

Summary of Responses

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1

APPROACH TO BUDGET SETTING

Our approach is to focus council spending on protecting frontline services, avoiding compulsory redundancies and reducing the gap between rich and poor in our city. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this general approach?

Strongly agree	<div><div></div></div>	37% (17)
Agree	<div><div></div></div>	48% (22)
Neutral	<div><div></div></div>	11% (5)
Disagree	<div><div></div></div>	4% (2)
Strongly disagree	<div><div></div></div>	0% (0)




2

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The Council's capital investment programme over the next four years totals £172 million (GF £122 million and HRA £50 million). Some of the more significant schemes are detailed below. Please let us know to what extent you agree or disagree with these schemes.

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	<table><tr><th>Strongly Agree</th><th>Agree</th><th>Neutral</th><th>Disagree</th><th>Strongly Disagree</th></tr></table>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		
Contribution to major flood alleviation measures (Budget £4.0 million)	<div><div></div></div>					
Pedestrianisation of Queen Street contribution (Budget 0.5 million)	<div><div></div></div>					
Refurbishment of Community Centres (Budget 3.6 million)	<div><div></div></div>					
Purchase of properties to house the homeless (Budget 10.0 million)	<div><div></div></div>					
New recycling transfer station facilities,generating a significant financial saving (Budget 2.4 million)	<div><div></div></div>					
A new sports facility at Horspath Road, freeing up space to give BMW expansion options (Budget 4.9 million)	<div><div></div></div>					
Investing in a council housing company, to build new homes for local people (Budget 60.0 million)	<div><div></div></div>					
Additional spaces at Seacourt Park and Ride, to raise income and provide more parking options (Budget £3.9 million)	<div><div></div></div>					

Council dwelling tower block refurbishment, funded out of tenants' rents (Budget £6.9 million)	
Council dwelling - kitchen/ bathrooms and electrical replacement, funded out of tenants' rents (Budget 5.0 million)	
Regeneration of central Blackbird Leys, including a new community centre (Budget 3.6 million)	

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REVENUE BUDGET FINANCED FROM COUNCIL TAX

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

	<div> <div>Strongly Agree</div> <div>Agree</div> <div>Neutral</div> <div>Disagree</div> <div>Strongly Disagree</div> </div>
Maintain our spend on supporting homeless families	
Maintain resources in City Economic regeneration	

Increase resources in Planning Services, to ensure planning applications are processed quickly	<input type="text"/>
Invest in repairs and maintenance of Council buildings to generate income or support our communities	<input type="text"/>
Continue with apprenticeship programme	<input type="text"/>
Continue to expand our works trading activities, to generate income for investment in the frontline	<input type="text"/>
Continue to give concessions for council services to those on low incomes	<input type="text"/>
Continue to pay staff the Oxford Living wage of at least £8.93 per hour and require contractors to do the same	<input type="text"/>

4

FEES AND CHARGES

While the Council proposes that most charges such as those for building control and planning 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 - a proposed increase ranging from 5p to £2.00 or 1% to 6%					
Pest Control: increases range from £5 to £20, to reflect actual costs					
Cemeteries: increases range from 1% to 2%					
Car Parking: increases of up to 10p per hour for the Council's off-street suburban car parks (e.g. St Clemets, Summertown)					
Garages - £1 per week increase across the board					
Garden Waste collection: an increase of £2 per year					

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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.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Increase Council Tax by 1.99% (City Council's recommendation). This is equivalent to an extra £5.67 per year for each band D tax payer, and helps us to protect frontline services.					
Freeze council tax and cut services by an equivalent amount to a 1.99% increase in Council Tax (£250k per annum)					



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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 £1m 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 agree		70% (32)
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I disagree		13% (6)
I don't know		17% (8)

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COUNCIL HOUSING

Over the coming years of the Medium Term Financial Plan we will build and acquire an additional 500 new homes, ensure that our existing homes are properly maintained (including meeting the new "Oxford Standard"), improve the environment on our estates (though the "Great Estates" programme), improve the energy efficiency of existing homes and provide particular support to the regeneration of central Blackbird Leys and Barton.

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)

	<table><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
Building and acquiring new council homes	<div><div></div></div>					
Maintaining the quality of existing council homes	<div><div></div></div>					
Investing to improve the environment on council estates	<div><div></div></div>					
Improved energy efficiency of existing council homes	<div><div></div></div>					

Targeted estate regeneration e.g. Blackbird
Leys and Barton



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Are you a Council tenant?

Yes	A horizontal bar chart with a blue square marker at the far left, indicating a value of approximately 2%.	2% (1)
No	A horizontal bar chart with a blue square marker at the far left, indicating a value of approximately 98%.	98% (44)

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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 2018-21 and Consultation Budget 2017-18?

This question has been answered 21 times.