

Appendix G

Business Planning 2022/23

Final Report General budget consultation 2022/23

21 December 2021 – 1 February 2022

Consultation Team, Strategy

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out the consultation findings from the General Budget Consultation 2022/23 which will be presented as part of the budget paper at Policy and Resources on 9 February 2022 and Full Council on 1 March 2022.

1.1 Response to the consultation

- A total of 84 questionnaires were completed,
- The majority of responses were from residents.

1.2 Summary of consultation approach

- The consultation ran from 21 December 2021 to 1 February 2022.
- The consultation consisted of an online questionnaire and summary consultation document which was published on engage.barnet.gov.uk.
- 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 e newsletter magazine, Barnet First paper magazine; the council's website; 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 the Communities Together Network Newsletter, the school parent newsletter, and service area newsletters/circulars.

1.2 Summary of key findings

1.2.1 Views on the overall budget for 2022/23

- A third of respondents agree (32%, 27 out of 84 respondents) with the council's proposed budget for 2022/23 (6%, 5 out of 84 respondents strongly agree, and 26%, 22 out of 84 respondents tend to agree).
- Two fifths of respondents disagree (42%, 35 out of 84 respondents) with the council's proposed budget for 2022/23 (21%, 18 out of 84 respondents tend to disagree, and 20%, 17 out of 84 respondents strongly disagree).
- The remainder were either neutral (21 %, 18 out of 84 respondents) or said they did not know or were not sure (5%, 4 out of 84 respondents).

1.2.2 Views on the council's Council Tax proposals for 2022/23

Overall, in terms of supporting both a general Council Tax increase and applying a Social Care Precept increase in 2022/23, just under half of respondents (48%, 33 out of 68 respondents) support both an increase in general Council Tax (either 1% or up to 1.99%) and the proposal to apply a further 1 % Adult Social Care Precept increase.

- Just over a quarter, 29% of respondents (20 out of 68), support both an increase general Council Tax of 1% and the proposal to apply a further 1% Social Care Precept in 2022/23.
- Fewer respondents (19% of respondents, 13 out of 68) support both an increase in general Council Tax of up to 1.99% and the proposal to apply a further 1% Social Care Precept in 2022/23.
- Just over a third of respondents (35%, 24 out of 68 respondents) do not support any increases in general Council Tax or the proposal to apply an Adult Social Care Precept on Council Tax 1% in 2022/23.
- 15%, 10 out of 68 respondents only support the proposal to increase general Council Tax by 1% and not a Social Care Precept increase in 2022/23.
- None of those responding to the consultation support the proposal to increase general Council Tax by up to 1.99% and not a Social Care Precept increase in 2022/23.
- 2% (1 out of 68 respondents) only support the proposal to apply a Social Care Precept 1% and not a general Council Tax increase in 2022/23.

1.2.3 Views on theme committee saving and income proposals for 2022/23

- **Children's, Education and Safeguarding Committee (CES) received the highest level of support**, with half of respondents (51%, 36 out of 71 respondents) indicating they agree with the saving and income proposals identified within this committee for 2022/23.
- **Public Health (PH) - Health and Wellbeing Board**, which had no savings or income generation proposals, received **the second highest level of support**, with two fifths of respondents (41%, 29 out of 70 respondents) agreeing
- **Adults and Safeguarding Committee had a similar level of support as Public Health** with again two fifths of respondents (40%, 29 out of 72 respondents) agreeing with the saving and income proposals identified within this committee for 2022/23.
- **Housing and Growth Committee and Environment Committee (EC)** also both had similar levels of support, with around **a third of respondents agreeing** with the saving and income proposals identified within these committees for 2022/23; Housing and Growth Committee 34% agreed (23 out of 68 respondents) and Environment Committee 31% agreed (22 out of 70 respondents).

- **Community Leadership and Libraries Committee** received slightly less support for their saving and income proposals, with just over a quarter of respondents (28%, 20 out of 71 respondents) agreeing with the saving and income generation proposals identified within this committee for 2022/23.
- **Policy and Resources Committee** received the **least support** for their saving and income proposals, with a quarter of respondents (23%, 16 out of 69 respondents) agreeing with the saving and income generation proposals identified within this committee for 2022/23.

1.2.4 Further comments on Theme Committee saving and income proposals for 2022/23

Respondents were also asked if they had any comments to make about the saving and income proposals identified for each theme committee for 2022/23. Of those who responded to the consultation, 39 out of 84 gave a response to this question.

The responses to this question were varied and a summary of the most common themes, with a response of four comments or more, have been summarised below:

- *Policy & Resources Committee budget too excessive / Would like to see what is spent in Policy ad Resources Committee* (Eight comments)
- *Disagree with any cuts in Children, Education, and Safeguarding Committee (CES) / More should be spent in CES* (Five comments)
- *Agree with Council Tax increases* (Four comments)
- *Disagree with Council Tax Increases / Can't afford Council Tax increases* (Four comments)
- *Environment Committee should be allocated more budget / should be a priority area* (Four comments)

1.2.5 Further comments on the proposed budget for 2022/23

Respondents were also asked if they had any further comments to make about the council's proposed budget for 2022/23. Of those who responded to the consultation, 38 out of 84 gave a response to this question.

Again, the responses to this question were varied and the most common themes, with a response of four comments or more have been summarised below:

- *Disagree with Council Tax increases / Can't afford Council Tax increases* (Seven Comments)
- *Agree with Council Tax increases with Council Tax Increases* (Five comments)
- *Too much wastage / Unnecessary expenditure* (Four comments).

Further details of the types of comments received can be found in section three of this report.

2. DETAILED FINDINGS

2.1 Introduction

The budget proposals for 2022/23 have been subject to a formal public consultation.

This report sets out the full findings from the council's consultation on its Business Plan 2022/23. The findings will be considered by Full Council on 1 March 2022, where the final decision on the council's budget for 2022/23 will be taken.

2.2 Summary of consultation approach

The 2022/23 General Budget Consultation began after Policy and Resources Committee on 21 December 2021 and concluded on 1 February 2022.

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 or will take place in the next few months for the 2022/23 savings. The outcomes of these consultations are being reported into committee decision-making processes.

2.3 Technical details and method

2.3.1 In summary, the consultation was administered as follows:

- The general consultation consisted of an online questionnaire published on <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk> together with a summary consultation document which provided 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 delivered to all households), the council resident's e newsletter, 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 the Communities Together Network Newsletter, the school parent newsletter and other LBB service user newsletters and circulars.

2.3.2 Questionnaire design

The questionnaire was developed to ascertain residents' views on the overall size and individual components of the proposed 2022/23 budget. In particular the consultation invited views on the:

- Overall budget, and savings and income generation proposals for 2022/23.
- Proposal to increase General Council Tax by 1% or by up to 1.99%¹.
- Proposal to apply an Adult Social Care Precept on Council Tax of 1% to help pay for adult social care.

Throughout the questionnaire and where applicable, hyperlinks were provided to the relevant sections of the consultation document and to the detailed savings and/or income proposals for each committee. Links to further information on each of the Theme Committee's portfolio was also provided.

Those respondents who elected to receive a paper copy were also sent the consultation document and a copy of the 2022/23 saving and/or income proposals.

2.4 Response to the consultation

A total of 84 questionnaires were completed – all were submitted online. The table includes the response profile of the response prior to adding the additional option to increase Council Tax by up to 1.99% and after, together with the total response profile. of 84 questionnaires have been completed - all these were completed online.

2.4.1 Response profile

The table over the page shows the profile of those who responded to the consultation. The table also gives a breakdown of the number responses that were received before the additional option of increasing general Council Tax by up to 1.99 % was added to the consultation on the 7 January, and then the response to the consultation after the additional option was added.

¹ Option on supporting an increase in general Council Tax by up to 1.99 % in 2022/23 was added to the questionnaire

Table 1: Profile of those who responded to the General Budget Consultation

Stakeholder	21/12/2021-07/01/22		07/01/22 onwards ²		Total	
	%	Base	%	Base	%	Base
Barnet resident	100%	17	86%	42	89%	59
Working within the London Borough of Barnet area	0%	0	0	0	0%	0
Barnet business	0%	0	4%	2	3%	2
Representing a voluntary/community organisation	0%	0	0	0	0%	0
Representing a public-sector organisation	0%	0	6%	3	5%	3
Representing a school	0%	0	0	0	0%	0
Other	0%	0	0	0	0%	0
Prefer not to say	0%	0	4%	2	3%	2
Total who answered this question	100%	17	100%	49	100%	66
Not answered		11		7		18
Total response to the consultation		28		56		84

2.4.2 Profile of 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, sex, sex reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, religion or belief, sexual orientation and marital status.

To assist us in complying with the duty under the Equality Act 2010 we asked the 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 information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be stored securely in accordance with our responsibilities under data protection legislation (such as the General Data Protection Regulation or the Data Protection Act 2018).

Table 2 over the page shows the profile of those who answered these questions. However, due to the low completion of these questions it has not been possible to do any demographic analysis on the consultation findings.

² Option on supporting an increase in general Council Tax by up to 1.99 % in 2022/23 was added to the questionnaire

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Table 2: Protected Characteristic, profile of those that completed the questionnaire

Protected Characteristic	Response	
	Number	%
Age		
16-17	1	1%
18-24	1	1%
25-34	3	4%
35-44	13	15%
45-54	10	12%
55-64	15	18%
65-74	13	15%
75+	5	6%
Prefer not to say	1	1%
Not answered	22	26%
Total	84	100%
Sex		
Female	20	24%
Male	36	43%
If you prefer your own term	0	0%
Prefer not to say	5	6%
Not answered	23	27%
Total	84	100%
Is the sex you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?		
Yes, it's the same	57	68%
No, it's different	0	0%
Prefer not to say	3	4%
Not answered	24	29%
Total	84	100%
Disability		
Yes	4	5%
No	52	62%
Prefer not to say	4	5%
Not answered	24	29%
Total	84	100%

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Protected Characteristic	Response	
	Number	%
Ethnicity		
Asian	10	12%
Black	1	1%
Mixed	1	1%
Other	2	2%
White	36	43%
Prefer not to say	9	11%
Not answered	25	30%
Total	84	100%

Faith		
Baha'i	0	0%
Buddhist	0	0%
Christian	13	15%
Hindu	4	5%
Humanist	0	0%
Jain	2	2%
Jewish	7	8%
Muslim	1	1%
Sikh	0	0%
No religion	20	24%
Other Faith	1	1%
Prefer not to say	12	14%
Not answered	24	29%
Total	84	100%

Pregnancy and maternity leave		
Pregnant	0	0%
On maternity leave	0	0%
Neither	21	25%
Prefer not to say	4	5%
Not answered	59	70%
Total	84	100%

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Protected Characteristic	Response	
	Number	%
Sexuality		
Bisexual	1	1%
Gay or Lesbian	2	2%
Straight or heterosexual	43	51%
Other sexual orientation	2	2%
Prefer not to say	11	13%
Not answered	25	30%
Total	84	100%

Marital Status		
Single	12	14%
Co-habiting	1	1%
Married	36	43%
Divorced	3	4%
Widowed	1	1%
In a same sex civil partnership	0	0%
Prefer not to say	8	10%
Not answered	23	27%
Total	84	100%

2.5 Calculating and reporting on results

- The results for each question are based on “valid 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.
- Where percentages do not add up to 100, this may be due to rounding, or the question is multi-coded - i.e., respondents could give more than one answer.
- Due to the small total sample size the findings have been reported on in terms of percentages and numbers.
- All open-ended responses have been classified based on the main themes arising from the comments, so that they can be summarised. It should also be noted that the responses were very varied, however there were a number of common themes that were evident, and the most common themes have been summarised in this report.

3. Results in detail:

3.1 Views on the budget for 2022/23

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the proposed budget for 2022/23. Table 3 below shows that:

- A third of respondents agree (32%, 27 out of 84 respondents) with the council's proposed budget for 2022/23 (6%, 5 out of 84 respondents strongly agree, and 26%, 22 out of 84 respondents tend to agree).
- Two fifths of respondents disagree (42%, 35 out of 84 respondents) with the council's proposed budget for 2022/23 (21%, 18 out of 84 respondents tend to disagree, and 20%, 17 out of 84 respondents strongly disagree).
- The remainder were either neutral (21 %, 18 out of 84 respondents) or said they did not know or were not sure (5%, 4 out of 84 respondents).

Table 3: Respondents' level of support for the proposed budget for 2022/23

To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposed budget for 2022/23?	%	Base
Strongly agree	5.9%	5
Tend to agree	26.1%	22
Neither agree nor disagree	21.4%	18
Tend to disagree	21.4%	18
Strongly disagree	20.2%	17
Don't know / not sure	4.8%	4
Total	100%	84

3.2 Views on proposals to increase general Council Tax and to apply an Adult Social Care precept on Council Tax in 2022/23

Respondents were asked to indicate which of the following statements most closely aligns to their opinion in terms of the Council Tax proposals for 2022/23:

Overall, in terms of supporting both a general Council Tax increase and applying a Social Care Precept increase in 2022/23, just under half of respondents (48%, 33 out of 68 respondents) support both an increase in general Council Tax (either 1% or up to 1.99%) and the proposal to apply a further 1 % Adult Social Care Precept increase.

- Just over a quarter, 29% of respondents (20 out of 68), support both an increase general Council Tax of 1% and the proposal to apply a further 1% Social Care Precept in 2022/23.
- Fewer respondents (19% of respondents, 13 out of 68) support both an increase in general Council Tax of up to 1.99% and the proposal to apply a further 1% Social Care Precept in 2022/23.

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- Just over a third of respondents (35%, 24 out of 68 respondents) do not support any increases in general Council Tax or the proposal to apply an Adult Social Care Precept on Council Tax 1% in 2022/23.
- 15%, 10 out of 68 respondents only support the proposal to increase general Council Tax by 1% and not a Social Care Precept increase in 2022/23.
- None of those responding to the consultation support the proposal to increase general Council Tax by up to 1.99% and not a Social Care Precept increase in 2022/23.
- 2% (1 out of 68 respondents) only support the proposal to apply a Social Care Precept 1% and not a general Council Tax increase in 2022/23.

Table 4: Respondents' level of support for proposed Council Tax increases

Q4 Please indicate which of the statements below most closely aligns to your opinion in terms of our Council Tax proposals? (Please tick one option only)	20/12/2021-07/01/22		07/01/22 onwards ³		Total	
	%	Base	%	Base	%	Base
I support the proposal to increase general Council Tax by 1% in 2022/23 and also support the proposal to apply an Adult Social Care Precept on Council Tax of 1% in 2022/23	39%	7	26%	13	29%	20
I would support an increase in general Council Tax by up to 1.99 % in 2022/23 and also support the proposal to apply an Adult Social Care Precept on Council Tax of 1% in 2022/23	N/A	N/A	26%	13	19%	13
I support the proposal to increase general Council Tax by 1% in 2022/23 only	11%	2	16%	8	15%	10
I support an increase in general Council Tax by up to 1.99 % in 2022/23 only	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	0
I support the proposal to apply an Adult Social Care Precept on Council Tax of 1% in 2022/23 only	0%	0	2%	1	2%	1
I do not support any proposals to increase general Council Tax or any increases on the Adult Social Care Precept on Council Tax 2022/23	50%	9	30%	15	35%	24
Total	100%	18	100%	50	100%	68

³ Options on supporting an increase in general Council Tax by up to 1.99 % in 2022/23 was added to the questionnaire

3.3 Theme Committee saving/income proposals for 2022/23

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with each of the saving and income proposals identified for each of the Theme Committees in 2022/23. Table 5 over the page shows that:

- **Children's, Education and Safeguarding Committee (CES) received the highest level of support**, with half of respondents (51%, 36 out of 71 respondents) indicating they agree with the saving and income proposals identified within this committee for 2022/23.
- **Public Health (PH) - Health and Wellbeing Board**, which had no savings or income generation proposals, received **the second highest level of support**, with two fifths of respondents (41%, 29 out of 70 respondents) agreeing
- **Adults and Safeguarding Committee had a similar level of support as Public Health** with again two fifths of respondents (40%, 29 out of 72 respondents) agreeing with the saving and income proposals identified within this committee for 2022/23.
- **Housing and Growth Committee and Environment Committee (EC)** also both had similar levels of support, with around **a third of respondents agreeing** with the saving and income proposals identified within these committees for 2022/23; and Housing and Growth Committee 34% agreed (23 out of 68 respondents) and Environment Committee 31% agreed (22 out of 70 respondents).
- **Community Leadership and Libraries Committee** received slightly less support for their saving and income proposals, with just over a quarter of respondents (28%, 20 out of 71 respondents) agreeing with the saving and income generation proposals identified within this committee for 2022/23.
- **Policy and Resources Committee** received the **least support** for their saving and income proposals, with a quarter of respondents (23%, 16 out of 69 respondents) agreeing with the saving and income generation proposals identified within this committee for 2022/23.

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Table 5: Views on the savings and income proposals identified by each Theme Committee

Theme Committee	Agree		Neither agree nor disagree		Disagree		Don't know / not sure		No comment		Total
	%	Base	%	Base	%	Base	%	Base	%	Base	Base
Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee	50.7%	36	12.7%	9	23.9%	17	2.8%	2	9.9%	7	71
Public Health - Health and Wellbeing Board	41.4%	29	17.1%	12	22.9%	16	4.3%	3	14.3%	10	70
Adults and Safeguarding Committee	40.3%	29	16.7%	12	29.2%	21	4.2%	3	9.7%	7	72
Housing and Growth Committee	33.8%	23	14.7%	10	36.8%	25	5.9%	4	8.8%	6	68
Environment Committee	31.4%	22	20.0%	14	34.3%	24	4.3%	3	10.0%	7	70
Community Leadership and Libraries Committee	28.2%	20	21.1%	15	28.2%	20	7.0%	5	15.5%	11	71
Policy and Resources Committee	23.2%	16	23.2%	16	34.8%	24	5.8%	4	13.0%	9	69

3.4 Further comments on Theme Committee saving and income proposals for 2022/23

Respondents were also asked if they had any comments to make about the saving and income proposals identified for each theme committee for 2022/23. Of those who responded to the consultation, 39 out of 84 gave a response to this question.

The responses to this question were varied and a summary of the most common themes, with a response of three comments or more, have been summarised below. Further details of the type comments received are provided in table 6 over the page.

- *Policy & Resources Committee budget too excessive / Would like to see what is spent in Policy ad Resources Committee (Eight comments)*
- *Disagree with any cuts in Children, Education, and Safeguarding Committee (CES) / More should be spent in CES (Five comments)*
- *Agree with Council Tax increases (Four comments)*
- *Disagree with Council Tax Increases / Can't afford Council Tax increases (Four comments)*
- *Environment Committee should be allocated more budget / should be a priority area (Four comments)*

Table 6 over the page gives full details of the types of comments received.

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Table 6: Comments on the saving and income generation proposals that have been identified in each committee for 2022/23

Do you have any comments to make about the savings and income generation proposals that have been identified in each committee for 2022/23?	
Number of respondents who completed this question	39
Description / Type of verbatim comments	Number of comments
<p>Policy & Resources Committee budget too excessive /Would like to see what is spent in Policy ad Resources Committee: The Policy and Resources committee cost seems excessive considering that it does not involve any front-line activity / Regarding Policy and Resources Committee - needs to be reduce as certain professionals fail to use these which is a waste and can be used on different committees that are in need. / Policy and resources committee - How much is spent on administration and what pay scales are applicable to staff, I would like to see to a list of positions that are paid £60,000 and their hours of work and responsibility ... but I would like to see how you are managing your admin and overhead costs. I don't want you to sit in a comfort zone and prescribe increases / There is too little detail on what "policy and resources" expenditure there is. It once again is a massive area of expenditure so could take deeper cuts / I would like to see a breakdown of the budget for the Policy and Resources Committee of £114.8M, it is unbelievable that amount is spent on policy instead of public health, housing and other issue. Why can't the missing £5M be taking out of Policy and Resources? / What is the exact purpose of Policy and Resources committee? This committee is planning to spend 114 million in the coming year, seems excessive for a policy setting committee, where's the money going? / Less should be spent.... on policy and resources and more on public health and children and education. / The policy & resources appears to be costing council taxpayers more than any other individual committee. In today's age this is not acceptable. Having viewed what this involves it appears to be HR, admin, legal services etc. There is scope for far more savings in this area.</p>	8
<p>Disagree / concerns with savings in Children, Education, and Safeguarding Committee (CES) / More should be sent in CES: You need to maintain or increase education budget. You cannot cut the education budget. That sends a terrible signal for future generations. I would go an extra mile to increase expenditure there. / I really worry, after the problems that have been identified in the past, that you would cut anything to with Safeguarding and children / I disagree on any cuts within the Education or safeguarding committee / Children, Education and Safeguarding: - a general comment. Many of the savings require negotiation with service providers to reduce costs. Since these services are very labour-intensive this inevitably affects wage levels adversely and/or leads to poorer service. It also increases the pressure on many of the providers, particularly charities. / More should be spent on Children and Education We as in the council, state that young people are at the for front of their decisions but that doesn't seem the case. I am young person living in Barnet and also working for three organisations that support young people that all also operate in Barnet, find it strange that Adults have a higher budget over young people. Where is the equality in that? why do young people who will shape this country's future reputation and also be living in society just as equally as adults not have the same validation when it comes to budgeting? I personally don't see where all of the budget is being spent therefore it must all be on education services, which means that young people are automatically disadvantaged because after education and the school day there is no help, support and guidance from anyone. I've also seen a far too many time that the council like to take credit for services that operate within the borough even though they are privately funded because of the refusal to help by the council. Take for</p>	5

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Do you have any comments to make about the savings and income generation proposals that have been identified in each committee for 2022/23?	
Number of respondents who completed this question	39
Description / Type of verbatim comments	Number of comments
<p>Example youth clubs and youth services privately funded and if you state otherwise why is one of the most deprived areas in Barnet has not got a council funded youth service, not important well actually early intervention is far better that Child Protection that helps a young person after contact with harm, would you not rather stop it before it happens? Young People are in fact more vulnerable and subject to harm that Adults but oh yeah it makes sense that the council spends more on Adults, I don't want to undermine the fact that Adults don't in fact come in contact with harm because I've also done a public speech on domestic violence so I'm not stating that any category is superior but what i do believe is that the budget should be the reverse or at very minimum equal.</p>	
<p>Agree with Council Tax increases: Agree to the 1% + 1% increase / Overall I am appalled by the governments continued cuts to council funding, now made even worse with a steep increase in inflation. As usual it is the less well-off that will continue to suffer. Council Leaders should be publicly pushing to return funding back to 2010 levels. I agree to paying the recommended 3% Council Tax increase / I think we should raise the Council Tax by the full allowed 1.99% to reduce the cuts needed in expenditure / I have no issues with the proposed increases and in fact i am happy for you to increase adult social care by 1.5%</p>	4
<p>Disagree with Council Tax Increases / Can't afford Council Tax increases: Cannot afford further increases in Council Tax on top of the increase proposed by Mr Khan. Presently I do not receive value for money, no benefit for many residents. / We cannot afford higher taxes at a time when we are now paying x4 more for utilities, the cost of living has risen, and income has stagnated. We simply do to have the extra available, sorry, it's a fact / ASC is meant to be funded nationally from Boris' increase in national insurance, why am I then sustaining an additional 1% increase in Council tax? / I strongly disagree with raising the cost of Council Tax again! It's raising higher than an inflation rate / Since 2016 Barnet has increased council tax by 30% for a band D once social care precept and GLA costs considered. There is an unprecedented cost of living crisis at the moment and Barnet needs to enhance austerity. Council tax should be frozen or reduced to help families at this difficult time, and savings should be made via reduction in non-essential services, reduction of staff, improved tendering, and a tax on developers to support regeneration of Barnet.</p>	4
<p>Environment Committee should be allocated more budget / Is a priority area: Environment Committee more investment is required in highway conditions. This committee provides universal services so it should be a priority rather than high-cost services for the few / Spend more on the environment / road pavements should be made safer lots of pavements have raised surfaces causing people to trips ending in broken bones and noses / Should be estimated to spend more in Environment committee for the year 2022/23. Lesser savings should be done in this committee.</p>	4
<p>More money needed for Public Health: In my point of view, more portion of fund needed allocated to Public health / More money should be spent on Public Health.</p>	3

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Do you have any comments to make about the savings and income generation proposals that have been identified in each committee for 2022/23?	
Number of respondents who completed this question	39
Description / Type of verbatim comments	Number of comments
<p>Comments on Housing and Growth Committee: I am keen to understand what development plans there are for North Finchley high street. The area is surrounded by expensive homes by friary park and Woodside Park. Yet the retail options attracted by the council are dire and the area is falling into disrepute / Housing and growth committee - has shown a more priority cases within the borough which needs to be considered / Less housing unless proper size family homes - no more flats.</p>	3
<p>Budget need more cuts in Adults and Safeguarding Committee: Adults and safeguarding could take deeper cuts. It's a large proportion of the expenditure so could take more pain / Save money on adults - let charities do more.... Forget "Wellbeing" encourage personal responsibility / Less should be spent on adults and safeguarding.</p>	3
<p>Disagree / concerns with cuts to Adults and Safeguarding Committee: I really worry, after the problems that have been identified in the past, that you would cut anything to with Safeguarding ...adult welfare / I disagree on any cuts within the any safeguarding committee / Some concern about the impact on providers who are typically running at squeezed profit margins already but facing high inflation including increased NI payments.</p>	3
<p>Disagree with Adults and Safeguarding Committee A&S 22 saving, Strengths-based provision for older adults and people with physical disabilities: Concern that fewer people will be eligible for care and/or that the level of care provision will reduce / The plan as stated will be exposed as a smokescreen for what will be a financially driven restriction in eligibility. That would be detrimental to the wellbeing of all. It will also mean the council will have misled its citizens. It would also be unlawful.</p>	3
<p>Comments on ENV7 Fundamental Service Review of existing waste collection arrangements 2023/24: ENV7 do not change this. the potential savings are trivial / ENV7. Subject to the actual requirements set out within the Environment bill and the outcomes of the full review of the waste collection service by the Council, I would be happy for the council to move to fortnightly waste collections if necessary. I commend the Council for maintaining weekly waste and recycling services at present, although most other councils that I know of, only offer fortnightly collections. If Barnet can financially continue to offer weekly collections, so much the better / The Environment Committee proposals are wrong. The new legislation will increase waste collection costs and improved services. Barnet will have to reinstate food waste collections and may have to provide garden waste collection for free this is good for the resident.</p>	3
<p>Too much wastage, save money on administration costs, salaries, and consultants: Too much wastage in the system: There is a lot of wastage in the system and millions going down the drain due to wastage. Requires a proper relook at the overall picture and save (=earn) millions. Happy to help on this / Council administration and salaries the savings I would like to see is in the council's administration, salaries and any bonus which are planned. Also, any external consultants are to be scrapped.</p>	2
<p>Not enough information in the consultation detail to comment: Simply not enough information to make even a reasonably assured decision</p>	2

GENERAL BUDGET CONSULTATION 2022/23

Do you have any comments to make about the savings and income generation proposals that have been identified in each committee for 2022/23?	
Number of respondents who completed this question	39
Description / Type of verbatim comments	Number of comments
<p>Disagree with charging for tennis courts. All the public should have free access to sports facilities in the park. This improves wellbeing and physical health indirectly the NHS and society benefit. As there are hardly any youth clubs it's unfair for kids to pay for tennis in the park / ENV14 Charging for Tennis Courts why change this and outrage the public? the potential savings are trivial.</p>	2
<p>Comments on Libraries: I don't understand why Libraries still receives its current funding levels, given the radically reduced demand for such services / It seems to me that yet again you are hitting the libraries once again, this is a lifeline for some people, North Finchley seems to be getting hit the most, that Library used to have so much going on</p>	2
<p>No reference to the council's target to zero carbon by 2020: How can you consult on a budget that does not mention Barnet Council's target to be zero carbon by 2030 and as a borough as soon as possible after that and at latest 2050?</p>	1
<p>The budget needs rebalancing: The Environment Committee and Adults and Safeguarding Committee should be budgeted for £18.4 million and £100.5 million respectively. Housing and Growth Committee should be £6.9 m with Children, Education and Safeguarding receiving £77.4m. Public Health should receive £23.2 m and Community Leadership and Libraries £8.4m.</p>	1
<p>For now, Public Health ,Policy and Resources and Environment committees should be a minimum, till normality is reached.</p>	1
<p>Disagree / concern with Adults and Safeguarding Committee A&S 21, Strengths-based provision for older adults and people with physical disabilities saving: Concern that fewer people will be eligible for care and/or that the level of care provision will reduce.</p>	1
<p>Agree with Adults and Safeguarding Committee A&S 22, Strengths-based provision for older adults and people with physical disabilities: Savings through Progressive Reviews is a good aspiration and using community is the right approach, but it is important that you engage with people with learning disabilities and carers as individuals and collectively so that this gives a positive effect on families.</p>	1
<p>Disagree / concern with Adults and Safeguarding Committee saving A&S 27, Strengths-based provision for older adults and people with physical disabilities savings: Concern that fewer people will be eligible for care and/or that the level of care provision will reduce.</p>	1
<p>Disagree /concern with Adults and Safeguarding Committee A&S 32, Increasing dependence in Mental Health saving: Concern that fewer people will be eligible for care and/or that the level of care provision will reduce.</p>	1
<p>Concern with Adults and Safeguarding Committee A&S33, Homecare costs saving: Some concern about the impact on providers who are typically running at squeezed profit margins already but facing high inflation including increased NI payments.</p>	1

GENERAL BUDGET CONSULTATION 2022/23

Do you have any comments to make about the savings and income generation proposals that have been identified in each committee for 2022/23?	
Number of respondents who completed this question	39
Description / Type of verbatim comments	Number of comments
Disagree / concern with Adults and Safeguarding Committee A&S 34 Residential / nursing care costs saving: Concern that fewer people will be eligible for care and/or that the level of care provision will reduce. / Some concern about the impact on providers who are typically running at squeezed profit margins already but facing high inflation including increased NI payments.	1
Total number of different types of comments	60⁴

4.3 Further comments on the proposed budget for 2022/23

Respondents were also asked if they had any further comments to make about the council's proposed budget for 2022/23. Of those who responded to the consultation, 38 out of 84 gave a response to this question.

Again, the responses to this question were varied and the most common themes, with a response of four comments or more have been summarised over the page.

- *Disagree with Council Tax Increases / Can't afford Council Tax increases* (Seven Comments).
- *Agree with Council Tax increases with Council Tax Increases* (Five comments).
- *Too much wastage / Unnecessary expenditure* (Four comments).

Table 7 over the page gives full details of the types of comments received under each theme committee. Comments that were only cited by one respondent are grouped as 'other' under each theme committee.

⁴ Respondents gave more than one type of comment. A total of 60 different types of comments were received from the 39 respondents who answered this question.

GENERAL BUDGET CONSULTATION 2022/23

Table 7: Further comments about the proposed budget for 2022/23

Do you have any comments to make about the savings and income generation proposals that have been identified in each committee for 2022/23?	
Number of respondents who completed this question	38
Description / Type of verbatim comments	Number of comments
<p>Disagree with Council Tax Increases / Can't afford Council Tax increases: As 2022 is hard time for household, such as increasing of living cost; It is better to frozen of Council Tax increase / It's going to be hard for lower-income people, but you have to keep the services going / We are all struggling with the increase financial burden. Increase in Council tax will send us over the edge. We often sit in freezing cold conditions in our home because we either eat or heat. The common public can no longer sustain this continuous raping of our finances and our souls / the people cannot afford it with this cost-of-living crisis. Cut all non-essential services, improve rendering, or delay expenditure. This is a year for austerity and freezing of council tax / Do not increase council tax / No increase of council tax / Wages has not increased in line with inflation. Challenging times for residents / There will be no need to increase the tax / The increase in tax is a reflection of laziness and avoidable costs. Requires a proper relook at the overall picture and save (=earn) millions. Happy to help on this / stop wasting money at barnet council / Increasing CT is picking low-hanging fruit, which unfairly levies additional tax on residents in a high-inflation environment. Barnet has kept CT increases fairly low for years and using it as a crutch to plug funding gaps introduces a dangerous precedent</p>	7
<p>Agree with Council Tax increases: I support raising Council Tax by 1.99% and if possible, finding some way of funnelling some of it back to those less well-off / I would support an increase in general Council Tax by 1.99 % in 2022/23 and also support the proposal to apply an Adult Social Care Precept on Council Tax of 1% in 2022/23. /I support the increase in council tax and the precept for adult social care /Taking into account the general expected cost of living increases especially energy and NIC, I believe this is the maximum increase which could be tolerated / I agree with increases on Council tax, we need to look after our most vulnerable residents. // I think we should increase Council Tax by the allowed 1.99% in addition to the Adult Social Care Precept of 1%/</p>	5

GENERAL BUDGET CONSULTATION 2022/23

<p>Too much wastage /unnecessary expenditure: There is a lot of wastage in the system and millions going down the drain due to wastage. There will be no need to increase the tax. The increase in tax is a reflection of laziness and avoidable costs. Requires a proper relook at the overall picture and save (=earn) millions. Happy to help on this / stop wasting money at barnet council / Given the current budget gap, it's far more likely that the extra £2m can be dealt with by reducing unnecessary expenditures. I work for the Council and there is waste where there needn't be any, so saving £2m isn't that difficult. Increasing CT is picking low-hanging fruit, which unfairly levies additional tax on residents in a high-inflation environment. Barnet has kept CT increases fairly low for years and using it as a crutch to plug funding gaps introduces a dangerous precedent / Stop wasting taxpayer money on planting trees and Covid restrictions! / Given the current budget gap, it's far more likely that the extra £2m can be dealt with by reducing unnecessary expenditures. I work for the Council and there is waste where there needn't be any, so saving £2m isn't that difficult.</p>	4
<p>Focus expenditure Children, Education, and Safeguarding Committee (CES) / More should be sent looked after children: Children and schools focus your expenditure on schooling and education. it's what barnet is famous for. it's the main touch point for barnet residents and it's where everyone gets a tangible benefit. cuts to education in barnet sends a bad message. every other area can take increased cuts to fulfil this increase in expenditure /Please do not reduce the amount you spend on looked after children and safeguarding / Barnet needs more regular support for children.</p>	3
<p>Reduce money spent in Policy & Resources Committee and state clearly where its money goes: Would like to see what is spent in Policy ad Resources Committee: Take the 2% you need from the Policy and Resources allocation. / Scrutinize every aspect of the policy and resources committee and state clearly where the money goes.</p>	3
<p>Residents need to do things for themselves too: Citizens under the age of 60s should be encouraged to work rather than relying on social and welfare benefits / Hard decisions need to be made, and people need to realise not everything can be provided for them free / Adult care should be first and foremost the responsibility of the adult concerned and their family not the taxpayers of the borough.</p>	3
<p>Council Tax needs to increase further: I would prefer higher increases in Council Tax and the Social Care Precept to reductions in services. /Whilst I agree with the proposals it would be interesting to see a map of collection between different bands. I would have thought given the needs of the growing elderly communities Council tax needs to increase further / Given that inflation is likely to reach 6-7% in 22/23 I think the Council should be maximising its potential income by having the highest possible Council Tax increase, which will generate an extra £2million spending power. Whilst I appreciate that this adds to the inflationary pressures the spending power remains in the base for future years and may prevent further future reductions.</p>	3
<p>Disagree with Adults and Safeguarding Committee A&S 22 saving, Strengths-based provision for older adults and people with physical disabilities savings: The saving as stated will be exposed as a smokescreen for what will be a financially driven restriction in eligibility. That would be detrimental to the wellbeing of all. It will also mean the council will have misled its citizens. It would also be unlawful.</p>	1

GENERAL BUDGET CONSULTATION 2022/23

There is no reference to the council's target to zero carbon by 2020: How can you consult on a budget that does not mention Barnet Council's target to be zero carbon by 2030 and as a borough as soon as possible after that and at latest 2050?	1
Council Tax Increase is only acceptable if residents see change: I believe it may be acceptable for the council to increase council tax by 1% when the residents in fact see change because why are residents paying council tax when there is still heaps of rubbish and fly tipping everywhere. Blame the residents for fly tipping because the council love to point the blame however as a resident we can point the blame right back because it's illegal to fly tip and it's not the resident's fault that the council and local authorities are imposing the law correctly.	1
A sensible budget working forward.	1
How much has the council still got in reserve for a rainy day? this is a rainy day	1
Not enough information in the consultation detail to comment: Without providing detailed information about where exactly the money is going, it's difficult to assess if such a large number per committee is appropriate	1
Barnet needs more regular housing	1
We need to look after our most vulnerable residents.	1
Please lobby our government to end austerity!	1
Make more savings like everyone else has to do please	1
Total number of different types of comments	38