

APPENDIX 3

Public and Partner Feedback on Budget Proposals 2016/17–2018/19

The table below provides a summary of all issues covered in the 57 consultation responses received. There are 75 comments listed in total as some responses covered multiple issues.

Table: Summary of issues raised via invitation for public and partner comments on the budget proposals

Issue / topic	No. of comments
Concern about closure of biological records centre . Suggestion that we should explore a South Yorkshire joint services agreement. Point made that we will still need to seek expert advice to meet the statutory duty and there will be costs associated with this. One of the responses is a letter signed by a wide range of individuals and organisations, including regional and national bodies.	18
Concerns about cuts to rangers in country parks – predominantly focused on Ulley	8
Need for fewer managers	4
Concerns about ceasing payment of utility bills for park pavilions / bowling clubs (specifically Greasbrough and Herringthorpe Valley)	3
Don't increase council tax	3
Reduce payments to / numbers of councillors	3
Adult social care: can't see how closing adult day centres will save money; need for consultation and impact assessment; concern that cuts to in-house learning disability / residential / intermediate care services will impact on the most vulnerable; issues with moving from day centres to direct payments or other provision, including need to consider impact on families/carers	3
End funding for the mayor's car	2
Concern about youth service cuts , including need for them to be consulted on	2
Concern that reductions to school crossing patrols – specifically at Laughton Junior and Infant School – risk child safety	2
Adult social care – response from service provider disagreeing with “recommended increase of between 2% and 4% (to) be applied by the Council to Adult Social Care Services this year”	1
Children and young people services – as the “failed part of the Council” - should be taken over by “a responsible outside party qualified to take over these duties”	1
Suggestion for more cost-effective home-to-school transport service	1
Libraries : better to close a few rather than diluting the whole service	1
Don't reduce street cleaning , especially in areas that are prone to litter and graffiti	1
Recycling centres could increase opening hours to help prevent fly-tipping	1
Establish more district councils with their own budget	1
Concerned about increased charges for undertaking maintenance work on	1

behalf of parish/town councils	
A call to end area assemblies as they are not a good use of scarce resources	1
Reduced revenues/benefits staff will impact on the poorest in society through increased benefit delays	1
Concern about proposed reductions to Clifton Park	1
Unhappy with road repairs	1
Unhappy with contracted out services / PFI	1
Need for a hostel to support homeless people , particularly (potential) suicide cases	1
Don't increase "admin charges" at Rother Valley	1
Stop putting money into (named area) of the Borough	1
Salaries for senior officers are too high	1
Don't reduce staff levels further – look at other options such as lighting at Riverside House	1
Comment about time-wasting staff	1
Use money held in reserves and investments	1
Good budget overall with savings identified in a number of areas with minimal impact	1
Support self-funding option for the theatre	1
Suggestion that providing 2 hours free parking per day would be cheaper than the proposed long stay reductions and more attractive to shoppers	1
Support for free Saturday parking	1
Support for school crossings to be funded by academy schools	1
As published, proposals are hard to navigate and fully understand from the public's perspective	1
Don't hire expensive consultants to review services	1

Summary and responses to issues raised

1. Detailed responses to all 57 representations formally received are in the process of being provided by the relevant service.
2. The proposal to cease hosting the biological records centre has clearly attracted the most comments, followed by the proposals to reduce country park rangers. Taken together, they constitute over a third of the total comments (26 of 75). In response to the biological records proposals it should be noted that this relates to the council's budget for 2017/18 and, therefore, does not impact at this stage on the council's ability to set a balanced budget for 2016/17. In the light of public comment, therefore, the service will be assessing in detail all the feedback received, including any viable options that may exist to sustain a service through alternative means while also delivering savings.
3. With regard to the country park rangers proposals and five further responses related to parks (including three expressing concern about ceasing payment of utility bills for park pavilions / bowling clubs) the service is responding to explain how these will be delivered in due course in a way that can sustain a viable service in the face of the funding reductions faced.

4. There were four responses in total relating to adult social care proposals and five relating to a range of children's services, all of which are subject to further, service level consultations, as will be the case for a number of other proposals.

5. With regard to the proposals relating to school crossing patrols, the final Budget proposition has been amended in the light of public and partner feedback to focus on an approach where the Council works proactively in partnership with schools (and other local partners, where relevant) to provide shared, more collaborative future funding requirements. An original proposal to remove funding from 2016/17 for the lowest risk crossing points will not be progressed at this stage in order to provide more time to consult on alternative funding options and carry out a review prior to setting the final budget for 2017/18.