

Appendix B – Review of Council's priorities – Consultation

1. In the summer the Council started a fundamental review of service priorities and budgets (FBR) as a result of required savings projections from 2015/16 onwards. The first stage of this process was to assess the relative priorities of the services the Council delivers, which was shared with all county council members at a seminar on the 8 October.
2. The initial assessment identified the following areas as high priority for the council, so any savings from these areas should be limited to less than 10%:
 - Safeguarding children and adults;
 - Maintaining & developing highway infrastructure;
 - Managing flood risks;
 - Supporting our communities to support themselves; and
 - Fire & Rescue Service.
3. Following on from the initial review of these strategies in the summer, all adult care services were moved to high priority.
4. As part of this exercise consideration was given to the nature of consultation activity required both internally and externally. The consultation has been distinguished between consultation on the Council's priorities and the consultation on the budget proposals. The three elements to the consultation on the council's priorities were:
 - Open responses to the County News article and press release, received via e-mail and a freepost address.
 - Questionnaire listing specific services to protect / reduce used with the Citizen Panel (via the Customer Service Centre).
 - Questionnaire listing specific services to protect / reduce used on Children's Takeover Day.
5. The consultation was launched in County News and via a press release in November on the priorities the Council intends to adopt going forward into the budget setting process. Over 80 responses were received and were quite varied in content (see summary Table A). A large number of responses were received from specific interest groups as a result of other correspondence they had received about budget changes.
6. The Citizen Panel produced 66 responses (see Table B). Of these responses the areas of **high priority** were identified as:
 - care services for old people;
 - child protection services;
 - fire & rescue services; and
 - roads and pavements.

Services identified as being **low priority** were identified as;

- parking enforcement
- promoting tourism
- promoting economic growth
- registration and celebratory Services.

7. Of these respondents 65% agreed to an increase in council tax (with 35% not agreeing to an increase), and 86% voted for an increase to be up to 2% (with 14% voting for an increase to be above 2%).
8. The Community Engagement team hosted Children's takeover day on the 21st November which involved 22 children from Saxilby Primary and Priory LSST Academy coming to county offices to 'takeover' for the day. The opportunity was taken to lead a morning session with them, looking at the services LCC provides. This used the format of the citizen panel questionnaire and asked them to vote for services to protect and not protect. The results were not too dissimilar to the citizen panel outcomes (with the exception of roads not featuring in their priority list – see Table C).

High priorities included:

- fostering & adoption;
- child protection;
- support for old people and those with disability; and
- tackling crime and economic growth.

Low priorities included;

- cultural services;
- promoting tourism; and
- library services.

9. The feedback from the consultation appears to generally support the priorities identified originally identified by the Executive.
10. The feedback from this consultation has been the subject of a report to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the 18 December. The scrutiny comments from this committee are included in the body of this report.

Table A

Consultation responses to finance@lincolnshire.gov.uk & freepost address

	Total
Do not cut support to children's charities (Homestart & ACT)/ support child protection	13
Response to Cllr Davie letter (supporting local business & Economic Regeneration)	12
Protect Call Connect service	9
Cut Managers/Councillors salaries	7
Protect services for vulnerable (including child protection) & elderly	5
increase taxes/council tax	4
Ensure more collaborative working (with partners etc.)	3
Have a fewer district councils / less layers of government - replace parish councils with residents association	3
Sell owned buildings/offices	3
Maintain libraries / mobiles	3
Cut Translation services	3
Shut off traffic signals during night/ lower energy street lighting bulbs	3
Cut business rates to encourage business	2
Privatise heritage sites	2
More efficient use of office equipment/space/less printing	2
Non LCC comments (i.e. services LCC do not run)	2
Protect Public Health / health & wellbeing	2
Cut Registration services	1
Cut Health trainers	1
Regenerate rural areas	1
Remove non-stat concessionary bus travel	1
Protect Heritage & Tourism sites	1
Cut Libraries or heritage	1
Use council's reserves	1
Stop supporting police (PCSO's) & East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS)	1
Lobby government for more money	1
Don't spend £98m on bypass	1
Support reduction in criminal behaviour	1
Better co-ordinated bus services	1
Improve rail links and parking charges	1
Improve traffic conditions into Lincoln	1
Use Geothermal energy	1
Support the former MOD sites	1
Better provision for young people	1
Let people adopt grass areas	1

Table B

Citizen Panel	Protect	Spend less
Parking Enforcement	2	42
Waste Services	26	2
Trading Standards	4	13
Planning	3	17
Library Services	13	17
Promoting Tourism	4	40
Managing Flood Risks	16	7
Roads and Pavements	48	3
Public Transport	26	12
Support for Children & Families	13	8
Drug and Alcohol Misuse	19	10
Fostering and Adoption Services	3	3
Promoting Economic Growth	3	40
Lifelong Learning	2	27
Registration and Celebratory Services	1	40
Cultural Services	5	33
Emergency Planning	14	2
Environmental Services	1	33
Support for Local Businesses	3	33
Public Health	36	1
School Admission and Transport	6	18
Fire and Rescue	45	2
Community Grants	1	31
Care Services for Older People	49	1
Child Protection Services	47	1
Support for Adults with Physical or Learning Disabilities	29	1
Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	29	5

Table C

Children's takeover day	Protect	Spend less
Parking Enforcement	2	11
Waste Services	2	1
Trading Standards	3	9
Planning	1	11
Library Services	3	12
Promoting Tourism	2	14
Managing Flood Risks	2	10
Roads and Pavements	3	4
Public Transport	6	1
Support for Children & Families	4	4
Drug and Alcohol Misuse	7	3
Fostering and Adoption Services	10	0
Promoting Economic Growth	13	0
Lifelong Learning	3	7
Registration and Celebratory Services	0	11
Cultural Services	1	15
Emergency Planning	4	0
Environmental Services	5	5
Support for Local Businesses	4	6
Public Health	4	5
School Admission and Transport	5	2
Fire and Rescue	4	1
Community Grants	1	8
Care Services for Older People	13	0
Child Protection Services	11	0
Support for Adults with Physical or Learning Disabilities	10	0
Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	12	0

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