

Summary of Budget Consultation

Appendix 11

The public consultation was run from 16th January 2024 to 12th February 2024 via HDC's website, the responses received were as follows:

Consultee	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Start time	1/16/24 23:25:01	1/24/24 22:44:26	1/27/24 16:49:25	1/29/24 10:32:54	2/1/24 12:01:58	2/1/24 12:38:19	2/1/24 13:29:24	2/8/24 14:11:31
Completion time	1/16/24 23:30:45	1/24/24 22:48:13	1/27/24 16:58:47	1/29/24 10:45:34	2/1/24 12:10:10	2/1/24 12:58:56	2/1/24 13:33:15	2/8/24 15:38:59
Email	anonymous	anonymous	anonymous	anonymous	anonymous	anonymous	anonymous	anonymous
CONSULTATION QUESTION								
Having read the budget proposal report please tell us your views on the overall budget strategy/approach detailed in the report	Definitely questionable on and wondering if a projection has been done for the houses that are still being built and how their council tax will help to aid to the funding.	Why does the majority of the money go to Harborough? Lutterworth always gets the scraps, leisure referb is a classic example.	Glad to see you have managed to create a balanced budget	Overall it is balanced but the major area of saving could be they Symington building and what use the council makes of it's space or space elsewhere. It may have to accommodate residential flats with Museum, LCC space (or they move out) . It is clear the office space is under used. Local plan and government deadline is making it all very expensive. Be careful employing consultants and what value they bring.	If Councils and Government did not waste so much money on consultations and sub committees they would have enough money	There appears to be, in appendix 3, a 1139539 "political expenditure" I am unable to find out what it is. Is the the Communities Wellbeing etc expenditure the main contributor. I note also that the Council has decided to beat the UK legal requirement of net zero by 2050 by some 20 years. As there is a predicted shortfall in income perhaps this should in the light of reality be readjusted to the national target?	I do not accept that the ADDITIONAL expenditure on the New Local Plan is a gods use of resources	it would be helpful to explain the anachronisms used in the report eg, MTFS is explained in parentheses as short for medium term financial strategy, however not all are such as NHB which i assume is New Homes Bonus although this is not clear
Having read the budget proposal report, please tell us your views on the proposed Capital Programme (Paragraph 3.31 of the report)	Not sure to be honest.		Good that Capital expenditure is continuing, particularly for the Leisure Centres. I have been surprised at how little information is available on what is being planned.	Support.	As Above	I am uncertain that purchasing a depot is required - could this not be rented?		why is the council committing to spending £1.1m on a new local plan.? it was made clear from govt department/ specialist advisers that this was unnecessary since Neil O'brien's public meeting in December?
Do you support increasing the Harborough District Council element of Council Tax for 2024/25 by 2.99% (which equates to 10.2p a week or £5.32 a year for a Band D property) to prepare for the proje...	No	No	Personally I am able and happy to pay more, but there needs to be provision made for families and	No. Your council tax receipts must have increased with all the building of housing, especially in Market Harborough - who also	No we pay one of the highest council tax in the county again due to bad management	I support it increasing. I do not support the stated reasoning	Yes	no, when you consider the highest band is H. according to hdc website this applies to homes over £320,000., laughable as houses rated not much less
Do you support the principle of ensuring the council plans ahead to address a forecast shortfall in its revenue funding from 26/27 onwards in order that it can continue to broadly deliver its exis...	Yes	No	Yes	A 5 year MTFS is crucial to planning financially	No	I do. I would support the council trimming its expenditure to avoid getting into a shortfall situation	Not wasting £2m on the local plan would help	in principle yes
Do you support freezing the price of the optional green waste collection service for 2024/25 at £61?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you support freezing the price of car parking charges for 24/25 ?	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you support £1.1m investment into developing a new local plan by June 2025 in order to best protect the district from unwanted speculative development?	Not sure	Yes	Not sure	No	No	No	No	No
Do you support investment into a Community Engagement Officer to work with all communities on issues that are affecting them?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Do you support the council offering Environmental Grants to community organisations to help reduce carbon emissions, enhance bio-diversity and support the financial viability of	Not sure	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Do you support the creation of a £20k community resilience budget to ensure the council can support communities in need during climate events such as flooding, storms, snow and heatwaves?	Not sure	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Do you have any other comments on the council's budget proposal report?	Unsure as to why we are funding the unmet housing need from Leicester and why that isn't being met by the government? Plus with all of the new houses being built and all of that extra council tax has that been included in the budget forecast? Also considering you are wanting to close the recycling centre but yet are wanting to increase our council tax surely our money would be better used to help keep that open? Maybe someone does actually need to talk to the public to find out what they actually want and need rather than thinking what is going to create more money for bonuses and company cars.	Divdie the budget fairly.	Please note that on the page on your website, the decimal points are so small, they are easy to miss. I originally thought the costs for producing the local plan were £11 million, not £1.1m. Even at £1.1m, plus potentially another £1.9m, this sounds extremely high in comparison to other costs in the budget.	£20k community fund is far too small for the impact that could be experienced. A Community engagement officer is not needed - the community does that on it's own. Point 7. above£1.1 Mill into planning for 2025 does not look realistic when you budget actually says 11 Mill for LP and an additional £5Mill for the 2025 deadline. So what is correct? and if you cannot get so simple sums right - what confidence can we have in the Cllr Graves? I would be very concerned of "over use" of reserves to prop up a revenue account. Car Park charge - it is lower	The existing plan has only just been put in place. Surely we dont need to be spending on a plan that still has years to run	I am unable to ascertain what the following capital expenditure is: FLEX D Levi (2,132,000), Special Project Fundung (703,000), Audit Visual Civic Suite (80,000), S.106 Schemes. In appendix 2 it details an apparent increase in Wellbeing, Communities and Housing expenditure from -40,000 to 1,057,529. This is huge so I would guess is not well presented - no way to compare this to previous years perhaps? Certainly opaque as to the massive expansion in costs exactly at a time when the Council is predicting future shortfalls. Is this wise?		with regard to your question 8, this is a non post whose remit can be covered by other council officers. with regard to questions 7 through 10, here is my comment CO2 being 0.04% of the atmosphere is a cause for good, as it is essential for plant life. The atmosphere is 78% Nitrogen and 21% Oxygen. The remaining 1% are various trace elements of which CO2 is but a small part. The greatest cause of any change in the Earth's climate, is due to the cyclical nature of the Sun's phases, which may lead to vast differences between ice ages and continual heatwaves. if man is not careful it will
Please confirm the first 4 digits of your postcode	Le16	LE17	LE16	LE16	LE17	LE175	LE8 6	le8 0
Please confirm your current age group	36 - 45 years	56 - 65 years	66 - 75 years	46 - 55 years	66 - 75 years	56 - 65 years	66 - 75 years	66 - 75 years
Please confirm your gender	Not sure it matters but female.	Prefer not to say	Woman	Man	Man	Man	Man	Woman

Age Group

36 - 45 years
46 - 55 years
56 - 65 years
66 - 75 years

Total

1
1
2
4
8

Gender

Male
Female
Prefer not to say

Total

4
3
1
8