

Open comments – illustrative examples by theme (Phase 2)

- This appendix is an extract of some of the open comments received during Phase 2, themed according to the specific options and ideas for 2015-16 (Q2) or future plans (Q6) they refer to.
- People were asked:



Specific options and ideas for 2015-16

- **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.*

Future plans

- **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.*
- For each of the budget options, ideas and future plans that the questionnaire asked people about, we have extracted a selection of comments to help provide more information on people's views. These comments are intended to provide some context to people's opinions, explain more about why people feel the way they do and indicate the strength of feeling.
- Although people were only specifically asked to comment further on the things they were 'not keen' on or felt were a 'bad idea', a variety of open comments were made and many of the comments covered more than one issue. Both positive example comments (i.e. those broadly in favour of the idea) and negative example comments (i.e. those broadly against the idea) have been included here to help illustrate different viewpoints. However, it should be noted that in many cases people's views are not necessarily clear-cut.
- The % of people who responded positively (i.e. total 'good idea and 'OK idea') and negatively (i.e. total 'not keen' and bad idea') is also provided alongside the example comments for reference. However, it should be noted that the example comments provided do not necessarily relate specifically to these responses and not everyone chose to provide a comment to support their view.
- Please note that these comments are illustrative examples only and do not represent all the views received as part of this consultation, or represent the volume of comments made for each budget idea. A full transcript of all the open comments received during Phase 2 is provided at Appendix 5 for reference.

Specific options and ideas for 2015-16

Stop funding the Free Town Bus Service...			
	65% were in favour of this idea... (total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')		25% were against this idea... (total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')
Comments in favour of this idea... <p><i>"...Free Town Bus: Never use it. If the local businesses want it, make them pay for it. Or make the people who use it pay..."</i></p> <p><i>"Scrap the free town bus - It's absolutely ridiculous and always has been. Nobody is ever on it and those who are can easily find alternatives..."</i></p> <p><i>"...Cut the free town bus - OAP's and people on benefits already get a free pass so the rest of us can afford to pay (or walk)..."</i></p> <p><i>"...I think it's a good idea for the council to stop funding the Free Town Bus Service - this is actually a relatively new service (it didn't exist ten years ago) and something that, if it was felt there was sufficient need/demand (I'm not sure what the user figures are like?), businesses and services that are along the bus route could perhaps consider funding instead..."</i></p> <p><i>"Free Town Bus - Developing a community transport model or seeking part sponsorship could be a way of reducing the cost..."</i></p> <p><i>"...Get rid of that Free Bus, Huddersfield isn't that big and it's better for the environment..."</i></p>		Comments against this idea... <p><i>"...Stopping funding the free town bus will dissuade people with mobility problems from shopping in town and be counterproductive..."</i></p> <p><i>"Free town bus - elderly people in particular would struggle in Dewsbury as it give access to supermarkets from bus/rail stations. Could we look for sponsorship from private sector to support this service?..."</i></p> <p><i>"Stopping free town bus would mean elderly people not able to be independent in own shopping and socialising therefore probably costing more long term, most I have talked to are willing to pay a fare to keep this service..."</i></p> <p><i>"...An elderly relative of mine has been using this for a few months since coming out of hospital. His alternative is to consider using his car and blue badge for town – or to shop locally in his area of Kirklees. He now attends town with someone in attendance and uses the free town bus. Since he's been using this, he and the person who helps him - usually a family member – have bought a number of large items (e.g. computer) from an area of town he would have not got to. Add to this food shopping, restaurants, cafes and theatre trips – serviced by – these trips are possible for my elderly relative and person accompanying him – because of the free town bus..."</i></p> <p><i>"Keep free town bus going as shops will lose out as most senior citizens won't be able to shop in town..."</i></p>	

Reduce the intensity of Street Cleaning...



36% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



52% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"Street cleaning: when I was at school - many years ago - head teachers were obsessed with litter, we had it drilled into us that dropping it and messing up the environment was unacceptable. Maybe an authority wide schools campaign (Keep Kirklees Tidy), involving parents would bring results..."

"Could reduce the level of street cleaning services and ask communities to develop street/area associations offering community clean ups..."

"Although I believe the reduction of street cleaning would lead to dirtier, messier areas that would have a negative impact on the community I understand that cutbacks are required so I would advocate a system similar to Tidy Towns, an annual event organised in Ireland. Here communities are actively encouraged to work with the council in the national competition so that their towns present themselves as an attractive place to live, work and visit. The benefits are twofold: The residents enjoy the satisfaction of a more pleasant environment that they have contributed towards and the publicity generates extra tourism. Perhaps the council could consider promoting this scheme - a competition between local districts?..."

"...Use people from the Probation service Community Payback team to undertake some street cleaning, so that the public can see justice at work. It would also be a chance for some of the offenders to obtain some work skills..."

Comments against this idea...

"...I think street cleaning is very important and is what most of us expect as part of our £1000+ council tax payments..."

"I think cuts to street cleaning could potentially lead to more problems & expense to the Council following complaints as areas deteriorate. Debris could block drains causing flooding & cause problems on roads & potential accidents, so not sure that cutting street cleaning would be economically beneficial overall..."

"Street cleaning...should not be cut as once a place appears run down, other problems will follow..."

"Street cleaning - we already get loads of complaints about rubbish so this would only aggravate the situation and make Kirklees an eyesore and would not attract spenders into the region..."

"...low morale will mean people don't care anymore, they will become selfish and less community-spirited and that will go on to people not 'looking after' the town and litter and tipping will become a bigger problem - hence the reason for not reducing funding for street cleaning. I don't think people realise how vital street cleaning is when it's actually happening - they would miss it if it was reduced though, but it would just build up to creating neighbourhoods where rubbish is a health hazard and places where no-one wants to go and that would mean there would be more opportunities for crime to be instigated and then increase..."

"I think Street Cleaning is very important. A road where I live is dangerous when all the leaves fall from the trees and it makes a massive difference to safety when the leaves have been collected. Also, dirty streets attract vermin and it is bad enough with the pigeons in the town centre, never mind having rats in local neighbourhoods. People want to take pride in where they live and if the streets are left dirty, areas are going to look scruffy, and people won't want to live there. There would also be health and safety issues..."

"...Litter is already an issue within Dewsbury and the surrounding areas; the towns need regeneration and improvement, reducing street cleaning would make these towns look less appealing to retailers and businesses..."

Reduce maintenance of our parks, open spaces and grass verges...



38% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



48% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"...Increase the number of volunteers to compliment paid staff time. e.g. Alnwick Gardens has volunteers working in the gardens alongside employed staff - can't we do the same for our parks and gardens..."

"...The use of TRA, Friends of groups, local schools. etc to take over the upkeep of parks and gardens, developing the services alongside the curriculum, improving the nature element and increasing community ownership of the facilities..."

"The upkeep of park grounds and town centre green spaces should be kept up to. People benefit from living within a clean and well kept environment. There should be a move towards communities adopting certain parks/areas. It would ensure that they are maintained regularly and a sense of pride given back in return to the community in which the area is maintained..."

"What is the reason that we can't have people who do community service or perhaps trying to find a job, help by keeping public places such as parks, streets and gardens tidier? This would free up lots of money surely?..."

"...we can all help to keep streets clean/ maintain parks, but some services cannot be replaced and are needed to make longer term cost savings..."

In favour of reducing grass verge cutting only:

"...Parks maintenance - this is essential but local residents could be encouraged to mow grass verges in their street - I'd do it if I had one..."

"Re parks and open spaces - very much agree with less cutting of verges, but think it's important for parks to be maintained...they are our breathing spaces..."

"...I would support reduced cutting of grass verges and lower amenity grassed areas, but think it's really important to continue to maintain large parks, like Greenhead Park, which are well used and bring benefits such as improved health and well-being, attracting visitors from outside the area, providing families on low incomes with a cheap day out etc."

Comments against this idea...

"I think we need to keep our open parks and spaces maintained and increase support for Health and Wellbeing initiatives if we are wanting people to be more resilient and fend for themselves more. This would also help to reduce the impact on the NHS. "

"Parks are for all - look at the popularity of Greenhead Park. Maintenance must continue..."

"...[to] cut back on the maintenance of our beautiful parks would destroy Kirklees and turn it into a deprived area to be avoided. Residents should be in a position to maintain their pride, as recently shown during the Tour de France..."

"...bad idea to cut funding as poor quality of play areas and parks etc, would lead to less use by general public. With limited resources in the area, these open spaces are important and need to have a good programme of upkeep and security to keep them areas that appealing and accessible to all..."

"...Parks and open spaces - I think, once you stop maintaining these areas, parts of our towns will quickly become unwelcoming, almost threatening spaces. Ditto for street cleaning. By saving monies on things like music, and festivals you can surely afford to keep parks and street cleaners."

"...Parks are essential to the wellbeing of people in urban areas - if you intend cutting the number of park and garden workers surely you can liaise with youth unemployment staff and use this as a way of getting young people used to a work pattern..."

"Reduction of open spaces, parks and grass verges - Huddersfield would not be affected but areas such as Batley, Birstall, Cleckheaton and Heckmondwike would be left unattended and over time would make these towns unpleasant to do our shopping etc..."

"...Do not cut spend on keeping our open spaces looking tidy - these areas are highly beneficial to everyone and help improve how the District is viewed externally. If we keep our space clean and tidy, more people are encouraged to visit and spend in the region. Areas that are clean and tidy to start with are more likely to stay that way as people feel proud of their area and are more inclined to keep it that way..."

Make changes to our School Transport policy...



69% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



21% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"...School Transport: Parents have choices about which schools their children attend and with this should be the responsibility of getting their children to school. Such choices should not be at the expense of the tax payers ..."

"...Is the suggestion to stop paying for school transport only for those who are going to faith schools? In that case, if parents are choosing an out of area school for a faith rather than an educational reason, then I think it is reasonable that they pay, but not if a suitable school is just further away..."

"...Scrap free bus fares/passes for ALL children travelling to school. Now that parents have more choice in the schools they want their children to attend which may not be the local school, the costs incurred in traveling to more distant schools should not be subsidised. Home to School Transport provision should be revamped especially for children with SEN. One child per taxi is simply money wasted unless there is a safety issue. One minibus to take children to neighbouring schools seems a much more sensible idea. If parents are unhappy with the pick-up times, they need to be reminded that provision of transport is a privilege..."

"...I'm hoping that there are certain services that the Council can continue to provide, but at a charge e.g. the school transport..."

In favour of changes for faith schools only:

"SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY - Lumping faith-related provision and disability-related provision into one question is extremely problematic. If a parent chooses to send their child to a faith school rather than to their local school, then they should foot the bill for the transport themselves. Transport to school for children with disabilities is a whole other matter. You don't say here what the changes to this transport are going to be. Help develop independence - that will initially cost more, for each child. It might involve a support worker accompanying a child on the school journey for years, until a child might be able to do it unaccompanied. For many children, this will never be appropriate. I can't imagine what you're considering that will actually save money, and meet the needs of these children..."

Comments against this idea...

"...Make changes to our School Transport policy - totally disagree with this. Huge cost for parents to get children to school for their education - no choice in this. May also risk less attendance..."

"...School transport is an essential service and without it, children may not be able to access education..."

"...I'm a mother of an autistic child who has school transport to take him to the Dedicated Specialist Unit at Honley High School. Without this I would not be able to continue working and he is unable to get himself to school. It is hardly our fault that his local school could not cater for his needs and that he needs a more specialist facility. My other children do not have bus passes and this is fine as I chose their schools and have to accept that it is my responsibility to get them there..."

Reduce subsidies for sport and physical activities...



41% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



45% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"...Don't think we need to subsidise sports. NHS needs to do this as they get the benefit if anywhere at all..."

"...Sport - people should have to pay full cost - no subsidies..."

"The council subsidises far too many people and organisations that should be encouraged to help themselves! Whilst I have some sympathy with subsidising sports facilities thereby encouraging people to improve their fitness and hence reliance on health and other services, the facilities should be able to be self sustaining if they off activities at time when people want to use them in conditions that are clean and attractive. The council needs to concentrate on it's core responsibilities - mainly education!!..."

"...Reducing subsidies for physical activity - while I am well aware that physical activity is essential in maintaining ones health, shouldn't the costs for these be shared with the NHS as the long term impact of ill health impacts upon the resources of funds of the NHS. A joint approach could be what is needed to achieve costs savings. Is it that the subsidies are for specific groups of people - children, those with disabilities, elderly? If so could not an initiative like Locala could be developed to continue these subsidies?..."

"...With regards to nice to have services, in straightened times, there is nothing wrong with expecting the user to pay e.g. Town buses, physical activity classes..."

Comments against this idea...

"...Supporting sport and physical activities has a positive impact on health and wellbeing and reduces stress / cost of health services..."

"...Sports & Physical Activities - vital as part of Health & Wellbeing & early prevention as mentioned and well supported in phase 1..."

"...Subsidy for sports activities - again, so much of the cost of council provision in health and social care is for those who have physical and mental health difficulties later in life. To reduce funds which provide better access to sports and physical health activities would only store up more problems for other services..."

"...The one I feel most strongly about is KAL. Many services appear to be propping up people with health problems, inter alia. With a health and obesity crisis in the UK, to cut services with KAL is preposterous. You would be sending mixed messages to the public cutting KAL services at the same time as opening the new Hudd sports centre!..."

"...Do not cut leisure and sport as these are important to community cohesion..."

"Reducing access to sport and physical activities will impact massively on the health and wellbeing of Kirklees residents. Short term this is a quick fix to a problem of cash flow, but long term impact will hit the economy with more people struggling with ill health, unable to work, socialise, or learn new sports and leisure pursuits and life skills - such as swimming. Better solutions include encouraging local businesses to sponsor KAL sites/activities/sessions for their own employees to access services, thus enabling KAL to provide more subsidies and targeted services for those who are unable to pay full price activities. A healthy workforce is a productive workforce and businesses should recognise the loss of income through sick pay as a result of poor health..."

Stop doing and funding events and festivals...



46% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



41% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"...I would rather lose some of the larger events - like The Festival of Light and Dewsbury on Sea - than lose libraries, museums, sports activities and venues and services for children and older people..."

"...we spend a lot of money on the Festival of Light which is of variable quality and has a limited impact. We would be better investing in a Christmas Market - these are a great success in other towns and cities and would provide a real boost to many businesses in Huddersfield town centre..."

"...Festivals are all well and good but not at the expense of a child in care being groomed or radicalised or a 90 year widow being discharged from hospital with no support after breaking her hip!..."

"...Sad as I would be to see cultural events like the Festival of Light go, in these straitened times, they are a luxury we can live without..."

"...I also think that less money could be spent on festivals e.g. the beach in Dewsbury etc...."

"...I personally can cheerfully do without food and drink festivals...."

"Do not waste money on events like the festival of light. Try to obtain sponsorship from business for events such as these or scrap them completely..."

"...It is important that funding is removed from 'extras' such as festivals..."

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Alternative ideas for funding events/festivals:

"...Maybe a council run lottery could generate money for Festivals, Music and Art events?"

"...Can festivals perhaps look for donations from business instead?..."

"...Why not have collection buckets for attendees to try to recoup a bit of the cash?..."

Comments against this idea...

"Festivals are still needed for some sense of community spirit and wellbeing, I agree to reducing the number of events that are supported but do not agree to stopping the funding completely. Maybe save on the smaller events and make something more of the larger ones, look at the impact of the Tour de France, a brilliant event that we should feel proud to be part of..."

"...We need to be careful 'not to throw the baby out with the bath water' and take a holistic view i.e. does the Festival of Light pay for all or part of itself by increased tourism in Huddersfield?..."

"...Some of these ideas are 'bad ideas' in my opinion because they are taken to extremes, for example, we could still have a Festival of Light but it could be done on a smaller scale..."

"...reducing the money spent on events and festivals would result in a demotivated town. Pride in Huddersfield would go right down and we would lose that part of us that says we like to live here...."

"...In terms of festivals - I recall that Kirklees felt very glum before these were introduced and in the scheme of things it would appear to offer good value for money to hold a couple of events each year. The importance to the feel of our town centres and keeping the place vibrant and active means it should be worth spending a little cash on something all local residents can enjoy and receive."

"...The money that Kirklees provides for these events is relatively modest, but the rewards are so high, in terms of community involvement, community pride and bringing people in to visit our local towns and villages. Kirklees has such a rich local culture... a false economy in my opinion to cut support...."

"Festivals such as the Huddersfield Carnival and The Festival of Light should be funded adequately as they provide a much needed boost to the local economy as well as being some of the biggest attractions to the Kirklees area..."

"...I strongly believe that the free festivals and events offered by the Council are an asset and truly makes Kirklees a great place to be..."

"a crying shame for a council with responsibility for an area with such a cultural heritage. Shame on you."

Develop alternative options for running our library services...



50% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



37% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"...Look at smarter ways of running libraries with possible charging for services..."

"...Close those libraries that are within reasonable travelling distance of the town centre and encourage people to use the main library. It is not an essential service..."

"...Make one super library/social hub for Huddersfield, then close all the others down, as everyone can get a bus into town, therefore people could still find out what was happening, pay bills, get a book, read a paper, maybe even do a course?, or just socialise for a bit..."

"...I personally don't see Libraris as a necessity anymore. I think there are a few very vocal older people fighting to keep these open but I don't think they are needed. All schools should have a well stocked library and children have access to these..."

"I am a regular library user but think the service should be scaled down. The self service machines are excellent..."

"A modest cash payment from people using services is reasonable. EG in some German states public libraries have a joining fee of 20 euros/ annum. For people who use the library services this is not excessive..."

"...The Libraries I have visited lately are part of the community - embrace that and find ways of raising income from the large amount of people that visit - running courses, coffee shops...."

"...Explore other libraries' ideas for enhancing services and provision e.g. Leeds, Sheffield, York, and the Central Library in Manchester...Explore more ways of generating income within the library; are groups using the library paying appropriate fees for this usage? Are any franchises possible within the library, e.g. selling of books?..."

Comments against this idea...

"For me change anything but the library service."

"...I wouldn't like to think that a neighbour working voluntary in the library has access to my private details..."

"Removing or reducing library availability would tear the heart out of communities - they provide so much more than just book loans..."

"...The Library Service is also crucially important in that it provides community hubs that complement the functions of pubs, churches and mosques..."

"I am firmly opposed to significant cuts in library and museum provision - especially in North Kirklees, which is the poor relation of Huddersfield and is in danger of becoming a cultural wasteland with the Council's proposed cuts..."

"...Libraries - Books and other library services are important. How can volunteers run services it takes library staff years to train for?..."

"...Libraries need to be kept in the hands of professionally trained people - it is a much harder job than people realise and I think standards would slip if the service was run by volunteers. However, volunteers could be used in some areas i.e. storytimes, giving out information, customer service - but management and planning needs to stay with council...."

"Libraries - Do not change!! Libraries are a refuge, a learning establishment, a community portal, a place that brings local people together. If anything they should be the focal point for re-hashing / re-orienting some of the services that need to be cut! Boost them - don't reduce them..."

"...Libraries are a very important community resource and if properly managed could be an engine to renew and reinvigorate weakened community structures...There may well be a way of changing services to involve volunteers but I believe the council must think very seriously before dismantling a well-established and historic service."

"...Councils should be increasing Library services not reducing them...Who are these people expected to volunteer to run libraries?..."

Stop funding the Kirklees Music Service...



42% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



44% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"Business sponsorship for Kirklees Music school..."

"...The kirklees music school should be self supporting, when my own children attended it was cost i was prepared to pay to encourage a love of music, it shouldn't be costing other tax payers!..."

"I would charge more to people who are able to pay for music tuition. I would also open up the teaching in schools to independent music schools who may be able to carry out such teaching more cost effectively. ..."

"...Is it possible with, for example, the music service, to have a scale of charges that does not exclude but gets contributions from the better off? I realise that the administration of such things is time-consuming, but if seen as a fair response to circumstances goodwill can be maintained as well as services. ..."

"...If people want to learn to play a musical instrument they should pay for it themselves...."

"...increase Charges . It is vital that young people get access to music culture...."

"...Can schools not contribute to the music activities - either by providing them as part of their curriculum or by putting some of their budget towards the costs..."

"Work with the University Music department to give music students experience in teaching through secondments so keep music alive (ie cheaper staffing). ..."

"...Additional funding for the Kirklees Music Service could be limited to ensure support mostly goes to those who are unable to provide their own funding..."

"...Businesses to sponsor Kirklees Music Schools..."

"...seek voluntary teaching support and donations of instruments..."

"Stop funding the Kirklees Music Service: involve community based music organisations, e.g. choirs, bands to have 'satellite' groups (as are being developed for sport) so that there are school based music activities but provided by outside organisations..."

Comments against this idea...

"...Cutting off funding for youth music would be detrimental to a host of socio-cognitive, educational and well-being benefits of music participation - there's well evidenced links between children's music participation and other learning outcomes such as mathematics, soft skills and vital characteristics such as concentration, focus, team working and personal persistence at mastering skills. ..."

"...must be available for all as part of the wealth of music making in Kirklees across all genres..."

"...Kirklees Music School provides instrument lessons for free to schoolchildren whose families wouldn't be able to afford it. Playing an instrument helps such children in academic and social situations. KMS music centres also provide the opportunity for children to mix with players from different ages and schools which is good for their seeing themselves as part of a larger, diverse community. ..."

"...Kirklees Music School is the only music school to go with. I know their system is bad, but Parents pay a lot of money now and I can't imagine how could I afford pay a penny more...."

"...Music school- by cutting this kirklees would limit the chances of children. More should be being done to could promote the service if there is not enough take up and generate more income - schools aren't doing it!..."

"...If you remove funding for Kirklees Music School, people from poorer backgrounds would not get the possibility to enjoy learning a musical instrument and attending music centres across Kirklees...."

"The reduction in funding of the music service would seriously impact the less well off. Better advertising of the current facilities could increase revenue whilst maintaining the service. Many people do not even know that there is a music school especially if they do not have children...."

"A musical education has many benefits and should be supported by the council."

"Cutting the music service to children would be last thing I would want"

Reduce staffing in the Youth Offending Team...



19% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



67% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"Agree if there is a spend on reducing youth crime. Therefore reductions in crime, less cost to the economy and eventually less staff needed to deal with young offenders...."

"If the Youth offending team is not viable/currently getting results, then they should be looking for models of dealing with young offenders and prevention, from elsewhere. ..."

"...use rehabilitated adults as mentors, set up charity to fund this scheme."

Alternative ideas:

"If you do have to do this could you create links with institutions or established activities? Get the young offenders into vocational activities or sporting activities (Boxing, Athletics, Wrestling, Martial Arts, Gymnastics etc)... if you're cutting the Youth Offending Team - You need to create opportunities for young people that don't fit into education systems. They're bored, nihilistic and have no real quality home life. So give them an opportunity to go in as apprentices, in appropriate fields...."

"I think this needs to be included in a more comprehensive review of the skills of Young Peoples services and look at ensuring some systems are adopted across a wider range of services, some staff having dual roles in targeted youth support services or preventative services, so there is enough skill base to dealt with offenders and aid with prevention"

Comments against this idea...

"Too many staff have been lost from the Youth Offending Team already. This is a valuable service for the well-being of the whole community...."

"...this is statutory and a moral obligation for Kirklees"

"...make savings in other areas. Youth work should not be cut. Prevention is cheaper than dealing with problems further down the line. Some of these young people have no role models and their most meaningful communication is with staff in the youth service...."

"Youth offending team needs to be adequately staffed as we don't want problems escalating to the police being involved. this would not be cost saving. ..."

"Youth offending and advocacy are relatively small sums and should be maintained. ..."

"...cutting back on staffing in the youth offending team could cause further problems that cost more down the line...."

"Youth Offending Team: £200,000 is good value if it prevents reoffending..."

"Cutting youth offending support would surely lead to costs accruing in other parts of the criminal justice system?"

"...making cuts in areas like youth offending teams, ... will only worsen the existing social division and create an increase in crime rates that will cost the council more in the long run than it would save in the short term...."

"...I think we definitely need the staff it's about the approaches used to help support these children and young people. it's about developing the capacity of the young people so they can do things for themselves and not be reliant on the staff that you wish to reduce - therefore the staff can do more and more children and young people are helped."

"...could be a recipe for disaster, give the young people a break and give those that need support, support."

"by decreasing spending on working with young offenders, you are increasing your spending on adult offending,..."

Reduce staffing in complaints and advocacy for children and young people...



19% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



62% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"Signpost to other services eg Samaritans"

"Reducing staffing in complaints & advocacy for young people is a crazy idea & I'm only agreeing to it because I imagine that it might be possible to find a few voluntary advocates amongst the pool of Kirklees residents who, like myself, have recently retired."

Alternative ideas:

"...children's rights and advocacy service could be wholly or partly run by an external agency or shared arrangements for children's homes/older people's home"

"...Childrens advocacy could be done through the voluntary sector through buddying type schemes for anyone who may wish to give something back to society..."

"Utilise other teams and services who work with young people to do some of this work as part of their roles, rather than solely relying on the Children's Rights team. It's essential looked after children have a voice, however resources could be better utilised/targeted more effectively..."

"...work more closely with other agencies, e.g. charities (Banardos perhaps?) to maintain existing levels of support - children in care are very vulnerable and need a proper voice."

Comments against this idea...

"...Might the cutting of funds be counter-productive? Reduce staff in complaints, OK, but not advocacy..."

"Youth offending and advocacy are relatively small sums and should be maintained. ..."

"high risk. Thinking about latest sexual exploitation scandals. Is there a partner we could deliver this with? Schools, for example?"

"...likely to prevent future problems which may well cost more..."

"Independent Advocacy for LAC children is vital - in the wake of Rotherham we should ensure the voice of children."

"...These children are already at risk of exploitation. Removing a tier of support is dangerous..."

"...Will the Children and Young people still have a voice? Still believe that they can challenge the levels of support they receive?..."

"In the light of recent child sexual exploitation scandals now is not the time to cut services that affect poor people or vulnerable sections of society..."

"...there should be no reduction in support for these vulnerable children as recent high profile news stories have highlighted."

"...with all the things on the news of late (South Yorks in particular) can we really afford to reduce the level of support to our youth. I am sorry i don't have any suggestions as to where we could find the money but it really worries me that we could be leaving our vulnerable youth unsupported."

"...unless some truly innovative way can be found to help these most vulnerable groups, then it seems a bad idea to reduce funding in this area..."

"Children in care need additional support and it worries me the Council is considering cutting these services further..."

"Advocacy provides an essential voice to the most vulnerable of young people in Kirklees..."

Remove the remaining subsidy to some child care provision...



46% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



37% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"In this day and age of child care tax credits there should be no need for subsidised child care..."

"...HMRC pays child tax credits which includes child care costs therefore there should be no additional expense to the council..."

"Parents and families should look after their own, never used nurseries or any kind of child care and my children are doing well, my daughter came top of the form at MFG with no help. The places should be available for people in need, not for all, when cuts are made. Looking after people's babies from a very young age is a relatively new idea, what, if any, benefits have been shown by doing so?..."

"...I do not think any service should be free eg the bus services and child care..."

"Too many people, I believe, do not consider the true impact of having children, focusing only on the benefits, services and facilities, (free nurseries and childcare, tax relief, housing assistance, etc.)..."

"...People receive tax credits for childcare nowadays so there is no need for subsidies..."

"If a nursery wants to be in business then it needs to operate without subsidy. Not many other businesses get such support..."

Comments against this idea...

"Child care is a parents lifeline and could have an impact on home life and working..."

"...This idea is likely to hit those at the bottom of the social ladder most directly so increasing the divides between the rich and the poor. Child care is a costly and problematic issue at the best of times."

"if reducing subsidy of child care results in fewer people being able to work, the overall burden on the council will increase..."

"...Child care is often the only help low - mid income families get. Whilst they contribute so much in tax, council tax, spending in local businesses, etc. don't take that away!!!..."

"...this is statutory and a moral obligation for Kirklees cutting off nose to spite face springs to mind"

"Surely reducing help with child care could result in less parents being able to work..."

"...Get the local community to help. Voluntary jobs for that short term"

"...if nursery and childcare is going to be harder to find and also more expensive people won't be able to afford it. If you take people's benefits away you have to support their new way of life, not leave them between a rock and a hard place."

"I wonder if removing the subsidy would lead to some poorer families not being able to afford any additional childcare, limiting their opportunities for employment...."

"Anything that reduces childcare provision is a bad idea, as it stops some people being able to go to work, which means they earn less money and are more likely to need other welfare services...."

"...children 0-5 need the opportunity to integrate with each other to aid their growth development. reducing these subsidies would potentially hinder this."

"A multi-disciplinary approach to children and their care is vital and often a nursery or out of school arrangement can be a lifeline to a disadvantaged child..."

Charge schools and child care organisations for support and advice...



60% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



24% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"Charge schools for curriculum and attendance problems? Should they not all be using the same national curriculum? Attendance problems could be due to many factors of either home life or the school itself I experienced this at one school and on changing schools never again. Childminders and carers are separate from schools and often set up as businesses, so if they need to go on a course, sure they should pay from that business, but I find this a strange question put together as it is...."

"...Under DfE guidance LAs are not allowed to charge maintained schools for advice or guidance related to their statutory duties such as H&S, safeguarding etc. In non-statutory areas I do not have an issue with charging schools...."

"...It is important that funding is removed from 'extras' such as ... services schools could pay for ... rather than by removing services from extremely vulnerable groups that only have the council to turn to...."

"...schools could be required to buy in the specialist information or services they require from their own budgets ,as already happens in some cases and will happen increasingly as funding for the services changes."

Comments against this idea...

"...this has a knock on effect to families with children in that the cost will have to be met somewhere. Childcare is a huge problem for many working families and is a barrier to people getting back in to work. Removing subsidies will only make this problem greater...."

"...risks schools taking short cuts re curriculum and therefore affecting the future of our children"

"...this is statutory and a moral obligation for Kirklees cutting off nose to spite face springs to mind"

"Charging schools for advice should not happen unless you increase their budgets to cover this..."

"If schools have to pay for services, they are unlikely to do so, presumably meaning even more would be in the Requires Improvement or below category which would mean further input from the LA - I'm not sure whether you would be obliged to provide support this for free or not...."

"...We shouldn't charge schools for extra advice and support, this is about supporting schools and improving education in Kirklees, this shouldn't be compromised...."

"...Schools should not be charged for services , I work in a school and the prices we are charged by kirklees building services are extortionate and take money away from important resources needed by the pupils."

Change our remaining in-house residential and home care services...



37% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



44% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"...work with voluntary groups to maintain provision whilst making some level of cuts (not cuts full stop)."

"Residential homes can be run by the independent sector..."

"Residential care homes can be privatised...."

Comments against this idea...

"...Out sourcing residential care for elderly and vulnerable usually means cheap and nasty profiteers take over with care not being a primary concern."

"This was highlighted in recent media coverage, zero hour contracts, create not enough stability, unrealistic targets and a shameful quality of care. It's a lose lose...."

"...I don't understand how it can be cheaper for profit making companies, the vulnerable will suffer...."

"Removing residential homes from the council portfolio would endanger vulnerable people especially as so many of the private homes are closing or getting bad press in the news..."

"...our residential homes are by far of the highest standards available and provide some of the safest placements available..."

"...My sister is in full time residential care due to her severe disabilities. My dad passed away four years ago. Without the financial support of the council my family would not have been, and still wouldn't be able to cope. We need to start putting other people first than trying to advance further in our own lives financially. I know this is to the council, but hopefully it may eventually reach the ears of the government...."

"...The council should provide safe and secure homecare and residential services and not pay exorbitant charges for private businesses...."

"...Providing care and residential homes for the most vulnerable is essential in a modern society - there are lots of other areas where money can be saved first...."

"...have already been cut severely. It should be kept in Local Authority/NHS control and not put out to private providers who only want to make a profit..."

"In house residential care must be funded not every elderly vulnerable person can afford private care...."

"The private sector will cost more, or provide a poor service. ... you need more supervision to ensure they comply fully with the specification...."

Change the way we provide reablement services...



47% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



34% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"...work with doctors and hospitals"

"...more intense work with certain individuals just wouldn't work for them and could result in doing them more harm than good eg alcohol/ drug dependence, older clients etc. Again, if the Council cannot continue with the service as it is, it needs to look at utilising the services of the voluntary sector to take some of this work on wherever possible."

"Reablement services should not provide services that can be done in surgeries, pharmacies, etc..."

"Reablement services should be provided by the NHS and again funded by Central Government..."

"...use voluntary services or family members"

Alternative ideas:

"...reablement services are very important, i think we should connect with buddies who might be willing to help people get their confidence back in between the early exit of professional services and being left on their own..."

"Helping people through educating them to help themselves and develop social capital would reduce the burden on numerous other services such as health care, social welfare, transport, food banks etc..."

"In reablement have a mechanism of charging people who are in intermediate care beds who are delaying discharge due to social issues eg after 6 weeks - it's amazing how focused this makes patients & families..."

Comments against this idea...

"Re-ablement service is very effective and reducing would lead to less prevention and more long term care costs..."

"...Reducing re-ablement services would put strain on other services..."

"Reablement keeps people in their homes for longer, all potential service users should go through reablement to ensure that the right services are put in that will meet their needs, this is an invest to save option..."

"...People are already being rushed towards recovery. Rushing people in this way seems inappropriate, not feasible and unhelpful for the individual."

"...I am not in favour of the vulnerable and least articulate bearing the brunt of budget cuts, and particularly disagree with any reduction in provision for people discharged from hospital, or in care and residential homes as the private sector has often been seen to fail these clients..."

"reablement saves money if done properly, if we privatise it the quality is sure to reduce and then all the savings that we make by getting people back to independence will be lost..."

"The most vulnerable people need quality care, reablement services and support as do their carers. We should not scrimp on this as it is our duty to them..."

"...people need time to recover it takes as long as it takes if people are rushed through and are not fully recovered there could be a reoccurrence of the illness therefore back in hospital..."

"...Cutting reablement services is morally wrong..."

"...Reducing reablement would be self defeating making vulnerable more dependent of public funds in the longer term-very short sighted approach to reduce..."

"...cutting service + length of support contradicts your stated need to do more about health, prevention and use of early intervention to do this."

Increase the Council Tax Support scheme...



31% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



44% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"Increase in Council Tax support for adults of working age - fine if the person is working. I would want to support this as there are costs involved in going out to work eg transport costs. I would not want to support adults of working age who do not work..."

"Increase the council tax support scheme - support needed for OAPs, disabled AND low income"

Comments against this idea...

"Why should we increase the Council Tax support at a time when we are wanting to save money?"

"There should be no increase in council tax support scheme - local taxes such as council tax which are directly used to fund local services should be paid by all people as this gives a sense of ownership in the community and a feeling of mutual contribution..."

"...This scheme should not be made more generous..."

"Giving increased council tax support encourages complacency for those who already receive significant financial assistance from the state. This is at a time where higher earners are having to dig deeper than ever to keep things moving. We should be incentivising the lower income bracket to move up the financial spectrum. This will not be achieved while there is momentum towards making them increasingly financially dependent."

"...Instead of providing additional support the money should be used elsewhere in encouraging people or providing skills to get them back into work. Would it be possible to offer council tax subsidies for people who would volunteer their time, area of expertise on a voluntary basis..."

"How does reducing the amount someone has to pay in council tax save you money? Surely it will cost the council more to reduce a working age persons reduction from 29% to 20%."

"Council tax support....sorry but this survey is about cuts....why should this have an increase and care homes etc a reduction in funding??"

"Increasing council tax reductions for people is a kick in the face of every household that pay the full price"

"Single person on job seekers allowance to receive increased Council Tax Support - a bad idea indeed. Why reduce the incentive for them to find paid employment? ..."

Stop welfare provision – food banks and white goods...



40% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



43% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"Welfare provision - work with voluntary groups to maintain provision whilst making some level of cuts (not cuts full stop)."

"...Food banks and white goods should be run and provided by a registered charity..."

"I know personally of many families abusing food banks after spending their money on cigs, beer and sky TV. Food banks are good in principle but contribute to people becoming less responsible for their own welfare."

"...I agree with making the white goods service into a loan as long as it is affordable. If the items are damaged by the user a charge should be made and no replacement provided..."

"...The funding of food banks has to be stopped because they are being used to enable addictions such as alcohol and drug addictions..."

Comments against this idea...

"...Bad idea- I appreciate the government is cutting the funding, so I suggest, community kitchens, or collaborative efforts with allotment and growing schemes, bring people in for cooking classes. And provision meal plans /education, to stretch money and quality ingredients..."

"...this would remove the only support for some of the most vulnerable people and would impact unfairly on children and older people -this is the only safety net for some..."

"...disadvantaging the poorest again- unless companies eg large supermarkets and philanthropists could and would fill the gap..."

"...lack of food parcels would increase crime (theft) do not believe the loan scheme on white goods would work as the good would not be looked after well enough..."

"...Children already go to school hungry in our area... without food banks where would they be?"

"...lack of food parcels would increase crime (theft) do not believe the loan scheme on white goods would work as the good would not be looked after well enough..."

"...this one feels like it will have an adverse effect on the most vulnerable, which makes me feel uncomfortable..."

"...Having access to food when none other is available can at times help reduce unneeded hospital admissions. White goods can help people after they leave hospital or into a new flat. The people it helps are very deserving people and are immensely grateful..."

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



71% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



20% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"I would agree to closing kiosks etc if postal payments were still allowed by cheque. Many older people are still apprehensive about direct debits, but would still be allowed to use a post office..."

"Promote Direct Debit and Debit Card payments - good idea, but cannot expect all payments to be made in this way."

"...ok as long as there is a facility for people to pay in cash in person - although it concerns me that there wouldn't be a face-to-face facility for discussing queries specifically relating to bills payable to the Council (PO staff would not be able to answer such queries, unless they had a phone or email link to the Council (suggestion))."

"I have ticked yes to removing expensive payment options because the option to work with the post office for cash payments is still there."

"How can it cost the council £200,000 per year to take payment by cash or cheque? Is it the cost of the outlets, the kiosks, machines, bank charges, or staff? I think it seems sensible to discourage payment in those ways if expensive, maybe reduce the number of places you can pay, but not prevent it altogether for the few people who might find other methods too difficult..."

Comments against this idea...

"Please have more understanding of your clients who pay council tax but who do not wish to do this by direct debit or by using debit cards. There are many people who are trying to keep on top of very limited finances who worry that having a direct debit may take them into the red and incur costly bank charges..."

"...not everyone has a bank account/direct debit facility..."

"... will not work for elderly people who may not have a suitable account, or people who've been declared bankrupt..."

"...This could stop people paying altogether which would mean a further loss in revenues for the council and more money and time chasing payments..."

"I think [this]... would impact on the revenue collected, especially for those who are in receipt of benefits, people will often nip in and make a payment on signing day or chip away at it their bill when they have spare cash at the local payzone/paypoint, people who set up direct debits often cancel them as they might not have the money at that exact moment, payment then gets pushed on to the next month, then the bill for that month ends up being higher and so it goes on, with no payments being received in the end and expensive debt collection."

"older people... may not have a Bank Account or a Computer and insisting that they pay by Direct Debit would be to me a significant step back in Customer Care."

"...The worst thing you could do is to remove options for people to pay you..."

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



55% were **in favour** of this idea...
(total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')



27% were **against** this idea...
(total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')

Comments in favour of this idea...

"...Housing advice - unclear what is being proposed but I do agree with targetting support..."

"...You say 1.6 million is spent in this area - what are the returns? How many people have found work, how many have seen a reduction in their levels of debt? If spending this much has not provided an economic return then maybe the amount could be reduced to £1.00 million rather than £ 1.6 million."

"People in Crisis are in crisis and should be helped... overall support/advice with welfare should be limited only to people with disabilities and mental health issues. - Advice should be geared more to assist with getting back into employment where possible..."

Alternative ideas:

"If ... there is a large reduction in employment and housing advice. We must work hard to make sure that charities, churches and mosques know how they can help, get involved and fill in the gap left behind by the council."

"The job centre should provide employment advice, and debt companies should lend responsibly."

Comments against this idea...

"I wouldn't be classed as a vulnerable person, but I do want to be able to access employment and advice when I am at my lowest and need it, I don't want kicking when I'm down."

"We need more investment into debt advice, housing advice. Housing advice coupled with debt advice is likely to prevent long-term dependence on the Local Authority services and help people get out of poverty. Using local advice charities/organisations and bringing in some of their expertise will reduce the burden of the council in the long-term."

"... essential for those who are struggling to be helped out of the quagmire so that they become less in need in the future."

"Change the way we provide employment [advice] - computers do you mean? This is not a decent way to deal with people who are at 'rock bottom' - they need to talk to experts about their situation & be supported to maximise their potential. At this point - real human contact is essential - for all of us - frustrated, unskilled people will become disenfranchised & won't cope."







"...Its very important to keep Welfare benefits service as its anti-poverty strategy, promotes good health and well being..."

"...There is no mention of the extra value and impact that any of these service have on the local economy, communities and other public services. For example cutting advice on debt, housing and welfare benefits is only going to lead to the council spending more money chasing people for Council Tax and other arrears and debts..."





"You should not be looking to make 'savings' at the expense of the poorest and most vulnerable people on basic subsistence level welfare benefits..."

Future plans





Health and wellbeing

Develop new ways of working to keep our neighbourhoods clean and safe...			
	67% were in favour of this idea... (total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')		20% were against this idea... (total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')
Look at alternative options for running our museums, galleries and historic houses...			
	65% were in favour of this idea... (total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')		22% were against this idea... (total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')
Find alternative ways to help the arts flourish in Kirklees Council...			
	68% were in favour of this idea... (total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')		20% were against this idea... (total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')
Comments in favour of this idea... <p><i>"Most of these things sound ok in principle - but the devil is in the detail and it's not really clear how the savings would be made whilst still supporting the overall idea. For example, how will (specifically) museums, the arts etc flourish and play a key role in supporting wellbeing in the context of the huge cuts?"</i></p> <p><i>"I agree that changes have to be made here however keeping our communities safe is vital to development. encouraging communities to live and work in kirklees making it a clean and safe place to live is important to economic growth."</i></p> <p><i>"Of course we want health and wellbeing... Of course we want people to have a go at helping themselves and each other. All the statements are too vague and unspecific though... We can encourage strong families and neighbourhoods- but sometimes there is no other way but to help people who are not coping."</i></p> <p><i>"I agree with possible changes to the way of working with regard to keeping our neighbourhood clean and safe in order to save money. However, if this means that the streets are going to be less safe as a consequence then I don't agree."</i></p>		Comments against this idea... <p><i>"...cutting the budget for museums and art galleries will only impact negatively on health and well-being, and detrimentally affect the local economy..."</i></p> <p><i>"...If you want to go and look at towns with no arts or culture you will see pretty bleak places..."</i></p> <p><i>"... museums and art galleries ... offer great free resources and entertainment to the areas families and individuals that would be desperately missed... our children need these spaces to help them think creatively and see creativity in a tangible way."</i></p> <p><i>"I am aware of numerous activities the Council provides under 'Health and Wellbeing' that are not being offered for cuts here and which I think are prime candidates for big cuts as a high priority!"</i></p> <p><i>"...As well as promoting heritage, the museums play active roles in education, and in the cultural and social life of the area. They provide a meeting place for people of different backgrounds and ages. they support health and wellbeing and present a positive image to the world outside. ...Whilst every little helps, I believe these to be false economies."</i></p> <p><i>"...You also say you recognise the need to improve health and wellbeing – and hopefully fulfil your statutory duties to vulnerable people and carers in this area. Any cuts should aim to exclude areas affecting these groups..."</i></p> <p><i>"The arts need to flourish to enhance wellbeing in the community. This assists is savings in the care costs due to better health and wellbeing"</i></p>	

Economic resilience

Having resilient businesses that create good, fulfilling, long term employment opportunities...			
	89% were in favour of this idea... (total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')		3% were against this idea... (total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')
Helping people become more employable, with good career progression and skills for life, and looking at how we advise people on maximising their income...			
	86% were in favour of this idea... (total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')		4% were against this idea... (total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')
Having good quality housing and neighbourhoods that support quality of life and attract people and businesses to Kirklees...			
	86% were in favour of this idea... (total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')		4% were against this idea... (total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')
People becoming more independent and having the resources to be self-sufficient, positive and supportive of each other...			
	86% were in favour of this idea... (total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')		4% were against this idea... (total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')
Comments in favour of this idea... <p><i>"The questions about economic resilience are not questions about changes but what you hope to achieve so of course they seem good ideas. I can't see what the proposals for change are."</i></p> <p><i>"...people need to look after themselves not spoon fed too much money is spent on people not wanting the help. Reduce"</i></p> <p><i>"...they are all good ideas - but how are we going to get there. Similar things have been in council strategies for years - need specifics"</i></p> <p><i>"I cannot emphasise enough how important it is to attract new businesses to the area. Quite frankly in Dewsbury and Batley you have a serious problem with this..."</i></p> <p><i>"Look at what local commerce and industry we have and help fulfil their workplace needs with specific training."</i></p> <p>(comment below made regarding early intervention, but relevant to economic resilience):</p> <p><i>"I have been through the advice and guidance given to me by the council and careers advisors at school. It was really good and helped me get to where I am today, I can honestly say, I would never have got to my position if it wasn't for them. I would literally be on the street living off Job Seekers allowance. They helped me build up my career, not only that but my life, in a bigger scale, my family's life including my offspring's."</i></p>		Comments against this idea... <p><i>"...I am very worried that you seem to think it's better to 'create economic resilience' (which frankly could be a bottomless pit of ineffective strategies - why put effort into 'creating neighbourhoods that people want to move to') rather than providing vital care support for people who are desperate and really need support."</i></p> <p><i>"On economic resilience - whilst sounding laudable, not convinced Council does this effectively and therefore would need to see evidence that spend was justified..."</i></p> <p><i>"...I am also not convinced that the council has the skills to be helping people become more employable, with good career progression and skills for life, and looking at how we advise people on maximising their income."</i></p> <p><i>"Re employability. Whilst I completely support the concept of people being employable and maximising career progression, I am not sure it is the council's role to do so. Maybe I am misunderstanding this? What do job centres, training organisations, colleges do etc?"</i></p> <p><i>"...it's great to have economically resilient communities, but what are you actually going to do? ... I'm not willing to sanction 'good quality housing' if that means building more homes in an already overcrowded district where there isn't the infrastructure to support them."</i></p>	

Early intervention and prevention, and supporting communities to help themselves

Supporting children, families and adults...			
	83% were in favour of this idea... (total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')		8% were against this idea... (total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')
Helping people help themselves and each other...			
	74% were in favour of this idea... (total saying 'Good idea' or 'OK idea')		15% were against this idea... (total saying 'Not keen' or 'Bad idea')
Comments in favour of this idea... <p><i>"All very well - in principle. Early intervention needs to be provided by all services such as NHS, social services, education service, schools..."</i></p> <p><i>"...I feel that Early intervention and prevention is vital for everyone and will end up saving money- but I have not seen how this will be achieved whilst cutting services..."</i></p> <p><i>"I think early intervention is a good idea in theory but it depends on what this means in practice... The quality of life for people with moderate or low level need...[is] just as important as the quality of life for older people or disabled people with critical needs..."</i></p> <p><i>"Yes, reducing the need for care is a great idea. But how?"</i></p> <p><i>"...people do want to help themselves, where possible, and I believe that early intervention strategies and healthcare/welfare support to 'prevent' further decline is important, however, you must not cut the support needed to those who cannot help themselves until you see positive results..."</i></p> <p><i>"Working smarter is good. Being effective and preventing crisis is good. Self actualisation and autonomy is good but there MUST be a safety net especially where children are involved..."</i></p> <p><i>"...these sound great ideas, but is it do-able - especially those things that are relying on the community... Need to be sure that council works closely with voluntary and community groups in Kirklees that already contribute to this - and not just to expect them to pick up the pieces."</i></p> <p><i>"Community spirit is needed rather than people relying on council"</i></p> <p><i>"people should take more responsibility for themselves and their families, not rely on the state or the council to help them"</i></p>		Comments against this idea... <p><i>"So-called early intervention by the council usually leads to problems being addressed less adequately than they were because instead of helping people who actually have a problem, the council helps people who are apparently at risk of having a problem as if it can predict the future."</i></p> <p><i>"...I fail to see how the council can save up to 50% of the budget by working smarter. The service will not be as effective."</i></p> <p><i>"I particularly object to this rubbish about helping people help themselves. People already do that, they try really hard, but face multiple barriers cutting advocacy services like KBAS and CAB will make it even harder for people to self help..."</i></p> <p><i>"...Voluntary agencies and neighbours/family can not be asked to provide all the support needed and will not be reliable..."</i></p> <p><i>"...there is always talk of communities and volunteers doing more, who are these people? People have to work longer hours or even two jobs nowadays, where do people find the time to also volunteer..."</i></p> <p><i>"Working smarter means stop doubling up services, NOT ABANDONING PEOPLE to volunteers with good will but no skills or knowledge..."</i></p> <p><i>"Early intervention does not always work - i have adopted a child who received a lot of support initially when maybe could have been put up for adoption earlier - thus reducing cost to council as needed both early intervention and care and now needs extra support from council due to long term issues surrounding early childhood"</i></p> <p><i>"...if this means that families and particularly the women in those families are going to be expected to care for sick, disabled, mentally ill, elderly and otherwise disadvantaged members of their families with even less help than they have now then my answer would be a resounding NO."</i></p>	