

Budget Consultation - Feedback Report

1. *Introduction*

As part of the annual budget setting process the Executive undertook consultation on its budget proposals for 2008/9. This was published by the Executive on 19 October, and was followed by a range of consultation throughout November and December.

This report outlines the methods used to consult with a range of people, the feedback received and actions taken as a result of this feedback.

2. *Communication channels used to promote feedback*

The communications focused initially on directly affected groups and staff following the publication of the cabinet papers on 19 October 2007. Managers spoke directly with affected staff, letters went to directly affected organisations including those voluntary organisations funded by the council, the media attended a briefing and an email went to council staff and partners. The budget web pages went live with details of the budget proposal on 19 October 2007.

A briefing for level 1 managers was delivered by the Lead Member for Resources and the Deputy Leader on 15 October.

Following the cabinet decision on 29 October 2007 the online feedback on the website went live and an email and postal address was published for people to write in with their individual feedback. A letter went to all staff explaining the budget proposals, and email bulletin also pointed staff towards the online feedback and budget proposal. More information for staff went out in the Core Brief and November Inview to staff.

Letters went to a number of affected and indirectly affected groups outlining the proposals and outlining the process for responding to the proposals. An invitation went to business representatives in November inviting them to a meeting to hear about the budget proposals on 10 December 2007.

A double page article was published in the council magazine City View, which went to all homes and business in the city at the beginning of November.

3. *Consultation*

The communication for the budget proposal consultation identified and focused on seven audiences.

- directly affected staff
- directly affected organisations and groups
- residents
- unions
- council staff.
- indirectly affected organisations and groups

- representatives of the business community

The consultation also considered wider interested groups.

Directly affected staff

Those staff whose jobs or roles might be directly affected by the budget proposal were briefed by their manager the day before or on the day of the publication of the cabinet papers containing the budget proposal, 19 October 2007. This was initiated by COMT and co-ordinated by heads of service.

Directly affected organisations and groups

A letter was sent to directly affected organisations the day before the publication of the papers. The letter gave details of how the proposed budget might affect them and that we would be contacting them with how to feedback.

Residents and representative group for residents

To reach residents a press briefing and press release was organised on the day the budget proposal was released. The council's web site contained links to the budget proposal. The council's City View magazine contained a two page spread about the budget proposal. The Cabinet Member for Resources took a debate on the local radio station Unity 101 to discuss the budget proposal and its implications for residents. He was able to take questions direct from the public.

Unions

Consultation with the trade unions was undertaken on 19 October by officers to explain the content of the Cabinet report, cover the high level financial context and the process for consulting with the Executive. Additionally individual portfolio meetings were held with union representatives, cabinet members and directorate management in November and December.

A meeting with all unions was held on 15 November with Council Leader and Cabinet Members for Resources and Workforce Planning with all Unions to consult on the whole of the budget proposals.

Council staff

An email went to staff following the publication of the budget proposal. Following the cabinet decision an Inview extra went to all staff and the budget process was highlighted through Core Brief.

Indirectly affected organisations and groups

Policy coordinators were asked to consider wider organisations and groups they might be indirectly affected by budget changes. Groups identified were invited to talk to the department and portfolio cabinet member for the relevant area.

Representatives of the business community

A meeting was held with business representatives on 10 December 2007.

4. Meetings held with organisations and the issues raised

Issues/Group	Date of meeting	Who attended	Notes of discussion
Riverside Park Play Area	30 October	Cllr Baillie, Cllr Phil Williams, Cllr Alec Samuels & Clive Webster met with Stephen Harding (Friends of Riverside Park).	A petition on the state of the play areas at Riverside Park. We informed him of the £50,000 that had been found to improve the play area.
Ropewalk - Neighbourhood Advice Centre	12 November	Cllr Phil Williams, Cllr Moulton, Dave Adcock (Project Manager EU Welcome - 07786 392886), Manju Chopra (Neighbourhood Advice Centre Manager)	Discussed budget proposals regarding the Neighbourhood Advice Centre. Two points raised: The Service is valued by the community. They would like compatible IT equipment like Gateway (Capital Investment).
Trade Unions	15 November	Cllr Samuels, Cllr Moulton, Cllr Matthews, Steve Reed, Mike Tucker, Rob Carr, Carolyn Williamson	Consultation over budget proposals
Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership	15 November	Councillor Baillie and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Levels of Council tax b) Clarity on the percentage reduction of investment in Children's Services compared to that of other Directorates; c) Concern was expressed about the reduction to the play service potentially jeopardising the £0.5m lottery grant and the positive impact play had on health. d) The importance of preventative work, particularly play services was highlighted e) Cut in management capacity of the Early Years Development and Childcare team f) Reduction in Family Centre services and integration with other locality services g) Cut to advice and support to leadership, management and governance in schools
Bus users group	19 November	Cllr Moulton, Simon Bell Bus users group	Concessionary bus pass, operating times, eligibility, travel companions
Age Concern	19 November	Cllr Moulton, Robbie Robinson and Sandra Smith from Age Concern, Rob Carr.	Consultation over budget proposals, Concessionary bus pass and 10% over 65s Council Tax discount.
Seniors council	19 November	Cllr White and Charlie Hislop and	Consultation over budget proposals, the following points were made:

Issues/Group	Date of meeting	Who attended	Notes of discussion
		Seniors Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Concern was expressed over the reduction in eligible times from 9.00 to 9.30am for the concessionary fares scheme. b) The need to ensure that healthy living initiatives, such as Active options are safeguarded in the city, and to promote the full range of health and preventative services c) The need to establish better toilet provision in the city. d) Concern was expressed over the proposal to cut the Neighbourhood Partnerships. e) Serious concern was expressed over the proposals to further increase day centre charges f) there were other discussions regarding the 10% discount on council tax for those over 65, although the Seniors Council was concerned that it had not been invited to take part.
Pensioners Forum	26 November	Cllr Dick, Cllr Moulton, Simon Bell, Older peoples representatives	Concessionary bus pass, operating times
Neighbourhood partnerships	27 November	Cllr Phil Williams, Graeme Kemp, Neighbourhood Partnership Chairman and Vice Chairman.	The feelings were mixed about Neighbourhood Partnerships
Neighbourhood Partnerships	28 November	Cllr Williams, Mike Holder from the Neighbourhood Partnerships	Discuss proposals for funding for Neighbourhood Partnerships and the best way to proceed
Southampton business representatives	10 December	Cllr Moulton, Cllr Smith, Lorraine Brown (Director for Environment SCC) Rob Carr (Head of finance SCC) Gavin Elliott, Southampton Hoteliers' Association Jimmy Chestnutt, Director General Chamber of Commerce Malcolm Le Bas, Chairman Business Southampton Denise Barlow, Business Development Chamber of Commerce David Webb, Federation of Small Businesses Ian Kelso, Federation of Small Businesses Sally Lynskey, Chief Executive, Business Southampton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Overview of budget proposals. b) State of the highway network c) Better communication / consultation on highways works and other works that may affect businesses d) The potential uses of any future supplementary business rate e) Car parking charges f) Progress on park and ride

Issues/Group	Date of meeting	Who attended	Notes of discussion
Southampton Sustainability Forum (SSF)	12 December	Cllr Dick (E&T Cabinet member) and Claire Townsend met with Chair of SSF and Outreach Officer (post affected by budget proposal)	Discussed background to proposal, impact and to look at other external funding options. Main points: a) SCC grant is the only funding SSF receives and losing it would certainly result in the redundancy of the Outreach post holder. b) They have not had sufficient time to explore alternative funding sources. c) Would the Council consider a delay in withdrawal of or reduction in grant in 2008/09 to give time for this to be investigated d) Removing support to SSF undermines Council's claim to be a leading Council on sustainability
Neighbourhood Partnerships	17 December	Cllr Williams, Mike Collis	Discussed how best to proceed.
Arts funding consultation.	17 December	Cllrs Samuels, Hannides and Moulton, Kevin Appleby-Turner Sims, Kate Anderson-Nuffield, Susan Beckett-City Eye, Vinod Desai and Helen Keall-Art Asia, Caroline Rackham, the Media workshop	General concerns that funding for the arts was being cut.
Disabled users group	19 December	Cllr Moulton, Simon Bell, Disabled user groups	Concessionary bus pass, operating times, eligibility, travel companions
Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership	10 January	Cllr Baillie and Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership	Discussed the proposed budget affecting Children's Services and Learning including: a) The percentage reduction of investment in Children's Services b) Concern about the reduction jeopardising the £0.5m lottery grant c) How play services have a positive impact on health including obesity in children d) The preventative work Early Years contribute to, reducing pressures on other council services. e) The impact of the cuts in management could have on delivery of work like delivering an increase in pre-school hours from 12.5 to 15 f) Concerns that integration of family centres with other local service could adversely affect the service g) Concerns that cuts to leadership, management and

Issues/Group	Date of meeting	Who attended	Notes of discussion
			governance in schools would erode the democratic process within schools and affect the school structure. However recognising this would also make schools more autonomous.
Townhill Park Residents Association	7 January	Cllr Williams, Graeme Kemp met with Bill Patching & Janet Hartley from Townhill Park Residents Association	They asked for £100,000 in the Capital Programme for the knocking down of the Scouts Hut
Coxford Community Centre	7 January	Cllr Moulton, Cllr Cooke, Gary Laxton (Chair Coxford Community Centre)	Concern about reduction of play services funding and the impact on Coxford Adventure Playground
Friends of Cobbett Road Library	19 January	Cllr Williams, Friends of Cobbett Road Library	Discussed budget proposals regarding Cobbett Road Library

5. **Costs**

Much of the work associated with the consultation was undertaken with existing resources. However the following are identifiable costs.

- a. Printing budget Inview extra letter for staff - £502.50
- b. Catering at the business breakfast meeting - £30

6. **Summary of feedback received – quantities of responses and people inputting**

During the consultation process all feedback was recorded. The feedback period officially ended on 21 December 2007 when the web link to feedback came down and a message was added to thank people for their comments. For already planned consultation, feedback was accepted early January.

In total 1035 responses were received. These included:

- 284 Emails
- 184 Letters
- 567 Petition signatures on 4 petitions

Summary of changes made as a result of representations

Formal presentations from representative organisations

Formal responses were received from a range of organisations representing themselves or others in the city. A summary of their concerns is outlined below:

Organisation	Issue/s
East Bassett Residents' Association	Concern over the proposed abolition of neighbourhood partnerships
Residents' Action Association City Centre	Supportive of the proposed abolition of neighbourhood partnerships
UNISON	Opposition to the proposal to transfer leisure facilities to the private sector Concern over the efficiencies proposals which reduces posts and places pressures on staff Concern about the changes in the redeployment process and a reduction in the timescales to 3 months when associated with an external grant or loss of a contract Opposition to the proposal to withdraw funding from staffing budgets to provide for the incremental increases Opposition to the proposal to withdraw funding for trade union services

Organisation	Issue/s
UNITE	<p>Concern over the reduction and closure of services resulting in job losses</p> <p>Concern about the changes in the redeployment process and a reduction in the timescales to 3 months when associated with an external grant or loss of a contract</p> <p>Opposition to the proposal to withdraw funding from staffing budgets to provide for the incremental increases</p> <p>Opposition to the proposal to withdraw funding for trade union services</p> <p>Concern over the equity of the application of the over 65's council tax discount</p> <p>Concern about proposals to privatise street lighting and leisure centres</p>
Southampton Mencap	Concern about the proposal to reduce the play services funding particularly the impact this might have on children with special needs
Chinese Association of Southampton	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the community language service
Community Language Support Group	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the community language service
Southampton Governors Forum	Concern about proposal to remove support for governor services and general budget cuts which have an impact on schools
Oral History Society	Concern about the proposal to remove funding for the oral history service
West Itchen Community Trust	Concern about the proposal to cut funding for Mount Pleasant Media Workshop
Pakistan Welfare Association Southampton	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the community language service
Southampton Voluntary Services	<p>Concern about the proposal to reduce the community subsidy to schools.</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to merge the adult and Community Learning Service employment initiatives and the impact this might have on the voluntary sector</p> <p>Connexion service proposal – to ensure current levels of funding to the voluntary sector are maintained</p> <p>Concern over proposals to reduce funding for the music service</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the community language service</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the play service</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the family centres</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the DAT</p>

Organisation	Issue/s
	<p>service</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to increase charges for special collections and free collections of fridge freezers</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce the concessionary fares scheme</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the community language service</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the sustainability forum</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reorganise adult disability and mental health budgets</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to abolish the neighbourhood partnerships</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to rationalise sports pitches</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce grants to the voluntary sector</p>
Southampton Drug Intervention Programme	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding for the GP referral scheme
Somali Education Parents	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the community language service
The Malaysian School	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the community language service
Derby Road Family Centre	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the Family Centres
Southampton Children's Play Association	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of play services
Sure Start Central	<p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the Rope Walk Advice Centre</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of play services</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of family centres</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the community language service</p>
Alan Whitehead MP	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the community language service
CATS Youth Theatre	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the arts in the city with specific reference to the Nuffield Theatre
Chairman of Hampshire Archives	Concern about the proposal to remove funding for the

Organisation	Issue/s
Trust	oral history service
Bengali Parents Group	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding for the community language service
John Denham MP	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding for the community language service Concern about the proposal to reduce funding for the arts in the city
Nuffield Theatre	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding for the arts in the city
Director of Recreation and Heritage – Hampshire County Council	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding for the arts in the city
Mount Pleasant Media Workshop	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding for the arts in the city with specific reference to the Mount Pleasant Media Workshop
SARC	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding for the neighbourhood advice centre
Neighbourhood Advice Centre	Concern about the proposal to reduce funding for the neighbourhood advice centre
Southampton Primary Care Trust	Concern about the proposal to remove funding from the family centres Concern about the proposal to reduce funding for the behaviour resource service Concern about the proposal to reduce funding for play initiatives Concern about the proposal to reduce funding for inclusion supporting schools GP referral scheme Concern about the proposal to remove funding from pupil support Concern about the proposal to remove funding from leisure services and facilities
No Limits	Concern about the proposal to remove arts funding
Southampton Partnership	Concern about the proposal to reduce the community subsidy to schools Concern about the proposal to withdraw social inclusion grant funding to schools Concern about the proposal to remove funding from leadership, management and governance in schools Concern about the proposal to remove funding from the children's centres Concern about the merging of Adult and Community Learning services with the training and employment initiatives Concern about the proposal to reduce funding from the

Organisation	Issue/s
	<p>behaviour resource service</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding from the pupil support services</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to cut funding from the management capacity of the early years development and childcare team</p> <p>Concern about the proposal of funding of city college following the transfer of city training</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to remove funding from the community language service</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding from play services</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to remove funding from the family centres</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce staffing of the local neighbourhood renewal service</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to remove funding from the community cohesion service</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to remove funding from the sustainability forum</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce staffing in adult social care</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to delete the commissioning manager and PA in adult social care</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to restructure the neighbourhood warden services</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to remove funding from the neighbourhood advice centre</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to cease running neighbourhood partnerships</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to remove funding for the corporate research and development post</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to remove free swimming for under 7's.</p>
Pakistani Welfare Association	Concern about the proposal to remove funding from the community language service
Southampton Arts and Heritage People	Concern about the proposal to reduce arts funding
Early years development & Childcare partnership	<p>Concerns about reduced staffing for the Community Learning Services</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the</p>

Organisation	Issue/s
	<p>family centres</p> <p>Concerns about the reduced funding for advice and support for leadership, management and governance in schools</p> <p>Concern about the proposal to reduce funding of the Rope Walk Advice Centre</p>

7. Details of feedback and actions taken as a consequence

Budget reference	Issue	Amount (£'000) 2008/9	Responses	Action to be taken
Children Services and Learning				
CSL16	Delete all funding to the community language service	£85	426 responses 343 came in a petition all were against the removal of the funding	£60,000 has been removed from the budget proposals, and a vacant post has been deleted. Additional charging will be required to meet the shortfall.
CSL17	Community Learning Services Play Service reductions	£287	12 responses against the removal of the funding	£87,000 has been removed from the budget proposals for 2008/9 and a further £63,000 for future years
CSL21	Family Support Reduction in Family Centre services and integration with other locality services.	£175	10 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
CSL	General funding for schools		5 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
CSL10	Family Support Significant reduction in the Behaviour Resource Service in relation to non-statutory activity	£300	5 responses against the removal of the funding	The reduction in funding for 2008/9 is unchanged. In 2009/10 and 2010/11 the reduction in funding will be £300,000 in both years not £400,000 as originally proposed
CSL14	Community Learning Services Cuts in the Management Capacity of the Early Years Development and Childcare Team	£151	3 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
CSL4	Community Learning Services Reduce Community Subsidy to Schools	£100	2 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
CSL5	Community Learning Services Merge Adult and Community Learning Service with Training and Employment Initiatives	£38	2 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
CSL7	Inclusion Support Services Withdrawal of Council Social Inclusion Grant Funding to schools	£580	2 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation

Budget reference	Issue	Amount (£'000) 2008/9	Responses	Action to be taken
CSL8	Standards and School Improvement Services Cuts to advice and support to leadership, management and governance in schools	£30	2 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
CSL11	Standards and School Improvement Services Reduction of City Council contribution to Music Service	£40	1 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
CSL15	Community Learning Services City College payment following transfer of City Training	£49	1 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
CSL6	Efficiencies resulting from transfer of Connexions service	£100	1 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
Regeneration				
Reg6	Reduce staffing on LNRS	£38	2 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
Reg11	Reduce staffing one post	£30	1 responses against the removal of the funding	This saving has been removed from the budget proposals
Reg3	Drug Action Team Efficiencies through changes in funding	£17	1 response against the changes in funding	£17k has been added back into the budget proposals to fund an Alcohol Post no longer met by DAT grant
Reg8	Reduce staffing community cohesion	£19	1 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
Environment & Transport				
E&T42	Reduce hours of free travel by putting the start time back to 09.30 (from 0900hrs) to meet the statutory minimum	£75	Face to face meetings with bus user groups and disabled groups. 8 responses against the change of operating hours.	This has been removed from the budget proposals and an additional cost/pressure has been added to the budget of £310,000 to provide a local scheme (to include lower levels of Disability Living Allowance, register blind and companion travel)
E&T45	Delete funding for Sustainability Forum	£23	3 responses against the removal of the funding	£12k has been allocated for funding for the next year only

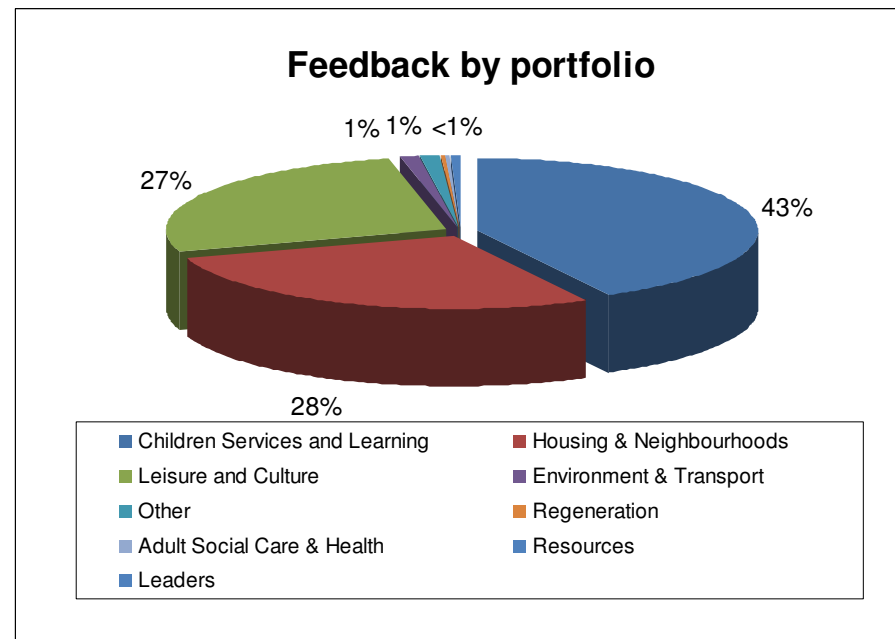
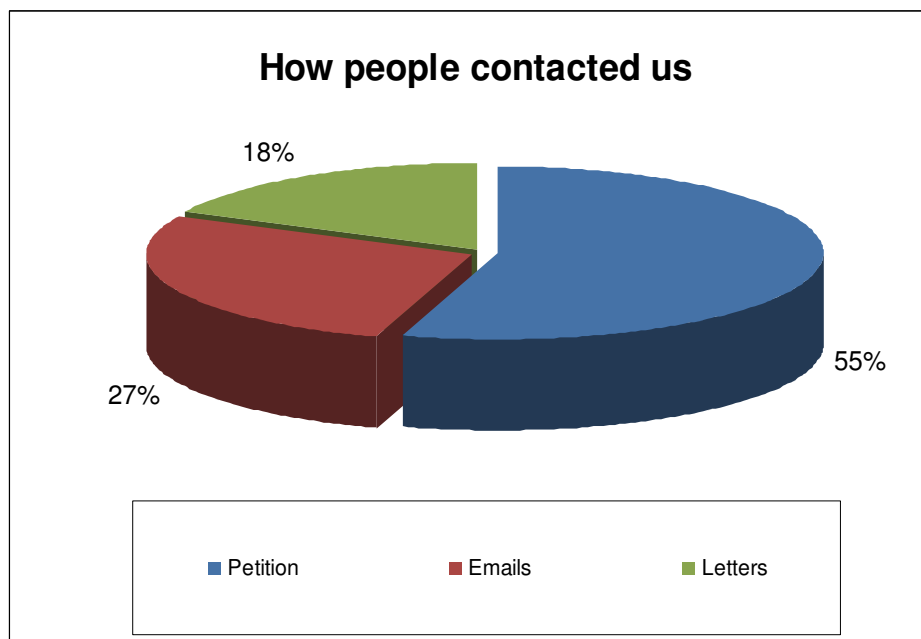
Budget reference	Issue	Amount (£'000) 2008/9	Responses	Action to be taken
E&T27	Special refuse Collections Increase charges for Special collections £25 for 1st collection & cease free collections of Fridges/Freezers	£70	1 response against the increased charges	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
E&T37	Off Street car parking, introduce longer chargeable hours and a £2 over night parking fee	£141	1 against the overnight parking fee of £2	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
Adult Social Care & Health				
ASCH7	Re-organisation of adult disability and mental health day services to prepare service for individual budget management	£100	2 response against the reorganisation of this service.	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
ASCH12	Reduce staffing strategic development	£55	1 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
ASCH13	Reduce staffing Commissioning Services	£68	1 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
Housing & Neighbourhoods				
HN18	Neighbourhood advice centre – reduce opening times	£60	291 individual responses including 185 signatures of petitions against reducing the opening hours. Face to face meeting with staff and EU Welcome project representatives	This has been removed from the budget proposals, there is no reduction in funding for the advice centre
HN20	Private Sector Hsg Reduce private sector housing enforcement activity.	£116	7 responses against the removal of the funding	£27,000 has been removed from the budget proposals
HN21	Neighbourhood Mgt Cease running Neighbourhood Partnerships and grants.	£277	5 responses 4 against the removal of funding 1 in favour of removal of funding	There is currently an ongoing review of Neighbourhood Partnerships. A cross party review report is going to the Housing & Neighbourhoods scrutiny panel in April 2008.

Budget reference	Issue	Amount (£'000) 2008/9	Responses	Action to be taken
HN13	Private Sector Housing Reduce subsidy on Mandatory HMO Licensing scheme and thereby increase the HMO licensing fees	£50	4 responses wanting to see higher HMO fees	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
HN1	Reduce neighbourhood wardens	£187	2 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
HN19	Reduce housing strategy development	£49	1 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
Leaders				
LP12	Reduce staffing Research & Develop Officer	£11	1 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
Leisure and Culture				
LC16	Reduction in arts grants	£70	116 responses with 7 specific referrals to the Mount Pleasant Media workshop. All responses against the withdrawal of grants to arts organisations. Face to face meeting with arts organisations and members.	The reduction in funding proposed for the Mount Pleasant Media Workshop has changed from £5000 reduction to £2000 reduction.
LC17	Reduction in library opening hours	£65	112 responses opposed to reduction in opening hours	£30,000 has been removed from the budget proposals
LC21	Sports and Recreation Withdraw under 7's free swimming	£100	20 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
LC19	Sport & Recreation Cease subsidy to GP Referral Scheme	£33	18 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
LC8	Sport & Recreation Rationalisation of cricket & football pitches to reduce spare capacity.	£20	9 responses against the reduction of sports grounds	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
LC1	Arts & Heritage Reduce repairs & maintenance on Historic Building & Monuments.	£10	6 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation

Budget reference	Issue	Amount (£'000) 2008/9	Responses	Action to be taken
LC10, LC11, LC12, LC13, LC14	Arts and Heritage and use of Museums	£112	6 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
LC15	Arts & Heritage Deletion of Oral History Unit.	£47	5 responses against the removal of the funding	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation
Resources				
Res8	Trade Union Funding Reduce financial support to Trade Unions	£106	4 responses against the removal of the funding	£59,000 has been removed from the budget proposals
Other				
	Council tax discount for over 65s and special constables	£1,230 + £16	11 responses, 2 in favour of and 6 against the discount for over 65s, 3 responses against the discount for special constables	No changes in the budget have been made as a result of this representation

8. Summary

There has been a considerable response to the budget proposal, with over a thousand people contacting the council in writing and many more meeting with and discussing the budget with members. Below are two charts that show how people have been contacting us although we do not have the figures for how many people have met with or attended meetings with members. The second chart shows broadly the areas where most written response has been.



People contacted us about 42 different aspects of the budget proposal and below is a chart showing the specific subjects that most people were concerned about. This chart does include the subjects raised at meetings with members but it does not reflect the complexity of the subjects, the arguments and cases made by people to keep the funding unchanged for these areas. The table in section seven of this report does show what changes have been made by the Executive to the budget proposal as a result of the consultation and taking into account new factors.

Feedback by subject

