

Draft Budget 2010/11: feedback from consultation meetings

A single meeting took place on Wednesday 13 January 2010. These notes provide a brief summary of the questions and issues raised.

Councillor Royston Smith and Councillor Liz Fairhurst attended as Authority members.

Consultation with trades unions representatives

The following representatives attended:

Dave Curry – The Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA)
Lee Joss - Networking Women in the Fire Service (NWFS)

The following representatives attended from the Hampshire Strategic Partnerships and Business interests

Alan Chatfield	Federation of Small Business (FSB) Southampton and District
Cllr Alan Glass	Fawley Parish Council
Fred Fratter	Crawley Parish Council
Cllr Dance	Sway Parish Council
Guy Smales	Hampshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Fire cover in high risk areas.

The representative from Fawley Parish Council sought reassurance that our plans to deliver efficiency savings would not lead to a reduction in our ability to respond to incidents, in particular due to increased traffic congestion on the A326. We will arrange for Steve Foye, Group Manager for the New Forest area to attend a parish council meeting to explain how we deliver services in their area.

Proposed efficiency measures

Would we maintain the recruitment freeze if we had an urgent need to increase the number of firefighters? For example if we had a major catastrophe resulting in loss of life or injuries. It was explained that we would always maintain sufficient staff numbers to cover anticipated absences and there are contingency plans to call upon neighbouring fire services in the short term but we would arrange to recruit if necessary.

Council Tax increase

A spokesperson for a parish council said his parish had given an undertaking not to increase Council Tax at all, therefore it would be disappointing if the Authority chose the 3% option.

Capital expenditure

It is a sensible policy to increase the buildings maintenance budget now to minimise major expenditure in the future.

General

Complimented on delivering a clear and simple budget proposal

Secretarial/DCS/Financial/Budget Consultation
DH/JMW/14/1/2010

Budget mtg 13 11 2010 feedback