

## **Annex 6 Budget Consultation 2021/22**

<b>Contents</b>	
<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
1 Summary and background	2
2 The consultation	2
3 Results and feedback from the consultation	3
4 Feedback from events	4

<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>Appendix Number and Title</b>	
A	Demographics

## 1 Summary and background

- 1.1 Nottingham City Council is setting next year's budget and is facing challenges shared by most councils, including the long-term impacts of reductions in Government funding and the impact of Covid-19. The budget proposals were discussed at Executive Board on Tuesday 19 January 2021 and this report details the changes to proposed savings since that report.
- 1.2 The Council has had to make cumulative budget savings of **£271.4m** between 2010/11 and 2019/20, and the Covid-19 pandemic has had and continues to have a significant financial impact on the Council. Despite this, the council has worked hard to protect frontline services that people have valued so much during the pandemic.
- 1.3 It is however clear from recent events and well publicised reports that the Councils financial position, in spite of the savings made to date, remains weak and that short term actions and an over reliance on commercialism will not be sufficient to deliver long term sustainability. The council will need to undertake further reforms in order to match its ambitions with the available resources and this will mean delivering services at lower cost in the future. This includes making further savings to help balance the budget for 2021/22 as it establishes a sustainable financial footing amid the Covid-19 crisis.
- 1.4 Proposals to balance the forthcoming budget include some service changes, as well as a workforce reduction of **262** full-time equivalent posts – **114** of which are vacancies. A **1.99%** basic council tax increase is proposed. In addition, the council will implement the Government's proposed **3%** Adult social care precept towards the rising costs of care services for elderly and vulnerable adults. There will be an impact on council employees and the scale of the financial challenge means that this year's budget proposals include a reduction in staffing across the council.
- 1.5 In line with the Council's commitment to citizen involvement, a full programme of consultation has been undertaken to support construction of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). This report details the results of that consultation and includes responses received up to and including 12 February 2021.
- 1.6 There are a number of practical difficulties to be faced when undertaking budget consultation. A unitary authority such as Nottingham City Council provides an enormous number of services and this creates a complex picture with many proposals to consult on.
- 1.7 Nottingham City Council has a long term commitment to incorporate the views of citizens into the processes of policy making and service improvement. This helps the Council to understand the issues and services that matter to local communities. Budget consultation ensures that citizens' priorities guide the Executive Board in developing the budget proposals.

## 2 The consultation

- 2.1 The Council are currently consulting on the draft budget proposals agreed at Executive Board on 19 January 2021. A consultation form is available online and a

hard copy on request to enable everyone to have their say, as of 12 February 2021 there have been **79** responses. Consultation remains open until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

- 2.2 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the usually pre budget consultation has not taken place and the manner in which we engage and consult has been adapted using online tools.
- 2.3 Face to face events have not been possible due to the Covid-19 pandemic, therefore we have had to undertake online events. Below are a list of online events undertaken in February 2021:
  - Youth Council Event – 3 February 2021
  - External citizen events –10 and 12 February 2021
  - Nottingham Partners Event – 11 February 2021
  - One Nottingham and NCVS Event – 19 February 2021
  - Staff Engagement sessions
- 2.4 Councillors and Officers have also received specific responses from the public through email and letter.
  - Proposals on John Carrol leisure centre
  - Reduction to the Playhouse and Arts
  - Sector Link Bus Service
  - Charges for Public Toilets
  - Missing Children's Team

### **3 Results and feedback from the consultation**

- 3.1 As of 12 February 2021, there had been **79** responses to the online feedback form, these responses contain comments on proposals and have been categorised into themes.
- 3.2 Consultation remains open until 28 February 2021 and the Council will be considering in full its response and any changes at the meeting of Full Council on 8 March 2021.

**Table 1** shows the feedback to date from respondents about specific proposals in the Executive Board report. Appendix A represents the demographic statistics of the data comments received to date.

<b>Table 1 : Number of mentions from proposals</b>	
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Mentions</b>
Leisure Centres	14
Community grants and support	14
Council Tax	11
Robin Hood Energy	9
General Comments on council/councillor responsibilities	8
Community Protection	7
Cultural and Arts Offer	7
Adult Social Care	6
Framework	6
Layers of management/wages review	5
Public Toilet charges	5
Children's centres	4
Close buildings/review uses/merge buildings	4
College Street	3
Fines/charges increase	3
Community Centres	3
Events	2
Employment	2
Specific Staff posts mentioned	2
Transport	2
Support Businesses	1
Under occupancy	1
Staff work less hours	1
Green initiatives	1
Parks	1
Arrow	1
Street Lights	1
Broadmarsh	1
Area committees	1

## **4 Feedback from Events**

### **4.1 Youth Cabinet: 03/02/2021 - 5:30-6:30pm**

#### **Summary:**

Councillor Sam Webster joined the youth cabinet on Microsoft teams to speak to 12 young delegates about the ongoing budget consultation. The cabinet had several questions for Councillor Webster, most notably around youth services.

#### **Main areas of feedback:**

- Youth services – can we better utilise the various voluntary organisations providing youth services with little to no funding?
- Broadmarsh – How are we going to ensure that work that is carried out is of the highest quality and not outsourced to people that don't know Nottingham?

- Finances – If 22,000 households in Nottingham receive Council tax support, who is actually paying

#### **4.2 Nottingham Partners Event: 11/02/2021 - 8:30am**

##### **Summary:**

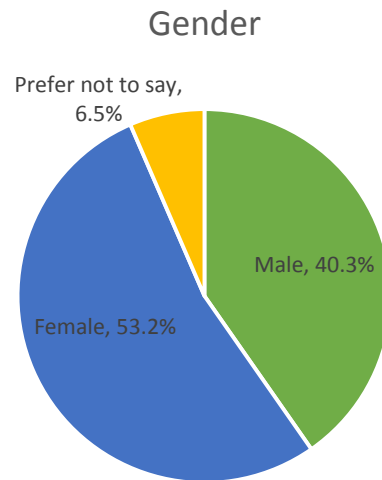
The Leader of the council David Mellen and Councillor Sam Webster joined by business in the city to discuss the budget for 2021/22.

##### **Main areas of feedback**

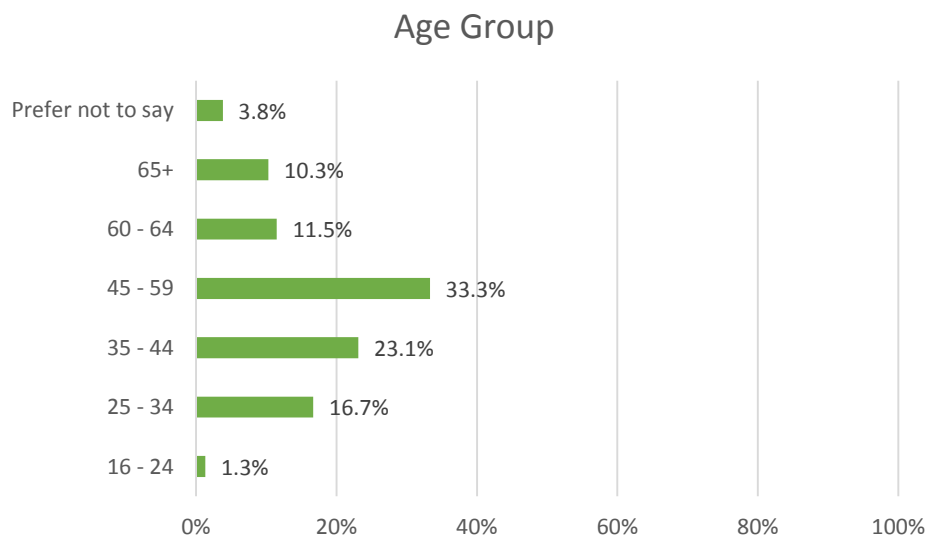
- The support in for businesses ongoing throughout the COVID Pandemic
- The Future of Broadmarsh
- How the City Council can push for funding

## Appendix A – Demographics

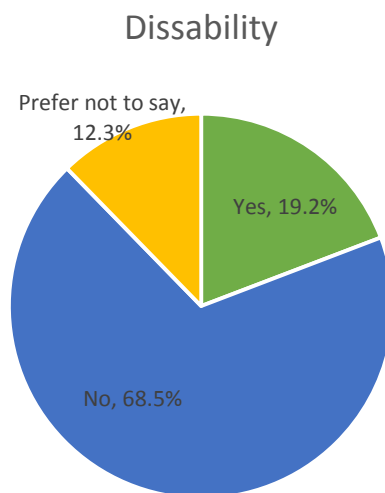
### 1. Gender



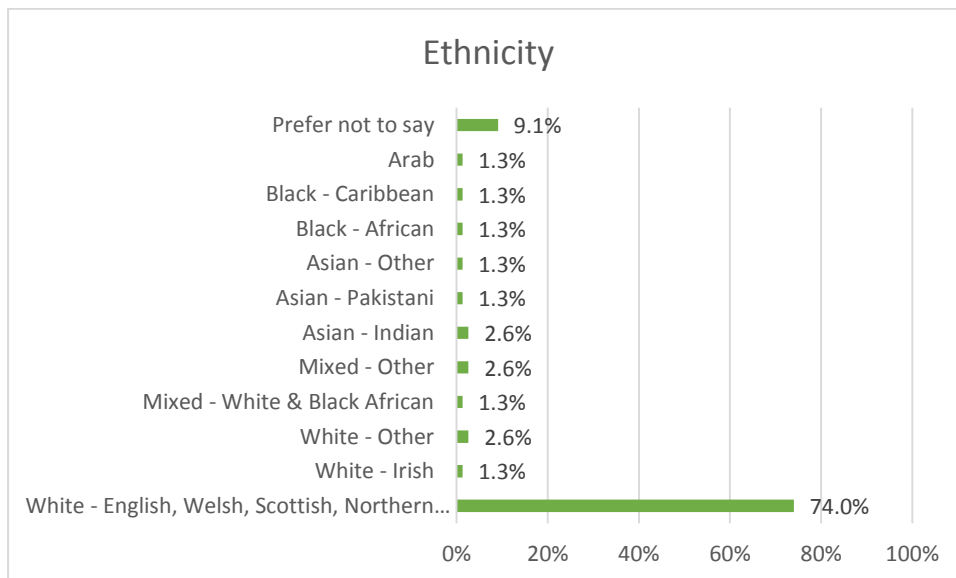
### 2. Age



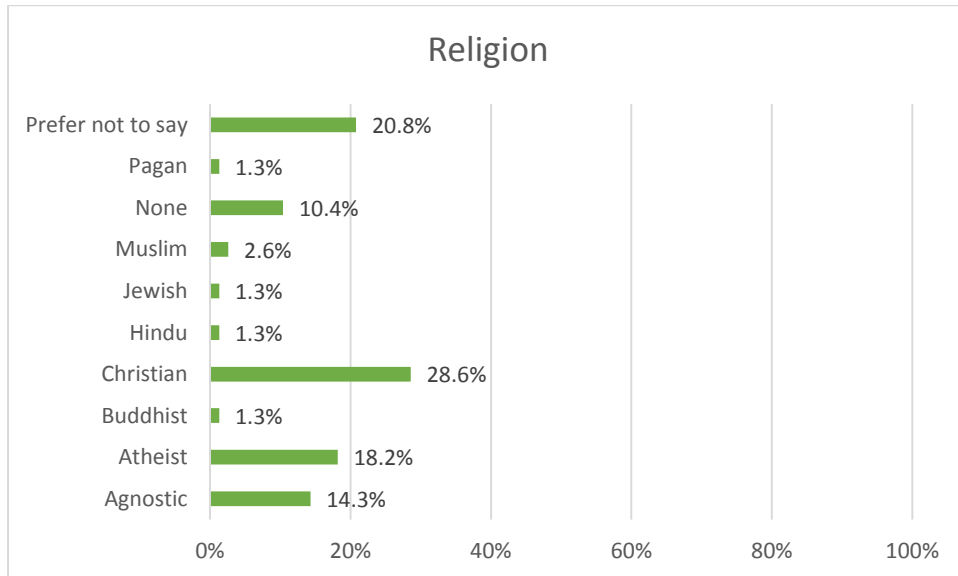
### 3. Disability



### 4. Ethnicity



## 5. Religion



## 6. Sexuality

