

Report to : **JOINT MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET AND OVERVIEW (AUDIT) PANEL**

Date : 10 February 2016

Executive Member Reporting Officers: / Cllr Kieran Quinn – Executive Leader
Cllr Jim Fitzpatrick – First Deputy (Performance and Finance)
Sandra Stewart – Executive Director Governance and Resources (Borough Solicitor)

Subject : **BUDGET ENGAGEMENT 2016/17 – CONSULTATION FINDINGS**

Report Summary : This report provides the findings from the Council's budget consultation for 2016/17 and 2017/18. The report outlines the results captured in the simulator and the general themes that have emerged from the suggestions provided. The report also details the communication and publicity that has been conducted to promote the consultation.

Recommendations : It is recommended that Executive Cabinet note the content of the report and take the findings from the consultation into consideration and account when setting the Council's budget at the Full Council meeting on 23 February 2016.

Links to Community Strategy : The Council budget aligns with the priorities of the Corporate Plan and the partnership wide Community Strategy.


Policy Implications : The Council budget reflects the policy choices that the Council intends to pursue and feeds into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Financial Implications : (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer) There are no direct financial recommendations as a result of this report.

Legal Implications : (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor) This consultation has been an important step in sharing the Council's finances and the challenges the services and Borough face. It is important that the Council takes into account and considers that feedback when setting the budget and importantly we feedback the impact of the consultation on that decision making to ensure transparent.

Risk Management : The Council has a statutory duty to consult. Failure to consult on the proposed changes to the Council's budget could lead to challenge and negative public attitudes.

Access to Information : The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer Lorraine Kitching:

 Telephone: 0161 342 4043

 e-mail: lorraine.kitching@tameside.gov.uk

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A total of **2,594** contacts were received to the budget consultation (all channels including social media, emails letters etc.) This excludes all those we have engaged with through meetings and groups.
- A total of **1,446** people attempted the budget simulator with **1,019** people successfully completing it; a drop-off rate of **29.5%**.
- Budget consultation has been promoted at **215** events where residents had the opportunity to undertake the budget consultation.
- The average council tax change of all the responses was a **12% increase**.
- **75%** of respondents to the budget simulator **advocated a council tax rise**.
- The most popular idea for income generation is **selling advertising space (88%)**.
- **Selling Council buildings** is the most popular efficiency option (**80.7%**).

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report provides the findings from the consultation on the Council's budget for 2016/17 (and into 2017/18). The Council continues to face major financial challenges. Since 2010 the Council has had to cut £104 million from its budget. We have to manage our current budget reductions of £24 million in this financial year (2015/16), and make firm plans for further reductions of £14 million in 2016/17, and an additional £15 million in 2017/18.
- 2.2 In September 2015, Executive Board agreed a consultation approach, which would support stakeholders in understanding the tough choices and decisions that are required when shaping the whole Council Budget. The approach included a video and a budget simulator which asked residents to engage with a 2-year £29 million savings challenge (2016/17 and 2017/18 combined).

Video and Budget Simulator

- 2.3 The budget challenge video set out, in a public friendly format, the financial pressures that the council is facing and how the Council, partners and the public can work together to tackle them. The video detailed the current financial situation and future cuts that need to be made, the findings from last year's budget consultation, how the Council can make savings and what the public themselves can do to contribute. It also highlighted to the public that Council Tax only accounts for a third of the Council's income.
- 2.4 In order to provide the public with a greater understanding of the difficulties the Council faces in meeting a balanced budget the Council made use of the free Local Government Association (LGA) budget simulator tool. This was the same tool as the Council used last year to consult on the budget cuts it was facing at that time. The budget simulator is an online tool that encourages members of the public to consider where council budget cuts should fall, where efficiencies might be made, and where additional resources might be generated. The tool was originally developed by the London Borough of Redbridge to engage its citizens in the difficult decisions that arise from budget reductions. In partnership with the Local Government Association (LGA), the tool has been made available, free of charge, to all councils in England and Wales. The tool helped us to engage with our residents regarding the decisions about how we spend the revenue budgets and helped our residents to understand the tough choices the council faces. The

tool also allowed us to show the full council picture and illustrate to the public that if they increase provision in one service they need to make cuts in another.

- 2.5 Participants were also able to submit suggestions for money saving ideas or where they think the Council can cut costs.

Budget Consultation Timeline

- 2.6 An Elected Member event was conducted on the 23 September 2015 with the purpose of providing Elected Members with the opportunity to provide feedback on the video and budget consultation process.
- 2.7 The budget consultation was launched by the Executive Leader at Full Council on the 29 September 2015. The consultation ran for 12 weeks and finished on the 22 December 2015.

Promotion

- 2.8 In order to promote the budget consultation and encourage participation, a series of promotional materials were created including: flyers, posters, business cards, bookmarks, gif's, twitter straps and screensavers.
- 2.9 In addition the budget consultation had its own logo which has been used on the web pages and all promotional material. A full programme of active engagement and messaging was undertaken during the period.
- 2.10 In order to increase participation, two short 30-second videos were created using members of the public and staff encouraging people to have their say on the budget consultation. These were widely promoted via twitter, Facebook and on the budget consultation web pages. These videos were created with the assistance of students from Ashton Sixth Form College.

3.0 ENGAGEMENT

- 3.1 A number of channels were used for communicating the budget consultation to the public (including staff); this has included both traditional methods such as press releases and articles in the Citizen and the use of social media e.g. Facebook and Twitter.
- 3.2 In addition to promotion through written media, a full programme of engagement events have taken place across the borough. These have included promotion at children's centres, libraries, sheltered accommodation as well as facilitated group sessions with young and older people. A full list of engagement channels and events that have taken place are detailed in **Tables 1 and 2** below. A total of **215** engagement events have been held where members of the public have had the opportunity to undertake the budget consultation.

Table 1: Groups / organisations engaged directly as part of the Budget Consultation process

Group / Organisation	Type	Date
District Assembly Meetings	<u>Public Meeting (12)</u> Ashton – 2 Denton – 2 Droylsden & Audenshaw – 2 Dukinfield - 2 Hyde - 2 Stalybridge & Mossley – 2	Various in September / October

Summits	<u>Invited guests from the relevant sectors (7)</u> Economy & Skills - 1 Health – 1 Residential Growth - 1 Post 16 – 1 Public Protection - 1 Voluntary Sector - 1 Youth – 1	Various between October and November
Town Teams	<u>Town Teams (6)</u> Ashton - 1 Denton – 1 Droylsden – 1 Hyde – 1 Mossley - 1 Stalybridge - 1	
Employee Consultation Group	Internal meeting	22 September 2015
Adullam Homes	Meeting with staff	12 October 2015
Poverty Action Group	Representatives from different organisations	20 October 2015
Carer's Support Group	<u>Meeting with Carers (6)</u> Asian Carers – Ashton – 1 Carers – Droylsden – 1 Carers – Dukinfield -1 Carers – Stalybridge – 2 Carers – Denton – 1	Various dates in October and November
Hyde Bangladeshi Welfare Association	Meeting with group members	22 October 2015
Khush Amdid	Meeting with group members	22 October 2015
Employee Engagement Session	Staff events - 1	Various
IT & Cake Event – Age UK	Older People	27 October 2015
Preventing Homelessness Forum	Representatives from different organisations	28 October 2015
Ogden Court Sheltered Housing	Residents of the Sheltered Housing	6 November 2015
Over 50s Computer Group	Members of the group	11 November 2015
Countryside Rangers	Volunteers	11 November 2015

Tenants of Enville Place	Homeless residents	12 November 2015
Foundation Housing, Westbrook	Supported Housing Tenants (homeless)	16 November 2015
Farley's Estate Residents Associations – Home Watch	Home Watch	25 November 2015
Emmaus Mossley drop-in sessions (2 sessions)	Local residents and workers	27 November 2015 11 December 2015
Community Led Initiatives	Recovering drug and alcohol users	1 December 2015
Age UK	Older people including those with dementia	4 December 2015
Student Event	Students from Clarendon Sixth Form College, Tameside College and Ashton Sixth Form College	9 December 2015
Cranberries 2	Older people	10 December 2015
Grafton Centre (2 sessions)	Older people	17 December 2015 21 December 2015
Tameside College	Students & staff	17 December 2015
Clarendon Sixth Form College	Students & staff	18 December 2015

Table 2: Groups / organisations who have supported promotion of the Budget Consultation (e.g. hosted drop-ins, promoted at meetings and / or through networks)

Group / Organisation	Type	Date
Libraries	92 sessions in total Ashton – 14 Denton –11 Droylsden – 10 Dukinfield – 13 Hattersley – 7 Hyde – 12 Mossley - 14 Stalybridge – 11	Various
Children's Centres	17 sessions in total Denton South - 1 Greenside - 2 Hattersley – 2	Various

	Haughton Green - 1 Hyde – 3 Linden Road - 1 Mossley - 2 Ridgehill – 2 St. Peters - 3	
Active Tameside	41 sessions in total Ashton – 6 Denton - 6 Copley – 9 Dukinfield – 6 Hyde - 4 Ken Ward – 6 Medlock – 4	Various
Ashton Market	2 sessions	
Hyde Market	3 sessions	
New Charter drop-ins	Ashton – 1 Denton – 1 Hyde – 1 Stalybridge - 1	
Ashton Pioneer Homes drop-ins	1 session	
CVAT		Promotion via email, twitter and newsletter
Citizens Advice Bureau		General promotion + use of IT hub to complete the simulator
Hyde Community Action		General promotion
GP surgeries		Bookmarks available in all GP surgeries
Live, Work, Invest website		General promotion
E mail to DWP staff in Tameside		General promotion
E mail to all Active Tameside staff and directors		General promotion
Email to nurseries and early year providers		General promotion
Email to Friends of Groups		General promotion
Email to police personnel		General promotion

Email to fire service personnel		General promotion
Stands at employee engagement sessions and Business Summit		General promotion and chance to complete the simulator
Council Call Centre		Message to promote the budget consultation
Talking News Budget Consultation brief including an interview on the budget consultation		26 th November
Tameside Sight assisting visually impaired residents to complete the simulator		As and when required
Bookmarks sent to local GP surgeries		30 th November
Tameside Hospital publicised the consultation via their staff portal		General promotion
Tameside Hospital staff bulletin		General promotion
Tameside College newsletter, student portal		General Promotion

3.3 During the budget consultation we have endeavoured to engage with people from all equality groups; and have undertaken targeted work with the following groups:

- Grafton centre – older people
- Age UK – older people including sessions with those with dementia
- Ogden Court Sheltered Housing – older people
- Student consultation event – young people from Tameside College; Clarendon Sixth Form College and Ashton Sixth Form College
- 2 student drop-in sessions – Clarendon Sixth Form College and Tameside College
- Talking news article – blind residents
- Tameside Sight – assistance provided to blind residents
- Hyde Community Action, BME network, Khush Amdid – BME residents

3.4 A total of **1,019** responses were received to the budget consultation via the simulator. The number of contacts made; excluding contacts with members of the public to promote the simulator, are shown in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Number of contacts

Channel	Number of responses
Budget simulator:	
number started	1,446
number completed	1,019
Viewed the Budget Consultation video	588

Viewed the Budget Consultation clips	132
Facebook	
number of comments	20
likes	5
share	1
Twitter	
number of tweets	146
re-tweets	181
favourite	68
Emails	4
Complaints through CRM	1
Letters	2

4.0 BUDGET DATA ANALYSIS

- 4.1 With the exception of the comments and suggestions, all the completed responses to the budget simulator can be downloaded directly from the website. The budget simulator tool reports the council tax change results as a whole percentage, in order to establish more accurate figures, the results have been re-calculated to enable us to report results to at least one decimal place. All figures in this report are based on our re-calculated figures.
- 4.2 A total of **1,446** people attempted the budget simulator with **1,019** people successfully completing it to date; a drop-off rate of **29.5%**. This may illustrate that residents found it difficult to make the decisions necessary to cut the budget. Similarly due to complexity of the simulator, achieving **1,019** completed responses is testament to the effectiveness of the engagement strategy.
- 4.3 **Tables 4a and 4b** detail the characteristics of the achieved sample compared to the Tameside population.

Table 4a: Population and achieved sample

Demographic Group	Tameside Population (%)	Achieved sample (%)
Gender¹		
Male	49.1	49.4
Female	50.9	50.6
Age²		
16-17	3.0	2.8
18-24	10.3	7.0
25-34	16.3	17.9
35-44	15.9	19.9
45-54	18.7	24.0
55-64	14.5	15.9
65 and over	21.3	12.5
Ethnicity³		
White	90.9	91.6
BME	9.1	8.4
Disability³		
Yes	20.9	11.4
No	79.1	88.6

¹ Figures based on the 2014 mid-year population estimates

² Figures based on the 2014 mid-year population estimates and those aged 16 and over.

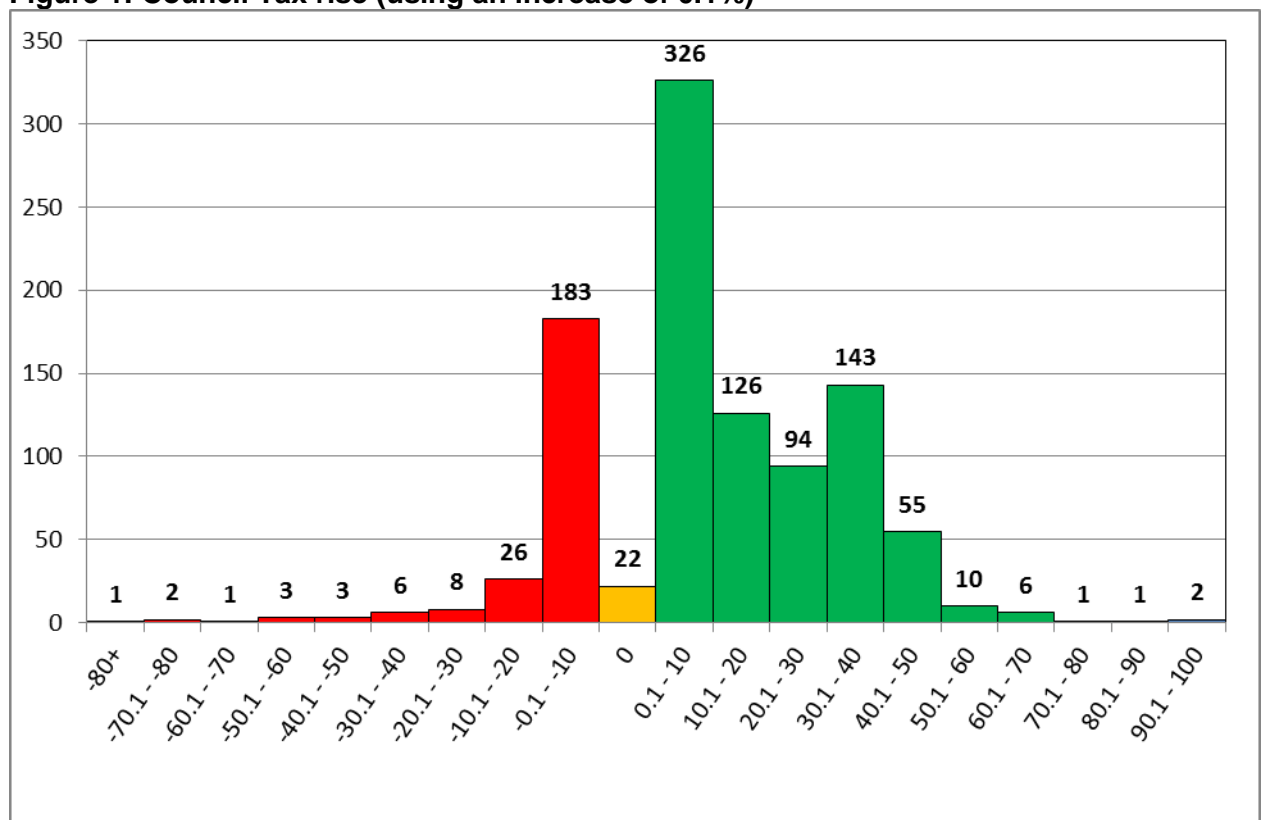
³ Figures based on the 2011 Census

Table 4b: Population and achieved sample

Demographic Group	Tameside Households (%)	Achieved sample (%)
Postcode Sector⁴		
M34 – Denton / Audenshaw	21.3	11.6
M43 – Droylsden	10.4	8.5
OL5 – Mossley	5.3	5.8
OL6 – Ashton (Hurst / St. Michaels)	13.3	19.2
OL7 – Ashton (Waterloo / St. Peters)	7.7	7.7
SK14 – Hyde / Longendale	20.7	19.5
SK15 – Stalybridge	12.4	13.0
SK16 - Dukinfield	9.0	12.9

- 4.4 The table above details the achieved sample from the survey, against the Tameside population. Respondents who did not specify a particular characteristic have been removed from these figures. This has not impacted on considering their views just reporting their demographic profile.
- 4.5 Weighting the data to account for over and under-sampling of particular sections of the population is not necessary, given that the budget simulator is available via the Big Conversation web pages and is open to all residents and is not a fixed/controlled sample.
- 4.6 The average council tax change of all the responses to date is a **12% increase**. **Figure 1** details the number of respondents advocating different levels of Council Tax rises or decreases. Overall **75%** of respondents advocated a Council Tax rise.

Figure 1: Council Tax rise (using an increase of 0.1%)⁵



⁴ Figures are based on the number of households in each postcode sector area.

⁵ The figures in the graph on based on recalculated figures from the simulator results, this has been done to enable us to analyse to at least decimal place rather than as whole numbers and more accurately reflect the changes.

Source: Tameside Council's budget simulator

Service Results

4.7 Within the budget simulator, respondents were able to reduce or increase the budget for each service area. **Table 5** details the starting budget for each area, the average end budget, average amount that has been taken out of each budget and the percentage reduction for the headline service areas. **Table 6** details the findings for the individual service areas. The greatest average reduction has been made to the **Adults** budget (-£ 7,111,890), this also the service area with the largest budget, and the lowest reduction has been made to the **Communities** budget (-£ 859,300). This is also the area with the smallest budget.

Table 5: Breakdown of budget adjustments by service area

Overall Service Area	Starting Budget (£)	Average End Budget (£)	Average Budget Reduction (£)	Average % change
Adults	79,487,885	72,375,995	7,111,890	-8.9
Children	27,085,837	25,429,255	1,656,582	-6.1
Infrastructure	27,713,914	25,276,066	2,437,848	-8.8
Council Tax, Benefits and Support	19,670,768	17,407,436	2,263,332	-11.5
Public Health	18,806,416	16,394,472	2,411,944	-12.8
Environment	15,734,668	14,461,011	1,273,657	-8.1
Communities	8,584,557	7,725,257	859,300	-10.0
Total	197,084,045	176,120,817	20,963,228	-10.6

Source: Tameside Council's budget simulator

4.8 When analysing the results by different demographic groups, there were very few differences. The most notable difference are:

- BME respondents were more likely to reduce the budget allocated to Adults (-13% compared to -9% overall) and less likely to reduce the budget allocated to Infrastructure (-4% compared to -9% overall).
- Respondents aged 65+ were less likely to reduce the budget allocated to Council Tax, Benefits & Support (-8% compared to -12% overall).
- Geographically, those living in the M43 postcode sector were less likely to reduce the budget allocated to Public Health (-8% compared to -13% overall).

Table 6: Breakdown of budget adjustments by individual service area

Overall Service Area	Individual Service Area	Starting Budget (£)	Average End Budget (£)	Average Budget Reduction (£)	Average % change
Adults	Frail / Elderly	48,113,020	43,846,383	4,266,637	-8.9
	Learning Disability	22,728,552	20,629,406	2,099,146	-9.2
	Physical or Sensory Disability	4,998,894	4,553,433	445,461	-8.9
	Mental Health	2,005,854	1,856,141	149,713	-7.5
	Support & Prevention	1,641,565	1,490,631	150,934	-9.2
Children	Social Care & Safeguarding	18,979,251	17,859,915	1,119,336	-5.9
	Family Support / Early Help	4,302,240	4,032,827	269,413	-6.3
	School & Pupil Support	3,804,346	3,536,512	267,834	-7.0
Infrastructure	Roads & Transport	21,605,546	19,784,528	1,821,018	-8.4
	Economy & Skills	4,128,812	3,755,727	373,085	-9.0
	Planning	1,979,556	1,735,811	243,745	-12.3
Council Tax, Benefits and Support	Council Tax Support (benefit)	15,100,000	13,268,783	1,831,217	-12.1
	Collecting tax & debts / paying bills & assessment	4,289,910	3,893,194	396,716	-9.2
	Corporate Support & Registrars	280,858	245,459	35,399	-12.6
Public Health	Health Promotion	10,694,721	9,256,195	1,438,526	-13.5
	Health Interventions	8,111,695	7,138,277	973,418	-12.0
Environment	Street Cleaning & Parks	6,507,708	5,937,735	569,973	-8.8
	Recycling & Waste	6,049,097	5,616,144	432,953	-7.2
	Enforcement & Protection	3,177,863	2,907,132	270,731	-8.5
Communities	Supporting People & Homelessness	3,065,923	2,804,269	261,654	-8.5
	Neighbourhood Teams & Youth	1,875,925	1,685,786	190,139	-10.1
	Information & Advice	1,464,586	1,288,078	176,508	-12.1
	Libraries	1,442,802	1,297,057	145,745	-10.1
	Culture	735,321	650,067	85,254	-11.6
Total		197,084,045	176,120,817	20,963,228	-10.6

4.10 When analysing the results by different demographic groups, there were very few differences. Some of the most notable differences are:

- Disabled respondents were more likely to reduce the budget allocated to Health Promotion (-17.3% compared to -13.5% overall) and Neighbourhood Teams & Youth (-13.2% compared to -10.1% overall).
- The budget allocated to Frail & Elderly was more likely to be reduced by BME respondents (-13.1% compared to -8.9% overall).
- The budget allocated to Mental Health was more likely to be reduced by BME respondents (-11.7%) and less likely by those living in the M43 postcode sector (-4.1%). This is compared to -7.5% overall.
- The Learning Disability budget was more likely to be reduced by both respondents living in SK15 (-12.6%) and BME respondents (-12.5%). This is compared to -9.2% overall.
- Respondents aged 65+ were less likely to reduce the budgets for Libraries (-7.0% compared to -10.1% overall) and Culture (-8.2% compared to -11.6% overall).
- Those aged under 18 were more likely to reduce the budgets for Neighbourhood Teams & Youth (-14.8% compared to -10.1%) and Information & Advice (-15.9% compared to -12.1%). They were less likely to reduce budgets for Supporting People & Homelessness (-5.2% compared to -8.5% overall), Health Interventions (-8.8% compared to -12.0% overall) and Economy & Skills (-3.6% compared to -9.0% overall).
- Respondents aged 25-34 were more likely to reduce the budget allocated to Council Tax Support (benefits) (-15.5% compared to -12.1% overall).
- Respondents living in OL5 were more likely to reduce the following budgets:
 - Roads & Transport (-12.2% compared to -8.4% overall)
 - Economy & Skills (-12.4% compared to -9.0% overall)
 - Planning (-16.4% compared to -12.3% overall)
 - Street Cleaning & Parks (-12.9% compared to -8.8% overall)
- Those living in M43 were less likely to reduce the following budgets:
 - Social Care & Safeguarding (-2.7% compared to -5.9% overall)
 - Family Support / Early Help (-1.3% compared to -6.3% overall)
 - Health Promotion (-7.8% compared to -13.5% overall)
 - Health Interventions (-7.5% compared to -12.0% overall)
- Geographically, the budget for Corporate Support & Registrars was more likely to be reduced by those living in M34 (-16.0%) and SK15 (-16.1%). This is compared to -12.6% overall.
- In addition, respondents living in SK15 were more likely to reduce the budgets allocated to Support & Prevention (-12.7% compared to -9.2% overall) and Council Tax Support (benefits) (-16.5% compared to -12.1% overall). They were less likely to reduce the budget allocated to Roads & Transport (-4.7% compared to -8.4%).

4.11 The full cross tabulations can be found in **Appendix 3**.

4.12 Respondents were also presented with a series of options on income generation and efficiency savings which they could choose to select or not. By selecting the tick box for each of these options the respondent is indicating that they feel this is a good idea. **Table 7** details the results for these two areas. The most popular idea for income generation is **selling advertising space**, whilst **selling council buildings** is the most popular efficiency option.

Table 7: Breakdown on income / efficiency options

Option	% selecting	Potential savings
Sell advertising space	88.0%	£100,000
Sell Council buildings	80.7%	£1,000,000
Sell more land for homes & businesses	78.9%	£1,000,000
Develop traded services	77.6%	£100,000
More enforcement (fines)	70.7%	£50,000
Introduce fees and charges to other areas	60.3%	£100,000
Volunteers	62.8%	£150,000
Increase fees & charges by 5%	59.2%	£500,000
Health & social care integration	54.9%	£0
Review employees terms of conditions	37.0%	£1,300,000
Reduction in street cleaning	33.1%	£200,000
3 weekly landfill bin collections	30.9%	£500,000

Source: Tameside Council's budget simulator

4.13 Some of the key differences by demographic group are detailed below, the full crosstabulations can be found in **Appendix 3**.

- Respondents aged under 18 were less likely to agree with selling advertising space (67%) compared to those aged 25-34 who were most likely to agree (95%).
- A third of those aged under 18 (33%) agreed with increasing fees and charges by 5% compared to 70% of respondents living in SK16.
- Those aged under 18 were also less likely to agree with introducing fees and charges to other areas (30%). Respondents most likely to agree were those living in SK15 (70%) and those aged 45-54 (70%).
- Respondents living in SK15 were also most likely to agree with the Council developing traded services (85%) compared to 56% of those aged under 18.
- BME respondents (64%) and those living in OL5 (64%) were less likely to agree with introducing more enforcement (fines) compared to 79% of respondents living in SK16.
- Almost a quarter of BME respondents (24%) agreed with a review of Council employees' terms and conditions compared to 62% of respondents living in OL5.
- Selling Council buildings was most popular amongst respondents aged 18-24 (87%) and least popular with those aged under 18 (52%).
- Respondents living in M43 were more likely to agree with the idea of selling more land for homes and businesses (89%) compared to those aged under 18 (67%).
- Just over a fifth of respondents (22%) living in OL7 agreed with the introduction of a three weekly landfill bin collection compared to 37% of respondents aged under 18.
- BME respondents were less likely to select volunteering as an option (55%). This is compared to almost three-quarters (74%) of those aged under 18.
- A reduction in street cleaning was least popular amongst respondents aged 65+ (25%) and those living in OL7 (25%). Respondents aged under 18 were most likely to select this option (41%).
- Health & social care integration was most popular amongst respondents aged under 18 (67%). Those living in M43 were least likely to select this option (39%).

5.0 KEY THEMES ANALYSIS

- 5.1 Participants of the budget simulator were able to provide comments and suggestions on how money could be saved from the Council's budget. These responses have been analysed and classified by theme, based on commonly mentioned issues and concerns. The comments submitted via Twitter, Facebook, dedicated email address and letter have also been analysed and themed in the same way. A total of **481** comments and/or suggestions were received.
- 5.2 Many responses covered more than one issue and concern. They were classified for all the issues mentioned. The full list of **27** themes is given below, they are classified by type.

Place

- Waste / recycling
- Better use of council buildings
- Enforcement
- Street Lights
- Don't spend on major projects, cultural events or the public realm
- Business investment in Tameside / business rates / attract people and businesses to the borough
- Ashton prioritised over other towns
- Roads / Investment in infrastructure
- Free / reduced car parking

Corporate

- Councillors and Mayor
- Council needs to be more efficient and reduce waste
- Money raising ideas / charge for services / land for housing, business
- Staff pay / pensions / terms & conditions
- Council working practices / culture / digitisation of services / marketing
- Commissioning and outsourcing
- Work with partners / integration of services / health integration
- Invest in services / long term prevention
- Council tax
- Council has the wrong priorities
- Policy approaches
- Budget simulator / consultation
- Positive view of the council
- Negative view of the council

People

- Volunteering / community delivery / self-support / enforced volunteering
- Protect vulnerable first / protect children's centres
- People on benefits
- Libraries / customer services / museums

- 5.3 A full list of the comments is provided in **Appendix 2** along with a response from Tameside MBC. The number of comments is split between those from the budget simulator, those via social media e.g. Facebook and Twitter and those received via email or letter. The percentage figures refer to the proportion of all respondents to each particular engagement channel along with an overall percentage.

Supportive Comments / Increased Awareness of Council's Position

- 5.4 Among the comments and suggestions received, a number of responses illustrated resident's increased awareness of the difficulties the council faces in meeting the budgets cuts. A sample of these comments are provided below:

- *“I feel that you are all doing a fantastic job of making cuts where needed to save money.”*
- *“Attempted the survey but found the decisions difficult and couldn't decide”*
- *“Generally happy with Tameside Council.”*
- *“Council do a good job collectively”*

6.0 NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 The findings from the budget consultation exercise have been used, in conjunction with other considerations, to inform the Council's budget setting process. The council's budget will be set at Full Council on the 23 February 2016.
- 6.2 Feedback on the results will also be provided to the public, staff, partners and engaged groups and a summary infographic report produced and shared on Tameside Council's website.

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 The following appendices are included as part of this report:

- **Appendix 1** – Equality Impact Assessment.
- **Appendix 2** – Summary of consultation themes and Tameside MBC response.
- **Appendix 3** – Cross tabulations – analysis by demographics

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 As set out on the front of the report.