

Summary of Responses

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1

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.

2

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 :

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)

3


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.

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="570 336 730 468">Strongly Agree</td> <td data-bbox="730 336 857 468">Agree</td> <td data-bbox="857 336 1002 468">Neutral</td> <td data-bbox="1002 336 1164 468">Disagree</td> <td data-bbox="1164 336 1330 468">Strongly Disagree</td> </tr> </table>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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						

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






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


4

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:

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="571 1533 730 1661">Strongly Agree</td> <td data-bbox="730 1533 857 1661">Agree</td> <td data-bbox="857 1533 1002 1661">Neutral</td> <td data-bbox="1002 1533 1164 1661">Disagree</td> <td data-bbox="1164 1533 1328 1661">Strongly Disagree</td> </tr> </table>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		


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





<p>young people at certain times of the week</p>	
<p>Continue our “Youth Ambition Programme” to provide activities for young people, especially in areas which are less well off</p>	



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:

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="568 1480 730 1606">Strongly Agree</td> <td data-bbox="730 1480 852 1606">Agree</td> <td data-bbox="852 1480 998 1606">Neutral</td> <td data-bbox="998 1480 1161 1606">Disagree</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1480 1323 1606">Strongly Disagree</td> </tr> </table>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		
<p>Leisure activities, membership and</p>						

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


<p>Garden Waste collection: an increase of £2 per year is proposed</p>	
<p>Pre-planning advice: A 25% increase is proposed</p>	


6

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.

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="571 1360 730 1486"> <p>Strongly Agree</p> </td> <td data-bbox="730 1360 857 1486"> <p>Agree</p> </td> <td data-bbox="857 1360 1000 1486"> <p>Neutral</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1000 1360 1162 1486"> <p>Disagree</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1162 1360 1328 1486"> <p>Strongly Disagree</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Strongly Agree</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Disagree</p>	<p>Strongly Disagree</p>
<p>Strongly Agree</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Disagree</p>	<p>Strongly Disagree</p>		
<p>Increase Council Tax by 1.99% (City Council's recommendation). This is equivalent</p>						


<p>to an extra £5.55 per year for each band D tax payer, and helps us to protect frontline services.</p>	
<p>Freeze council tax and reduce services by an equivalent amount to a 1.99% increase in Council Tax (£250k per annum)</p>	



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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 1st 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.

<p>I agree</p>		<p>52% (17)</p>
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I disagree		27% (9)
I don't know		21% (7)

8

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)

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	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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Are you a Council tenant?

Yes		3% (1)
No		97% (31)

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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.

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