

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

5 February 2014

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BUDGET CONSULTATION RESULTS

1. Purpose of the Report

The Council has undertaken a variety of consultation exercises, using a range of methods, in the preparation of the 2014/15 budget. The purpose of this report is to enable Council to consider the outcome of these consultations in formulating its' budgetary proposals.

2. Information and Analysis

The Council has, for a number of years, undertaken a variety of consultation exercises, using a range of methods, in the preparation of its annual revenue budget. However, in preparation for the 2014/15 budget and in light of the further budget reductions required following the announcement of last year's Comprehensive Spending Review 2013, the Council has enhanced the value of the consultation exercises by using alternative approaches.

The 'Your Derbyshire, Your Say' consultation took place between 4th August 2013 and 31st October 2013. The consultation was designed to enable Elected Members to establish the relative priorities in relation to a wide variety of service areas, gaining an understanding of which of the options are most and least important to residents.

The focus of the consultation work was a wide ranging programme of face to face consultation events, which were undertaken in a variety of locations across the county to ensure a good geographic spread. Consultation took place at different types of venues which attracted different demographic groups. Staff also attended forums including the BME Forum, 50+ Forums and the Derbyshire Youth Council to allow members to participate and promote the consultation with hard-to-reach groups. All of these events were publicised through the Council's website and using social media, alongside press releases, posters in libraries and Children's Centres and a variety of partner organisations front-line premises.

In order to make the survey accessible to as many residents as possible the consultation was also run as an online survey and paper copies of the survey

were distributed amongst Elected Members and supplied upon request. Links to the on-line questionnaire were distributed widely amongst stakeholder groups.

Some Derbyshire County Council venues such as libraries were used to hold events, but to ensure the sample was not biased by including a disproportionate number of residents using individual services which they may favour, other venues were also utilised. These included leisure centres, market stalls and local shows. The Council was keen to engage with service users, but to ensure the survey was robust it was vital that the Council also consulted with a broad spread of residents across the county who may or may not use individual services.

Information on each respondent's personal characteristics including age, gender and disability, together with their home postcode was also collected, and this has allowed a comprehensive set of results to be generated, including the identification of any variations in geographical areas and for different demographic groups. The demographic profile of respondents has been compared to 2001 Census data and mid-2012 population estimates to check how representative the sample is of the population of Derbyshire. Postcodes were mapped to allow areas of low response to be identified and addressed (see Appendix One).

The consultation was split into two sections. Section 1 asked respondents if they would prefer Council Tax levels to be frozen for 2014/15 or if they would be happy for an increase. Section 2 asked residents to think about which services were a priority by asking them to share a national £100 between 28 service priorities. Residents were asked to allocate resources on the services which they thought were most important. Each respondent was also asked to choose their top priority and give a reason why they thought this was important. In addition people were asked to choose three priorities which they felt were least important.

There were 2,814 valid resident responses to the 'Your Derbyshire, Your Say' consultation. A number of additional responses were received but excluded from the analysis, if, for example the respondent lived outside Derbyshire or if they ticked a number of priorities but did not allocate any funding. Of these 2814 responses 2,096 were completed online, 601 at the events and forums that officers attended and 117 were paper questionnaire responses. Amber Valley had the highest percentage of respondents, with 18% of the total responses coming from the area. South Derbyshire had the lowest number of respondents, with 7% of the total responses.

The average age of respondents was 49 years old. This is higher than the average age of Derbyshire residents, which was estimated to be 42 years old at mid-2012. 6% of the responses came from people aged 24 or under, with 57%

coming from people aged 40 to 64. Further details of the number of responses and demographics are included at Appendix One.

The headline results from the consultation are summarised below.

Council Tax

- 58% of respondents said they would support a Council Tax increase of 2% or more, with 45% indicating that they would support an increase of 3% or more
- Younger respondents aged 18-24 were most likely to favour a freeze in Council Tax (57% of respondents in this age group), while those aged 40-64 were most likely to support an increase (62% of respondents in this age group)

Priorities by total amount of funding allocated

- Overall the three highest priorities for respondents when asked to allocate their notional £100 were:
 1. Delivering jobs and growth
 2. Roads and pavements
 3. Support to help people live in their own homes
- Looking at priorities by gender men allocated most funding to “roads and pavements” whilst women allocated most to “delivering jobs and growth”
- Analysis of results by district shows that ‘delivering jobs and growth’ was allocated the most funding by residents in all Amber Valley, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales and High Peak. Residents in Erewash, North East Derbyshire and South Derbyshire allocated most funding to ‘roads and pavements’
- Respondents aged under 24 and those aged 40-64 allocated most resources to ‘delivering jobs and growth’
- ‘Roads and pavements’ were allocated the most funding by respondents aged 25-39 and those aged 65+

Priorities by single most important choice

- When respondents were asked to choose a single top priority the three most popular choices were:
 1. Delivering jobs and growth (29%).
 2. Support people to help live in their own homes (8%)
 3. Tackling crime and fear of crime (7%)
- All 28 priorities were chosen by some respondents as a top priority but only three people selected “historic buildings” as their top priority
- Respondents gave a variety of reasons for choosing their single top priority. Those that chose “delivering jobs and growth” felt it was important for Derbyshire to have a vibrant economy as this attracted people to live and work in the county. This would also have a beneficial effect on other areas such as crime, community cohesion and health

Lowest priorities

- Overall respondents thought the lowest priorities were:
 1. Arts
 2. Encouraging healthy lifestyles
 3. Subsidising the price of transporting pupils to school

More detailed results from the consultation are included at Appendix One. A copy of the Your Derbyshire, Your Say Headline Results Report which is available on the Council's website is included in Appendix Two. This report has also been circulated to respondents to the consultation who requested feedback on the results.

Through the joint consultation process the views of the recognised Trade Unions have been obtained. The views of Trade Union representatives were sought at a meeting held on the 9 January 2014. The Trade Unions raised the following issues and managements' response is set alongside: -

- Increase Council Tax up to the referendum level – It was confirmed that a 2% increase in Council Tax in 2014-15 had been built into the Council's Five Year Financial Plan and this would clearly be an option that members would consider. However, until the referendum limits had been confirmed by Government the Council could not commit itself without understanding the implications of additional income at various tax levels compared to the Council Tax Freeze Grant on offer
- Negotiation of outstanding Equal Pay Claims to free up reserves to support the budget – the Council has around £15m of reserves available to meet the costs of Equal Pay claims. The exact extent of liabilities is difficult to estimate at this stage. However, any of the reserve not required will be returned to the General Reserve to help smooth the achievement of cuts in later years, however, it could not substitute for the need to achieve base reductions
- Cap on senior manager pay – pay for staff on grade 17 and above had not risen for five years and including not receiving a pay award for 2013-14. Future years would be considered on an annual basis, although it was unlikely that any increase would be implemented in the short term
- Review accommodation to make savings in service delivery – plans were in place to reduce the number of buildings the Council used and it was hoped to widen this approach to include other public sector partners in Derbyshire. More detailed discussions would take place with the Trade Unions
- Align service delivery with the health sector – progress is being made as part of the health integration agenda and better links had been made through the Health and Wellbeing Board. This is seen as a priority for the Council to achieve
- Open up the VR/VER schemes to all staff – the Council's approach is to not seek early release volunteers in areas where recruitment is a problem or there is no need to reduce staff at the present time e.g. traded

services. It was explained that this would change over the period when cuts are required and it is likely that at some time all staff groups will have access to the schemes available

- Use reserves to offset the cuts – the Council's approach to regularly evaluating reserves and identifying that element that is available to meet pressures and demands was explained, as was the need to still make base reductions even where reserves could be used to smooth out the achievement of substantive reductions in services. It was agreed that the Trade Unions would be provided with detail of the earmarked reserves held by the Council
- Savings made to terms and conditions of staff since the implementation of Single Status in 2010 – it was explained that all “savings” in terms and conditions had been re-invested at the time of Single Status implementation in the basic pay of staff alongside an additional £10.5m, and a further £1.2m following JE Appeals the Council had found from its’ resources on an on-going basis
- Evaluate all underspends and don’t let departments use them as of right – it was explained that all underspends are reported in detail to the relevant Cabinet member and any use is agreed by Cabinet after consideration of the request. Any underspend not allocated back to departments is transferred into the General Reserve. Where underspends are appearing in the same area on a recurring basis decisions are made by Strategic Directors/Cabinet Members to remove them from base budgets

The Council's Constitution states that Improvement & Scrutiny Committee will also be notified of the budget proposals. The Director of Finance presented details of the revised Five Year Financial Plan to the Committee in September/October 2013. The Director of Finance met with all the Improvement and Scrutiny Committees at least once during the autumn of 2013 and early 2014. A number of issues were discussed there was a clearer understanding of the financial context in which the Council would be operating over the next few years. The comments made by Members were varied although there was a general consensus that the need for timely information from Government on grant settlements and referendum principles was particularly helpful in managing the challenges over the medium term.

Business Ratepayers

In addition, the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires local authorities to consult representatives of business ratepayers in their area about the budget proposals for each financial year. A meeting with representatives of Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses was held on 24 January 2014 and a verbal update will be provided at the Council meeting.

3. Next Steps

More detailed analysis of the results of the consultation responses will be carried out by the Policy and Research Division.

4. Financial Considerations

The outcomes of these consultations should be used to inform service planning and help determine budget priorities.

5. Equality Considerations

The consultation process was designed to ensure that responses from a wide range of communities could be gathered. Respondents were asked to provide demographic details, this data was used to ensure that any under-represented communities could be identified and encouraged to take part in the consultation.

6. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

7. Background Papers

Held on the budget consultation files in the Policy and Research Division of the Chief Executive's Office.

8. Officer's Recommendation

That the views of the consultation respondents are taken into account by Council in formulating its' proposals on the revenue and capital budgets for 2014/15.

Ian Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

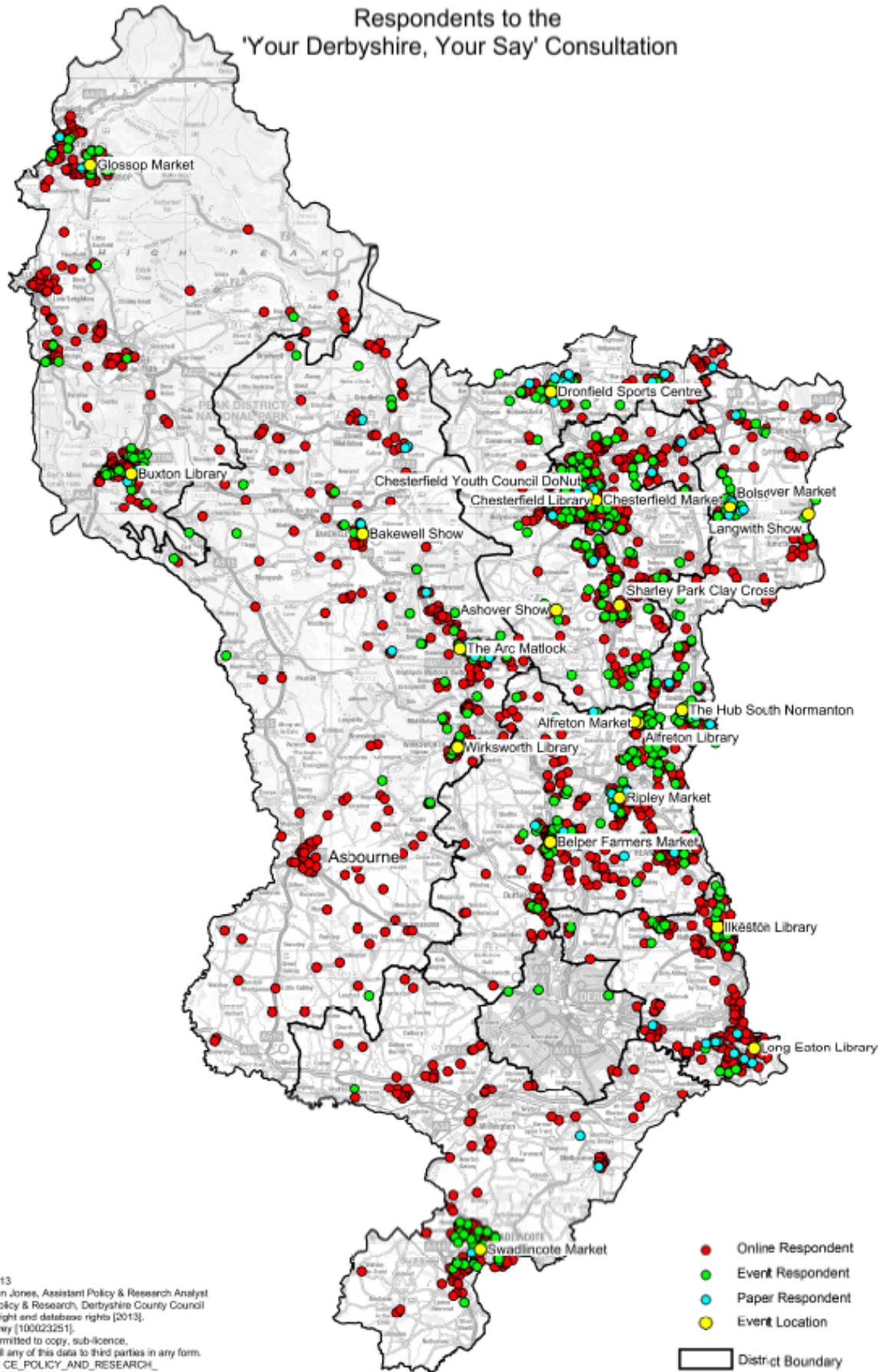
Appendix One - Your Derbyshire, Your Say

Analysis of results for all Derbyshire respondents

Respondents by consultation venue/source		
Consultation event/source	Consultation respondents	
	Number	Percentage
Alfreton Library	23	0.8%
Alfreton Market	41	1.5%
Ashover Show	43	1.5%
Bakewell Show	49	1.7%
Belper Farmers Market	26	0.9%
BME Forum	66	2.3%
Bolsover Market	21	0.7%
Buxton Library	25	0.9%
Chesterfield Library	23	0.8%
Chesterfield Market	22	0.8%
Chesterfield Youth Council	19	0.7%
Disabled Young Peoples Forum	26	0.9%
Dronfield Sports Centre	31	1.1%
Glossop Market	23	0.8%
Ilkeston Library	13	0.5%
Langwith Show	10	0.4%
Long Eaton Library	15	0.5%
Ripley Market	12	0.4%
Sharley Park, Clay Cross	19	0.7%
Swadlincote Market	40	1.4%
The Arc, Matlock	12	0.4%
The Hub, South Normanton	23	0.8%
Wirksworth Library	19	0.7%
Paper questionnaires	117	4.2%
Online	2096	74.5%
Total	2814	100%

Respondents by district			
District	Consultation respondents		Mid-2012 Population
	Number	Percentage	
Amber Valley	493	19%	16%
Bolsover	220	8%	10%
Chesterfield	380	14%	13%
Derbyshire Dales	459	17%	9%
Erewash	264	10%	15%
High Peak	292	11%	12%
North East Derbyshire	331	13%	13%
South Derbyshire	187	7%	12%
Total	2626	100%	100%

Respondents to the 'Your Derbyshire, Your Say' Consultation



Data: 08/11/2013
 Mapped by: Fen Jones, Assistant Policy & Research Analyst
 Department: Policy & Research, Derbyshire County Council
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 Ordnance Survey [100023251].
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 distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.
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Respondents by gender			
Gender	Consultation respondents		Mid-2012
	Number	Percentage	Population
Female	1624	60%	51%
Male	1096	40%	49%
Total	2720	100%	100%

Respondents by age			
Age	Consultation respondents		Mid-2012
	Number	Percentage	Population
Under 18	41	2%	19%
18 - 24 years	111	4%	9%
25 - 39 years	542	20%	17%
40 - 64 years	1523	57%	36%
65 and over	430	16%	19%
Total	2647	100%	100%

Average age of respondents		
Average age (years)		
Consultation respondents	Mid-2012 Population	
49	42	

Respondents by disability			
Disability	Consultation respondents		2011 Census - people with limited day-to-day activities
	Number	Percentage	
No	2218	85%	80%
Yes	390	15%	20%
Total	2608	100%	100%

Council Tax - What would you do by gender?			
Council Tax increase	All persons	Female	Male
Freeze Council Tax	42%	41%	42%
2% increase	13%	13%	12%
3% increase	22%	26%	18%
4% increase	10%	9%	11%
5% increase	13%	11%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Spending rank - All Derbyshire respondents by gender

Priority	Spending rank		
	All persons	Males	Females
Delivering jobs and growth	1	2	1
Roads and pavements	2	1	2
Support to help people live in their own homes	3	4	3
Tackling crime and fear of crime	4	3	7
Supporting children with disabilities	5	6	6
Mental health services	6	11	4
Finding homes for children who need fostering	7	9	5
Libraries	8	8	8
Public and community transport	9	5	12
Residential care homes	10	7	11
Provide daytime activities for older people	11	12	9
Helping children under 5 get a good start in life	12	14	10
Caring for the countryside	13	10	14
Protecting Derbyshire from inappropriate development	14	13	13
Meals on wheels and laundry service	15	15	16
Preventing young people from offending	16	18	15
Building flats for the over 55's	17	17	17
Action on drugs and alcohol	18	20	18
Young peoples health services	19	21	19
Sports development	20	16	22
Providing adult education classes	21	23	21
Museums and archives	22	19	23
Helping families with their childcare	23	25	20
Historic buildings	24	22	26
Encouraging healthy lifestyles	25	24	24
Information and advice about welfare rights	26	28	25
Arts	27	26	27
Subsidising the price of transporting pupils to school	28	27	28

Spending rank - All Derbyshire respondents by district									
Priority	Spending rank								
	All persons	Amber Valley	Bolsover	Chesterfield	Derbyshire Dales	Erewash	High Peak	North East Derbyshire	South Derbyshire
Delivering jobs and growth	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2
Roads and pavements	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1
Support to help people live in their own homes	3	3	5	4	3	3	3	3	4
Tackling crime and fear of crime	4	5	4	3	10	4	4	4	3
Mental health services	5	4	6	5	8	5	9	10	5
Supporting children with disabilities	6	6	3	6	6	10	7	6	6
Finding homes for children who need fostering	7	7	7	7	5	11	6	5	8
Libraries	8	8	12	10	4	7	5	8	12
Public and community transport	9	9	11	9	7	6	8	9	14
Residential care homes	10	11	8	8	11	9	10	11	10
Provide daytime activities for older people	11	12	10	11	13	8	11	7	7
Helping children under 5 get a good start in life	12	13	9	12	14	16	13	12	11
Caring for the countryside	13	10	16	13	12	12	14	14	9
Protecting Derbyshire from inappropriate development	14	14	14	17	9	15	12	13	13
Preventing young people from offending	15	15	20	14	16	18	16	16	16
Building flats for the over 55's	16	18	15	20	17	13	19	17	15
Meals on wheels and laundry service	17	16	21	15	15	14	15	18	21
Action on drugs and alcohol	18	17	18	18	18	21	17	20	17
Young peoples health services	19	22	22	16	19	19	22	15	19
Sports development	20	25	19	21	21	23	20	19	18
Museums and archives	21	20	27	24	20	17	21	21	24
Providing adult education classes	22	21	25	19	23	20	18	24	23
Helping families with their childcare	23	19	13	25	25	24	25	22	20
Historic buildings	24	24	26	26	22	22	24	25	22
Encouraging healthy lifestyles	25	23	24	23	27	26	28	23	25
Information and advice about welfare rights	26	27	17	22	28	28	27	27	27
Arts	27	26	28	27	24	25	23	28	26
Subsidising the price of transporting pupils to school	28	28	23	28	26	27	26	26	28

Spending rank - All Derbyshire respondents by age

Priority	Spending rank					
	All persons	Under 18	18-24	25-39	40-64	65+
Delivering jobs and growth	1	1	1	2	1	2
Roads and pavements	2	8	3	1	2	1
Support to help people live in their own homes	3	10	9	8	3	3
Tackling crime and fear of crime	4	5	8	3	4	4
Supporting children with disabilities	5	2	6	4	7	6
Mental health services	6	4	2	6	5	10
Finding homes for children who need fostering	7	7	4	5	6	11
Libraries	8	6	7	9	9	7
Public and community transport	9	14	10	11	11	5
Residential care homes	10	19	14	10	8	8
Provide daytime activities for older people	11	17	20	12	10	9
Helping children under 5 get a good start in life	12	3	5	7	14	16
Caring for the countryside	13	23	16	13	12	13
Protecting Derbyshire from inappropriate development	14	27	11	15	13	14
Meals on wheels and laundry service	15	16	22	18	16	17
Preventing young people from offending	16	11	17	17	17	18
Building flats for the over 55's	17	26	27	26	15	12
Action on drugs and alcohol	18	12	15	20	18	15
Young peoples health services	19	9	19	16	20	21
Sports development	20	22	12	19	22	20
Providing adult education classes	21	18	18	23	21	19
Museums and archives	22	21	25	24	19	23
Helping families with their childcare	23	20	13	14	26	27
Historic buildings	24	25	23	22	23	24
Encouraging healthy lifestyles	25	14	21	21	27	22
Information and advice about welfare rights	26	28	28	25	24	28
Arts	27	24	26	28	25	26
Subsidising the price of transporting pupils to school	28	13	14	27	28	25

Main priorities - All Derbyshire respondents		
Top priority	Respondents	
	Number	Percentage
Delivering jobs and growth	781	29%
Support to help people live in their own homes	207	8%
Tackling crime and fear of crime	200	7%
Roads and pavements	193	7%
Helping children under 5 get a good start in life	148	5%
Mental health services	134	5%
Public and community transport	114	4%
Libraries	113	4%
Protecting Derbyshire from inappropriate development	100	4%
Finding homes for children who need fostering	98	4%
Supporting children with disabilities	87	3%
Provide daytime activities for older people	84	3%
Residential care homes	77	3%
Caring for the countryside	66	2%
Building flats for the over 55's	44	2%
Helping families with their childcare	41	2%
Sports development	33	1%
Action on drugs and alcohol	32	1%
Information and advice about welfare rights	32	1%
Encouraging healthy lifestyles	27	1%
Preventing young people from offending	27	1%
Arts	26	1%
Providing adult education classes	17	1%
Young peoples health services	12	0.4%
Meals on wheels and laundry service	9	0.3%
Museums and archives	7	0.3%
Subsidising the price of transporting pupils to school	5	0.2%
Historic buildings	3	0.1%
TOTAL	2717	100%

Examples of reasons for choosing top priorities - All Derbyshire respondents	
Top priority	Reason
Delivering jobs and growth	Derbyshire needs vibrant economy to grow and be an attractive place for people to live. Impact on other areas such as crime, community cohesion, education, health etc
Support to help people live in their own homes	Key to enable older people to have a good quality of life and reduces pressure on other public services.
Tackling crime and fear of crime	To provide a safer Derbyshire for people to live and work in and encourage investment in the area.
Roads and pavements	To sustain economic development, we need good quality transport- roads, pavements, buses etc. Better to have ongoing repairs than to replace in the future
Helping children under 5 get a good start in life	A good start in life underpins all future development and avoids problems in the future.
Mental health services	Affects many people can cause problems for individual, families and community. Support helps people to live independently and improves economic opportunities.
Public and community transport	Elderly often rely on public transport vital to maintain their independence. Need to have affordable and accessible buses, trains etc for people with disabilities and for rural areas. Good public transport protects the environment
Libraries	Libraries are a community resource which provide a service to all residents allowing them to access information, books etc. Should act as hubs for other services.
Protecting Derbyshire from inappropriate development	Need to protect conservation areas, green belt etc but develop brownfield sites and re-develop unused sites. Preserve countryside to keep village identities, encourage people to use to maintain healthy lifestyle, ensure land available for farming
Finding homes for children who need fostering	Children need to be loved and part of a family in a stable environment to help them achieve in the future.
Supporting children with disabilities	Children with disabilities are often vulnerable. Society should care for children faced with barriers on a daily basis to allow them and their carers to lead a
Provide daytime activities for older people	People need to keep active to prevent isolation. Supports the individuals and carers.
Residential care homes	Lack of suitable affordable residential care for increasing numbers of elderly population. Residential care also needs to be provided for younger people who cannot live on their own or with a family.
Caring for the countryside	County includes Peak District National Park and Derwent Valley World Heritage Site which need to be preserved to support local economy including tourism, encourage healthy lifestyles. Makes Derbyshire an attractive place to live, work and visit.
Building flats for the over 55's	To enable people to move from larger homes that are not suitable for their needs.
Helping families with their childcare	Childcare is expensive many people need help to allow them to work. Need more play schemes and before and after school clubs.
Sports development	Benefits all age groups and impacts on other services such as health. Social benefits include reducing social isolation and improved social skills.
Action on drugs and alcohol	Alcohol seen as growing problem due to recession and welfare reform, leads to other problems including crime, deprivation and health
Information and advice about welfare rights	Vulnerable families and individuals often need advice to ensure they can access benefits and support.
Encouraging healthy lifestyles	Encouraging healthy lifestyle is the best way to minimise long term costs in other service areas. Also impacts on other areas such as crime including drugs and alcohol.
Preventing young people from offending	Crime affects everyone preventing young people from offending and re-offending pays for itself in the long run.
Arts	The arts enable creative thinking in all walks of life. Provide enjoyment and also employment and regeneration opportunities.
Providing adult education classes	Adults need access to classes to improve skills and qualifications to improve their employment prospects.
Young peoples health services	Important to educate young about dangers of drugs, alcohol, healthy lifestyles etc to improve their long term health prospects.
Meals on wheels and laundry service	Provides many older people with a healthy nutritious meal and may allow them to stay in their own homes and reduce impact on other services including health and residential care.
Museums and archives	Need to cherish our heritage and preserve our history.
Subsidising the price of transporting pupils to school	Important for children in rural areas and those that need to go to a specialist school.
Historic buildings	Our heritage buildings encourage people to visit the county bringing money into the economy.

Low priorities - All Derbyshire respondents by gender			
Priority	Low priority rank		
	All persons	Males	Females
Arts	1	1	1
Encouraging healthy lifestyles	2	2	3
Subsidising the price of transporting pupils to school	3	3	2
Sports development	4	5	4
Information and advice about welfare rights	5	4	5
Historic buildings	6	6	7
Museums and archives	7	9	6
Helping families with their childcare	8	7	8
Building flats for the over 55's	9	11	9
Action on drugs and alcohol	10	8	12
Providing adult education classes	11	10	10
Protecting Derbyshire from inappropriate development	12	12	11
Meals on wheels and laundry service	13	15	13
Libraries	14	13	15
Caring for the countryside	15	14	15
Helping children under 5 get a good start in life	16	16	14
Roads and pavements	17	19	17
Preventing young people from offending	18	17	19
Tackling crime and fear of crime	19	18	19
Public and community transport	20	20	18
Residential care homes	21	21	21
Provide daytime activities for older people	22	22	22
Support to help people live in their own homes	23	24	23
Supporting children with disabilities	24	25	24
Mental health services	25	22	27
Delivering jobs and growth	26	28	25
Finding homes for children who need fostering	27	27	26
Young peoples health services	28	26	28

Appendix Two - Your Derbyshire, Your Say Headline Results Report

Your Derbyshire, Your say

The Consultation

The Your Derbyshire, Your Say consultation took place between 4th August 2013 and 31st October 2013. The consultation was designed to help the Council understand residents' priorities for the services it delivers.

The consultation was split into two sections. Section 1 asked respondents if they would prefer Council Tax levels to be frozen again for 2014/15 or if they would be happy to pay more. Section 2 asked residents to think about which services were a priority for them by asking them to share £100 between 28 service priorities. Residents were asked to spend the money on the services which they thought were most important. Each respondent was asked to choose their top priority and give a reason why they thought this was important. In addition people were asked to choose three priorities which they felt were least important.

County Council staff visited a wide range of venues and events across Derbyshire to consult with residents. To allow as many residents as possible to take part in the consultation an online survey and paper copies of the survey were also available.

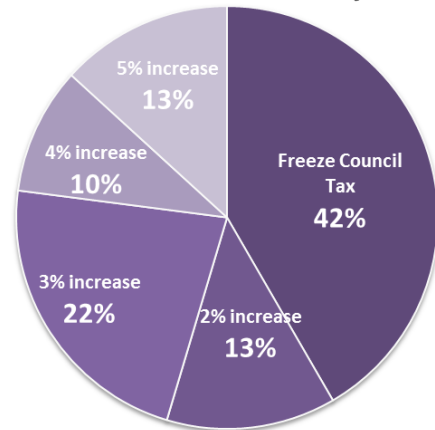
Who was consulted?

Over 2800 Derbyshire residents took part in the consultation with almost three quarters responding online and the remaining quarter either completed a paper questionnaire or responded face-to-face.

What you said about the Council Tax

Whilst 42% of you said you would prefer the freeze in the level of Council Tax to continue in 2014/15 the remaining 58% said you would be happy to pay 2% more to provide more funding for services. 45% said you would be happy to pay 3% or more.

Council Tax - what would you do?



What were your main priorities?

Overall the three priorities which you selected were:

- Delivering jobs and growth
- Roads and pavements
- Support to help people live in their own homes

Looking at priorities by gender “roads and pavements” was the main priority for men whilst women said that “delivering jobs and growth” was most important.

Younger respondents thought that “support to help people live in their own homes” was less important than older respondents. A number of priorities relating to younger people such as “supporting children with disabilities” and “helping children under 5 get a good start in life” were more important to younger people.

What was your top priority and why?

When asked to choose your top priority 29% of you chose “delivering jobs and growth”. The next most popular choice was “support people to help live in their own homes” but this was only selected by 8% of you. All 28 priorities were chosen by someone as a top priority but only three of you thought “historic buildings” should be the top priority.



Respondents gave a variety of reasons for choosing their top priority. Those that chose “delivering jobs and growth” felt it was important for Derbyshire to have a vibrant economy as this attracted people to live and work in the county. This would also have a beneficial effect on other areas such as crime, community cohesion and health.

What were your low priorities?

Overall the three areas which you thought were the lowest priorities were:

- Arts
- Encouraging healthy lifestyles
- Subsidising the price of transporting pupils to school

Men and women both agreed that these were the three lowest priorities.

The table below shows the order of importance of the priorities chosen by respondents. The ‘average spending rank’ is based on the average amount spent by respondents on each of the priorities so ‘delivering jobs and growth’ is ranked as 1 because this was the category that people chose to spend most money on and ‘subsidising the price of transporting pupils to school’ is ranked as 28 because people spent the lowest amount of money on this. In a similar way the table also shows the low priority ranks which are based on the number of respondents choosing each category as a low priority. So in this case ‘arts’ is ranked as 1 as more people picked this as a low priority than any other area and ‘young people’s health services’ is ranked as 28 as this was chosen as a low priority by the lowest number of respondents.

Priority	Average spending rank	Low priority rank
Delivering jobs and growth	1	26
Roads and pavements	2	17
Support to help people live in their own homes	3	23
Tackling crime and fear of crime	4	19
Supporting children with disabilities	5	24
Mental health services	6	25
Finding homes for children who need fostering	7	27
Libraries	8	14
Public and community transport	9	20
Residential care homes	10	21
Provide daytime activities for older people	11	22
Helping children under 5 get a good start in life	12	16
Caring for the countryside	13	15
Protecting Derbyshire from inappropriate development	14	12
Meals on wheels and laundry service	15	13
Preventing young people from offending	16	18
Building flats for the over 55's	17	9
Action on drugs and alcohol	18	10
Young people's health services	19	28
Sports development	20	4
Providing adult education classes	21	11
Museums and archives	22	7
Helping families with their childcare	23	8
Historic buildings	24	6
Encouraging healthy lifestyles	25	2
Information and advice about welfare rights	26	5
Arts	27	1
Subsidising the price of transporting pupils to school	28	3

Next steps

More detailed results from the consultation will be published on the County Council’s website: <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/your-derbyshire-your-say/>

The results of this consultation will be one of the sources of information that Elected Members will use to inform the Council’s future strategic plans and budget decisions.

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