

**Name of meeting:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**Title of report:** Budget consultation – phase 1 findings and plans for phase 2

<b>Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	Yes
<b>Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan</a>?</b>	N/A
<b>Is it eligible for "call in" by <a href="#">Scrutiny</a>?</b>	Yes
<b>Date signed off by <u>Director</u> &amp; name</b>	David Smith – 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
<b>Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?</b>	Yes (see above)
<b>Is it signed off by the Assistant Director (Legal Governance and Monitoring)?</b>	Yes – 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	Cllr Graham Turner

**Electoral [wards](#) affected:** All  
**Ward councillors consulted:** None

**Public or private:** Public

## 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide interim feedback on the **findings of phase 1** of this year's public budget consultation – a full report on both phases of consultation will go to the full-Council meeting in January 2015.
- 1.2 To share the **content of phase 2** of the consultation – this is due to start on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and run for six weeks until 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

## 2. Key points

### Our approach

- 2.1 This year's budget consultation is taking place in **two phases**. Phase 1 was an initial consultation about the broad principles underpinning budget options and ideas – namely council tax, selling council assets, economic growth and development (including building more homes and business premises), and our three bold themes (health and wellbeing, economic resilience and early intervention and prevention). Phase 2 will focus more specifically on gathering feedback on some of the budget options and ideas we are looking at.

- 2.2 As in 2013, we put together a **budget consultation booklet and questionnaire** for Phase 1 of the consultation – and are now doing the same for Phase 2 (see Appendix 4). The booklet was designed to provide people with contextual information about the budget planning process, the cutbacks that still need to be made and how we have involved people in conversations about the budget so far. These core consultation documents were published online at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015) along with an online version of the survey, an ‘easy read’ version of the booklet and questionnaire, and the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2015-18 (our budget book).
- 2.3 We used a range of **communications channels** to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage people to take part in Phase 1 – for example the council’s website and social media, District Committee meetings and contact with local groups and networks (including the Voluntary & Community Sector and local businesses). Paper copies of the consultation booklet/questionnaire were made available in libraries and information centres across Kirklees. We have encouraged people to take part online wherever possible to help to save the council time and money, but have also supported people to take part in other ways. We will be taking a similar approach during Phase 2, as well as using our Kirklees e-panel.

### **Who took part?**

- 2.4 The **response rate** for Phase 1 of this year’s budget consultation has been the highest ever. We received 1643 questionnaire responses – 1245 online and 398 paper versions. This is significantly more than the 517 we received for our 2013 budget consultation. We also received 12 separate comments via email or letter, plus a further 23 via the website - making a total of 1678 responses during the four week Phase 1 consultation period.
- 2.5 Of the 1643 completed questionnaires, the majority (77% - 1258 people) came from Kirklees residents. 556 responses (34%) were from Kirklees Council employees - many of whom are also Kirklees residents. We received 61 responses on behalf of a local community group/organisation and 24 on behalf of a local business.

### **Phase 1 findings**

- 2.6 A marked-up questionnaire showing the findings from Phase 1 of the public consultation is provided at Appendix 1. A full transcript of all the comments made is provided at Appendix 2.
- 2.7 Around half of the people who responded to the consultation questionnaire (52%) felt that, in the context of the budget situation, Kirklees residents should be asked to pay an increase in **council tax** of 2%. 16% supported a 5% increase, but almost a third (32%) said there should be no increase at all in council tax.

Some people explained why they would be prepared to see an increase:

*“I feel that increases in council tax would be beneficial to the Council’s budget and allow for more services to continue operating.”*

although some felt that any increase would require much more clarity on where this money goes:

*“A rise in Council Tax needs to be clearly balanced with details of what that Council Tax actually pays for, especially if some Council services are to be withdrawn or done differently...”*

Others, however, were very concerned about the financial impact that an increase in council tax could potentially have on them:

*“As a single person on minimum wage - paying rent and bills I have £70 for the month for food - I worry if the Council tax increased I will not be able to eat...”*

Some also commented that they would prefer to see more effort going into recovering unpaid council tax instead:

*“Rather than raising Council taxes for those who pay them, would it not be a better idea to aggressively target those who do not pay, refuse to pay?”*

For a number of people, any increase feels unacceptable:

*“I can't see how the Council can justify increasing Council Tax when services are to be drastically cut.”*

but others suggested that there could be alternatives to a broad-brush increase:

*“Why is it a 2% raise across the board rather than a variable raise dependent on which tax band you fall into?”*

- 2.8 Two thirds (65%) agreed that the council should sell some **council assets** (land and buildings) for cash, with 28% saying that they ‘strongly’ agreed with this.

However, as with council tax, this is not a straightforward issue and some of the comments made in relation to this issue reflect the complexities behind it:

*“Selling off assets isn't a long term solution, once the cash raised from the sale is gone the benefit is gone.”*

*“I agree that the Council should consider selling assets - but buildings only. What is not clear is what 'land' would be sold, is this green belt land for example - in which case I would not support the sale of this...”*

*“This needs to be considered on a case-by-case basis and only if the transfer/ market conditions will provide a strong return.”*

*“I generally agree with selling some of the council's UNUSED assets, land etc, but NOT underused ones that generally add to the quality of life in the local community...”*

Generally speaking, there is a view that this *“needs to be judged depending on the asset.”*

- 2.9 Almost three quarters (72%) agreed that the council should support **economic growth and development** in Kirklees – including building more homes and business premises. 30% of people ‘strongly’ agreed with this.

As with the previous questions, the comments made here show that while there is general support for economic growth, their thinking behind this is more detailed:

*“Developing a strong infrastructure has to be the backbone of any plans for economic growth, particularly house building. Council plans to build more houses never appear to take into account that local facilities are already at breaking point.”*

*“I'm concerned that the economic growth option probably doesn't give full consideration to sustainability - new homes should be because there is an actual need for homes not for income generation; economic growth needs to be sustainable for the community, environment etc and not about growth per se.”*

*“I would strongly support it, but only if the building is in the right place.”*

*“I agree that Kirklees should support economic growth but only in ways that it is needed, for example are more business premises needed? Whilst we may need more homes, there are already thousands of sq mtrs of space for businesses currently empty - surely that needs filling first?”*

Similarly to the question on assets, people’s views depend on the specifics involved.

2.10 In terms of our **three bold themes**:

- 78% agreed the council should continue to make plans to support health and wellbeing (44% ‘strongly’).
- 85% agreed that the council should continue to make plans to support economic resilience (42% ‘strongly’).
- 83% agreed that the council should continue to make plans to support early intervention and prevention, and supporting communities to help themselves (49% ‘strongly’).
- When asked which of these three themes was the most important, ‘early intervention and prevention and supporting communities to help themselves’ was the most commonly selected (chosen by 39%). However, responses were relatively evenly split between the three themes.

2.11 527 additional comments were made. As well as commenting on the general areas covered by the Phase 1 questionnaire, people also took the opportunity to comment on some of the more specific aspects of the council’s budget referenced within the Medium Term Financial Plan. For example, 114 comments made reference to libraries – these have been passed on to the Chief Librarian.

2.12 Alongside Phase 1 of the public budget consultation, more detailed discussions around the budget have also taken place with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). A summary is provided at Appendix 3. The VCS discussions have shown real concerns about the impact of budget cuts on the sector, but equally a positive feeling that the sector can help make a real difference going forward. The challenge is how we harness this positivity and work with the sector to create new ways of delivering services.

### **Phase 2 content**

2.13 As noted in 2.1, the content of Phase 2 of this year’s budget consultation focuses more specifically on budget options and ideas. A copy of the Phase 2 consultation booklet/questionnaire is provided at Appendix 4 for information.

2.14 A summary of the Phase 1 findings has been included as part of the introduction to Phase 2.

## **3. Implications for the Council**

3.1 Public consultation is an important part of the budget setting process. It helps us to ensure that we have considered the views of different communities in Kirklees as part of our planning and decision making. The findings must be carefully considered alongside other available intelligence and should be used to help inform thinking. Consultation is not devolved decision making, however: ultimately, the final decisions are made by Council.

3.2 For consultation to be genuine we need to ensure that it is undertaken when proposals are still at a formative stage, that adequate information is given to enable consultees to respond, that adequate time is provided in which to respond and that decision makers give conscientious consideration to the response.

#### **4. Consultees and their opinions**

4.1 The budget consultation was developed by a working group of officers, led by Jane Brady. As part of this process, Assistant Directors were invited to working group meetings to talk about their budget options and ideas and agree which elements needed to be included as part of the overall budget consultation.

4.2 At the Cabinet meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014, delegated authority was given to the Director of Resources (David Smith) in consultation with the Leader (Cllr Sheard) and Cabinet portfolio holder for Resources (Cllr Turner) for finalising the approach and content of the consultation.

#### **5. Next steps**

5.1 The working group will continue with their preparation for Phase 2 (including design work, print and online set-up), starting Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014. It is planned that a summary of the Phase 1 findings will be shared on the council's website alongside information about Phase 2 – [www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015)

5.2 The findings of both phase 1 and phase 2 of the consultation will be fed back to full Council in January 2015. Final budget decisions will be taken at full Council in February 2015.

#### **6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

6.1 It is recommended that Cabinet Briefing consider the Phase 1 consultation findings (in line with paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2) and consider how best to use and share this information to support the budget planning process.

#### **7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation**

The Portfolio Holder for Resources is in agreement with officer recommendations above.

#### **8. Contact officers and relevant papers**

Alison Monkhouse	Policy Team, Communities, Transformation and Change
Nicki Boothman	Policy Team, Communities, Transformation and Change
Jim Cowell	CSR Project Manager, Communities, Transformation and Change

All the relevant papers are provided here as appendices.

#### **9. Assistant director responsible**

Jane Brady, Assistant Director for Customer & Exchequer.

## **1643 responses**

### **Council tax**

**Thinking about council tax for 2015-18, do you think Kirklees residents should be asked to pay:**

525 (32%)	No increase in council tax ( <i>No increase would mean further budget cuts of £2.7 million a year, making a total of £8.4 million by 2018. These are on top of the options we are already considering for reducing the council's budget.</i> )
835 (52%)	An increase in council tax of 2% ( <i>The budget options we are currently considering include a 2% increase in council tax.</i> )
257 (16%)	An increase in council tax of 5% ( <i>A 5% increase is above inflation and would help us close the funding gap by £4.2 million a year, making a total of £12.6 million by 2018. But it is likely to require a local referendum each year.</i> )

### **Selling council assets**

**How far do you agree or disagree that your council should sell some council assets (land and buildings) for cash?**

*This means that instead of keeping hold of all our land and buildings or transferring buildings to community groups at no cost, they could be sold to raise income for the council (up to £5 million for the period of the plan, 2015-18). This could be used to help protect some services for communities, or support people to do more things for themselves.*

<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Tend to agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Tend to disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
448 (28%)	601 (37%)	161 (10%)	219 (13%)	195 (12%)

### **Economic growth and development**

**How far do you agree or disagree that your council should support economic growth and development in Kirklees - including building more homes and business premises?**

*Building more homes and business premises would help bring more money into Kirklees from council tax and business rates. An extra 1,000 homes would raise £2.5 million in income per year. An extra 100 businesses would raise £350,000 from our share of business rates. This could be used to help protect some services for communities, or support people to do more things for themselves.*

<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Tend to agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Tend to disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
487 (30%)	676 (42%)	192 (12%)	186 (11%)	82 (5%)

## Planning for the future - our three bold themes

a) How far do you agree or disagree that your council should continue to make plans to support each of the following:

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
<b>Health and wellbeing</b> - <i>this means supporting people to be healthy, to prosper and enjoy a great quality of life in Kirklees for longer.</i>	716 (44%)	558 (34%)	182 (11%)	114 (7%)	50 (3%)
<b>Economic resilience</b> - <i>this means supporting business investment and growth in Kirklees and developing a strong local economy and infrastructure.</i>	682 (42%)	698 (43%)	155 (10%)	43 (3%)	32 (2%)
<b>Early intervention and prevention, and supporting communities to help themselves</b> - <i>this means more work to help prevent problems and reduce the need for costly services later on, improving quality of life and saving money at the same time. It also includes encouraging people to do more for themselves.</i>	795 (49%)	548 (34%)	151 (9%)	73 (5%)	43 (3%)

b) And which **ONE** of these themes do you think is the most important for your council to focus on in the future:

398 (29%)	<b>Health and wellbeing</b>
446 (32%)	<b>Economic resilience</b>
546 (39%)	<b>Early intervention and prevention, and supporting communities to help themselves</b>

If you have any further comments about the areas covered above, or other ideas for how services could be delivered differently in the future, please tell us below:

526

## About you

Are you completing this questionnaire:

1258 (77%)	as a Kirklees resident
556 (34%)	as a Kirklees Council employee
24 (1%)	on behalf of a local business
61 (4%)	on behalf of a local community group/organisation
27 (2%)	in another capacity

What is the first half of your postcode? (e.g. HD5)

1535

# Budget Consultation 2014 – Phase 1

## Open comments, emails, letters and suggestions

The following are all the open comments received through the online budget consultation feedback form, online comment forms received at [consultation@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@kirklees.gov.uk), direct comments sent to [consultation@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@kirklees.gov.uk) and all other written correspondence in relation to the Budget Consultation 2014 phase 1.

① All comments have been included in this appendix exactly as they were received.

### Budget consultation online feedback form comments Q5:

*If you have any further comments about the areas covered above, or other ideas for how services could be delivered differently in the future, please tell us below:*

527 open comments

- If you have any further comments about the areas covered ...
- Unlikely to raise £2.5 million from 1,000 extra homes as social housing tends to be inhabited by those on benefits. Unlikely for there to be any net gain. This is a loaded question that leads people to answer in such a way.
- Economic Growth and Development - whilst I agree that supporting businesses will help raise income and support the economy locally, I have concerns about the amount of green land that is being sold to developers to build new homes. If you are looking at selling Council Buildings that are no longer used, could these not be sold to developers to turn into accommodation. Could we not also ensure that all old derelict buildings and mills are used for building, prior to just giving away the green spaces - e.g. the area along St John's Road is falling to bits. Can we not encourage the owners to sell / develop this area, rather than considering allowing the building of new houses on the only remaining fields at Griomescar? We can then use the green space to assist with promoting Health and Wellbeing. I also agree that many of the old Council buildings could be sold, but don't write off giving them to community and voluntary groups, where sensible. I know this may not raise income, but it will allow people to help themselves and encourage the much needed community spirit that we are all talking about
- Road safety is a big issue, along with 'boys' on scooters during evenings. The Police are never around when it's needed. The safety of crossings and parking in school areas is a big issue. Sunnybank has NO safe crossing area yet many children cross this road to reach schools.
- keep the libraries if we lose these society will fall apart
- Better publicity for opportunities for volunteering in local communities
- Health & Wellbeing should be left to the NHS - after all they have not had their budgets cut and are swilling in money, with lavish training budgets and etc. Early intervention & supporting communities should be left to other agencies including the police and central government - central government also appears to be swilling in money The Council should concentrate on ensuring that it concentrates on economic resilience and puts in place policies that ALL residents and business will benefit from. Other policies only ensure that a minority of residents benefit from having money and resources thrown at them; the majority of whom have now come to take such money and resources for granted and therefore will continue to be a drain on the ever diminishing pot from which the Council

funds its services. In the meantime, those residents and businesses getting on with things are being penalised because their local taxes increase and the services they receive diminish.

- I believe the council should make savings by selling non-essential, unused building and land assets to generate income and support essential services. Community assistance and volunteering will be even more difficult to achieve if we consider closing libraries and community buildings where essentially people visit to learn, communicate and support their local community. Income generation is the key and if we don't speculate we won't accumulate.
- Supporting vulnerable clients in the community to ensure they are getting full benefit entitlements and trying to raise their income. Benefits are automatic stabilisers to the economy and poor people spend locally and keep local businesses and the local economy ticking over. Ensuring vulnerable people maximise their income generates stability, lowers crime and deviance and aids them to pay for services from the Council also. Especially substance abuse clients, homeless, mental health, Physical disabilities who are a priority and need one to one home visits, reassurance and bond of trust building. These kind of chaotic people/vulnerable are often unable to make/keep appointments at a community locations like Citizens Advice Bureau and reap havoc with inappropriate frustration/behaviour when they do attend. KBAS Care in the Community team provide an essential service and have proved statistically how much income they generate for the under class.
- It's okay having these themes and asking if people agree but it is about the detail within them. Whilst I tend to agree with the themes - I do not necessarily agree with the Council's approach nor the investment within particular services. The Council needs to stop doing a lot of the preventative work it does within certain areas and refocus its priorities alongside refocussing its budget.
- Look at the working day of council staff. Planned early starts and early finishes (Say 7:30 to 15:30) could have a dramatic impact on congestion and possibly cut electricity costs, based on future billing options, by reducing demand at peak period.
- I agree that people should help themselves but the idea of The Street is it really going to work in this day and age we are not living in the 1950's most people nowadays do not get time with their own family never mind popping next door to make sure they are ok and do some shopping. In an ideal world this would be great but not realistic.
- difficult to choose one - all three important and inter-relate socially and economically.
- Environmental Health and Pollution Control should be a priority to protect residents of Kirklees
- spread the wealth of the council, by moving departments to different parts of Kirklees and not all in one area in Huddersfield. This would help spread the resources and monies staff spend whilst working throughout Kirklees instead of just one area, thus encouraging growth throughout.
- I think services could be delivered in hubs focussed around areas/needs as opposed to each separate service having its own infrastructure/management etc. This should reduce costs, give a greater oversight of service being delivered and reduce duplication of work. It would also make services much more accessible to residents and clients and reduce the need for/confusion caused by many different workers working with one family
- Save money on reducing sick pay and dealing with employees who are suspended on pay more quickly, we lose so much money on agency staff cover as well as paying a salary at the same time in these situations.
- Look at the cost of Parish Councils/are they needed?
- Work more effectively with the private sector to develop the use of technology across the council as some systems are not fit for purpose and costly to maintain/develop. Wider income generation - why isn't the council trading/selling services (e.g. HR, training, marketing and communications) to the private sector particularly small businesses. Invest in the regeneration of Dewsbury town centre - why are Council employees predominantly based in Huddersfield. charge for using the tip to dispose of unwanted items/garden rubbish - you do for collecting it from houses so why not a smaller charge for disposal at tips.

- Cut salaries of MP's and do away with bonuses. Reduce rent of shops in Huddersfield Town Centre which in turn will bring in more shops as even the big time shops like waterstones have moved buildings due to this. Decisions on systems in the council need to be made by people who actually use the systems not people who have never used it and dont know how the processes work.
- I don't think just 'building new homes and premises' should be considered - there are many buildings and brown field sites which need redeveloping. Economic growth and development should not be at the risk of our green spaces.
- Early intervention has to be number one as if you do not start to address things early the costs will continue to escalate - All these themes are important although things could be put in place to still continue to improve the others for instance - Health and well being needs to be promoted in schools (learning from a young age) and by sport and activities through the voluntary sector - Economic growth is also extremely important but could be promoted through traders themselves if we had for example a vibrant street market culture in Kirklees the businesses around it would start to reopen, split some of the larger shop units into two or promote similar buisnesses to share space by giving NNDR reductions or moratoriums convert space above shops to living areas if peoples living areas are in the town centre they will start to have a pride in it (as european towns and cities) once you have a vibrant town that we can be proud of businesses will follow...
- How about looking at how much the wages at the top of the work pyramid is in comparison to the bottom. I'm sure if pay cuts were taken at the top they could still live comfortably unlike those at the bottom who will still struggle with a 1% pay rise. Stop trying to bring back a class divide with the wages.
- More consideration ought to be being given to joint working with other LAs and outsourcing Services. The latter isn't particularly palatable in some ways but it should help save money and the scale of the savings needed means all options should at least be being explored.
- preventing unemployment and tackling NEET as if people are in work then figures show less crime/teenage pregnancy and being in work improves health and well being..nothing more undermining to ones feeling of well being in being unemployed pro actively tackling potential NEET in schools/ in the community and amongst under privileged groups is key
- Support the libraries to help people with education and job searching
- It's difficult to stomach a rise in Council tax when since 2008 pay has been frozen or pay increases kept below 1%. Costs of living are going up year on year and pay is not keeping up with these increases.
- Firstly, get rid of superfluous layer of management - there is a whole tier of people just under Assistant Director level who serve no purpose other than to act as a buffer between ADs and the Senior management of each service (Libraries are a good example - why is there a manager above the Chief Librarian, but below the AD?). Secondly, reduce the number of Councillors - we do not need 3 per ward. Thirdly, why does Kirklees insist on duplicating jobs already done by the NHS - we do not need Smoking Cessation/5 A Day/Fitness staff paid by Kirklees. The NHS already has staff doing this work. Fourthly, for once, LISTEN to what local people (and businesses) are saying and actually want. Lower Business Rates in town centres and provide cheap - or free - town centre parking for at least a couple of hours. This will encourage local businesses to invest in town centres, and would encourage shoppers to visit and use them. Fifth, redeploy staff into areas where the frontline service is paramount - does Kirklees really need armies of people in offices in civic centres when Museums, School crossings patrols, PCSOs, Libraries, public amenities (toilets etc) are being cut by the council? Local people want local services, not officers building empires.
- I can not see how you would encourage extra businesses to come to Kirklees, especially north Kirklees. Shops/businesses have been leaving north Kirklees for the last 10 years. We dont have any extra money to spend due to increasing prices and static wages so building more shops ect would be a waste of money unless you build a large out of town complex in the middle of Kirklees. The council has lots of assets that could be sold like art and unused buildings like Pioneer house in Dewsbury. Why do we still have the expense of a Mayor, i have no idea what the role brings and believe the role comes with a car, which is

unnecessary. I can not see too many people helping others out to be honest, your idea of the perfect street is a joke as I and others feel totally let down by our Government so why should we continue to bail them out when they have no regard for our future (look at the 9% pay rise they are giving MP's!!!!). Why should the general public tighten their belts when those in London are getting fatter and loosening theirs. If you push through a better living wage for your staff then we would have more money to spend in your proposed new businesses. It used to be such a good place to live and work but now I feel worried for the future of my family and we have considered leaving Kirklees totally. I understand that you have a job to do but please stop stripping your residents and staff of the little surplus they have. Why can't senior managers/councillors (those on £50k +) take a pay cut, you are public servants and to earn above £50k a year is not service, its exploitation.

- I feel that increases in council tax would be beneficial to the Councils budget and allow for more services to continue operating. Despite the increase in cost to homes in Kirklees I believe that greater costs will be seen should key services be cut due to lack of Council budget. In terms of working more efficiently I feel that the Council could reduce the number of buildings it currently uses and create bigger hubs where staff work from. This would increase opportunities for joint working and reduce the time and money wasted when travelling around to attend meetings which occur almost daily in many roles. Bringing things such as mileage payments in line with the private sector would have a positive impact on the budget and allow for greater spending in other areas. I also believe that in order to protect jobs the Council should consider that if cuts are to be made and numbers of staff reduced can there be a push for job sharing roles. I would much rather be in a part time role of 18.5 hours with somebody else than lose a job entirely and in the areas this would work the Council would protect services and not put anybody out of work completely thus allowing time for individuals to seek further employment in their own time and without the significant financial stresses which redundancy would inevitably bring. Management is a key area within the Council which needs reviewing. We have many good managers operating across services but we also have far too many. We require more staff on the ground working directly with the people in our local communities. A review of our Management structure and their roles would inevitably highlight key areas for savings to be made. A review of roles for individual services would be extremely useful in order to get the most benefit from each individual worker/team. By placing people in specific localities staff could take responsibility over that area, at present I feel people are too stretched and working all over the Council. This hinders workers ability to get to know the local communities and residents. I think less roles are needed but more focused work with specific workers in set localities is the way forward.
- Some general comments : I live in Thornhill and feel extremely despondent when I visit Dewsbury town centre. Huddersfield town centre, sadly, is also starting to look very desolate and neglected. I think business investment and growth, therefore, is an important priority. However, of concern is the fact that the Council seem intent on reducing services therefore ejecting many local people from a job. If no-one is in work, they will have no money to spend in support of any local economy. I appreciate that 'times are hard' and am all for people helping themselves / volunteering etc, however, there needs to be a balance ! With the best will in the world, successful communities can not be run on goodwill alone....and goodwill certainly won't pay resident's gas, electricity and shopping bills. Also, I am aware of all the good work my local library does to support business in the area as well as providing a safe haven for many disadvantaged sections of the community. I would rather the Council attempted to save money in other areas eg. chopping the salaries of local councillors / reducing the number of overpaid senior managers before scrapping valuable, culturally nourishing services such as libraries and museums or handing them over entirely to volunteers. Thank you.
- I believe that Health & Wellbeing should be the responsibility of the NHS and not come out of the Councils own spending. Early intervention & prevention although it has its merits should have budgetary reductions to secure more frontline services
- Use cheaper paper for the budget consultation not glossy coloured brochures.

- Rather than raising Council taxes for those who pay them, would it not be a better idea to aggressively target those who do not pay, refuse to pay ? Current arrears totalling £3 million, so rather than cutting how about a more effective way of collecting. Prevention is also better and cheaper than cure, so supporting health, business, young people before problems occur is a cheaper more effective way to deal with things. Scrap the festival of light, this is a complete waste of money bringing little revenue back into the town centre other than to the street sellers who are probably the ones not paying their council tax.
- The above three themes are all very important. firstly, a review is needed for the Early interventions theme. There are many services through the whole council who all do similar job functions and sit in different directorates. The function, role, costing and outcomes of these roles should be looked at. KNH have community workers yet the council has community workers, youth workers and sports workers, so do KAL. on many occasions on the front line there is duplication or a scramble for outcomes or engagement with a particular group or community. streamlining these roles would ensure effective cost savings and avoid duplication across the council. secondly, if too many cuts are made to early intervention then there will be a humonguous shift in young people going upstream into social care and into the justice system. Therefore, early interventions should continue to play a core role in preventing this from happening. that shouldnt mean that it is targeted work only carried out by TYS, it means there should be focused and targeted work done by the whole of TYS and IYSS. Targetting those problems areas, groups and communities yet still offering a service to those on the fringes and those who need extra support. Thirdly, bad management in services means bad outcomes... there are too many bad managers, too many with their own agendas, too many that block joint up working, too many that have their own outcomes to meet. Joint outcomes for all and change management to change the culture of the organisation is what we must invest in to move forward and bring the public sector out of the dark ages. so that the culture can change and we can try to move forward to think more like the private sector Economic resilience only concentrates on supporting businesses. Why dont we fill existing businesses and drop business rates so that premises that are empty and have been for years are used. By subsidising rates you make them more attractive to new start ups and SMEs.
- reduce number of councillors
- If troubled families are not given early help then we are setting this authority up for a massive cost down the line.
- Instead of building new homes, would not it be more beneficial to refurbish buildings that have been left vacant for a period of time? ie, mills, warehouses. There are so many business in the town centre that are vacant, what is being done to attract new businesses? What about lowering business rates so that premises can be occupied instead of '£1' shops all on the main street.
- I'm not sure why, when we have £44 million surplus at the moment, we can't already spend it on community support/facilities without insisting on bleeding a stone. Raising council tax does not equal raising spending.
- more help for young people - boredom causes damage
- Consideration to reducing the number of Councillors as part of their contribution to the savings, even if at the end of the MTFP period, 2018.
- To provide advice and support to vulnerable, elderly, or illiterate community members, who due to illiteracy, vulnerability, have difficulty accessing national and local government agencies
- I find these questions very leading. Written so the council gets the answers they want, not what a resident thinks.
- I don't think the raise in council tax question is clear. Does this mean a 5% increase overall or 5% + inflation (in reality then being nearer to 7%). This needs to be made clearer for people to make a truly informed decision. Residents and community members often make their suggestions on how to make significant savings and improve services, however these are often not taken on board/ used effectively. The decision making process can be too long or complicated, resulting in a feeling of 'talk and no action'. Involving members of the community in the commissioning and de-commissioning of services, in a congruent way will

be key in ensuring the Council saves money and operates targeted and effective services in the future.

- I am concerned that there will be so much concentration on directing resources to meeting the demands of the most needy that services which make Kirklees a vibrant place (e.g. Libraries, events, arts, museums) will be decimated. The result will be that Kirklees will not be able to compete with more vibrant cities and so we will lose high earning residents and be unable to attract investment and visitors.
- I feel over the years service areas have had drastic cuts at all levels. But I do feel there are too many tiers of higher management and this could further be reduced. If we had more staff at the delivering of service this would make it more workable and more cost affective as their wages are much lower. There is a lot of time and money wasted in changes to ways of working and constant paperwork documentation. Surely one senior manager to manage BSO and Locality managers would be less cost affective. Seems silly we all work in the same office but have separate Managers. I can not deem to know what every managers responceibilities are so maybe it is unfair of me to make these remarks Just being honest from my observations.
- I think it is a bad idea to build more homes because the infrastructure we have cannot support this, if homes are built then we need more schools, doctors, roads, hospitals to support people. Building businesses is a bad idea because there are business premises standing empty in the centre of huddersfield. it would be best to support what we already have and use derelict mills or other derelict buildings and turn them into apartment homes. It is important to keep streets clean and free of rubbish and to have enviromental services like noise nuisance and checking hygiene etc.
- Selling off assets isn't a long term solution, once the cash raised from the sale is gone the benefit is gone. Unless, the money raised was put into developing self generating and sustainable options the benefit will be shortlived.
- Economic resilience is everything. Without money, nothing (not even the statutory obligations of the council) can function. If communities want a particular service (libraries/community centres etc) then they will rise to do something about it if they are threatened with closure. If they don't want it, then they won't be missed. There needs to be a brave decision made; not bowing down to the we've always done it this way or we've always had a library here brigade.
- What a strange questionnaire! Summarising the council's role into 3 areas - a bit simplistic. I have some advice... Don't close the libraries and when a resident contacts you, at least have the decency to reply.
- i am finding your form difficult to answer as the questions have a double meaning. i do believe that early intervention and prevention is imoportant. but i don believe that this means encouraging people to do more for them selves if this means gritting own street and emptying own bins..... Of corse health and wellbeing is important. economic resilience is important as is early intervention and prevention. but sorry dont 'trust' the answers. Selling council assetts - what? where? Needs more information. do you mean children's centres?! Libraries? community centres/youth clubs? All important. so not going to tick anything else.
- The council should build more affordable 1 and 2 bed houses, but not business premises as there are more than enough of these, and we will need fewer of them in the future.
- If building are sold to help communities, where will communities access the help? In Flockton, all buildings were sold to private buyers and now the village has no community base for villagers to run their activities from. This could happen Kirklees wide. Selling assetts for cash could easily mean cash is withered away rather than for specific projects/ programmes.
- N/A
- I think transferring buildings to the third sector is very important and being open for that kind of business - the Council is way too bureacratic at the moment.
- I think focus on Health and well being should be all encompassing. Including mental and emotional health. Cutting educative, cultural, care and Activities which support emotional well being (such as cutting libraries, sure starts, youth groups) will only serve to exacerbate

existing issues with mental and emotional well being, lead to more issues with depression, mental health, addiction and disaffection and social problems hence requiring an Increased rather than reduced financial burden in future.

- The Council needs to get better at working with local people who want to do things differently
- A vital issue not specifically covered in the questions above is supporting those in need, especially important in the light of central government's approach to welfare and an 'austerity' programme certain to continue beyond 2015.
- Economic resilience: 1) Break ground with the development around the stadium, do not drag this one out like the Kingsgate development. 2) Lease the beleaguered retail units in Huddersfield at a preferential rate to the University so that they maybe used as boutiques for the students to demonstrate and sell their designs (eg. art, fashion) This support may lead them to wanting to establish in the town and help our economy in the long run.
- Motivate staff, STOP temporary recruiting instead make managers step up when staff absent/sick. Create a positive environment, seek alternative working practices and look at how the private sector operates.
- In order to encourage people to do more for themselves we need to do more direct work within communities in terms of the commissioning and decommissioning of services. Hold robust, open and transparent conversations. Not be afraid to say it how it is. We need to share the bigger picture with young people and equip them with the skills for sustainability.
- I have remained neutral for the question for building more homes & business premises because I believe the existing stock of of business premises should be considered before new premises are built. Driving around the borough I often see 'to rent' signs at business parks/estates. What is the current occupancy rate of existing council business premises? This question was 2 part - I do believe more affordable homes should be built in Kirklees.
- In general I think that Kirklees Council provide great services. However, if cuts have to be made then we all need to share in that with the exception of the most vulnerable ie pensioners and young families
- I think that as long as this Tory government stays in power the worse things will get for local authorities. The Tories are hell bent on decimating services and are doing this by cutting funding to the council to such an extent that there will be nothing left. As far as I can see its a no win situation whatever is decided as far as the budget goes. God help our children who will inherit this financial mess. Time for me to retire and live anywhere except the UK.
- Supporting health and wellbeing lies at the heart of the other areas. Making people feel well and happy can help to promote community participation, promote education and employment and impact on economy
- All are very important, but without a healthy economy there will be less options to support the other aims. For town centre business to thrive, people need to be going into the town as customers/users. Parking fees have long been an issue, and we appreciate the income derived, but maybe an experiment to see if a reduction would improve town use? One free day per week? Free parking until noon/after noon? Free parking is a huge attraction for the out of town centres. How to make communities more resilient and responsible after years of actively discouraging people from taking on those responsibilities will be trickier, especially in communities which have most deprivation and need. Councils do tend to come up with solutions which they then try to sell to the people - maybe this is the start of more genuine consultation (there has certainly been scepticism about previous consultations). In Austria, people who decorate their houses with flowers - making them more attractive for tourists etc - get a reduction on their rates. The custom of decorating the balconies was dying out but the tax reduction was a very effective incentive apparently. Is there a way of offering incentives for being more active in the community? Do X (sweep street, run neighbour support for older people, volunteer in library to keep it open .... lots of options if the council can let go on off-putting health and safety etc) and get a voucher which can be redeemed against council tax? Some loss of income but potential gain from community action?
- Should support the smaller business not the usual well established ones such as Camira and Mamas and Papas

- Since the new financial system has been put in place, it is making things more difficult for services to support local business within the area - as the tender process is so long and certain services are not even bothering using local businesses because of this. One of the services in the council wanted to use the service that we provide (business that I work at), and would have had a quick turn around and they needed the information etc very quickly, but couldn't use us because we aren't already signed up on the new system, and they thought it was more hassle. So in the end the service just told their customers to sort it themselves.
- sell surplus assets Charge for some services (income generations) Have levy on council tax for some services which people receives as an extra besides waste collections e.g mobile library, only chargeable to the recipients reduce the working week from 37 hours to 35 rather than compulsory redundancy - that would cost more e.g in benefits and affects local independent shops(sales. Restructure top/middle management rather than frontline staff get rid of any loss making service which is not a statutory requirement Joint procurement with neighbouring authorities on some services where possible (economies of scale).
- My agreement with a proposal to build more homes and business premises comes with a caveat of where such development takes place. It is important to retain green space in built environments, including 'wild' areas, eg Clayton field, Birkby which is to be built upon. Development also needs to take into account pressures on school places.
- I think that the learning and early intervention with children has to be at the forefront of the council's mind the children are our future and there are many vulnerable children and families who need help and support in making sure that they leave school etc with a good education and as a rounded person equipped with the skills and knowledge to take Kirklees forward.
- Keep the people healthy and they will build the economy if costs and council bureaucracy i.e. from people who have never run a business are kept out of economic development. Maybe disband Kirklees and its profligacy and go back to pre 1974 councils. Shed Dewsbury and Batley from Huddersfield. The bloated Kirklees council will never be supportable at community level i.e. people will work for their community but not Kirklees, which nobody identifies with.
- I believe the future of our communities and villages are community interest companies and see this as an opportunity for growth on a village and personal level. In this age of communication a central hub in each village is becoming more and more important.
- Young people need support so they can develop, have confidence and find jobs & be self supporting throughout their lives, not relying on benefits. We then help society for the future.
- My first and most important issue is the fact that you employ your own paid Union members of staff, just a complete waste. Departments should work more closely together, and the higher executive officers should be less in number, or do more hands on work with their staff. Advise the refuse collectors not to be as generous with their bin liners, only a small point, but over all of Kirklees this would make a difference. The managing of workforce that come out to do jobs, there seems to be lack of communication. If the Council had been better run from the top, we wouldn't be in this mess today and blaming the current government!!
- More co-operation between departments. local privatisation of council services that do not need to be run by the council eg building services Contract to local businesses which will create jobs, improve the local economy and provide accountability as those that fail to deliver will lose their contract. Refuse collection, recycling centres etc could be contracted out
- Libraries play an important role in all the themes and are one of the few places where residents can get face to face help & support. They are not just about books. As a council tax payer there are a lot of services that I don't use. I am not on benefits. I own my own home. I pay by dd. parks, libraries & museums are important to me

- I think Kirklees should not be building new homes and businesses but use and improve the many empty buildings not used presently. New houses should not be built without the infrastructure to support them such as schools and GP surgeries etc.
- Smaller local government - reduce the number of local councillors. Amalgamate services rather than cutting services thus saving on unnecessary service costs.
- Community spirit is very damaged and I believe this needs to be tackled in the homes. We are now moving into an age where authority's are responsible for bringing up children and seem to be held accountable for failings that a parent is responsible for. Invest in parenting and have services hold parents responsible for their children's actions
- Reduce number of council office buildings, keep libraries!!! And surely start centres. Outsource work to external companies. - such as rubbish disposal etc. Less managers. Improve efficiency. Get rid of the mayor!
- First, the public sector has to acknowledge that it is not the same as the private sector. One spends money, the other earns it. So, it is not right that top managers in local government should have pay, perks and pensions on an even playing field to those in the private sector. Second, economic resilience should be right at the top of local government strategy. What's the point of having health and well-being if people don't have jobs and opportunities that provide economic growth. By default, these jobs and opportunities do not come from a heavily bloated public sector. Third, the public expects and demands efficient public services. Get rid of all your gold-plated services and fancy trimmings. Get the mayor and councillors to pay for their fancy annual dinners. Cut down on their expenses. Thriftiness starts at the top. Dig in to your financial reserves - taxpayers and businesses are not gravy trains. Get rid of inefficient public servants - we don't want to be paying for salaries and pensions for those who are unproductive and/or don't deliver. Fourth, invest in online technologies. Get all Kirklees households and businesses online so we can compete in a global marketplace, save money by sourcing better goods and services online, and be digitally included. This has to be your NUMBER ONE economic priority. Five, ditch the silly politics. We're not daft and see right through council cabinet decision-making, at times. You all need to connect better with what's really happening out in the towns and villages around Kirklees. Council needs to be led by business people that have some common sense about the real world
- Developing a strong infrastructure has to be the backbone of any plans for economic growth, particularly house building. Council plans to build more houses never appear to take into account that local facilities are already at breaking point, for example schools seem full, and it already takes 7 days wait to get a Dr's appointment. A rise in Council Tax needs to be clearly balanced with details of what that Council Tax actually pays for, especially if some Council services are to be withdrawn or done differently which seems to be code for by someone other than the Council. I think it would be useful for the Council to identify a service which has to change and focus on gaining suggestions for those changes from residents, or giving case studies of how the service is delivered differently in another town or country in order to generate a discussion, otherwise this whole exercise seems too vast to think about! Whatever message is put out, it feels like you are asking residents to pay more, receive less in return, and do more themselves. Hard to comprehend when you already work, look after a family and hold a voluntary role in a community organisation.
- Get rid of toilets and library in Mirfield. Get rid of a few top management and middle in council. Not needed. Consider private bin men works well in other places. More facilities for kids. Play parks and skate parks essential. Stop spending all the council money in Huddersfield and look at Dewsbury West and Mirfield.
- Services to children leaving care should be maintained, more houses built where people want to live such as the Holme Valley so our children can find affordable homes. Efforts to help business should include allocating land for industry. A good example is Elland which has a large industrial estate.
- I think that it is very important to put more money in health walking centres are closing doctors surgery are closing or overwhelming with people who can't talk English. We need

more bigger houses or even if council extended the houses which are overcrowded. We need more jobs and less poverty especially in Dewsbury

- Instead of selling Council buildings why don't you convert some of the upper floors in the town centre ones for Social Housing. Stop allowing all these student flats being built when some of the empty buildings could be converted at a fraction of the cost to provide this. Force landlords of empty properties to bring them back into use or take them over for Social Housing. Make it a condition for developers that a proportion of their new build properties are for Social Housing. Convert the old college building into Social Housing flats. Encourage small independent businesses into the town centre with a reduction of rates and rent for 6 months. How long have the premises in the top entrance to the Queensgate market been empty, it must be years. The town centre is dying on its feet, get out into the town centre and speak to people to see what they want. Make some of the long term unemployed do work in the community to earn part of their benefits, don't let H&S get in the way of this. Charge a small fare for the town centre bus, it is the only way some of the elderly who come into town each day to meet friends can get around. Make Queensgate Car Park a Pay on Exit one again as since the change it must be losing money because people avoid it. Reduce car parking charges to encourage people to come into town. Who is going to pay for a minimum of 4 hours in Springwood when they only need 2 hours, revise these charges. Let all car parks be free for the first 1 hour and free all day Sunday. Change your decision on the bowling at the new sports centre, there are enough private gyms to cater for the muscle fanatics without denying the elderly some healthy activity. This will also reduce the cost to the health service in the long run. Encourage people to visit the town centre like they used to do when I was younger, Saturday was buzzing in town when the old market hall was on the Shambles. Now the town is drab and boring and busy with enforcement officers all over the place. Give the public some freedom to come into town instead of driving them out to other towns or out of town shopping centres. Reduce the number of Councillors and Senior Management instead of cutting front line staff all the time.
- What a biased survey? Every question loaded to get the answers you want? For example I Agree Strongly to Business Investment but Disagree Strongly to Building More Homes - but you lump them together - why? Slash the number of councillors... Slash the number of consultants... Slash the number of management... Slash the wages of the top earners... Stop funding politically correct causes... Slash the sick day allowance (or free extra holidays)... Stop going on fact finding holidays around the world... Stop adding bureaucracy that slows down businesses and requires more paid council staff to manage it... Stop pandering to people who take because they think they are entitled to it, and focus on those that actually need it... And stop wasting public money asking for opinions when it is a PR exercise to make residents think they have a say.
- Economic growth in our area is the key to everything. The more prosperous we are, and the more we are able to keep our wealth within our area will ensure that we will then have the funding to invest in health, wellbeing and community.
- Libraries and museums should be on top of the list as being important, these help people to feel part of a community and provide social and educational opportunities for all ages.
- This questionnaire seems very limited in its range of questions. The agenda for discussion and consultation appears very limited. The issue with raising council tax is that it is limited to placing more of a financial burden on those only who already contribute financially to society.
- Do we need 3 councillors for each ward? Could councillors become volunteers to do their jobs?
- I agree that LOCAL economies should be encouraged, but Kirklees has spent the last 26 years DISCOURAGING local economies and businesses, trying to centralise everything into either Dewsbury or Huddersfield. There is now no public transport infrastructure from the outlying areas of Kirklees which will support this centralisation, and any further attempt to remove or reduce local services will penalise those who do not have their own transport or cannot afford public transport. Although I have disagreed with the Early Intervention, I agree with some of the suggestions - such as improving quality of life and saving money - I just don't

agree with the encouraging people to do more for themselves. Not everyone is capable of doing so, for a variety of reasons, and to suggest that they are either capable of doing more, have someone they can rely on to help them, or can afford to pay someone else to do it for them, is too sweeping a generalisation that I can't agree with.

- don't sell museums or parks, they are precious and will be lost forever
- Regarding selling council assets, there must be other options to raise money against them. I'm sure this has been considered but this would protect ownership for the future whilst also raising income in the present. Unless selling them would help achieve new housing (not business's) which would also meet another objective. I say housing because more homes means more people which means local business's tend to follow suit (on their own volition) to meet the demand that people bring. The new housing could be 'affordable' with the council also taking nomination rights where appropriate.
- Building more homes would generate more council tax but what impact would those extra people have on other resources such as schools, hospitals and other care.
- Stop paying for consultants and taking work external out of the council. You talk about economic resilience but you are going to make most people redundant. Most of the people that work for Kirklees Council live in Kirklees. This will mean more shops in the town centre will close and more people out of work. But I am sure there will still be top management commissioning work to external agencies that are probably based in Leeds or Manchester.
- Council Tax - It is ok to say yes to this if you are on a high income or if you don't pay council tax, but what about those of us who are on less than £27,000 a year, no benefits, children to feed and cloth and pay for nursery fees and mortgages to pay. We are already struggling so please don't make our children lose out any more than they already are because their parents choose to work full time to pay the mortgage and bills. Children whose parents are living on benefit have access to more and their parents have a more relaxing life as they don't have to stress about paying any mortgage or council tax. Economic Growth / Development. There are many empty homes in Kirklees. Bringing these up to standard AND also making the surrounding streets / back alley look nice and decent would help fill the empty homes. Knocking down undesirable areas and making better. Council Housing - Why? There are plenty of social housing associations that can help support those who are wanting to rent. Need to work closer with Estate agents. New business - there are courses available during the day for those who are starting new businesses - this is good. However, what about those who are unable to take the time off work to attend these AND are trying to set up business in their own time. Grants are not available for a large number of small businesses. Loans are off putting as this means paying back even if the interest rate is low. There should be incentives and better help for smaller businesses to be able to help market their business and eg if Kirklees was able to offer newly established businesses up to 4 dates where they can have a stall at the market for free? There are many people working for Kirklees who are trying to run a business in their own time. They can only promote word of mouth whilst at work but even then, many are too afraid to say anything in work as they feel their managers or others might have a word with them saying that they should not be talking about their own business whilst at work. OR that they are afraid that managers MIGHT use it against them saying you are not performing as you are concentrating on your business, or you are not committed using anything to say against the individual to try to get rid of them even if it actually isn't affecting their performance. We should have a culture of encouraging and promote within the Council. bring your business to work day
- if small charges were levied for certain local things, but accounts were clear that the money was ploughed back into that project, charges might be more acceptable and way for people to show their support. One example is charging for roadside parking around green head park, people who work or go to college park here all day without charge and it means when you want to attend the park you are unable to park. Some of the money could also be refunded if food/drink is bought at the two cafe's that happens now with the small car park next to the conservatory. Things shouldn't be free for anyone even Kirklees passport holders, small charges should be made.

- A large part of the budget are staffing costs. Rather than reducing the cost by reducing the workforce, possibly even through compulsory redundancies, with the resulting increase in the numbers of unemployed in Kirklees we should much more explore the option of reducing costs by sharing the money and the work fairly by staff taking a reduction in pay for a reduction in working time. This would allow staff a better quality of life whilst still being able to earn a wage rather than having to draw unemployment benefits.
- Don't health and wellbeing and early intervention cover the same kind of areas, if not, why not?
- I have suffered with a really bad back problem for over 5 years now. Pals has helped me to learn how to manage the pain and keep mobile without taking costly drugs all the time. Although pals gives a financial support as the leisure centre fees to me are cheaper through pals, I feel sure the burden of cost of supplying drugs on prescription,(which I have needed much less whilst attending pals),less visits to my GP or even perhaps worse if a back spasm is really bad could involve hospital visits. I do not wallow and claim benefits. This approach helps you remain self-sufficient, with self esteem. It also, I have noticed helps, older people in their 60-70's even the odd one 80. to remain active, meet and have a social time with others. All around this programme helps people to think about their own health and lifestyle and do something about it, without an hospital environment.
- Make sure more services are available on line via the website. Digital by default
- It appears that in consultations you always lump economic growth and increased housing together. I don't want to live in an area that is too overcrowded and overdeveloped, there does need to be a balance. Often when development plans are submitted (i.e. Lindley is a recent example) jobs and businesses are promised, however, it then appears that only housing seems to actually get built and the developers try to change the original plans to include more housing. This just puts extra strain on local public services, which are now going to have even less funding - so any increased council tax revenue is going to need to be used to pay for extra public services for the additional people in the new housing. So I believe economic development should mean encouraging business in the area, more and improved job prospects, better infrastructure and connectivity, etc. Housing should be kept separate. With regards to early intervention and prevention, I think that young people should be encouraged more in schools and colleges to develop life skills so that they are prepared to cope with finances, look after their health, have aims and aspirations that are achievable, etc. More voluntary and work placement links with the university and with local social clubs/groups could perhaps help increase volunteering to help staff services like libraries. what about more opportunities for families to exercise/have fun together? often parents take children to play gyms, sports clubs, dance lessons, etc. They then sit and wait a lot of the time anyway - why not use that as an opportunity for parents to get some exercise to keep them healthy or develop family sports sessions? I also think that life planning advice, especially in later life, is a good idea. I'm sure many people don't appreciate the reality of how ill health and aging can affect their life and the support that they may require. Foster families for older people who can't cope on their own may be another option.
- By far the biggest proportion of council spending is on children (schools, family's etc). I feel that people who choose to have children should bear more of the direct costs associated with their children.
- I think the current budget proposals involve cutting a lot of services that actually prevent later more costly interventions. For instance cutting services like family support and benefits advice. These service prevent people becoming more reliant on more expensive council services later on. Reducing pensioner poverty for instance has helped reduce the need for pensioners to have more costly services and delayed admittance to residential care for many pensioners. These plans undermine a lot of good work. It would be better to build on the good practice that already exists rather than rely on an under tested model to deliver.
- Libraries should not be cut as they educate the future generations who will one day be running this council. Without the early groundwork and encouragement we are resigning ourselves to a future without books.

- It would have been useful to have some examples of what a 2% council tax increase would mean to me - examples were put for the other two options so a rather strange omission.
- Cut the number of higher paid officials. All cuts seem to have come from the low paid area. Stop paying employees from Public funds who spend work time on Union matters. No longer pay for any form of translation services. The language of this Country is English! Cut the number of Diversity officers. Cut the number of Ward Councillors - two is sufficient per Ward. Make more effort to collect unpaid Council Tax. Do not agree to take on more Asylum seekers. The Council does not have the housing stock to do so. Our schools are full and our infrastructure is overstretched. Grants to organisations should be monitored more carefully STOP WASTING MY MONEY.
- Present plans involve too many volunteers and stretch the capacity and capability of communities too much. Reduce paid staff but never get rid of them within a service and ensure there are adequate paid staff to take responsibility for decisions and the more difficult and private issues from the public. Consider very rigorously the impact of reducing face to face services as they will have massive knock on effects in terms of vulnerable people, health and well being and efficiency. Multi purpose face to face community council premises already exist ie libraries. Make sure to protect disadvantaged areas as they will not have the ability to run their own libraries for example. They are needed more in disadvantaged areas as well and are often the only neutral places for all. I have personal experience of big society capacity as I run a vol group that has brought in over £120K to Kirklees and we have lost our chair and treasurer to asset transfer groups and now are struggling to continue. You MUST think of knock on effects.
- The Council cannot continue to spoon feed the community. Whilst its important that we play a role in promoting health & wellbeing and encouraging economic resilience, we need the community (particularly the business community) to step up to the plate and take the initiative for themselves. The Council has traditionally been there for businesses & the community at difficult times; now the Council is experiencing its biggest funding crisis in over a century, we need the community & business to help us.
- A focus on performance management of the workforce would ensure that what workforce we have left are productive and that opportunities open up for employees you wish to remain with the council. We cannot carry ineffective staff in the future as we have done up until now. If I am not doing my job effectively, SACK ME! For this we need a more capable level of management across the organisation. Kirklees Council are very good at coming up with new ideas, some are even good ones. What I don't see is a consistent ability to implement these, of encouraging cohesion across the workforce of working together to achieve a tangible outcome. Too much of the innovation in the council seems ill-conceived or flounders after the initial marketing and launch. We dismiss the scheme, put up with the issue for a year or two then try another ill-conceived scheme and the cycle repeats.
- help residents and customers to be more independent and less reliant on the council. offer more support and better tools in supporting people to help themselves in a way that is effective. promote as much as you can so that residents are more aware what services are available for them to help themselves!
- Some OAPs in council accommodation have gardening done free yet home owners have to pay for a gardener. Disadvantaged people need local access to council and welfare provision and not have to travel to nearby towns.
- CHANGE THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF KIRKLEES COUNCIL, VALUE YOUR FRONT LINE STAFF SHOW RESPECT FOR THE WORK THEY DO
- We need to intervene earlier to improve health and wellbeing - if people were more physically active and had a better diet, coupled with a decent income and housing, we would prevent many of the later (and more expensive) problems that crop up in safeguarding cases, social care, long term conditions, drug and alcohol misuse etc
- Culture seen as a strong contributing factor to the economy but delivered through a new sustainable models. Festivals should have business model and thinking behind them and draw on a portfolio of funding, but with the right systems in place can be a strong presence in the calendar for residents and visitors alike. Culture is a vital asset and tool in research and

development, where creativity is key in bringing new ideas to the fore. Culture also is integral in building successful places, from how we present ourselves, to how we attract tourists and capitalise on the growing creative economy of the Yorkshire and beyond. This is not an argument for the status quo, but making the case for culture as a significant player in the success of Kirklees as an area. It can be delivered differently and should be delivered differently and systems can be implemented quickly to change the current modus operandi. However, time and leadership is required.

- Get different councils to work together. For example Leeds Bradford Wakefield Calderdale Kirklees, could perhaps merge services so frontline services are kept but costly management wouldn't need to be so heavily manned so saving a colossal amount of money.
- I would be prepared to pay more council tax, but since the changes in benefits I am concerned about the impact on the lowpaid and workless so am saying only inflation increase. I do think that there needs to be more done so that people understand and appreciate all that the council does and that it is value for money Assets should be sold only if there is no loss to the community ( so redundant office buildings yes, playing fields no) and asset transfer at no cost should still be available for community groups Need to balance need for new homes etc ( not just for financial benefit - we need to ensure there is more affordable housing and good quality rental housing) with not building on every open space in urban areas and may need to lose some green belt. The loss of one of the few areas of open space in a town (even if it is technically brown field) may have a more detrimental effect on local residents than the loss of green belt land around a village where there is still a lot of other open space.
- Yep, we're really keen to support via BatleySmile, other community initiatives etc but: what happened to Time to Talk? And, when we support projects like the £2 million Creative People and Places project we end up footing the bill and paying council tax etc. as well. Very confusing to follow what you're up to - lot of agendas within different Kirklees departments. But, at heart, I believe in civic and community involvement so will carry on regardless. Best of luck in challenging times. XXXXXXXX [name omitted]
- It is very difficult to comment on theories and as with all things the devil will be in the detail. All 3 areas you highlight are not just areas that are the responsibility of the council and building strong partnerships has to be at the core of what comes next. I think it would be a good idea to convene some local consultation events to discuss, for example, which council assets would be sold, how you would support business investment and growth, etc.
- Local vulnerable Adults are the forgotten service users.
- Cease internal charging between Council Services as this requires two sets of staff to charge and then pay for services resulting in residents paying twice. Internal audits should be sufficient to replace internal charging. Review the data that is collected and only collect that which has a direct impact on services Review road signage we have roads in Kirklees that are signed as unrestricted but it would be impossible to drive higher than 30mph. Why are these signed? Ok this is very small finance but it is probably an example where staff are being cautious for legal reasons and money is being wasted for no benefit. Review and justify political costs as there is little information to demonstrate that politicians are taking the lead and cutting their costs. If Council Services and staff are reduced by 2/3rds why is the political structure unaffected? Work across services. At a time of cuts the natural response is to protect your areas of services but if new more efficient ways of service delivery are to be found, services must work together.
- Has the council considered shared services with other councils. Westminster, Kensington and Fulham councils have saved £40 million this way. And less directors would mean keeping more frontline services open. They have one director over 3 councils rather than one for each. You want to do things differently but don't seem to want to do anything this radical.
- Compulsory purchase all the privately owned houses on NovaEstate, Birstall, rehouse council tenants from there, then demolish the estate (pre war housing) and sell off the land to private developers. This will a) generate a chunk of income and b) make the approach to Oakwell Hall much nicer than at present and make it more appealing to tourists. Also sell off

some of the valuable artwork that is sitting in storage at Huddersfield. If these two ideas are considered there would be no need to cut market and library services in Birstall and Batley.

- I agree that affordable homes should be built but not really business there are so many business properties that are empty. small businesses should have reduced rates and rents so that they can get off the ground if they flourish and need bigger business premises then normal rents and rates can be paid.
- Sorry but this is a meaningless survey. The questions are too general and guided to the answers you want to hear
- Why does the council have so many councillors? I am sure they could be reduced to save money. 2. Do we really need a Mayor? I am sure people would understand if there is not one for 3-4 years until the council sorts everything out. 3. Reduce the buildings that the council has services in that rent is paid to a private company, put the services back in to Kirklees owned buildings where there is empty offices. 4. Reduce management positions as there seems to be far too many of them, which then would help save the jobs in the front line which are more important.
- I hope environmental sustainability has not been lost as a theme - it needs balancing against economic resilience.
- It is important that the council realises that an area that should not be cut is support for the arts. As I am sure the council is aware, support for the arts promotes regeneration. A specific case in mind are areas in London in particular areas around Hoxton Square and presently Peckham which, due to support of artistic activity in the area, is going through major regeneration. It would be foolish to sell off assets when no one knows what the economy will be like in another 5 years. When you sell off an asset - be it an art work or a playing field - it is gone for ever for future generations to use and enjoy. The council should think for the future as well as the present. No one wants to think of Kirklees as a cultural wasteland however should the council fail to protect its creative assets that is what people will think of Kirklees.
- The council need to focus on what value residents get from paying Council Tax - bring back recycling bottle bins per household, look at public services better i.e. keeping library services, provisions for emptying bins when the council are on strike & improving the quality of roads. I also think that instead of ploughing money into Huddersfield, you need to look at Dewsbury which is currently a dump and needs some money spending on it to bring people & businesses into the area.
- Building more homes and encouraging more people into the area is no good if services are already at full stretch or at risk of closure! It's the people here already that you need to support. Council buildings that are under used should be sold/rented to provide income for other things, but if you sell off too much communities will be left decimated, which leads to unemployment, depression, anti social behaviour etc. Sorting all that out will cost far more than what you try to save by closing buildings and taking away essential services. We all know how much money the council waste, and while much has been done to reduce that, there is still room for improvement. Also. the opportunities are there for income generation, that at present are not utilised. People don't mind paying a little extra to support their local towns and villages, but don't charge extra and then close everything anyway. Clearly, savings need to be made, but it needs to be a long term plan, rather than totally taking the heart out of communities.
- Developing resilience and self-sufficiency in community will require big initial investment to make savings on the Council's budgets in future years. Change will not happen overnight - it takes time for community organisations to skill up and transform, as you are relying on volunteers who do not work for these organisations full time.
- Our Arts provision is so important to us both inter/nationally and for the well being of our residents. Financial support is essential to maintain this and must be protected at all costs. We cannot assume that private funding will make up the inevitable loss of capital. 'At the Arts Council, when we talk about the value of arts and culture to society, we always start with its intrinsic value: how arts and culture can illuminate our inner lives and enrich our emotional world. This is what we cherish. We also understand that arts and culture has a

wider, more measurable impact on our economy, health and wellbeing, society and education. It's important we also recognise this impact to help people think of our arts and culture for what they are: a strategic national resource. - See more at:

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/research-and-data/value-arts-and-culture-people-and-society-evidence-review/#sthash.pUvrEpZo.dpuf>

- Health & wellbeing, should have more services for the elderly etc but as for helping obese people stop eating by running eat healthy campaigns is a waste of time, and then having to subsidise them when they go to the NHS for gastric bands and associated ill health matters \_ they should be made accountable for their own actions and not expect everybody else to pay for putting food in their mouths! There is plenty of advice out in cyber world and gyms to help these people - council money should not be wasted on that issue.
- Combine services with Calderdale to reduce back office costs e.g. winter gritting Develop a partnership with Huddersfield University, who are cash-rich, to find alternative uses for council buildings.
- I feel very strongly that Kirklees should not sell off 'the family silver' in the form of works of art bequeathed to the local community, publicly owned buildings, etc. These are not the property of any one council or generation and should not be lost to future generations and any funds raised by selling them would merely create a short term solution to current financial problems. Please also avoid selling off every possible green space in or near town and concentrate on developing brownfield sites wherever possible.
- Re this Q: How far do you agree or disagree that your council should support economic growth and development in Kirklees - including building more homes and business premises? I would strongly support it, but only if the building is in the right place. Not on the greenbelt, at any cost or benefit to the council. Kirklees' selling point should be its closeness to the amazing countryside, in fact you could even make money off the back of it i.e. better tourism. Re health and wellbeing: Yes provide social care to people who need it, but it's up to individuals to take care of their own health. ie. end the 'stop smoking' classes as it's personal choice & the country would have a bigger financial problem if everyone did stop smoking due to the lost tax.
- Please don't close or sell any libraries or children's centres
- Do not throw babies out with the bathwater: your draft Economic Strategy looks to empower communities to help them thrive and be distinctive with 'unique, niche experiences.' Sometimes tiny amounts of money have huge multiplier effects. For example core funding from Kirklees of £8000-£9000 has enabled Marsden Jazz Festival to lever in £50,000 of other funding and the festival brings in £340,000 to the local economy. Cutting our core funding (which other funders do not provide) will collapse the whole value chain. (Budget ref HW2 refers)
- Long term it is important for people to be positive, as negativity lead to poorer health and a greater drain on society. If a community is going to be supportive, it will to its disadvantage if the Council has sold off its assets, many of which were gifted to the Council in the first place for the benefit of the community. A blighted community means more blighted lives. Cut the unnecessary bureaucracy and excessive wages at the higher levels.
- There is no mention of improving education. I can't see how the Council can justify increasing Council Tax when services are to be drastically cut.
- I think that the help is area specific. Where I live maintaining a lovely environment where I can come home to at the end of the day, knowing my children have received a good education in a safe environment are the most important things for me. Being able to go out and have a kick about or a play in a play area, know my bins emptied, roads are Ok etc are all things that happen in the background and I'm happy to pay my taxes for. I'm sceptical areas of deprivation will do things for themselves without having any positive role models and aspirations.
- We have to cut £69 million anyway, what harm is another £8.4 million in comparison? I do not hear nearly enough protest from local government at these cuts. Politically, councillors seem too keen to appease party and parliament, and meekly accept this maltreatment. Local democracy should be reformed away from the First Past the Post voting system. I do

not support the Labour party but will constantly go without representation as my council ward is safe Labour. The three seats per ward should be elected by a proportional system. Then I might trust that my views are properly represented and trust that they will be taken into account when deciding how to spend the budget. In the meantime, I am more motivated to minimise the impact on my pocket, by supporting minimised increases in Council Tax as I do not have political representation supporting my views on the council. Build far more cycling infrastructure, it is by far the cheapest form of transport to build for and maintain. We will save millions in the medium-long term. Do not be afraid to make cuts to adult social care. Central government will be forced to bolster council or NHS budgets to restore a decent level of service.

- I think its important for the local authority to not loose sight that the health and well being of a community is key to ensuring that people can continue to work, live and contribute to the local economy. With regards to services there is still a perception that the council dictates and the community (including community organisations) does not have any influence within the council. There needs to be community; business and independent representatives at ALL levels in an open and transparent council.
- Use assets to generate revenue! The number of vacant / underutilised council facilities is an abomination!
- They all need supporting and we need to be fighting for the money to keep it all.
- Support informal opportunities for adults with low-level depression/mental health issues. This early intervention and support can prevent conditions deteriorating.
- Don't make cuts - you are being forced to do the Tory government's dirty work. Austerity isn't working, stand up to them refuse to implement cuts - tax the City of London.
- More investment is needed for housing and for bringing revenue to the town. What is needed is a venue to host music, comedy and other genres of entertainment. Wakefield, Holmfirth and Halifax seem to be thriving from this. There's no reason why the council cannot invest in a venue to host these nights, we need a reason for people to come to the town and this could be one of them. Secondly, why can't the rent for shops in the town be reduced? It is cheaper to rent a shop in York! Why are you asking if we want more business premises, when the current stand empty? I'd like to know if any of your council workers have actually visited the town centre recently? It is like a ghost town and the decline will keep on going until the council do something about it. Why not lower the rents to encourage bigger brands and better shops to come to Huddersfield and the Kingsgate centre? The council do not seem to have a clue about what is going on in Huddersfield and this needs to change.
- Very biased survey
- The questions are not specific enough to make an informed decicion as to how this would sway spending. I believe there should be one less councillor per ward and to reduce councillor and committee expenses to save funds. Also stop fact finding trips overseas for council staff and councillors.
- reluctantly I think that only those who genuinely need help should receive council assistance, the rest should be weaned off dependence. By encouraging business and manufacturing back into the area I think that will do more to encourage well being. The area is already over populated and run down, more should be done to clean up grime and bring empty buildings into use again. I think communities should clean up there own areas where it is possible for them to do so.
- If the council owns and controls business premises and homes the types of business we want to promote could be given better deals on rent/business rates, and cold even have their staff housed in affordable housing if need be.
- The council could raise £5million selling off council assets that otherwise make no income, over which the council have no influence or benefit in keeping but with conditions attached that the land or premises are used for job creation, business development and contribute to the wealth creation of the local economy, which in turn may reduce the need for extensive preventative measures and support communities to help themselves as their reliance on the local authority reduces. More jobs equals more spending power, equals more businesses and more money in peoples pockets to pay for chargable council services.

- Prevention is always better than cure!
- Neglect the arts at our peril. There will be no quality of life with no culture in all its diverse forms. We should not be losing libraries or public halls. Funding for music education is also vital for developing a rounded and fulfilled population.
- I think that health and well being are linked to the eating and cooking of proper food. Are children taught in schools how to cook the basics, the importance of fresh fruit and vegetables and the long term health effects these can bring?
- less duplication, more care over who gets benefits, more help to those who genuinely have needs rather than those who know best how to 'work' the system,
- By selling assets I mean the empty buildings in Kirklees as opposed to the ones used by services and public
- As a question it's too leading, I suspect you want to support these 3 things, how about asking about something that you know the public want to support that you don't. Looking down, I'm gathering this is the end of the survey. It's a piece of political tripe, you should be ashamed that you think people are so stupid that they would believe this is a process that gives them any power whatsoever. I am a strong supporter of the council but this survey is pointless.
- SELLING COUNCIL ASSETS I can't adequately consider the options if I don't know what the land and buildings are currently used for. If a building currently used as office space for council staff is sold, rent would have to be paid to accommodate those staff elsewhere. If land is currently being used as a recreation space, or school playground, the impact on health and wellbeing would have to be considered. I think when you do the second stage of the consultation, you should name specific property being considered, or types of property (eg buildings used as council office space, land not currently in use for any purpose). PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE - OUR THREE BOLD THESES Early intervention and prevention, and supporting communities to help themselves. Why are these things lumped together? You seem to be suggesting that encouraging people to do things for themselves is an early intervention. How? what sorts of things would people be doing for themselves? Eg if you remove early intervention family support services, saying the community will somehow magically do this by itself, that's the opposite of early intervention and prevention. So again, I can't answer this without specifics because it's a leading question. If I say I agree with early intervention and prevention (I do), your survey will record that I also agree with supporting communities to help themselves, which I am incredibly skeptical about because I don't know what you mean.
- plan for the long term not the short - don't spend money on building new libraries and refurbishing them only to close them a few years later. An example of this is the social services - build a purpose built home for handicapped youngsters in Lindley and a few years down the line dismantle it and sell off the land for building new homes!!!@@!! still not built. Give builders permission to build new houses in Lindley but don't make builders provide new school for all extra pupils. Too many levels of managers in local government and too many unnecessary meetings - a waste of staff time in many cases with too many changes for change sake sometimes involving waste in a lot of cases e.g. stationery equipment etc. Make full use of buildings some of smaller branch libraries open for very short periods so find ways to utilise them for the communities they serve,
- Kirklees Council cannot expect to achieve the number of volunteers that will be of vital importance to KC's long term plans. Furthermore a council tax increase of 5% is incongruous with the prospect of wholesale reduction on public services.
- This is a poor consultation that will tell you very little. I think we should join with neighbouring councils to save money. How much money would be saved by working together? It has been done elsewhere. Share heads of services over 3 councils thus saving 2/3rd of higher wages. Get people working nearer to their homes thus saving people time and increasing work life balance, thus less sickness etc as well as good for environment. Disadvantaged and more transient communities will not be able to run services voluntarily to the same degree as the more middle class and advantaged areas so resources will need to be placed where they are needed most. So much is politics and keeping people voting for Councillors and I am worried that the people with no voice who need the most will end up

with least. Already volunteer capacity is being stretched to the limit and some voluntary groups will fold or become less effective.

- Take a much more enterprising approach and try to support small start-up ventures which include a mix of local authority staff (maintains employment, keeps knowledge and skills) and private expertise in areas where change needs to happen. I'm sure a private company wouldn't go about stuff the way the council does. Reduce the red-tape and relax licencing and regulatory powers to support greater flexibility and reduce the time taken to get things done/up and running - it takes an age for the council to do anything. Deliver services that meet the need of tax payers, not the council.
- need to do more partnership working and collaboration across LAs - some of generic functions could be done across LAs and actually create benefits and cost savings - eg Legal, Planning, IT, HR, Street Cleansing possible creating more efficient routes that cross over boundaries.
- I am concerned about the potential loss of precious green spaces, which are so necessary for the wellbeing and quality of life of the community as a whole, and of people as individuals, especially the very young. It may be argued that this is necessary to bring economic growth and employment, but it can also serve to line the pockets of the unscrupulous and to win temporary political kudos. Future generations must surely be considered, as well as the quality of life of the people who make up the community - who wants to live in an area with no open green spaces? Do you? Also the potential loss of libraries concerns me greatly. It might save money to close them, but what kind of culture-less, heartless community would we have without them? I believe it to be a basic right for people to have access to these precious places and the wonderful benefits and necessities that they offer. What are our communities going to be like for the vast majority of 'ordinary' people after all these cuts?
- all libraries should remain open
- The council should not 'do' this things but only support. This means efficiency in planning and addressing administration and communication and encouraging agencies in their individual expertise areas to tackle the problems.
- Drop all ideas to close sport centres including the criminal idea of closing whitcliffe mount sports centre. Get the school governors and education authority back around the table and point out that schools exist for the community and not their egos. Sport links to health and well being. Deciding to close the sports centre for a vanity project of a new school instead of improving the old amounts to misconduct in public office. Get a grip stop being short sighted and serve the community of Kirklees (all of Kirklees not just Huddersfield). **DO NOT USE THE CRIMINALLY AND MORALLY CORRUPT CLOSURE OF A PERFECTLY GOOD SPORT CENTRE TO BALANCE BOOKS IN SHORT TERM. ALSO THE SWIMMING POOL AT SPENBOROUGH MUST BE REBUILT AT ALL COSTS. HEALTH AND FITNESS LEAD TO HEALTHY LIFE STYLES AND A MASSIVE REDUCTION IN COSTS TO THE KIRKLEES BUDGET.**
- Destroying the towns by getting rid of libraries, parks and markets makes no sense, they bring in much needed revenue for the towns and the area and benefit the young, old and poorer people who always seem to be at the forefront of any cuts, the area of Spenborough seems to get ignored by Kirklees in the main. The building of more homes should be on the brownfield sites that are available due to old buildings being demolished and not left as blackholes in towns whilst greenfield sites get bulldozed and built on and cause havoc with an infrastructure that cannot cope.
- The most demoralising thing a council can do is cut services. More imaginative ways need to be found to raise funds. If businesses are thriving in the area they will be more able and inclined to support local communities. Music is one area where this could be explored both in terms of school provision and live quality performances in the towns.
- To clarify my response to the section above entitled Selling Council Assets, I agree that the Council should consider selling assets - but buildings only. What is not clear is what 'land' would be sold, is this green belt land for example - in which case I would not support the sale of this as I do not consider any development should take place on green belt land whatever the supposed economic reason provided. Much more information needs to be provided on where the land for sale is and its current and proposed future use to enable a suitable

response to be provided. Also on section 'Economic growth and development' whilst I support this, it should not be to the detriment of the Green belt or existing communities /settlements and should focus on brownfield sites and bringing empty properties, business premises etc into use again - an example of growth I would support would be supporting strong quality vibrant businesses in the heart of Huddersfield Town Centre rather than the current mix of 'Pound' shops, charity shops and empty premises. The Town Centre is turning into a 'ghost town' and needs revitalizing.

- Local libraries and services must remain open and must not be closed down.
- the council should give the community stuff
- Kirklees has to work with communities differently
- No housing or building should be built on green belt land. Health and well being should be left to the individual.
- Kirklees Council should spend its reserves before slashing vital public services. It is an absolute disgrace that the council is planning to sack 1,400 workers. Stand up to the Tories instead of doing their dirty work! History will remember this council as a bunch of lackeys who stood up for the interests of big business not ordinary people.
- Though there is not much economic gain in Early Intervention I still believe that money spent in this can lead to bigger savings in other services and the NHS. You would have thought this is hand in hand with Health and Wellbeing but I believe that the spendings in this should be towards getting information out there for people to take responsibility in this themselves.
- I don't think health and wellbeing should be one of the key items: people should do that for themselves, that's what being an adult means.
- Does the council have any proposals for leading a fight back against these continued cuts. Year on year we are presented with choices which are all detrimental to local services. It will be the local authority who will be deemed responsible for these cuts rather than National government.
- why do kirklees want to kill bewsbury and batley what about cut backs in huddersfield we dont hear about any their and what about the free town bus instead of stoping it just have one every 30mins instead of every 10mins this bus service means a lot to the older people or would you like us to all stop in our homes
- The bold themes are far too vague. For example libraries, which bold theme does that come under? Probably the first, but it is not clear. This is the most badly designed questionnaire I have ever seen.
- if you build more houses what about extra infrastructure-schools water and sewage supplies ,medical facilities ?
- This survey is confusing and vague to a resident. I would like the council to continue to offer the same services that any resident would expect from its authority to protect and offer advice to its residents. Council tax has been frozen for a number of years. I would rather pay higher tax and be able to access (if required) the same statutory services. For example, recycling and environmental health.
- Areas of Kirklees (eg: Dewsbury) look very run-down and depressing. Economic regeneration is important to encourage commerce and boost the economy.
- I have found your questions to be not the ones I really want to answer. I think access to Library services should be kept at all costs. To limit the opportunities for people to learn and to read is such false economy.
- Libraries and museums are important. Most families round here can't afford to go on expensive holidays abroad. We need interesting things to do close to home.
- some of the questions are loaded for example more houses and business development; I am for attracting more business as it will have a knock on effect; however who are these new houses for ? - who are the demographic? more social housing which will have a set criteria or professional people who will be the only ones been able to afford the mortgage. in regards to health and well being a bit pointless given that health services are been tendered out or moved to other areas or again if you one of the fortunately ones that fit the demographic which means souls like me who fit in the grey area of not being poor enough or rich enough can not access vital care !!

- Whilst I tend to agree to building of new homes, GREEN BELT should NOT BE encroached upon..... Kirklees has lots of brown field areas.....
- Keep the Early intervention working in pre-schools and nurseries don't cut them out and start in school as the Inclusion and Portage teams have made a massive difference to children with additional needs prior to entering in school. If you cut them then schools will have to foot the bill for the early intervention from an already overstretched budget. Parents will also lose out on the support network they need to continue in their careers rather than go on benefits and stay at home to care for their disabled child. Early intervention should start at birth!!!!
- Difficult to prioritise. Responses will always depend on individual circumstances and what is a priority to that individual. eg. families with disabled children/family members may think health and wellbeing are important. Families in poorer areas may feel help with prevention is the better option. It's always going to be subjective and doesn't seem there are any right or wrong answers.
- To keep Green Belt as Green Belt,,,,, !
- what about cutting the councillors per ward? Do we really need 3? This would cut down on the number of people needed to support elected members too. Also do we really need so many chiefs if we are having fewer Indians?
- Health and wellbeing should be the role of the individual/parents and the NHS not the council. Incentives for people to make healthy lifestyle choices would help both health and wellbeing and early intervention and prevention
- In the event of failure arising through Early Intervention will still incur later costs albeit these will probably be picked up by other public bodies e.g. NHS, Police, Probationary Service etc & still result in crisis within individuals personal lives which will impact on the wider community. Central Government have unleashed a community inferno which will divide the population between those which have and those without and result in the more (financially) able to re-locate away from problem areas - much the same as has happened with Schools and house price but on a Council wide area.
- The preventative approach should already have been in place. Given the approach now being considered would suggest the Council has been incorrectly focused on reactionary rather than preventative support. Perhaps the Council has been guilty of not being supportive at an earlier stage when approached by the public leading to crises events arising which are expensive to manage.
- Selling assets Needs to be judged depending on the asset rather than a broad yes or no. Economic growth Neither national nor local government can make businesses and jobs happen - there has to be a business owner willing to develop the business that then employs people and pays rent and rates. How can Kirklees bear the short term cost of construction AND protect services based on the uncertain promise of future revenues. Further thoughts The appearance of any location is important. Kirklees must not allow gradual deterioration to give the appearance of deprivation. If people think they live in a pig sty then that is the way they will treat it. Our community group has just obtained grant funding for the purchase of gardening tools - a ludicrous duplication of resources but the only way we can lay our hands on them easily. We have just obtained a garage for storage - and now have the increased cost of insurance and the potential vandalism and theft as soon as the local youth discover there is a stock of tools in a single garage. If Kirklees staff are to be reduced as anticipated then keep the skills and essential equipment in house. Make vans available stocked with a range of equipment and materials, fence posts, bags of cement, paint and power tools that can be used by the 1 Kirklees staff but we are prevented from using by insurance issues. I have spent many hours cutting and sawing with hand tools when the job could be done in minutes with power tools. When we have a project activity we could book a man with a van and provide the free voluntary labour while Kirklees provides the skills and supervision, the materials and power tools and takes everything away into secure storage at the end of the day. When there is no community group activity then the man can take the van to the next Kirklees priority and do what he can. Voluntary groups There are a wide range of voluntary group structures which leads to confusion and lots of work to be done

before Kirklees can recognise a group and work with them. Create a skeleton structure of: 1. known needs to help volunteers quickly identify the greatest need in their area and; 2. a blueprint/template for them to set up their organisation with minimum time/effort and cost. Kirklees needs to leave bridges in place to enable voluntary groups to connect to Kirklees most easily, not simply withdraw services AND raise the drawbridge at the same time. People do what they enjoy and enthralls them. This is their personal choice whether it is environmental projects or care of the elderly. But if you can make it enjoyable on top of that you will provide real motivation. Enjoyable always boils down to food, drink and social interaction. Have social events for volunteers from community groups to communicate the common objective of supporting the community of Kirklees. Building the Third Sector so that it can deliver more bang for the free buck that it provides is going to be a major team building exercise for Kirklees. A 10% increase in the Community section of the budget will pay dividends by enabling voluntary groups to provide replacement services in sections where you have been obliged to cut 20%

- Take out all spin doctors. Substantially reduce school budgets and require them back to basics, essential teaching and learning.
- Transfer the management of local assets, buildings, services to smaller districts run more as community trusts with initial funding, budgeted funding for the future with a target to become self-sustaining after 10 years. These should be funded by increasing Council Tax but providing the increase back to the community district. E.g. Spenborough District could run local buildings, sports and leisure facilities, parks and local events such as Cleckheaton Festival.
- I think Kirklees should only sell assets if they are currently NOT useful/ valuable to the community (eg artworks)/ capable of making a profit through renting them out etc. Buildings might be best converted/ rented out since, land and property remain valuable. Although I think some building of homes and businesses should happen I am concerned that planning is not being done properly due to pressure from central government. If the environment worsens it is bad for the health and wellbeing of the people. I am not sure that transferring buildings eg libraries to community groups at no cost is wise. If a community group fails to manage it then what has been an asset could become an eyesore/ abandoned/ under-utilised building.
- I think that if Kirklees are losing valuable services that help people on a low income or in difficult situations more money should be put into voluntary services such as CAB.
- Youth Services and links with Schools are key.
- Take community services back in-house and cease all private care as this is far too costly and without proper care being given as private companies do not receive the correct training as Kirklees staff received. Other Councils have done this and it has shown a better service is given in-house, and is also a saving to the Councils.
- We need to be able to take long-term decisions that may cost us initially but will save money in the community in the long-term, whether that be money for the council or elsewhere in the public sector. Why can't we work together with other public organisations like the NHS or Police as say that we will provide x service which will save you £xm, we'd like you to help fund half of it. Selling off land may make sense in the short term, but what happens in the future when we are looking at expanding and providing new services to people in new buildings. Are we gaining a small amount today to then spend over the odds later on?
- No agencies used no consultants Use money in balances Keep services in house
- Comment - many of the above are leading questions and combine 2 questions in 1 therefore it is impossible to provide a valid answer.
- No
- Don't shut Library Q2 Comment = com groups not private Q4 comment = NHS should
- Citizens should work together and support our council to find new ways to help ourselves and deliver services differently.
- Stop wasting money on ridiculous services that benefit only small sectors of the population. Spend money on Libraries and PC's.

- I cannot see the benefit of putting vast sums of money into new 'sports' centre for a small proportion of the population at the expense of libraries - who's need is growing everyday - since all Kirklees forms now have to be completed online - age discrimination - Kirklees people - fit but thick!!
- If you are so concerned Re bold themes and are taking note of the last consultation why are parks, museums, libraries under threat. these are used by children and old people. Seems you are protecting managers, policy makers and not public services.
- It is essential that Batley has a library. Once the library goes Batley will close down completely. More money to be spent on Wilton Park rather than Greenhead Park!
- Please use cheaper paper for your surveys
- I believe it isn't the responsibility of the council to interfere in other people's life, or to pay for it, but to keep libraries open.
- Keep Libraries
- I believe that the ethnic mix of the community certainly in North Kirklees is such that the council should focus on maintaining and supporting services and events in the community which encourage cross-community integration. For example, libraries are places used by all communities. If necessary seek new ways to fund but it would be short sighted to close all libraries/museums for a one off gain at the expense of the ongoing health and wellbeing of the community.
- I don't believe that if selling council properties is a good thing, even more so if wanting to build more homes. Activities run at the libraries bring the community together.
- Up to council to identify areas of waste money in higher management.
- Look after carers and community groups as they can provide a huge range of services which will save the council money in the long run
- I do not think further greenfield on greenbelt land should be touched - this is usually an excuse for speculative housing companies to land grab often with the underhand tacit wheeler dealing agreement of councils and promised jobs often fall well below numbers initially quoted - Local people are sick and tired of their greenery being taken and spoiled and I know that tact will note which councillors vote development through and in next local election not vote for them. Why don't you simply tell the Tories to get stuffed just like the Scots have. But I also think my council, Bradford, should raise council tax instead of imposing draconian Tory cuts all the time. Q3 Comment = Instead utilise/modernise existing housing stock. These are far too many empty business/proposed sites - fill them first.
- Please do not build on Greenbelt - we need that for healthy environment - use more wasteland and Brownfield
- Re: Q3 More business premises, more homes = more traffic children's health damaged by the poor air quality in this area, why add to the pollution?
- Council should dispose of stored art work and not Council owned buildings. Think about people first. Comment at bottom = How much of our money has this cost inc. Freepost!
- Get an outside body to evaluate/advise the authority, review all aspects. Blue Sky Thinking
- Q3 - supporting business and economic growth is different to building more homes and business premises which will cause more cost and congestion!
- Effective involvement of and support for community/voluntary groups in helping to provide appropriate services.
- Would it be possible to put some effort into educating people about the costs involved in cleaning up after them? If people understood that simple things like not dropping litter could help to fund valuable services, perhaps we could start to change the way they treat the environment. Supporting communities to help themselves is a great idea but need to be well thought through and suitably resourced. In my experience, it's much easier to get volunteers to help with one-off activities than to commit to organising and taking responsibility for providing services.
- Scrap the newsletter - this must cost a lot of money. 2. Stop making grants to religious bodies - this is not the Council's job.

- Make sure more households and businesses pay Council tax. Get rid of outdated exemptions (prayer rooms, churches etc.). Use Council land to rent out to business instead of selling it. Leave health to the NHS.
- Building new homes & business premises would help to generate income but there seems to be large amount of existing vacant/ derelict buildings which should be utilised first.
- Q1 As a single person on minimum wage - paying rent and bills I have £70 for the month for food - I worry if the Council tax increased I will not be able to eat - to work full time with no holidays - no car - no mortgage(I have a degree BTW) seems sad I can't thrive in Kirklees.
- Emptying blackbin is my No 1 priority. 2. Good management does not require full time union reps on payroll. 3. Some of us don't use email and like to know about all Kirklees.
- Q3 I know having enough homes for people to live in is important but I would like to see the Council putting empty properties back into use before agreeing to development on precious land.
- Limited questionnaire, no information about council spending on hospitality, exorbitant salaries, expenses.
- My children really enjoy coming to the library it increases their reading and communication skills.
- We really appreciate the library because its near to home and my children always like coming.
- Some areas of work done between services are duplicated/out of date. If these were streamlined then savings could be made without cutting services to the public. A particular service in Kirklees which is located within Customer Service Centre, Huddersfield is now out of date due to the different communities and population now in Kirklees which has changed over the years. This service provided assistance particularly to the asian community to assist with language issues ie reading letters, immigration issues, applying for benefits etc. Due to the differing communities and languages and due to the fact that there is now third generations of asians who no longer have language issues this service should be reviewed. Kirklees should be providing an equality service for all communities and not a particular community. (Staff in this service only speak asian language) They also provide satellite service which is costly. The work this service does is also done by other services ie immigration is done by CAB, Benefit applications completed by Benefit Advice etc. Also this service does not exist in North Kirklees.
- Services need to be looked at across Kirklees not in isolation - this would ensure duplication of services. This could mean that jobs could be saved if people can be moved to other services. Residents do need to do more for themselves in the longer term, but we need to allow people to learn how to do this; as for a number of years when the money was there the council has allowed people to become dependant on its staff and services.
- Selling the council assets - land and offices not public buildings
- I agree on helping communities support themselves to point however I have huge concerns about how this will work. I live in Gomersal which is a nice area. However a large amount of people show no respect for the area - litter is a huge problem for one example. I pick up a huge amount and frankly I feel angry this has to happen when I pay high council tax anyway. I have put raising it by 2% but this is because I feel that to keep it the same would mean cuts and these cuts will be in nicer areas as the council think everyone cares for their area. They most certainly do not. I fear the nice areas will become run down if litter collection for one example is reduced. There is litter thrown on the streets here daily. It is disgusting. Please consider these types of problems when implementing communities supporting themselves.
- Council assets - this needs to be considered on a case-by-case basis and only if the transfer/ market conditions will provide a strong return. Fewer Councillors/ fewer elections, moving to once every 4 years - improved strategic decision making; Invest to save energy management projects - use reserves to support, as there'll be a return on good investments made, it will support the local economy (employment of local contractors) and will reduce CO2; Transition of services to the VCS/ 3rd sector sooner rather than later, with some funding to assist in the transition and build capacity within the VCS; Reduced/ free car parking at weekends to encourage people to shop in Kirklees towns.

- Shouldn't be building more business premises, there are far too many empty business premises across Kirklees as it is. Focus on utilising existing buildings. Encourage and support new business start ups to support business growth - i.e through training courses, Leeds City Council offers FREE training and advice for new businesses through it's libraries, I guess Kirklees libraries won't be able to do this if the council goes ahead with cutting Library services in it's ill thought out plans.
- Council Housing and services to housing should be an important factor to consider.
- As an agency re-distributing wealth the Council should give top priority to those steps that will help to build a fairer society and to reduce poverty and discrimination within Kirklees. To that end it should focus its efforts on helping residents to secure a good education, the skills they need, to become confident and self reliant and to lead healthy lifestyles. Services under the economic resilience heading are, for the most part, better provided by private companies. Instead of targetting services such as museums and libraries for the chop it should be investing in those social media mechanisms that will unlock the potential of these important resources for the benefit of the local community. If the Council has surplus assets then, providing these assets are not an important part of the area's architectural heritage and history, it should sell them off. The Council should look at its own management structures, taking out superfluous layers, starting with the four Executive Directors. This latter move alone would save the Council £0.5 million a year.
- Please try to keep service levels for 'Supporting Young People' at least at the current level. One of our daughters works in this field across Kirklees and I know from her that the whole of that sector is extremely concerned about the level of support that can be provided if funding is cut any/much further.
- I would not wish to see the branch Library's closed nor the buildings sold off-- rather I'd like to see the council take pay cuts them selves, to support what they preach!! I also think it most important to pay the staff an increase how ever small rather than a pay freeze, all have a right to a living wage. I might point out that sending David Shead to San Francisco is a waste of money---- He could pay for himself ?? from his wage ?? unnecessary spending in this day and age is a waste in my view.
- I feel strongly that the government cap on council tax is unrealistic and lacking in responsibility. Quality services cost money, and there is only so much economising that can be done. When the council is forced to consider cutting essential services, it has gone too far. I would in fact be happy to consider a council tax rise of more than 5%.
- The council should build enough affordable housing to meet the need and work with other social housing providers. It should use some of its own land and seek powers to acquire land. It should be bold in its local plan and allocate sufficient land to meet housing and business needs, including where necessary and unavoidable, greenfield and greenbelt. It should continue with asset transfers to community groups/charities where there is a strong case to do so. Within the transport and highways budget it should prioritise measures to promote cycling and walking. In Holmfirth more use should be made of the market hall, which is unused most of the time. The Tourist Information Centre could be relocated into the upper floor, providing a much improved facility, and enabling its present premises to be sold or transferred.
- Early intervention and supporting Communities is important - and vital to extending Council budgets by reducing long-term impact on primary services and maximising the 'return' for every pound we do spend - however do not lose sight of the fact that the key to early intervention and the infrastructure to provide support to communities comes through having well-resourced, robust, creative and professionally delivered frontline services with a genuine presence on the high street, such as: Community Wardens and Rangers, Streetscene Cleansing and Highways teams, Libraries, Community support teams, children's outreach teams, Parks & Gardens, Housing Area teams and manangers, etc. The ability to deliver the seemingly-utopian 'Kirklees Street' is dependant on having the professionals on the frontline there to reach out to those residents; the young man who looks after the grit bin needs to have a reliable contact to get it refilled when required; the residents who look after their elderly neighbours need access to the information they need to do so, and to understand

how to access professional help when it IS needed; when sharing trades and services, access to reliable information sources and reading material to help them undertake new tasks is essential; the neighbours who share vegetables from their allotments must have a decent allotments service in the first place; the 'problem family' needs professional support as well as community support, for help with job searches, IT training and public access IT, and very possibly healthcare services as well. The Kirklees Street isn't THAT Utopian, it is perfectly possible - but it is unlikely to happen entirely unaided.

- expecting people to do more for themselves puts those that are vulnerable at risk (.i.e adult and child protection)
- I think conceptually there is overlap between health and wellbeing and early intervention. I'm concerned that the economic growth option probably doesn't give full consideration to sustainability - new homes should be because there is an actual need for homes not for income generation; economic growth needs to be sustainable for the community, environment etc and not about growth per se. A retail and leisure focus for example necessitates a degree of unsustainable use of resources (the stuff people buy needs to be made of something probably finitely available and not reused materials) and disposable income is decreasing and the gap widening between the haves and have nots. Forgetting environmental and social justice issues in the short term will have bigger and more costly consequences long term. The ideas/themes don't seem to be at all radical (or even new) and encourage radical change.
- The almost total closure of public toilets is completely unacceptable, is in conflict with health and well being, has turned people with weak bladders into a persecuted minority, and violates my human rights. They are more important in Kirklees than in most areas, as we have plenty of opportunities for walking in the countryside, but many walks are close to built up areas, and there are few trees or hedgerows. I am now doing much less walking.
- There is a very worrying lack of social housing in kirlees. Build some social housing
- It's fine to build additional housing, however, this then poses the problem of having to build additional schools or risk inadequate school places (which is already causing problems). I would welcome further building, however, of social/ sheltered housing which would potentially allow people to relinquish their current homes to move into this type of housing option and free up 'normal' houses for others eg families. This would also help to reduce social isolation and hopefully help residents to actually become part of a community again. As someone who currently rents a property with my partner (and his 20 year old son), I would very much welcome a cap on the amount of student rental properties in Kirklees. I appreciate that it is the landlord's choice who they rent a property to, but I find it extremely frustrating for students to be renting 2/3 bedroom houses especially when in the main they are uninhabited between May and September. Families that would like longer term rental properties either end up paying an extortionate amount of rent (sometimes with a property that isn't actually adequate) or moving out of the area they wish to live. For people who have to re-locate away from their wider family, this then obviously has an impact on vulnerable family members whose families don't live as close and contributes to social isolation and wider issues. There also needs to be a lot more communication between Council departments, the Council and the public and Councillors and the public. Councillors need to be much more pro-active in engaging with their communities in different ways, not just speaking with the same people all the time or the people who already attend community groups, churches, mosques etc. There needs to be much more use of community groups to 'spread the word' among local residents who need help understanding things or news explaining in a different way. Communication also needs to be at the forefront when approving road closures/ footpath closures for utility companies to work on. A co-ordinated approach needs taking towards this so that all utility companies are informed when a stretch of road is to be dug up for work underground. They can then all work on the same stretch of road whilst it's dug up, to avoid the same stretch of road being dug up again a couple of weeks later - and if this happens, charge them highly for it! Inevitably emergency work will always need to be carried out in between, again, a charge could be made for this or at least charges for the roads being repaired. There are many jobs that undoubtedly will disappear

from the Council's payroll, I've already noticed that overhanging trees aren't being cut back as they used to be and some roadsides are being left unkempt (the specific road I'm thinking of is very narrow where pedestrians struggle to walk on a good day, let alone when the side of the road is covered in nettles and tall grass - how is a disabled person in a wheelchair or scooter supposed to manage). With regards these types of jobs, how about utilising the probationary service to help with this or offering job seekers the chance to gain some work experience by helping cleaning the streets/ gardening duties/ emptying town centre bins/ acting as 'sign-posters' for visitors to Huddersfield, Batley, Dewsbury etc? I would also like to propose that future consultation is sent specifically to business rates customers (if this is not already happening) - especially as most larger businesses have marketing and PR departments who could potentially offer some very innovative ideas.

- Help single parents and families more.
- Very much weighted? obvious what answers will be.
- Q3 comment = More homes Yes! and businesses no. Empty plots around Hudds already
- No
- I strongly disagree with proposals to close Birstall Library.
- Most people of my age have been brought up to be self sufficient, to take this away from us will only make us feel useless.
- Q1 Comment = Why can you not take outstanding debts out of benefits and wages first. Q3 comment = Yes if the houses are homes for people that pay council tax and rent.
- I would like to tell you that reason I disagree with you to increase council tax in 2015-2018 period is because the residents already pay more specially what I called spare bedroom tax.
- You should keep the libraries as they encourage people to educate themselves so they could do more and help the community by finding a job and be able to pay Council Tax, charities etc.
- For communities to truly take responsibility for services in their area I believe communities need to have both the power & responsibility to do so. There is an opportunity for the council and more specifically councillors to work in a different & radical way by devolving budgets to communities and to actively engage residents in the decision making. There are risks involved in this approach - communities may not spend the money in the way the council would have done but until people feel empowered to shape their lives and services, engagement will be poor and I believe the council's aspiration of individuals & groups delivering help & support to each other will not be met until individuals really believe they have the power & influence to make decisions that affect their lives. Kirklees Council would need to move from a paternalistic approach to one of guiding communities in making their own choices. Investing in actively politicising residents and releasing the reins of power & control by the council would be key to reaching a position of the people of Kirklees being engaged with, influencing and actively participating & delivering support to each other in their community.
- You mention increasing revenue by building more Houses which will raise Council Tax increasing income, when the Council is currently losing money by having Council Tax & Business Rates Inspectors office based, when they should be out more frequently to bring in new homes, new business premises and (extensions or changes to business properties which can increase the rateable value) which would bring in more money to the Council. This extra income could go towards the Councils Budget reducing increases needed. New properties/ businesses (business extensions/ changes) are being missed or brought into banding/ rating later because of cost cutting by removing hire vehicles kirklees vans which save pennies but means the Council loses pounds. Written suggestions to improve income to the Council are passed to senior Managers are not been acknowledged just received and ignored.
- Spin-outs
- there is too emphasis on communities that have language skills, kirklees does not have the facilities to support them
- Your budget crisis is simply due to incompetent political decisions and poor/inadequate executive advice.

- Developers should be encouraged to take on buildings in town centers to make into affordable homes - converting large premises into flats very much like European cities. This brings life back into the towns, makes use of empty buildings and helps town centers police themselves by having people there. It is short sighted to sell assets - once it's gone it's gone - and building new homes over our precious greenbelt is disgraceful. Lindley should be held up as an example of how things have gone too far - it is time to call a stop to out of town development. Encourage new industries such as film and tourism - closing museums, cancelling events and building over the greenbelt will not achieve this.
- Council cuts should be implemented within the council as well as everywhere else. Chief executives take far too much money for themselves. The council tax payer should have a say in where their money goes instead of the council paying huge wages & expenses to whoever they choose.
- look again at management and reduction of headcount
- With regard to closing Cleckheaton library, if this service closes it will contribute to more people becoming socially isolated as many individuals and groups meet there. Social isolation undermines emotional well being and predisposes us to depression. We humans are social animals !! We need places in which to socialize, sadly they are becoming fewer by the day. You say you want to help us to help ourselves then leave our library alone!!!
- The amount of money you pay the top end of staff is ridiculous we also have a part time ceo why other councils lay people off then we employ them you treat your bottom end staff as though they are not worth bothering with it's as though you don't care and they are not important your managers are rude to your employees you create jobs for the boys how can things change when you use the same people just rename them posts
- Why are the council shutting the sports centre at Whitcliffe Mount sports centre Cleckheaton, health and well being not helping this by shutting it down council don't bother about North Kirklees health and well being. Spenborough pool what's happening here ?????
- I believe it's essential to health and wellbeing to ensure footpaths are fully supported and no cuts in the streetscene team supporting this, there are many articles to prove that walking improves health therefore will only support future long term health in Kirklees and reduction in costs
- Health and wellbeing as more private providers are delivering social care it is the monitoring of these services that I have most concern about. Also in relation to early intervention and prevention a robust evaluation system needs to be in place.
- Why are the council shutting the sports centre at Whitcliffe Mount sports centre Cleckheaton, health and well being not helping this by shutting it down council don't bother about North Kirklees health and well being. Spenborough pool what's happening here ?????
- As many libraries as possible should be saved.
- I NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE FOR ANY OF THE OPTIONS TO SUPPORT AS I BELIEVE THESE AREAS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED REGARDLESS AS PART OF OUR SOCIAL CONSCIOUS - THE VULNERABLE AND EXCLUDED ARE THE ONES THAT ARE ALWAYS BASHED THE HARDEST DURING CUTBACKS. I KNOW FROM PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS THAT THEY ARE A WASTE OF TIME. THE COUNCIL JUST USES THEM TO MAKE THE PEOPLE BELIEVE THEY HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE/HAD A SAY WHEN REALLY THEY HAVEN'T - THEIR WORDS HAVE JUST BEEN TWISTED IN FAVOUR OF WHAT THE COUNCIL ALREADY INTENDED - SO THIS WASTES EVEN MORE MONEY! I HAVE NO FAITH IN MY LOCAL/NATIONAL COUNCIL/GOVERNMENT. THE BUILDINGS WE HAVE IF SOLD OFF ARE ONLY A SHORT TERM FIX - THEY DO NOT ADDRESS THE SUSTAINABILITY WE NEED WITHIN THE AREA. WHY SELL SOME AND BUILD MORE FOR BUSINESSES?? ECONOMIC RESILIENCE? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN??? HOW CAN THE COUNCIL SUPPORT LOCAL INVESTMENT WHEN EVEN BUSINESSES ARE CUTTING JOBS AND CLOSING VENTURES THAT ARE NOT WORKING - KIRKLEES IS NOT SHORT ON BUSINESS INVESTMENT BUT IS IT REALLY UTILISED AND DOES IT REALLY BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY OR THE BACK POCKET OF THE MEN AT THE TOP??? COUNCILS DO NOT SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEMSELVES - THEY SEEM TO THINK VOLUNTEERING IS THE ANSWER TO EVERYTHING - FIND ME THE TIME ON MY FULL TIME JOB (WHERE I BARELY HAVE MONEY FOR FOOD FOR THE MONTH) AND I WILL VOLUNTEER BUT WHEN WILL I GET THE HELP I NEED? I HAVE SAID I

AM AGAINST THE COUNCIL TAX RAISE - NOT BECAUSE I DONT UNDERSTAND WHY AN INCREASE MAY HELP THESE CUTBACKS BUT BECAUSE I ACTUALLY CAN NOT AFFORD TO PAY ANYMORE ESPECIALLY WHEN EVERYTHING IS COSTING MORE AND MORE AND AM STRUGGLING TO PAY MY BILLS.WHAT WILL I DO WINTER NEXT YEAR IF THIS GOES AHEAD? 2% / 5% MIGHT NOT SEEM ALOT TO SOME PEOPLE BUT IT WOULD BE TO ME WHEN FOOD/GAS/LECCY/TRANSPORT HAVE ALL INCREASED

- Ideas are good in theory but how do you get people to engage. For example health, there is lots of help, advice and support available but people choose to pursue bad habits (alcohol, smoking, junk food etc). Takeaways are opening on an almost weekly basis - assume this is agreed by the council? More homes = more strain on current services (health, schools, roads etc) so not sure how this would help local economy?
- There are too many empty businesses in town centres maybe if you lower the rates for first three years of new small businesses until they are up and running we will get more visitors to our towns Batley is a prime example there's some lovely shops that would make great businesses but far too expensive. I would love to start a nice cafe shop with an old theme bring Batley back up to the standard it should be but as I'm recently unemployed I can't see me ever affording to do it Batley used to be a very inviting town now its a miss match of shop fronts hardly any market and nowhere where some1 can go for a decent quiet coffee maybe start to make it easier for people like me to start on my own or put prices on for rentle property
- Supporting Health and wellbeing and early intervention and pervention both go hand in hand with the arts both in Kirklees and on a larger national scale. The arts is essential for people to feel peace of mind and freedom from the ties and stresses of everyday life, ESPECIALLY in these financially insecure times. I think Kirklees council should think very carefully before making potentially very damaging cuts to arts funding, and think about the long term implications of such decisions.
- I think people should be informed of better ways to keep more healthy from their doctors and through schools. Educate the children - they will pass it on to the parents hopefully.
- There needs to be better opportunities and services for young people such as teenagers.
- People should be informed and encouraged to take responsibility for themselves and their friends and families. The 'they will do it' attitude i.e. the Council will provide services will need to change substantially.
- I worry that some of the decisions that are currently being made are easy wins but longer term will end up costing the council massively and going back will be impossible. Make the correct decision based on all the facts with all the consequences being though about. It is really important to make decisions that are future proof as well as for the here and now - it is possible to do both. Also, I think that a full audit of council IT needs to be completed as there is IT within the system which can streamline approaches but they are not utilised to their fullest capacity
- i feel very strongly about having paid front line professional staff at venues such as libraries as these are community hubs we're me and the family can access a wide range of council and community services and advice in a warm friendly atmosphere
- without a healthy economy locally none of the other aims are going t happen
- What can be done to bring empty houses and business premises back into use ? Would this not help alleviate the need for more such properties?
- Council should think twice about selling or giving away the family silver. The assets in prosperous areas like Meltham and Marsden will be snapped up. But what about Heckmondwike library? We have seen Heckmondwike lose lots of amenities. Most folk round here can't afford foreign holidays and day trips out. Local amenities are sometimes the only places to go.
- Instead of selling off building s why not utilise.
- Some suggestions; 1. Why not reduce the number of enterprise centres and business parks from 9 to 2 ? 2. Get rid of the Kirklees Supply Service and Kirklees Temp direct and pass the work to the Jobcentre. 3. Double the council tax and non domestic rates for all properties which have been empty/unused for more

than 6 months except for those homes left by people going into care and which are for sale. 4. Get rid of the paper Kirklees Together magazine. 5. Make the spouses pay for those families who the Council fully funds under the National Assistance Act or Childrens Act etc e.g women and children who were brought to the UK from abroad on visas and who have then been thrown out of the family home when they have no recourse to public funds. I understand this group costs the local taxpayer 100s of thousands of pounds each year. 6. Increase the fines for taking children out of school in term time. 7. Stop buying reference books for libraries as the internet can be used and the libraries have internet access for all. 8. Consider using our Town halls for libraries with only fiction books being stored thereby reducing the need for as much space and the obvious reduction in the running costs of surplus buildings. 9. Employ only 1 toilet attendant in Dewsbury who can service the 3 main toilets which are greatly valued by the public. The remaining staff could be transferred to the Councils Catering and Cleaning Services for which there always seems to be numerous jobs advertised. At present the staff at the toilets on Long causeway seem to spend most of their time chatting and/or cleaning bicycles which seems to indicate they do not have enough to do anyway. 10. Use the probation service more to help with the parks, street cleaning, graffiti removal, bulk refuse collection, dog wardens, pest control, highways maintenance and whatever else would be useful without cost. 11. Switch off every other street light if possible. 12. Cut local councillors allowances and expenses by 20% 13. Use perennial plants wherever possible.

- If we go down the route of using volunteers, then adopt a scheme whereby credits are earned toward job seekers CV. Seek National accreditation so that credits are transferable. For volunteers who are retired, this is not needed but some form of 'valued person' validation would be useful. All volunteers would need training and support They need to be celebrated too Consider looking at the number of Councillors in each Ward with a view to reducing these (staff cuts work in all fields)
- Some of these questions require further enquiry as I feel as if I am being 'bullied' into saying that I would accept a 2% rise in council tax because otherwise the result would be even bigger cuts. The same goes for selling off council land and properties - without knowing the full facts about which land/properties are earmarked for sale it is an impossible question to answer. My key concern is with the health and well being of the people who live in Kirklees and I am particularly interested in the arts and how the arts can be used in areas of early intervention, recovery and social isolation, to build confidence and self esteem. So often these things go to the wall in favour of jobs and education. You currently have a fantastic creative economy team at Kirklees and provide funding (albeit limited) for arts organisations which help to support communities and generate jobs. Please don't axe this service in the name of making services.
- I generally agree with selling some of the councils UNUSED assets, land etc, but NOT underused ones that generally add to the quality of life in the local community. Perhaps some of things could be combined (dual/triple purpose).....so that services are not all together closed.
- Selling Council Assets - I agree that some assets should be sold, such as as land and vacant buildings, however I do not agree that any of the museums should be sold. There is some land at the side of my house, I enquired about purchasing it but was told it was not for sale, yet I pay only £91 a year for a lease. Surely it makes better sense to sell this? Economic Growth and development - building 1000 more homes would raise much income, however think of the impact on schools, who already receive the largest portion of the budget, if these 1000 homes each had at least 1 child, what would that impact be on the schools? What you receive in one hand is surely taken from another but more so.
- I think the question about selling assets above is very misleading - it all depends on the type and purpose of the asset. I would not want the council to dispose of town halls, museums or other community, iconic and listed buildings as these can never be replaced. However offices and unused land would be ok. I hope you are not using the answer to this as a catch all to everything. Why has the council not considered merging services into important buildings

which have to be kept eg libraries in town halls or museums, or any other service which need to be retained even health and social care functions which are growing in priority.

- I should like to see more derelict/unused buildings returned to use before we start on using land to put up new buildings
- I think it's important that Kirklees Council continues to support the health and wellbeing of Kirklees residents not only through traditional services of healthcare and related services, but also through the support of active communities who are engaged in arts and cultural activities which provide many benefits which are often unseen but vital.
- Need to ensure SEN services for children are covered as this early intervention can help stop problem later which are then more expensive
- Like many ordinary Council Tax payers, I do question the need for so many well paid management posts while ordinary coal face jobs are put at risk.
- I've found it impossible to priorities, all the suggested themes are really important to the well being of Kirklees and it's residents.
- 2015 will be the year that people will suddenly realise that the financial climate is a real problem. However, I do feel that the message about people helping themselves by informed choices and it is not the case that the Council will be there to pick up the pieces. We all have a responsibility to help ourselves and others ..... we have lost good neighbours and community as younger people do not think in this way. The annoying thing is that as their are both elections for local government and a General Election it seems the politicians are back peddling and avoiding making decisions and are more concerned about keeping votes! Local government is about the people and the community - really it shouldn't be tainted by politics. The best elected members are the ones who work for the people in their ward firstly and then the community. It does seem expensive to have 3 elected members in each ward and 2 would be sufficient. There should be more control over their expenses and definitely there shouldn't be more than one elected member from the same family in the same ward or in fact more than one from the same household. Not everybody has internet access so that there has to be both an equal amount spent on information sources both on-line and paper copies. There should be more co-operation and knowledge exchange between Council departments. More of the admin functions should be done centrally to save money There should be more partnership between council and voluntary sector and funding should be questioned when similar projects are funded rather than encouraging collective bidding for money. There should never be a difference between what is done for North and South Kirklees - people may be different and this is a long term problem about the connections between the two sides but it should always be the case that it is more about the area rather than if it is Huddersfield or Dewsbury side Is there a really a need for so many managers? I am sure that there are still people working for the council who are under-worked and overpaid and are they really needed? I mean REALLY needed!
- The questionnaire omits some areas and pre-supposes a direction already determined by the LA, therefore the results cannot be a true representation of tax payers as a whole. Need more info re how the £84m has been saved so far and quantified in more detail. It is evident that some managers/directors are still not taking the responsibility/accountability at the level they are being paid - is anything being done to improve this situation and to challenge managers to seek out more efficient ways of doing things with their teams, rather than seeking to protect their own despite vastly reduced workloads. Sadly I have lost all confidence in senior management properly briefing cabinet members in an unbiased way so they can take the 'difficult' decisions ahead.
- Reduce down unnecessary staff/admin in council buildings i.e libraries despite machines to help you take/bring back books there always seems to be several staff on hand gossiping and providing poor service to those that actually have an enquiry.
- I totally disagree that Kirklees residents who pay their Council Tax should be subjected to any rise in Council Tax when Kirklees has already announced that it has wiped off Council Tax debts of £7.5M because of people who refuse to pay anything at all. The payers shouldn't be penalised because of the non-payers! I also strongly disagree with any further building of homes, particularly in the Lindley area where we already suffer from overcrowding of our

schools and GP surgeries. We are struggling to cope with the residents we've got - we don't need any more! Many of the new homes are unaffordable and at the lower end of the price range there are loads of flats, etc, stood empty.

- Its essential that the council retain playing fields, swimming pools and sports facilities. That will promote well being and health for all our residents using schools and community organisations. Raising council tax would be preferred to selling off these types of facilities. There is already a shortage of these types of facilities in the area.
- I think we tend to spoon feed people too much and they have come to rely on the council to help them do the things they should be doing for themselves - looking after children, staying healthy and fit. The majority of people, particularly those in work and contributing to society by paying their taxes and council taxes, do this for themselves already. We spend too much time and money on those who contribute little and take what they can get. Take away the safety net and force them to get on and do something for themselves and contribute more. Of course, there are always genuine cases and I'd never advocate taking away their support and help.
- The government encourages older people to exercise, to help cut healthcare, but for us your actions to close all indoor bowling facilities, goes against this, you have to re-think this through
- There is the need to transform everything we do and prioritise. This will need further awareness raising and getting citizens of Kirklees much more involved and participating in decision making. Councillors and officers need to do more to encourage greater participation. Otherwise we will end up working on the wrong priorities and making decision without meaningful engagement. More of doing things differently, 'doing with' along co-production principles. Need good monitoring or evaluation so that we know when we are on the right tracks in order to change things if we are not.
- Too many chiefs not enough indians across Kirklees in general.
- I believe that council services should support the community to lead fulfilled lives at whatever age or ability level they are at with wellbeing being the councils top priority. I also think that the council should encourage and promote our local culture and support activities that provide a diverse range of opportunities for people to engage in that bring them together in a positive way. These cuts threaten to destroy our cultural infrastructure - community libraries, community arts, community social care activity, community youth activities are all loosing budget. A grant funding pot to enable voluntary groups to deliver these grassroots activity would be cost effect, contribute to local facilities and distinctiveness and contribute to the health and wellbeing adgenda
- Think as strategically as possible and promote the long term future
- In selling assets i think the council should be careful not to reduce the health and wellbeing of those where the land is being sold, i.e. i agree that disused properties should be sold for improvement but open land, green spaces, parks etc. should be kept or donated to groups who will seek to improve them, such as local conservation groups.
- We need a fairer system that ensures that we are not paying for the mistakes of national government and banks. Cutting local services is not the answer and will lead to more problems in the longer term
- Would agree to selling of buildings and possibly land but only brown field it is so important for us and future generations that we preserve all green and open spaces. I disagree to the building of more houses we need to use the space we have. I think future environment is far more important than services we may or may not have today.
- The council should be more balanced in terms of how and where it spreads it's funding as I don't personally agree worthwhile causes in certain areas have a change of success because the council is busy funding projects in deprived areas. I'm not saying that these areas don't deserve the council's backing but at what point does it come out and support the people who pay their taxes, who obey the law, who give up their time as volunteers to support local projects but see now support whatsoever? My plan would be to have designated funding pots for local community projects and that these are assessed on their own merits as to their worthiness. There is no transparency nor any funds for such things that communities can tap

into and instead all you are presented with is there are no funds full stop. Empower local communities to develop themselves and undertake sustainable projects for the good on that community with funds shared out on the basis of the needs of that specific project has to be a fairer way than how it's currently done as I'll be honest, having been a occupant of the area for over 25 years, it's couldn't be any less clear how you go about this type of thing if you tried.

- When it comes to people taking over services themselves, as someone wisely told me, you have to start from where people are, not where you would wish them to be. There is a relatively small group of enthusiastic volunteers in Kirklees who already do a lot. Beyond that small group, I think that the majority of people in Kirklees are not interested in volunteering and (often wrongly) believe that they do not have the time to do it. This attitude against volunteering is a problem across UK society, not just in Kirklees. Asking communities to take on more services means: 1. that an already busy group of committed volunteers will have to take on more, (which they will, but we have to be careful not to drive them away or overwork them), and 2. that we will have to fight against a general low enthusiasm and interest among the wider Kirklees population for volunteering. Point 2 can be achieved, but probably only in small steps and over a long period of time. We need to be realistic about how long point 2 will take to achieve, and about how important it is not to put too much on existing enthusiastic volunteers in the short term. Realism is, sadly, something which often seems to be lacking when this subject is discussed. For example, the Batley Time to Talk event had a room full of existing volunteers, and reached conclusions accordingly. This is not the group which presents a challenge, and so the consultation had little value.
- Health & wellbeing is the most important. We need to be strong & healthy to work & produce goods & services to help Kirklees survive these cuts. Vitally important to our health & wellbeing is culture & creativity. Without this our mental health will suffer thus costing the health service more, & we will be unable to work efficiently!
- The Arts play a vital role in the community both economically and socially. It brings people to Huddersfield and brings people from different walks of life together in a positive and open minded manner. To cut funding for the arts in Kirklees is an extremely short-sighted and irresponsible policy that could devastate our towns along with our with our heritage performance venues.
- Independence from Kirklees (Not a geographical area but invented by bureaucrats in 1974) and the break away of towns from this Kafkaesque giant that is really Huddersfield city. Bring back the Borough system it worked perfectly for a thousand years. Small is better and local is best! That is how to deliver better services to Cleckheaton Batley Dewsbury and Heckmondwike nobody cares what happens west of Mirfield they just take our money!
- I agree that Kirklees should support economic growth but only in ways that it is needed, for example are more business premises needed? It is not a simple case of build business premises equals more revenue because those premises need to be occupied and the businesses within them need to thrive. I also feel it is shortsighted to cut arts funding because you are unable to quantify its economic and social benefits, arts and culture are a vital part of community pride and cohesion. In the same way as you recognise the need for early intervention to prevent costly spending down the line, you should see that investing in cultural spending helps bring communities together through shared activity and enriched life experience. This in turn stops people from being neglected within their communities and engaging in behaviours which may have a social and economic cost to the council & its services. As a further practical suggestion, rather than entirely cutting ticket subsidies, at the LBT for example, why not include it in the KAL programme so that Kirklees residents could benefit from a discount but that visitors from outside did not.
- I don't understand why you have limited this to these three areas. I would not have even considered these areas as priorities. I worry that your priorities are wrong
- Prevention is better - cheaper in the long run than cure. Also emphasis should be given to collecting unpaid council tax etc.
- Selling old buildings I have no issues with but I would hope that playing fields are left untouched for the health and lifestyle activities which are clearly dwindling.

- concentrate on services that help, particularly protect, the young and vulnerable,
- Build houses but not on the green belt ! No more wind turbines ! And do something about the roads. Fill the holes in quicker. This is a big issue and most people have a definite opinion about it. Bad roads cost people money, Are dangerous and unsightly. Kirklees do a good job by and large and people are grateful.
- Enable local groups to take responsibility for supporting their own communities - predominantly in caring.
- The council shouldn't be short sighted in its decision making now - it has to be sustainable for the future. Thinking about early intervention and prevention should consider all aspects of what the council and third sector already has to offer and what can be united to form a more collaborative approach. Using services like childrens centres and reablement services to help build better communities (not closing them down or making them inaccessible).
- Co-locate services to retain a core of buildings.
- When reading in the Examiner about the consideration of closing markets in Batley and other smaller markets it seems that we are closing the heart of communities where there are opportunities for people to do entrepreneurial ideas and places where people congregate and communicate with each other. There should be an opportunity for people to be able to volunteer for one day a year in markets if this would save the markets.
- You should do much more to encourage 3rd sector and creativity and the creative economy. Look to Hebden Bridge or Liverpool for ideas. Culture should be high on the agenda and that links with all your sections. Whilst culture and the arts can't save lives, they sure can improve them. Too much emphasis on retail in Kirklees - too many low level chain stores not enough independence. I can't believe this is the extent of the consultation. If you want to see what happens to a town that closes its theatre there are plenty of tumbleweed towns you can visit. A strong cultural offer in Huddersfield is vital for the area's future.
- In relation to building more homes and business premises - this should be considered carefully. Although it will raise revenue from council tax and business rates it also places further demand on council services as more people move into the area who would potentially use schools, need their bins emptied etc. Would the revenue raised outweigh the costs placed on council services? Also you can generate more revenue using this method but you need to consider our ability / resources to collect the additional council tax / business rates.
- I feel that supporting the most vulnerable member of society is a key issue as those with disabilities need the greatest support. I feel that some things are nice to have but are not essential. I feel that whilst libraries and parks etc are lovely and promote a positive view of the area care of the disabled is key. I do think that the offer of support for people with learning disabilities needs to change in terms of only offering what can be afforded and to review how much really personal support can be afforded
- I don't know what to say about council tax. But on planning for the future all the above themes are important - and inter-dependent. I am a little wary of how far to go with people doing more for themselves if this meant certain services that should be run (efficiently) by professionals are downgraded and rely on amateurs and already overstretched volunteers. Early intervention to prevent later problems makes sense in many areas, not least in the care and well-being of elderly people; Kirklees must continue to provide age-appropriate physical/social activities for them (e.g. indoor bowls, OWLs). Note that council projections show by 2020 there will be 80,000 over 65s in the borough, and the longer they remain fit and independent, the less is the strain on the council and their families. Social isolation for older people is a major problem across Europe, so any concessions and transport (circular town bus service) that help them get out and about are a worthwhile investment. I think most Kirklees residents accept that cuts are necessary, but they want to see limited resources used wisely and with a view to the long term, not squandered on fads (yet more gym machines in sports centres!) and possibly ill considered schemes that leave no legacy. I personally can see advantages to the recent suggestion by smaller parties of power sharing in the administration, if that is workable.

- I think there is little point building new homes and businesses without additional services to support them. Without basic upkeep of the roads and in particular gritting in winter. If one can't get to work or home because the road isn't gritted then there is no point in having them. Also enough schools, hospitals and leisure facilities for these extra residents.
- It's hard to know without more detail what you're actually commenting on. Specific services which are causing concern to residents don't seem to be covered.
- Is it possible to place council businesses into the hands of local independent trusts? I receive no benefits as I work 20 hours a week. I am aware that if you work less i.e. 16 hours you can claim so much. I want a fairer and more equal system for all. I would like to see middle management council workers take a reduction in pay rather than affecting the public services.
- The public do not care who provides their services, as long as they are provided. The labour local government spend money badly and irresponsibly and continue to have 'nice to haves' rather than the services we need. The balance is too far leaning to those contributing nothing to the economy: spending council money on taxis for people attending start centres, too many benefits paid out. People in our area should take more responsibility for themselves and Kirklees labour should stop cushioning people who are not doing this. Also, scrap the festival of light! We're cutting a huge deficit at the moment and our essential services are under threat, we can't afford festivals! The overall comment is simply get rid of the horrible David Sheard, he's unfit for office.
- I think more positive ideas could be shared from staff who have experience in their area. Restructure and new ways of working that cut waste and duplication
- It is a false economy to sell off assets now, that could be used should the economy recover. However, the council should always do things in the most efficient manner, and the huge savings made in reducing the number of council buildings show the amount of wastage that has happened until now.
- A strong local economy will reduce the need to rely on support services in the long run
- Only sell offices and spaces which are empty.
- The above 3 themes are difficult to understand what it will entail so really cannot comment fairly. I feel there needs to be someone to have in-depth knowledge and understanding in all of the themes when making changes and it has to be realistic, and not cut corners just to save money or it will mean nothing and make people more frustrated, dispondent.
- Keep only to necessary spending not projects which have no substantial benefits
- In light of the welfare reform and government cuts, it is essential that the council has an infrastructure for growth, so that the Council can concentrate on reducing poverty, which would in the long-term have a positive impact on local business and communities.
- I feel very strongly that the Council should do all in its power to help small local communities retain their LIBRARIES
- No Council tax increase - I have not had a wage increase for 3 yrs. I am a single person and work fulltime in care. I am struggling to pay for essentials.
- Cutting wages of top earners in Kirklees and using average wages as wage rise so it's not disproportional
- A smaller increase would be more suitable for instance £1.50 or £2.00 on top Council Tax would be more appropriate, to cope with than 2% on it can still help toward any cost for maintenance.
- These questions go nowhere near enough to give the Council any idea about how people really feel about the way the Council is run, managed and delivered on statutory or other critical services. This is a really difficult time for all Councils in England and yet nowhere do I see any attempt to offer alternative ways of delivering services, of looking at the Council itself, the number of Councillors required to manage a smaller amount of money. It would be refreshing indeed to have some strategic management of the Council Officers and Councillors to accompany the reduction of service that we are to experience in the subsequent 10 years. Have a hard look at the number of meetings that are held - the current count from the web page is 248, and there are 69 Councillors. Ask the communities if they really feel that all of this is necessary, but perhaps, better still show that you are also looking

at all of this as well as the services that you are offering, and please let me know that you have heard this contribution. I am particularly outraged that the proposal to reduce to two, the number of libraries in Kirklees has been arrived at without offering the communities anything other than closure or 'run it yourself' or 'get on a bus to Dewsbury or Huddersfield'. Why not look across borders, why not look at the other 'hub AND SPOKE' that was proposed? The Council has deepened its assumption that everyone has access to the internet - they don't - that 'everything is on the internet' - it isn't, that libraries are just about building and books - they are not. To provide comprehensive and effective library service as required by statute will require a strategic approach, including digital connections to communities using the ready made network of the library system; this will affect the way the Council provides its own information (increasingly by the internet as per this 'survey'); looking at the other Council, NHS% 2C Police, Social services, Cultural services et al that USE and depend on libraries to promote their offer and facilities. Think again and think with a VISION about how a library SERVICE in the 21st Century can be delivered. Libraries as buildings are not necessarily the only option and they are not the soft option that you appear to believe. A library SERVICE will provide information that would positively contribute to the delivery of the three areas listed in the 'survey'. Yes, communities value their library building for all the reasons that have been provided to you in the Save Kirklees Libraries campaigns that have been so vigorously supported. Unless there is a change in the law you are still accountable for them and to us. 'Make it so'

- It seems to be more about making savings rather than generating income. Business rates - there seems to be no focus on reviewing/inspecting empty properties to ensure that customers are being charged correctly and revenue is generated for the council - Are properties that are receiving exemptions e.g. listed building exemption, due to occupier/landlord not informing us of new occupier, therefore we are not raising revenue as the properties have nil charges, whereas if these properties are occupied rates should be rates paid on them. Also reviewing reliefs on properties e.g. The £1000.00 retail relief versus small business relief - is the correct relief applied - if the charge at the property is less than a £1000.00 per year (if the customer gets the retail relief the government gives 100% of the charge back to Kirklees. but if small business relief is awarded, Kirklees only gets 50% of the relief back). Therefore we are not optimising the income to Kirklees.
- Don't close the Cleckheaton library!
- Stop paying private companies such an extortionate amount of money for contracts. Q4 B) Too vague to answer - most important - retaining full time employment. Comment Q1 - As long as it saves jobs and services Comment Q2 - Depending on which land / Building ie NO Libraries.
- Once sold assets are gone - short term budget control. Q2 Comment - Except for community groups.
- Stop immigration, we were before of 50yr ago A lot better off without them Postcode question - none of your business
- Keep libraries open. Sports centres, swimming pools to support health. Local libraries keep our communities strong and united. Birstall library is the hub of our community
- Keeping libraries , sports centres, youth groups open. Focus on services aimed at younger people (children & teenagers) to encourage them to do more productive things instead of hanging around on the streets. This will also encourage people of all ages to be part of the community
- To answer Q4 completely I need some examples of the 'Health & Wellbeing' 'Early Intervention' Its a shame these were not explained in the leaflet. I feel Kirklees has already missed out in economic development and many businesses eg Eeir have been encouraged to move to Calderdale.
- Keep Green Belt green. Keep roads safe 20 is plenty in some of our villages!
- People need to try and help themselves. We are creating a nanny environment and people expect free help without their own efforts Save Cleckheaton! our shopkeepers do a marvelous job in our little town.

- Think about investing in programmes that will help people to help themselves initial investment may be high but will pay off in long run.
- services for upkeep of communal blocks. Cleaning carpark cleaning of Birds litter, Need more money for this
- Reduce senior management cadre of KMC. Too many chiefs and unnecessary posts. Ensure the ones who remain are more effective and realise that Huddersfield is NOT Kirklees. Reduce number of Councillors to one per ward and stop voting on political party lines. Think about the people who voted for once. Q2 Comment - Once sold they are lost to the community.
- Local markets and businesses are unable to prosper due to high rent and big business. Big businesses could support economy instead of destroy it.
- Keep libraries open, using local volunteers. Keep information and tourist office open but reduce hours by about ten per week eg close earlier and two quiet afternoons.
- As a pensioner I've no objection for an increase in C/Tax providing our pensions went up a considerable amount, for at the moment our pensions do not cover our outgoings.
- Save Kirklees Benefits Advice Service. This is an essential service for vulnerable people who need help to access the complicated Benefits System, support them and represent them. Ensuring residents are receiving the correct benefits and have an income is an automatic stabiliser in austerity as poor and disabled people shop locally keeping the local economy/businesses going. It also prevents Crime and deviant behaviour as many of the client group who access the visiting team have mental health and substance abuse issues. They are often regarded as the underclass rather than the working class and don't seem to meet a criteria to access other services like Social Services yet struggle to budget, make successful claims, attend appointments, express themselves, complete forms independently as illiterate, cope with resolving debt etc etc which increases their paranoia and mental health related symptoms. These individuals are not just vulnerable, disabled but also some of the most volatile, needy, isolated and simply desperate. Without money in their pockets - no belly is fed, no bills paid, no roof over head, no medication taken....
- It's fine talking about building new homes etc for the extra revenue but collecting this has always been a big problem. I'm sure many residents of Kirklees would volunteer to keep services going if encouraged ie libraries
- Weed out bad workers in building services save on wages and comp.
- Libraries provide mental and physical stimulation (if people can walk to them) Community libraries should be kept open. They are essential for community cohesion and the well being of residents. Part of healthy living
- Get rid of the workers who give poor quality of work and do damage in people's houses!!!! (from building services)
- I live in a village and like my neighbours would like it to stay as a village and not become a satellite!
- Any more building of houses would put more pressure on existing utilities, schools, roads, health centres, dentists etc.
- I understand the council has a volunteer service and recruits volunteers. I understand that about 4 staff are involved in this not including payroll, training and all the other staff support systems. We still have a thriving volunteer centre in the town centre. I don't understand why the council continues to spend money duplicating services. I don't want everything to be dumped on local charities etc. as they are struggling already but surely talks with the volunteer centre would be advantageous. Finally Caboodle / caboodle what about Kirklees shares why do you need 2 services ???
- On the bus services from Dewsbury to Thornhill. They should be less frequent during the day time (ie one every 20mins) and more frequent at night (ie every 25 mins) the last bus at 11.15pm instead of 10.28pm
- Q1: You decide: you have the figures and I assume the expertise Q2: Sell anything that does not destroy a service if it's sold eg do not sell libraries or stock Q3 & Q4: need you ask?
- Libraries and care homes should be protected
- Q3 Not if can't rent them & kept empty as a lot of commercial properties are

- Do not make decisions that are irreversible as there may be better days ahead. Selling assets is a one-off and only solves any problem in the short-term - it does not solve problems in the long-term. 2. To sell off assets eg buildings and contents sets a bad precedent. It will deter future potential public benefactors from providing funds to enable facilities to be built or works of art to be enjoyed by the public - the future generation deserves assets to be preserved. 3. Analysis of the Council's budget reveals: a) If some cuts were made to the very high expenditure areas such as schools, caring for adults, support for children and families and improving health and well being, then the relatively small expenditure on parks and libraries could be maintained. In the case of libraries and parks they are needed for the sustenance of the 'soul' as the quality of life is not only determined by material things! b) The amount spent on Councillors and administration staff is not revealed but I am sure that savings could be made in this area. 4. With regards to Cleckheaton library specifically - what a wonderful asset! a) It was built by money provided by a public benefactor and does not belong to Kirklees Council and the suggestion that it should be closed and services provided at Dewbury library or Cleckheaton Town Hall is ludicrous! b) It is a building of high architectural merit on which a considerable sum was spent recently refurbishing the interior. c) It provides an environment where young and old can learn and research, with a good range of books. d) It provides computer facilities so that people without these facilities, and there are many, can obtain information not available in books. e) It has a very good car park so that parents and the elderly have easy access to its facilities - Dewsbury library and Cleckheaton Town Hall have no such parking. f) It provides a range of activities for the young. g) Why not charge for the use of the computers and to join the library?
- Building more houses is only sustainable if the area they are built in can accommodate the need for bigger schools and doctors/dentists etc. Selling off property is ok if the services that use that property remain - but once the money is spent, it's gone - property always increases in value
- Keep libraries open - they are great benefit to many people - even if you have to engage volunteers in community to help staff them.
- Economic growth and development / economic resilience does not mean promoting more and more building of business units and houses. Should you separate these two questions you will get a very different result. Supporting business growth and development can be done in many other ways as the Council well knows. Try utilising some of the unused buildings and concrete sites which are all over Kirklees instead of overcrowding communities and road networks with planning permission for building schemes on green land. No planning permission should ever be passed on green field land. New builds may bring in more Council tax but what of the cost of the damage to the infrastructure, the environment in terms of pollution, the damage to our health through the stress of sitting in endless streams of traffic. Gridlock is not far away and in some areas already happens when anything happens to upset the motorway network. Use up the empty buildings and barren concrete land and leave our green fields alone!
- Do something about all the empty buildings/shops currently idle.
- Rent out assets, sell underutilised assets eg. Holmfirth Police Station. Cut Councillors expenses, reduce top management pay by 2% (Those earning more than £80Kpa).
- Make sure no council executive is paid more than an average back-bench MP's wage.
- No comment
- Q2: more cost cutting rather than sales of one-off items to plug the gap Q3 I agree to use brownfield sites or small developments to 10 houses only Q4 H&W But if obese should be forced to exercise or lose benefits etc Q4 Early intervention: More stick less carrot need Q5 Why isn't glass or food waste re-cycled as in some other areas - this would save money. Q5 Also cut more managerial staff & diversity etc + other new jobs PC rubbish etc. Q5 Stop providing leaflets in foreign languages - if you can't understand English you shouldn't be in England
- We need our \*Libraries\* for Health & Wellbeing and Early intervention and supporting communities. Creative thinking could further develop their importance in the community and

Libraries belong to us all. We are not a third world country we are a prosperous nation and need to provide for our communities.

- Sort out building services
- I agree with a 5% increase as long as they are spent on Library's and community services. Cut out hanging baskets and re-open public toilets. Look at huge salaries for \*Top Managers\*.
- Why don't the council sell its many varied Art treasure ie the Lowery. Also spending £7 million on council house solar panels doesn't seem right - that would save a library. Q2 comment - What about Art works council have.
- Q1 - Wot no questions about councillors expenses/Pay!! or Huddersfield over manning Q2 - You mess everything up so don't do it Q4 - Give Cleckheaton back its independence so we can begin the long task of turning it back to the decent town it was before Huddersfield neglect/mismanagement turned it into a dead dormitory
- No more building on the green.
- pass
- No comment.
- pass
- Older peoples services should not be allowed to be 'lowered' and a reduced service implemented, it is dementia sufferers should get the help they need and help preventing others develop dementia. Older people are very vulnerable - care MUST NOT be taken away from them.
- Jobs could be made to support people in achieving a better way of life
- I want 2 million pounds
- You recently turned down a £4 million offer from Taylor Wimpey to develop a large housing development in preference to a £1 million alternative offer. What was the reasoning behind this decision. There is plenty of existing Brown land to build industrial sites away from residential areas. Makes it environmentally safer too. a reply to XXXXXXXX [email omitted] would be appreciated. Thank you.
- The real nitty-gritty, hard decisions will come in Phase 2. It would be nice to know, however, what the council's income actually is. You say that 65% comes from central govt., but how much is it in pounds sterling? Without this the true budget can't be assessed; I've heard say that it total about £1bn, but the expenditure listed in the Balancing the Books - Public Consultation Phase 1 booklet only totals £536m. What about the other £464m - if it exists? Three more general comments: 1) The amounts for the Central Budgets (p. 85-87 of the MTFP) look very high, especially the net inflation allowance of £20m. 2) Savings in purchasing and administration must always take priority over cuts in front-line services. Potential savings from pooling resources and merging functions with neighbouring councils, especially Calderdale, must be investigated as a matter of priority. Also, the Directorates should examine all their responsibilities and drop any which overlap with things that are the responsibility of central government or of other statutory bodies. 3) Some of the proposed cuts seem just plain mean and actually run counter to the Council's Health and Wellbeing strategy: how can people's quality of life be maintained, let alone improved, if expenditure on parks, open spaces and waste management is to be drastically cut back? The same applies to the proposals to slash library and cultural services, spending on which is dwarfed by that on schools? I cannot believe that enough savings can't be made in (e.g.) school administration to render cuts in quality-of-life-enhancing services unnecessary. I haven't time to make any more comments; they will have to wait until Phase 2.
- As we receive virtually no services in north kirklees, except road sweeper and occasional police visit, I think the whole of Kirklees should come to expect the same service as this. Health prevention is all aimed at those out of work. I have had open heart surgery and there is no support /classes once I am back at work full time in 2 months. The cost of swimming for a working family is too high, and means we drive to another local authority to access free swimming sessions. All arts funding, such as expressive art for prisoners and the unemployed, should be cut. All policies should be based on what an average working person would want to spend their money on. It would encourage people back to work if there were free swimming for workers/tax payers 6-9pm every day. Rather than reduced rates for the

unemployed!! Why do those who pay the most receive the least. Why advertise on facebook for a new library card competition, when libraries are under threat of closure. Who is paid to come up with these ideas. Sack them and save 15,000, plus the cost of replacing all the library cards. Green and White Library cards are retro! Stop having new ideas and just deal with the business of looking after Kirklees.

- I work for Manchester City Council and I think that Kirklees and West Yorkshire should consider reviewing the Devo Manc report and if this is successful adopting a similar model. Briefly this involves joined up funding particularly with health, early intervention and the opportunity to have tax raising powers for Council Tax and Business Rates without Government restrictions and greater powers for the Combined Authority.
- It's a poor consultation when you're channelled into specific responses by a tick box questionnaire that doesn't really address the root problem. The real issues are at a national not a local level since the majority of council funding comes from national government. National government's austerity measures aren't working. They are however, crippling public services and greatly affecting the poorest and most vulnerable elements of society. There are many more things they could be doing than simply hacking away at an already massively depleted budget, for instance scrapping tax breaks for buy to let investors ( a 'middle class perk') could save between £5 -£7 billion a year if recent Guardian newspaper articles are to be believed. I expect a clampdown on multinational companies siphoning money into offshore accounts might be worthwhile too. Coming back to the questionnaire, in regard to question 1 where is option 4: Do you think that those with bloody big expensive houses and those with more than one house should be coughing up a little bit more? Shouldn't the broadest backs be carrying the most weight? Why is it a 2% raise across the board rather than a variable raise dependent on which tax band you fall into? - seriously though, I left that question blank because I can't see how a 2% increase in CT is going to make the blindest bit of difference considering the magnitude of the proposed cuts. Question 2 is another odd one. It states how much the council would make from selling their assets, but not how much they could make by renting them out. Nowhere near 5 million obviously, but then what happens in 3 years when our dreary and unimaginative leaders announce yet another round of cuts (apparently the deficit is increasing rather than decreasing) and you've got nothing left to sell? Question 3 is blatantly pointless - surely it goes without saying that economic growth aids economic recovery? Question 4 seems airy fairy with no actual basis in fact. When you say health and well being what do you mean exactly? Mental Health? Physical Health? Old people? Young people? The chronically disabled? Doesn't that blithe sentence cover a massive range of services from Kirklees active leisure to the home service library? 'prosper' is an interesting one too. Implicated with the volume of cuts I imagine there'll be a fair number of redundancies in the council workforce. It'll be interesting to see how those people are going to prosper. I'm not sure how you choose between health and well being/economic resilience. Surely the two go hand in hand? Finally, early intervention and prevention etc - encouraging people to do more for themselves seems like a cop out. a bit of volunteering and a splash of old blighty wartime spirit isn't going to resolve the issue. Perhaps, in terms of 'prevention' you could try feeding back to national government. Tell them we're angry. Tell them we're fed up of having to pay more and more for less and less. Tell them we're fed up of our jobs being under threat. Tell them we think it unfair that the poorest levels of society suffer the brunt of it. Tell them we want solutions that are more effective than simply hacking away at the tree until all the firewood is gone - it's not like you can't find a few ideas just by spending 20 minutes on google looking through a few recent news articles. I managed it and I'm no Einstein. I gather there's rather a lot of money being invested in a couple of high speed railway links at the moment. Apparently the projected costs keep rising and there's some doubt being cast on whether the revenue they eventually raise will equate with the outlay. Perhaps we could concentrate on maintaining some basic services and put the fancy trains on the back burner for a while? After all, the rail service has been poor to average for years. If it stays that way for a few more who's going to notice?
- Council assets - so what happens when everything is sold off?... no more money for the council coffers then, so why not rent properties to earn income? If properties are transferred

to community groups free of charge, the council should include a clause re: any future sale which states the council must receive some (at least half) of the sale proceeds. Economic growth - whilst we may need more homes, there are already thousands of sq mtrs of space for businesses currently empty - surely that needs filling first? Planning for the future - not really enough information about the three themes to be able to make properly informed decision.

- Help with living cost, stop spending our money on fitness centres new colleges when the old ones are fine.. most of us dont have time to visit the new health centre as where working for min wage for less than 16hrs a wk. We cant afford to even use it and now u want to raise tax! Who do you expect us to feed ourselves when living cost are getting higher and wages&benefits are frozen? Best thing i can do is leave. How can we enjoy a better quality of life when cant afford to live
- If early intervention is given lower priority, please included potential cost and timescale of not taking action
- How do you plan on supporting communities when wanting to close libraries! Libraries do so much for their local communities!
- Dewsbury is a poor area, shops closing down, unemployment high, no support pensioners, government should invest more jobs and social housing
- No comment
- By charging the public a fee to use the computers in libraries. By sharing the cost of library management systems with other councils. By amalgamating services with other councils and only having one person who is over all in charge. The money saved could be colossal.
- I have worked for the Council for 30 years and over that period of time there has been a disproportionate growth in management. When I joined the Council as a front line worker I had more freedom to make my own judgements and decisions which I felt was value for money and increased job satisfaction. There is a top down culture that has been supported by the performance management and appraisal systems which tended to focus on promotion, and not doing a good job. The principles of public service and cooperative working have declined to a more individualistic approach which in my opinion has not served public service well. In short there should be more front line staff and much less management. Staff support and supervision could be conducted more on a peer basis and on the same salary, but part of an Officer (not a manager's) role. Most Officers gain their support and advice from their peers rather than management anyway and are often more informed and have more knowledge of service delivery.
- Environmental Health and Protection should be a priority.
- Too many road sweepers in Dewsbury Town Centre
- The three bold themes are spot on in terms of identifying the broad areas that should be the focus of the Council's attention. We have identified early intervention as the most important theme because it helps underpin grassroots work - including the work we do as a voluntary organisation - to encourage self-help and resilience as well as helping prevent longer-term problems. Promoting economic resilience and healthy living are extremely important but measures taken to promote these will not prosper if residents of all ages (but especially young families and young people) are not in the right place to take advantage of what is available to them in terms of education, proactive health care and contributing to the well-being of the community as a whole.
- Start getting the people who cost the council more money to pay a greater contribution, i.e. fines for dropping litter, fly tipping, messy gardens. Fine noisy antisocial people or people who let their dogs bite people or foul. A small proportion of people cost the council a disproportionate amount of money.
- The proposed cuts to library services should be reviewed. Volunteers are not the answer. Once services are lost, it will be very hard to re - establish them. It would be a disaster to lose any of the libraries. They play a very important social role as much as an educational one.
- Dewsbury District Hospital should be run by Dewsbury and not part of Pinderfields. Its resources should not be pooled with Wakefields as Dewsbury has lost out and its services have suffered.

- There are far too many empty business premises already. 3. Selling off council assets is a oneoff. Once sold possible future use is gone. Imaginative use of these assets means continued use and profit for the future. Utilise them don't lose them!
- Stop wasting money.
- Don't build on Greenbelt land Use Brownfield land only
- Housing developments should focus on Brownfield sites and remain consistent with previous WDP and LDF proposals.
- Parks, Galleries, Libraries, Museums, places for people to meet help build local communities and aid a cohesive society
- Don't close Cleckheaton (or any) Library. Enforce min. wage and Zero hour contracts for Councillors.
- Instead of selling everything off could we not rent the land/buildings to generate an income, therefor gaining a income for longer for KMC. Could people starting a business or using for community rent the building /land. They could be encouraged to help maintain the building in exchange for a lower rent/council tax. I think we need to look for the longer term and although there may be a large injection of money initially if assets are sold you have to remember, once it's has gone it's gone. We do need houses but is there enough jobs to support the people living in the houses? As well as building new houses the houses that have been left in disrepair need renovating and bringing back in circulation. When house are being built or brought back into circulation could they be fitted with energy saving devices eg solar panels, could this be made mandatory? This would give people more disposable income to spend instead of just paying bills and then not being able to spend money in the community at local business. If people are healthy they can work and take part in voluntary work. They may also be able to start their own business which could lead to them employing other people. Is there anywhere people can go for advice if they have an idea to start a business but don't know how to get it off the ground or the legalities of starting a business?
- Once you sell the Council's assets such as land and buildings they are gone. More needs to be done about making them profitable and viable so we don't lose them for short term benefit.
- I am of the opinion that there has to be more positive communication between services, who's motivation over a prolonged period, 15-20 years, is to continue to provide the current services, in addition to interventions at the early years stage throughout the years of education regarding social responsibility, participation, development, to enhance the Kirklees Community; social, business and service sector.
- Don't sell off your assets now for short term gains - use them to give the authority additional income into the long term. (Why sell a building for a developer to make money out of? Make money out of it yourself one way or another!) Building strong communities is easier said than done but it's vital - if you mean it you'll need to invest in it in the first place and it needs to be in more than the poorest areas here and there. It needs to be a new systematic, comprehensive approach across all the district. Involving schools - especially primary schools - as a route into parents and families has HUGE potential for this. Just because schools are more or less independent and may refuse to get meaningfully involved however is not a reason not to do it. Start lobbying central government to require schools to play their maximum role - as a partner with others - in strengthening communities and improving wellbeing.
- Re Q1 What would the cost of a referendum be? Re Q2 although I tend to agree it is impossible to say more unless there is information to say what buildings or land? Where are these buildings or land situated? What are they used for? Far more questions than answers. Re Q3 all are important and valid but economic resilience would have a major bearing on the other 2
- perhaps if you focus on front line council staff and really begin to value them, which is clear by and large you don't, services would improve. here is an example you employing people on 11 month contracts so they have few rights as employees!!! you pay lip service to staff concerns. get rid of the top down management structure actually speak to front line staff about how to improve services and provide proper induction for staff which does not happen for many new staff FACT!!

- Selling the Co-op building in Dewsbury is a good example. Have you considered a sale and lease back policy for sports centres for example and what would be the financial implications of this?
- Although I have ticked 'strongly agree' to selling of buildings and land, I do not agree with closing libraries and selling off the land and buildings. Libraries form a big part in our heritage and culture. Families would not be able to travel to Dewsbury or Huddersfield without considerable inconvenience and expense. They are important in the education of our children, and people wishing to use the facilities to obtain qualifications for a better future. Disadvantaged children can do their homework there and use reference books in a quiet environment not available at home.
- My main concern is the proposed closer of markets in Batley and Birstall. These provide a vital function in providing a service to the community, encourage people to come and spend money in the town and add to the economic well being of a community. The one off saving of £65,000 is vastly disproportionate to the value, both monetary and socially, that both communities gain from having a weekly market. In fact the value added by having a weekly market by far exceeds the cost of running these. I concede that there may be cheaper ways of running the markets but it is vital to the local economies of both towns that these markets continue to be held. In fact as a community we have a duty to ensure that the economic well being is promoted and supported at every opportunity available. Closing down markets would be against everything Kirklees is here to do.
- Meeting the needs of children experiencing low level neglect and poor standards of living due to deprivation is essential. More family support workers, more social workers are needed, as well as community workers based in schools. Also-your recruitment process wastes a lot of money. For example I have been to 4 interviews where candidates have paid time off and expenses met, but in the end the positions have gone internally. In my case it cost £800 to cover the 4 days I was out of class. Multiply that by the other candidates - seems rather a waste of time and effort on all sides.
- There are many things that Kirklees Council does well, particularly within the tough austriiy regime imposed by this government. Most of the questions posed above are complex and cannot be meaningfully answered simply im terms of agree/disagree. Whilst libraries, museums, parks and open spaces may have far smaller budgets than other services, the impacts of cuts here will be disproportionately large. These services all offer enormous benefits, contributing to people's wellbeing and to strong local communities and to the sense of Kirklees being somewhere that people will want to live and businesses invest. The Council should explore models for delivering local services such as Kirklees Active Leisure. But there are real differences between services provided by trusts whose aim is primarily to benefit the local communities who use their services and commercial contractors whose ultimate aim is to maximise profit. The risk for Kirlklees is the loss of assets it can never recover and of services that are beyond the reach of democratic control. In terms of economic resilience, sustainability should be a strong principle in shaping decisions on development and infrastructure planning, including new housing, for economic, social and environmental reasons.
- I hear that the current kirklees concert series at Huddersfield & Dewbury Town Halls is no longer going to be supported. This would be a great loss to the residents of Kirklees. I believe more should be done to encourage concert going, particularly for the children of the borough. Music should not be seen as elitist but available to all regardless of their financial means.
- For 10 years or more we were told our don had been assessed for autism and that he is not autistic. 1 consults rant realised he was never assessed and investigated the case. After 10 years or since pre school we have now been told our son has high dysfunctional autism. There is no funding or service or info fir us. No support no help we are left in a lurch. In Batley there us hardly anything for autistic or special needs children/adults. No clubs or groups. Special needs have been left out. We are trying to battle another few years to see what support or respite we can get. Its a shambles . There are no health clubs or gym access for special needs out din coops away because he is bullied and I speak fir many. He is now

obese yet cannot access gym due to costs and that he is often stated at by other normal people. Please pay attention and don't leave this sector out.

- The council's stated aims of preserving services for the elderly and vulnerable at all costs seem to have overruled everything else. Continuing on this path will leave the council as little more than a social services department, becoming increasingly irrelevant over the years. While I agree these are important, there are many other things which the council could be looking into. I believe we should think about the things which make up a community. A town must be more than a collection of houses where people live in isolation, it must be a vibrant community of people who interact with one another, and who can obtain the goods and services they need locally. As a starting point I would suggest some of the following: We should have a clean, safe environment. Everyone should have access to green spaces. There should be ample opportunities for social interaction. There should be cultural activities, particularly a library (which will also provide a space for social interaction opportunities as well as the essential provision of books and internet access). Good schools and early-age childcare must be accessible. More local shops and a market would help to prevent the spread of one-stop supermarkets, betting shops and pound shops. There should be places of worship. Roads and pavements should be safe and well maintained. We should all have reliable public transport. There must be access to health care on a local basis. Residents should find it easier to help their community on a voluntary basis if they are able - and willing - to do so. Many of the above are outside the remit of Kirklees Council, but action could be taken to improve others. As an example, the empty shops. Perhaps any new shop could be given a 50% reduction in its business rate during its first year. This would allow time to get established at a lower cost, and surely it is better for the council to receive a temporarily reduced income from a new business than no income at all from an empty shop. Another example is the clean environment - on top of the litter and fly-tipping problems, even the council sends out mixed messages about recycling. There are so many restrictions on what can go into green bins that many people are confused. In the case of plastic, for example, we can put any plastic bottles of any type in the green bins but we cannot put in any other objects made of the same type of plastic. A neighbouring authority makes it much easier by accepting any plastic of type 1, 2 or 4 thus increasing the amount they can sell to recycling companies. Incinerating waste from grey bins is better than landfill, but Kirklees could be saving money by recycling more sensibly. As a long-term resident of north Kirklees, I have watched our towns decline over the years while south Kirklees seems to prosper. Perhaps it is time to admit that Kirklees is too big to work effectively and fairly, and the north and south areas should have more autonomy.
- I would like to start with a positive point - the fact that the comments by Ruth Redfern that you can only sell something once show that at last someone's thoughts are in the right direction. We need to keep the cultural facilities we have and the facilities that keep small towns as individual as possible. The idea of shutting down markets is wrong - our local market has just started to pick up a little, its stalls are always busy and it provides a real service to the local community. If it was to be closed it would give residents no choice but to either shop at the supermarket or to travel elsewhere. We should be looking at ways to support small traders and cut down on unnecessary travel. Similarly we should not be closing libraries which are now responsible for many other activities. It is not always possible or practical for people to travel a greater distance for this type of facility. The closing or weakening of colleges in the smaller towns in Kirklees is another way of removing their identities. The building in Huddersfield is very impressive but in conversation with young people in my area I hear that many of them find it difficult to get there for early lectures and study groups. If we do not stand up to this Londonisation of Huddersfield many more of us could find ourselves in the same situation as the college students. The knowledge of the cuts to local authority money from the government is not new and yet Kirklees council has deemed that this is an appropriate time to spend a vast amount of money on a new sports centre in Huddersfield whilst many of our smaller sports centres are suffering from lack of funding or the threat of closure. No doubt the thinking is that once the new centre is up and running everyone in Kirklees will abandon their local facilities for the wonderful facilities in

Huddersfield. Not everyone will want to do this and yet again longer journeys are not environmentally friendly. Also there is the greater cost of longer journeys. The picture of our council leader on the front page of a local newspaper was one of the most pathetic things I have seen for a long time. WE WANT A COUNCIL THAT WILL FIGHT FOR US NOT KOWTOW TO THE GOVERNMENT. Has the council queried the fact that in many of the green leafy suburbs people are better off after the cuts - could this be because their local populations do not face the same difficulties as towns where there are high levels of unemployment. Is it not time for local authorities who are suffering so badly from the cuts to query the inequalities in this policy either individually or as a group. Selling off the identities of our local communities is not the answer - that money can only be used once - building up our local communities by having a council officer in place to keep visiting small areas on a regular and well advertised basis to offer and receive ideas is. We should not be hearing from council employees that a failing policy is as it is because it has been in place for many years. You should be challenging the agencies you work with not merely bowing down to what they want.

- Improvements in Partnership working especially around DWP, Benefit Agencies and Kirklees Information Centres.
- Surely the cost of building more homes would far outstrip the amount of C/Tax argue unless these are privately built homes. Support for small businesses is good. How much money is wasted on Housing benefit?
- Kirklees residents can't afford to pay council tax. We are paying a lot of money. What does it go to.
- None
- Keep Libraries open. Closing Libraries is an act of BARBARISM!
- Sell the £20 million Francis Bacon Figure Study II Oil Painting!
- Think Libraries are important local resource - help community cohesion, sent help and reduce social isolation and help good mental health.
- Bin collections once a month. No health trainers required waste of Council payers monies.
- Q2 Comment - But it depends which assets and land. Q3 Comment - But needs careful planning with residents.
- Useless Councillors only support themselves.
- I'm a low earner - in theory like benefits that Kirklees would have from 2% increase but if I can't afford the increase how would it help. Just lots more personal debt for families.
- Get those residents not paying their Council Tax to pay it on time! Less Directors and Managers in Council.
- Yorkshire for independence.
- More jobs for young people, less houses and less closures of services including Libraries.
- The Council should consider how poverty can best be addressed - as a guiding principle this would provide appropriate emphasis and investment in each of the above.
- Need to keep Libraries open - In particular smaller ones like Kirkheaton
- Need public toilets to stay open, local Libraries to stay open and less Directors and Managers.
- Mobile Libraries for isolation especially for elderly more groups in community centres.
- Q2 - To sell empty buildings and offices, leave the public building open and Libraries Town Halls!
- We should hold onto our 'Community Assets' and aim to redevelop these where possible, especially those which are seldom used. Keep the land and buildings but do more with them.
- I wouldn't have thought that either one could be given priority in isolation from the others. They are all equally important.
- It is a myth that more housing is needed: Existing housing stock is plentiful and requires better management - low density living, multiple ownership for profit and the sale of community housing should be tackled: Counter intuitive to Consecutive interest no debt.
- Gladly pay more taxes to support Libraries and Community projects.
- With Early Intervention as the priority, this should apply 'across the piece', and be applied to Health and Wellbeing and Economic Resilience.

- I use Lindley Library and Central Library and always find them busy. I sincerely hope Kirklees will keep their Libraries open, I have always found the staff to know so much, and where to find things they don't/
- Cuts are wrong. Find other solutions! The Council could sell land to residents who pay ground rent on leasehold property.
- I am not answering any of these questions because you have fixed the answers to get the responses that you ultimately require - you will do what you want regardless....
- I disagree with predefined answers as in the questions above and am opposed to the cuts. Austerity measures don't work and the Government should be finding alternative solutions.
- Questions are ridiculously skewed
- This form is predisposed to formulating the answers you require in the first place.
- You should look after old people and keep Libraries open.
- Look more about roads signs especially for pupils going at Greenhead College.
- Planning budget should be for the appropriate head and the money has to be spent correctly
- We need low cost housing for young people and families refurbishment instead of demolition - old terrace properties owned by Kirklees. Fill empty high street shops before building more huge shopping centres. Community Arts Centre - we've never had one. Stop closing Libraries and down-grading qualified librarians. I could go on. Q2 Comment - need to sell buildings unsuitable for housing or community use. Refurbish where possible. Q3 Comment - Low cost homes needed!
- Please consider carefully where cuts are made as there are WAY too many people living below the poverty line - Disgrace!
- Cut spending on events - like Festival of Lights
- Collect Council payments from those who do not pay instead of writing it off.
- Questions very biased - leading to the answer required by Council. Very limited in scope and not clear in objectives so very hard to choose any options. Prioritise Council services in local communities or communities disintegrate.
- These questions are leading and unhelpful. You have added italics that guide one towards the answer you want. In the future you can then use the results to justify your budget. Your duplicity knows no bounds and I congratulate you.
- **WHY ARE WE ACCEPTING THAT CUTS HAVE TO BE MADE? WHY IS KIRKLEES NOT LEADING THE WAY FOR COUNCILS TO OPPOSE THESE CUTS WHICH ARE UNDERMINING THE FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETY AND DEMOLISHING OUR INFRASTRUCTURES IN SUCH AN IRRESPONSIBLE WAY?** I think council buildings should be sold off or transferred to community groups, but that we should keep our art treasures. Some galleries allow people with suitable insurance to borrow/hire artworks and this could be a source of income. The Better in Kirklees project should be kept within the voluntary sector as they have proved they can make it work and it will be expensive for the council to run it. If the Community Partnerships scheme were handed to third sector leaders to run this would also save money. Health and Wellbeing are by far the most important elements. EU possibilities should be explored more for business support.
- I think money could be saved by charging a small amount of money for internet use in libraries.
- Since the planning and legal departments now just give in to large developers, and have no intention of saving green fields, Kirklees could cut costs by dramatically reducing planning and legal staff - they are basically redundant (let the developers employ them directly)
- You should consider reducing the massive number of council employees, particularly in areas where the council has given up the role of performing any effective function - e.g. the planning department. You should reduce the number of Councillors. You should stop looking at cuts simply in order to catch the public eye and seek sympathy - i.e. libraries, crossing patrols etc. and instead, cut some of the executives pay in the council.
- In Section a, Economic resilience, you mention building more houses. May I remind you that North Kirklees has had a massive housebuild over the last few years and is now losing green belt to housing yet there are many empty houses (particularly to rent) and the facilities in

North Kirklees are continually being reduced. Eg taking away our sports centre, planning closure of our library, no sixth form in the area. My granddaughter has to get three buses from Cleckheaton to Huddersfield College and three back. She is already worn out and it is only part way through term one. Instead of building more and more houses - you must focus on facilities and jobs. The difference in North and South Kirklees is a bit like the North/South divide of England - with the North getting the worst possible deal. Economic growth, yes, but not just by building more and more housing.

- Sell off the land which Kirklees has accumulated since 1974. 2. Build on brown field sites not green belt. 3. Can you tell me what is happening to the land next to the Pack Horse at Hartshead moor where the special school was situated. It is prime for development but has lain dormant for years. 4. Reduce the number of councillors. 5. Why give the chairs of the committees a £2500 rise in a time of economic restraint it doesn't make any sense?
- small savings which would mount-up help - eg. the turning off of electrical equipment when not in use (computers etc.), not having lights on in unused rooms. If the size of the council (staff and services) is to be reduced, then a reduction in the numbers of councillors should be implemented (2 instead of 3 per ward, or merging and enlarging wards), with at least £12,000 per councillor eliminated saved. As a council employee in a service where the wearing of a (not inexpensive!) uniform has been introduced - why?, and how does one justify the costs?. Our buildings need to be functional, not frilly (potted, planted arrangements etc.). These may all be small items, but they can amount to reasonable savings. If a higher level of council tax increase was implemented, and it triggered the referendum by the Secretary of State, how much would that cost?, and what percentage of any increased taxes would be lost?. The centres of our towns, especially in North Kirklees, need to be regenerated, empty properties occupied, people and money attracted-back, and subsequent income for the council.
- The above 3 options are equally important and interdependent. Without economic resilience and early intervention we will not achieve health and wellbeing. Without health and wellbeing we cannot have a strong local economy or communities being able to help themselves.
- This is a very short, limited and seemingly tokenistic consultation.
- the council have pruned the workers at the lower end of payscale how about pruning the top end now and reduce the number of councillors
- Its clear that all of these priorities are important and closely overlap e.g. widespread improvement and maintenance of health and well being across all the communities in Kirklees cannot be achieved if the opportunities which may come from improved economic resilience are not as far as possible equally accessible to people from all communities in Kirklees. While it is of course important and sensible to intervene early and seek to build people's resilience ongoing austerity public service reform and reduction will mean that people will still require access to a wide range of ongoing securely funded support services to deal with the increasing complexity of the issues they will face going forward. I don't feel increasing reliance on community based 3rd sector provision or online or other self-service based services will fill the gap left by the reduced face to face provision being discussed in local government as the preferred line of travel in response to austerity.
- Homes & Business Premises - If you separate these two down you may find that you get a different answer. You say that an additional 1000 homes would create £2.5m in income, but it would cost more than this to create the school places - a lot of the schools cannot expand so where would these extra school places be put? I do not agree with building more homes for the main reason stated above, but the Business one I agree with as this would be good for Kirklees - therefore I have declined to answer this question on the form.
- Why are the government cutting services that are important to the tax payers?
- Sell off some art gallery pictures
- Q3 In Mirfield we don't need more homes, business premises. We need to support our local shops and preserve the quality of life of the people in Mirfield. We need to keep our library, post office and protect our people on the roads. The traffic into Mirfield is horrendous
- Please don't close Birstall library - it is always busy & a great place to come

- Please don't close Birstall library my daughter loves it
- Save our services in Birstall
- Keeping people safe, both young and old and our villages/towns
- No library closures
- Q1. As the income for Kirklees is not disclosed - we are unable to answer cut back on events such as Festival of Light, Food/Drink Festival Support parks and libraries and museums to improve health, wellbeing and education of all ages
- Keeping the local Library would help to reduce traffic and congestion in the town centres.
- Get staff (all) up to speed with all forms of technology (DVLA?)
- I feel that the libraries are an important service that should be maintained where possible and remain open for all of the community.
- Cut payments to Councillors - this will save a great deal.
- Spent more on services in Spenningshall and less in Huddersfield who seem to receive everything.
- Develop more services in the Spenningshall area and spend less in Huddersfield
- Amalgamate with Calderdale, Wakefield Council who deliver services much better!
- Minimum wage for Council staff! Plus no mileage paid or overtime.
- No further comments.
- 2 Councillors per each ward! More frontline Less Directors and Managers. Staff.
- Current services run @ premium. Staff have no knowledge. Need to train more staff in Council priorities.
- Plan budgets better, act quicker listen to customers and prepare for future youth and young people.
- Stop benefit cheats.
- Keep our Library open \*
- Kirkleaton Library is a friendly, inviting small library in which holds our (Kirkleaton) Community together.
- Catch those benefit frauds. Then we will save money. Stop taking from middle class hard workers.
- SAVE KIRKLEATON LIBRARY !!!
- You can save money by budgeting correctly and stop wasting money.
- Self government means would not have to maintain buildings or support useless selfish greedy councillor.
- Less Councillors, less personal expenses, less useless unproductive meetings and less pop up schemes
- A federalist country so each area could have control of more of their budget.
- I would prefer to pay more Council tax and keep services. It is now costing me more to dispose of any glass bottles than +2% on my Council tax to keep the service. The Holmfirth Library and TK is a vital resource to Holmfirth businesses and NEEDS to STAY. Q1 Comment (c) to make up for the lack of increase in 2014 Q2 Comment Not libraries TK's as proposed Depends what buildings

① 2 comments have been removed as they contravene the Public Order Act 1986, part 3.

## Emails and written correspondence sent to [consultation@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@kirklees.gov.uk) and freepost

Dear Sir,

I write to let you know that I am totally opposed to the proposal to cut any library services in Kirklees. Our libraries are one of the great assets of Kirklees and to cut them back would be an act of philistinism taking us back to the years between the wars. There must be other economies to be made or tax increases to be implemented

XXXXXX [name and address omitted]

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Sirs,

Your questionnaire does not really allow input into deliberations. Also the figures published in the Spensborough Guardian 11 Sept 2014 are not very helpful, and seem incomplete.

1. They do not say if they are the latest draft of the 2015 budget, or an example from 2014 (or earlier)
2. They do not appear to include everything as there is no figure for the administration expenditure
3. There are no figures showing how much of the government contribution is specific to each of the expenditure headings (and thus not under council control)

Thus you are appearing to give out information, but that information cannot help generate sensible response.

You ought to supply information, including all council costs in a form similar to that displayed in my attachment.

Sincerely

XXXXXX [name omitted]

Attached excel file included the following table:

<b><u>Kirklees Council figures as presented September 2014</u></b>				
	million £'s	Central Government	Business Rates	Council Tax
Schools	261			
Caring fo Adults	141			
Supporting Children?Families	61			
Improving helath and wellbeing	23			
Emptying Bins and Streest				
Cleaning	22			
Supporting Local Commminities and Leisure	10			
Parks and Open spaces	9			
Libraries and Customer Serrvices	9			
	<u>536</u>	<u>348.4</u>	<u>101.84</u>	<u>85.76</u>

536

Hello,

I have attached to this email, an essay which contains some proposals which if implemented, could lead to the saving of thousands of pounds. I would like the attached document to be circulated to all councillors..

I have copied one of my local councillors into this email so as my local councillor, he can be one of the first to read the essay.

Regards,

XXXXXX [name omitted]

--

Attached essay:

### **Introduction**

Kirklees council has appealed to the public for guidance on how to spend money in a manner that meets expenditure reduction targets.

Mindful of the council's need to spend less money, but mindful also of the council's need to provide and fund the provision of better services, I submit the following commentary and proposals, that are intended to meet the needs that are stated in this sentence, as well as other pressing social needs.

### **Schools**

I am a school governor. I have witnessed first-hand, the wasting of money buy providers of education services that are funded by the council. The financial impact of the waste I have witnessed is obvious, but more serious is the impact on education, and the impact on child development.

All outreach services provided by the Primary Pupil Referral Service must be halted immediately. This evil extension of the local authority has been descending upon schools, spreading dangerous policies, such as allowing pupils to be absent from lessons they don't like if they behave badly enough during those lessons. Rather than study subjects they don't like, these disruptive pupils are rewarded for their bad behaviour with multiple opportunities to play with publically funded sand, and they are given publically funded stickers. The policies that are being spread by the Primary Pupil Referral Service, are supported personally by the staff who are dispatched to the primary schools of Kirklees. People in the education sector, including teachers and school governors, who support such soft approaches to bad behaviour, who do not even call it bad behaviour, must be replaced by people who realise that if pupils are so bad that they have to be sent out of lessons, they should be in a room consisting of booths, doing the work they would be doing if they had not been sent out of lessons.

A school in Kirklees claims not to have enough money to provide support workers to pupils whose need for attention compels the constant presence of a support worker. The same school has recruited not one, but two deputy headteachers. No primary school should be allowed to have more than one deputy headteacher. No school should be allowed to increase the pay of staff unless it has adequate punishment facilities for badly behaved pupils, and support workers for badly behaved pupils who have extreme emotional needs. No primary school should be allowed to increase the pay of staff if it does not have adequate sports and music facilities. Too much money spent on staff. Not enough money spent on child development.

Good school governors have been coerced into resigning their positions on governing bodies. Their insufficient knowledge of their rights has been taken advantage of by people who are still employed by the local authority. The individuality of governors has been ignored. They have not been provided

with opportunities to submit a case for them remaining on governing bodies. They have simply been coerced into resigning.

Their replacements were placed on governing bodies primarily because they had high-level jobs in the local authority. They don't challenge the local authority, don't disagree with the local authority, don't vote against the local authority. The result is that if the local authority is happy for a school to waste money, or if the local authority wants to waste money in schools, the local authority can do so without opposition.

That is not democracy. It isn't fair and it isn't right. The members of local authority staff responsible for such unfair and indiscriminate treatment of governors and the actions that followed should be fired. A committee that does not include in its membership people who work for or have worked for the local authority, should be created to decide the fate of each individual who joined a governing body because they worked for the local authority. Every decision that committee makes must be made public. The names of the people whose fates were decided must also be made public. Members of the public must be able to ask the committee to reconsider its decision if after choosing not to dismiss a governor, the committee is provided with new, relevant information about the governor.

### **Mental Health**

Rather than funding services that would help people who actually have anxiety or depression to overcome their anxiety or depression, the council coerces organisations so small, so weak, so desperate for funding, to provide free new-age activities for people who are at risk of having anxiety or depression.

Who is at risk of having anxiety or depression?

Almost everybody, even the positivists who have infested local public services and publically-funded service providers.

Funding services for those who are at risk of having a problem, but who do not currently have a problem, is a wasteful policy that deprives people who actually have anxiety or depression of services they could use to overcome or minimise their anxiety or depression.

### **Befriending**

Somebody who works for the local authority, believes that rather than sending befrienders to the homes of the isolated, organisations should expect the isolated to go on social networks or instant communication services so they can be befriended.

Twitter

Facebook

Skype

Elderly people, some with fading minds, are expected to know what these services are and how to use them. They are expected to remember their passwords. Online befriending services are no substitute for somebody visiting an individual's home for an hour to provide friendly conversation.

No money available to send people to the homes of elderly people with fading minds.

Plenty of money to employ people to invent befriending services those elderly people will not be able to use, and train individuals and organisations to deliver them.

Blame for this state of affairs does not lie exclusively with the local authority. Organisations, more interested in acquiring funding that providing services, have accepted and cooperated with the local authority. Those organisations must never receive funding from Kirklees Council again. The people at

the top of those organisations must be placed on a disqualification list. Organisations must not receive funding when they allow people on the disqualification list to work or volunteer for them.

Befriending services are in high demand. One person can befriend two people a day, if the person and the organisation the person works or volunteers for are both efficient. Some people are more deserving or in need than others of befriending services. Waiting lists must be organised in a way that reflects this fact, so that the most deserving and the most in need are most likely to receive befriending services.

### **Integration not segregation.**

### **Cycling**

Millions of pounds spent on le Tour de France. The cyclists didn't cycle through North Kirklees, but North Kirklees has seen a magnificent increase in the amount of people cycling since 2012. A substantial number of cyclists cycle with Streetbikes.

They cycle on the Spen Valley greenway.

They cycle on the Spenborough track.

They cycle from Chickenley to Ossett.

They cycle from Savile Town to Ossett.

They cycle with Streetbikes.

Cycle if you're disabled.

Cycle if you're blind.

Cycle if you're a woman.

Cycle if you're a child.

Cycle if you're Asian.

Cycle if you're white.

Cycle with Streetbikes.

Cycle on tandems, hand cycles and trikes.

Cycle with Streetbikes.

Streetbikes: A community interest company created by Gill Greaves.

Gill Greaves: a believer in people cycling together, regardless of age, disability or race.

Gill Greaves: a strong, passionate and committed warrior, but she should never have to fight.

Kirklees Council should increase funding to Streetbikes. There are however, senior staff in Adult Services, who support cycling segregation.

"Blind people cycle here,  
Everybody else cycle there".

Cycling is one of a few sports in which such a diverse range of people can participate together. Kirklees Council should not support with money or endorsement, cycling activities provided by groups that serve specific demographics. If organisations offer cycling activities to a wider range of people than they usually serve, they are deviating from their original purpose. If organisations only offer cycling activities to the people they are supposed to serve, they are encouraging and implementing segregation.

## **Volunteering**

Close the Gateway Volunteer Service. Volunteering Kirklees can help people who want to volunteer, and unlike services for volunteers provided by the council, Volunteering Kirklees doesn't treat disabled people differently to everybody else.

## **Noisy Neighbours**

There have been cuts to the services that respond to complaints about noisy neighbours. The services were not good enough before the cuts were announced.

I have been plagued by a noisy neighbour. First it was porn, then it was music and television. Now it is pigeons. He has disrupted my sleep for over two years, because he still resides above me.

Once I was told by somebody from Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing that it was cheaper to send a letter than for somebody to visit in person. How inefficient must a service be if it costs less to send a letter than it does to send a person?

Nobody should be affected by noisy neighbours for more than six months. Noisy neighbours should be evicted within six months. Money can be saved by eliminating bureaucracy that prolongs suffering, and the individuals who support that bureaucracy. Money can be saved if letters are replaced by people.

## **Drugs**

Free foil, needles and substitute drugs for drug addicts? Free food for the same drug addicts provided by food banks.

Money is always found for these initiatives, while the amount of money spent on essential services for the elderly and disabled decreases.

Policies that enable drug addiction are dangerous and harmful. They must be replaced by policies that stop people using drugs. The employment of people and funding of organisations who support policies that enable drug addiction must also be terminated with the utmost urgency. Rather than solve problems, they normalise and worsen problems. They damage children, in many cases irreparably. Money that could be spent on protecting children from drug addicts is instead spent on working with drug addicts who should be worked against.

## **Child Protection**

There is a scandal of social workers taking children from parents because the parents have a learning disability. This scandal must end. It is disability discrimination. It is cruel to the children and their parents. It is wrong, and all the while, bad parents are allowed to maintain custody of their children.

We live in the age of information, so this scandal could at any time be brought to the attention of the public. Surely then, heads would have to roll.

The more money wasted on removing children who don't need to be removed,  
The less money to spend on removing children who do need to be removed.

## **Visual Impairment.**

Services in Kirklees for the blind,  
Are provided by the Birmingham Institute for the Deaf.

- The Society for the Blind of Dewsbury, Batley and District,
- The Kirklees Visual Impairment Network,
- Better Future for the Blind,
- The Huddersfield Society for the Blind,
- A society for the blind in the valleys,
- The Kirklees Macular Society.

So many organisations for visually impaired people in Kirklees,  
But Services in Kirklees for the blind,  
Are provided by the Birmingham Institute for the deaf.

Why?

For at least seven years, Kirklees Council has wasted money on keeping the peace between small organisations that serve a very small fraction of the visually impaired people who live in Kirklees.

In Huddersfield, it took two organisations to provide a basic swimming activity. The same two organisations cannot even deliver a simple coffee morning independently of each other. They work together or they tread on each other's toes. They have received thousands of pounds from Kirklees Council. Kirklees Council continues to waste money on these weak, divided, squabbling, pathetic organisations.

The state of affairs in the visual impairment sector in South Kirklees must be tolerated no longer. Kirklees Council must stop funding KVIN, Better Future for the Blind, and the Huddersfield Society for the Blind immediately. An organisation that is capable of being a South Kirklees equivalent of the Society for the Blind in Dewsbury, Batley and District must be created in their place. Then, when Kirklees Council spends money on the visual impaired of South Kirklees, that money may make a more positive difference.

### **Salaries**

The best public servants do not cost the most money, because the best public servants do not work for money. The best public servants work because they want to do good.

Introduce a maximum wage which must never be more than ten times the minimum wage. Stop providing expenses to staff who earn at least twice the minimum wage.

Gagging orders and clauses are so evil that they should be illegal. They stop people speaking out about wrongs they have witnessed or experienced, and they are at odds with democratic principles. Kirklees Council must stop gagging people, and refuse to fund, endorse or work in partnership organisations that gag people.

### **Conclusion**

I want good public services. I want public money to be spent responsibly. I have provided examples of waste and inadequate policies, but there are many more. There are too many. Wipe out the waste. Eradicate inadequate policies. Create a local authority that has goodness running through all of its veins.

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The document attached records some of my thoughts on the spending plans. My name and address is on the document.

### **The Kirklees budget dilemma & libraries.**

I read in the Spen Guardian that “Kirklees is being forced to fork out £4.8m to look after just 302 smokers who are ill in their homes”. (Headline: Smoking has huge cost in Kirklees). Yet on the previous page of the same edition all our Libraries and Customer Services cost a mere £9m and they are proposed for closure.

Sure Start programme for the introduction of children to reading has been one of the initiatives of recent years. The fact that children are progressing to secondary schools and even leaving school altogether largely illiterate has driven the programme. However if these same children are to progress to serious reading then continuing access to reading material has to be considered vital. In many children’s homes there are few, if any, books. Even if parents are supportive how are they going to access distant libraries. Only pensioners can travel without paying expensive bus fares. Time and cost constraints limit even those who have cars.

Education whether for Homework or College work or Continuing Self Education are all part and parcel of the role fulfilled by libraries and the original reason for their being built. It’s not just about indulging a taste for fiction though many gain great enjoyment from that.

Many jobs are only advertised online and applications must be made online these days and not everyone has a computer at home with broadband. Young people who are out of work are sometimes so skint they can’t keep up their subscription, or are constantly on the move.

Libraries facilitate safeguarding and promote activities for young and old. They have been around for so long we take them too much for granted, but should they go now will another Carnegie or Mowat come to our rescue?

XXXXXX [name and address omitted]

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Hi,

During the consultation period, I would like to make a few suggestions on how to possibly ensure Value for Money/Save Money/Make Money !

- 1 Could Communities take charge of their own grass verges etc., and cut them themselves?
- 2 Could there be some sort of central collection of bins, ie wheel them to a small area (maybe holding 10 at a time) instead of individual bins outside each drive, door etc. which takes more time to collect?
- 3 Could some Lanes revert back to being “unadopted”?
- 4 Could some public places such as museums, libraries, schools etc., use areas within that building to sell advertising, goods, events, meetings, group activities (yoga etc). These buildings – and grounds - to be made available at all times – as necessary to the “buyer”?
- 5 It is important that roads are kept safe, free from potholes and well signed etc. to save “libel claims”

I hope these suggestions are of use.

Thanks

XXXXXX [name omitted]

---

Hi,

Further to recommendations below, could I make another suggestion please:

- 1 To look at not replacing road traffic signs and chevrons. Or even removing them and “weighing them in for cash” !  
Please take a look at : <http://www.dw.de/european-towns-remove-traffic-signs-to-make-streets-safer/a-2143663-1>

Thanks

XXXXXX [name omitted]

---

As as one of the committee member of KIMESG, Kirklees Independant ME Support Group, I am writing to comment on how spending could benefit people with ME in Kirklees. Any help with funding of our group would of course be very helpful.

Also maintenance of the around town minibus is vital. Personally this helps me to get to regular coffee mornings which we have in the King's Centre. Huddersfield is a very hilly town and difficult for me to get around. Within the King's Shopping Centre I find personally there is a lack of places to sit down. The walkway through the shops is long if you are fatigued and and have mobility issues, which any of us do. Some seats or benches would be a tremendous help.

Support for the local shopmobility is also an important issue, this can be extremely helpful to ME sufferers. Although personally, as I do not drive it is not in a very convenient place. If I travel into Huddersfield by bus I have to get to the bottom of town. The present mini bus is a help with this but as I said it is then a long walk through the King's centre.

Hope this is of help,

XXXXXX [name omitted]

---

Dear Sir

As an employee of the council I feel there are many ways that we could save money. For example scrapping all our procedures and creating only those we need. This idea is called Business Process Engineering. I learned how to do this from my Business degree which I completed in 2010 at Huddersfield University. I am sure this would make a saving of at least 20% which in turn would reduce staff anyway.

There is no point cutting staff and hoping to keep all the procedures those staff did.

At Kellogg's the managing director once asked how much red ink went into producing a packet of cereals. For the next 10 years the procedure was carried out just in case he asked again. I am sure we do some of that.

We could slightly reduce the quality of letterheads and printing materials this would save something. In view of the massive amount of paper we use this will save a great deal. If we look at the amount of paper we use and then check the cost of it then request alternative suppliers and at different weights of paper. Even the cost of keeping paper in our building is costing us money. We should operate a JIT procedure for goods and services thereby keeping our capital on deposit to earn interest. In every department there are around 50 packets of paper. We have around 200 departments so that is 10,000 packets of paper in stock, just in case we run out. I am sure this procedure can be replicated to other stationary like leaflets envelopes etc etc.

We could email our residents instead of paying for postage currently £900 every six months per department. This would save around 360000 per year at least.

Do we shop round for all our utilities and insurances every year? If we do this we will make around 5 to 10% saving.

If we scanned all mail and had it delivered to our desks it would save time logging post all over the council. This probably amounts to a saving of 1 to 2 posts per year, a saving of £16,000 to £32,000 per year. Plus the cost of delivering mail and redirecting it, it is much quicker to click a few buttons on an email piece of post and redirect than to travel to where your mail is collected.

When any piece of electrical equipment is left on it costs 50% as much as it it were fully switched on. So for every kettle, heater, printer light, computer monitor etc. that we use there will be a great saving in energy costs. This will also show we are thinking more about the environment and usage of fossil fuels.

We could recycle all our paper and cardboard and sell it on (If we don't already).

We could install hypo's in our toilets this will save 20% of our water bill. This came from working for an environmental agency.

To reduce gas switch off all gas appliance and heaters in summer or when the weather is unusually warm for the time of year.

Reduce temperatures by 1degree will reduce gas bills, but also install a temperature regulator that can be different in the morning to the afternoon, as at home.

To reduce bills further we could encourage staff to use conferencing via the Internet to save money on overnight costs and travelling costs.

I am sure we are already doing this but could we have staff using public transport instead of pool cars, except for out of the way places.

If I had more time I could find other areas we could save money by thinking outside the box.

I hope some of my ideas will be useful in saving our council money.

Yours sincerely

XXXXXX [name omitted]

---

Hi

Just another couple of ideas on money raising:

- Could the Council gain monies from renting out redundant poles to use as banner sites? (£15,000 was raised by one Council in 2007 !).
- As well as above – could poles be used to install phone/WiFi aerals and rental charged as necessary? If Council does not already doing so!

Thanks

XXXXXX [name omitted]

PS I have not had any acknowledgements to the suggestions I have been forwarding to Consultation, am I sending such to the correct place ? Cheers

---

*Written budget response received through Freepost with consultation booklet*

Q1

- Speaking for a rise in council tax
- A dire shame that central government has cut funding
- Strong supporter of local government
- Strong believer in contribution to the common good
- In hard times, we must do our part to support the community
- Think necessities further contribution from the people of Kirklees
- I realise this may increase the strain on families in the current economic climate
- However, if we are to maintain current standards of education and public services, there must be an increase in the individual contribution to the collective

Q3

- As you know, we are in a recession. Even though our national economy is strongly recovering, this still needs to be done
- To fund the Council's endeavours to improve the community, we must increase income this is obvious
- However, instead of raising tax we can build a larger tax base
- This can be done by supporting the development of businesses in Kirklees
- Encouragement of small business will also increase opportunities for you and old in the area due to more jobs and more opportunities for experience
- In conclusion supporting businesses in this area will increase long term income and give a wider range of opportunities for you people

Q4

- I believe economic resilience is the most important issue here
- I do not discount the importance of Health & Wellbeing or intervention in the Communities
- However, I believe a strong economy will be the first step towards developing these areas
- Without a tax base how are we to pay for these services
- If we have a strong economy we will be able to better fund our wellbeing and intervention facilities making them more sustainable and more effective

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Dear Sir/Madam

#### BALANCING THE BOOKS - PUBLIC CONSULTATION PHASE 1

The Friends of Red House Museum are keen to take part in this consultation to show we are an active community group and want to make a real difference. Please take this letter as our contribution to Phase 1 of the consultation, as we feel that the questions in the feedback questionnaire do not fully apply to us as a community group, although we have used the questions as far as possible to guide our response.

The Friends of Red House Museum are extremely concerned that this important historic house and award winning garden are once again facing the prospect of closure. We strongly believe that the Museum should be retained and kept open for the benefit of the community. It inspires and supports people, both local and from further afield, to be active and creative, and to be involved in the community. Indeed, a previous threat brought together the Friends group in the first place. It would be a tragedy if this cultural and educational centre were to be lost.

In answer to feedback question 1, we suggest that the cost of running Red House Museum and

maintaining the buildings and grounds is very small in the context of the Council's overall budget. Kirklees residents should not be asked to pay increased Council Tax simply to maintain Red House and other museums.

Question 2 on selling council assets is very sweeping. Our view is that land and buildings should only be disposed of when surplus to requirements and where there is a benefit to Kirklees residents, for example passing on land for affordable housing. Assets such as museums, gardens and parks should not be sold outright, as there is very little chance of them being regained. For some assets other options, such as long leases, should be used creatively, so that the Council can retain an element of control and they can still benefit the public.

On question 3 the Friends of Red House believe that the Council should indeed support economic growth and development, and alongside allowing more houses and business premises to be built in suitable locations, it should use its own assets to this end, for example continuing to use historic houses for weddings, conferences, training and meetings etc.

On question 4 the Friends of Red House agree strongly that the Council should continue to make plans to support the health and wellbeing of residents, economic resilience and work to prevent problems and reduce the need for services later on. Kirklees museums have an integral part to play in all three themes and should be embedded in the Council's plans of support. The museums celebrate local culture which contributes to people's wellbeing and money spent at the museums stays in Kirklees. However the Council should bear in mind that while community groups such as ours are willing to help staff as much as possible, our activities as a friends group are to give practical help and support and to a limited extent financial support. We cannot, and do not wish to, replace professional staff.

Over the years Kirklees Council has invested in promoting the connection between Red House, Oakwell and the Brontes, raising the profile of the museums and the district both nationally and internationally. There is an opportunity in 2016 to capitalise on this, when we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charlotte Bronte's birth. More recently the Council has promoted Red House as a wedding venue. We understand the Council has difficult choices to make in terms of the budget for 2015/16 and beyond, but we believe the loss of Red House would have a serious detrimental effect on the cultural life of North Kirklees, not forgetting the potential adverse effect on local tourism, and letting down people who have already made wedding bookings.

Yours faithfully

XXXXXX [name omitted]

Chair, Friends of Red House Museum, Gomersal

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## The Brontë Society

Brontë Parsonage Museum, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD22 8DR

Telephone: 01535 642323 Fax: 01535 647131

Email: [bronte@bronte.org.uk](mailto:bronte@bronte.org.uk) Website: [www.bronte.info](http://www.bronte.info)

President: Bonnie Greer OBE

Kirklees Council,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
Civic Centre,  
Market Street,  
HUDDERSFIELD,  
HD1 2YZ

2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2014

Dear Sirs,

**re: proposals to close museums in the Kirklees district**

The Brontë Society understands that, for cost-saving reasons, Kirklees Council is considering closing three of its museums, two of which might be Oakwell Hall and Red House. These two buildings have a highly significant place in the Brontë story, both biographically and literary, and we respectfully request that they remain open and accessible. As part of Kirklees' 'Shirley' country heritage, as well as their independent importance to the area's history, we feel that it would be short-sighted to close such important tourist destinations which, furthermore, are extremely valuable local resources.

Yours faithfully,

XXXXXX [name omitted]

Trustee  
Council of The Brontë Society

The Brontë Society Established 1893 Incorporated 1902  
Company limited by guarantee not having a Capital divided into shares  
Registered in England No. 73855 Registered Charity 529952

## Online comment forms received at [consultation@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@kirklees.gov.uk)

*All of these comments are with regard to supporting continued funding for 'Heckyfest' a free festival in Heckmondwike – event organisers urged supporters through social media to contact the council via an online comment form.*

Heckyfest has to go ahead next year, it brings the whole community together and is a great event and has been for the past however many years.

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Please support the " Crown of lights " ( Heckyfest ) .This is a brilliant event which is attended by people all ages and backgrounds . A many number of volunteers , donators and Kirklees council , not forgetting Donal O,Driscoll of course , make this much loved event happen in our small town , many thanks .

---

Hecky fest is a fab day for our little town. Not often do we see so much friendship and positivity between people with such different lives. Donal does a fantastic job. Please,please support and fund this special day for us. Why not implement a £3.00 entry fee. It would help??

---

Regarding funding for next years Crown of lights festival, I wont bore you with a long message here but I will say this, in time of cut backs I fully understand how hard it must be to justify spending on things like this when services have to be cut but in terms of town pride and positive imagery The Crown of Lights Festival is worth far more than its cost in monetary terms. Even in hard times some funding should still be allocated to shining a bright light on whats good in Kirklees. Plus dropping funding for this and having anything closer to Huddersfield would reinforce peoples (perceived) belief in the Huddersfield bias within Kirklees counsel .

---

Please continue to support Crown of Lights Heckyfest with continued funding. As a visitor to Heckmondwyke the reason for coming is the music that it promotes. There is no better event in the Heckmondwyke calendar to showcase this town and bring the community together. The council should be proud of its past support and try by all means possible to continue to support it.

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i am just wanting to comment on the possibility that our community could be losing the annual crown of lights music event due to lack of funding ..... the crown of lights events brings people from far and wide aswell as all our locals to Heckmondwike there are people coming from york .. portsmouth .. manchester .. whitby .. huddersfield .. wakefield and they are just people i know personally coming to the event when the crown of lights (HECKYFEST) is on the town is heaving i think our town would be losing a massive money spinner and and event that puts us on the map .....it also gets unsigned bands heard and seen which for them could be a step towards fame ... of which will originate in good old Heckmondwike ... Heckmondwike is known for great history and great people so lets keep it that way and show the world Heckmondwike isnt done delivering greatness and making new historical events for future generations to look back on with fondness

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Crown of Lights Music Festival has been a fantastic family event held over the past 12 years. People have turned out in large numbers every year to watch some fantastic performances from local bands/artists. This year was the wettest one to date but 100's of people still tuned up and stayed all day despite the rain. Please keep this event alive in 2015. Thank you

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CROWN OF LIGHTS MUSIC FESTIVAL-HECKMONDWIKE We supply the fringe activity of circus skills at this festival and have done for a number of years.... We attend a number of festivals around the country and without doubt Heckyfest is one of the best small/community festivals of it's kind. It is big enough to attract good music and small enough to allow local families who may never have such a chance to attend an event of this kind, for free ! If there is ANY possibility of this festival receiving funding it should be backed to the full as the Council will never get such value for money anywhere else ! XXXXXX [name omitted]

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I'm writing in support of the Heckyfest summer festival. It's a wonderful day out for the less wealthy of us and it's just got better every year. I really hope you can find the funds for it to continue next year. It's not really a great deal of money and I think you would find it impossible to make such a good day out for that amount any other way. It really is great value for money and a real asset to the town

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Heckyfest is vastly appreciated by students who can't afford the high cost festivals elsewhere, and is a much loved event run in our own little area. The loss of Heckyfest would have a devastating effect on the community and would surely bring a lot of ill-will towards Kirklees council, especially with the amount of money being spent in Huddersfield at the moment

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Hecky fest started from the bottom and has now become one of the greatest established festivals of the festival season. Attracting not only locals but fans of quality music from afar. As a performer this is one of the highlights of my year, playing the festival is always a huge honour. Hecky fest is a great platform for musicians both with experience, and those just starting out. Giving opportunity to bands of school age at the very start of their career, encouraging youngsters to develop skills and share their talent and enthusiasm. They give performers a stage on which they can perform to a varied and appreciative audience. To lose this festival would not only be a loss to the community who come together in celebration of this event, it would be a huge loss to performers who await each year to hear if they are lucky enough to be selected to play at this incredible festival.

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Heckmondwike Crown of Lights is a free music festival which attracts a huge amount of people for several reasons, one is because it is free, the funding received from the council enables us to witness fantastic performers from all over the place, performers we wouldn't normally see or hear. It brings community spirit and casts a positive light on Kirklees council as a whole. If funding is cut, Kirklees council will incur yet more displeasure from Kirklees residents because you will have denied us yet another thing which brings us joy in this world. Heckmondwike is a deprived area and whilst people may be poor the Crown of lights festival brings custom for the area, with all the local shops and supermarkets benefitting from the days events. I urge you to keep providing the funding for this event, people need a day to look forward to and if the organisers can say that you have reviewed it and made the decision to keep supporting them, then people are more likely to have more faith in Kirklees council as a humane and understanding council.

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I am writing today with a hope that the council can continue today support the Heckmondwike festival. I have been going for about 5 years now encouraging family and friends today attend too. This festival is very good as it caters for all. Local business benefit from the increased footfall. Local schools and artists are given exposure which can only benefit them

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You will notice that I don't live in Heckmondwike, or even in Kirklees. I did, however, live (and work) in Heckmondwike for a number of years, and in fact, met my wife there, and she also lived and worked in Heckmondwike. I still have friends and family in the town, and visit the area on a regular

basis. The "Heckyfest", which my family supports, must be allowed to continue. It is a wonderful, joyous occasion, and now tradition, and is well attended by people both from within the surrounding areas, and without (like ourselves, for example). Some of the families that turn out to enjoy this event, see it as their only chance to experience a festival atmosphere. This in itself is priceless to low earners. I implore you to seriously think about this. In these so called austere times, £8000 is not a vast amount, when you consider the pleasure it brings.

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We must continue with the annual Heckmondwike festival, it brings together so many people from all over Yorkshire and is a fantastic festival showcasing some of the best talent in this area it would be an absolute travesty if the funding stops. It also showcases Heckmondwike and what a wonderful town it is.

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I have spent 7 years building up Crown of Lights Free Music Events doing each year a total of 18 indoor Band and Acoustic Nights and which culminates in a summer festival showcasing the best of the acts that performed that year. Together with established artists, many of these are young and upcoming who value the care and attention we give them with respect to presentation, sound and lighting. These events with many offshoot events at the same venue has played a key role in the survival of the only large concert room we have left in Heckmondwike; The Comrades Club on Regent Street. We have never asked for any funding for any of this as it drives itself through the artists desire to be chosen to play the summer festival known locally as Heckyfest. We had our 12th festival in July and, in the words of one council inspector, it was a slick, entertaining and very professionally presented festival. For many low income families this is the only opportunity of getting to a music festival. I hope that the £8,000 funding it takes to enable this event to happen will continue to be found. It plays such an important role in the lives of many throughout the year and particularly on festival day itself. [www.crownoflights.org.uk](http://www.crownoflights.org.uk) Comments received about the 2014 festival on July 19th Via FACEBOOK XXXXXX [name omitted] A massive thank you to Donal O'Driscoll all the helpers and musicians and everyone who came out for making Heckyfest 2014 a great success. Fantastic music, great company and amazing lightening show !well done all XXXXXX [name omitted] Great show well done all. XXXXXX [name omitted] Just back from this year's Heckyfest \_ thank you for all the effort you put in. Wonderful!! XXXXXX [name omitted] wrote: "Yet again another great heckyfest I love to see my town enjoying itself, well done all who made it happen, well done to everyone who stayed regardless of the rain, and especially well done and thanks to Donal O'Driscoll, you're a legend pal" XXXXXX [name omitted] 19 July near Batley bring on the ONE TRUE festival of the summer HECKYFEST XXXXXX [name omitted] 19 July at 16:22 Brilliant day and even sun has come out well Donal team and artists XXXXXX [name omitted]- 'Hughes' tagged you in a post So yesterday was such a good day!! XXXXXX [name omitted] 50th at Hecky fest!!! Despite the rain, an amazing turn out Donal O'Driscoll!! XXXXXX [name omitted] tagged you in a post A big big thanks to Donal O'Driscoll, Peter Earnshaw, John Hetherington, Joby Hardwick and all the awesome Hecky crowd for facing the rain and sharing a great time today, keep on rockin' in a free Heckmondwike Via TEXT Thankyou Donal and the team for putting on a great show. And the suns finally come out xx XXXXXX [telephone omitted] Great follow up to Glastonbury!! And clean toilets too!! :) #heckyfest XXXXXX [name omitted] XXXXXX [telephone omitted] Love you x great festival XXXXXX [telephone omitted] Your work is f ing awesome lov it. Thanks for the day it was wicked still got my wrist band on hahaha XXXXXX [telephone omitted] Been having a great time, thank you! Looking forward to next year! D&S XXXXXX [telephone omitted] Why do you talk in that silly american accent? Good day though.... XXXXXX [telephone omitted] The event is great Donal and I take my hat off to you for pulling the community together I hope that you manage to save Hecky fest as it is important to the people around the area and beyond and thank you for making a great event to happen in our area your work is not lost or un noticed x XXXXXX [telephone omitted] This is a brilliant festival!!! I am really enjoying it! From XXXXXX [name omitted] XXXXXX [telephone omitted] Donal, brilliant day, chuffed rotten that the sun came out for you. Make sure Heckyfest lives XXXXXX [telephone omitted] Rain is nothing but water from the sky and when you have music in your ears, a beer in your hand and a crowd of like minded lovely people enjoying some amazing music well.....who cares about that there rain,

well done Donal & Team for a cracking event, XXXXXX [name omitted] x XXXXXX [telephone omitted] XXXXXX [name omitted] having fun n the sun dance worked. Yippee. X XXXXXX [telephone omitted] Happy times, here for 2yrs running and luv it, even the rain didn't stop us missing the first band luv the froodsters xx XXXXXX [telephone omitted] Brilliant. Seen some new to me bands today....Thanks for showcasing XXXXXX [telephone omitted] Gets better every year, I would pay if I had to. Never stop...! Now I need to put my brolly up to protect my Goth white skin. FROM GOTH WITH TOP HAT. LOVE IT XXXXXX [telephone omitted] First Hecky Fest! Loving it so far! XXXXXX [telephone omitted] Best music fest ever XXXXXX [telephone omitted]

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HECKYFEST I am writing in hope that you will continue to grant funding to the team of people involved in HECKYFEST 2014 so that they can continue their endeavours and put on another great event in 2015. I am a songwriter and a musician and attended for the 1st time this year. It was brilliant. ARTS From my understanding the potential issues with funding are due to council cutbacks. All I'd say, in my opinion, is that the last things you should cut back on are the truly tangible things that people can touch, feel but also benefit from - the arts. We are told constantly that 10p from here to give 10p there in times of austerity are massive but to be honest I think people would sacrifice those smaller less tangible benefits for the sake of great experiences. I saw all of the people that were at the festival and it hit me. You essentially had Heckmondwike doing what larger towns and cities fail to do while also trying to charge people for it - an Open air music festival that runs like clockwork. Every age group, every cultural background, every ethnicity and every class background appeared to be represented from my eye. They were all together and they were all smiling and they were bonded by something they all love - music. That might sound a little 'soft and mushy' but for those of us who think like that....it's true. The beating heart of the Crown of Lights organisation (through the Comrades Club) is a stone's throw away too which makes Donal O'Driscoll's (organiser) point about how the artists 'graduate' from the club to the festival stage even more symbolic. You can see the club from the stage practically! I grew up in the North East, lived in Scotland, moved to Leeds in 2003 and then quickly to Birstall after that. I have experienced Durham County Council, Stirling Council and Leeds City Council and can say that in terms of events delivery that embrace it's community, Kirklees can proudly stand above all of these. For that reason it would be a massive shame to lose one that delivers so well. For these reasons, for me, as a songwriter (who has only viewed these events) I implore/beg/plead you to continue the funding and make HECKYFEST happen for another year in the same place under the guidance of the same people. ECONOMY My understanding is that £8000 is required to run HECKYFEST for another year. The ancillary benefits to the community and very specifically to the businesses in and around the green on the festival day were obvious. More people traffic and more footfall = increased spending. I used shops for me, my wife and my child that I had never been in before. While you won't be able to account for this directly I would assume that the 8K spend is probably in large part negated through economic community benefit that occurs. I'm positive the pubs, cafes, shops, supermarkets etc will have felt the benefits of the day. Kind regards in hope XXXXXX [name omitted]

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HeckyFest Just to say that the festival is a fantastic free event and is very well attended and enjoyed, particularly by families. If you do not sponsor it, the organisers will have to charge and a lot of people will not attend. I played there with my band this year and the organisation was superb. Donal and his team had everything arranged which was brilliant especially as the weather was bad this year. Great event and great organisation, and it would be a real shame if it is not supported by Kirklees.

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Hello, I look forward to the Heckmondwike Crown of lights festival every summer. The organising crew to a fantastic job of putting on a professional festival with free entry. It is always packed with people and definitely brings happiness to the people of Heckmondwike. Looking forward to next years Festival Regards XXXXXX [name omitted]

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I would like to add my name to those who support the Heckmondwike Music Festival. What a great family event this is! It provides a safe, local, family day and supports local talent. Fantastic

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I've worked with Donal on the technical crew for the Hecky Fest for the last 4 years and have witnessed it grow from a happy, well attended family event to a massive behemoth of a music festival, attracting musicians and audience from all corners of Yorkshire and beyond. In my 15 years as an amateur gigging musician I've also witnessed many similar attempts to start council funded music festivals, all of which have ceased to exist after one or two events largely due to poor attendance. The fact that Hecky Fest has grown in popularity year on year proves that demand in this part of Yorkshire is unusually high, and that Heckmondwike offers something that other towns simply haven't been able to leverage (Donal and the crew's outstanding organisational skills notwithstanding). Hecky Fest has the potential to be to Heckmondwike what the Jazz Festival is to Marsden - enriching the town's identity and as a free event it's marked as a platform to support local musicians in a way that no other festival can offer. There is no doubt in my mind that this event should remain a council funded free event. I fear that any change to this would alter Hecky Fest's identity in a way that may see it disappear into obscurity; therefore losing Heckmondwike an opportunity to offer something unique and special.

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please help Heckyfest 2015 to continue as it is a vital part of bringing the community together. Many people work extremely hard to make a great success and it should continue. It brings valuable trade into a small community

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Thanks for the fantastic opportunity to listen to some great music and the up and coming future stars that put kirklees on the map due to the crown of lights festival o have gone tl this event and its fab I have made new friends and meet up with my family too as a annual event come raim or shine. Please allow the festival to continue and bring the people of kirklees back together for this great free concert as funded by your goodselves its a small amount of money to pay for the happiness it brings in these days when things are happening all over the world .

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## **Appendix 3: feedback from budget engagement sessions with the VCS**

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### **Budget Consultation with Voluntary and Community Organisations.**

**September 2014**

#### **1. Introduction**

Due to the importance of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) it was felt that specific engagement should be undertaken about the potential impact of that the initial budget ideas may have on the sector. It was carried out alongside a discussion on the VCS Strategy that is currently being revised.

This report summarises those points related to the budget and the 'new council', merging similar comments made by participants across different events. It shows real concerns about the impact of budget cuts on the sector but equally a positive feeling that the sector can help make a real difference going forward. However this does need to be balanced as the sector cannot fill the whole gap and neither can everything be done for no cost on a purely voluntary basis.

#### **2. Methodology**

Five workshops were held (2 in Huddersfield and 1 each in Batley, Dewsbury and Holmfirth) to get feedback on the budget options, and to shape the revised voluntary and community sector strategy. 51 representatives from voluntary and community organisations across the district took part. These included paid workers and volunteers, national charities, social enterprises, residents groups, faith groups, organisations contracting with the council and those reliant on fundraising. They worked in arts, children and young people, health, environment, community centres, food banks and more. The sessions were led by council staff and members of Third Sector Leaders.

Facilitated discussions with groups of 6 – 8 people looked at:

- What's the potential impact of budget options on the VCS
- What opportunities are there for us working together to find alternative ways of delivering some services.
- Share examples of work going on already
- How would you like to be involved in dialogue with the council

Key points were recorded on flip charts and typed up.

#### **3. Feedback on the process**

A number of comments were made about the overall process which are summarised below to help inform the planning of the next phase of the consultation.

- The information on budget options was hard to understand and this was a barrier to participation
- Documents should identify which services are statutory and which aren't
- It can be hard to understand the big picture
- There was a lack of information on the equality and diversity impacts of the options
- There was a divide between those who wanted information at an early stage so they could be involved in shaping solutions, and those who would prefer more definite proposals they could respond to.

- There was support for having an opportunity to put forward ideas for new models of delivering services.
- People would like the opportunity to engage directly with decision makers.

#### **4. Feedback on the budget options**

##### **a. General concerns about impact on voluntary and community organisations**

There is a clear feeling that VCS are equally at risk due to cuts but potentially are even more vulnerable even when the likelihood is that there will be a greater call on their services. Much of the looking forward was centred on how they can get access to the level of detail on budgets and service delivery needed to help redesign service delivery with public sector colleagues. The comments included:

- People recognised that the council wants to reduce job losses and is under pressure from unions and campaign groups. Is the voluntary and community therefore sector more vulnerable to cuts as they are small, often un-unionised and work with vulnerable groups who may have less of a voice?
- VCS need to know the real costs of providing services, and where a small investment may enable a service to continue rather than a complete cut.
- The council needs to understand that the VCS bring money into Kirklees (two thirds of funding is not from the council) so if there are cuts the total loss may be greater e.g. if capacity to write bids is reduced.
- Small amounts of funding can have a big impact – lever in other resources including volunteers. There is a risk of losing relatively cheap local projects that contribute to prevention agenda, so in longer run costs will increase.
- Some projects are harder to self - sustain as customers are unable to pay full costs (e.g. deprived communities, asylum seekers). Need a mixed economy of income generation and grants.
- Would welcome early discussion about the potential to take over services under threat.
- Concern that demand for VCS services could increase as council services reduce, but capacity to deliver may be reduced if funding cut.
- Need to be aware of impact of changes on vulnerable people and focus on those in greatest need, not those who shout the loudest

##### **b. Concerns about the impact of budget changes on specific services**

As it was sometime easier for groups to understand the impact on them by considering the specific issues that affected them, there were a number of more specific comments linked to specific projects. However they also helped highlight wider issues that would need to be considered:

- Parks, libraries, arts etc. may seem like a luxury but are vital to the health and wellbeing of residents. Arts and events bring in visitors and support the economy.
- Will not be able to continue volunteer run environmental projects without help with insurance costs.
- May lose specialist service provision and expertise in the voluntary sector e.g. domestic violence
- Community assets require investment. Volunteers can take on the day to day running but it is hard to raise £100k if a new roof is needed.

- Markets could be reinvented with the community – a showcase for activities, opportunities to trade
- Concern that groups could face increased costs that could risk sustainability e.g. venue hire, maintaining sports pitches, when funding cut.
- Need to ensure that shift to digital services does not disadvantage vulnerable groups who are less likely to use IT

## **5. Ideas for new ways of working to contribute to transformation and new council**

There were many positive suggestions about how the VCS can work with the council and communities to deliver on prevention and wellbeing, and on what is needed to support more volunteering. Participants would welcome the opportunity to get involved in shaping new services and different ways of doing things e.g. by linking with initiatives like the Innovation Hub.

- There should be investment in people to ensure they have the skills to deliver services, rather than funding projects. Provide opportunities for staff from the council to be seconded to voluntary organisations and vice versa to share knowledge and expertise to shape new services.
- Investigate co-location in shared buildings and one stop shops across sectors; can voluntary run services link to Kirklees Direct or NHS 111 telephone number?
- Support the development of neighbourhood hubs (e.g. Friends of Beaumont Park) to collaborate and co-ordinate locally and build confidence of smaller groups. Trust the key organisations that have lasted and know communities. They could be a bridge between council and communities.
- There are opportunities for voluntary and community groups to be more involved in health and wellbeing e.g. support for people with dementia in the community, arts on prescription
- Asset transfer from the council needs to be progressed in a trusting and risk aware (not averse) manner. What resources can the council share/ hand over to support voluntary and community service delivery? E.g. short term use of empty buildings, access to vehicles and tools at weekend for environmental work
- Development support is needed for small groups ( access to templates for policies etc.) and to help larger groups develop social enterprise e.g. by identifying services to sell, marketing
- Need to be realistic about what volunteers can and cannot do. Volunteers need support and training, not a free resource. Combination of paid staff and volunteers most appropriate in many situations ( e.g. a council worker with power tools does skilled work assisted by volunteer labour)
- Need more support for council employees to volunteer, and to utilise volunteers in council services.

## Balancing the books?

### Planning your council's budget for 2015-18 and beyond

#### PUBLIC CONSULTATION – Phase 2

##### Keeping talking to you

We are changing as we respond to unprecedented cuts to our Government funding. Since 2011 we have made savings and reduced our annual budget by £83 million. By 2018 we need to reduce our budget by a further £69 million in order to balance the books. The options and ideas set out in this budget consultation go some way towards this over three years, including the use of one-off available balances. But we'll still be £20m short by 2018, and we will continue to talk to you about options over the coming years.

##### What we talked about last year...

Back in 2013 we talked to you about the scale of the changes and cuts at our 'It's Time to Talk' events, and over 4,000 of you took part in our 'Budget Challenge'. This difficult task asked you to think about when people should do more for themselves – and each other – and when the council should continue to support or fund activity.

We learnt that looking after vulnerable older people and children, and feeling safe, were your top priorities for spending.

At the same time many of you said you would be willing to give your time – and spend it with older members of the community, with families to help them have enjoyable things to do, or to help out in your community.

That's one of the reasons why the options and ideas in this consultation protect, as far as possible, vulnerable old and young people. And why – at the same time – we are looking into supporting ideas where people do more for themselves and each other in future, without the council's involvement.

##### This year in September we asked you some big questions...

Last month we also asked you some big questions about how we raise money and what the big ideas for spending should be – this covered council tax, selling our assets and things to raise money, and increasing the development and building of houses and business premises. More than 1,600 of you took part. Thank you – what you told us will help shape the budget. A summary of what you said is below.

##### This consultation

Now we need to know what you think about some of the specific options and ideas that will help us balance the books. We are asking you about ideas that we can put in place soon, from April next year, and that might have an impact on you.

If we have ideas to change things that we have to provide you by law – then we will do a further consultation about this in the New Year.

As we continue to reduce spending significantly, we need to keep talking to you about all our options and ideas – so that we can understand what people really need from their local council. These are difficult times, with difficult decisions to be made. I would appreciate you taking part in this consultation – your views and opinions matter to me.

Please tell us what you think.

(Signature and Photo)

**Councillor David Sheard  
Leader, Kirklees Council**

##### *[GRAPHICS to incorporate this information in redesign of the page overleaf]*

What you told us in September:

Just over half of you (52%) said residents should pay a 2% increase in council tax, and 16% supported an increase of 5%. Around a third (32%) felt there should be no increase in council tax at all.

Two thirds (65%) agreed that the council should sell some of its assets (land and buildings) for cash.

Almost three quarters (72%) agreed that the council should support economic development – including building more homes and business premises in Kirklees.

There was also support for continuing to focus on our three bold ideas of health and wellbeing, economic resilience, and early intervention and prevention.

We received lots of comments too, which have helped us to understand more about what's important to you.

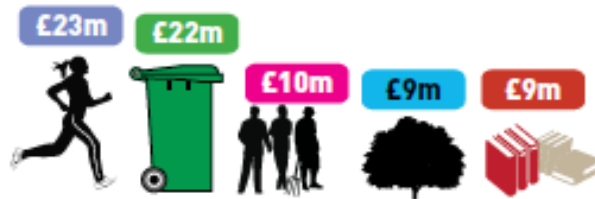
# The council's budget

## Where does the money go?

Your council currently delivers a wide range of services, from road repairs to social care, child protection to community events. Some services we **have** to deliver at a certain level, and some we **choose** to deliver.

Some examples of what we currently spend:

- £261 million on schools
- £141 million on caring for adults
- £61 million on supporting children and families
- £23 million on improving health and wellbeing
- £22 million on emptying bins and cleaning streets
- £10 million on supporting local communities and leisure
- £9 million on parks and open spaces
- £9 million on libraries and customer services



## Where does the money come from?

- The biggest chunk (65%) comes from **central government**. This includes grants and funding for schools and housing.
- 19% comes from our local share of **business rates**, and **income from our customers**, including payment for trade waste, pest control and parking, and money paid for commercial rent and properties.
- **Just 16% comes from council tax**

## In real terms, we receive less than ever before...

We have had to reduce our budget by £83 million so far, because of national spending cuts.

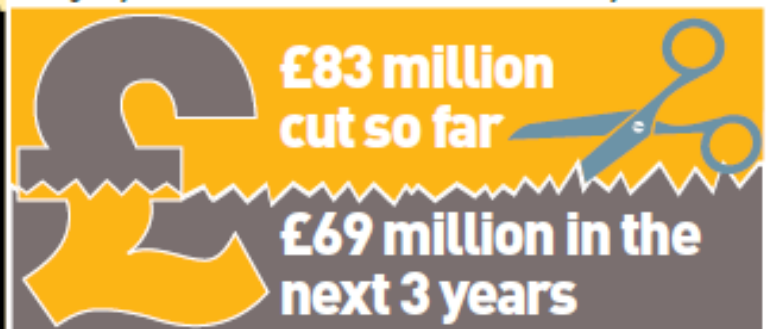
We've achieved this by making lots of changes already – including cutting senior management, reducing our borrowing costs, making our support services more efficient, and maintaining services with 1,200 fewer staff.

Most of the reductions we've made so far haven't had a big impact on the services you receive – we have sustained services for as long as possible, despite dramatic funding reductions – but we need to carry on making changes to save money, so you will start to notice more of a difference. It won't be easy and we will need your help.



We already receive a lot less from the government than we used to, and we know it will carry on reducing.

By April 2018, we need to have reduced our budget by £152 million from where it was in 2011. This means we have to cut the council's budget by around another £69 million in the next three years.



## More information

Planning our budget is not just about making savings. It's also about how we can do things better. We all want the same thing – for our area to be full of healthy people enjoying a great quality of life for longer, via a strong economy. And we have two important strategies to help make sure that everything we do helps us achieve this: a health and wellbeing strategy and an economic strategy. You can read these at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015).

## Our financial plan

Our Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) - our "Budget Book" - covers the budget for 2015-18. You can read this, and the budget impact statements, at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015)

## How will people be affected?

We know the changes we are talking about will affect some groups of residents more than others. When thinking about our budget options, we recognise that our community is made up of people with diverse needs, and we believe it's important to consider a range of views when planning your council's budget. We have used Equality Impact Assessments to help us understand the potential impact of our budget options for people. As part of this consultation we will also be talking to specific groups about what this could mean for them.

## About this consultation

We've been talking to you about the future for some time now. The aim of this second phase of consultation is to gather views on some of our specific budget options and ideas. In particular, we are asking about the ideas we think are likely to have the widest impact on people across Kirklees which would start or need decisions during the first year of our Medium Term Financial Plan. We also ask for your views on some of our future plans. Lastly we ask some questions about you. Knowing a little about the people who take part in this consultation means we can see if there are any differences in views between groups.

For more information on the full set of budget options and ideas for 2015-18, including those not specifically included as part of this consultation, please see our "Budget Book" at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015)

## How to share your views

We want to hear from as many people as possible, from a wide cross-section of the local community. You can let us know what you think any time up to **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014** by:

- Completing the questionnaire on the centre pages of this booklet
- Emailing us at [consultation@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@kirklees.gov.uk)

**Please complete the questionnaire online** if you can, as it will save us time and money – you can do this at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015). If you would rather complete this paper version, please leave it at one of our libraries or customer service centres, or post to:

FREEPOST Kirklees Council  
CRAC

If you need any help please contact us at [consultation@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@kirklees.gov.uk) or ask at your local library.

As well as this overall consultation, some others will be happening which will focus in more detail on specific services such as libraries, school transport, stair lifts and care homes. We've highlighted these within the feedback questionnaire, and you may hear about others you are interested in taking part in. Please share your views if you wish to be involved – we'd really like to hear from you.

## What happens next?

This consultation ends on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014. We will then look at your responses and report the findings to the Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

Your councillors have the overall responsibility for making final budget decisions. Taking part will allow them to consider your views. The final budget will be set at the Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Both of these meetings will be webcast.

We asked for your views on council tax, assets, economic growth and our three bold ideas for the future during Phase 1 of the public budget consultation earlier this year. There's a summary of what you told us on the first page of this booklet.

We would now like to hear from as many of you as possible about our **draft budget options and ideas for 2015-18**.

Please read the information provided carefully and use this feedback form to tell us what you think. This will help us to understand which options and ideas you support the most and least, bearing in mind that cutbacks do need to be made.

Your views will then be considered by councillors alongside other information before the final budget decisions for 2015-16 are made in February 2015.

The questions are divided into three main sections: **Specific options and ideas for 2015-16**

**Future plans**

**About you**

## Specific options and ideas for 2015-16

This section asks you for your views on some of the specific budget options and ideas which would start or need decisions during **next financial year**, April 2015-March 2016 – the first year of our Medium Term Financial Plan. These are all at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015)

### Q1 We must balance the books. But this is difficult.

What do you think about the following options to help us to do this:

	Good idea	OK idea	Neither good nor bad	Not keen	Bad idea
<p><b>Stop funding the Free Town Bus service</b></p> <p><i>This means withdrawing council funding for the Free Town Bus service in Huddersfield and Dewsbury from January 2016, saving £198,000.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Reduce the intensity of Street Cleaning</b></p> <p><i>This means that cleansing services would be targeted to specific areas only (our town centres and 'hot spots'), saving £800,000 next year.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Reduce maintenance of our parks, open spaces and grass verges</b></p> <p><i>This means that there would be less work done to maintain parks and open spaces and we would be able to cut grass verges less often, saving £576,000 next year.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Make changes to our School Transport policy</b></p> <p><i>This means that bus passes for children travelling 2-15 miles (under 8 years of age) and 3-15 miles (between 8 and 16 years of age) to attend faith schools would no longer be provided free of charge.</i></p> <p><i>This option – together with changes to how we run and manage school transport – would save £455,000 by 2016. We are planning new ways to support children with special educational needs and their families. These will help develop their independence and provide greater flexibility for parents.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>① Please note that we are also planning to run a specific consultation on changes to school transport during 2015-16.</p>					
<p><b>Reduce subsidies for sport and physical activities</b></p> <p><i>This means that we will reduce subsidies to physical activities classes and other activities run by Kirklees Active Leisure, saving £200,000 next year.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Stop doing and funding events and festivals</b></p> <p><i>This means that there will be no Festival of Light or Huddersfield Carnival and the council will not do Dewsbury On Sea or financially support events organised by communities across Kirklees e.g. Huddersfield Food and Drink Festival, Marsden Jazz Festival, Crown of Lights Music Festival in Heckmondwike and Cleckheaton Folk Festival. This would save £186,000 next year.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Q1 (continued) We must balance the books. But this is difficult.

What do you think about the following options to help us to do this:

	Good idea	OK idea	Neither good nor bad	Not keen	Bad idea
<p><b>Develop alternative options for running our library services</b></p> <p><i>This means that library services will continue but change significantly, saving up to £3.2 million over the next three years from the current spend of £5.75 million. We will be unable to continue the current level of service at all libraries across Kirklees and we will need to look at alternatives. This could include more community involvement – i.e. local people taking on some or all aspects of library services in an area of Kirklees.</i></p> <p>① Please note that we are also planning to run a specific public consultation on changes to the library service, due to start in January 2015.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Stop funding the Kirklees Music Service</b></p> <p><i>This means that the Kirklees Music Service – which offers music hubs across the district to enable all children to access music – would have to run using only the money it gets from government and from fees. This could limit access to music for children from poorer families. This option is suggested for financial year 2016-17, and would save £296,000.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Reduce staffing in the Youth Offending Team</b></p> <p><i>This means there would be fewer staff available to deal with young offenders – limiting help to the most difficult – and saving £210,000 over the next three years.</i></p> <p>① Please note that we are also planning to run a specific consultation on changes to youth services during 2015-16.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Reduce staffing in complaints and advocacy for children and young people</b></p> <p><i>This means fewer staff to deal with complaints, and less support for young people in care who need a voice to speak on their behalf. This would save £195,000 next year.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Remove the remaining subsidy to some child care provision</b></p> <p><i>This means that some nurseries might not be financially viable and would close. This would save £395,000 over the next three years. We will maintain the statutory duty to provide sufficient places for eligible children aged 0-5, and childcare for their working parents.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Charge schools and child care organisations for support and advice</b></p> <p><i>This means schools would have to pay for help with curriculum and attendance problems, and child carers and child minders would have to pay for courses to improve the quality of care. This would save £1.6 million over the next two years.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Change our remaining in-house residential and home care services</b></p> <p><i>This means finding new providers or partners to provide residential and home care services. Care homes could be run by the independent sector or by health services. This would save more than £1 million over the next three years.</i></p> <p>① Please note that we are also planning to run a specific consultation on changes to care homes during 2015-16.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Change the way we provide reablement services</b></p> <p><i>This means we would work more intensively for a shorter time with people to help them get going again after being in hospital, or to help them avoid going into hospital. This would save £600,000 over the next two years.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Increase the Council Tax Support scheme</b></p> <p><i>The Council Tax Support scheme was introduced following a public consultation in 2012. This change would mean that people of working age who are eligible for council tax support would receive <u>more</u> support, e.g. a single person on Job Seekers allowance of £72.40 per week living in a Band A property would have to pay 20% (£191.80) rather than the 29% (£278.10) they must pay currently. The gap between these figures would increase with any council tax rise. No other changes to the Council Tax Support scheme are proposed.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Stop local welfare provision – food banks and white goods</b></p> <p><i>We currently spend £1.3 million a year on welfare provision for people in crisis. This budget option means that the council would still fund some food parcels, but the budget allocated for this would be reduced in line with the reduced funding we will receive from government, and the level of support capped. For white goods (such as cookers) and furniture we would move to a loan scheme to help recoup funds to maintain the scheme in future years.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q1 (continued) We must balance the books. But this is difficult.**

**What do you think about the following options to help us to do this:**

Good idea      OK idea      Neither good nor bad      Not keen      Bad idea

**Remove more expensive payment options and promote Direct Debit and Debit Card payments**

*This means there would be no kiosk, PayPoint or Payzone facilities in council buildings and some other outlets for paying council tax, business rates and other bills in cash or by cheque. All bills would need to be paid by Direct Debit, online or by phone (using your Debit Card), or in cash at a post office. This would save the council about £200,000 a year in costs.*

**Change the way we provide employment, debt or housing advice and overall support for welfare benefits**

*We currently spend about £1.6 million per year and are looking at options that would reduce this by around 50% over the next 3 years. This means that the council would still fund some advice for vulnerable families, but the advice would be limited to people who are unable to help themselves – e.g. people with disabilities or mental health issues.*

**Q2 If you answered 'not keen' or 'bad idea' for any part of Question 1, please tell us how you think we could do things differently and still make the savings we need to:**

*[There will be a lot more space here in the final design of questionnaire]*

**Future plans**

Alongside developing specific budget options, we have been focusing on three bold ideas to help us think about working in new ways. We asked you about these in September 2014 and you told us that you support a continued focus on these broad areas. So we will carry on with this work, but we still need to make some big decisions about changes. This section asks you for your views on some of the longer term options for change that link to supporting these three ideas.

**Health and wellbeing: *This means supporting people to be healthy, to prosper and enjoy a great quality of life in Kirklees for longer.*** When we asked you about this in September 2014, 78% of you agreed that your council should continue to make plans to support this idea.

**Q3 It is important that we do more work to support health and wellbeing. What do you think about the following options to help us to do this:**

Good idea      OK idea      Neither good nor bad      Not keen      Bad idea

**Develop new ways of working to keep our neighbourhoods clean and safe**

*This means changing the way we use our staff in Streetscene, including community rangers, CCTV, school crossing patrols, and reducing our financial support to Police Community Support Officers. This could save £2.3 million over the next three years.*

**Look at alternative options for running our museums, art galleries and historic houses**

*This means that there will be less money available for our museums, galleries and historic houses. We currently run five museums and historic houses and one art gallery. The option is to review this, saving £531,000 over the next three years – a reduction of around 50%. Reduced budgets mean that we will be unable to run all our Kirklees museums as we do currently and we will need to look at alternatives, including a shift to a more commercial model.*

**Find alternative ways to help the arts flourish in Kirklees**

*This means that the council will stop delivering arts programmes such as the orchestral and lunchtime concerts in Huddersfield and Dewsbury town halls and no longer fund various arts organisations and community groups to deliver arts activities across Kirklees. The council will look for other ways to support these groups to develop their own arts activities and events through advice and guidance, training and networking, helping them to generate income in other ways and reducing red tape. This would save £317,000 by 2018.*

**Economic resilience: This means supporting business investment and growth in Kirklees and developing a strong local economy and infrastructure.** When we asked you about this in September 2014, 85% of you agreed that your council should continue to make plans to support this idea.

**Q4 It is important that we do more work to support economic resilience. What do you think about the following options to help us to do this:**

**Look how the council helps support a thriving local economy and how people maximise their personal incomes**

*This means having resilient businesses that create good, fulfilling, long term employment opportunities*

*This means helping people become more employable, with good career progression and skills for life, and looking at how we advise people on maximising their income*

*This means having good quality housing and neighbourhoods that support quality of life and attract people and businesses to Kirklees*

*This means people becoming more independent and having the resources to be self-sufficient, positive and supportive of each other*

*We currently spend just under £4 million on economic resilience. Developing new ways of working here would reduce what we spend by around 60% over the next three years.*

	Good idea	OK idea	Neither good nor bad	Not keen	Bad idea
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Early intervention and prevention, and supporting communities to help themselves: This means more work to help prevent problems and reduce the need for costly services later on, improving quality of life and saving money at the same time. It also includes encouraging people to do more for themselves.** When we asked you about this in September 2014, 83% of you agreed that your council should continue to make plans to support this idea.

**Q5 It is important that we do more work to support early intervention and prevention. What do you think about the following options to help us to do this:**

**Supporting children, families and adults**

*We would look at all the things we do across the whole council to support children and families and adults and think about how helping people earlier could prevent problems getting worse. We will also look at how we can get people to help themselves and communities to care more for people too.*

*We will look at smarter ways of joining up the help for people who are really struggling and where statutory services are on the point of stepping in to protect them. And we will look at how we can divert children and adults from needing care.*

*This would reduce what we spend from £22.5million to £10 million a year.*

**Helping people help themselves**

*By working smarter and getting more people to help themselves we aim to reduce the number of people who end up needing care. But because we need to reduce what we spend on the costs of care we will also need to reduce the numbers of people who get help and for some they will have reduced levels of support.*

*We would aim to save £5.6 million from the costs of care for children and £7.7 million for adults over the next three years.*

	Good idea	OK idea	Neither good nor bad	Not keen	Bad idea
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q6** If you answered 'not keen' or 'bad idea' for any part of Questions 3 to 5 or have comments about anything else in our "Budget Book", please tell us what you think we could do differently instead:

*[There will be a lot more space here in the final design of questionnaire]*

## About you

This section asks for some details about you. Please answer these questions as the information will help us to understand who has responded to the consultation and any differences in views between groups. As with all the questions, your answers are completely confidential and will not be used to identify you as an individual.

**Q7** Are you completing this questionnaire: as a Kirklees resident   
as a Kirklees Council employee   
on behalf of a local business   
on behalf of a local community group/organisation   
in another capacity

**Q8** Are you a member of our Kirklees e-panel? Yes  No  Not sure

**Q9** What is the first half of your postcode? (e.g. HD5) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q10** Are you: Female  Male

**Q11** What was your age on your last birthday? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q12** Do you consider yourself to be disabled? Yes  No

**Q13** What is your ethnic group? Asian/Asian British  White   
Black/Black British  Other ethnic group   
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups

**Q14** How would you describe your sexual orientation?

Heterosexual/straight  Gay man   
Bisexual  I am not prepared to say   
Lesbian/gay woman  None of these

**Q15** Are you:

Working (either full-time, part-time, self-employed, freelance or doing any other kind of paid work)   
Wholly retired from work   
Unemployed and available for work   
Long term sick or disabled   
Caring (unpaid) for a dependent relative   
In full-time education (at school, college or university)   
Other

**Q16** Are you the parent/guardian of at least one child (aged up to 16)? Yes  No

Please complete online at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/budget2015), or return your completed feedback form to:

FREEPOST Kirklees Council

CRAC

(no stamp needed) by **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

**Thank you very much for sharing your views**