

AGENDA

STRATEGIC PLANNING, SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING



Date: Tuesday 10 January 2017

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Town Hall, High Street,
Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors D Burton (Chairman), English,
Mrs Grigg (Vice-Chairman),
D Mortimer, Munford, Prendergast,
Springett, de Wiggondene and Wilby

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1. Apologies for Absence
2. Notification of Substitute Members
3. Urgent Items

Continued Over/:

Issued on Friday 23 December 2016

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**Alison Broom, Chief Executive, Maidstone Borough Council,
Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone Kent ME15 6JQ**

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PUBLIC SPEAKING

In order to book a slot to speak at this meeting of the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee, please contact Poppy Collier on 01622 602242 or by email on poppycollier@maidstone.gov.uk by 5 pm one clear working day before the meeting. If asking a question, you will need to provide the full text in writing. If making a statement, you will need to tell us which agenda item you wish to speak on. Please note that slots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC PLANNING, SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2016

Present: Councillor D Burton (Chairman), and
Councillors English, Garten, Mrs Grigg, D Mortimer,
Munford, Prendergast, de Wiggondene and Wilby

Also Present: Councillors Boughton, Clark, Daley,
Vizzard and Willis

96. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillor Mrs Springett and Councillor de Wiggondene would be late.

97. **NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was noted that Councillor Garten was substituting for Councillor Mrs Springett.

98. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Chairman advised Members that he had agreed to take the urgent update report which related to Agenda Item 17 as it provided information arising out of the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum that was held on 3 November 2016.

99. **NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS**

The following Visiting Members were noted:-

Councillor Clark – for Agenda Item 19 – Local Plan Examination Update

Councillors Boughton, Daley, Vizzard and Willis – for Agenda Item 21 – Response to Regulation 18 Consultation on the Tonbridge and Malling Local Plan

100. **DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

There were no disclosures by Members and Officers.

101. **DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING**

Councillor English stated that he had been lobbied in relation to Agenda Item 21 – Response to Regulation 18 Consultation on the Tonbridge and Malling Local Plan.

The Chairman stated that whilst he had had quite a few discussions with other Members on Agenda Item 21, he did not feel he had been lobbied.

102. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2016

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed subject to the following amendments being made:-

Minute 86 – Reference from the Heritage, Culture and Leisure Committee – Air Quality Working Group

This should be amended to 'Reference from the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee – Air Quality Working Group'

For clarity it was also agreed that the resolution should read:

RESOLVED: That Councillors **D** Burton and English be appointed to sit on the Air Quality Working Group as representatives of the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee.

103. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were no petitions.

104. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

105. EXEMPT ITEMS

RESOLVED: That the items on the agenda be taken in public as proposed.

106. STRATEGIC PLANNING, SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairman advised that the meeting due to take place on 6 December would be cancelled. This was in view of the fact that Officer time was fully committed to the Local Plan Hearings which would create difficulties in producing reports for the December Committee meeting within the required timescales.

Enforcement – it was agreed that a report should be considered by the Committee after the Retrospective Planning Consent and Enforcement Workshop had been held.

RESOLVED: That the Committee Work Programme be noted.

107. OUTSIDE BODIES - VERBAL UPDATES (IF ANY)

The Chairman advised that he had attended the Kent County Council's Select Committee on Bus Transport and Public Subsidy where he had been asked to speak about the quality bus partnership. It was noted that the evidence gathered would be published in due course.

108. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT - RESPONSE TO REGULATION 18 CONSULTATION ON THE TONBRIDGE AND MALLING LOCAL PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning and Development which related to the Response to Regulation 18 Consultation on the Tonbridge and Malling Local Plan.

Councillor de Wiggondene arrived at 6.45 p.m.

Members of the Committee made reference to the following points that they would like included in the correspondence to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council:-

- A need to highlight particular areas of traffic congestion in Hermitage Lane
- A need and desire to work with Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, along with KCC Highways and Highways England.
- A need for the retention and provision of open space, including areas of landscaped semi-natural open space
- A need to address the highways and sustainability transport issues
- A need for the provision of appropriate planting to improve air quality
- To enquire whether Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council will produce an Integrated Transport Strategy

RESOLVED: That the Committee agrees the essence of the formal response to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation and gives delegated authority to Officers to amend the response, incorporating the revisions made by Members.

Voting: For: 9 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

109. REFERENCE FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE - WEST STREET, HARRIETSHAM, KENT

The Reference from Planning Committee was considered which related to traffic and parking issues in West Street, Harrietsham.

It was noted that Planning Committee had requested that the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee explore the traffic and parking issues in West Street and how they might be addressed by Traffic Regulation Orders.

The Committee felt that the Planning Committee could refer any such issues direct to the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board in future. However, if any issues are deemed significantly different, then they should be referred to Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee for comment.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Planning Committee makes a specific, detailed request to the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board to consider the traffic and parking issues in West Street, Harrietsham; and
- (2) That the Planning Committee refer any similar issues direct to the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board in future unless they consider that the circumstances are significantly different and the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport Committee should deal with the issues direct.

Voting: For: 9 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

110. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT - SECOND QUARTER BUDGET MONITORING 2016/17

The report of the Director of Finance and Business Improvement which related to the Second Quarter Budget Monitoring 2016/17 was considered.

Members noted that the overall projection showed a minor favourable variance. However, although car parking income had been significantly above target, development management had seen a large overspend mainly due to agency staff having been employed for longer than expected. Members were advised that a Planning Review would be undertaken shortly by the Director of Regeneration and Place to address the issue.

RESOLVED: That the revenue position at the end of the second quarter and the actions being taken or proposed to improve the position, where significant variances have been identified, be noted.

111. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS - STRATEGIC PLAN PERFORMANCE UPDATE Q2

Members considered the report of the Head of Policy and Communications on the Strategic Plan Performance Update Quarter Two.

Members noted that there had been excellent progress on two of the key performance indicators for this quarter, these were for the Local Plan Update and processing of major planning applications in 13 weeks, both

having achieved 100%.

Members were advised that the target which related to the number of Parishes satisfied with the level of communication and engagement they had with the Council was 38.30%.

In response to a question from a Member the Policy and Information Manager advised that she would find out if the Parish Meeting Chairmen had been consulted.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the summary of performance for Quarter 2 of 2016/17 for Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and corporate strategies and plans be noted;
- 2) That the progress of strategic plan action plan at Appendix II of the report of the Head of Policy and Communications be noted;
- 3) That it be noted where complete data is not currently available; and
- 4) That the performance of Key Performance Indicators from Quarter 1 of 2016/17 for which data was not available at Policy and Resources Committee on 26 July 2016 be noted.

112. **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE - PLANNING SERVICE REVIEW**

The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in regard to a planned review of the Planning Service was considered which would enable continuous improvement and ensure that the service provides ongoing value for money to the Council and the end user.

Members noted that a Working Group would be set up and the service areas outlined in paragraph 2.3 of the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place would be within the scope of the review.

The working group would consist of various stakeholders pertinent to the review and were outlined in paragraph 2.5 of the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place.

RESOLVED: That it be noted that the review would commence in January 2017, to be completed with the recommendations implemented by 30th June 2017.

113. **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT - STAPLEHURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Members considered the report of the Head of Planning and Development and the Urgent Update to the report.

It was noted that the Referendum for the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Development Plan took place on 3 November 2016. The turnout for the referendum was 33.77%, with 92.56% voting 'yes' to the question: "Do you want Maidstone Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Staplehurst to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?". The total number of votes cast was 1,586, with 1,468 votes for 'yes' and 118 votes for 'no'.

Members were advised that as the outcome of the referendum was a 'yes', the Regulations require that the Council must make (adopt) the Plan as soon as reasonably practicable after the referendum.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee notes the 'yes' result of the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum of 3 November 2016; and
- (2) That the Committee recommend to Council that the Staplehurst Neighbourhood Development Plan ("the Neighbourhood Plan") is made and becomes part of the Development Plan for Maidstone.

Voting: For: 9 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

114. **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT - HEADCORN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION UPDATE**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning and Development which related to the progress on the Headcorn Neighbourhood Plan Examination.

Members were reminded of the historical difficulties of the examination of Headcorn's Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that due to the volume of consultation responses and the diversity of issues that gave concerns, the Examiner appointed to restart the halted examination, Mr Jeremy Edge, had determined that it would be beneficial to hold a hearing to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan, the issues and to allow a number of different parties to respond.

The hearing took place on 18th October and was well attended by local residents. The Examiner advised that he would need approximately three to four weeks to reach his conclusions on whether the Neighbourhood Plan would be suitable to go to referendum as it was, or whether further modifications would be required.

However, it was noted that given the significant changes suggested and agreed during the hearing, it was highly likely that a further round of consultation would need to take place before any referendum could be held.

In response to a question from a Member, the Project Manager advised that the Council would bear the costs of the Examiner. However, the Council could apply for funding for a successfully completed referendum.

RESOLVED: That the progress with the examination of Headcorn Neighbourhood Plan be noted.

115. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT - LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION UPDATE

The report of the Head of Planning and Development related to progress on the examination of the Local Plan was considered.

Members noted the issues raised in the hearings to date which included strategic matters, legal compliance and duty to co-operate, housing needs (whether the figure was too high or too low). Other issues considered were windfalls, broad locations as well as the strategic development underway in the south-east of Maidstone. The November sessions would consider in more detail the allocated sites as well as hearing from landowners and agents who would be promoting sites not currently allocated in the submitted plan.

A Visiting Member addressed the Committee to advise of the difficulties he had had in applying to speak at the hearing. It was noted that his submission had been mis-categorised as ITS, when it was for the Local Plan. Once he brought the matter to the attention of Officers, he was given a slot to speak.

Officers acknowledged that an error had occurred but gave assurances that a check had been done to ensure no other submission had been batched into the wrong category.

RESOLVED: That the update on progress with the examination of the Local Plan be noted.

116. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT - MAIDSTONE TRANSPORT OPERATORS GROUP

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning and Development on the establishment of a Maidstone Transport Operators Group.

Members expressed their concerns that the figure quoted in the report of £350 per meeting was not accurate and should be revisited. The Director of Finance and Business Improvement advised that if the cost of accommodating the meetings of the Maidstone Transport Operators Group could not be found from within existing resources, it would need to go to Policy and Resources Committee for assessment. It was also noted that there would be no capacity for a Democratic Services Officer to service these meetings.

A Member expressed his disappointment that the report had come forward at this time as he had asked for it to come in February/March next year when all the issues would have been resolved.

The Director of Regeneration and Place undertook to ensure that the resourcing issue for this Group would be covered in his report on the Planning Review.

RESOLVED: That the Committee requests the Director of Regeneration and Place to investigate, as part of his Review of Planning Services, how the Maidstone Transport Operators' Group and other similar groups could be funded and resourced.

Voting: For: 9 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

117. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 8.15 p.m.

Consolidated work programme

Theme	Title	Date
Other	Planning Performance Agreements	07-Feb-17
Completing the Local Plan	Examination of the Local Plan - Inspector's modifications	07-Feb-17
Monitoring Reports	Strategic Plan Performance Update Quarter 3	07-Feb-17
Monitoring Reports	Third Quarter Budget Monitoring	07-Feb-17
Monitoring Reports	Parking Services Annual Report	07-Feb-17
Other	Boughton Monchelsea and Linton Conservation Areas	07-Feb-17
Completing the Local Plan	Local Plan Inspector's Interim Findings	07-Feb-17
Completing the Local Plan	5 Year Housing Land Supply	11-Apr-17
Completing the Local Plan	Neighbourhood Planning Update	Jun-17
Completing the Local Plan	Enforcement	TBC
Completing the Local Plan	PDR Greensand Ridge	TBC
Completing the Local Plan	Development of Supplementary Planning Documents for the Green and Blue Infrastructure	TBC
Completing the Local Plan	Development of Supplementary Planning Documents for 2016/17	TBC
Completing the Local Plan	Implementation of rewilding initiatives	TBC
Completing the Local Plan	Local Development Updates	TBC
Completing the Local Plan	Update on Park and Ride post Sittingbourne Road Closure	TBC
Monitoring Reports	Fourth Quarter Budget Monitoring	TBC
Monitoring Reports	Strategic Plan Performance Update Quarter 4	TBC
New/ Updates to Strategies and Plans	Low Emissions Strategy	TBC
Other	Planning Support Service Options	TBC
Other	Report on committee taking part in KCC bus transport select committee	TBC

Other	Renewal of Park and Ride contract	TBC
Town Centre Regeneration	Union Street Redevelopment	TBC
Completing the Local Plan	CIL Governance arrangements	TBC
Parks and Open Spaces	Playing Pitch Strategy and Indoor Built Facilities Strategy	11-Apr-17
Parks and Open Spaces	Parks, Open Spaces, Play Areas and Nature Reserves	TBC
Town Centre Regeneration	Brunswick Street Redevelopment	TBC

STRATEGIC PLANNING SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

10th January 2017

Maidstone Borough Local Plan: Examination update

Final Decision-Maker	Strategic Planning, Sustainability & Transport Committee
Lead Head of Service	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning & Development
Lead Officer and Report Author	Sarah Anderton, Principal Planning Officer (Spatial Policy)
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

- 1 That the progress of the Local Plan Examination be noted.

This report relates to the following corporate priorities:

- Keeping Maidstone Borough an attractive place for all – the Local Plan aims to plan positively for future growth in a sustainable way and protect the borough's environmental assets
- Securing a successful economy for Maidstone Borough – the Local Plan also aims to plan positively for growth of the local economy whilst also protecting the environmental assets which make the borough such an attractive place to work.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Strategic Planning, Sustainability & Transport Committee	10 th January 2017

Maidstone Borough Local Plan: Examination update

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This is an information-only report to update the Committee on the progress with the Local Plan Examination and to provide an indication of the next steps. The Government's latest position regarding the Housing White Paper is also set out for the Committee's information.

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Examination

- 2.1 The Committee last received an update on the Local Plan Examination at its meeting on 8th November 2016. Since that report was published, the Examination has sat for a further 12 days between 8th November and 13th December inclusive. The aspects of the Local Plan which have been discussed at these hearings are;

- Rural Services Centres
- Employment policies and allocations
- Retail and mixed use development
- Yalding (the other 'Larger Villages' were debated at an earlier hearing)
- Gypsies & Travellers
- Development Management policies
- Transport and infrastructure
- Housing land supply (additional session)
- Alternative sites i.e. sites not allocated in the Local Plan which developers/landowners are promoting for inclusion
- Air quality: the Inspector held an additional session to consider whether the Local Plan includes suitable policies and monitoring arrangements to support air quality improvement. The need for the session was prompted by the High Court decision on 2nd November which determined that the national Air Quality Plan does not comply with the relevant European directive.
- Modifications: session to discuss the proposed changes to the Plan that have been put forward during the Examination process in response to the Inspector's questions and instructions.
- Monitoring indicators

Next steps

- 2.2 The Inspector has stated that he will issue 'Interim Findings' which will set out his position on key aspects of the Plan. In the Interim Findings the Inspector is likely to determine that specific 'Main Modifications' to the Plan are needed in order for him to be able to find the Plan sound. The detailed nature of the Inspector's challenges during the hearings indicate that such changes to the Plan are highly likely to be needed. In particular the Inspector has indicated that a prompt Local Plan Review will be needed to

address risks to delivery in the longer term. The Inspector is directing that this Review would need to be adopted by April 2021.

- 2.3 As part of his Interim Findings, the Inspector is also likely to request that the Council undertakes some further work prior to him reaching his final conclusions on the Plan. The Inspector has indicated that a further hearing will be held in late January/early February and it is expected that he will issue an agenda for this hearing and/or clarify its scope beforehand. Officers will prepare a report for 7th February meeting of this Committee setting out the content of the Interim Findings.
- 2.4 A further meeting will be arranged for late February focusing on the proposed Main Modifications (as known at the time) to enable the Committee to decide whether to proceed with public consultation on these Modifications. Other 'minor changes' will also be proposed which, whilst not required for soundness, are needed to update, clarify or correct the Plan. The consultation will be limited to the Main Modifications and minor changes only; it will not be an opportunity for respondents to object to other, unchanged aspects of the Plan with which they disagree.
- 2.5 The issues raised in the consultation responses will be reported back to this Committee. The Inspector will review the consultation responses and determine whether additional hearings will be required prior to him issuing his final report. Whilst the overall timetable is primarily in the Inspector's hands, it is hoped that these processes can be completed in time for the Local Plan to be adopted by May 2017.

Housing White Paper

- 2.6 The government intends to issue a Housing White Paper which will unveil its response to the Local Plans Expert Group's recommendations on speeding up and simplifying the Local Plan process, revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework, its position on Starter Homes and its proposals for a review of the Community Infrastructure Levy. Whilst the government had intended to issue the paper before the end of the 2016, it has now indicated that it will be published 'in due course', hopefully in January.
- 2.7 The Committee will be kept informed of the relevant implications.

3. AVAILABLE/PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note the progress with the Local Plan Examination.

4. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	The Local Plan is one of the key strategies that will promote delivery of the Council's Vision, Mission, Priorities and Objectives as set out in the Strategic Plan.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
Risk Management	There is a small risk relating to the outcome of the Local Plan examination, however officers are confident that the supporting evidence for the Local Plan justifies the approach. The mandate of Council was sought prior to submission.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
Financial	The Council will incur significant expenditure in the current financial year on the Local Plan examination and funds have been set aside to cover the likely costs. A detailed profile of projected costs has been drawn up and will be closely scrutinised and monitored. Securing the use of the Town Hall as opposed to an external venue has been helpful in keeping estimated expenditure lower than initial budget forecasts. Some additional, unplanned, expenditure will be incurred to facilitate the webcasting of all hearing sessions.	Mark Green, Section 151 Officer & Finance Team
Staffing	The Spatial Policy Team is sufficiently staffed to manage the examination. A detailed plan has been prepared in relation to presenting topics at the examination, making use of officers from Development Management, and also limited use of specialist consultants to defend key pieces of work.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
Legal	There are no legal implications arising from this report.	Kate Jardine, Team Leader (Planning) Mid Kent

		Legal Services
Equality Impact Needs Assessment	An EQIA was undertaken to support the Publication of the Local Plan. The webcasting of the sessions assists in reaching out to those unable to attend the Examination in person.	Anna Collier, Policy & Information Manager
Environmental/Sustainable Development	The Local Plan is founded on the principles of sustainable development and this is a golden thread that runs through the plan and supporting evidence. Specific evidence relating to environmental matters supports the Local Plan and is available as part of the evidence library.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
Community Safety	There are no specific impacts or issues.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
Human Rights Act	There are no specific impacts or issues.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
Procurement	All procurement regulations have been met and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules followed in the preparatory work for the Local Plan and its evidence.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development & Mark Green, Section 151 Officer
Asset Management	There are no specific impacts or issues.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development

5. REPORT APPENDICES

None.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Agenda Item 13

STRATEGIC PLANNING, SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

10 January 2017

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

No

Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Proposals 2017/18

Final Decision-Maker	Council
Lead Head of Service	Director of Finance and Business Improvement
Lead Officer and Report Author	Director of Finance and Business Improvement
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Agrees the budget proposals for services within the remit of this Committee as set out in Appendix B for submission to Policy and Resources Committee.

This report relates to the following corporate priorities:

The medium term financial strategy and the budget are a re-statement in financial terms of the priorities set out in the strategic plan. They reflect the Council's decisions on the allocation of resources to all objectives of the strategic plan.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee	10 January 2017
Policy and Resources Committee	15 February 2017
Council	1 March 2017

Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Proposals 2017/18

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report forms part of the annual process of updating the Medium Term Financial Strategy and setting a budget for the coming financial year. It sets out details of revenue budget proposals for this committee for the year 2017/18 and the remainder of the five year medium term strategy planning period.
- 1.2 Relevant details from the Chancellor's Autumn Statement and the Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18 are reported below. Local government funding is now based on a four year settlement covering the years 2016/17 to 2019/20, details of which have now been confirmed for 2017/18. The relevant information relating to Maidstone is incorporated in this report. Any further announcements relating to local government funding will be reported to Members at the earliest opportunity.

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 21 September 2016, Council agreed a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Efficiency Plan for the next five years. This sought to deliver the Council's corporate objectives and key priorities within the relevant financial parameters:
- The government's four year funding settlement to local authorities
 - Assumptions about the economic context, capacity to generate income, and service pressures.
- 2.2 The MTFS identified a budget gap by the end of the five year period of £4.2 million. Accordingly, it set out a strategy for addressing this. Given the size of the budget gap, it was recognised that no single initiative could be expected to close it. A broader, cross-cutting approach was necessary.
- 2.3 Budget proposals were put forward, based on a blend of different approaches. These ideas have now been further developed and are set out in appendix B. The following table sets out the generic approaches taken and the amounts contributed by each for this committee.

Table 1: Budget proposals by category

	£000
Efficiency savings	95
Increased income	299
Transformation and business improvements	135
Service reductions	103
Total	632

- 2.4 These proposals help to allow the budget gap to be closed in the short term. However, across the Council, budget savings proposals do not deliver the entire amount required. It was therefore recognised when developing the MTFS that choices would need to be made about the areas of focus when seeking further savings. This was expressed in the form of a choice between services:

MUST - essential to the Council

SHOULD - important and its absence would weaken the Council

COULD - useful but the Council is still viable without it

WON'T - not essential and can wait for now

It was also recognised that the standard of service, both current and desired, would have a bearing on costs. The desired standard of service could be categorised as gold, silver or bronze.

This approach was used to inform a budget consultation, the results of which are set out below. Residents were asked to rank services in order of importance, and to say whether they wanted the same amount of money spent on them, less money, or none at all.

Chancellor's Autumn Statement

- 2.5 Following the formation of a new government in the summer of 2016, details about its economic policy remained unclear at the time that Council considered the MTFS. The MTFS described the economic outlook as highly uncertain, making it vital that financial plans be developed that were robust and capable of withstanding shocks.
- 2.6 The Chancellor's Autumn Statement has now provided more information about the government's position. Faced with lower than expected tax receipts and more pessimistic projections about economic growth from the Office of Budget Responsibility, the Chancellor has moved away from his predecessor's commitment to achieve a balanced budget by 2020. Public debt is now expected to continue rising, peaking at 90% in 2017/18, before starting to fall.
- 2.7 Existing spending plans continue broadly the same as previously. The government says it remains committed to the departmental spending plans set out in Spending Review 2015. It has reaffirmed its commitment to identify a further £3.5 billion of savings from public spending in 2019/20 following an Efficiency Review. This equates to around 1% of departmental spending, but given that budgets for health, education, defence and overseas aid will continue to be protected, this places a large burden on remaining budgets. The Efficiency Review will report on progress in autumn 2017.
- 2.8 The Chancellor placed a high emphasis on plans for investing in infrastructure. A number of initiatives were grouped together under the banner of a £23 billion National Productivity Infrastructure Fund.

- 2.9 Of particular interest, given the Council's housing responsibilities, were the announcements about investment in housing. 100,000 new homes in high demand areas are to be funded by £2.3bn housing infrastructure funding. This funding will be allocated to local government on a competitive basis. The funding amounts to £23,000 per home and the government says it will unlock new private house building in the areas where housing need is greatest. A forthcoming White Paper will set out the details. £1.4bn of funding was also announced for new affordable homes to deliver an additional 40,000 housing starts.
- 2.10 The government will award £1.8 billion to Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) across England through a third round of Growth Deals. £556 million pounds of this will go to the north of England, £392 million to the Midlands, £151 million to the East of England, £492 million to London and the South East, and £191 million to the South West. This equates to £27.90 per head of population for London and the South East compared with £37.60 per head for the Midlands, which is the most generously funded region on the basis of population.
- 2.11 The Government will consult on lending local authorities up to £1 billion at a new local infrastructure rate of gilts plus 60 basis points for three years to support infrastructure projects that are high value for money. This represents an interest rate saving of 20 basis points (0.2 per cent) on the rate typically paid currently by local authorities when borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board.
- 2.12 The Chancellor announced investment of £170 million in flood defence and resilience measures. £20 million of this investment will be for new flood defence schemes, £50 million for rail resilience projects and £100 million to improve the resilience of roads to flooding. To put these sums into context, it is estimated that the proposed new Leigh flood barrier in Kent will cost £25 million alone.
- 2.13 The Chancellor announced that the government remains committed to devolving powers to support local areas and that it will continue to work towards a second devolution deal with the West Midlands Combined Authority and will begin talks on future transport funding with Greater Manchester. It will give mayoral combined authorities powers to borrow for their new functions, which is intended to allow them to invest in economically productive infrastructure, subject to agreeing a borrowing cap with HM Treasury.
- 2.14 The government's commitment to existing spending plans echoes the commitment to a four year funding settlement to local authorities, covering the years 2016/17 to 2019/20. This continued the trend of reduced central government funding for local authorities, which dates back to 2010. This is supported by the formal confirmation that Maidstone Borough Council has now received from the government that we will receive the allocations published for the remaining three years of the four year settlement, 'barring exceptional circumstances'.
- 2.15 For Maidstone, this means that we will receive no Revenue Support Grant (RSG) in 2017/18 and 2018/19 and will be subject to a 'tariff adjustment',

in other words negative RSG, of £1.6 million in 2019/20. The table below sets out details of the funding settlement for Maidstone.

Table 2: Settlement Funding Assessment

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
RSG	2.3	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Baseline Funding Level (see note)	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2
Tariff adjustment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.6
Total Maidstone	5.2	3.9	3.0	3.1	1.6
Total England	21,249.9	18,601.5	16,621.6	15,536.0	14,499.7

Note: Baseline Funding Level represents the amount of funding assumed by government to be collected via retained business rates.

- 2.16 The four year funding settlement runs to 2019/20. From 2020/21 the system will change, with local authorities nominally retaining 100% of business rates collected locally. As with the current regime, where 50% of business rates are retained locally, the new system will incorporate a mechanism for rates equalisation. This is likely to mean that only a fraction of the 100% will in practice be retained by the Council.
- 2.17 The additional income from 100% business rates retention will also be accompanied by devolution of further responsibilities to local government. The government has consulted about this but has not yet announced any decisions. There is a risk that the devolution of further responsibilities will have cost implications for the Council and this is recognised in the financial projections underlying the five year MTFS.

New Homes Bonus

- 2.18 New Homes Bonus forms a significant source of income for the Council. The Government distributes over £1 billion of grant in this form, based on increases in the local housing stock. Maidstone is due to receive £5.1 million in New Homes Bonus in 2016/17. Council has agreed that this will be allocated to fund the capital programme.
- 2.19 The draft Local Government Finance Settlement, published on 15 December 2016, contained proposals for changes in the way New Homes Bonus is paid. Up until now, New Homes Bonus has been paid for six years after a new home is built. From 2017/18, it will only be paid for five years, and from 2018/19 for four years. Additionally, the bonus will only be paid on housing growth in excess of 0.4%. (Growth in Maidstone has averaged around 1% in recent years). The money from cutting New Homes Bonus will be used to create a fund to support Adult Social Care. The impact on Maidstone's New Homes Bonus income, as compared with the projected amounts, will be a reduction of around £750,000 in 2017/18 and an ongoing reduction of around £1.5 million per annum in subsequent years. This means that Maidstone will have less funding for the Capital Programme.

Updates to Strategic Revenue Projections

- 2.20 The MTFS set out a number of assumptions underlying the financial projections. These can now be further refined.

Council Tax

- 2.21 For planning purposes the MTFS assumes an annual increase £4.95 per annum in Maidstone's share of the Council Tax, reverting to 2% in 2020/21 when this becomes a greater figure than £4.95.
- 2.22 Total Council Tax is a product of the tax base and the level of tax set by Council. The tax base is a value derived from the number of chargeable residential properties within the borough and their band, which is based on valuation ranges, adjusted by all discounts and exemptions. The tax base for 2016/17 was set at 58,525.40. The MTFS originally assumed an increase of 1% in the Council Tax Base in 2017/18. Given what we now know about the actual number of new dwellings, this increase has now been revised up to 1.3%.
- 2.23 The tax base for 2017/18 must be set by 31 January 2017, based on data extracted from the Council Tax records in mid-October 2016 and the decision of Council in December 2016 about arrangements for Council Tax Support in 2017/18. The projections set out in Appendix A are based on this decision, which will result in a reduction in the cost of the Council Tax Support Scheme of approximately £60,000.
- 2.24 Finally, the amount to be contributed from the Collection Fund to the Council's General Fund each year in respect of Council Tax is subject to an adjustment, based on whether the previous year's projections were over- or under-stated. As reported to Policy and Resources Committee on 23 November 2016, there is an additional £53,000 to be taken into account in respect of the expected closing surplus for 2016/17.

Business rates

- 2.25 The Government intends to introduce changes to business rates retention by 2020/21, following on from the end of the proposed four year settlement. Policy and Resources Committee considered the proposals put forward in the Government's consultation at its meeting on 7th September 2016 and the Council has submitted a response.
- 2.26 The proposals include 100% local retention of business rates along with a series of additional responsibilities and a realignment of the shares of business rates received by each tier of local government. As with the current 50% localisation of business rates, the proposal for 100% localisation will mean substantially less than that amount being made available to Maidstone Council with the vast majority of the resource being redistributed elsewhere within local government. The Council can also expect to lose other specific grants such as Housing Benefit Administration Grant and potentially receive additional responsibilities.

- 2.27 The strategic revenue projections for 2020/21 and 2021/22 assume that the impact of 100% retention and the adjusted redistribution by tier will mean that any change in the Council's baseline business rates would be offset by the cost of acquiring additional responsibilities, so no change is assumed in net business rates income.
- 2.28 There is a risk that the impact of additional responsibilities will create additional growth pressures on the budget, so an estimate of the likely financial impact is included in the financial projections.

Business rates growth and the Kent Business Rates Pool

- 2.29 As a member of the Kent Business Rates Pool the council has the ability to retain more of the income from growth in business rates than it otherwise would. This is because the pool members who are charged a levy (district councils) are sheltered by the pool members who receive a top-up (major preceptors). Under a specific agreement made between Maidstone Borough Council and KCC in 2014/15 and across Kent in 2015/16, the additional benefit is shared with Kent County Council. The shares and their value for the two years the scheme has been in operation are set out below.

Table 3: Distribution of the Kent Business Rates Pool

		2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	Estimate 2016/17 £000
Maidstone Borough Council	30%	144	31	350
Kent County Council	30%	144	31	350
Growth Fund	30%	144	31	350
Contingency	10%	48	10	120
Total	100%	480	109	1170

- 2.30 It should be noted that the figure for 2015/16 was less than estimated. This is due to one of the high risk factors of locally retained business rates, which is that the Council saw a higher than expected level of appeals for which a provision was required in 2015/16. The high proportion of business rates assessments that are appealed makes business rates income highly volatile and means that a degree of caution must be applied when considering whether business rates income is sustainable and can therefore be treated as regular, recurring income for the purposes of setting a budget.
- 2.31 Previously the Council held the income from growth in reserve and committed it in the year following its receipt. This meant that the resources were not yet committed and the Council had an opportunity to modify its plans for using the resources depending on how much became available. In setting the 2016/17 budget the Council approved the use of £1.176 million, being the projected income from the 50% of business rates growth which is retained by the Council, regardless of whether or not it is a member of the pool, into its base budget. Given the volatility of business rates income, as outlined above, there was a degree of risk in

doing this. However, to date, projections for business rates in 2016/17 indicate that this income will be realised.

Local income from fees and charges

- 2.32 The Council has a policy that guides officers and councillors to set the appropriate level of fees and charges based on demand, affordability and external factors. The policy is not influenced directly by the MTFS with the exception that charges should be maximised within the limits of the policy.
- 2.33 In developing the Strategic Revenue Projections a broad assumption of a 1% increase in future fees and charges has been included in the MTFS. Details of specific changes in fees and charges are included in a report elsewhere on your agenda. The net effects of these charges are accounted for as new budget proposals and included in Appendix B under the category of 'increased income'.

Service Pressures

2.34 Housing

Developments in the housing market have created very significant budget pressures for the Council. Homeless households in temporary accommodation have increased in number, with a corresponding increase in costs, leading to a projected £500,000 overspend against the temporary accommodation budget in 2016/17. The Council aims to reduce the cost of providing temporary accommodation through direct investment in property, which avoids the cost of expensive third party accommodation, and through ensuring a rapid turnaround of homelessness cases. Details are set out in a report to the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee at its meeting on 14th December 2016. There will nevertheless be a continued short term impact on budget from the Council meeting its homelessness obligations and this is reflected in the Strategic Revenue Projections.

2.35 Planning

The Council submitted a draft Local Plan in May 2016. This involved significant one-off costs. Normal ongoing revenue costs in the Planning Service have also been running ahead of budget. The Local Plan has been subject to an Inspector's Hearing in Autumn 2016 and a review has been commissioned that will address how the service is structured in the future. It is hoped that this will allow the service to deliver savings in due course but realistically these are unlikely to materialise until 2018/19.

Summary

- 2.36 As a result of the various updates to the Strategic Revenue Projections, the forecast budget gap, before taking into account any budget proposals, has now reduced slightly from £4.2 million to £4 million. This is shown in summary below and in more detail in Appendix A.

Table 4: Updated Strategic Revenue Projections

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
RSG	0	0	-1.6	-1.6	-1.6
Council Tax	14.7	15.1	15.5	16.0	16.5
Business Rates	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5
Other Income	16.8	16.9	17.0	17.0	17.1
Total Income	35.7	36.3	35.3	35.9	36.5
Total Expenditure	-37.2	-37.7	-38.1	-40.0	-40.5
Budget Gap (Cumulative)	-1.5	-1.4	-2.8	-4.1	-4.0

Budget Proposals

- 2.37 Officers have developed the plans set out in the MTFS and Efficiency Plan, approved by Council in September 2016. As previously, the approach has been to manage the overall risk of non-delivery of savings by adopting a blended approach, incorporating:

- efficiency savings
- income generation
- transformation and business improvement.

'Transformation and business improvement' can be distinguished from efficiency savings because, rather than simply seeking to carry out the same activities at lower cost, it aims to achieve the same outcomes, but in a different way. Service reductions are included within the budget proposals but remain a last resort.

- 2.38 Details of the revenue budget proposals for this committee are set out in Appendix B. Members have been briefed informally on these budget proposals.

The proposals may be summarised as follows for this committee and for Council as a whole.

Table 5: Budget Proposals

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Strategic Planning, Sustainability & Transportation	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.6
ALL COMMITTEES	1.5	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.0	3.2

It can be seen that cumulative savings of only £3.2 million have been identified as compared with the budget gap of £4 million. However, the savings, if adopted, would allow a balanced budget to be set in 2017/18, since the budget gap of £1.5 million is covered by proposed savings of £1.5 million. Further work will be required to identify means of closing the budget gap over the five year period of the MTFS as a whole.

- 2.39 There are no capital budget proposals to be considered by this Committee for the five year planning period 2017/18 – 2021/22.
- 2.40 Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee is now asked specifically to consider those proposals that affect services within its remit. The remaining proposals will be considered by the relevant Service Committees in January 2017.

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Committee must recommend a balanced budget and a proposed level of Council Tax at its meeting on 15th February 2017. The recommendations in this report allow the budget proposals relating to this Committee to be agreed for submission to Policy and Resources Committee.
- 3.2 Alternatively, the Committee may decide not to make any decisions at this time.
- 3.3 Any changes to the financial projections, such as those arising from unforeseen service pressures or further government announcements, will be reported to the Policy & Resources Committee on 15th February 2017 or earlier if possible.

4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The preferred option is that the Committee agrees the proposals relating to it.

5. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 5.1 Each year the council as part of the development of the Strategic Plan and MTFS carries out consultation on the priorities and spending of the council.
- 5.2 Consultation on the budget in Autumn 2016 took the form of a short survey. Residents were asked to prioritise ten areas of spending and then to consider whether the spending for those ten areas should remain the same, be reduced or cut altogether. The survey could be accessed both as a paper document or on-line via the Council's website. It was promoted through face to face budget roadshows at a wide range of venues around the borough, in the Kent Messenger and in a range of other media.

- 5.3 The results of the consultation are set out in Appendix C. Members may wish to take these findings into account as further savings proposals are developed that will close the remaining budget gap of £0.8 million.

6. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 6.1 Individual Service Committees are currently receiving reports setting out details of the budget proposals affecting their areas. The outcomes of the Service Committee meetings and further wider budget consultation will be reported back to the Policy and Resources Committee on 15th February 2017.

7. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	The Medium Term Financial Strategy and the budget are a re-statement in financial terms of the priorities set out in the strategic plan. They reflect the Council's decisions on the allocation of resources to all objectives of the strategic plan.	Director of Finance and Business Improvement
Risk Management	Matching resources to priorities in the context of the significant pressure on the Council's resources is a major strategic risk. Specific risks are set out in the relevant sections of the report. Where the Committee is concerned about a specific risk it is possible to modify the strategic revenue projection prior to its approval.	Director of Finance and Business Improvement
Financial	The budget strategy and the MTFS impact upon all activities of the Council. The future availability of resources to address specific issues is planned through this process. It is important that the committee gives consideration to the strategic financial consequences of the recommendations in this report.	Director of Finance and Business Improvement
Staffing	The process of developing the budget strategy will identify the	Director of Finance and

	level of resources available for staffing over the medium term.	Business Improvement
Legal	The Council has a statutory obligation to set a balanced budget and development of the MTFS and the strategic revenue projection in the ways set out in this report supports achievement of a balanced budget.	Director of Finance and Business Improvement
Equality Impact Needs Assessment	The report sets out a policy that will have a positive impact as it will enhance the lives of all members of the community through the provision of resources to core services. In addition it will affect particular groups within the community. It will achieve this through the focus of resources into areas of need as identified in the Council's strategic priorities.	Director of Finance and Business Improvement
Environmental/Sustainable Development	The resources to achieve the Council's objectives are allocated through the development of the Medium term Financial Strategy.	Director of Finance and Business Improvement
Community Safety	The resources to achieve the Council's objectives are allocated through the development of the Medium term Financial Strategy.	Director of Finance and Business Improvement
Human Rights Act	None	
Procurement	The resources to achieve the Council's objectives are allocated through the development of the Medium term Financial Strategy.	Director of Finance and Business Improvement
Asset Management	Resources available for asset management are contained within the strategic revenue projections set out in this report.	Director of Finance and Business Improvement

8. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix A: Updated Strategic Revenue Projections 2017/18 – 2021/22

- Appendix B: Budget Proposals 2017/18 to 2021/22 - Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee
 - Appendix C: Results of Budget Consultation
-

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Council, 21.9.16, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Efficiency Plan
HM Treasury, Chancellor's Autumn Statement 23.11.16 Department for
Communities and Local Government, Provisional 2017/18 Local Government
Finance Settlement.

APPENDIX A
REVENUE ESTIMATE 2017/18 TO 2021/22
RECOMMENDED STRATEGIC REVENUE PROJECTIONS

2016/17 £,000		2017/18 £,000	2018/19 £,000	2019/20 £,000	2020/21 £,000	2021/22 £,000
AVAILABLE FINANCE						
870	REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT	0	0	0	0	0
2,983	RETAINED BUSINESS RATES (BR)	3,042	3,132	3,232	3,297	3,324
1,321	BR GROWTH	1,176	1,176	1,176	1,176	1,176
	BUSINESS RATES ADJUSTMENT			-1,589	-1,621	-1,634
169	COLLECTION FUND ADJUSTMENT	56				
14,085	COUNCIL TAX	14,634	15,073	15,525	15,991	16,471
19,428	BUDGET REQUIREMENT	18,908	19,381	18,344	18,843	19,337
14,214	OTHER INCOME	16,765	16,905	16,975	17,045	17,115
33,642	TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	35,673	36,286	35,319	35,888	36,452
EXPECTED SERVICE SPEND						
34,347	CURRENT SPEND	36,118	35,673	36,181	35,211	35,775
	INFLATION INCREASES					
730	PAY, NI & INFLATION INCREASES	549	400	404	408	412
	NATIONAL INITIATIVES					
100	LOSS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANT	25	100			
50	PENSION DEFICIT FUNDING	0	60	60	150	150
	ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES				1,288	11
	LOCAL PRIORITIES					
74	HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION	7				
42	SHARED PLANNING SUPPORT	14				
	MAIDSTONE HOUSE RENT INCREASE		40	40		
30	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STAFFING					
150	TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION	200	-200			
	REPLACE CONTINGENCY	200				
87	MK LEGAL SERVICES GROWTH					
25	MUSEUM	50	50			
40	STAFFING CHANGES					
	MINOR INITIATIVES					
	GROWTH PROVISION	50	50	50	50	50
35,675	TOTAL PREDICTED REQUIREMENT	37,213	36,173	36,735	37,107	36,398
2,033	SAVINGS REQUIRED	1,540	-113	1,416	1,219	-54
0	CUMULATIVE SAVINGS REQUIRED	1,540	1,427	2,843	4,062	4,008

Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Proposals 2017/18

Appendix B – Budget Proposals 2017/18 to 2021/22 for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee

**Budget Proposals
2017/18 - 2021/22**

APPENDIX B

Service	Proposal	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	Total	Category
Development Control Applications	Savings arising from Planning Review including income generation		120				120	Income, Transform
Development Control Appeals	Reduction following adoption of local plan		40				40	Reduction
Planning Policy	Following conclusion of local plan work, reduction in staff levels based on Planning Review	45	50				95	Efficiency
Building Regulations Chargeable	Increased income recovery on chargeable services	25					25	Income
Planning Support	Increase in shared service income - planning	14					14	Income
Pay & Display Car Parks	Net increase in income	100			100		200	Income
Park & Ride	Potential opportunity to re-specify service and deliver at reduced cost.			75			75	Reduction
Grants to outside bodies	Remove grants as part of voluntary sector grants reduction strategy		16	16	16	15	63	Reduction
Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation		184	226	91	116	15	632	

2016

Budget Consultation



Clare Harvey

MBC

12/14/2016

Budget Consultation 2016

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Budget Consultation 2016

Introduction and Methodology

Maidstone Borough Council undertook a consultation with residents and visitors on the Budget for 2017/18 between 7 October and 20 November 2016. The theme for the event was ***'Your services, you decide'*** with the aim of getting as many people across the borough as possible to think about what services they most value.

The objectives of the research were:

- To identify which services we deliver are a priority to our residents.
- To identify what approach to funding these services residents think we should take.

Paper copies of the survey were available at roadshows that were held around the borough and an online version survey was emailed to residents that have signed up for the Consultation Mailing List and was made available on the Council's consultation webpages. The online survey was also promoted through our social media channels.

A total of 140 surveys were completed during the roadshows and a further 786 surveys were completed online by the residents who either received notification of the survey through our mailing list or clicked on the links advertising the consultation on social media.

This provides the results with a 95% confidence level and a 3.2% error rate. This means that if we run to the survey again, 95 times out of 100 the results would be within +/-3.2% of the original survey results.

Data was weighted to counteract nonresponse bias. The weighting profile was based on 2011 census for age and ethnicity within gender in relation to borough population.

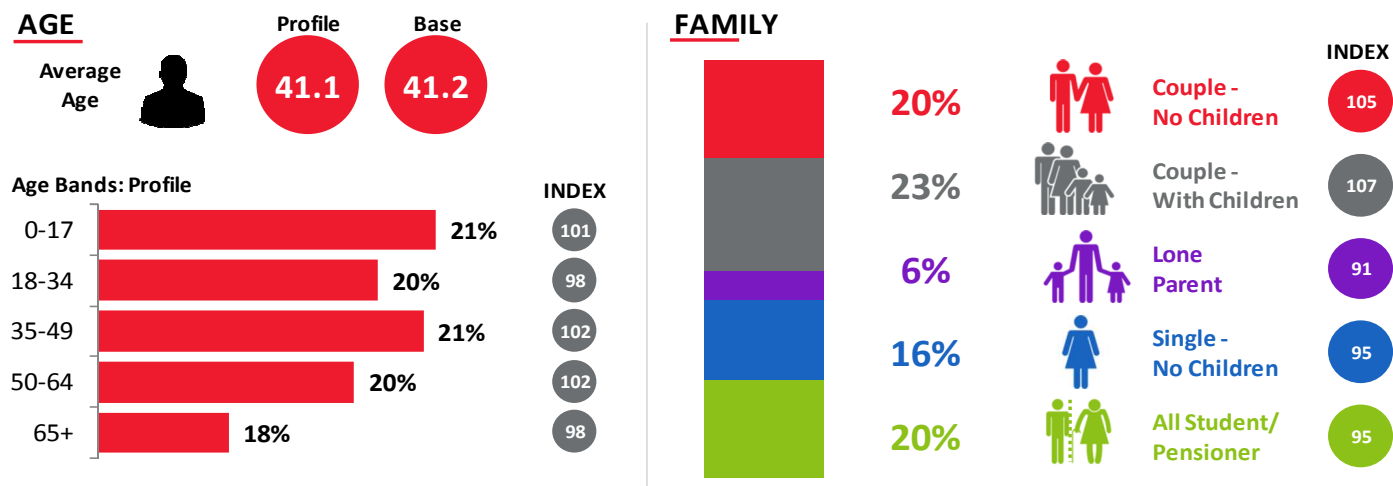
Locations of the ten Budget Roadshows

- Roseacre Junior School, Bearsted
- Vestry Hall, High Street, Marden
- Yalding Farmers' Market, High Street, Yalding
- Mid Kent Shopping Centre, Allington
- Oakwood Park Grammar School
- Longmeadow Hall, Headcorn
- The Mall, Maidstone (2 days)
- North Hall, Staplehurst
- Sutton Valence Village Hall

Budget Consultation 2016

Respondent Profile

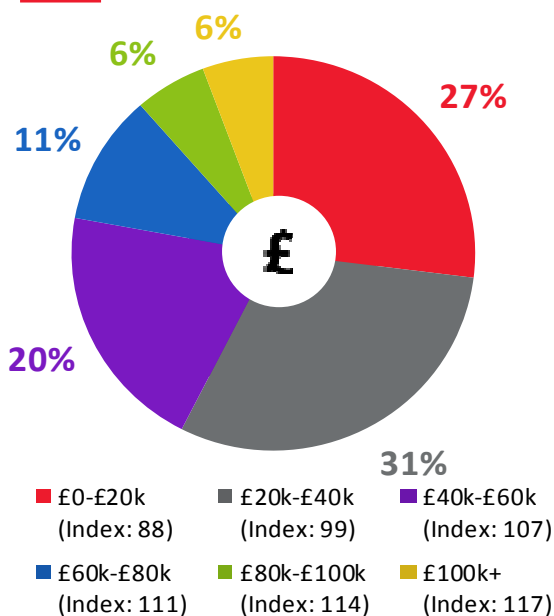
Maidstone Borough Council uses the customer classification index, Acorn. The index segments households using postcode data to gain additional insight about our residents and can help us in identifying why trends occur and how best to reach specific audiences. The following graphics show the acorn profile for the residents responding to the Budget 2016 survey. The base is all Maidstone households. An index of 100 shows that the proportion in this group is in line with the base, over 100 shows above average representation and under 100 shows under representation.



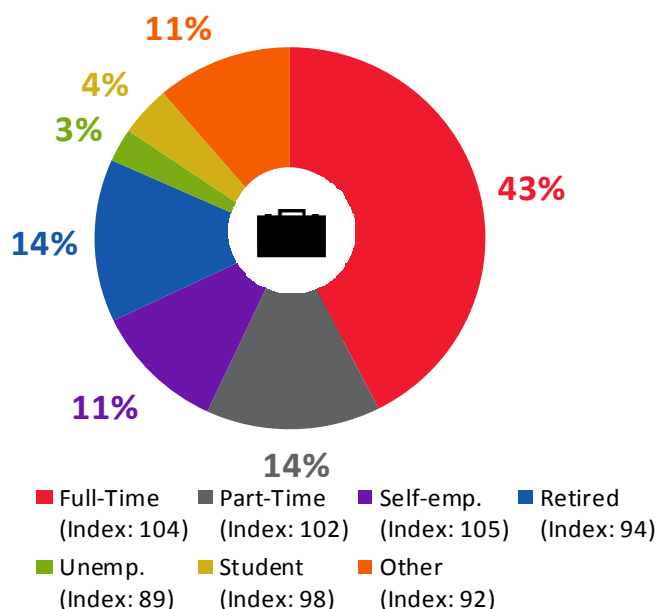
The above graphic shows that the distribution of respondents across the age bands are broadly consistent with that of Maidstone overall. However, it also shows that households containing couples are over-represented and the remaining family types are under-represented when compared to Maidstone's general population. This is also the same for housing types for this group which shows that the proportion of respondents in terraces and semi-detached properties aligns with Maidstone overall and that households in bungalows, which are generally occupied by old households are under-represented.

The graphics below show that households with higher incomes are over-represented and that the majority of households are in work. This tallies with the other information we have about the respondents benefit claimants are under-represented and this group are 6% more likely than average to have a degree or higher degree.

INCOME

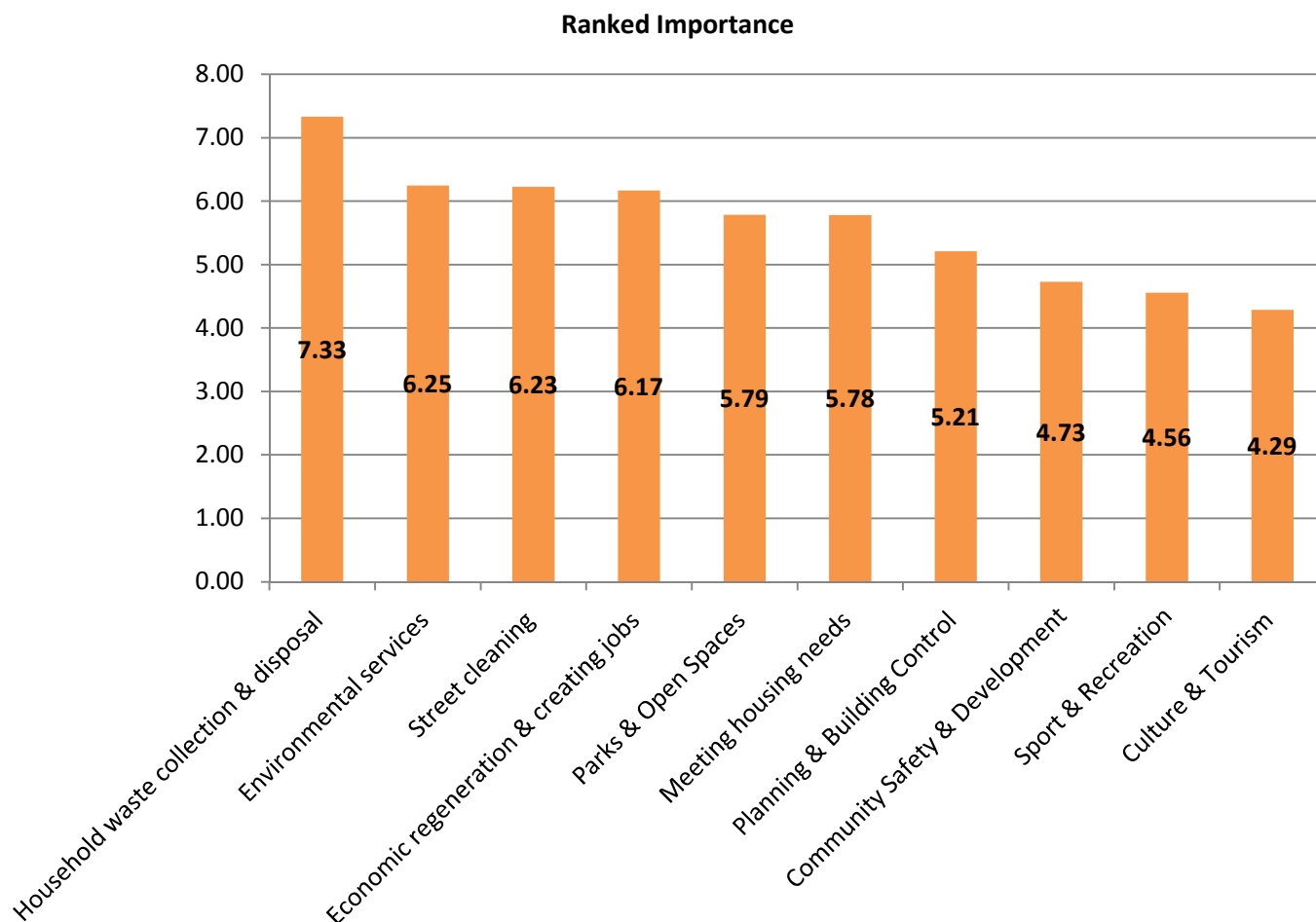


EMPLOYMENT



Budget Consultation 2016

Overall rating of front facing services which are important



Household waste collection and disposal received the highest rating when residents were asked to place a list of ten services in order of importance with 7.33. Culture & Tourism received the lowest rating at 4.29.

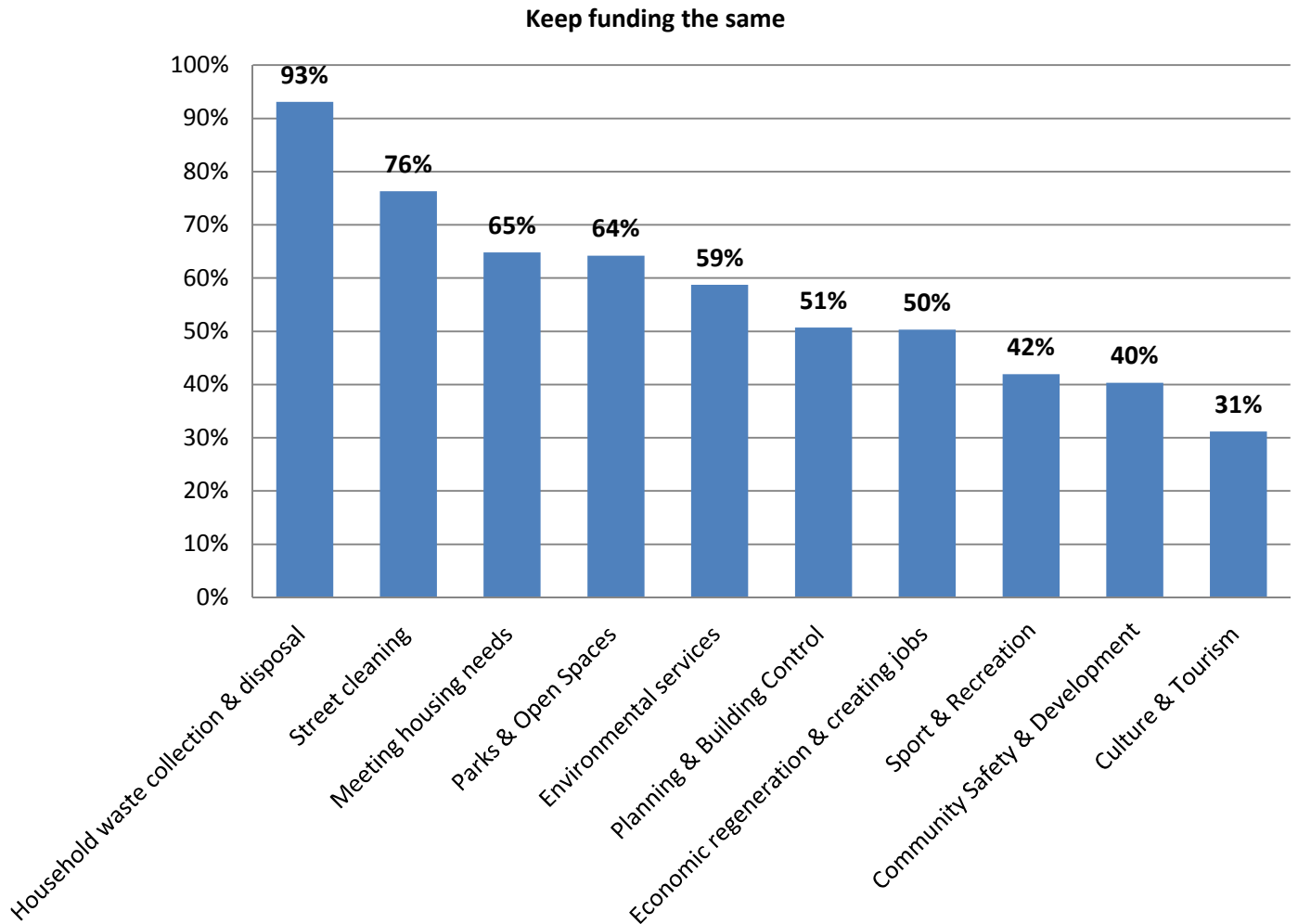
Whilst Household waste collection and disposal was clearly the top service in terms of importance there was very little difference in the ratings given to the services that were placed in second, third and fourth – Environmental Services, Street Cleaning and Economic regeneration & creating jobs.

In the resident survey 2015 Street cleaning is the third most important aspect (out of 20 categories) in making somewhere a good place to live (top if we only consider services delivered by MBC), considering there was no comparable aspect that covered waste and environmental services in the resident survey this shows some consistency between how important residents feel street cleaning is.

Sport and recreation is 9th in the budget survey for importance and in the resident survey it was 19th (note: there was no comparable aspect for culture and tourism and that the aspect that was last in the resident survey, race relations, is not specifically a service) showing consistency between these two surveys.

Budget Consultation 2016

Sustain, Reduce or Cut?



The graph above shows the proportion of respondents that wanted to retain existing funding ('Funding kept the same') for the ten services. Household waste collection and disposal was the service which had the greatest support at 93%. Culture and tourism had the lowest proportion that said funding should be kept the same at 31% this aligns with the importance ratings.

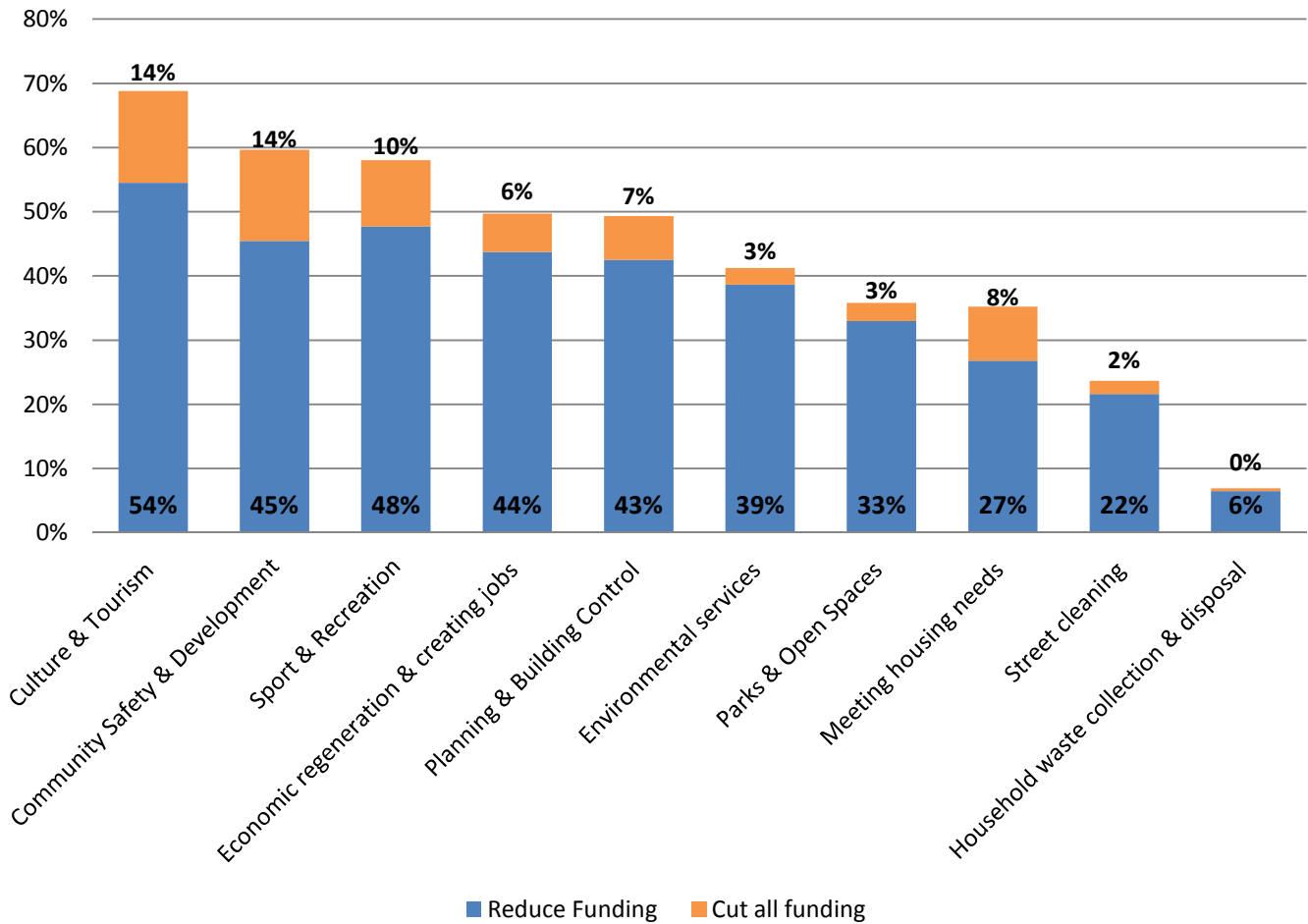
Generally we would expect the results of this question to follow the same or a closely aligned trajectory as the overall ranking and while this is true for the polar ends of the data range, there are some anomalies.

A greater proportion of respondents said that they wanted to keep the same level of funding for street cleaning (which is 3rd in importance) than did for Environmental Services (which is 2nd most important).

In addition a greater proportion of respondents said that they wanted to keep the same level of funding for Parks and Open Spaces and Housing Needs than did for Economic regeneration & creating jobs (which is 4th most important).

Budget Consultation 2016

Reduce or Cut Funding?



Culture and Tourism have the greatest proportion of respondents overall that said Funding should be reduced or Cut altogether at 68%. This is made up of 14% that said Cut all funding and 54% that it should be reduced. With this service area being ranked lowest in importance this result is not surprising. In addition as Household Waste Collection and Disposal was rated as the most important service it is as expected, with minimal support for reducing or cutting funding for this service.

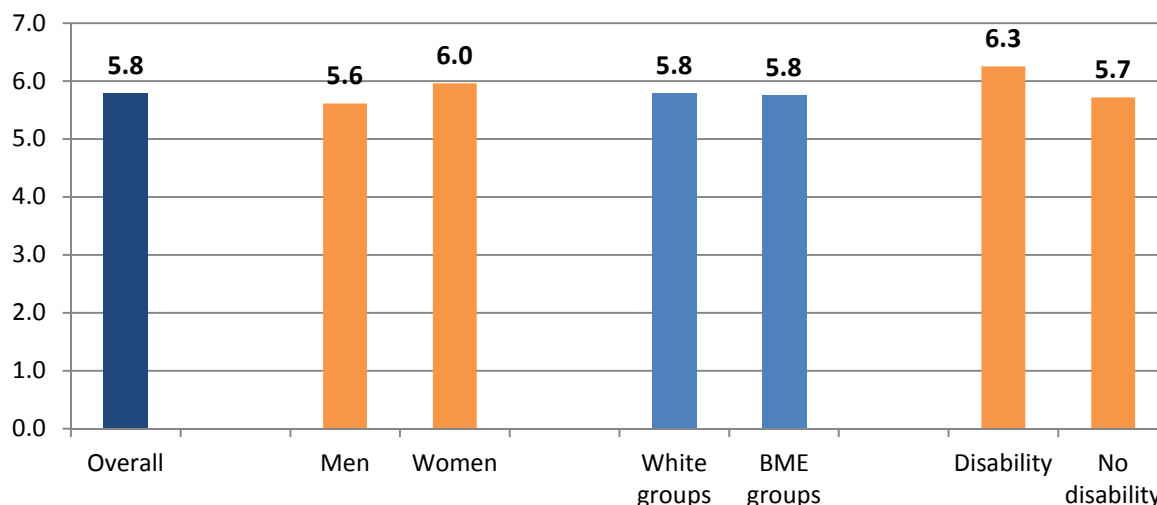
Overall, 59% of respondents said that funding should be reduced or cut for Community Safety and Development and 58% said the same Sports and Recreation. This is interesting as Sports and Recreation had a lower priority ranking than Community Safety and Development and there is a greater proportion saying to cut all funding for Community Safety and Development than for Sport and Recreation.

Environmental Services was second and Street Cleaning was third in terms of importance however these two have moved places when looking at the reduce and cut funding approaches, with Street Cleaning having the second lowest overall proportion saying reduce or cut funding and Meeting Housing Needs the third lowest.

Budget Consultation 2016

Meeting housing needs (including providing affordable homes and helping homeless people)

Q1 Importance - key groups

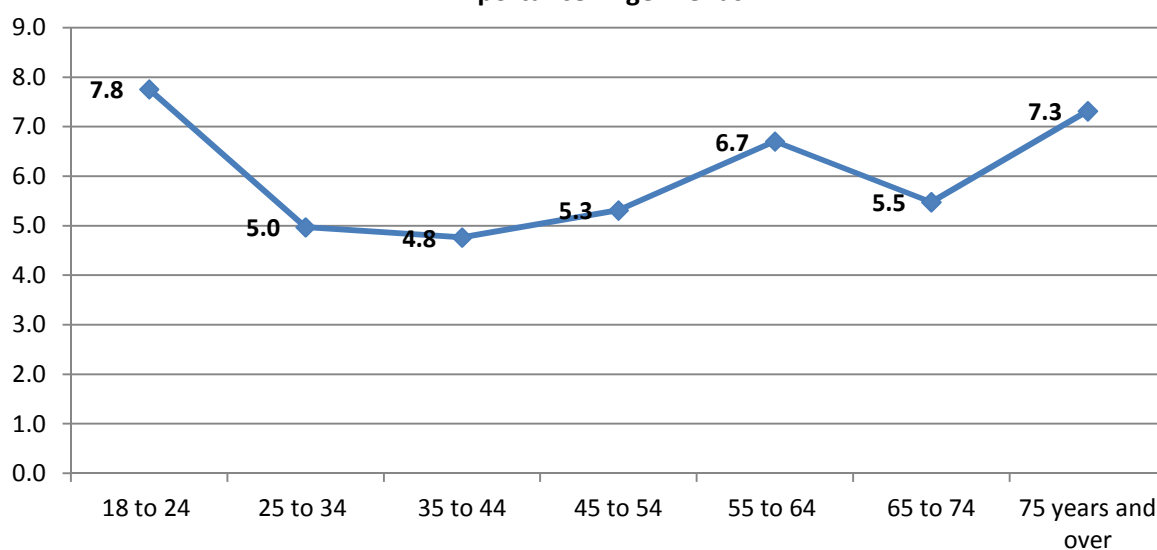


Overall, meeting housing needs (including providing affordable homes and helping homeless people) achieved a ranking of 5.8 which was the sixth most important service when assessed against the other services that were part of the consultation.

Whilst there is only a minor difference in relation to ethnicity these are consistent with the overall ranking. The graph above shows that women and those with a disability were more likely than averages to rank this service higher.

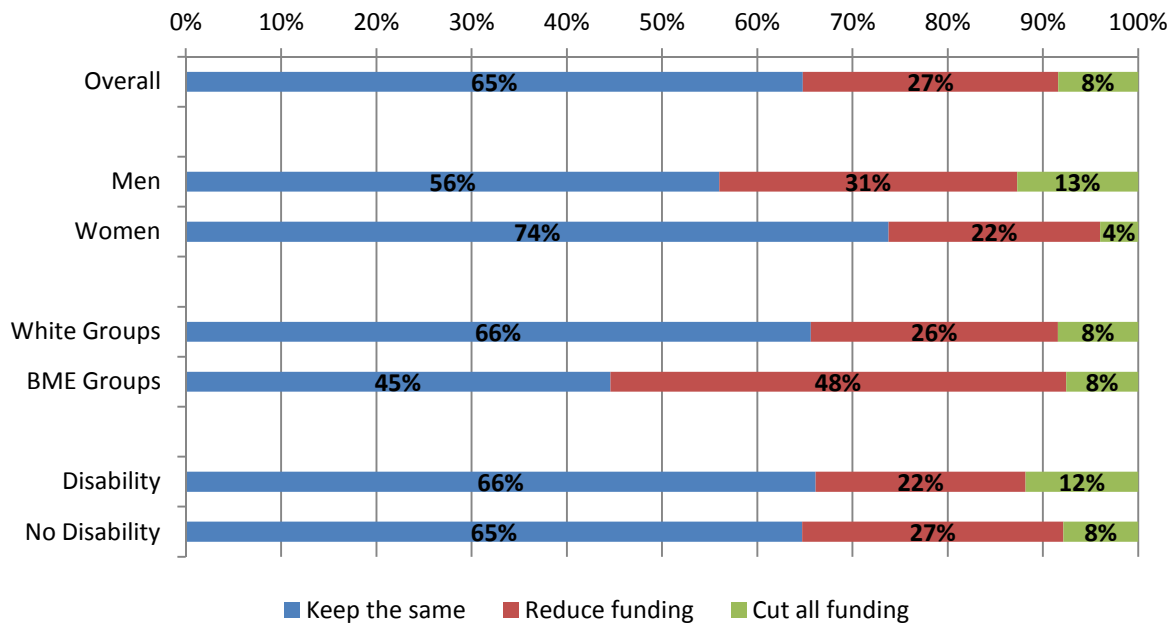
The age trend graph below shows that Housing needs is more important to respondents in the youngest and the oldest age groupings. This aligns with the funding approach on the following page which shows these two age groups have the greatest proportion of respondent that said the funding for Housing needs should remain the same.

Importance - Age Trends



Budget Consultation 2016

Funding Approach - Key Groups

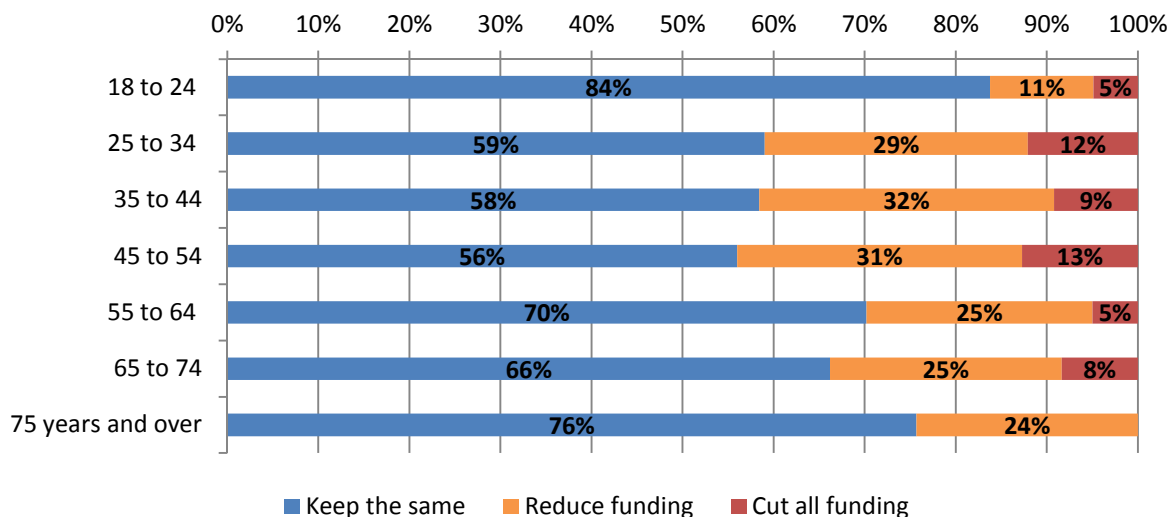


The majority of respondents (65%) were in favour of keeping the current funding levels the same for Housing Needs. When the proportion of respondents saying keep the funding the same is assessed across all services Housing needs has the third greatest proportion.

The previous page shows little to no difference in ranking of importance for this service between respondents from white groups and those from BME groups there is however significant difference in the proportion responding keep the same (21%) and reduce funding (22%).

Despite there being a 0.6 difference in the ranking for respondents with a disability and those without there is less than a 5% difference between these groups in relation to funding approach.

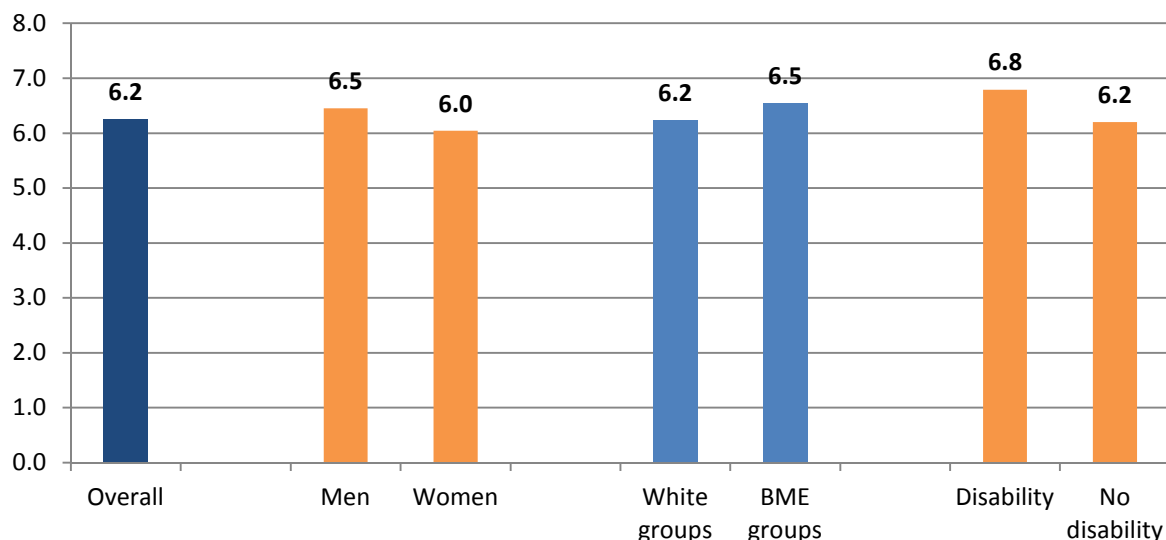
Funding Approach - Age Trends



Budget Consultation 2016

Environmental services (includes enforcement, noise and pollution control and food hygiene)

Q1 Importance

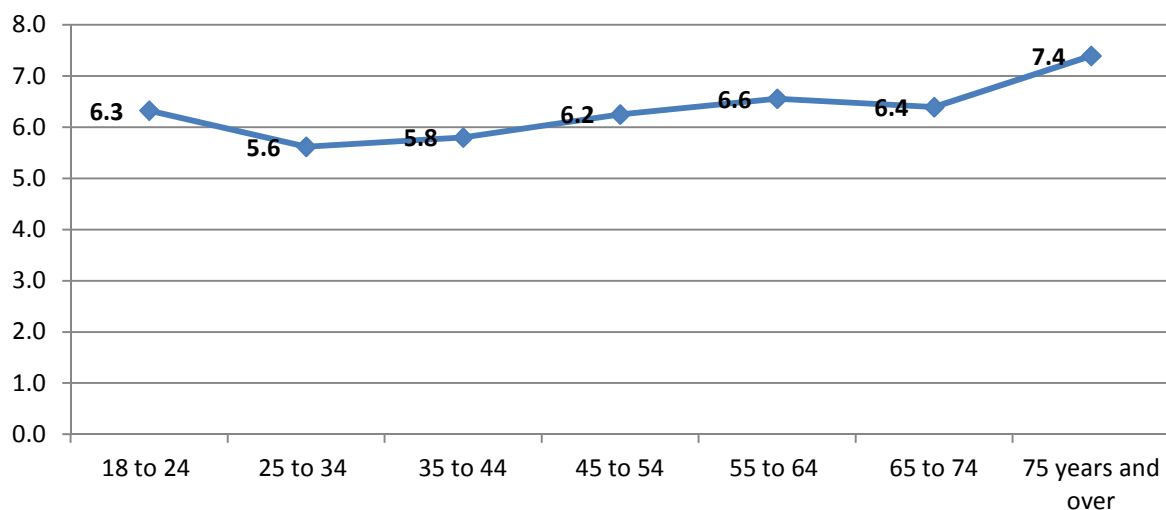


Overall, Environmental services (includes enforcement, noise and pollution control and food hygiene) achieved a ranking of 6.2 which was the second most important service when assessed against the other services that were part of the consultation.

The graph above shows that male respondents, those from BME groups and those with a disability were more likely than average than their counterparts to rank this service higher.

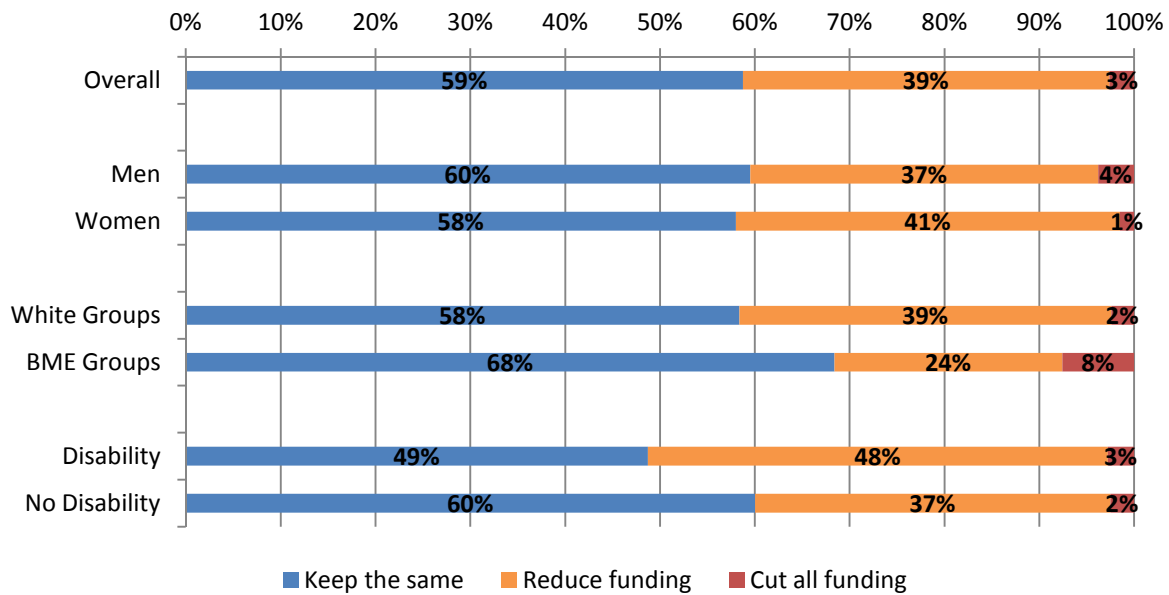
The age trend graph below shows that Environmental services are most important to respondents in the 75 years plus grouping. While funding approach on the following page which shows that the proportion of respondents in this age group that think funding should remain the same is line with the overall and that the 25 to 34 year olds, who had the lowest rating out of the age groups, has the highest proportion that think that funding for this service should remain the same.

Importance - Age Trends



Budget Consultation 2016

Funding Approach - Key Groups

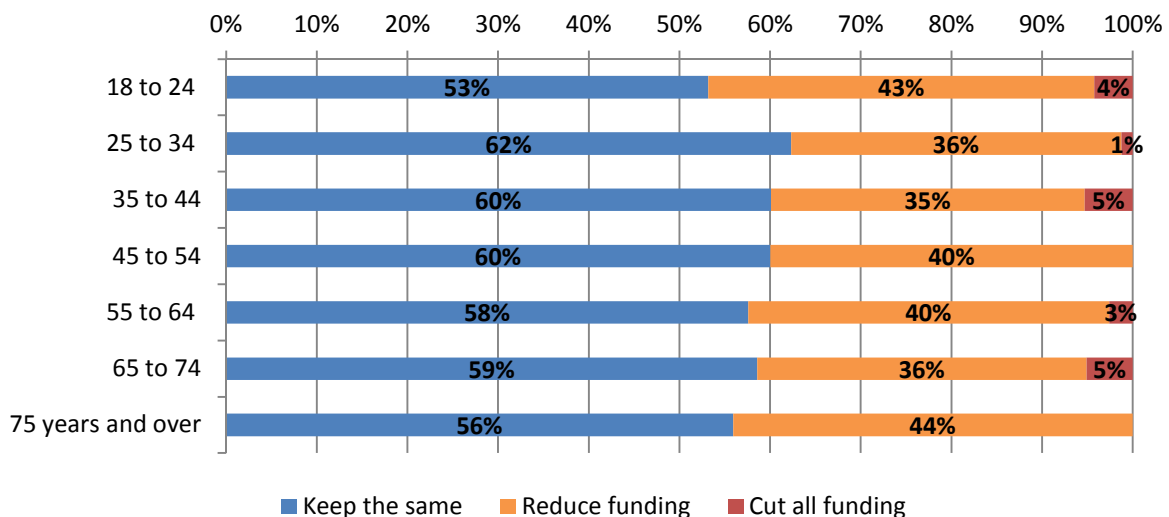


The majority of respondents (59%) were in favour of keeping the current funding levels the same for Environmental services. When the proportion of respondents saying keep the funding the same is assessed across all services, Environmental services has the fifth greatest proportion.

The graph on the previous page shows that the greatest difference between groups is in relation to disability, where there is a 0.6 difference in importance ranking with those with a disability and those without. While the differences between these two groups funding approach are not the greatest they are significant, with a 10% difference in funding remaining the same and 15% difference in reduce funding.

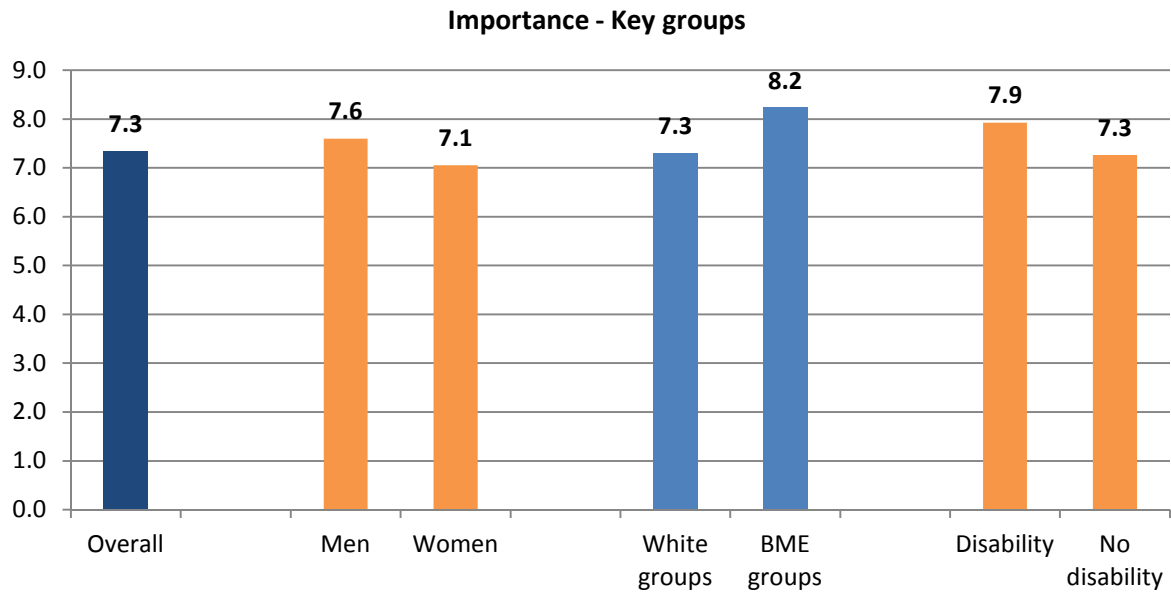
There is 0.5 rank difference between genders the approach to funding for this grouping is within 4% or less of each other and therefore not significant.

Funding Approach - Age Trends



Budget Consultation 2016

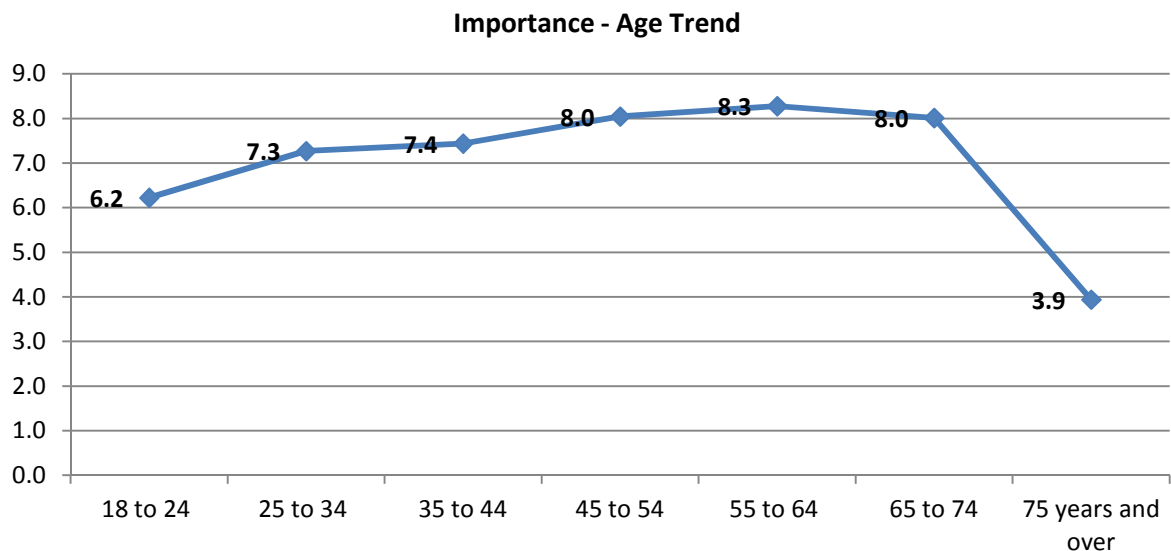
Household waste collection & disposal (includes waste & recycling services)



Overall, Household waste collection & disposal (includes waste & recycling services) achieved a ranking of 7.3 which was the most important service when assessed against the other services that were part of the consultation.

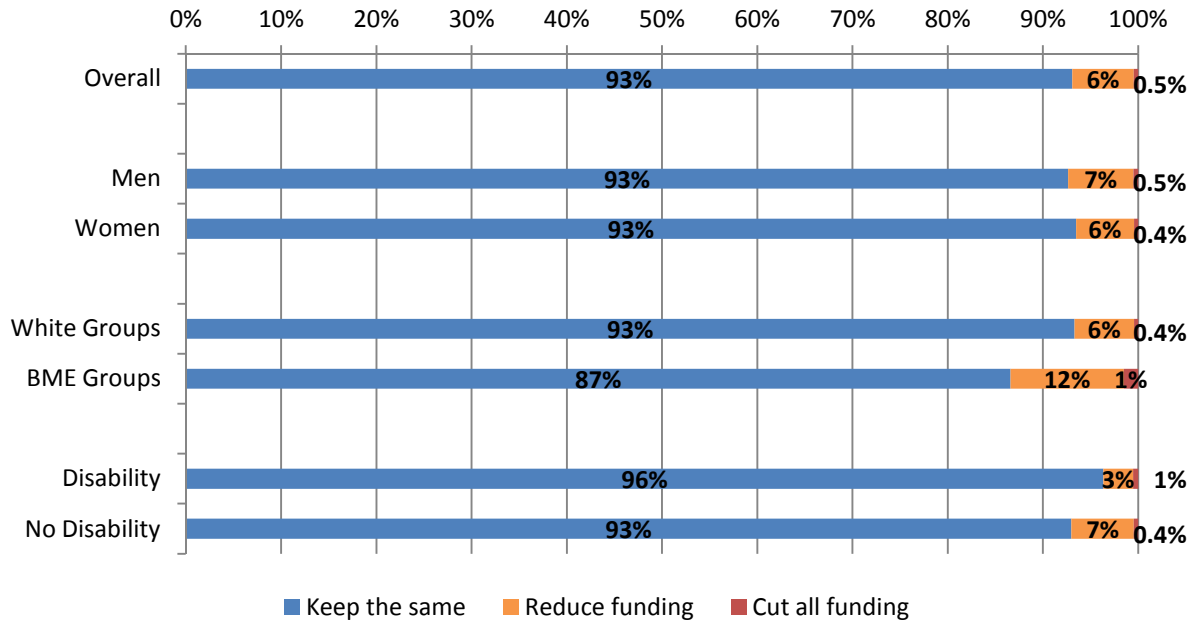
The greatest differences out of the groupings are in relation to ethnicity where there is a 0.9 difference with those from BME groups more likely to rank Household waste collection and disposal higher than those from white groups.

The age trend graph below shows that importance of waste collection and disposal increases with age until 55 to 64 years. This broadly aligns the funding approach for age groups on the following page with the 18 to 24 years groups who have the lowest rating across the age groups also have the greatest proportions of respondents that said that funding should be reduced or funding should be cut.



Budget Consultation 2016

Funding Approach - Key Groups

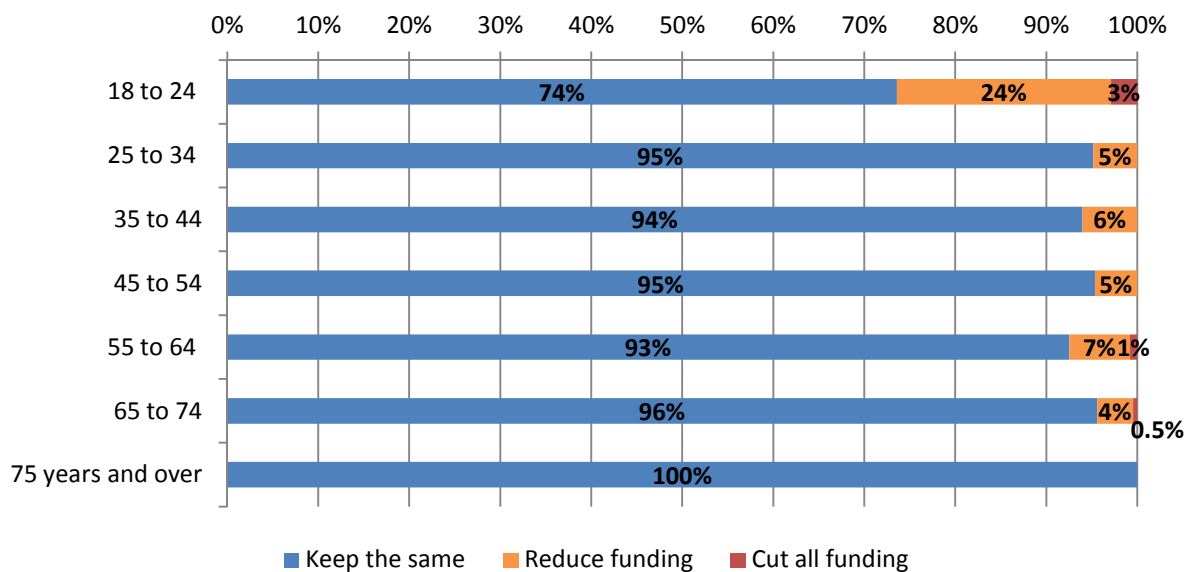


Overall, 93% of respondents said that funding for waste collection and disposal should remain the same. When the proportion of respondents saying keep the funding the same is assessed across all services this service had the greatest proportion (and the lowest proportions for reduce funding and cut all funding).

Although there is a 0.5 difference in level of importance between genders, the funding approaches for men and women are almost identical to the overall.

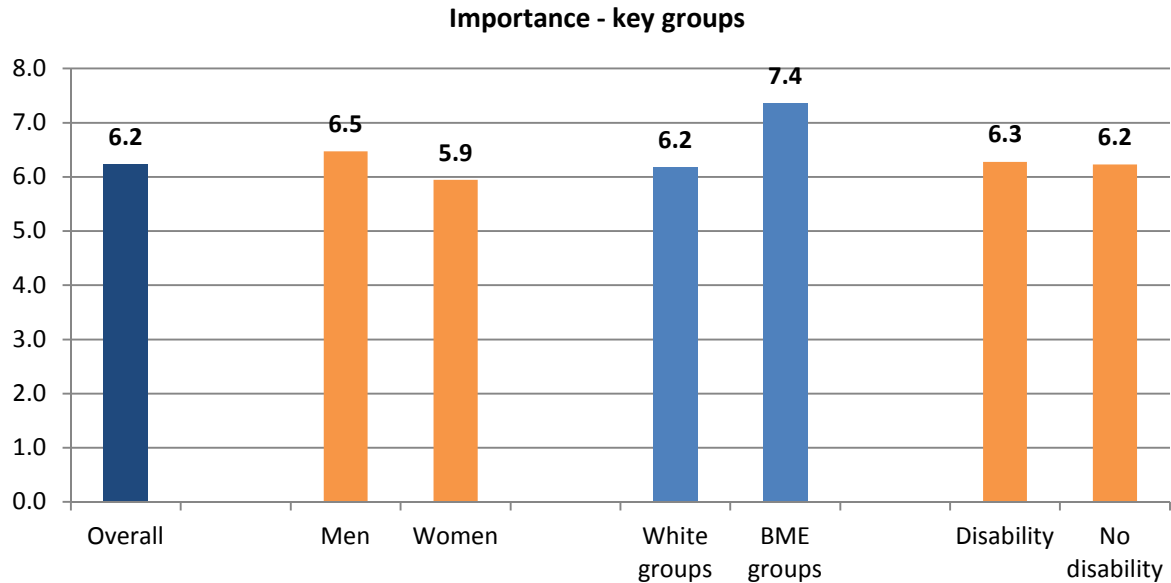
As with importance, the biggest differences in funding approach relate to ethnicity. While the response from white groups is in line with the overall levels, respondents from BME groups were twice as likely than the average to select reduce funding.

Funding Approach - Age Trends



Budget Consultation 2016

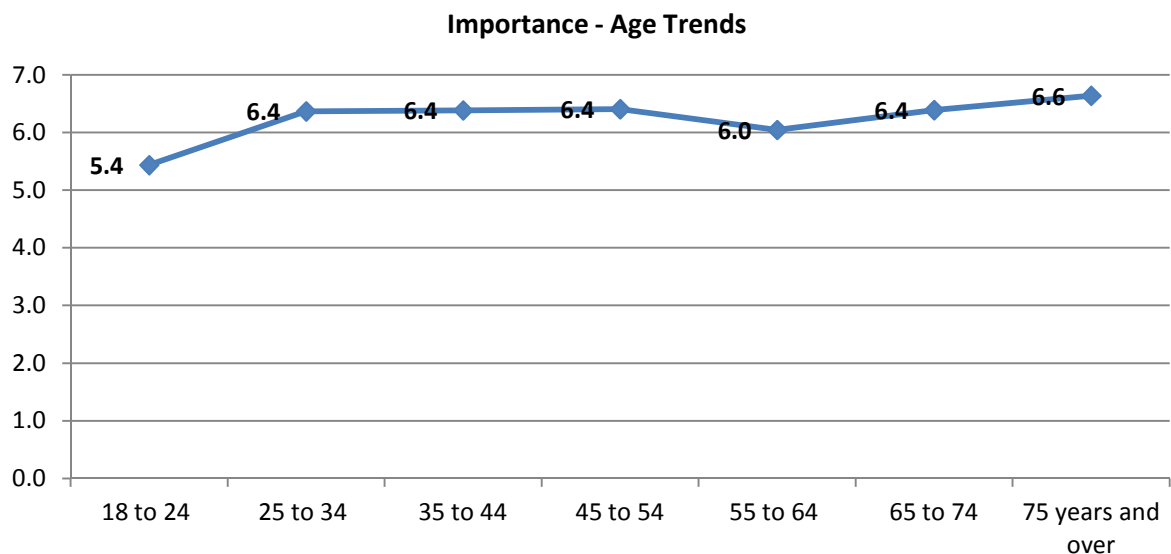
Street cleaning (providing a clean and safe environment)



Overall, Street cleaning (providing a clean and safe environment) achieved a ranking of 6.2 which was the third most important service when assessed against the other ten services that were part of the consultation.

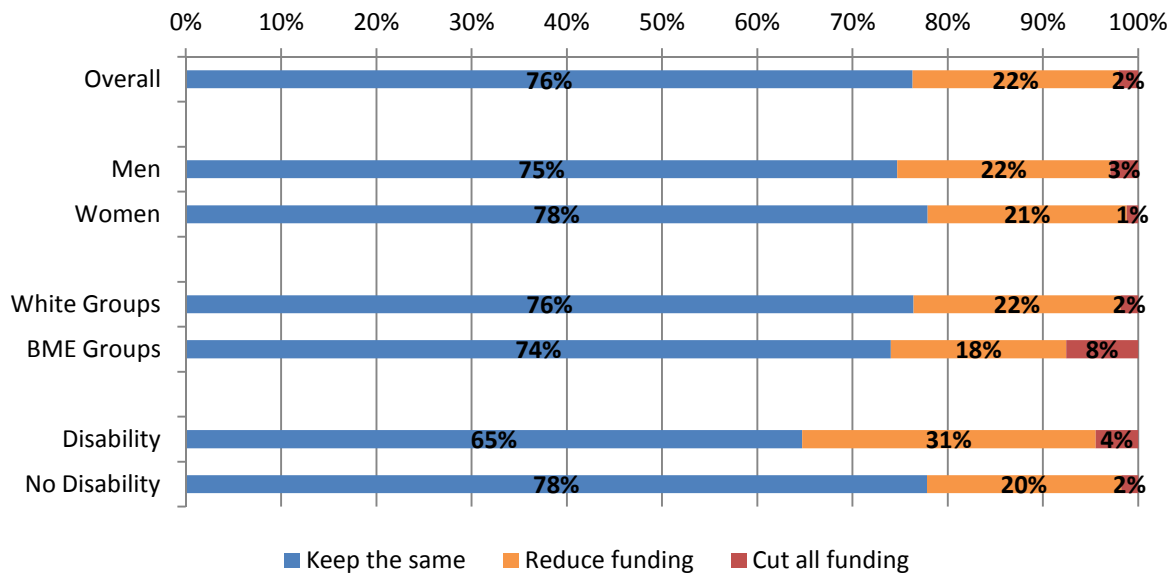
Respondents from BME groups rated this service higher than those from white groups with a 0.8 difference in rating. However, when looking at the funding approach on the following page, they are four times more likely than white groups (and the overall) to respond that all funding should be cut for this service.

In terms of age, the 18 to 24 year olds had the lowest ranking for street cleaning lowest out of all the age groupings and the 75 years and over group the highest. This aligns with the approach to funding with the 18 to 24 years having the greatest proportion of respondents that said funding should be reduced or cut all funding for this service. The 75 years and over group have the greatest proportion that said funding should remain the same.



Budget Consultation 2016

Funding Approach - Key Groups

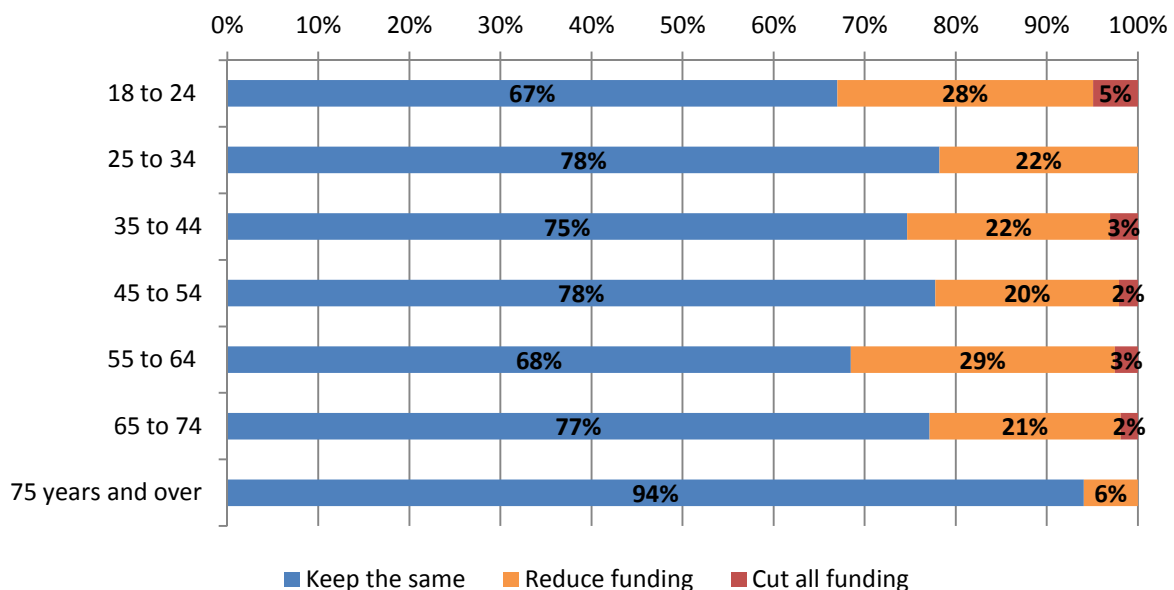


Overall, 76% of respondents said that funding for street cleaning should remain the same. When the proportion of respondents saying keep the funding the same is assessed across all services this service had the second greatest proportion (and the second lowest proportions for reduce funding and cut all funding).

The funding approach for men and women is broadly consistent with the overall figures and while there is a 0.6 difference in the ranking between these groups both are within 0.3 of the overall figure therefore the difference not considered significant,

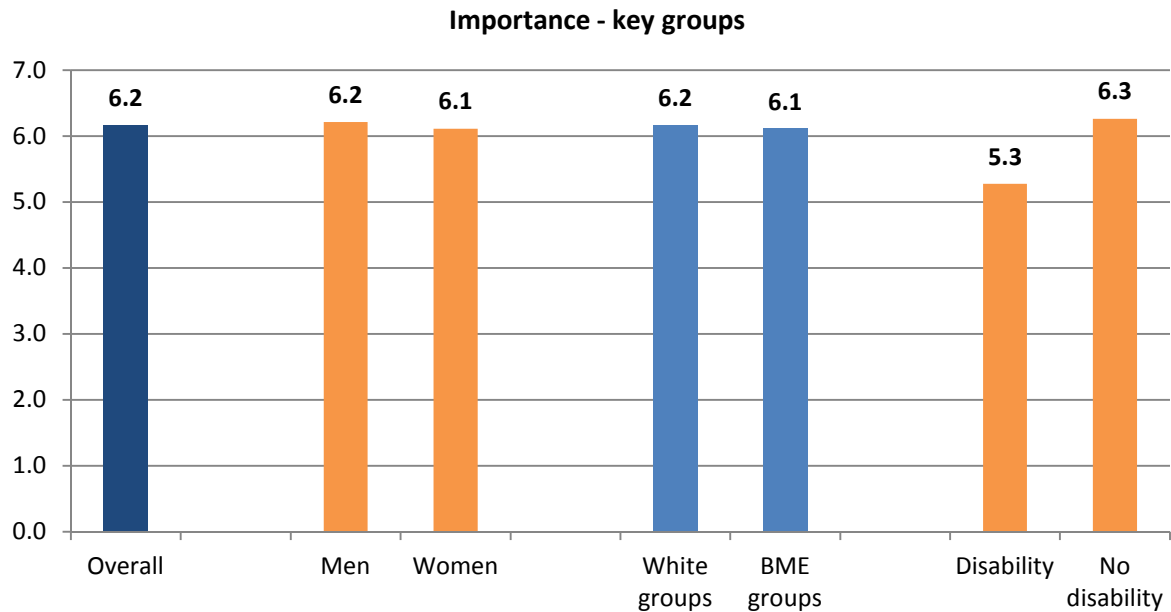
Respondents with a disability were more favourable to reducing or cutting street cleansing with 35% selecting one of these responses. However in terms of importance this grouping was consistent with the overall out-turn.

Funding Approach - Age Trends



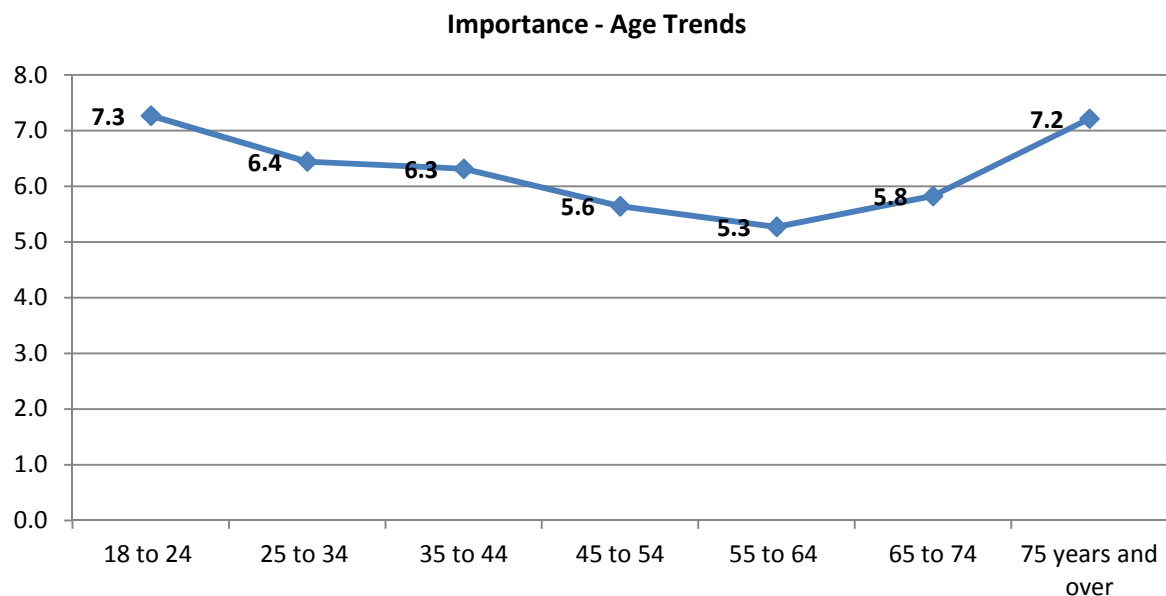
Budget Consultation 2016

Economic regeneration & creating jobs (including improvements to the town centre and support for businesses)



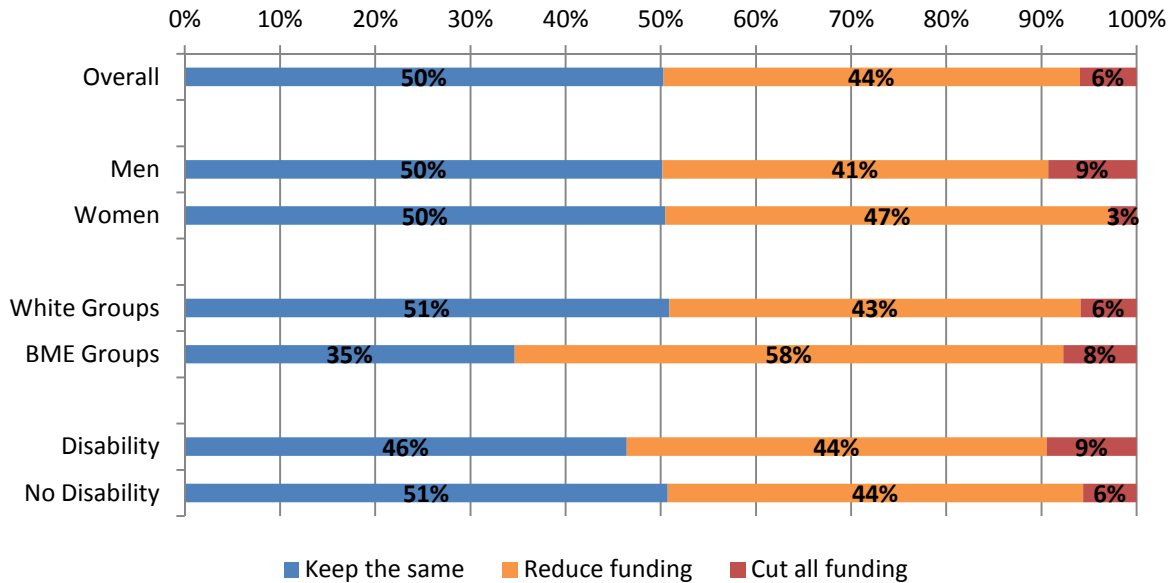
Overall, Economic regeneration & creating jobs (including improvements to the town centre and support for businesses) achieved a ranking of 6.2 and was the fourth most important service when assessed against the other ten services that were part of the consultation.

The results for gender and ethnicity groupings are consistent with the overall figures. There is a 1.0 rank difference in the disability grouping with respondents with disability placing a higher level of importance on Economic regeneration and creating jobs than those without a disability. This could be a reaction to the changes in the access to work grant and Employment and Support Allowances. This said the approach to funding for this group does not show significant differences compared to their group counterparts (those without a disability) nor the overall proportions.



Budget Consultation 2016

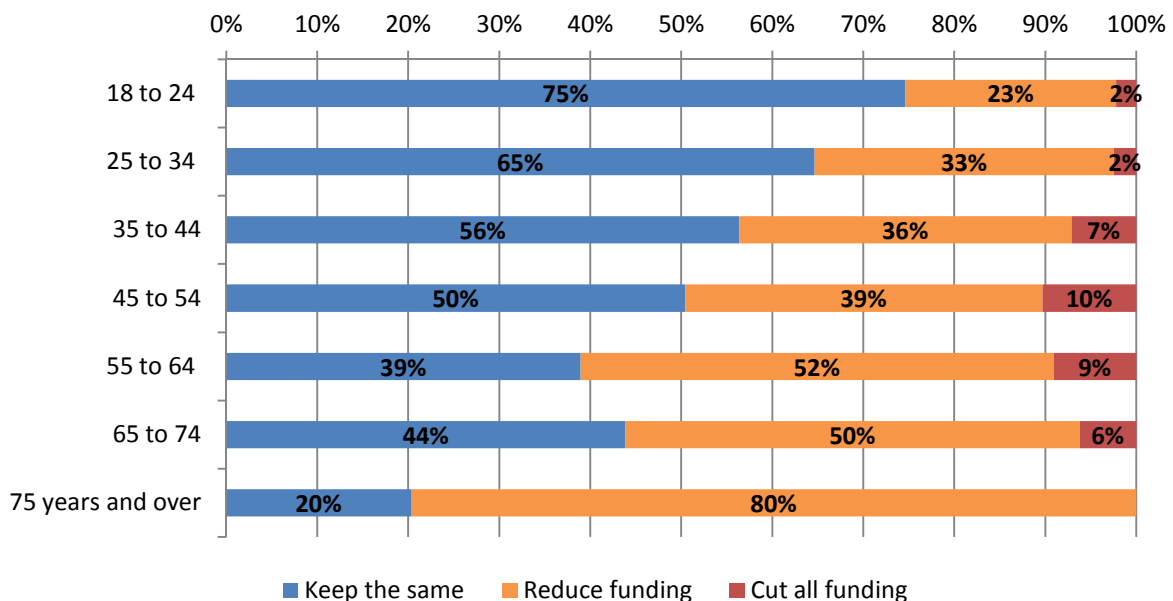
Funding Approach - Key Groups



Overall, 50% of respondents said that funding for Economic Regeneration and jobs should remain the same. When the proportion of respondents saying keep the funding the same is assessed across all services, it had the seventh greatest proportion (and the sixth greatest proportion for cut all funding).

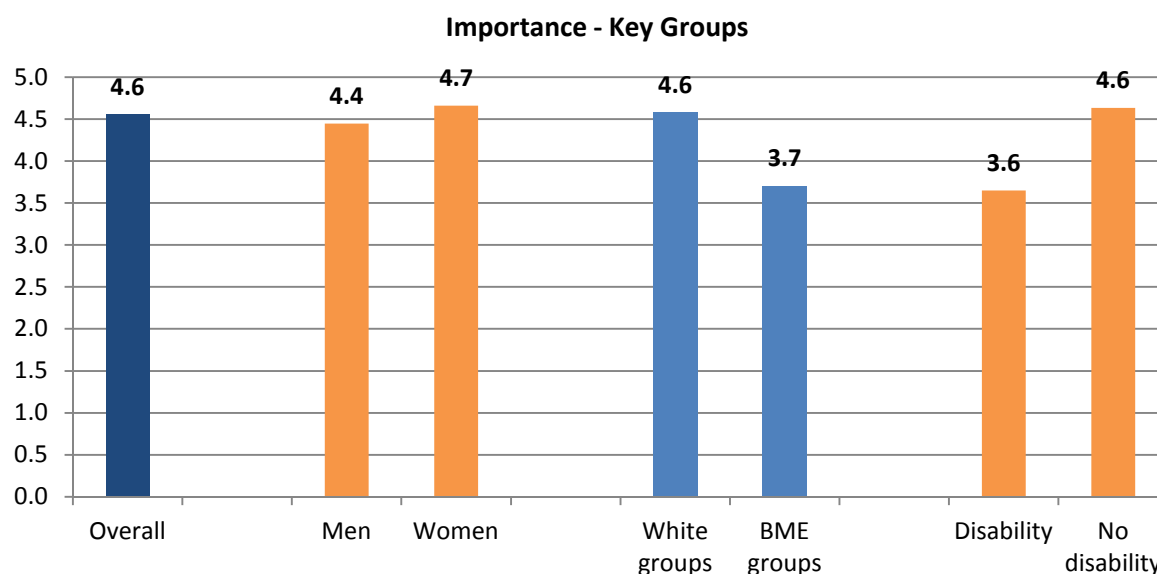
In terms of age, the 18 to 24 years group had the highest ranking for this service, followed by the 75 years and over group. For the 18 to 24 year olds this aligned with the funding approach by having the greatest proportion saying that funding should remain the same for this service at 75%. However the over 75's group, which had the second highest rank out of the age groups, has the lowest proportion saying that funding remain the same for this service at 20%.

Funding Approach - Age Trends



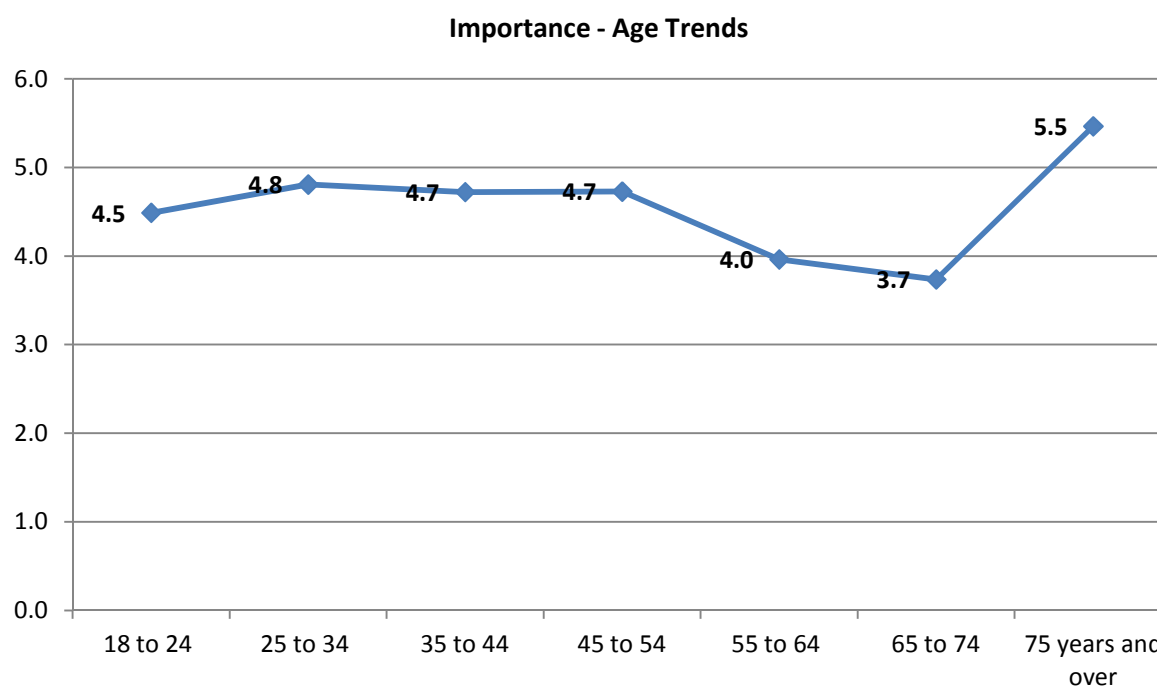
Budget Consultation 2016

Sport & Recreation (includes Maidstone leisure centre, Cobtree golf course and community halls)



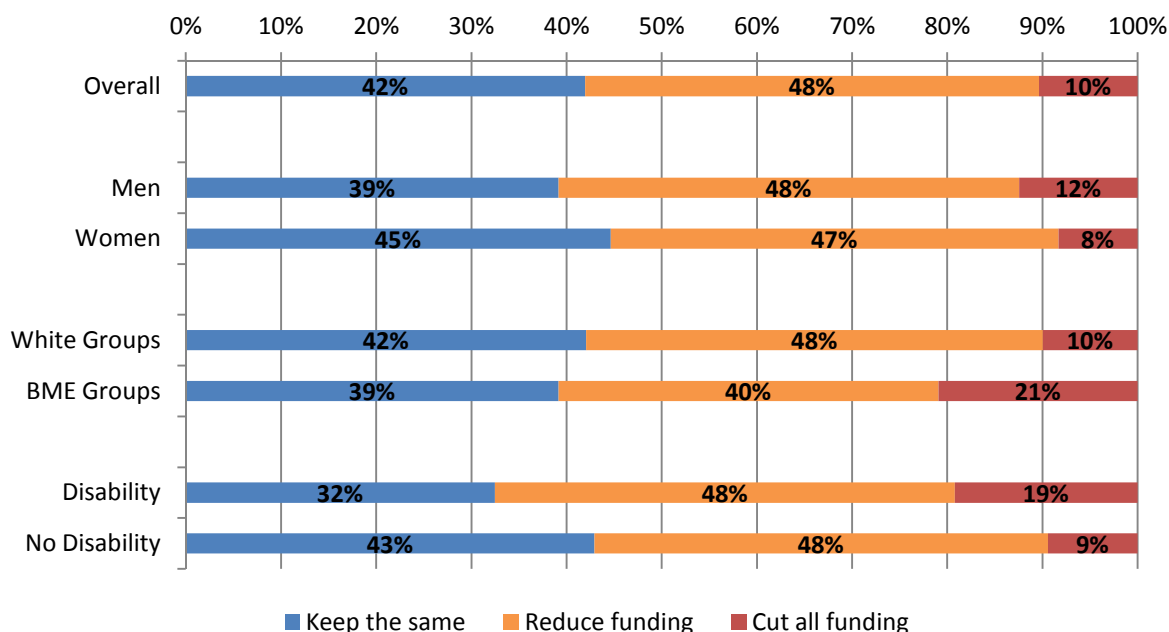
Overall, Sport & Recreation (includes Maidstone leisure centre, Cobtree golf course and community halls) achieved a ranking of 4.6 and was the ninth most important service when assessed against the other ten services that were part of the consultation.

There is a slight variation between the rankings of men versus women, it is not significant. There are significant variations in the disability and ethnicity groupings with a 1.0 and 0.9 differences respectively. Both respondents from BME groups and those with a disability rated sport and recreation lower in importance. This was also reflected in the funding approach for these groups with almost double the proportion saying to cut all funding for this service.



Budget Consultation 2016

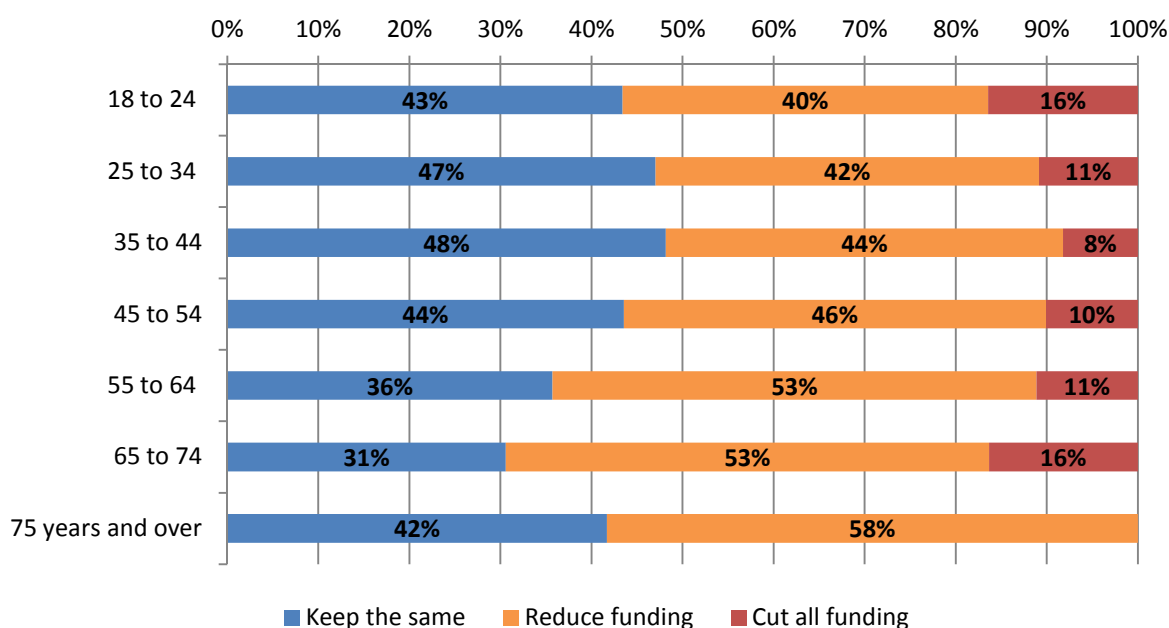
Funding Approach - Key Groups



Overall, 42% of respondents said that funding for sport and recreation should remain the same. When the proportion of respondents saying keep the funding the same is assessed across all services this service came in at eighth out of ten and had the third greatest proportion for cut all funding.

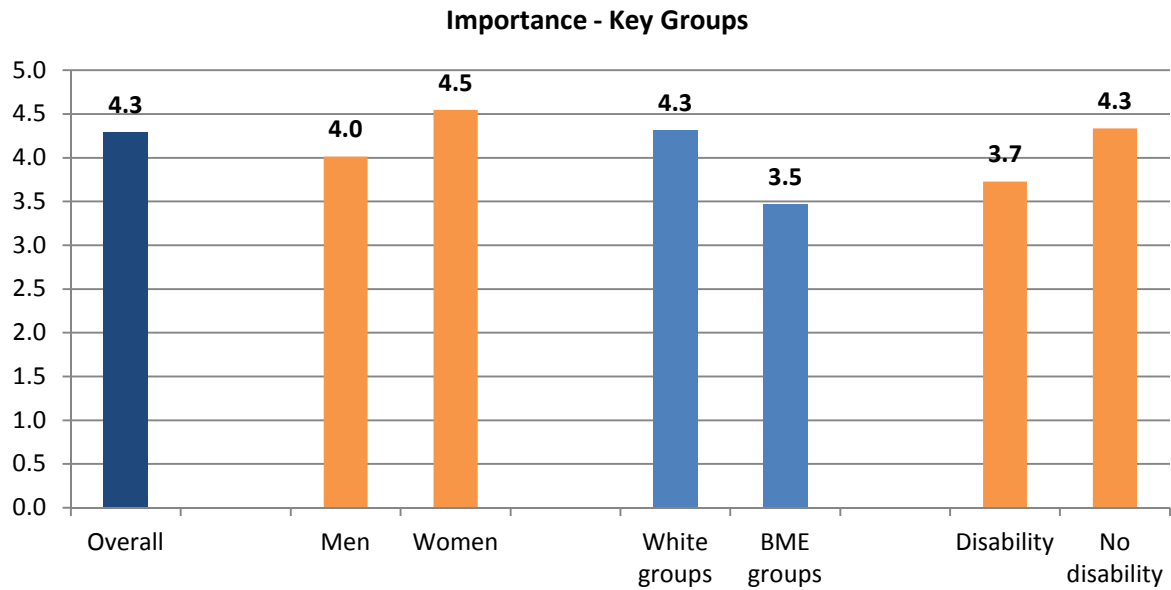
In relation to age, the 65 to 74 years age group had the lowest ranking at 3.7, this aligns with the funding approach with this group having the lowest proportion of respondents that said to keep the funding level the same.

Funding Approach - Age Trends



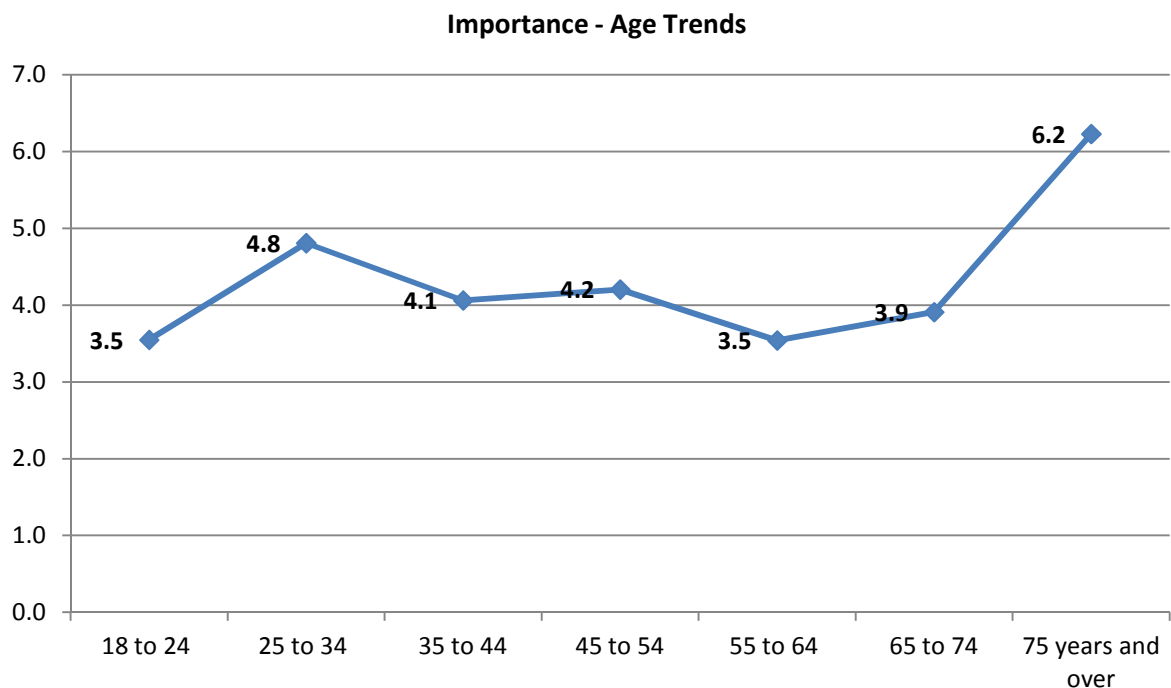
Budget Consultation 2016

Culture & Tourism (includes Maidstone museum, events and attractions to encourage tourism)



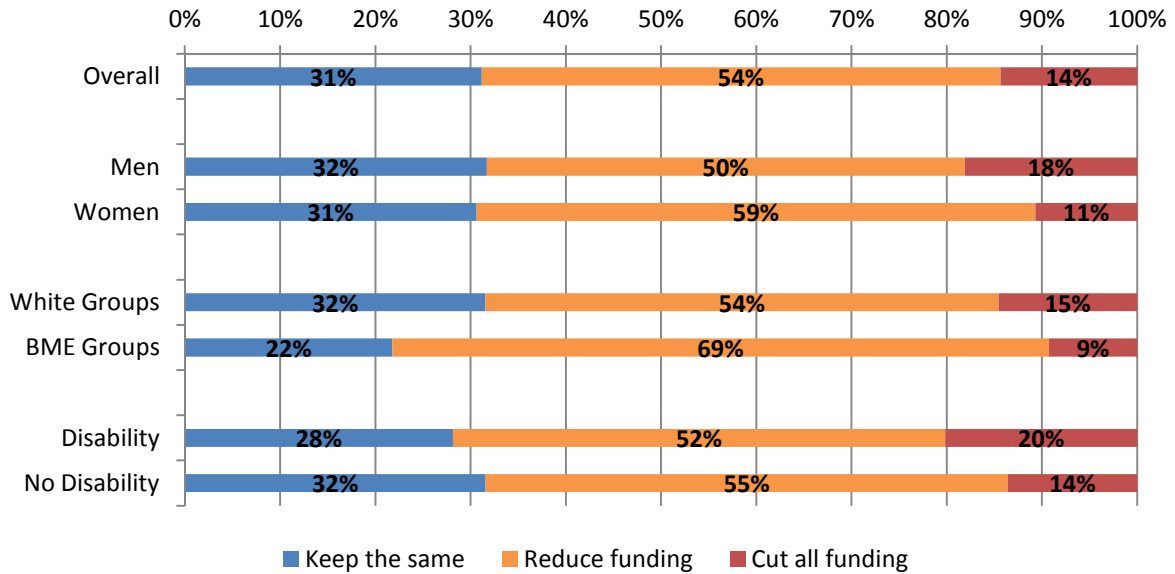
Overall, Culture & Tourism (includes Maidstone museum, events and attractions to encourage tourism) achieved a ranking of 4.3 and was the least most important service when assess against the other ten services that were part of the consultation.

For this service there is a lot of variation between groups, with culture and tourism being less important to BME groups, those with a disability and men compared to their group counterparts. There is also significant variation amongst the age groups with those over 75 years placing a high level of importance on this service and the 18 to 24 years and the 55 to 64 years group more likely than average place this service at the lower end of the scale.



Budget Consultation 2016

Funding Approach - Key Groups

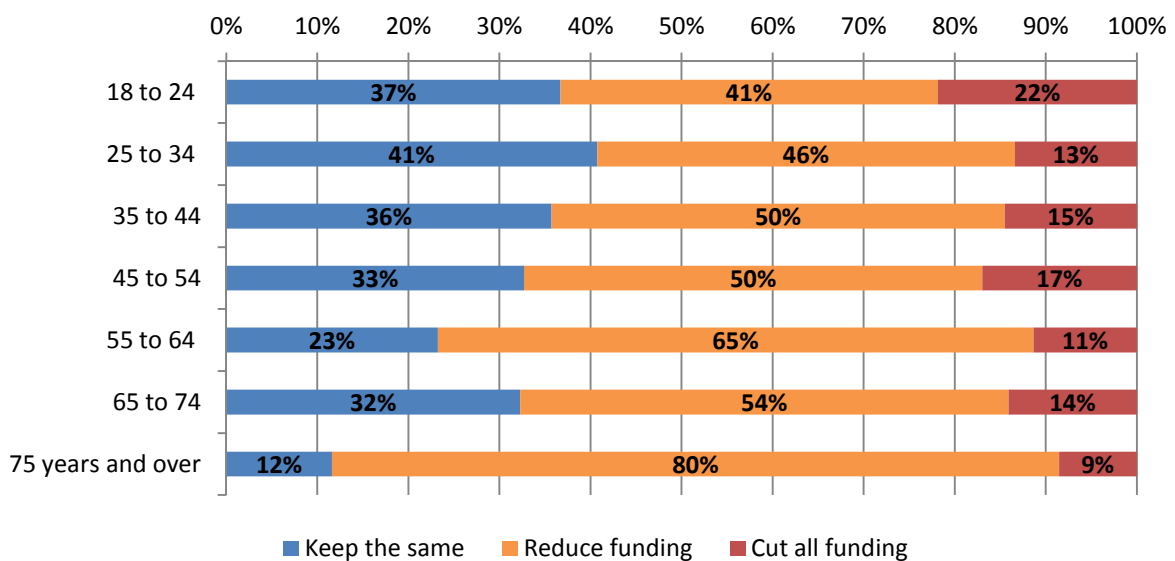


Overall, 31% of respondents said that funding for culture and tourism should remain the same. When the proportion of respondents saying keep the funding the same is assessed across all services this service had the lowest proportion in favour and had the greatest proportions for reduce and cut all funding.

Respondents from BME groups gave this service one of the lowest rating out of all the groupings. This aligns with the funding approach questions where they have the greatest proportion of respondents that said funding should be reduced and the second lowest proportion that said funding should remain the same.

The 18 to 24 years group had one of the lowest ratings for this service at 3.5, this aligns with this group having the greatest proportion of respondents that think all funding should be cut for this service.

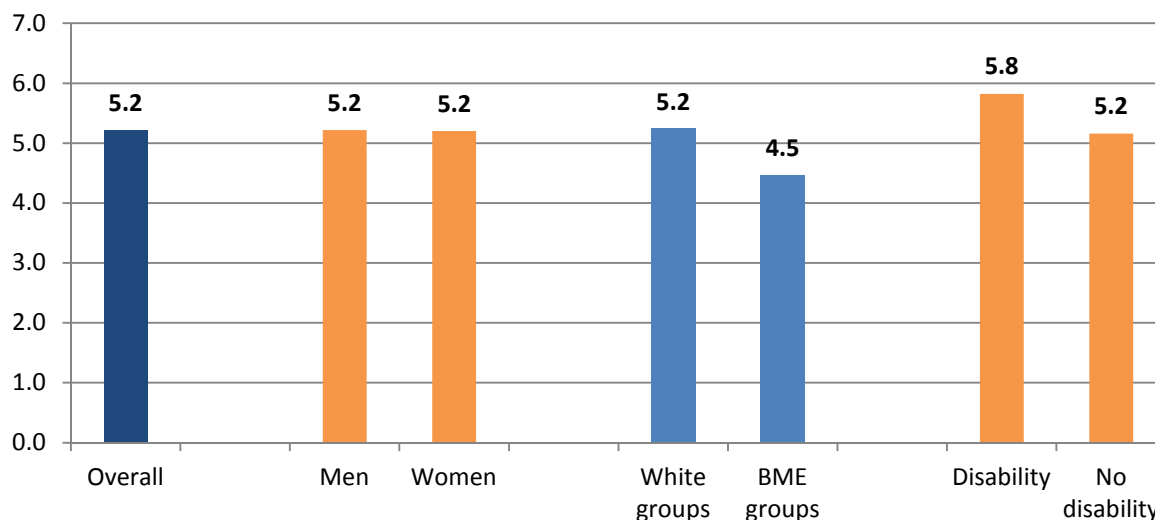
Funding Approach - Age Trends



Budget Consultation 2016

Planning & Building Control (includes building regulations, the Local Plan, planning applications and conservation)

Importance - Key Groups

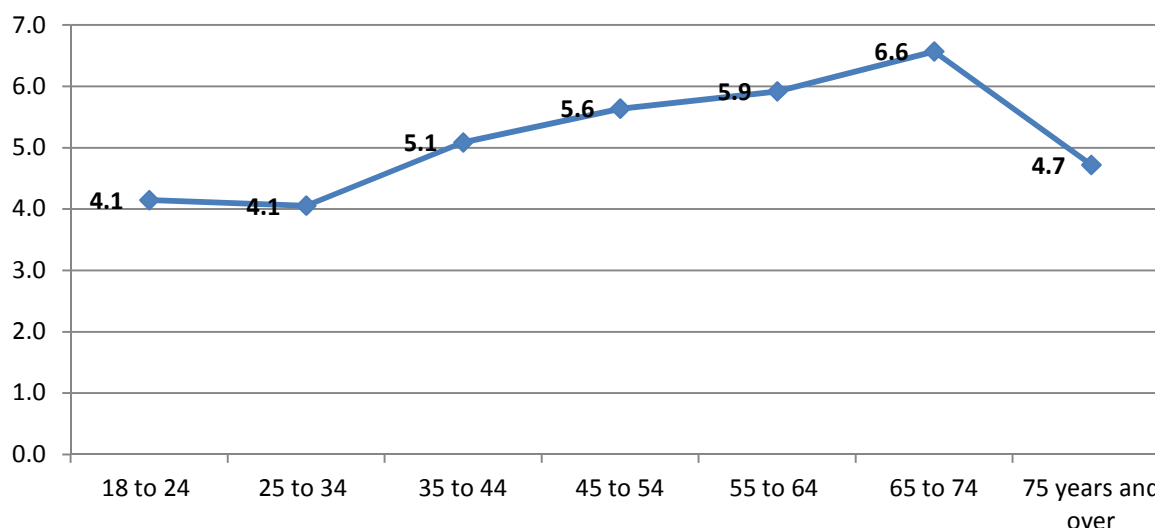


Overall, Planning & Building Control (includes building regulations, the Local Plan, planning applications and conservation) achieved a ranking of 5.2 and was the seventh most important service when assessed against the other ten services that were part of the consultation.

While there were no differences in the level of responses from men and women there is a 0.7 difference between white groups and BME groups with BME groups less likely than average to rate this service highly in terms of importance. Whereas there is a 0.6 difference between the ratings from respondents with a disability and those without and those with a disability are more likely than average to rank this service higher.

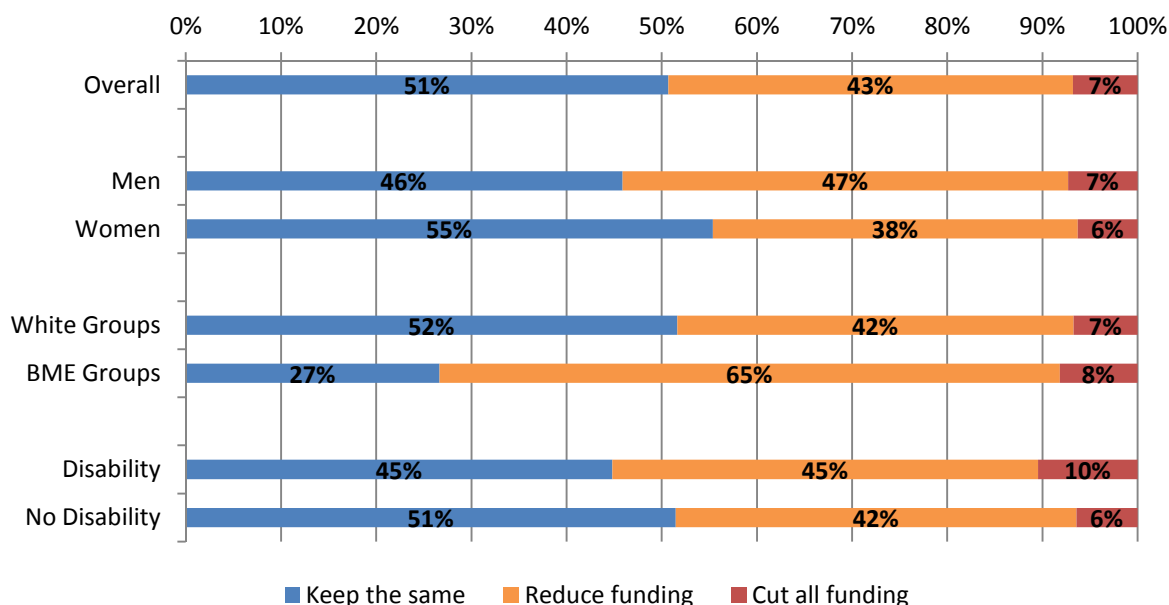
If we disregard the over 75's group on the ground of the low response rate then the graph below should show that the importance of this service to people increases as they get older.

Importance - Age Trends



Budget Consultation 2016

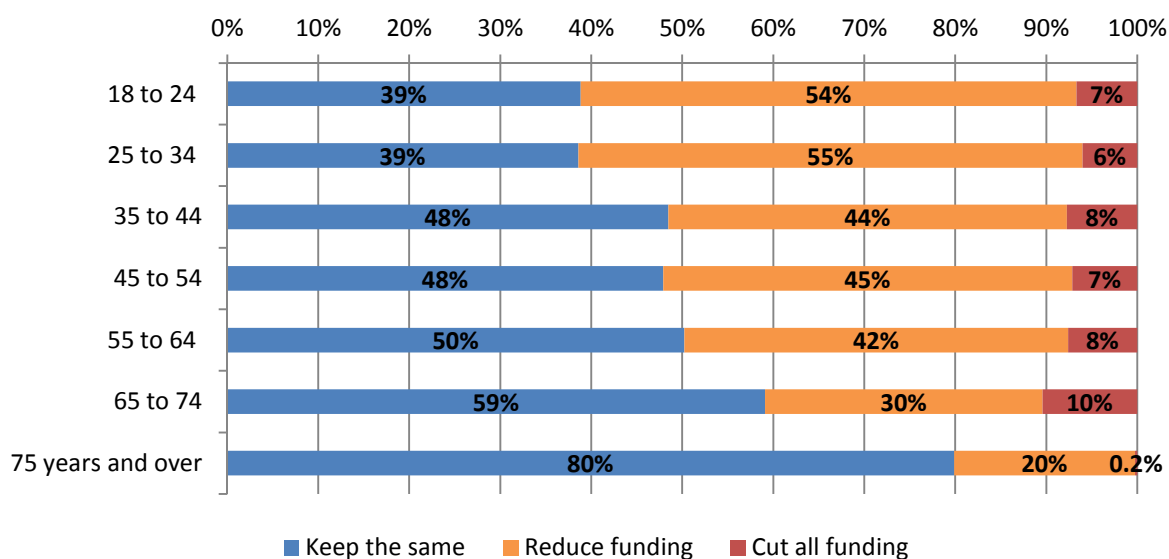
Funding Approach - Key Groups



Overall, 51% of respondents said that funding for planning and building control should remain the same. When the proportion of respondents saying keep the funding the same is assessed across all services this service sixth out of the ten services this consultation focused on and came fifth for both reduce funding and cut all funding.

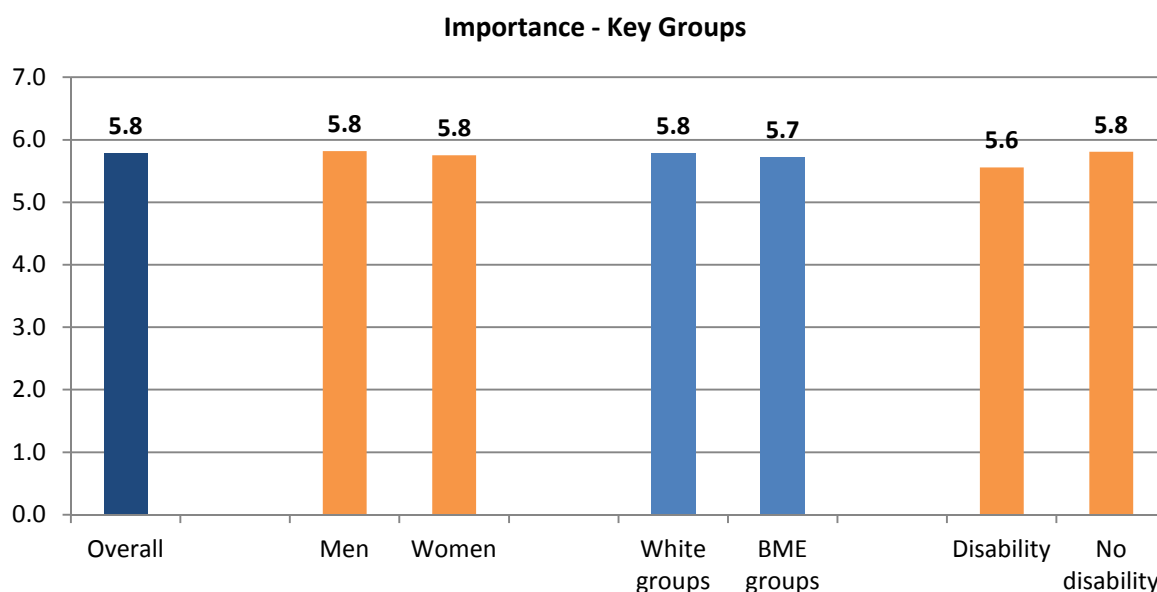
Although respondents with a disability ranked this service higher than those without the funding approaches selected by these groups do not align with a greater proportion of those with a disability saying that funding should be reduced or cut then those without a disability. However the funding approach for BME groups, who placed a lower importance rating than white groups on this service, is as expected with the lowest proportion of respondents saying the funding for planning and building control should remain the same.

Funding Approach - Age Trends



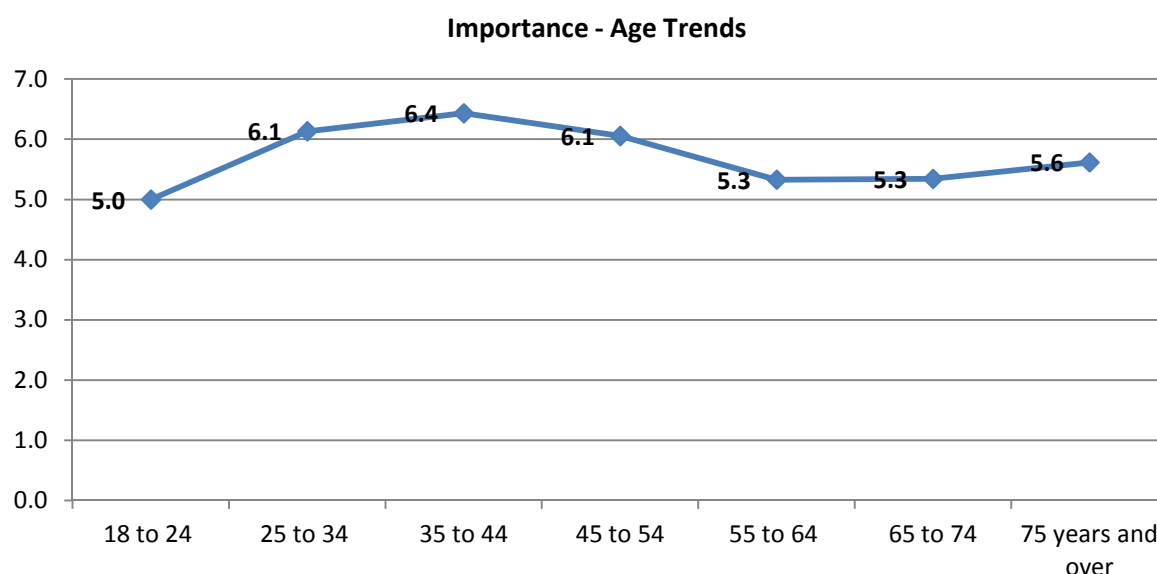
Budget Consultation 2016

Parks & Open Spaces (includes all council owned parks including Mote Park, Whatman Park and Clare Park)



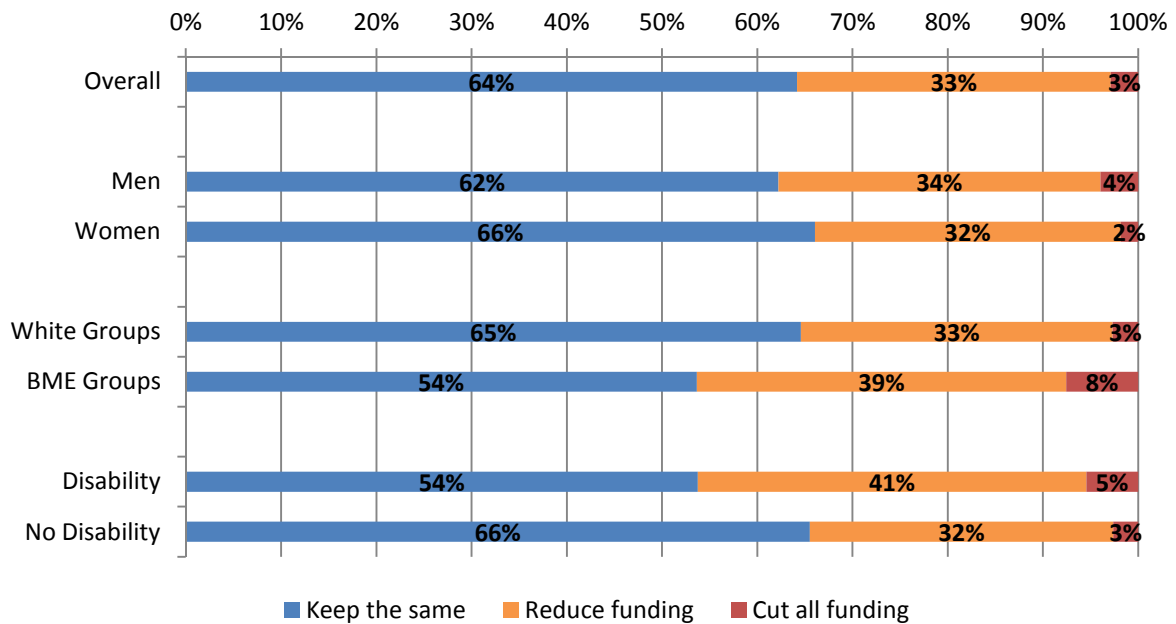
Overall, Parks & Open Spaces (includes all council owned parks including Mote Park, Whatman Park and Clare Park) achieved a ranking of 5.8 and was the fifth most important service when assessed against the other ten services that were part of the consultation.

The graph above shows little to no variation between groups the graph below shows some reasonable variation in relation to the age groups. Importance of this service is highest for those aged 25 to 54 years. It is possible that this could be linked to family life, with these being the key years where children are likely to be living in the home. The funding approach analysed by age shows that the three age groups that with the highest levels of importance are also the three age groups (25 to 34, 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 years) where there are the greatest proportions of respondents saying keep the funding the same and had the lowest proportions that said reduce or cut all funding.



Budget Consultation 2016

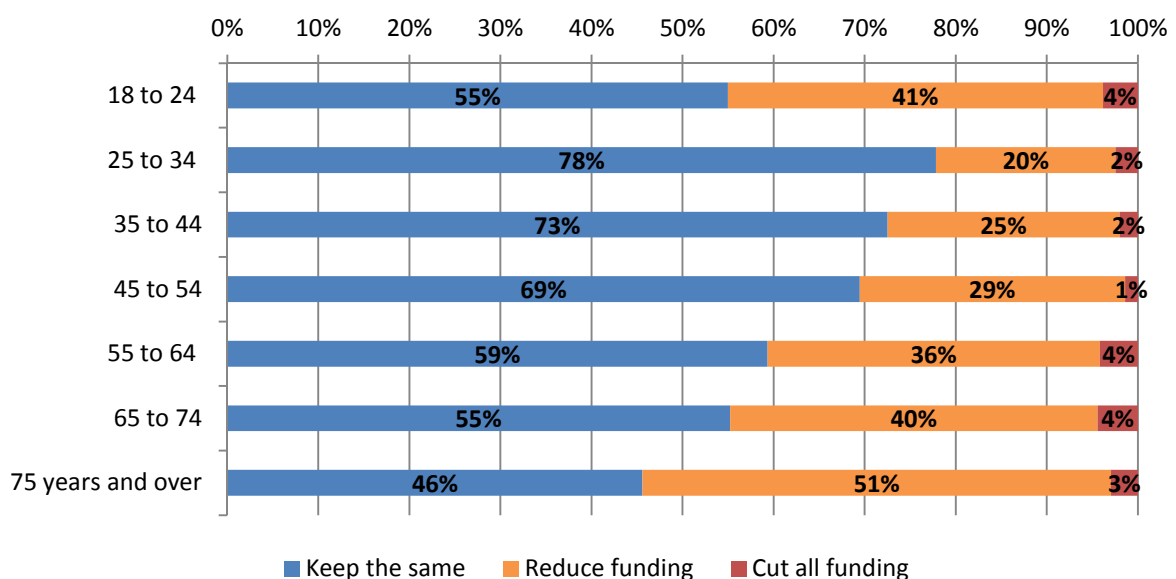
Funding Approach - Key Groups



Overall, 64% of respondents said that funding for parks and open spaces should remain the same. When the proportion of respondents is analysed across all services this service fourth out of the ten services this consultation focused on and came seventh for both reduce funding and cut all funding.

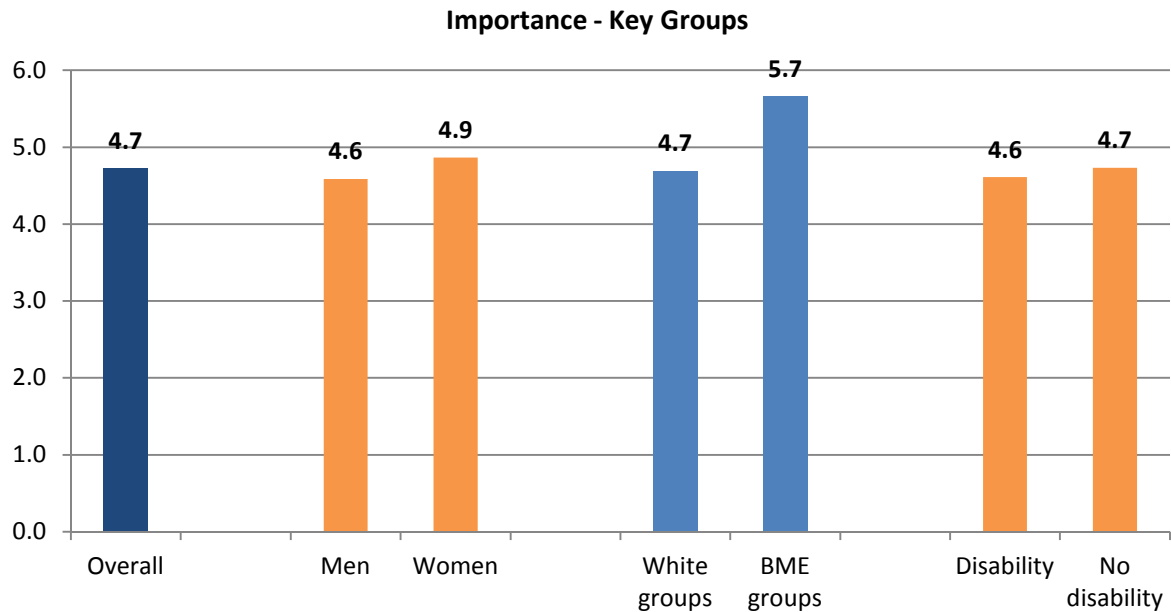
The level of importance, for the groups above, were consistent with the overall results there are some noteworthy variations in the approach to funding. A lower proportion of respondents from BME groups and those with a disability responded that the funding level for parks and open spaces should remain the same compared to white groups and the overall result. Both these groups also had a greater proportion than average that said funding should be reduced.

Funding Approach - Age Trends



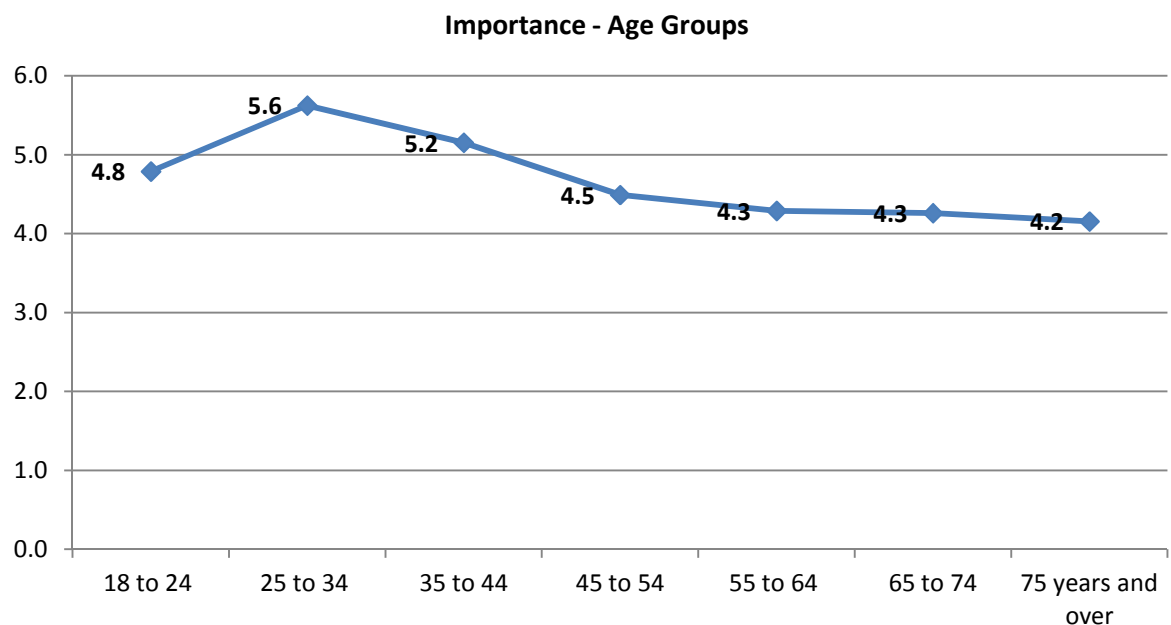
Budget Consultation 2016

Community Safety & Development (includes encouraging good public health and social inclusion)



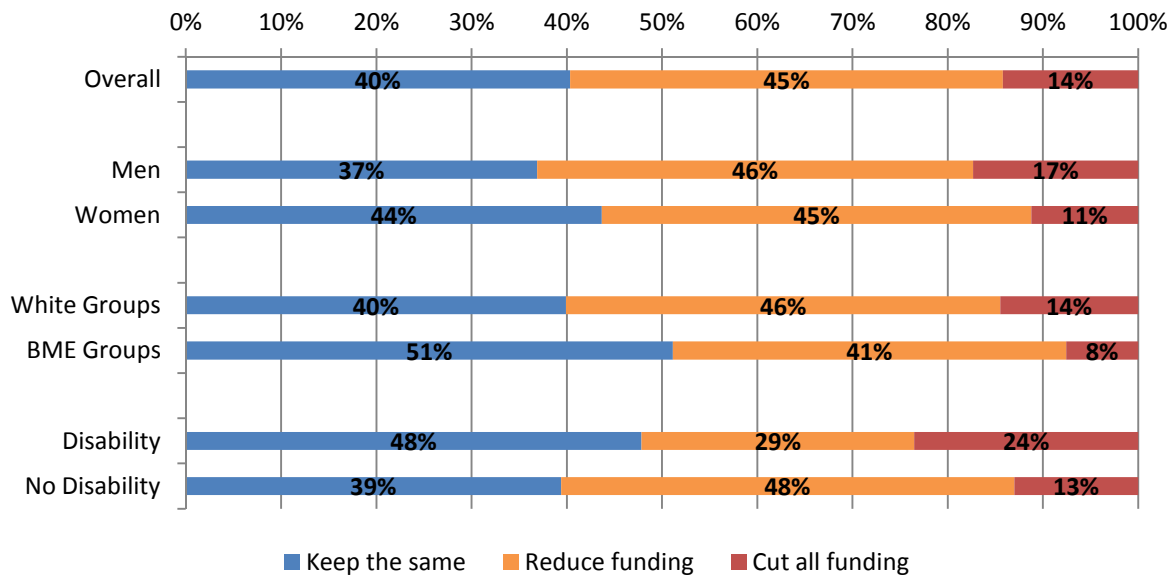
Overall, Community Safety & Development (includes encouraging good public health and social inclusion) achieved a ranking of 4.7 and was the eighth most important service when assessed against the other ten services that were part of the consultation.

The results for the groups outlined above are broadly consistent with the overall result, with the exception of respondents from BME groups who placed a higher level of importance on this service than respondents from white groups. This seems to align with the funding approach response, a greater proportion of BME groups support funding remaining the same and a lower proportion say to cut all funding for community safety and development than white groups.



Budget Consultation 2016

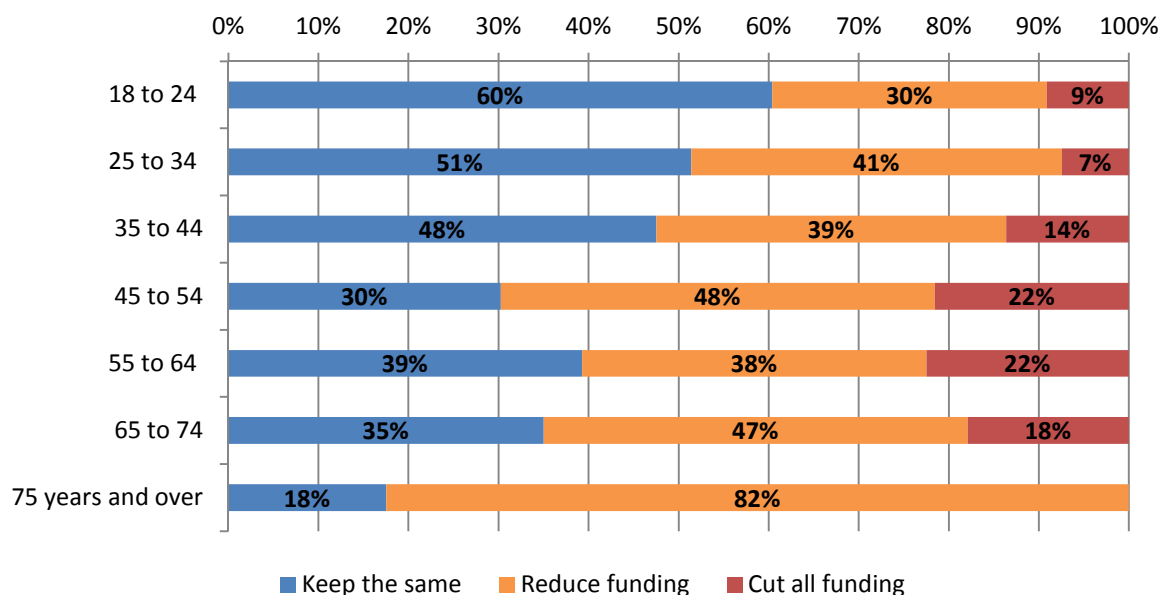
Funding Approach - Key Groups



Overall, 40% of respondents said that funding Community Safety and Development should remain the same. When the proportion of respondents is assessed across all services this service ninth out of the ten services this consultation focused on and came third for reduce funding and second for cut all funding.

In terms of age the over 75's group had the lowest rank for importance across the age ranges this is consistent with their response on the funding approach, as they have the lowest proportion of people saying that the funding level for Community Safety & Development should remain the same. While the 25 to 34 years group had the greatest level of importance they did not have the greatest proportion that said funding should remain the same. The 18 to 24 year olds had the greatest proportion that said funding should remain the same at 60%

Funding Approach - Age trends



Budget Consultation 2016

Weighting & Demographics

Age	Survey Males				Men population				BME Male Weight	White Male Weight
	White groups		BME		White groups		BME			
18 to 24	47	6.9%	7	1.0%	5,766	4.7%	534	0.4%	0.43	0.69
25 to 34	37	5.4%	2	0.3%	8,448	7.0%	871	0.7%	2.45	1.28
35 to 44	51	7.5%	3	0.4%	10,061	8.3%	818	0.7%	1.53	1.11
45 to 54	65	9.5%	1	0.1%	10,673	8.8%	490	0.4%	2.75	0.92
55 to 64	61	8.9%	0	0.0%	9,272	7.6%	262	0.2%	n/a	0.85
65 to 74	67	9.8%	1	0.1%	6,789	5.6%	166	0.1%	0.93	0.57
75 years +	14	2.1%	2	0.3%	4,843	4.0%	56	0.0%	0.16	1.94
Grand Total	342	50.1%	16	2.3%	55,852	46.0%	3,197	2.6%		
Total Males			358							

Age	Survey Women				Women Population				BME Female Weight	White Female Weight
	White groups		BME groups		White groups		BME			
18 to 24	27	4.0%	2	0.3%	5,333	4.4%	368	0.3%	1.03	1.11
25 to 34	42	6.2%	0	0.0%	9,055	7.5%	849	0.7%	n/a	1.21
35 to 44	63	9.2%	7	1.0%	10,479	8.6%	764	0.6%	0.61	0.93
45 to 54	76	11.1%	0	0.0%	10,504	8.6%	485	0.4%	n/a	0.78
55 to 64	54	7.9%	2	0.3%	9,633	7.9%	280	0.2%	0.79	1.00
65 to 74	47	6.9%	2	0.3%	7,182	5.9%	132	0.1%	0.37	0.86
75 years +	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	7,269	6.0%	77	0.1%	n/a	20.41
Grand Total	311	45.60%	13	1.9%	59,455	49.0%	2,955	2.4%		
Total Females			324							

Gender	No.	%
Male	357	53%
Female	322	47%
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>679</i>	

Ethnicity	No.	%
White groups	650	96%
BME groups	29	4%
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>679</i>	

Age	No.	%
18 to 24	81	12%
25 to 34	81	12%
35 to 44	124	18%
45 to 54	142	21%
55 to 64	116	17%
65 to 74	117	17%
75 years +	18	3%
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>679</i>	

Disability	No.	%
Disability	75	11%
No Disability	598	89%
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>673</i>	
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Agenda Item 14

STRATEGIC PLANNING, SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

10 January 2017

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

Yes

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2017/18 – FEES & CHARGES

Final Decision-Maker	Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport Committee
Lead Director or Head of Service	Mark Green, Director of Finance & Business Improvement
Lead Officer and Report Author	Ellie Dunnet, Chief Accountant
Classification	Non-exempt
Wards affected	All

This report makes the following recommendations to the final decision-maker:

1. That the Committee approves the proposed fees and charges for 2017/18 as set out in detail in **Appendix A**.
2. That the Committee notes the fees and charges set by the government for 2017/18, as detailed in **Appendix A**.
3. That the Committee approves the introduction of all fees relating to planning and conservation with effect from 1 February 2017.

This report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Increases in fees and charges can have a significant impact on the Council's ability to meet its objectives.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport Committee	10 January 2017

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2017/18 – FEES & CHARGES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed fees and charges for 2017/18 for the services which fall under the responsibility of this committee and generate income through a charge to the service user. For the fees and charges which are set at the council's discretion, the committee is asked to consider the appropriateness of the proposals set out in Appendix A to this report.
 - 1.2 Fees and charges for some services are set in accordance with statutory requirements. The committee is therefore asked to note the level of fees and charges relating to these areas, which are also detailed at Appendix A.
 - 1.3 This decision forms part of the Council's medium term financial strategy (MTFS) and budget for 2017/18. Committee members are therefore encouraged to keep in mind the impact of the proposed changes on the MTFS and budget when considering the proposals.
 - 1.4 The proposed changes will be effective from 1 April 2017 unless otherwise stated within the report or appendix.
-

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The council has a corporate fees and charges policy which sets out the approach that the council takes in setting its fees and charges for the forthcoming financial year. The policy promotes consistency and a focus on the strategic objectives of the council when setting fees and charges.
- 2.2 The policy covers fees and charges that are set at the discretion of the council and does not apply to services where the council is prohibited from charging, e.g. the collection of household waste. Charges currently determined by central government, e.g. planning application fees, are also outside the scope of the policy. However, consideration of any known changes to such fees and charges and any consequence to the medium term financial strategy are included in this report.
- 2.3 In addition to raising income to fund the council's services, the policy seeks to ensure that conscious decisions are made on the subsidy level for individual services, concessions, and the impact on service users and on the council's Strategic Plan. It is assumed that a charge will be levied for a service unless there is a justification not to do so arising either from strategic considerations or legal constraints.
- 2.4 The policy also proposes that a review of all fees and charges will occur annually in line with the development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The review of fees and charges should consider the following factors:

- a) The Council's strategic plan and values, and how they relate to the specific services involved;
 - b) The level of subsidy currently involved and the impact of eliminating that subsidy on the level of fees and charges, the effect on users and the social impact;
 - c) The actual or potential impact of any competition in terms of price or quality;
 - d) Trends in user demand including an estimate of the effect of price changes on customers;
 - e) Customer survey results;
 - f) Impact on users both directly and in terms of delivery of the Council's objectives;
 - g) Financial constraints including inflationary pressure and service budget targets;
 - h) The implications arising from developments such as an investment made in a service;
 - i) The corporate impact on other service areas of Council wide pressures to increase fees and charges;
 - j) Alternative charging structures that could be more effective;
 - k) Proposals for targeting promotions during the year and the evaluation of any that took place in previous periods.
- 2.5 The detailed results of the review carried out this year are set out in Appendix A and the approval of the Committee is sought to the amended fees and charges for 2017/18 as set out in that appendix.
- 2.6 As required by the policy, the fees and charges budgets for 2017/18 set out in Appendix A reflect consideration of the effect of increasing the charges, such as elasticity of demand and creating movement of users to competitors or ceasing to use a service. Each area has been considered separately and in all cases the policy has been followed.
- 2.7 The table below summarises the 2015/16 outturn and 2016/17 estimate for income from the discretionary fees and charges which fall under the responsibility of this committee. It also shows the proposed budget increase that can be achieved from increased fees and charges for each service. Note that the table only shows proposals relating to increased fees and charges and so does not include other budget proposals that may impact these service areas. The table also shows known increases in statutory charges set by the government or in accordance with regulation. The approval of the committee is sought to the proposed levels of budgeted income for 2017/18 as shown in the table. The total increase in income

expected to arise from these proposals is £248,150, which amounts to a 4.6% increase in the overall budgeted income figure for this committee for 2016/17.

Service Area	2015-16 Outturn	2016-17 Estimate	Proposed increase in income £	2017/18 Estimate
Street Naming & Numbering	£59,133	£49,000	£0	£49,000
Parking Services – off street	£1,817,643	£1,820,140	£208,000	£2,028,140
Park & Ride	£347,497	£236,830	£0	£236,830
Development Control – Pre-application fees	£97,078	£136,470	£0	£136,470
Discretionary fees & charges	£2,321,351	£2,242,440	£208,000	£2,450,440
Parking Services	£443,538	£411,200	£22,000	£433,200
Local Land Charges	£240,806	£253,750	£0	£253,750
Building Control	£305,262	£301,850	£18,150	£320,000
Obligation to break-even	£989,606	£966,800	£40,150	£1,006,950
TOTAL	£3,310,957	£3,209,240	£248,150	£3,457,390

Table 1: Discretionary Fees & Charges Summary (SPST)

- 2.8 It should be noted that the proposed effective date fee increases in planning is 1 February 2017. There is currently a shortfall of £50,000 (as at November 2016) against the income targets for applications and pre-application advice collectively for 2016/17. It is hoped that the proposal to introduce fee increases early will help to partially remedy this issue and address the income shortfall. The planning section are also considering alternative options for address the income shortfall. It is not anticipated that the increased fees will give rise to additional income for 2017/18 due to changes in the expected take up of this service therefore no increase to the budget is proposed in this area. This is partly because the Local Plan is moving close to adoption and therefore it is likely that the volume of speculative proposals will decline.
- 2.9 The table below summarises the income due from fees which are set by the government. There is no change in the level of charge or income expected for the forthcoming financial year and it is therefore proposed that the budget for these income streams remains at the level set for 2016/17:

Service Area	2015-16 Outturn	2016-17 Estimate	Proposed increase in income £	2017/18 Estimate
Development Control – Planning & Conservation	£1,374,543	£1,326,720	£0	£1,326,720
Parking services - PCNs	£846,350	£864,660	£0	£864,660
Statutory fees & charges	£2,220,893	£2,191,380	£0	£2,191,380

Table 2: Statutory Fees & Charges Summary (SPST)

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 **Option 1:** The committee could approve the recommendations as set out in the report, adopting the revised fees and charges as proposed in Appendix A. As these proposals have been developed in line with the council's policy on fees and charges they will create a manageable impact on service delivery whilst maximising income levels.
- 3.2 **Option 2:** The committee could agree different increases to those proposed. Any alternative increase may not be fully compliant with the policy, would require further consideration before implementation and may not deliver the necessary levels of income to ensure a balanced budget for 2017/18.
-

4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Option 1 is the recommended option. Officers have considered all aspects of the policy in developing the proposed fees and charges set out in Appendix A and they are in line with the policy's factors set out earlier in this report.
-

5. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 5.1 No specific consultation has been completed on these fees and charges but the resident's survey included questions relating to direct payment for services and this option is seen by residents as the second most popular way of managing pressures on council budgets, with over one third of responders voting in favour of this option. The most popular option relates to being more efficient in the delivery of services.
-

6. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 6.1 The decision of the committee will be reported to Policy & Resources Committee. This will assist Policy & Resources Committee in making a final recommendation on a balanced budget to Council.
-

7. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	Increases in fees and charges can have a significant impact on the Council's objectives. The use of the policy as a guide to assessing a correct level of	Director of Finance & Business Improvement

	<p>increase means that the most appropriate levels are proposed in this report.</p> <p>The direct charging of a fee for a service reduces the level of subsidy required by all council tax payers and ensures a greater element of the cost is recovered directly from the service users where this approach is appropriate.</p>	
Risk Management	<p>The budget agreed will form part of the medium term financial strategy for 2016/17. The major risk is that the proposed increases do not deliver the income that is reflected in the budget once it is approved. If the income does not reach the levels expected within the budget, the committee will have to take corrective action to manage the shortfall.</p> <p>This risk is faced every year and, where the income generated is not sufficient to reach the budget, corrective action is taken by service managers. In such cases the quarterly budget monitoring report will highlight any significant issues to the Committee. In addition the constitution requires that any significant variances from income targets are reported to the Policy & Resources Committee along with proposed actions to resolve the budget pressure created.</p>	Director of Finance & Business Improvement
Financial	<p>The medium term financial strategy impacts upon all activities of the council. The future availability of resources to address specific issues is planned through this process.</p> <p>Appendix A details the anticipated financial impact of the proposed changes.</p>	Director of Finance & Business Improvement

Staffing	No specific issues have been identified.	Director of Finance & Business Improvement
Legal	<p>A number of the fees and charges made for services by the Council are set so as to provide the service at cost. These services are set up as trading accounts to ensure that the cost of service is clearly related to the charge made. In other cases the fee is set by statute and the Council must charge the set fee. In both cases the proposals in this report meet the Council's obligations.</p> <p>Where a customer defaults the fee or charge for a service must be defensible, in order to recover it through legal action. Adherence to the policy on setting fees and charges provides some assurance that appropriate factors have been considered in setting these charges.</p>	Legal Team
Equality Impact Needs Assessment	The objective of the review of fees and charges including a focus on the factors required by the corporate policy minimises the opportunity for unintended disadvantage to be created.	Director of Finance & Business Improvement
Environmental/Sustainable Development	No specific issues identified	Director of Finance & Business Improvement
Community Safety	No specific issues identified	Director of Finance & Business Improvement
Human Rights Act	No specific issues identified	Director of Finance & Business Improvement
Procurement	No specific issues identified	Director of Finance &

		Business Improvement
Asset Management	No specific issues identified	Director of Finance & Business Improvement

8. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- **Appendix A:** Proposed level of fees and charges for 2016/17 (Strategic Planning Sustainability and Transport Committee).

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Street Naming & Numbering						
	59,133	49,000				0 49,000
Name change			25.00	25.00	0.00%	
Addition of Name to numbered Property			25.00	25.00	0.00%	
Amendment to Postal Address			25.00	25.00	0.00%	
New Build - Individual Property			75.00	75.00	0.00%	
Official Registration of Postal Address previously not Registered			50.00	50.00	0.00%	
New Development - Fee per unit/flat			40.00	40.00	0.00%	
Creation of New Street			100.00	100.00	0.00%	
Renumbering of Development or Block of Flats - Fee per unit/flat			20.00	20.00	0.00%	
Street Naming & Numbering Total	59,133	49,000				0 49,000

BUDGET STRATEGY 2017/18 - FEES AND CHARGES

Fees and Charges April 2016 - March 2017	* Includes VAT	2015-2016 Actuals	2016 -2017 Current Estimate	Current Charges 2016-2017	Proposed Charges 2017-2018	% Change	2016-2017 + / - Income	2017 -2018 Estimate
Development Control-Planning and Conservation								
<u>Application to discharge conditions related to a permission</u>								
The standard fee for conditions per request; or				97.00	97.00	0.00%		
Where the related permission was for extending or altering a dwelling house or other development in the curtilage of a dwelling house.				28.00	28.00	0.00%		
<u>Written confirmation of conditions previously discharged relating to a permission</u>								
Per request; or				97.00	97.00	0.00%		
Where the related permission was for extending or altering a dwelling house or other development in the curtilage of a dwelling house.				28.00	28.00	0.00%		
<u>Pre-Application Fees D160</u>		93,282	115,000				0	115,000
<u>Written Advice for Householder applications</u>								
charged for written advice on Householder applications	*			42.00	44.00	4.76%		
and with an hour long meeting with an officer				98.00	103.00	5.10%		
<u>Heritage Advice</u>		0	11370					11370
Written Advice		2127	5000	42.00	44.00	4.76%		5000
Site visit/Meeting				139.00	146.00	5.04%		
<u>Landscape Advice</u>		931	2600					2600
Householder tree advice involving a site visit by an officer (five trees or less)				42.00	44.00	4.76%		
Householder tree advice involving a site visit by an officer (more than five trees)				84.00	88.00	4.76%		
Other site meeting				139.00	146.00	5.04%		
<u>High Hedges</u>		738	2500	368.00	386.00	4.76%		2500
<u>Written Advice for small commercial applications</u>								
charged for written advice for small commercial including shops, shop fronts and change of use	*			69.00	72.00	4.35%		
<u>Written Advice for applications</u>								
charged for written advice for applications	*			139.00	146.00	5.04%		
<u>Advice involving meetings with Officers</u>								
An hour long meeting	*			370.00	390.00	5.41%		
an hour long meeting with officer plus heritage/landscape/design advice				509.00	536.00	5.30%		
Additional fee per advisor				139.00	146.00	5.04%		
<u>Other Pre-Application Fees</u>								
<u>Administration fees</u>								
<u>Research of Permitted Development Rights and Planning Histories</u>								
Research on Planning Histories				42.00	44.00	4.76%		
Research on Permitted Development Rights				42.00	44.00	4.76%		
<u>All Outline Applications</u>		1,374,543	1,326,720				0	1,326,720
£385 per 0.1 hectare for sites up to and including 2.5 hectares				385.00	385.00	0.00%		
More than 2.5 hectares								
£9,527 + £115 for each 0.1 in excess of 2.5 hectares to a maximum of £125,000				9,527.00	9,527.00	0.00%		

BUDGET STRATEGY 2017/18 - FEES AND CHARGES

Fees and Charges April 2016 - March 2017	* Includes VAT	2015-2016 Actuals	2016 -2017 Current Estimate	Current Charges 2016-2017	Proposed Charges 2017-2018	% Change	2016-2017 + / - Income	2017 -2018 Estimate
Householder Applications								
Alterations/extensions to a single dwelling , including works within boundary				172.00	172.00	0.00%		
Full Applications (and First Submissions of Reserved Matters)								
Alterations/extensions to two or more dwellings , including works within boundaries				339.00	339.00	0.00%		
Two or more dwellings (or two or more flats)								
New dwellings (up to and including 50)				385.00	385.00	0.00%		
(not more than 50)								
New dwellings (for more than 50)								
£19,049 + £115 per additional dwelling in excess of 50 up to a maximum fee of £250,000				19,049.00	19,049.00	0.00%		
New dwellings (more than 50)								
Full Applications (and First Submissions of Reserved Matters) continued...								
Erection of buildings (not dwellings, agricultural, glasshouses, plant or machinery)								
No gross floor space to be created by the development				195.00	195.00	0.00%		
No increase in gross floor space or no more than 40m ²								
Gross floor space to be created by the development				385.00	385.00	0.00%		
Gross floor space to be created by the development				385.00	385.00	0.00%		
More than 75m ² but no more than 3,750m ²								
Gross floor space to be created by the development				19,049.00	19,049.00	0.00%		
More than 3,750m ² plus £115 for each 75 sqm								
The erection of buildings (on land used for agriculture for agricultural purposes)								
Gross floor space to be created by the development				80.00	80.00	0.00%		
Gross floor space to be created by the development				385.00	385.00	0.00%		
Gross floor space to be created by the development More than 540m ² but not more than 4,215m ²				385.00	385.00	0.00%		
Gross floor space to be created by the development More than 4,215m ²				19,049.00	19,049.00	0.00%		
Full Applications (and First Submissions of Reserved Matters) continued...								
Erection of glasshouses (on land used for the purposes of agriculture)								
Gross floor space to be created by the development Not more than 465m ²				80.00	80.00	0.00%		
Gross floor space to be created by the development More than 465m ²				2,150.00	2,150.00	0.00%		
Erection/alterations/replacement of plant and machinery								
Site area Not more than 5 hectares				385.00	385.00	0.00%		
Site area More than 5 hectares max £250,000				19,049.00	19,049.00	0.00%		
Applications other than Building Works								
Car parks, service roads or other accesses For existing uses				195.00	195.00	0.00%		
Waste (Use of land for disposal of refuse or waste materials or deposit of material remaining after extraction or storage of minerals)								
Site area Not more than 15 hectares				195.00	195.00	0.00%		
Site area More than 15 hectares				29,112.00	29,112.00	0.00%		

BUDGET STRATEGY 2017/18 - FEES AND CHARGES

Fees and Charges April 2016 - March 2017	* Includes VAT	2015-2016 Actuals	2016 -2017 Current Estimate	Current Charges 2016-2017	Proposed Charges 2017-2018	% Change	2016-2017 + / - Income	2017 -2018 Estimate
<u>Operations connected with exploratory drilling for oil or natural gas</u>								
Site area Not more than 7.5 hectares				385.00	385.00	0.00%		
Site area More than 7.5 hectares				28,750.00	28,750.00	0.00%		
<u>Other operations (winning and working of minerals)</u>								
Site area Not more than 15 hectares				195.00	195.00	0.00%		
Site area More than 15 hectares				29,112.00	29,112.00	0.00%		
Other operations (not coming within any of the above categories) Any site area				195.00	195.00	0.00%		
<u>Lawful Development Certificate</u>								
LDC - Existing Use - in breach of a planning condition								
LDC - Existing Use LDC - lawful not to comply with a particular condition				195.00	195.00	0.00%		
LDC - Proposed Use - half planning fee								
<u>Prior Approval</u>								
Agricultural and Forestry buildings & operations or demolition of buildings				80.00	80.00	0.00%		
Telecommunications Code Systems Operators				385.00	385.00	0.00%		
<u>Reserved Matters</u>								
Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval				385.00	385.00	0.00%		
<u>Approval/Variation/discharge of condition</u>								
Application for removal or variation of a condition following grant of planning permission				195.00	195.00	0.00%		
Request for confirmation that one or more planning conditions have been complied with - householder				28.00	28.00	0.00%		
All other development				97.00	97.00	0.00%		
<u>Change of Use</u>								
of a building to use as one or more separate dwelling houses, or other cases								
Number of dwellings not more than 50				385.00	385.00	0.00%		
Number of dwellings More than 50				19,049.00	19,049.00	0.00%		
<u>Other Changes of Use</u> of a building or land				385.00	385.00	0.00%		
<u>Advertising</u>								
Relating to the business on the premises				110.00	110.00	0.00%		
Advance signs which are not situated on or visible from the site,				110.00	110.00	0.00%		
directing the public to a business								
Other advertisements				385.00	385.00	0.00%		
<u>Application for a New Planning Permission to replace an Extant Planning Permission</u>								
Applications in respect of major developments				575.00	575.00	0.00%		
Applications in respect of householder developments				57.00	57.00	0.00%		
Applications in respect of other developments				195.00	195.00	0.00%		
<u>Application for a Non-material Amendment Following a Grant of Planning Permission</u>								
Applications in respect of householder developments				28.00	28.00	0.00%		
Applications in respect of other developments				195.00	195.00	0.00%		
Development and Conservation Control Total		1,471,622	1,463,190					
							0	1,463,190

BUDGET STRATEGY 2017/18 - FEES AND CHARGES

Fees and Charges April 2016 - March 2017	* Includes VAT	2015-2016 Actuals	2016 -2017 Current Estimate	Current Charges 2016-2017	Proposed Charges 2017-2018	% Change	2016-2017 + / - Income	2017 -2018 Estimate
Local Land Charges								
		240,806	253,750				0	253,750
Search and Enquiries (LLC1 and CON29) - Paper Search				95.00	100.00	5.26%		
Search and Enquiries (LLC1 and CON29) - Electronic Searches - NLIS				95.00	100.00	5.26%		
Search only (LLC1 only) - Paper Search				35.00	35.00	0.00%		
Search only (LLC1 only) - Electronic Search				35.00	35.00	0.00%		
CON 29 Optional Enquiries (printed) each excl. Q22				15.00	15.00	0.00%		
CON29 Optional Question 22					24.00			
CON 29 Additional Enquiries each				20.00	20.00	0.00%		
Additional Parcel of Land				10.00	10.00	0.00%		
Personal Search Register only				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
Refined Information								
Question								
1.1 (a) - (e)				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
1.1 (f) - (h)				4.06	4.06	0.00%		
1.2				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
2 (a)				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
2 (b) - (d)				3.83	3.83	0.00%		
3.1				3.48	3.48	0.00%		
3.2				3.83	3.83	0.00%		
3.3 (a)				SOUTHERN WATER	SOUTHERN WATER			
3.3 (b)				SOUTHERN WATER	SOUTHERN WATER			
3.4 (a), (e), (f)				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
3.4 (b) - (d)				3.83	3.83	0.00%		
3.5				3.83	3.83	0.00%		
3.6 (a) - (l)				3.83	3.83	0.00%		
3.7				11.42	11.42	0.00%		
3.8				4.06	4.06	0.00%		
3.9 (a) - (n)				3.48	3.48	0.00%		
3.10 (a)				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
3.10 (b)				3.48	3.48	0.00%		
3.11				3.83	3.83	0.00%		
3.12 (a)				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
3.12 (b) (i)				3.52	3.52	0.00%		
3.12 (b) (ii)				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
3.12 ©				3.52	3.52	0.00%		
3.13				HPA	HPA			
Unrefined Information								
Question								
1.1 (a) - (e)				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
1.1 (f) - (h)				3.25	3.25	0.00%		
1.2				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
2 (a)				KCC	KCC			
2 (b) - (d)				KCC	KCC			
3.1				3.09	3.09	0.00%		
3.2				KCC	KCC			
3.3 (a)				SOUTHERN WATER	SOUTHERN WATER			
3.3 (b)				SOUTHERN WATER	SOUTHERN WATER			
3.4 (a), (e), (f)				KCC	KCC			
3.4 (b) - (d)				KCC	KCC			
3.5				KCC	KCC			
3.6 (a) - (l)				KCC	KCC			
3.7				5.64	5.64	0.00%		
3.8				3.26	3.26	0.00%		
3.9 (a) - (n)				3.09	3.09	0.00%		
3.10 (a)				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
3.10 (b)				3.09	3.09	0.00%		
3.11				2.88	2.88	0.00%		
3.12 (a)				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
3.12 (b) (i)				3.10	3.10	0.00%		
3.12 (b) (ii)				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
3.12 ©				3.10	3.10	0.00%		
Land Charges Total		240,806	253,750				0	253,750

BUDGET STRATEGY 2017/18 - FEES AND CHARGES

Fees and Charges April 2016 - March 2017	* Includes VAT	2015-2016 Actuals	2016 -2017 Current Estimate	Current Charges 2016-2017	Proposed Charges 2017-2018	% Change	2016-2017 + / - Income	2017 -2018 Estimate
Parking Services								
Business Permits D043		5,278	12,710	100.00	100.00	0.00%		12,710
Residents Permits D065		90,380	85,440	25.00	25.00	0.00%		85,440
Visitors Permits D066		102,954	83,240	25.00	25.00	0.00%		83,240
3rd Permit [resident / visitor parking]				50.00	50.00	0.00%		
Replacement Permits/Duplicate Permits D067	*	0	780	10.00	10.00	0.00%		780
Carers Permits - Organisation D050	*	1,885	1,290	20.00	20.00	0.00%		1,290
Carers Permits - Individuals				0.00	0.00	0.00%		
School Permit	*			10.00	10.00	0.00%		
Dispensations and Waivers D061								
Waivers/Work permits [max 1 day]	*	9,068	14,560	11.00	11.00	0.00%		14,560
Waivers/ Work Permits [max 1 week]	*			33.00	33.00	0.00%		
Waivers/ Work Permits [max 3 months]	*			55.00	55.00	0.00%		
Dispensations [max 1 day]	*			11.00	11.00	0.00%		
Dispensations [max 1 week]	*			33.00	33.00	0.00%		
Dispensations [max 3 months]	*			55.00	55.00	0.00%		
Cones/ Suspension administration Fee	*			70.00	70.00	0.00%		
PCN Low - Statutory D042		846,350	864,660	50.00	50.00	0.00%		864,660
PCN High - Statutory				70.00	70.00	0.00%		
Season Tickets - Car Parks								
3 Month 5 days Mon - Fri	*	107,510	78,670	237.00	250.00	5.49%	4,000	82,670
3 Month 7 days Mon - Sun	*			289.00	303.00	4.84%		
6 Month 5 days Mon - Fri	*			418.00	440.00	5.26%		
6 Month 7 days Mon - Sun	*			515.00	540.00	4.85%		
12 Month 5 days Mon - Fri	*			732.00	770.00	5.19%		
12 Month 7 days Mon - Sun	*			886.00	930.00	4.97%		
Season Tickets - Car Parks (Mote Park Only)								
One Year	*	4,200	5,000	40.00	40.00	0.00%		5,000
PAY AND DISPLAY								
On Street D060								
30 mins		233,973	213,180	0.60	0.70	16.67%	22,000	235,180
1 hr				1.10	1.50	36.36%		
1.5 hr				1.70	2.00	17.65%		
2 hr				2.20	2.50	13.64%		
3 hr				3.30	3.50	6.06%		
4 hr				4.40	4.50	2.27%		
Off street								
Short Stay		1,689,692	1,545,040				204,000	1,749,040
Medway St								
1 hr	*			1.10	1.50	36.36%		
3 hr	*			2.20	2.50	13.64%		
4 hr	*			3.50	4.00	14.29%		
Brewer Street [E]								
30 mins	*			0.50	0.50	0.00%		
1 hr	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		
King Street								
1 hr	*			1.10	1.50	36.36%		
3 hr	*			2.20	2.50	13.64%		
4 hr	*			3.50	4.00	14.29%		
Wheeler Street								
30 mins	*			0.50	0.50	0.00%		
1 hr	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		
Palace Avenue								
3 hr	*			2.20	2.50	13.64%		
4 hr	*			3.50	4.00	14.29%		
Mote Road								
1 hr	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		
Mill Street								
1 hr	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		

BUDGET STRATEGY 2017/18 - FEES AND CHARGES

Fees and Charges April 2016 - March 2017	* Includes VAT	2015-2016 Actuals	2016 -2017 Current Estimate	Current Charges 2016-2017	Proposed Charges 2017-2018	% Change	2016-2017 + / - Income	2017 -2018 Estimate
<u>Long Stay</u>								
<u>Barker Road</u>								
1 hr	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		
5 hr	*			4.50	5.00	11.11%		
Over 5 hours				6.00	6.50	8.33%		
<u>Brooks Place</u>								
1 hr	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		
5 hr	*			4.50	5.00	11.11%		
Over 5 hours				6.00	6.50	8.33%		
<u>Brunswick Street</u>								
1 hr	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		
5 hr	*			4.50	5.00	11.11%		
Over 5 hours				6.00	6.50	8.33%		
<u>College Road</u>								
1 hr	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		
5 hr	*			4.50	5.00	11.11%		
Over 5 hours				6.00	6.50	8.33%		
<u>Lucerne Street</u>								
1 hr	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		
5 hr	*			4.50	5.00	11.11%		
Over 5 hours				6.00	6.50	8.33%		
<u>Sittingbourne Road</u>								
1 hr	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		
5 hr	*			4.50	5.00	11.11%		
Over 5 hours				6.00	6.50	8.33%		
<u>Union Street (E)</u>								
1 hr	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		
5 hr	*			4.50	5.00	11.11%		
Over 5 hours				6.00	6.50	8.33%		
<u>Union Street (W)</u>								
1 hr	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		
5 hr	*			4.50	5.00	11.11%		
Over 5 hours				6.00	6.50	8.33%		
<u>Well Road</u>								
1 hr	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		
5 hr	*			4.50	5.00	11.11%		
Over 5 hours				6.00	6.50	8.33%		
<u>Lockmeadow</u>								
1 Hour -	*			0.90	1.00	11.11%		
3 hr	*			2.00	2.50	25.00%		
4 hr	*			3.00	3.50	16.67%		
Up to 5 hours	*			4.50	5.00	11.11%		
Over 5 hours	*			6.00	6.50	8.33%		
Overnight charge all off-street car parks (6.30pm to 8am)								
	*			1.50	2.00	33.33%		
<u>Mote Park</u>								
Up to 6 Hours	*	16,242	191,430	1.00	1.00	0.00%		191,430
Parking Services Total		3,107,531	3,096,000				230,000	3,326,000

BUDGET STRATEGY 2017/18 - FEES AND CHARGES

Fees and Charges April 2016 - March 2017	* Includes VAT	2015-2016 Actuals	2016 -2017 Current Estimate	Current Charges 2016-2017	Proposed Charges 2017-2018	% Change	2016-2017 + / - Income	2017 -2018 Estimate
Park and Ride								
On Bus Charges		325,397	214,760					214,760
Peak Day Return (up to 9am inclusive, Mondays to Fridays)				2.60	2.60	0.00%		
Off-Peak Day Return				1.60	1.60	0.00%		
10 Single Trip Ticket -10 singles				10.30	10.30	0.00%		
Season tickets								
Twelve-Week Season Ticket		22,100	22,070	103.00	103.00	0.00%		22,070
Annual Season Ticket				412.00	412.00	0.00%		
Park and Ride Total		347,497	236,830				0	236,830

Agenda Item 15

STRATEGIC PLANNING, SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

10 January 2017

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

No

Strategic Plan 2015-20, 2017-18 Refresh

Final Decision-Maker	Council
Lead Director	Chief Executive
Lead Officer and Report Author	Angela Woodhouse, Head of Policy and Communications
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

1. To review and recommend amendments to the draft Strategic Plan 2015-20, 2017-18 refresh to Policy and Resources Committee as appropriate
2. To review and agree the performance indicators for the action areas pertinent to this committee for reporting in 2017-18.

This report relates to the following corporate priorities:

- Keeping Maidstone Borough an attractive place for all
- Securing a successful economy for Maidstone Borough

The Strategic Plan sets the council's priorities and how they will be delivered. The refresh is focused on shaping the plan to be fit for purpose in 2017-18.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Policy and Resources	14 December 2016
Strategic Planning Sustainability and Transportation	10 January 2017
Communities, Housing and Environment Committee	17 January 2017
Heritage Culture and Leisure	31 January 2017
Policy and Resources	15 February 2017
Council	2 March 2017

Strategic Plan 2015-20, 2017-18 Refresh

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report sets out the refreshed strategic plan at Appendix A for consultation with the three service committees.
 - 1.2 The Committee is asked to review the action areas relevant to its terms of reference to identify actions and measures for 2017-18 focused on the “we will” section within each action area.
 - 1.3 The changes made so far reflect the results of the budget consultation and follow up workshop with the leadership team including Chairs and Vice Chairs from all four principal committees.
 - 1.4 The Strategic Plan is aligned to and underpinned by the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
-

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

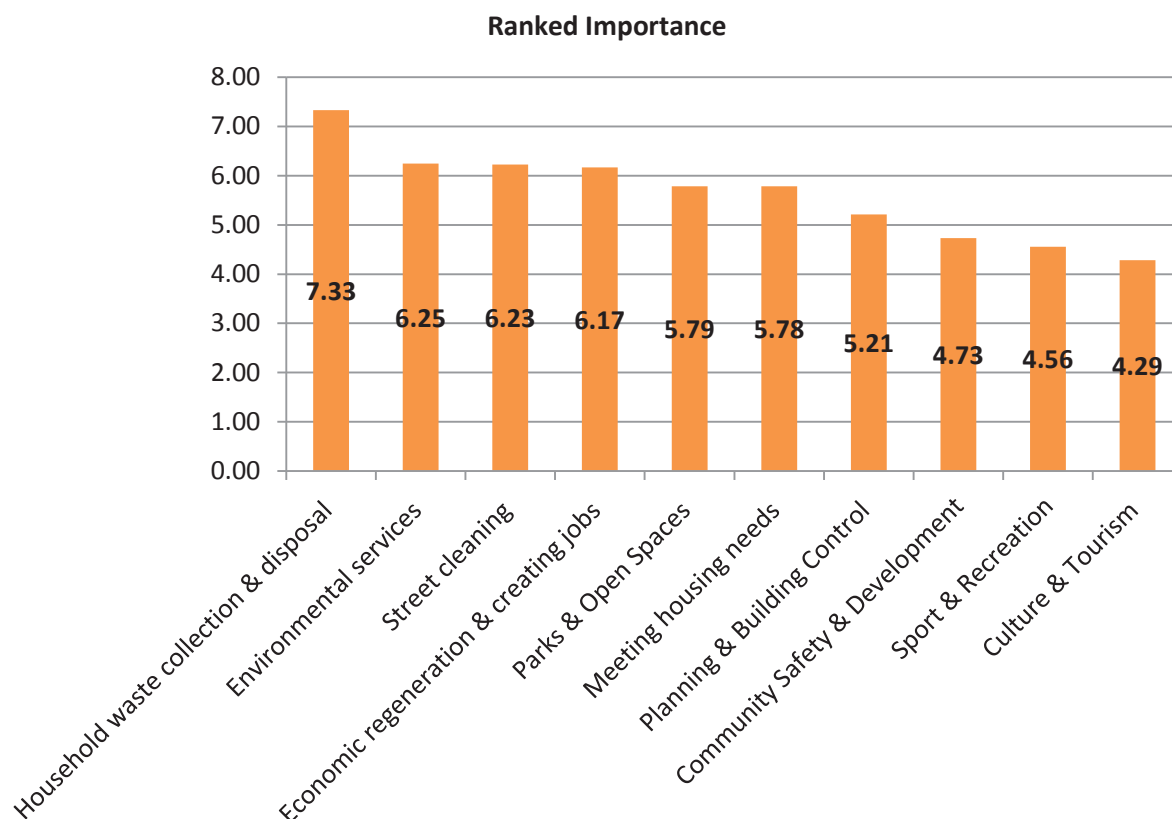
- 2.1 The Policy and Resources Committee agreed in September that the Strategic Plan would be refreshed for 2017-18 rather than creating a new plan. To support the refresh of the plan and in-light of the budget savings required going forward a budget consultation was carried out.
- 2.2 The consultation was held between 7 October and 20 November 2016. Roadshows were held at a variety of locations around the borough and the survey was emailed to the Council’s consultation mailing list and promoted via social media and available online. Respondents were asked two questions in the survey:

- to rank ten services in order of importance where 1 was most important and 10 least important.
- for the same list of services, to say if they thought funding for that service should remain the same, be reduced or be cut altogether.

We received a total of 926 (786 online and 140 through the roadshow) responses.

- 2.3 The full budget report and results have been appended to the report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) on this agenda.

2.4 The bar chart below shows the ranked importance of the ten areas as prioritised by residents.



2.5 A workshop was held with the leadership team to consider the results of the survey, information from the residents' survey 2015, performance data and proposed actions and measures for 2017-18.

2.6 As a result of the workshop and consultation two of the action areas have been reworded as follows:

- Enhancing the appeal of the town centre for everyone has been changed to: Regenerating the Town Centre
- Planning for sufficient homes to meet our Borough's needs to: A Home for Everyone

2.7 Three areas have been suggested for the council to focus on in 2017-18 out of the 8 action areas:

- Providing a clean and safe environment – a clean and tidy borough is consistently a high priority for our residents

- A Home for Everyone –In light of the spend and needs in this area an area for focus in 2017-18
- Regenerating the Town Centre – focusing on delivery of our regeneration projects and working with partners

2.8 This gives the council clear priorities and focus for 2017-18. As such it is recommended a similar focussed approach is taken to performance management in 2017-18. Rather than reporting to the Policy and Resources Committee on all performance measures they will receive a report on the top three areas of focus. Each service committee will be able to design and shape performance reports relevant to their areas of focus in 2017-18.

2.9 When considering indicators to measure progress against our actions they should be:

- Relevant to our Strategic Plan, priorities and our responsibilities
- SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound

Indicators will be added to the 'measured by' sections of the Strategic Plan.

2.10 As is evident from the report of the Director of Finance and Business Improvement the Council faces significant financial challenges over the life of the plan with no revenue support grant in 2017/18 and a negative settlement by 2019/20. Despite the financial pressures the MTFS remains aligned to and underpins the delivery of the Strategic Plan priorities.

2.11 Policy and Resources Committee will consider the final draft with changes as recommended by each committee for approval prior to submission to Council in March.

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

3.1 The Committee is asked to consider any amendments to the actions and measures for recommendation to Policy and Resources Committee. The Committee can choose what amendments to propose if any. It is also asked to consider how the actions will be measured giving consideration to which performance indicators would be appropriate.

3.2 The areas of the Strategic Plan which relate to this committee are:

- Promoting a range of employment opportunities and skills required across the Borough
 - A home for everyone
 - Securing Improvements to the transport infrastructure of our Borough
-

4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider any amendments to the actions and measures for recommendation to Policy and Resources Committee.

5. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 5.1 Residents were asked to consider our priorities in the budget consultation carried out in Autumn 2016, referred to above and appended to the report on the medium term financial strategy on this agenda.

6. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 6.1 The current stage in the process is to consult with the service committees prior to reporting to the Policy and Resources Committee in February.
- 6.2 Policy and Resources will consider the changes put forward by each service committee prior to approving the refreshed plan for submission to Council on 2 March 2017.

7. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	The Strategic Plan sets the Council's priorities	Head of Policy and Communications
Risk Management	The Strategic Plan sets out our priorities and how they will be delivered informing the councils risk register and risk appetite. The council has a risk register which will pick up any actions from the strategic plan.	Head of Policy and Communications
Financial	The Strategic Plan sets the Council's priorities. The Medium Term Financial Strategy aligns with the Strategic Plan and sets out the priorities in financial terms.	Section 151 Officer & Finance Team

Staffing	The plan informs service plans and individual appraisals	Head of Policy and Communications
Legal	No legal implications	Interim Head of the Legal Partnership
Equality Impact Needs Assessment	As decisions are made on each of the projects and actions these will need to take equality into account	Head of Policy and Communications
Environmental/Sustainable Development	The Strategic Plan sets out the high level priorities for Environment and Sustainable Development	Head of Policy and Communications
Community Safety	The Strategic Plan sets out the high level priorities for Community Safety	Head of Policy and Communications
Human Rights Act	No implications	Head of Policy and Communications
Procurement	No implications	Head of Policy and Communications
Asset Management	No implications	Head of Policy and Communications

8. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix A: Strategic Plan , 2015-2020 (2017-18, Refresh)
- Appendix B: Potential Performance Measures

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Appendix A

Strategic Plan 2015-2020



Foreword from the Leader (2017-18), Councillor Fran Wilson



New section to be drafted for Policy and Resources in February

~~Over the next five years Maidstone Borough Council faces an exceptionally challenging future as our funding from Central Government for the provision of local services is removed. Increasingly we have to rely on~~

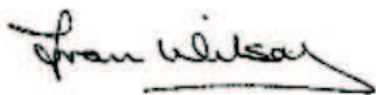
~~self-generated income and on our own tax base. Despite this we are confident we can produce a solid medium term financial strategy and continue to deliver the first class services which residents value.~~

~~Devolution is now high on Central Government's Agenda. It is vital that we put time and effort into determining what this will mean for the people of this Borough and, working with the County Council and other district colleagues, into shaping the future for Kent.~~

~~At the heart of the Borough is our county town. Emphasis will be placed on regeneration and transportation projects to underpin a vibrant economy and enhance its appeal to both residents and visitors.~~

~~The gap between income and house prices continues to grow. This, allied to an acute shortage of affordable housing, has made it increasingly difficult to get a foot on the housing ladder and has seen homelessness rise at an alarming rate. A key priority is to provide decent and affordable homes for our growing population.~~

~~Despite these challenges we are determined to remain ambitious in our aspirations for the Borough and its people and to emphasise its unique heritage, cultural and natural assets~~



Our Vision, Mission and Values

OUR VISION

That our residents live in decent homes, enjoy good health and a pleasant environment, with a successful economy that is supported by reliable transport networks.

OUR MISSION

Putting People First.

OUR PRIORITIES

Keeping Maidstone Borough an attractive place for

Securing a successful economy for Maidstone



ACTION

Providing a clean and safe environment

Encouraging good health and wellbeing

Respecting the character and heritage of our Borough

Ensuring there are good leisure and cultural attractions

Regenerating Enhancing the appeal of the town centre for everyone

Securing improvements to the transport infrastructure of our Borough

Promoting a range of employment opportunities and skills required across our Borough

A home for everyone Planning for sufficient homes to meet our Borough's needs

OUR VALUES

Service



Everything we do impacts on our customers, both internal and external. We will listen to and understand their needs, then take action to provide the right service in a positive and professional manner.

Teamwork



Working together to achieve our objectives and to goals in a way that utilises the talents and creativity of everyone in our organisation.

Responsibility



We work in an environment that encourages us to take ownership for our actions. Making the right choices and decisions that lead to a satisfactory outcome for all.

Integrity



We have the courage to act on our convictions to build trust and honesty. We work with our partners and customers to create a feeling of openness and transparency in everything we do.

Value



Taking care and weighing up our options, aiming to get the maximum effect for every penny of public money we spend.

Equality



Valuing our differences and understanding how they can contribute to a better working environment and services that are fair and easy to access.

Providing a Clean and Safe Environment

Maidstone Borough Council has demonstrated its commitment to deliver cost effective and sustainable waste and recycling services, as a result our recycling rate has improved significantly. Maidstone does not experience high levels of crime. We have with our Community Safety Partnership agreed that reducing anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, reoffending and improving road safety are our priorities up until 2018. During the first year of the Strategic Plan the Council has introduced a street cleansing service designed to meet the current and future needs of the Borough.

We mean:

- People feel safe in the Borough and they live in ~~a clean environment of high quality~~ an attractive and clean environment

We will:

- Work with our partners to improve all areas of the public realm
- Deliver the waste and recycling strategy
- Deliver an efficient and effective street cleansing service
- Deliver the Community Safety ~~strategy~~ Plan 2017-18
- Deliver the Air Quality ~~Strategy working with partners~~ Action Plan

Measured by:

- ~~Resident satisfaction~~
- ~~British crime survey~~
- ~~Environmental quality indicators~~
- ~~Recycling~~
- ~~Reduction in residual waste~~
- ~~Estimated levels of CO2 Emissions (per head of population)~~

Encouraging Good Health and Wellbeing

Deprivation in the Borough is lower than average, however 14.1% (4,100) of children (under 16 years old) in Maidstone live in poverty. There is a difference in life expectancy of men and women; women are expected to live 3 years longer than men and there is a 13 year gap between the ward with the highest life expectancy and the one with the lowest life expectancy.

We mean:

- Addressing the social determinants of health through our role in services like Housing, Environmental Health and Community Development and our provider role in terms of leisure activities
- Improved health outcomes for residents, reduced health inequality

We will:

- Deliver our Housing Strategy
- Deliver our Health ~~Inequalities Action Plan~~ and Wellbeing Action Plan
- ~~Work with businesses to promote health and wellbeing~~

Measured by:

- ~~Health Indicators~~
- ~~Number of private sector homes improved~~
- ~~Disabled Facilities Grants~~
- ~~Homelessness Prevention~~

Respecting the Character and Heritage of our Borough

Maidstone is the county town of Kent. In terms of its geography it is largely rural and the countryside offers high quality landscape and biodiversity. Approximately 50% of the Borough population lives in a parished area. We are focused on achieving economic prosperity, whilst at the same time protecting the environment and landscape that makes the Borough of Maidstone a great place to live, work and visit.

We mean:

- Thriving and resilient urban and rural communities
- Listening to our communities
- Respecting our heritage and natural environment
- Devolving services where we can and working with Kent County Council to do the same

We will:

- Deliver and honour our Parish Charter
- Deliver the Communication and Engagement Action Plan
- Work with our Parishes and Communities on the design of their communities

Measured by:

- ~~Resident survey~~
- ~~Parish survey~~

Ensuring there are good Leisure and Cultural Attractions

There is always something to see or do in Maidstone with the river, two museums and a theatre in the town centre, four green flag parks, a well-used leisure centre, a castle, various markets and a variety of festivals and events held across the Borough and throughout the year.

We mean:

- Maidstone has leisure and cultural offers which attract visitors and meet the needs of our residents

We will:

- ~~Adopt and deliver~~ Deliver the Destination Management Plan with a shared statement of intent to manage, develop and promote our borough
- Deliver the Festival and Events Strategy
- Adopt and deliver the Museum 20 year plan
- ~~Maximise the benefits of our leisure and cultural assets through our commercialisation approach to maintain key services~~ Deliver the programme of projects a sustainable future for Mote Park.

Measured by:

- ~~Customer satisfaction with our leisure and cultural attractions~~
- ~~Visitor economy indicators~~

Regenerating the Town Centre

Maidstone has had an historically thriving town centre, however we need to ensure that we keep pace with the changing economic environment and continue to meet the demands of businesses and consumers. Investment in Maidstone town centre is needed if it is to continue to be a popular place for leisure, to live, shop and work.

We mean:

- Ensuring we have a thriving and attractive town centre that is fit for the future

We will:

- ~~Be proactive in delivering~~ [Deliver a vision for the town centre through working with partners, businesses and regenerating areas ourselves.](#) [the Town Centre Development Plan](#)
- [Deliver the Destination Management Plan.](#)

Measured by:

- ~~% of vacant retail units~~
- ~~Conversion of office space to residential,~~
- ~~How Maidstone is rated as a retail destination~~
- ~~Resident satisfaction~~

Securing Improvements to the Transport Infrastructure for our Borough

Maidstone is strategically situated between London and the channel ports and is serviced by two motorway networks, the M20 and M2, with rail connections to central London. With regard to travelling in and around the Borough by car, congestion is an issue particularly at peak time in the town centre. The bus transport network serving Maidstone town is relatively strong whilst rural transport presents distinct challenges.

We mean:

- A transport network that meets the needs of residents and businesses

We will:

- [Deliver an Integrated Transport Strategy and work with our partners to seek improvements to the transport infrastructure](#)
- [Deliver the Local Plan](#)
- [Introduce Community Infrastructure Levy](#)
- [Create a transport operators group](#)

Measured by:

- ~~Measures from Integrated Transport Strategy~~
- ~~Resident Survey~~

Promoting a range of employment skills and opportunities across the borough

There were 83,100 people employed in the Maidstone economy in 2015 with a high proportion in the public sector, reflecting the town's status as Kent's County Town and administrative capital. There were 6,735 registered businesses in Maidstone in 2015, equivalent to 42 businesses per 1,000 population, compared to 39 for England and an above average rate of self-employment.

We mean:

- Meeting the skills and employment needs of our residents, [supporting and attracting businesses and](#), not becoming a dormitory Borough, ~~and supporting and attracting businesses~~

We will:

- Deliver our Economic Development Strategy with Partners.
- Work with businesses and support them to grow and develop
- Build on the success of the enterprise hub
- Work with our partners to support those not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Measured by:

- ~~% of our residents that are NEET~~
- ~~Net change in jobs~~
- ~~% of Job Seekers Allowance claimants~~
- ~~Business start-ups versus failures~~

A Home for Everyone

The supply of new affordable housing within the borough has been greater than in neighbouring authorities, although still less than historic levels. 163 new affordable homes were built in the borough in 2014/15. [New text to be added](#)

We mean:

- Having enough homes to meet our residents needs with sufficient homes across a range of tenures

We will:

- ~~Deliver the Adopt-a~~ Local Plan
- ~~Deliver the Housing Strategy~~
- ~~Implement the Housing Assistance Strategy~~
- ~~Deliver the Homelessness Action Plan~~
- ~~Deliver the affordable housing programme~~
- ~~Deliver the Temporary Accommodation Strategy~~

Measured by:

- ~~Net Additional Homes~~
~~% of additional homes that are affordable~~

Design work to be added

Draft list of Performance Indicators

= current Key Performance Indicators. All other indicators are possible ones the Committee could opt to receive

Securing improvements to the transport infrastructure of our Borough

Indicator	Is the Council Responsible?	Do we collect this data?
Percentage of sustainable vehicles in Maidstone	No	Yes

Promoting a range of employment opportunities and skills required across our Borough

Indicator	Is the Council Responsible?	Do we collect this data?
Percentage of people claiming out of work benefits (JSA & UC)	No	Yes
Percentage of 16 - 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs)	No	Yes
Net increase in employment (NOMIS)	No	Yes
Unemployment rate in the borough	No	No
Percentage change in employee jobs	No	Yes
Number of businesses in the borough	No	Yes

***A Home for Everyone**

Indicator	Is the Council Responsible?	Do we collect this data?
Processing of planning applications: Major applications (NI 157a)	Yes	Yes
Processing of planning applications: Minor applications (NI 157b)	Yes	Yes
Processing of planning applications: Other applications (NI 157c)	Yes	Yes
Net additional homes provided	Yes	Yes

Indicator	Is the Council Responsible?	Do we collect this data?
Number of affordable homes delivered	Yes	Yes
Number of households prevented from becoming homeless through the intervention of housing advice	Yes	Yes
Average length of time to make a homelessness decision	Yes	Yes
Percentage of homeless decisions made within 33 days	Yes	Yes
Percentage of temporary accommodation arrears	Yes	Yes
Number of homeless households provided with settled accommodation	Yes	Yes
Average time taken to process housing register applications	Yes	Yes
Number of households housed through the housing register	Yes	Yes
Percentage occupancy of Aylesbury House	Yes	Yes
Number of private sector homes improved	Yes	Yes
Number of private sector vacant dwellings that are returned into occupation or demolished	Yes	Yes
Average time spent in temporary accommodation	Yes	Yes
Average value of housing in the borough	No	No
Average price of house sales in the borough	No	No
Homeless households housed in the private sector	Yes	Yes

***This overlaps with Communities Housing and Environment Committee who will set their own indicators**

Agenda Item 16

Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee

10 January 2017

Response to A City for all Londoners Publication

Final Decision-Maker	Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee
Lead Head of Service	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
Lead Officer and Report Author	Adam Reynolds, Planning Policy Officer
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

1. That the Committee notes the submitted formal response to the Mayor of London regarding the 'A City for All Londoners' Publication.

This report relates to the following corporate priorities:

- Keeping Maidstone Borough an attractive place for all
- Securing a successful economy for Maidstone Borough

Timetable

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>
Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee	10 th January 2017

Response to A City for all Londoners Publication

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report advises Councillors of the recent publication 'A City for All Londoners' by the Mayor of London and asks the Committee to note the officer level comments returned by the deadline of 11th December 2016.
-

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, is producing a new London Plan to replace the current London Plan.
- 2.2 On 24th October the Mayor of London published 'A City for All Londoners' which is the first step towards the creation of a new London Plan. The document sets out his vision for London and outlines the capital's top challenges and opportunities across priority policy areas, as well as the changes that the Mayor wants to deliver over the next four years.
- 2.3 The publication is broad and high level, however it sets out the direction for London, which the Mayor of London will expand upon in detailed strategies within the coming months and years, including:
- Land use and growth (the London Plan)
 - Transport
 - Housing
 - Economic development
 - The environment
 - Policing and crime
 - Culture and health inequalities
- 2.4 The publication outlines population projections that suggest that London's population could grow by 70,000 per year to reach 10.5 million by 2041, with an average increase of almost 44,000 households each year. In terms of housing need, the document outlines that London will need to build at least 50,000 homes per year between now and 2041. Some 270,000 homes within London have planning permission, with 70,000 of those approved within the last year. However only around half of London's 50,000 annual housing need was delivered last year.
- 2.5 The Mayor's potential strategy aims to firstly meet housing need within London's boundaries as much as possible through higher densities in town centres, intensification around new and existing transport hubs and developing 'opportunity areas' on brownfield sites capable of delivering 2,500 homes per site. The Mayor also restates his intention within the document to protect London's Green Belt from development.
- 2.6 Although the consultation was aimed at London authorities and stakeholders, Maidstone Borough Council has submitted a response and this is provided as Appendix A. Given the high level nature of the document and limited detail provided, Maidstone Borough Council's response seeks to

focus on key concerns associated with the Duty to Cooperate and ensuring London continues to plan to meet all of its housing need within the boundaries of London.

- 2.7 In preparation of the publication of the Full Review of the London Plan, a working group (Strategic Spatial Planning Officer Liaison Group) of officers has been established by the Greater London Authority to discuss future cross-boundary work on strategic planning for London and the wider South East. The 2017 meeting schedule has yet to be announced.
- 2.8 The anticipated programme for the preparation of the Full Review of the London Plan is:
- Draft London Plan consultation – Autumn 2017
 - Examination in Public (EiP) – Summer 2018
 - Publish final London Plan – Autumn 2019

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 This report is intended as an update only and as such, the only option proposed is to note the content of the report.

4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 As set out in 3.1, above, the Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.

5. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 5.1 Officers will continue to liaise with the Mayor of London in regard to the full review of the London Plan through the Strategic Spatial Planning Liaison Group.
- 5.2 The Draft London Plan consultation is scheduled for Autumn 2017, at which time officers will update Committee prior to a formal response being issued.

6. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	As this is a response to a publication there are no direct policy implications to this decision	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
Risk Management	There are no identified risks to	Rob Jarman,

	the Borough Council relating to this report	Head of Planning and Development
Financial	There are no financial implications relating to this report	Mark Green, Section 151 Officer & Finance Team
Staffing	No staffing implications. This will be managed with existing staffing resources.	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
Legal	There are no legal implications relating to this report.	Kate Jardine, Team Leader (Planning), Mid-Kent Legal Services
Equality Impact Needs Assessment	The publication are not detailed enough to raise any concerns	Anna Collier, Policy and Information Manager
Environmental/Sustainable Development	Regulatory processes in respect of this matter have been followed	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
Community Safety	No implications	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
Human Rights Act	The publication are not detailed enough to raise any concerns	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
Procurement	No implications	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development
Asset Management	No implications	Rob Jarman, Head of Planning and Development

7. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix A: Maidstone Borough Council response to A City for All Londoners

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London
GLA, City Hall, post point 18
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

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Chief Executive

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Date: 09 December 2016
My ref: CityforAllLondoners

Dear Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London

Maidstone Borough Council response to consultation on the 'A City for all Londoners'

Maidstone Borough Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on 'A City for all Londoners' consultation document, which has been published ahead of a major revision to the London Plan.

Duty to Co-operate

Going forward, cooperation between the Mayor and planning authorities across the south east England will be vital to ensure that important strategic issues, such as delivery of housing, economic growth, and infrastructure are planned effectively.

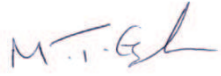
We note that the document sets out that the need to build 50,000 homes per year between now and 2041 to meet the demands of its growing population. However, page 35 sets out that approximately only 25,000 dwellings were actually delivered last year. Continued under-provision of housing within London effectively means areas such as Maidstone will come under further pressure to accommodate development on top of substantial, local growth needs. Such sustained levels of growth place pressure on:

- Land, including on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Green Belt, as well as employment land/ commercial premises, for homes
- Transport infrastructure
- Utilities infrastructure, including water, power and waste
- Council services and social infrastructure e.g. education, care etc.

Maidstone Borough Council is supportive of the approach set out in page 19 of the document that to accommodate this growth requires the Mayor to take bold measures to meet as much of the City's growth demands within London as possible. We agree that London's housing need should in the first instance be met through maximising brownfield and appropriate high density opportunities.

We look forward to providing more specific comments when further details of the London Plan proposals become known.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Egerton'.

Mark Egerton
Planning Policy Manager