consultation prior to 15 December, 3 respondents indicated that they would like to answer these questions.

4.6.1 Overall response to the budget savings proposed in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee’s budget for 2017/18.

Table 34 shows that 48% (10 out of 21 respondents) responding to the updated general public consultation after 15 December agree with the savings proposals within the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee. 38% (8 out of 21 respondents) disagree and the remainder neither agree nor disagree, 14% (3 out of 21).

2 out of 3, responding to the general public consultation prior to the 15 December, agree with the savings proposals within the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee and 1 out of 3 disagree.

Table 34: Overall response to the budget savings proposed in the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee

Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been identified within Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Prior to 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base	%	Base
Strongly agree	24%	5	33%	1
Tend to agree	24%	5	33%	1
Neither agree nor disagree	14%	3	0%	0
Tend to disagree	19%	4	0%	0
Strongly disagree	19%	4	33%	1
Don't know / not sure	0%	0	0%	0
Total	100%	21	100%	3

4.6.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents were asked to give reasons why they disagree. Of those who indicated they disagree with the savings in this committee only:

- 7 out of 8 respondents who disagree and who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December gave a reason.
- The 1 respondent who disagrees and took part in the consultation prior to 15 December did not give a reason.

Table 35 provides full details of the type of reasons received.

The 7 responses in the updated consultation are very varied. Themes that only had commonality of 2 respondents are about supporting small businesses better, including not increasing business rates; and the need for more council housing or more affordable homes.

Table 35: Reasons why respondents disagree with savings proposal in Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee

Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposals for the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who disagree with the savings	100%	8	100%	1
Gave a reason why they disagree	88%	7	0%	0
Did not give a reason why they disagree	13%	1	100%	1
Type of reasons given:				
Support small businesses better / Increasing business rates will kill some small businesses.	25%	2	0%	0
More council housing would be a good thing but I don't see that happening / There are no 'affordable homes' in the borough (not for the poor or even middle income).	25%	2	0%	0
Not enough consultation with users and residents.	13%	1	0%	0
Too much decision making made by officers without much thought to the many and varied users of different spaces.	13%	1	0%	0
Put any credit into Adult Social Care.	13%	1	0%	0
Increase tax on developers.	13%	1	0%	0
Seize land or property that has not been developed/utilised in 36 months	13%	1	0%	0

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they disagree with the savings.

Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposals for the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Drop the punitive parking system which is killing our high streets.	13%	1	0%	0
Concern that services and infrastructure will not support new build / population.	13%	1	0%	0
Drop the punitive parking system which is killing our high streets.	13%	1	0%	0
Barnet High Street is not thriving and there is no attraction to visit it.	13%	1	0%	0
Let the rich people pay.	13%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of reasons		14		0

4.6.3 Alternative suggestions for savings

Respondents who disagree with the proposed savings were asked to suggest alternative savings.

- 6 out of 8 respondents who disagree and took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December provided alternative suggestions for savings.
- The 1 respondent who disagrees and took part in the consultation prior to 15 December did not provide an alternative suggestion.

Table 36 gives full details of the type of alternative suggestions for making savings.

The 6 responses to the updated consultation are very varied in terms of the alternative suggestions for making savings in Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee and there is no common theme.

Table 36: Alternative suggestions re the savings within the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee

Alternative suggestions for where the council could make these savings or generate income	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who disagree with the savings	100%	8	100%	1
Made an alternative suggestion	75%	6	0%	0
Did not make an alternative suggestion	25%	2	100%	1
Type of alternative suggestions made:				

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who disagree with the savings.

Alternative suggestions for where the council could make these savings or generate income	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
Just don't pave so much of our parks wasting money.	13%	1	0%	0
Put any credit into Adult Social Care.	13%	1	0%	0
Increase tax on developers.	13%	1	0%	0
Seize land or property that has not been developed/utilised in 36 months.	13%	1	0%	0
Review the Capita contracts and get a better deal.	13%	1	0%	0
Collect household rubbish every 2 weeks.	13%	1	0%	0
Collect the green bin every month in the winter.	13%	1	0%	0
Free parking where possible outside peak hours encourage trade.	13%	1	0%	0
Have parking wardens who manage the parking and do not just issue tickets for revenue.	13%	1	0%	0
Build affordable housing; not unaffordable.	13%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of alternative suggestions		10		0

4.6.4 General comments

Respondents were asked if they had any comments to make on the specific savings that have been proposed within the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee budget for 2017/18.

- 5 out of 21 respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee provided a comment who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December.
- 2 out of 3 respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee provided a comment who took part in the consultation prior to 15 December.

Table 37 provides full details of the general comments that were made.

The 5 responses to the updated consultation are again very varied. The themes for the general comments are very similar to the reasons why respondents disagree with the savings in this committee. 2 respondents mentioned the need to support small businesses, including not increasing business rates; and respondents cited the need for more council housing or more affordable homes.

Table 37: General comments about the proposed savings within the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee

Comments about the individual savings being proposed within the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee for 2017/18	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on this committee	100%	21	100%	3
Made a comment	24%	5	50%	2
Did not make a comment	76%	16	50%	1
Type of comments made:				
Support small businesses better.	10%	2	0%	0
Increase tax on developers to raise more funds. Significantly increase tax on developers for sitting on land that is not developed after, say, 12 months / Regeneration in Barnet merely means letting private developers use the borough for profiteering.	10%	2	0%	0
Have a more forward-thinking plan rather than treating each area individually. You were aware that you needed to provide extra school places - so when a large parcel of land became available some should have been set aside for a school instead of pleading that you need to encroach on the green belt.	5%	1	0%	0
Put any credit into Adult Social Care.	5%	1	0%	0
Seize land or property that has not been developed/utilised in 36 months.	5%	1	0%	0
Drop the punitive parking system which is killing our high streets.	5%	1	0%	0
Do not understand how can make savings where is an increase in demand / population growth / Need to ensure that all services which support growth are delivered.	5%	1	25%	1
Is this a privatisation budget?	5%	1	0%	0
Council has loads of money from selling off land.	5%	1	0%	0
There are no 'affordable homes' in the borough.	5%	1	0%	0
Moving people miles away from their current homes is the mark of an uncivilised administration that thinks only of short term cost cutting.	0%	0	25%	1
Total number of different types of comments		12		2

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on this committee.

4.7 Community Leadership Committee

Respondents were asked if they would like to answer questions on Community Leadership Committee.

- Of those who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December, 19 respondents indicated that they would like to answer the questions on the Community Leadership Committee;
- Of those who took part in the public consultation prior to 15 December, 2 respondents indicated that they would like to answer these questions.

4.7.1 Overall response to the budget savings proposed in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the savings that have been proposed within the Community Leadership Committee budget for 2017/18.

Table 38 shows that 37% (7 out of 19 respondents), responding to the updated general public consultation after 15 December, agree with the savings proposals within the Community Leadership Committee. 27% (5 out of 19 respondents) disagree and 37% (7 out of 19 respondents) neither agree nor disagree.

1 out of 2 responding to the general public consultation prior to 15 December agree with the savings proposals within the Community Leadership Committee, and 1 out of 2 neither agree nor disagree.

Table 38: Overall response to the budget savings proposed in the Community Leadership Committee

Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the savings that have been identified within the Community Leadership Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Prior to 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base	%	Base
Strongly agree	21%	4	0%	0
Tend to agree	16%	3	50%	1
Neither agree nor disagree	37%	7	50%	1
Tend to disagree	16%	3	0%	0
Strongly disagree	11%	2	0%	0
Don't know / not sure	0%	0	0%	0
Total	100%	19	100%	2

4.7.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents were asked to give reasons why they disagree. Of those who indicated they disagree with the savings in this committee only:

- 1 out of 5 respondents who disagree and who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December gave a reason.
- None of the respondents who took part in the consultation prior to 15 December disagreed with the savings.

As table 39 shows the 1 response to the updated consultation was about the savings being very modest and that more could be done.

Table 39: Reasons why respondents disagree with savings proposal in the Community Leadership Committee

Reasons for disagreeing with the savings proposals for the Community Leadership Committee	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who disagree with the savings	100%	5	0%	0
Gave a reason why they disagree	20%	1	0%	0
Did not give a reason why they disagree	80%	4	0%	0
Type of reasons given:				
The savings here are very modest - surely more should be done.	20%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of reasons		1		0

4.7.3 Alternative suggestions for savings

Residents who disagree with the proposed savings were asked to suggest alternative savings:

- 1 out of 5 respondents who disagree and took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December provided alternative suggestions for savings.

Table 40 shows that the 1 response to the updated consultation was about things that are discretionary still being provided when they could be cut.

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who disagree with the savings.

Table 40: Alternative suggestions re the savings within Community Leadership Committee

Alternative suggestions for where the council could make these savings or generate income	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who disagree with the savings	100%	5	0%	0
Made an alternative suggestion	20%	1	0%	0
Did not make an alternative suggestion	80%	4	0%	0
Type of alternative suggestions made:				
Things which are discretionary still being provided when they could be cut	20%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of alternative suggestions		1		0

4.7.4 General comments

Respondents were asked if they had any comments to make on the specific savings that have been proposed within the Community Leadership Committee for 2017/18:

- 6 out of 19 respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on Community Leadership Committee provided a comment in the updated public consultation after 15 December.
- Neither of the 2 respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee in the consultation prior to 15 December provided a comment.

Table 41 provides full details of the general comments that were made.

The most common theme to the updated consultation for these general comments was to do with getting rid of CCTV and the council wasting money on CCTV, cited by 2 respondents.

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who disagree with the savings.

Table 41: General comments about the proposed savings within the Community Leadership Committee

Comments about the individual savings being proposed within the Community Leadership Committee for 2017/18	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on this committee	100%	19	100%	2
Made a comment	32%	6	0%	0
Did not make a comment	68%	13	100%	2
Type of comments made:				
CCTV - who has the time to watch endless CCTV? Send you to sleep anyway, get rid of it / So the CCTV was Barnet wasting money again.	11%	2	0%	0
Keep CCTV as it's a deterrent.	5%	1	0%	0
The council should do more to promote community cohesion and integration.	5%	1	0%	0
More bureaucracy.	5%	1	0%	0
The savings here are very modest - surely more should be done - things which are discretionary still being provided?	5%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of comments		6		0

4.8 Housing Committee

Respondents were asked if they would like to answer questions on Housing Committee:

- Of those who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December, 23 respondents indicated that they would like to answer the questions on the Housing Committee.
- Of those who took part in the public consultation prior to 15 December, 2 respondents indicated that they would like to answer these questions.
-

4.8.1 Overall response to the budget decision not to make any savings in this committee

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the **decision not to make any savings** in the Housing Committee for 2017/18.

Table 42 shows that 35% (8 out of 23 respondents) responding to the updated general public consultation after 15 December agree with the decision not to make

any savings in the Housing Committee. 48% (11 out of 23 respondents) disagree and 17% (4 out of 23 respondents) neither agree nor disagree.

1 out of 2 responding to the general public consultation prior to 15 December, agree with the decision not to make any savings within the Housing Committee, and 1 out of 2 disagree.

Table 42: Overall response to the budget savings proposed for the Housing Committee

Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the decision not to make any savings in the Housing Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Prior to 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base	%	Base
Strongly agree	13%	3	50%	1
Tend to agree	22%	5	0%	0
Neither agree nor disagree	17%	4	0%	0
Tend to disagree	22%	5	0%	0
Strongly disagree	26%	6	50%	1
Don't know / not sure	0%	0	0%	0
Total	100%	23	100%	2

4.8.2 Reasons for disagreement

Respondents were asked to give reasons why they disagree. Of those who indicated they disagree with the decision not to make any savings:

- 10 out of 11 respondents who took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December gave a reason for their disagreement.
- The 1 respondent who took part in the consultation prior to 15 December gave a reason.

Table 43 provides full details of the type of reasons received.

The most common themes to the updated public consultation on reasons why respondents disagree with the decision not to make savings in Housing Committee area¹ are: the need for more social housing and ensure more social housing is included in any new developments (2 respondents, also mentioned by 1 respondent prior to the 15 December consultation); comments around whether it is a good idea house the homeless outside the borough with particular reference to what impact this could have on their quality of their lives (2 respondents); and two comments about housing repairs, with particular reference to non-urgent housing repairs quickly

¹ It is not clear if respondents read this question correctly, instead of asking 'please give reasons why you disagree with the savings in the committee', Housing asked 'please give reasons why you disagree with the decision not to make savings in this committee'.

becoming urgent which will cost more in the long term, and sometimes repairs are poorly delivered.

Table 43: Reasons why respondents disagree with the decision not to make savings in the Housing Committee

Reasons for disagreeing with the decision not to make savings in the Housing Committee	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
Respondents who disagree with the decision not to make savings	100%	11¹	100%	1
Gave a reason why they disagree	91%	10	100%	1
Did not give a reason why they disagree	9%	1	0%	0
Type of reasons given:				
Need for more social housing / Ensure more social housing is included in any new development.	18%	2	100%	1
Is it a good idea to use accommodation out of the borough to house the homeless? Quality of life away from family, friends, work or school will have a devastating effect on people.	18%	2	0%	0
Housing repairs: Non-urgent will quickly turn into urgent and cost the council more in the long term / Repairs are sometimes poorly delivered.	18%	2	0%	0
The right to buy scheme should be ended or at least frozen until everyone who has been housed is accommodated. Once housing stock is lost, that property is never again available.	9%	1	0%	0
Should be more money.	9%	1	0%	0
There is insufficient justification for not being made subject to savings. Savings could be used to fund adult social care.	9%	1	0%	0
Concern for those who can't contribute, e.g. disabled tenants.	9%	1	0%	0
Every penny should be spent carefully.	9%	1	0%	0
Demand will always exceed supply	9%	1	0%	0
Housing provision is not working, OAPs living alone in two/three bedroom houses.	9%	1	0%	0
Council should not be selling off social housing stock but be increasing it. It should also stop selling off social housing stock at absurd discounts to tenants.	9%	1	0%	0
Total number of different type of reasons		14		1

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they disagree with the decision not to make savings.

4.8.3 Alternative suggestions for savings

Respondents who disagree with the decision not to make savings were asked to suggest alternative savings.

- 7 out of 11 respondents who disagree and took part in the updated public consultation after 15 December provided alternative suggestions for savings.
- The 1 respondent who disagrees and took part in the consultation prior to 15 December did not provide an alternative suggestion for savings.

Table 44 gives full details of the type of alternative suggestions for making savings.

The 7 responses to the updated consultation are very varied and the only theme mentioned by 2 respondents was again about raising rents to ensure they are linked with people's salaries.

Table 44: Alternative suggestions re the savings within the Housing Committee

Alternative suggestions for where the council could make these savings or generate income	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Respondents who disagree with the decision not to make savings	100%	11	100%	1
Made an alternative suggestion	64%	7	0%	0
Did not make an alternative suggestion	36%	4	100%	1
Type of alternative suggestions made:				
Raise rents linked to people's salaries / Do not subsidise tenants who have a decent income.	18%	2	0%	0
Need for more social housing.	9%	1	0%	0
Take services back in-house / Dump Capita.	9%	1	0%	0
Hand all housing over to Housing Associations.	9%	1	0%	0
Remove 'problem' tenants to cheapest housing available.	9%	1	0%	0
Charge annually for green waste collection bins - £50.	9%	1	0%	0
Council should not sell their housing stock.	9%	1	0%	0
Increase Council Tax.	9%	1	0%	0
Huge houses / mansions should pay more tax.	9%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of alternative suggestions		10		0

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who disagree with the decision not to make savings.

4.8.4 General comments

Respondents were asked if they had any comments to make about the proposed budget for 2017/18 within the Housing Committee:

- 9 out of 23 respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on the Housing Committee provided a comment in the updated public consultation after 15 December.
- Neither of the 2 respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on the Housing Committee provided a comment in the consultation prior to 15 December.

Table 45 provides full details of the general comments that were made.

The 9 responses to the updated consultation are varied, with some respondents providing more than one comment. The most common theme for these general comments are about the need for more affordable housing to rent or buy, cited by 6 respondents. This is followed by disagreement with moving people to housing outside Barnet (2 respondents); and poor housing repairs (2 respondents).

Table 45: General Comments about the proposed budget within the Housing Committee

Comments about the individual savings being proposed within the Housing Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
	%	Base ¹	%	Base ¹
Number of respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on this committee.	100%	23	100%	2
Made a comment	39%	9	0%	0
Did not make a comment	61%	14	100%	2
Type of comments made:				
More affordable housing needs to be built / No affordable housing to rent or buy in Barnet.	26%	6	0%	0
Disagree with moving people to housing outside Barnet.	9%	2	0%	0
Poor housing repairs service: you are often terrible with your repairs; I was treated like rubbish just before Christmas and without intervention by the local councillor would not have had my urgent repair done / Putting off repairs is false economy as it causes additional expenditure in future.	9%	2	0%	0

¹ Respondents could write in more than one comment. Percentages are calculated on the number of respondents who indicated they would like to answer questions on this committee.

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Comments about the individual savings being proposed within the Housing Committee for 2017/18?	General Public After 15 Dec 2016		General Public Pre 15 Dec 2016	
The right to buy scheme should be ended or at least frozen until everyone who has been housed is accommodated. Once housing stock is lost, that property is never again available.	4%	1	0%	0
Demand will always exceed supply.	4%	1	0%	0
Subsidised tenants on decent income should be moved to private sector.	4%	1	0%	0
Tenants who misbehave and damage properties through misuse should be sanctioned and removed if repeats occur, to much more modest properties.	4%	1	0%	0
Tenants should be moved to cheapest possible areas.	4%	1	0%	0
Concern for those who can't contribute, e.g. disabled tenants.	4%	1	0%	0
Every penny should be spent carefully.	4%	1	0%	0
Claimants who complain should be reminded they're using other people's money.	4%	1	0%	0
Total number of different types of comments		18		0