Summary of Responses

Summary Graphs List Responses Cross Tabulate Export

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CORPORATE PLAN

The Corporate Plan is Oxford City Council's overarching strategy for the organisation and should be read alongside the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy. It sets out a clear vision, corporate priorities and objectives for the council, and how we will achieve them.

It can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

www.oxford.gov.uk/corporateplanandbudget2016-20

Alternatively a paper copy can be requested by contacting Sadie Paige 01865 252250.

We welcome your comments, which will inform our next revision of the Corporate Plan.

This question has been answered 6 times.

APPROACH TO BUDGET SETTING

At its City Executive Board on 17th December 2015 the Council agreed its Consultation budget for 2016-17 together with its Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20, please see below:

www.oxford.gov.uk/corporateplanandbudget2016-20

Our approach is to focus council spending on maintaining high quality frontline services, avoiding compulsory redundancies, increasing efficiency and reducing the gap between rich and poor in our city. Do you support this general approach?

Strongly agree	42% (14)
Agree	33% (11)
Neutral	9% (3)
Disagree	12% (4)
Strongly disagree	3% (1)

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CAPITAL INVESTMENT

On capital investment, we are focusing upon works which are externally funded (such as energy efficiency improvements funded by central government), those which generate an income stream for the Council (such as expanding Seacourt Park and Ride) or those which have a particular priority for local residents.

In order for us to find out to what extent you support this general approach, please let us know if you agree or disagree with the schemes outlined below.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Cycling £214k - improvements to signage and cycle lanes within the city					
Marston and Northway Floods alleviation measures £2.6 million		•			
Oxford and Abingdon Flood Alleviation £1.5 million. Council's contribution towards £120m project to develop a scheme to reduce flood risk in Oxford, improving the capacity in Oxford western flood relief plain					
New sports pavilion at the					

Quarry recreation ground £1.2 million	
Covered market £400k - external redecoration and roof repairs	
Purchase of equipment to improve quality of sports pitches by improving drainage £15k	
Investment in property to generate income to support frontline services £10.3 million	
Regeneration of the Oxpens area £6 million - including housing, business and research premises, transport improvements and flooding infrastructure	
Purchase of properties for	

Homeless Families - £5m match funding to provide for the purchase of around 50 properties to provide homes for the homeless Extension of Seacourt Car Park £2.3 millon – Increase capacity of park and ride by 600 spaces together with bus turning bay and building

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REVENUE BUDGET

In our revenue budget, we have little room for new investment. However, we propose to do the following and would welcome your views:

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

NA - to 4 - to -	
Maintain our spending which supports the	
organisations which help	
homeless people	
Maintain the level of support that we	
give to local arts and culture	
organisations to	
to all sections of the community is	
maintained.	
Continue to pay	
staff at least the Oxford Living	
Wage and require our contractors to	
do the same	
To employ a permanent	
Safeguarding Officer to protect	
vulnerable children and adults	
Freeze leisure	
charges for those on low incomes	
and provide free swimming for	

young people at certain times of the week

Continue our "Youth Ambition Programme" to provide activities for young people, especially in areas which are less well off

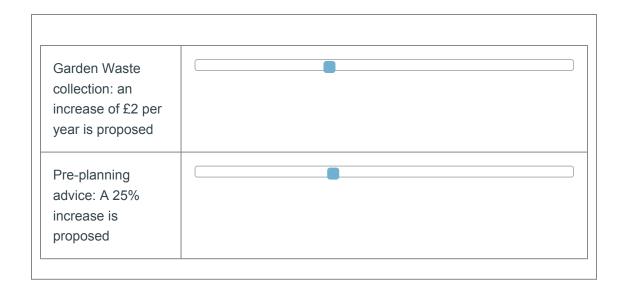
5

FEES AND CHARGES

While the Council proposes that most charges such as those for garden waste, building control and planning and will remain at 2015-16 prices, its draft Medium Term Financial Strategy does propose to increase some **fees and charges** over the next four years. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following specific proposals, which will enable us to preserve core front-line services:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Leisure activities, membership and					

use of sports facilities; increases from 10p to £1.20 or 2% to 5% are proposed but excluding residents on low incomes	
Pest Control: increases proposed range from £5 to £20	
Cemeteries: increases proposed range from 1.5% to 2.3%	
Car Parking: increases are proposed of between 10p and 20p for the Council's off-street suburban car parks (e.g. St Clements, Summertown)	
Garages: an increase of 5% across the board is proposed.	

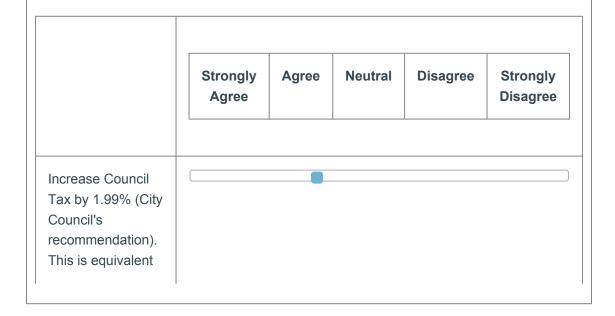


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COUNCIL TAX

Income generated from Council Tax is used to pay for all services except those related to the management and maintenance of council dwellings. It covers, for example, street cleansing, refuse collection and park maintenance.

Please select one option.





COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME The City Council is recommending that its Council Tax Support Scheme (formerly the Council Tax Benefit Scheme) is maintained on the same basis as that introduced on 1 April 2013. It is estimated that this will cost the Council around £550k per annum from next year as Government Grant is withdrawn.. This means that people on very low incomes will continue to have part or all of their Council Tax paid. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal? Please select one option.

I disagree	27% (9)
I don't know	21% (7)

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COUNCIL HOUSING RENTAL INCOME ("HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT")

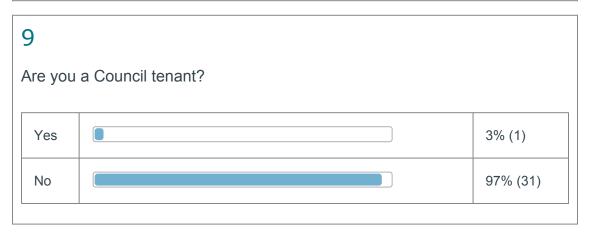
Council tenants' rental income is held separately. The government has announced changes which will reduce our funding by £34 million over the next four years, requiring us to make some reductions.

We currently propose to prioritise making sure that our existing homes are properly maintained (including meeting the new "Oxford Standard"), improving the environment on our estate (though the "Great Estates" programme), and provide particular support to the regeneration of central Blackbird Leys and Barton. This means we are having to reduce expenditure on energy efficiency improvements to council stock, and withdraw plans for new council housing, which we will instead try to see developed, as affordable housing, through a housing association or council-owned housing company.

In what order should the council prioritise the following:

(Please rate from 1 to 5 with 1 being your most important priority and 5 being your least important priority)

	1	2	3	4	5
Maintaining the quality of existing council homes		•			
Investing to improve the environment on council estates					
Improving energy efficiency of existing council homes					
Ensuring that new affordable homes have the council, rather than a housing association or locally-owned housing company as the landlord					
Regeneration of Barton and the Leys					



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OTHER COMMENTS

Are there any other comments that you would like to make on Oxford City Council's draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016-20 and draft Budget 2016 -17? (Max. 5000 characters)

This question has been answered 10 times.

