

## **Budget Consultation summary**

The Council's annual budget is predicated on sound financial planning that has allowed a balanced budget to be delivered year on year. Consideration of the views of residents and service users at individual service level continue to inform the budget. Overarching this, in consideration of the 2023/24 budget, the Council asked for views on what is most important to residents to better understand their priorities.

During the period following the publication of the draft budget and discussion at Executive in January 2023, the Council asked residents for their views on their priorities for the 2023/4. This was publicised on the website, through social media and through contact with residents' associations.

Feedback from this exercise will be fed back to Councillors who are responsible for making the final decisions around the budget and the setting of the Council Tax.

Sixty-three responses were forthcoming and the following is a summary of the areas of priority raised in these responses:

- Leisure Centres and leisure facilities
- Play areas, parks and trees
- Environment and air quality
- Roads, pavements and parking, including EV charging, safety and cycle routes/infrastructure
- Libraries
- Lobbying for improved funding settlement from Central Government
- Social care
- The borough's elderly and most vulnerable residents
- Crime and anti-social behaviour
- ULEZ expansion
- Local businesses and high streets
- Affordable and social housing
- Waste/Recycling/Reuse
- Bureaucratic waste