

Budget consultation

Interim headline results, DRAFT v 0.3, 1st Feb. 2013

Herefordshire Council Research Team

Summary

Summary of responses to agreement/disagreement with the savings proposals as of the morning of 1st February 2013. No commentary or analysis of comments are included in this report. Number of responses:

TOTAL responses 2,817; 2,174 online, 634 paper, 9 letters.

Community

Proposed savings	Agree	Neither	Disagree
Reducing the support, including grants, we provide to the voluntary and community sector, targeting funding on priority areas	27%	17%	56%
Reducing / ending the distribution of Herefordshire Matters as a magazine and making greater use of electronic methods for all available information and receiving payments	90%	5%	5%
Bringing together customer service centres, libraries and other facilities where these are duplicated in a particular area	80%	10%	10%
Reducing opening hours for customer service centres / libraries	28%	21%	51%

There were 1,416 comments in this section..

Transport

Proposed savings	Agree	Neither	Disagree
Better co-ordination of transport to reduce costs, covering public bus services, community transport schemes, schools and social care transport arrangements	83%	11%	6%
Reducing the subsidy to bus services by considering the withdrawal of some public transport routes, based upon the most expensive subsidies and the lowest priority services	28%	20%	52%

There were 1,210 comments in this section.

Children & Young People

Proposed savings	Agree	Neither	Disagree
Working with our partners to improve the way children and young people's services are accessed and delivered, removing unnecessary duplication	87%	8%	5%
Reducing some children's centre services	20%	34%	47%
Reducing funding available to support community-based universal youth provision and focus resource on targeted youth support	33%	25%	42%
Increasing charges for some types of school transport and reducing to the statutory minimum the schools transport services we provide	40%	25%	35%

There were 1,253 comments in this section.

Social care for working age adults

Proposed savings	Agree	Neither	Disagree
Changing the balance of services offered, reducing the amount of high cost day services and increasing employment, training and other supported day activities for those who are eligible for social care support	57%	28%	14%

There were 467 comments in this section.

Environment

Proposed savings	Agree	Neither	Disagree
Reducing our energy costs by investing in energy efficient technologies	88%	7%	5%
Removing the remaining 'bring and recycle' glass collection sites	43%	26%	32%
Changing the refuse and recycling collection to alternate weekly collections	42%	14%	44%
Reducing support to the countryside service and encouraging greater community involvement in the management of countryside assets	38%	31%	31%

There were 1,351 comments in this section.

Leisure and arts

Proposed savings	Agree	Neither	Disagree
Removing / reducing current subsidies for leisure, heritage and arts facilities / services	23%	16%	60%
Reducing the funding available to support tourism	25%	21%	54%

There were 1,586 comments in this section.

Economy and growth

Proposed savings	Agree	Neither	Disagree
Delaying major infrastructure projects	43%	24%	32%
Increasing the range of development that does not require planning permission	37%	27%	36%

There were 1,246 comments in this section.

Particular groups affected by savings proposals?

Question 2: We want to ensure that any changes made are fair to everyone. To help us do this, please tell us if you think any of the proposals above will particularly affect any group of people. For example due to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

44% of respondents said the proposals would affect particular groups of people, 28% said they wouldn't and 28% didn't know.

GENERAL COMMENTS

There were 1,186 comments in this section.

About the respondents

97% responded as individuals, 3% as an organisation (26 organisations)

40% were male, 60% female

Age of respondents:

0-15 years (0.5%); 16-24 years (2.3%); 25-44 years (26%); 45-64 years (44%); 65-74 years (18%); 75+ years (7%)

Do you have a disability, long term illness or health problem (12 months or more,) which limits daily activities or the work you can do?

12.5% said 'Yes'; 92% said 'No'

How would you best describe your ethnic group?

97.7% White British (English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish)

1.7% Other White (Please specify)

0.5% Any other ethnic group (Please specify)

A full report of the findings with commentary and analysis of comments, letters and social media will be discussed at Cabinet when they discuss the budget.