

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 22 February 2021
Report for: Information
Report of: The Executive Member for Finance and Governance

Report Title

Budget 2021/22 – Consultation Process and Feedback

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to set out the approach taken to the budget consultation for 2021/22 and provide a summary of the feedback received through the various methods

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Executive notes the report.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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Implications:

Relationship to Policy Framework / Corporate Priorities	This report relates to the following Corporate Priorities: Building Quality, Affordable and Social Housing, Children and Young People, Targeted Support, Health and Wellbeing, Pride in Our Area, Successful and Thriving Places, Green and Connected.
Financial	No direct implications. The budget report provides the detail of the financial implications.
Legal Implications	Any legal implications are as set out in the main body of the report.
Equality/Diversity Implications	The equality implications are as set out in the report and in the Equality Impact Assessments that have been prepared.
Sustainability Implications	No direct implications.
Carbon Reduction	Various budget proposals in the revenue and capital budgets (Annex D and A of the respective reports) support the carbon neutral action plan.
Staffing / E-Government / Asset Management Implications	No direct implications.
Risk Management Implications	No direct implications.
Public Health Implications	No direct implications.
Health and Safety Implications	No direct implications as proposals are in accordance with national guidelines.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report details the consultation process in relation to the Council's budget proposals for the 2021/22 financial year, and provides a summary of the feedback received as well as setting out the recommendations sought.
- 1.2 The process was designed to inform the public of the budget process for 2021/22. The budget formed part of a three year budget strategy for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24. Since 2010, the Council has achieved savings of £218m and the draft budget outlined how the Council is having to make up a further budget shortfall of £37m. The process was also designed to consult the public about how those savings could be achieved.
- 1.3 It was agreed that due to the Covid 19 pandemic there would be an online survey for residents, businesses and staff with a greater emphasis placed on the use of social media for the duration of the consultation.
- 1.4 The proposals which impact on the public included:

- Reviewing parking charges
- Amending parking tariffs – town centres
- Removing of discretionary criteria for grammar school pupils for Home to School Transport
- Changing the waste collection to fortnightly green collection
- Reducing and reviewing the Council’s property estate
- Reducing the provision of biodegradable food waste bags
- Reducing the opening hours for both Access Trafford and the One Trafford Contact Centre
- Reviewing grass cutting
- Piloting community groups taking responsibility for parks/football pitch maintenance, on a voluntary basis and subject to local agreement
- Amending the street cleaning service levels and using mechanical sweepers
- Dimming and trimming street lighting
- Suggestions or ideas for the Council to consider when setting its budget for next year

2. APPROACH TO PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

- 2.1. The aim of the budget consultation was to inform residents and businesses of the amount needing to be saved next year, the proposals under consideration and to gather responses from stakeholders.
- 2.2. The public consultation was an online consultation which commenced November and closed 7 December 2020.
- 2.3. Regular promotion of the budget consultation took place throughout November and early December as did updates to the staff intranet, business bulletins, stakeholder updates and through social media.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1. Key budget messages were delivered through various communications channels to promote the budget proposals and encourage participation.
- 3.2. The budget consultation was signposted from the home page of the Council’s website for the duration of the consultation. The website received a total of 4,060 page views with 1,438 of these being unique visitors to the site.
- 3.3. Three press enquiries have also been received throughout the consultation process. The response to each reiterated how people could give their feedback.

3.4. The online opportunities and methods to provide feedback were promoted as follows:

- Two press releases
- Regular Twitter and Facebook to targeted groups
- Council and public website link on home page
- Shared information with groups and organisations who communicated the message such as Friends of Parks groups
- All Councillors were made aware of the consultation activity
- The Council also promoted the consultation process through its partners
- Reminders and updates were included on the staff intranet page

4. PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

- 4.1. To gather feedback and responses an online survey was produced to help stimulate debate, and elicit views on the proposals. A total of 441 responses were received.
- 4.2. Staff were also informed of the online process and they were encouraged to give their views.

5. SCRUTINY

- 5.1. The Scrutiny process for the budget was undertaken across two different sessions on 1 and 3 December to look at the budget plans, key assumptions, risks and challenges and covered:-
- Session 1 - Review of the Place Directorate, Investment Strategy budget, impact of Covid-19 and a review of Council reserves; and
 - Session 2 – Review of the budgets for Adult Services and Children’s Social Care.
- 5.2. All sessions were attended by relevant Executive Members and senior officers to give background to the budget proposals and answer questions.
- 5.3. Scrutiny Committee comments were submitted to the Executive on 25 January 2020 in the Overview and Scrutiny Review of the Executive’s Draft Budget Proposals for 2021/22 report.
- 5.4. The Committee recognised the challenging financial position and the risks faced by the Council and a number of updates were requested from the Executive to support their work over the coming year, including:-
- An update on the in-year budget deficit and details of any contingency plans in place to address any shortfall in savings at its March 2021 meeting;

- Regular updates on the use of Budget Support Reserve at its meetings during 2021/22;
- That a review of the Budget Scrutiny process be conducted during the wider review of scrutiny for 2021/22 and the outcome outlined in the annual scrutiny report to Full Council;
- Following the service review of external placements for children and young people, the Executive report to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee of performance against targets to monitor the reduction of such placements;
- That the Executive continue to strengthen training and support services for foster carers to reduce the number of placement breakdowns in 2021/22;
- That a review into the effectiveness of surge planning for Healthy Young Minds (former CAMHS) services be conducted and reported to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee using service waiting times as measure of effectiveness;
- That Scrutiny be provided with the plans to stimulate the Trafford economy at its first meeting in 2021/22 and Scrutiny would welcome the opportunity to be involved in the planning and delivery of the Council Recovery Plan;
- That Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee receive a report on how the Voice of the Child and families' feedback is used to shape services; and
- That Scrutiny receive regular updates on performance against targets to monitor the activity of the new model for residential care.

5.5. The Executive's response to the Scrutiny Committee issues and recommendations can be found in a separate report on the Executive agenda on 25 January 2021.

6. OUTCOMES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

6.1. Introduction

6.1.1. It was planned that the consultation would stimulate conversation and interest with residents regarding areas where savings may be made and also to obtain their views across a range of matters.

6.1.2. The responses have been analysed and this report provides the feedback in an objective manner. This section summarises the key feedback from the consultation process. All comments will be taken into consideration when reviewing the proposals.

6.1.3. The details and graphical representation of the results are included as Appendix 1 of this budget outcomes report.

6.2. Parking Charges Review

6.2.1. The proposal is to amend the current car parking fees and introduce additional charges in some car parks – car parks that are currently 2 hours free/£1 all day parking and in car parks in Timperley.

6.2.2. In answer to the question ‘Do you agree with the proposal to amend the tariffs for on and off street parking’ the majority, 59%, either strongly agreed or agreed with the proposal. 29% either strongly disagreed or disagreed with the proposal, 10% neither agreed or disagreed and 2% didn’t know. Overall there were 119 comments in favour and 75 comments opposing the proposal.

6.2.3. Having reviewed the feedback from the public consultation it is recommended that the proposal to review the parking charges is are implemented without change.

6.3 Amended parking tariffs – town centres

6.3.1 The proposal is to amend the tariff to the following village car parks:

- Balmoral Road, Altrincham
- Warrener St, Sale Moor
- Hampson St, Sale Moor
- James St, Sale Moor
- Greenbank Road, Ashton on Mersey
- Newton St/Lacy St, Stretford
- Manor Avenue, Urmston
- Atkinson Road, Urmston
- Golden Hill Park, Urmston
- Flixton Road, Urmston

6.3.2 The majority of respondents were in favour of the proposal.

6.3.3 Of those who responded, 54% were in favour of the proposal with 35% who either disagreed or strongly disagreed. A total of 11% of respondents neither agreed or disagreed or didn’t know. 95 comments were received in favour of the proposal and 77 were against.

6.3.3 Having reviewed the feedback from the public consultation it is recommended that the proposal is implemented without change.

6.4 Home to School Transport – removal of discretionary criteria for grammar school pupils

- 6.4.1. The proposal is to remove travel assistance to pupils who attend a grammar school.
- 6.4.2 Overall people were in favour of this proposal with 69% in favour and 20% opposed. 11% of respondents neither agreed or disagreed or didn't know. Overall 158 comments were received in support of the proposal and 46 comments against.
- 6.4.3 The feedback from the public consultation has been reviewed and although it is recommended that the proposal to remove the discretionary criteria for grammar school pupils is implemented without change, feedback from a more specific consultation needs to be taken into consideration.

6.5 Waste collection – change to fortnightly green collection

- 6.5.2 The proposal is to change the frequency of collections from weekly to fortnightly. Green bins and food waste caddies would be presented for collection on the same day as the grey refuse bin.
- 6.5.3 There was a majority in agreement with this proposal. Overall 57% of respondents were in favour while 32% disagreed. 11% neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposal or didn't know. There were 125 comments received in favour of the proposal and 77 against.
- 6.5.4 At this stage it is not proposed to continue with the saving due to the impact this could have on the overall waste levy.

6.6 Reduce and review the Council's property estate

- 6.6.1 The proposal is to explore options around improving the efficiency of the operational estate. This in turn would save money or produce a financial return, and contribute to clean air agenda and modern ways of working.
- 6.6.2 The majority of the responses were in favour of the proposal with 71% agreeing or strongly agreeing to the proposal. There were 8% who disagreed or strongly disagreed and 21% who neither agreed or disagreed or didn't know.
- 6.6.3 There were over 400 comments to this question and a real mixed response with some respondents agreeing that this should be treated as business as usual, a recognition that working from home impacts on the space required whereas others have stated there wasn't enough information to make an informed decision.
- 6.6.4 Having reviewed the feedback it is recommended that the estate is reviewed appropriately.

6.7 Reduce the provision of biodegradable food waste bags

- 6.7.1 The proposal is to cease providing an unlimited supply of the compostable food bags for food waste recycling.
- 6.7.2 54% of respondents were in favour of the proposal, 36% against, and 10% neither agreed or disagreed or didn't know. There were 129 comments in favour and 93 comments against the proposal.
- 6.6.1 At this stage it is not proposed to continue with the saving due to the impact this could have on the overall waste levy.

6.7 Reducing the opening hours for both Access Trafford and the One Trafford Contact Centre

- 6.7.3 The proposal is reduce the opening hours for both Access Trafford and the One Trafford Contact Centre by one hour per day Monday to Friday.
- 6.7.4 72% of respondents were in favour of the proposal, 7% strongly disagreed or disagreed and 21% neither agreed or disagreed or didn't know. 145 comments were received in favour and 18 against.
- 6.7.5 Given the majority of respondents are in favour it is recommended that we proceed to reduce the opening hours by one hour each day Monday to Friday.

6.8 Grass cutting review

- 6.7.6 The proposal is to move to a fixed grass cutting schedule leaving grass to grow longer between cuts abut benefitting bio-diversity in reducing carbon omissions.
- 6.7.7 64% were in favour, 22% against, 14% who didn't know, or neither agreed or disagreed. 150 comments were received in favour of the proposal and 48 against.
- 6.7.8 Additional questions were asked on planting wild flowers in parks and open spaces and converting open areas in parks to wildlife habitats. Both of these were responded to favourably by respondents with 79% and 65% respectively agreeing. For the wild flowers proposal 10% disagreed and 11% neither agreed, disagreed or didn't now. For converting open spaces to wildlife habitats 17.5% disagreed, 17.5% neither agreed or disagreed or were not sure.
- 6.7.9 Therefore, having reviewed the feedback the recommendation is to proceed with this proposal in its entirety.

6.9 Pilot community groups taking responsibility for parks/football pitch maintenance, on a voluntary basis and subject to local agreement

6.9.1 There are two parts to this proposal – to transfer the responsibility of management and maintenance of parks to friend groups with their agreement and to transfer responsibility of management and maintenance of the football pitches to football teams with their agreement.

6.9.2 For the management and maintenance of parks, 43% are in favour, 34% against, and 23% neither agreed nor disagreed or don't know. There were 64 comments in favour and 67 against. It is recommended that this proposal requires further review / consultation with Friends Groups.

6.9.3 For the management and maintenance of football pitches, 48% of respondents were in favour, 27% against, and 25% neither agreed or disagreed or didn't know. There were 62 comments in favour and 41 against. Given the responses and the fact a further review is required it is not proposed to implement these proposals at this stage.

6.10 Street Cleaning amended service levels and use of mechanical sweepers

6.10.1 There are two parts to this proposal – to reduce the dedicated resource in town centre areas and reduce the amount of road sweepers in hard to reach areas.

6.10.2 For the reduction in dedicated resource in town centres 23% were in favour, 56% disagreed, 21% neither agreed or disagreed or didn't know. There were 28 comments in favour and 125 comments against the proposal.

6.10.3 For the reduction in the road sweepers in hard to reach areas 31% were in favour of the proposal, 47% against, and 22% didn't know. There were 34 comments in favour, 88 against.

6.10.4 Given the responses it is not proposed to implement these proposals.

6.11 Street lighting – dimming and trimming

6.11.1 The proposal is to reduce the lighting levels in low risk areas to save energy and reduce the carbon footprint and to switch lighting on and off later in the evening and early in the morning to save money.

6.11.2 In reducing the lighting levels in low risk areas, 63% were in favour, 26% against, and 11% neither agreed or disagreed or didn't know. There were 128 comments in favour, 61 against.

6.11.3 In switching lighting on and off, 64% were in favour, 24% against and 12% neither agreed or disagreed or didn't know. There were 106 comments in favour and 43 against.

6.11.4 Having reviewed the feedback, overall the recommendation is to proceed with these proposals to reduce the lighting levels in low risk areas and switch on and off the lights later in the evening and early in the morning.

6.12 Other suggestions and comments

6.12.1 There were 289 comments in addition to those in the categories above.

6.12.2 Just under 10% of the comments related to One Trafford Partnership and a further 10% related to parking topics.

6.12.3 The remainder of the comments were varied and mixed and included efficiencies around council buildings and estate, investment approach, staff salaries and management efficiencies, removal of statutory services and providing more responsibility to localities / communities with a budget.

6.12.4 Any specific requests / suggestions have been shared with the relevant council team.

7. THE PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

7.1. The Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities to have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty in making any decision. The public sector equality duty requires public authorities to consider the needs of people who are disadvantaged or suffer inequality when making decisions regarding its service provision and policies.

7.2. People who have certain protected characteristics are protected under the Equality Act 2010. The nine protected characteristics are: disability, race, age, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity marriage and civil partnership.

7.3. The legislation requires that, when carrying out its functions, a public authority must have due regard to:

- The elimination of unlawful discrimination;
- The advancement of equality of opportunity between people who have protected characteristics and those that do not; and
- The fostering or encouragement of good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

7.4. Where appropriate, EIAs have been completed in respect of the proposals contained in this report and those EIAs were available to officers evaluating the consultation responses. Any potential impacts have been identified through the EIA and consultation process. Where any potential impact has been identified consideration has been given to whether measures can be taken to mitigate against such impacts. Mitigation measures are set out within the body of the relevant EIA or are reflected, where appropriate, in modifications to the proposals.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1. In considering the overall budget report and deciding whether to propose the recommendations contained in that report to Council the Executive will be required to have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty. In order to satisfy this duty the Executive must consider whether the proposals are likely to discriminate against or disadvantage persons who have protected characteristics as set out above; whether there are mitigation measures which would offset any such impacts which are identified; or whether countervailing factors, namely the significant budgetary pressures facing the Council and the need to make improvements and efficiencies to the services concerned are considered to provide justification for the measures proposed.
- 8.2. Where appropriate and necessary Equality Impact Assessments of the proposals contained in the report have been carried out and these will be made available to members to assist them in the evaluation of the proposals in the context of the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- 8.3. A review of the consultation process will be undertaken in order to improve any future consultation exercises.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Executive notes the report.

Finance Officer Clearance GB.....

Legal Officer Clearance DS.....



CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE: Sara Saleh

To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.

Appendix 1 Public Consultation Report Summary

1.1 Overall figures

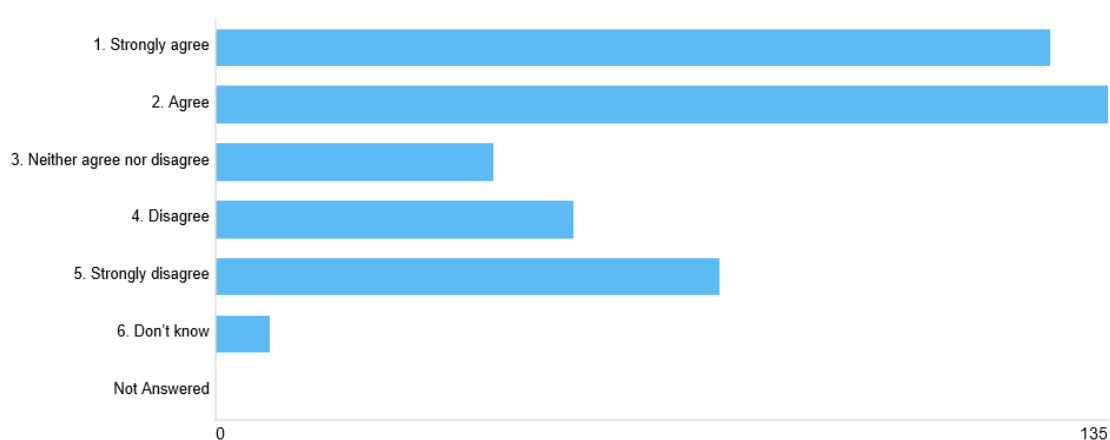
There were 441 people who completed the online survey.

1.2 Analysis

The quantitative feedback from each proposal is below;

1.2.1 Parking charges review

Do you agree with the proposal to amend the tariffs for on and off street parking?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	126	28.57%
2. Agree	135	30.61%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	42	9.52%
4. Disagree	54	12.24%
5. Strongly disagree	76	17.23%
6. Don't know	8	1.81%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

Pricing sounds reasonable especially compared to commercial car parks and may encourage more eco-friendly modes of transport.

We shouldn't be subsidising people to leave their cars on public land. They need to pay the true cost of the space they use, pollution they cause and the cost of wear and tear on the roads. We should instead be encouraging people to access our town centres via walking, cycling and public transport

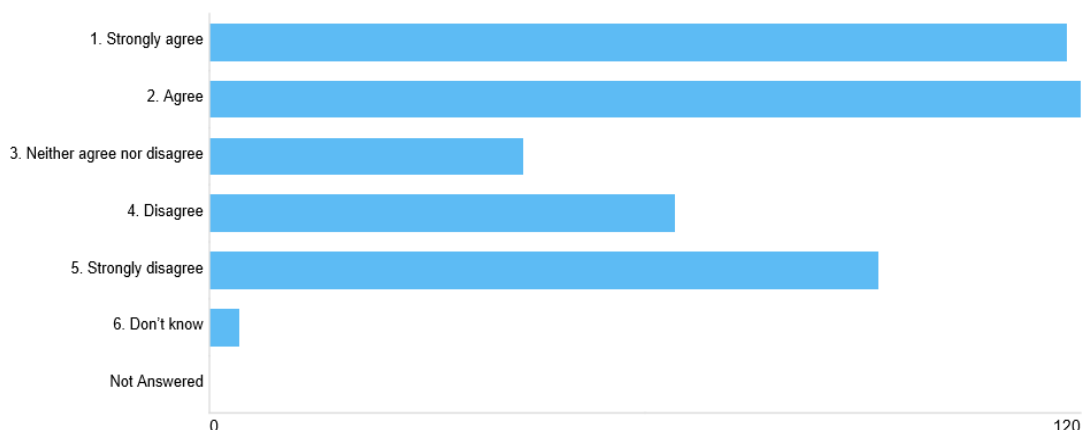
Against:

We should provide free car parking to encourage people to visit our high streets. Increasing parking charges will stop people from coming back to our town centre and will further damage our local economy. We need to support our local businesses.

I live in Timperley and regularly use the free car park to access local shops, including the independent businesses. If I am charged to park in Timperley, I will instead drive to Tesco in Baguley where I can get everything I would purchase in Timperley under one roof for free parking. I understand the need to raise revenue, but this will drive local people away from using the village to shop, and Timperley businesses may not survive.

1.2.2. Amended parking tariffs – town centres

a. Do you agree with the proposal to amend the tariffs for village car parks?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	118	26.76%
2. Agree	120	27.21%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	43	9.75%
4. Disagree	64	14.51%
5. Strongly disagree	92	20.86%
6. Don't know	4	0.91%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

This is only a small increase so it should not cause a lot of friction with the general public

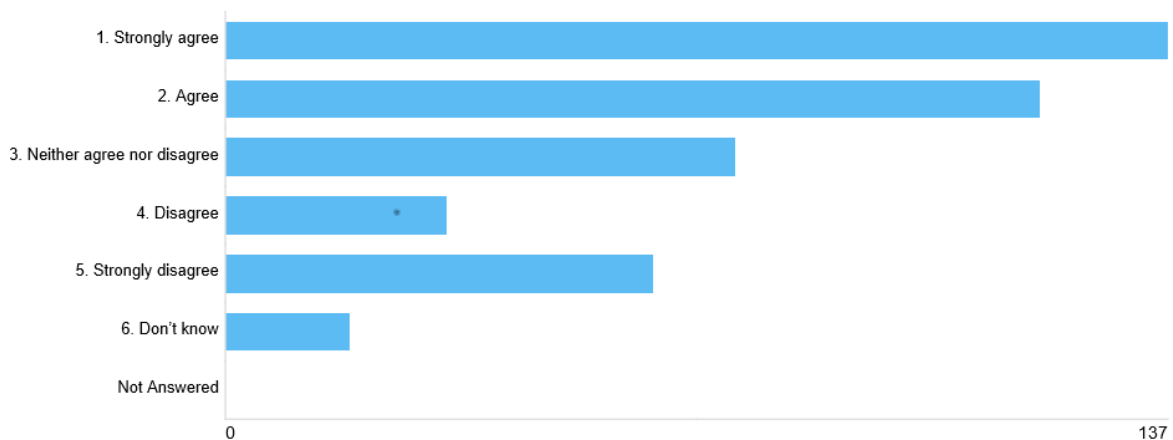
Even after the changes, charges are substantially cheaper than privately held car parks elsewhere

Against:

Can anyone explain why you would want to increase charges? Is this just a money making scheme or is there not enough spaces available? This is just exploiting the motorist

Parking charges discourage people from visiting an area. We should be encouraging growth post covid and not further limit.

b. Do you agree with the proposal to extend charges to Thorley Lane car park?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	137	31.07%
2. Agree	118	26.76%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	74	16.78%
4. Disagree	32	7.26%
5. Strongly disagree	62	14.06%
6. Don't know	18	4.08%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

Seems reasonable to be in line with the rest of the borough

It makes sense to pull it all in line. Makes it much more logical and straight forward for the public if the charges are the same across the board.

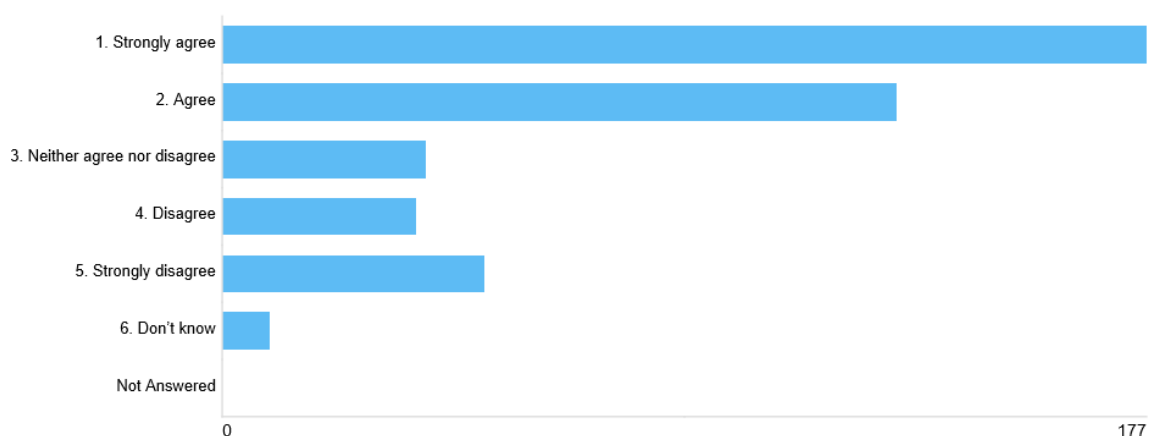
Against:

There needs to be an element of free parking. For people to pop to the shops. Otherwise the car park will be empty and the surrounding streets will be full

This will destroy the village. I for one would not go into the village local shops if I have to pay for the privilege

1.2.3 Home to School Transport – removal of discretionary criteria for grammar school pupils.

Do you agree with proposal to remove the offer from pupils who travel further to attend a grammar school?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	177	40.14%
2. Agree	129	29.25%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	39	8.84%
4. Disagree	37	8.39%
5. Strongly disagree	50	11.34%
6. Don't know	9	2.04%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

People who choose to send their children to a grammar schools should expect to pay for it.

Absolutely this should be the policy, seems odd to me this hasn't always been the case. Scrap this payment straight away!!

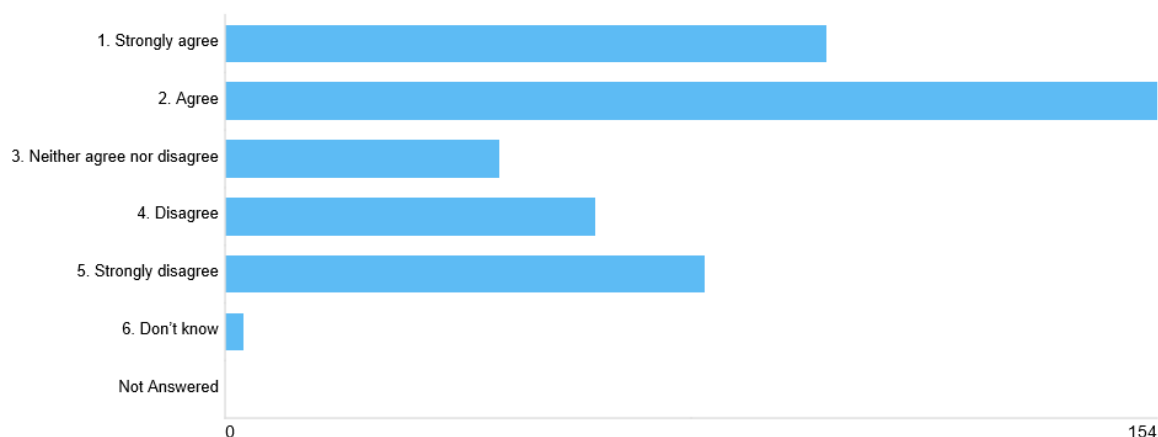
Against:

Charge people from outside Trafford, penalise a girl from old Trafford who wants to go Altrincham grammar, that's not levelling up plus all the Catholic grammars are in the south of the borough this disadvantages the poorest families, on average are in north Trafford.

This may mean some children are prevented from attending. It doesn't matter if you're a low or high income family. Children have very limited options for travel. This should not happen.

1.2.4 Waste collection – change to fortnightly green collection

What do you think about the proposals?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	99	22.45%
2. Agree	154	34.92%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	45	10.20%
4. Disagree	61	13.83%
5. Strongly disagree	79	17.91%
6. Don't know	3	0.68%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

A small sacrifice to make to save money

Fortnightly is enough. If you're creating more waste you should make a tip run at your own expense.

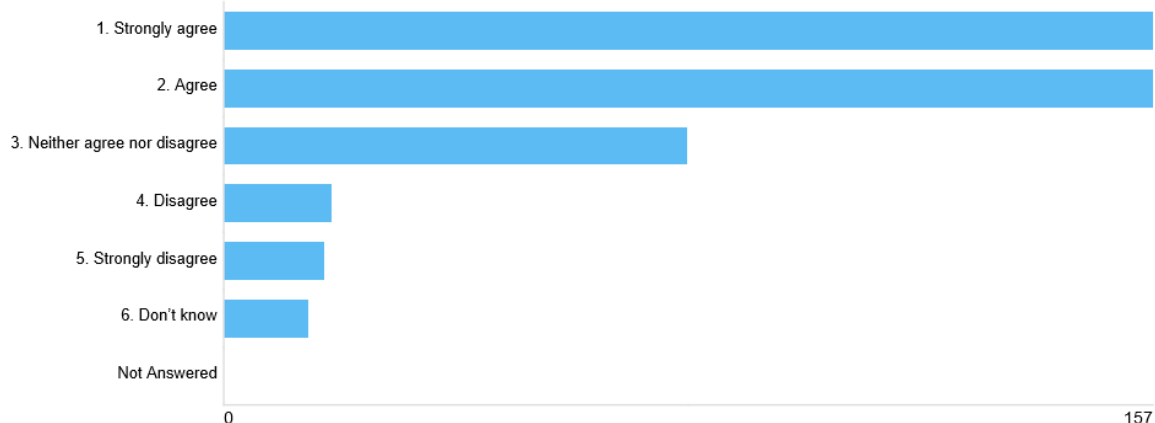
Against:

I think it is unhealthy to have food waste hanging around for 2 weeks particularly in the summer

Please don't do this. One missed collection would become disastrous in a way it isn't now and I suspect that you still don't have the means to ensure that service levels are maintained as last I heard you were still stuck with an entirely unenforceable agreement with the service providers anyway so if they started to skimp further on provision we'd have real issues. With restrictions already imposed on number of trips for accessing the tip, problems with queuing (causing air pollution), and stinking rubbish, flies, vermin and fly tipping being a problem over summer for 2020, lockdown demonstrated that restricting this service caused significant problems for Trafford residents - and that was when we had time to actually spend on doing extra gardening to compensate, or to go to the tip; and had no match day/event traffic to contend with to do so. Might be better to make this a seasonal change - we could manage with collections every 3-4 weeks from November to February if we could maintain weekly collections over summer.

1.2.5 Reduce and review the Council's property estate

What do you think about the Council reviewing its property list and managing them differently to save money or produce a financial return, and contribute to clean air agenda and modern ways of working?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	157	35.60%
2. Agree	157	35.60%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	78	17.69%
4. Disagree	18	4.08%
5. Strongly disagree	17	3.85%
6. Don't know	14	3.17%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

With most people working from home now, I feel that that flexibility to do this after the pandemic has finished should be considered therefore you could sell off some of the assets and save money on heating/lighting in buildings in use due to reduced amount of staff.

If you can't use the buildings then either sell them or let them whichever will generate the most revenue

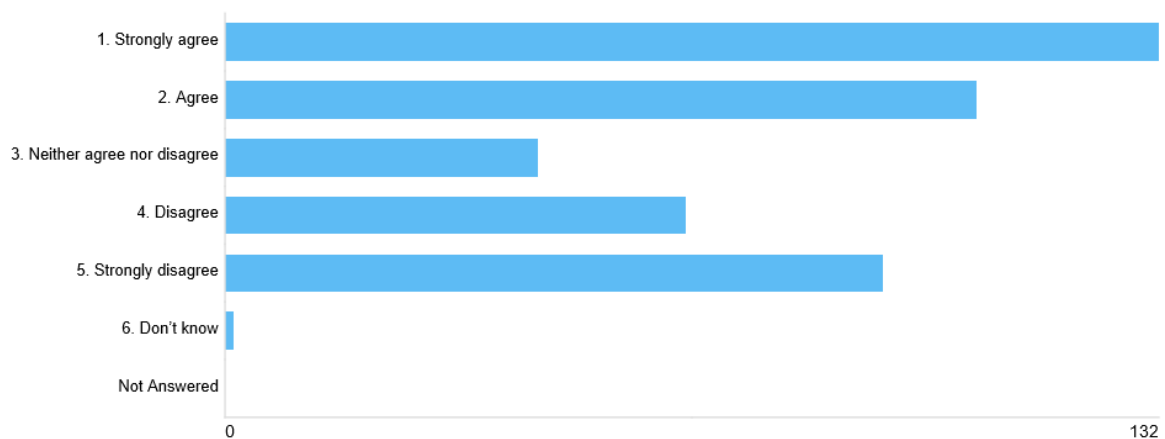
Against:

You are considering a Flixton House as one such property. Community won't be able to afford upkeep. Building will fall apart like the cinema on Chester Road. Lazy and long winded way of disposing of listed buildings and responsibility. End of characters of local areas and local amenities

Perhaps they could review the property that they have recently purchased since taking charge. If this proposal includes Flixton House to be sold off I think you may have a fight on your hands. Not a vote winner for me or many in the area from what I have already heard

1.2.6 Reduce the provision of biodegradable food waste bags

What do you think about the Council introducing a reduced supply of food waste bags?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	132	29.93%
2. Agree	106	24.04%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	44	9.98%
4. Disagree	65	14.74%
5. Strongly disagree	93	21.09%
6. Don't know	1	0.23%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

People should buy their own its ridiculous these are provide free

I really don't mind buying my own! They're not expensive

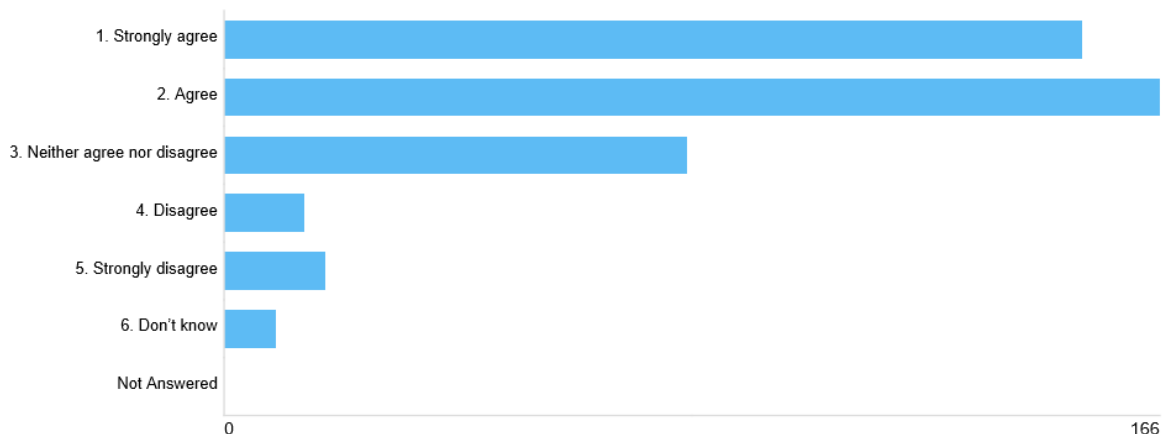
Against:

You want us to recycle food and won't give us enough bags I won't recycle it then

This will discourage composting and increase public health hazard.

1.2.7 Reducing the opening hours for both Access Trafford and the One Trafford Contact Centre

Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the Access Trafford and One Trafford Contact Centre opening hours from 8.30am-5.30pm to 9am-5pm Monday to Friday?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	152	34.47%
2. Agree	166	37.64%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	82	18.59%
4. Disagree	14	3.17%
5. Strongly disagree	18	4.08%
6. Don't know	9	2.04%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

If research has already shown call/support demand to be lower, then this seems very sensible

This will encourage more online usage but still enable folk to phone during the day

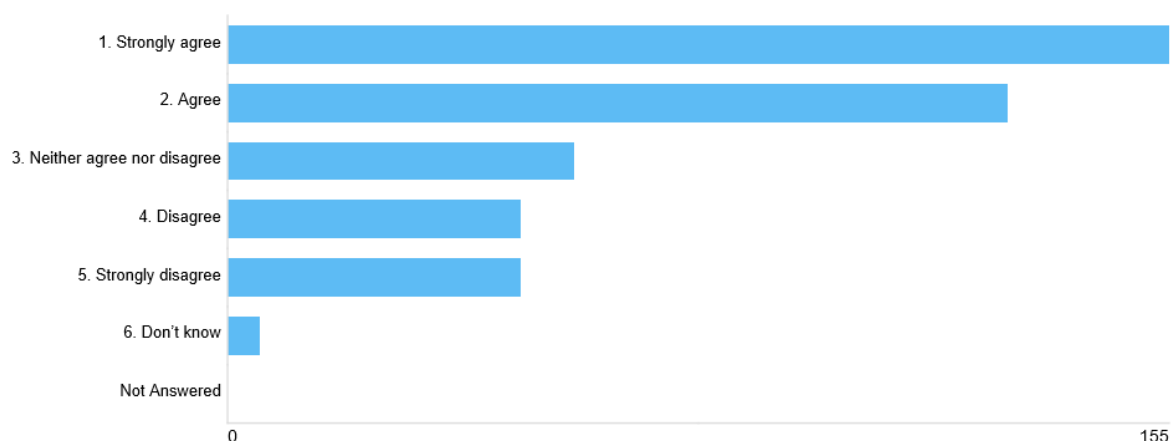
Against:

What about people who work and cannot ring 9-5

I think a reduction in access is a step backwards

1.2.8 Grass cutting review

- a. What do you think about the proposals for the Council to allow highway grass verges to grow longer between cuts to benefit bio-diversity?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	155	35.15%
2. Agree	128	29.02%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	57	12.93%
4. Disagree	48	10.88%
5. Strongly disagree	48	10.88%
6. Don't know	5	1.13%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

Highway grass is not really used for leisure so I see no issue with letting it grow longer between cuts.

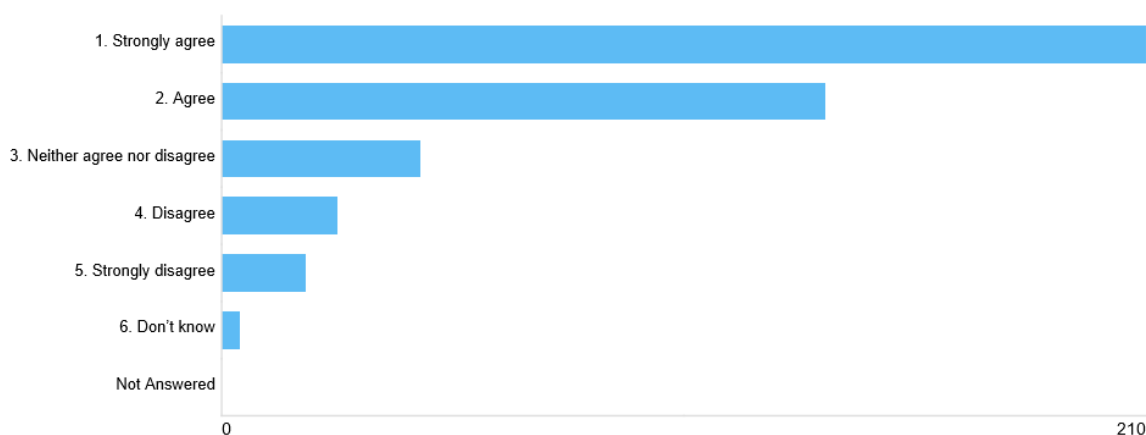
I love the wildflower planting - I would like to see this more - grass verges are so unsightly!

Against:

Will make borough look untidy and unkempt may stop companies investing in Trafford

Long grass hides lots of waste encouraging unwanted wildlife (rats, foxes, mosquitoes and other horrible insects)

- b. What do you think about the proposals for the Council to plant more wildflower in parks and open spaces currently managed with frequent grass cutting?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	210	47.62%
2. Agree	137	31.07%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	45	10.20%
4. Disagree	26	5.90%
5. Strongly disagree	19	4.31%
6. Don't know	4	0.91%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

Wildflowers are very beneficial for many species. I definitely think this would be great in grass verges.

They will reseed themselves and benefit the ecology of the area - absolutely necessary especially at the borders of large playing fields and open spaces near play areas to add visual interest.

Wildflower planting/conservation where wildflower areas already exist is a fantastic initiative. It should however be done in consultation with local wildlife experts/groups such as the wildlife Trust, to ensure that you do more good than harm (e.g. by not planting competing species in sensitive areas)

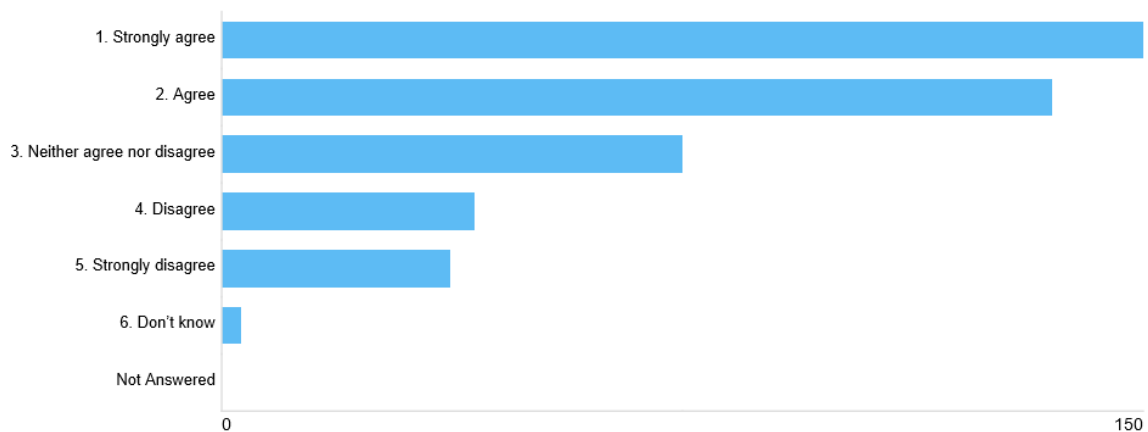
Against:

No I would much rather the grass was cut regularly.

Cannot control the grass growth how can the wild flower growth be controlled.

These never work or for 1 year only cost more in long run to maintain areas become scruffy and full of litter as is the case at the moment.

- c. What do you think about the proposals for the Council to convert areas of open space in parks and open spaces currently managed with frequent grass cutting to wildlife habitats in order to increase biodiversity?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	150	34.01%
2. Agree	135	30.61%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	75	17.01%
4. Disagree	41	9.30%
5. Strongly disagree	37	8.39%
6. Don't know	3	0.68%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

Wildlife habitats are disappearing in the countryside so more birds and foxes are moving into urban areas. This would help save them and bring something new to the parks. It would also educate people in biodiversity.

This will be a positive addition to trafford.

I think it's a great idea. Good for the environment and the bees and other wildlife.

Against:

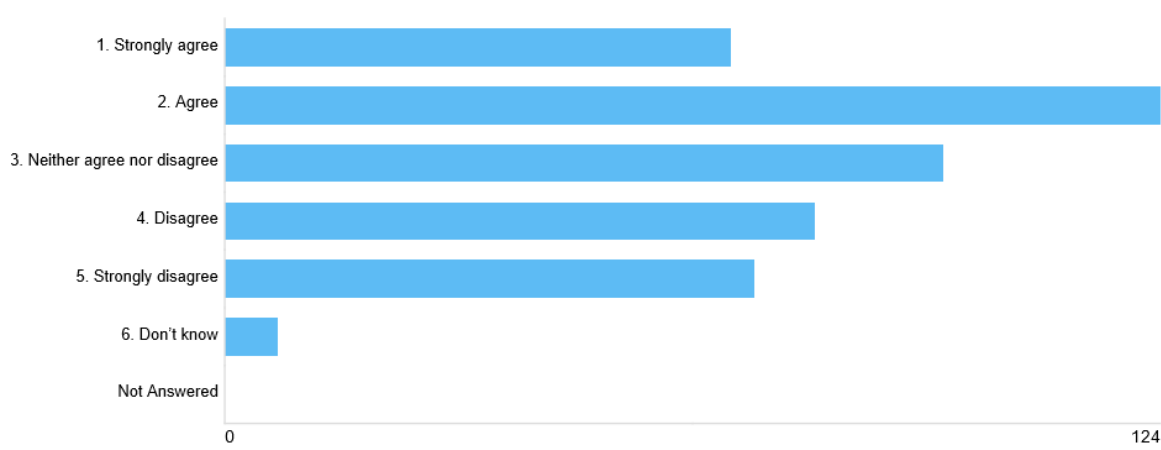
Open spaces are needed more than ever - Corona has shown that - this would be a bad choice

The parks are for the children to play. The grass needs to be cut and maintained.

I use these spaces with my young child, as do many families in Trafford and I am concerned that this will reduce access.

1.2.9 Pilot community groups taking responsibility for parks/football pitch maintenance, on a voluntary basis and subject to local agreement

a. What do you think about the proposals for the Council to transfer responsibility for management and maintenance of parks to Friends Groups, with their agreement?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	67	15.19%
2. Agree	124	28.12%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	95	21.54%
4. Disagree	78	17.69%
5. Strongly disagree	70	15.87%
6. Don't know	7	1.59%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

Promotes community cohesion and responsibility.

Agree in principle. Our local park is one of the ones awarded a green flag and is managed by a friends group. They are a great asset to the local community.

I know they'll be people happy to do it and it can be a great day out/experience for families, older people, etc.

As long as the groups agree.

As long as the equipment to maintain the area is available.

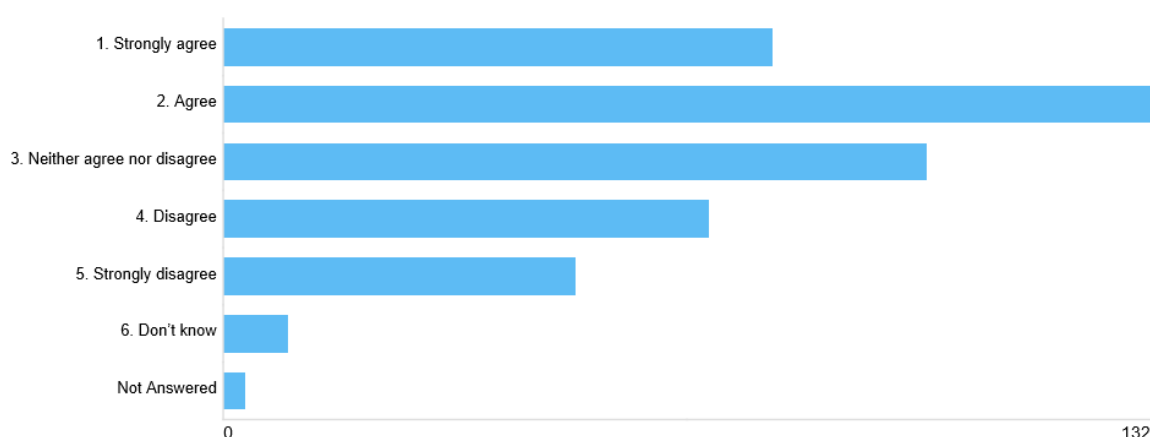
Against:

Absolutely totally disagree, the maintenance of parks is a specialist job with current staff holding RSA and horticultural qualifications if Trafford are to continue to have green spaces that they want to be proud of then they need to continue using the experts in the field to maintain the areas.

The council need to maintain overall responsibility because there needs to be accountability for when time goes on and things don't work out as expected.

I feel this should be a council responsibility to ensure health and safety and standards remain high.

- b. What do you think about the proposals for the Council to transfer responsibility for management and maintenance of football pitches to football teams, with their agreement?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	78	17.69%
2. Agree	132	29.93%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	100	22.68%
4. Disagree	69	15.65%
5. Strongly disagree	50	11.34%
6. Don't know	9	2.04%
Not Answered	3	0.68%

Comments:

For:

That way the clubs can always ensure that the grounds are playable.

As long as the council help set it up and provide advice and help with initial setup costs.

I think it would very empowering for local teams to take ownership of the pitches they use and would be very welcome.

Against:

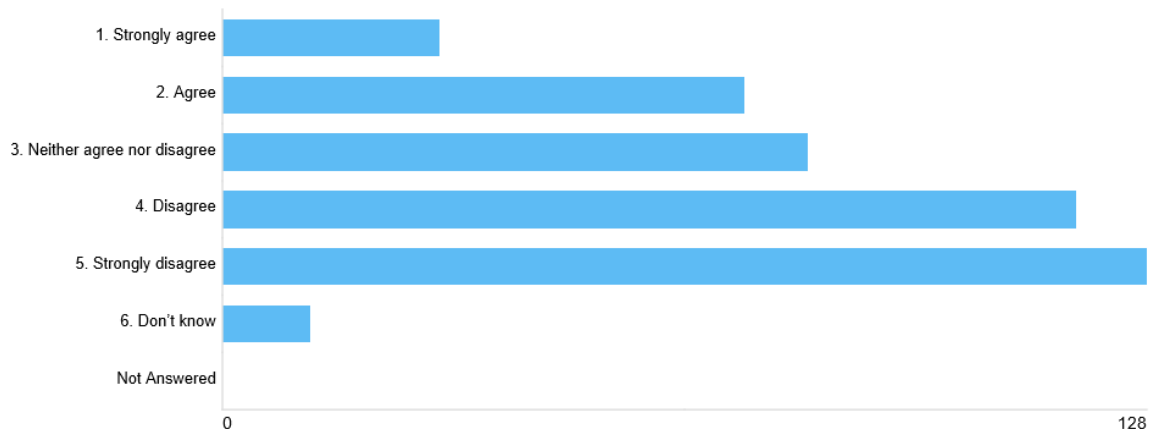
This will affect grass roots sport and we need the reliability of the council maintaining the pitches.

It is the council responsibility. It could result in higher costs to the teams and their members.

This then becomes a space that is exclusionary, with teams taking ownership rather than the community and council. This will isolate and exclude those not part of these teams.

1.2.10 Street Cleaning amended service levels and use of mechanical sweepers

- a. What do you think about the proposals for the Council to reduce the dedicated resource in town centre areas?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	30	6.80%
2. Agree	72	16.33%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	81	18.37%
4. Disagree	118	26.76%
5. Strongly disagree	128	29.02%
6. Don't know	12	2.72%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

As long as the targeting is swift, accurate and responsive.

Answer caveated - yes on the basis more bins and recycling stations are available in public spaces.

The areas which have the highest reported litter should have extra resources such as more manual litter picking to subsidy reduction in street sweepers

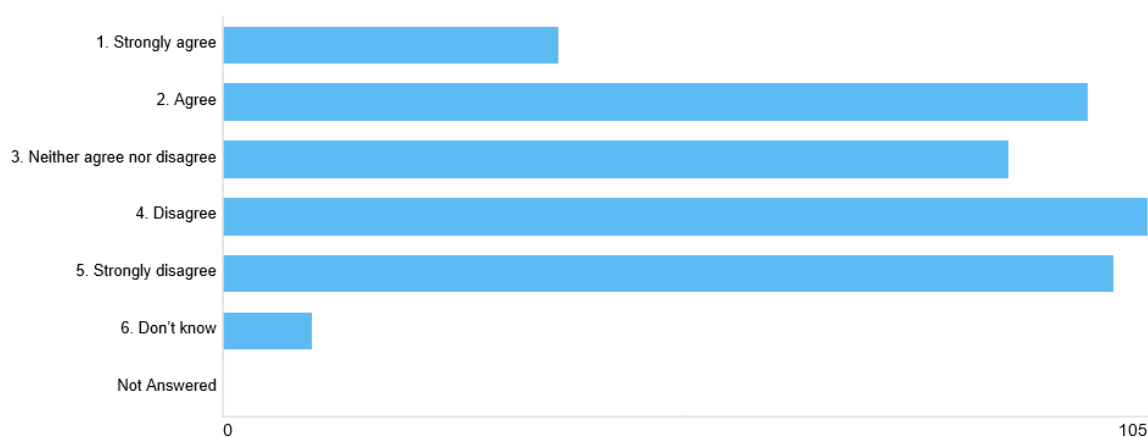
Against:

This could encourage pest issues, and cause people to care less about their community spaces.

If you do not maintain and keep clean streets in town centres, there will be no desire from residents to keep it clean. Set the expectation that the streets should be clean.

No as they town centres are already bad with litter this will make it worse

b. What do you think about the proposals for the Council to reduce the amount of road sweepers in hard to reach areas?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	38	8.62%
2. Agree	98	22.22%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	89	20.18%
4. Disagree	105	23.81%
5. Strongly disagree	101	22.90%
6. Don't know	10	2.27%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

Prudent if current practice not effective.

Focus should be on preventing flooding and on the most challenging trouble hotspots.

Sensible suggestion.

Against:

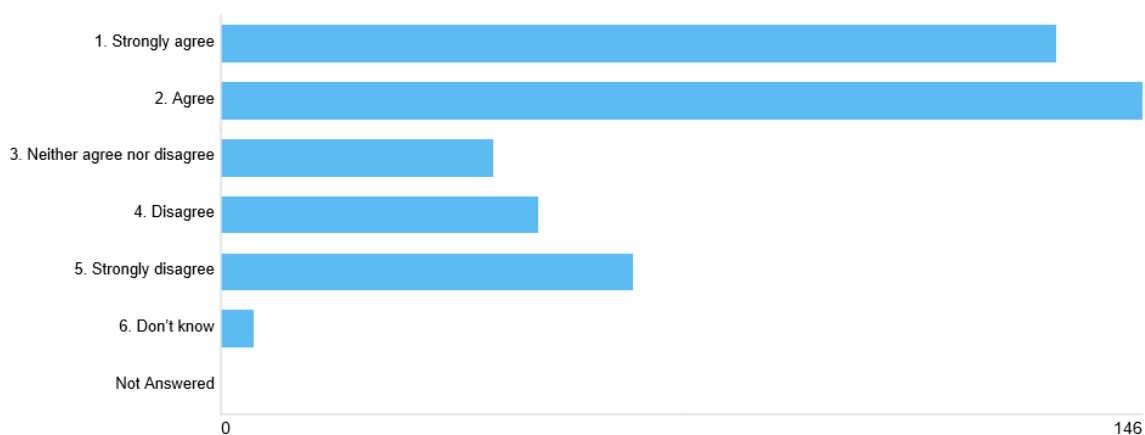
I strongly disagree with this the current road sweeping team do a fantastic job and this is down to the staff and their respect for the area in which they work.

Dirty streets simply attract more litter as people see it as a dumping ground. This will cost more money in the long run.

We need more, not less!! Again, it couldn't realistically be replaced by anything else like a community run service. This is something we really need the council for.

1.2.11 Street lighting – dimming and trimming

- a. What do you think about the proposals for the Council to reduce lighting levels in low risk areas to save energy and reduce the carbon footprint?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	132	29.93%
2. Agree	146	33.11%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	43	9.75%
4. Disagree	50	11.34%
5. Strongly disagree	65	14.74%
6. Don't know	5	1.13%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Comments:

For:

This should definitely be looked at as a way of making savings.

I strongly support saving energy and reducing the carbon footprint. This is a win-win.

This sounds like an efficient and practical energy saving idea. The ability to have extra lighting in hot spots negates any risk.

As long as it doesn't lead to a rise in crime then sounds good.

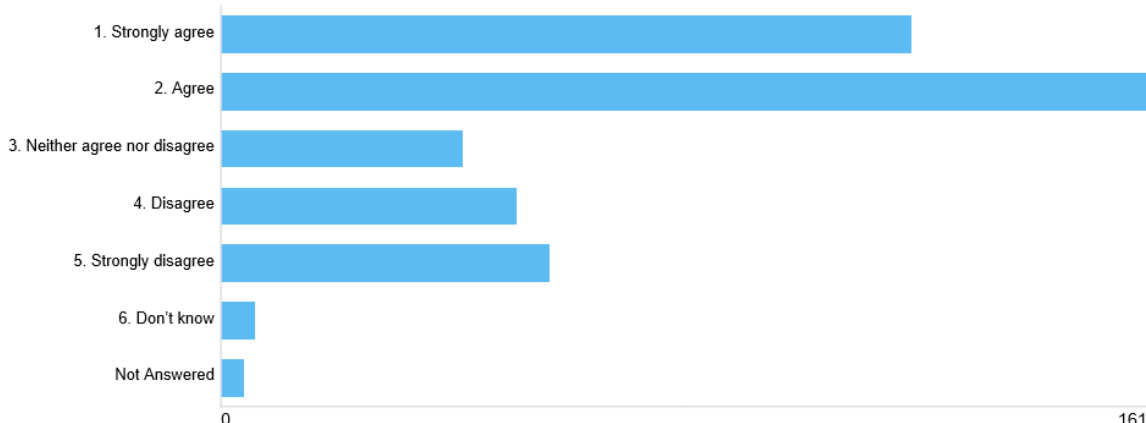
Against:

Not comfortable with 20% reduction in one year, I'd prefer 10% reduction first as a trial and then if successful a further 10% the year after.

Risk to health and safety, encourage anti-social behaviour and increase in crime.

Would increase crime and increase anxiety of residents. Would only be reviewed after people have been impacted.

b. What do you think about the proposals for the Council to switch lighting on and off gradually later in the evening and earlier in the morning to save money?



Option	Total	Percent
1. Strongly agree	120	27.21%
2. Agree	161	36.51%
3. Neither agree nor disagree	42	9.52%
4. Disagree	51	11.56%
5. Strongly disagree	57	12.93%
6. Don't know	6	1.36%
Not Answered	4	0.91%

Comments:

For:

Dimming in line with daylight seems to make sense.

I take it this is to move the time in sync with sunrise and sunset, this is a good thing as long as there is a way of the lights turning on if there is a storm or something and it is especially dark earlier.

Unnecessary use of lighting should be minimised where possible.

Against:

Street lighting is vital to keep people safe, especially children and the elderly. Also for preventing crime and to encourage people to walk instead of using a car or taxi.

Turning them on later in the winter evenings when it is dark I think puts people at an increased risk. There is more people about at those times. I would prefer them dimmer when less people need them.

This will cause more accidents.

1.2.12: Do you have any other suggestions or ideas for the Council to consider when setting its budget for next year?

There were 328 responses to this part of the question and the ideas have been shared with each of the relevant services.