



BROMLEY CIVIC CENTRE, STOCKWELL CLOSE, BROMLEY BRI 3UH

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DATE: 2 February 2024

EXECUTIVE

Meeting to be held on Wednesday 7 February 2024

Please see the attached “to follow” Appendix

- 5 **COUNCIL TAX REPORT 2024/25** (Pages 3 - 8)
Appendix 5 – Summary of Consultation Responses

Copies of the documents referred to above can be obtained from
<http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/>

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Consultation and Engagement - Appendix 5 of 2024/25 Council Tax Report to Executive 7 February 2024

Residents' engagement including in the context of budget setting is important to the council. Feedback has previously indicated that without sufficient contextual information, it is more challenging for residents and groups to express views about relevant priorities for the budget and council services.

The council outlined the context of the budget in the Council magazine before Christmas to better explain the national and local background to residents, not only for the year ahead but also for the next four years, with residents and groups then also able to comment via the usual channels if they so wished. The council's views have also featured in local and regional media, including the ongoing call for fairer funding.

Contextual information has also been published on the website with opportunity for residents to share their priorities for the 2024/5 budget.

Responses have been received around a number of themes and services. Some resident groups along with individual residents have responded directly and indicated their priorities for council services, with other responses identifying potential opportunities for savings or further income streams.

Responses include from Coppers Cope Area Residents' Association who set out their priority services for Beckenham, which were: waste management services, road safety and pedestrian improvements, adult and child social care, social housing, sports and leisure facilities, special education and early years education. Libraries, and parks and green spaces.

Similarly, Knoll Residents' Association provided their priority services based on a poll of 76 of their members, from which the top supported priorities were waste services, children's education and schools, parks and green spaces, children special education needs, and children safeguarding. Further views from these members also being provided, including around priorities between council tax levels and service provision and around the budget deficit in future years.

The Council received a range of further comments, with some praise for council achievements and how services are run. There were suggestions around raising further funds through council tax on new builds and from parking charges, with others requesting street lighting or pedestrian crossings in certain locations. Specific spending was also commented on, including requests for funding on Churchill Theatre and questioning of spending on the Crystal Palace Park Regeneration Plan.

Where comments related to specific services, these have also been shared with the relevant officers for consideration.

Alongside formal responses submitted to the consultation, further engagement was also found from social media, with partners and others sharing these posts to help reach further residents and 15 further comments received from residents sharing their views.

It is noted that many of the responses indicated a high level of awareness around the council financial situation and the contextual information provided around the budget setting. As such, responses were generally well considered, providing useful feedback to the council to inform the budget setting process.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Sent: 29 January 2024 17:46

To: Consultations <Consultations@bromley.gov.uk>

Cc: Fawthrop, Simon, Cllr <Simon.Fawthrop@bromley.gov.uk>; Onslow, Keith, CLLR <Keith.Onslow@bromley.gov.uk>; Owen, Tony, Cllr <Tony.Owen@bromley.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Planning for the future at Bromley Council - seeking residents' views

Good evening

We asked our Knoll residents the following question:

What 10 services would you prioritise to be protected from council spending cuts from the list provided?

We then provided spend categories as per your consultation information but also supplemented by looking at your annual accounts expenditure information (from 2 years ago). For next year's consultation it would be useful to have a full list of council spend categories as we may have missed some out. Eg a resident pointed out there was not a category for running the council (salaries etc) and another enquired where legal fees for fighting ULEZ would come under.

We had 76 residents respond with their 10 votes each (760 responses in total). This online survey was designed to filter for the most valued services provided by the council.

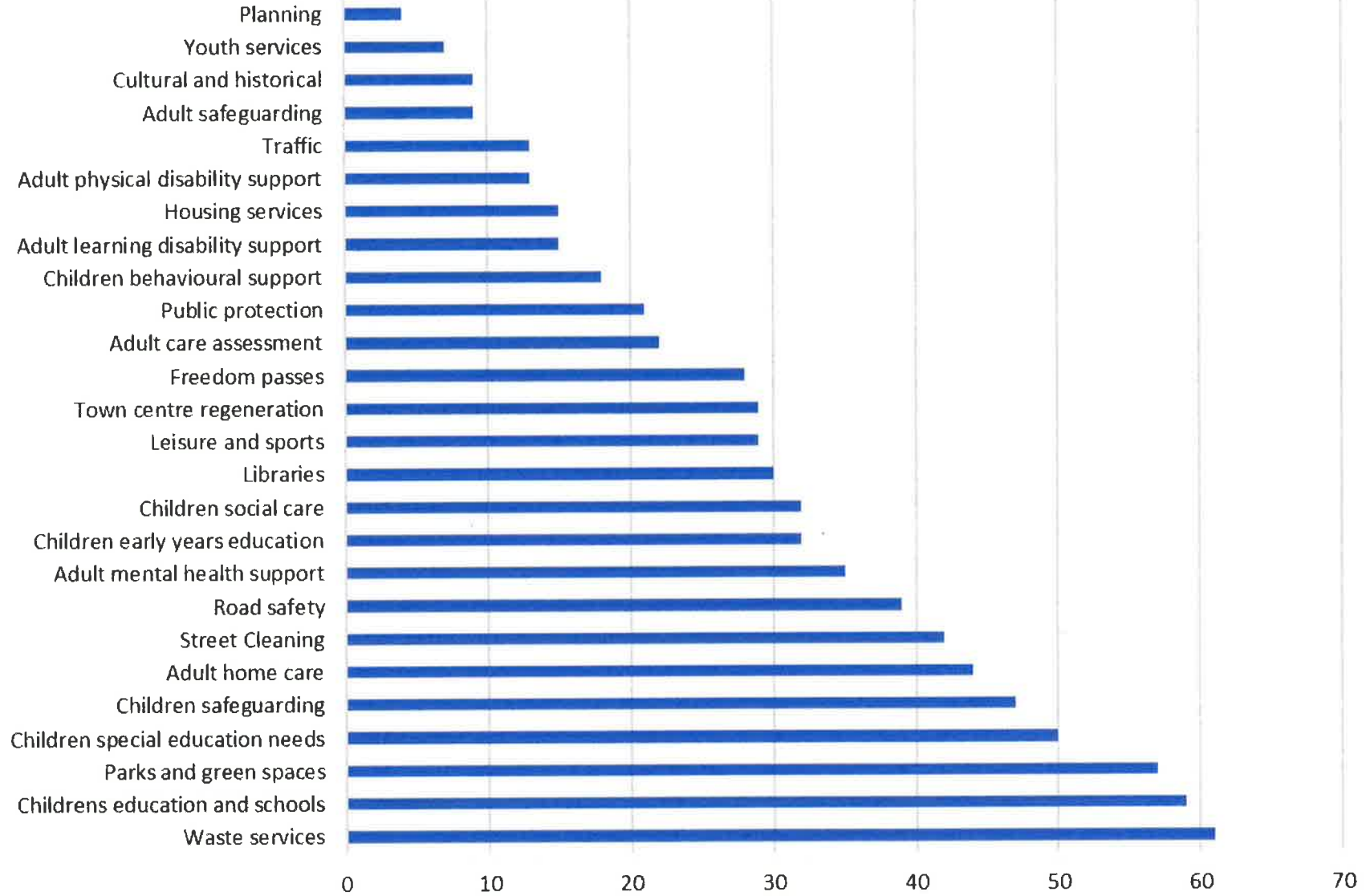
The results are as below. It was noted by one resident that she would be prepared to pay a little more council tax to protect services. This was supported by another 3 residents. Another resident highlighted the projected budget deficit of c£30m in future years would equate to about 10% increase in rates in real terms which didn't seem huge in the view of that resident.

Please let us know if you have any further questions or need any clarification.

Kind regards.

Chair, Knoll Residents Association.

KRA Priority Council Services



Service	Votes
Waste services	61
Childrens education and schools	59
Parks and green spaces	57
Children special education needs	50
Children safeguarding	47
Adult home care	44
Street Cleaning	42
Road safety	39
Adult mental health support	35
Children early years education	32
Children social care	32
Libraries	30
Leisure and sports	29
Town centre regeneration	29
Freedom passes	28
Adult care assessment	22
Public protection	21
Children behavioural support	18
Adult learning disability support	15
Housing services	15
Adult physical disability support	13
Traffic	13
Adult safeguarding	9
Cultural and historical	9
Youth services	7
Planning	4
Total	760

On Tue, 23 Jan 2024 at 11:25, Consultations <Consultations@bromley.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Residents' Association Representative,

The council is continuing with its annual budget setting process, which this year is against the context of the much-publicised national challenges on local government services.

As we continue with our commitment to sound financial management and achieving a balanced budget, we are seeking views from residents about their priorities so these can be considered. We would be grateful if you could share this opportunity with members of your organisation, with responses from residents' associations or similar organisations also being welcomed.

While Bromley's higher level of reserves than many puts the council at less immediate threat than other less careful local authorities, the budget that is currently being set for 2024/25 remains challenging and we encourage residents to read more about the background to this, which can be found on our website - www.bromley.gov.uk/council-democracy/council-budget-202425 and through www.bromley.gov.uk/consultations.

Responses can be made to consultations@bromley.gov.uk or by return to this email ahead of the budget being determined next month.

Kind regards
Public Affairs Team
Chief Executive's Department,
Bromley Council, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley BR1 3UH
www.bromley.gov.uk

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