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**Council Strategy (2015-2018) and
Council Budget (2015-2016)
Consultation**

Survey Findings and Report

20th January 2015

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1. Executive Summary of Public Consultation

1.1 Background

The Council's current strategy, '**Meeting the Challenge**', is coming to the end of its four year cycle and we are on track to achieve the £114 million of savings which we set out. As a result of the changes made over the last four years, Gloucestershire County Council is more focussed, more flexible and more responsive than it has ever been.

Looking ahead, the financial climate continues to present challenges and with the reduction in government funds and an increase in costs, we need to make a further £75 million over the next four years.

Our strategy going forward will need to address these challenges, through a demand management model and finding new and better ways to support individuals by enhancing the support they can offer their families, friends and communities. This is outlined clearly through the new draft Council Strategy "**Meeting the Challenge – Together We Can**" **2015-2018** and is supported by our draft budget for 2015-16.

We consulted with the public in the summer of 2014 on the ideas that underpin the draft strategy, and received overwhelming support for the approach we proposed. We spoke to around 3000 residents, partners, parishes and community groups during this phase of the consultation and this helped form the basis of the draft strategy.

Following on from this, consultation on the 2015-16 budget and the draft Council Strategy took place between the 11th December 2014 and 14th January 2015. Three methods of gathering respondent data were used; an online survey, a paper version, and two workshops with our provider partners and our workforce. Consultation also took place with voluntary sector organisations in the County, trade unions and the Schools Forum.

This report looks at the results from the online and paper survey along with a summary of discussions with the voluntary sector organisations. The minutes of the discussion with Trade Unions and the Schools Forum also appear further in this report.

A report on the workshops can be found in Appendix A.

In this phase of the ongoing consultation process, 301 people took part, either through the survey or attending workshops,

The consultation was largely designed around the six Meeting the Challenge – Together We Can themes:

- **Active Individuals**
- **Active Communities**
- **Getting people back to independence**
- **Being there when we're needed most**
- **Providing the infrastructure for a thriving economy**
- **Getting our own house in order**

The consultation also asked people for their views on the proposed budget for 2015/16 and their views on the council tax.

1.2 Key Findings

- There is strong endorsement of the Council's draft strategy and the six key themes within it. Over 80% of all respondents to the public consultation said that we should focus on the actions under each of the themes set out in the draft council strategy
- Approximately 90% felt that the actions outlined under the themes **Getting people back to independence** and **Providing the Infrastructure for a thriving economy** were the right ones to focus on over the next four years
- 53 % said that we should accept the government funding and freeze council tax.
- 18% of responses were from primary carers
- Just over 10% of respondents were from someone with a disability
- The top three comments made about the draft council strategy were:
 1. Support for the approach, however more detail needed on how this will be delivered
 2. Focus on getting our own house in order
 3. Some felt the measurements were not the right ones and were too heavily focussed on numbers (eg: number of people in residential care)

- In addition to the areas outlined in the draft strategy, the top three areas where people felt we should focus our budget and resources on were:
 1. Invest more in road infrastructure and maintenance
 2. Improve public transport
 3. Support for the most vulnerable: including carers, the homeless and young people

- The top three comments about our proposed budget were:
 1. Why is waste budget increasing? Focus should be on recycling
 2. Less reduction to the adults budget
 3. Increase council tax

2. Findings from the Public Consultation on the 2014-15 Budget

2.1 Methods

The consultation used 3 means of gathering responses; an online survey, a paper survey and two workshops.

Surveys

- 1760 paper surveys were available to the public through local libraries and copies of the survey were emailed and/or posted out to 2026 members of the People's Panel and 1783 people registered on Consult Gloucestershire – the consultation platform. Media coverage was achieved as a result of press releases and through social media. The survey was also available online through the GCC website and was promoted to the voluntary sector via the Gloucestershire Voluntary Sector Alliance. 206 responses were received in total from the online and paper surveys.

The survey contained the following:

- Questions on the main themes of the Council Strategy
- A question examining the acceptability of freezing Council Tax
- Further considerations that the respondent would like the council to consider in relation to the council strategy and budget

Profile questions on gender, age, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and carer status were also included in the questionnaires and the responses have been analysed to ensure that the Equality objectives of the council have been adhered to. Any significant differences in responses between the protected characteristics have been highlighted in the report.

Copies of the online/paper questionnaire have been included in Appendix C

Workshops

Two workshops were held on 9th January 2015 at Shire Hall with our partners and the voluntary sector and our workforce. These workshops were run by an independent organisation, Enventure Research, and supported by GCC staff.

The purpose of the workshops was to look closely at some of the themes within the draft strategy and discuss these with our partners and workforce. We asked attendees to provide feedback on the areas GCC would need to consider when implementing these actions, how they could contribute and any particular barriers to the actions. Attendees were also asked to discuss possible solutions to these barriers in more detail.

In total 95 people attended the workshops.

A full report on the outcomes from these workshops and a list of organisations represented can be found in Appendix A

2.2 Survey Findings

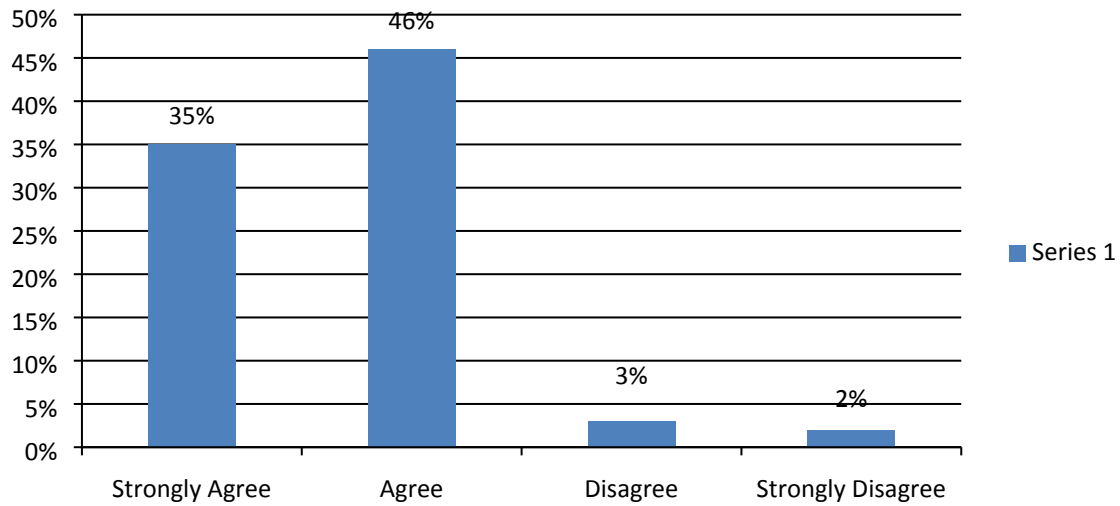
2.2.1 Council Strategy: Themes

Overall, respondents showed a very high level of support for the themes within the draft council strategy. Consistently over 80% of people surveyed stated that the actions set out under each of the themes, were the right ones, which the council should be focussing on over the next four years.

Active Individuals

81% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the actions set out in the strategy under the theme of Active Individuals.

Active Individuals: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the actions set out in the strategy are the right ones?

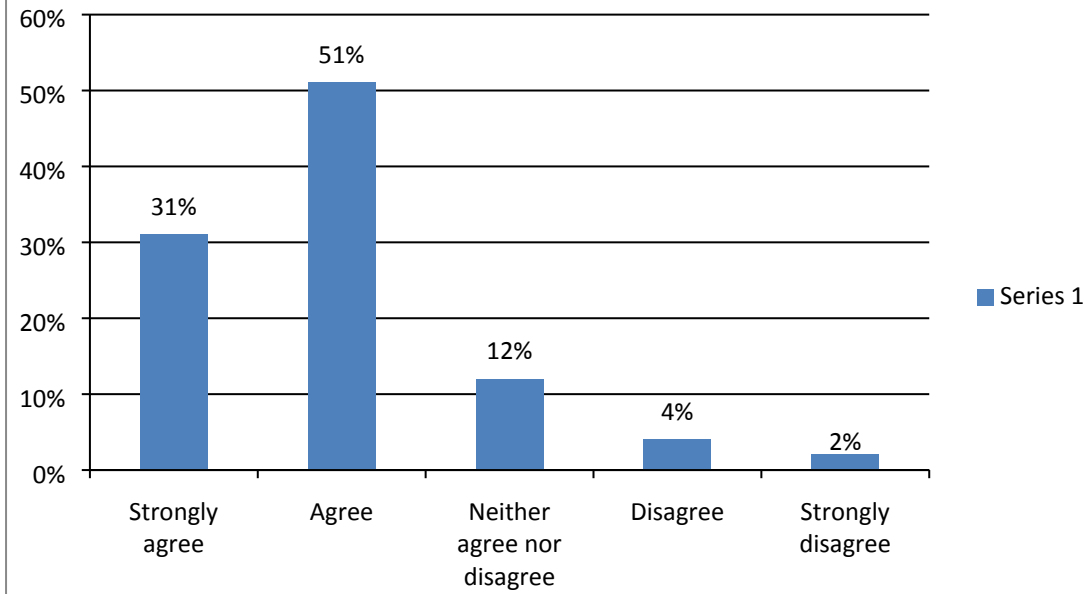


There was a lower rate of agreement when looking at the responses to this question amongst the under 45s, with 19% being less in agreement than those over 45 years. This was also the case for respondents who indicated that they had a caring responsibility with 16% less agreement in comparison to those without caring responsibility. However the results also show that those with a disability agreed more strongly with this theme than those without a disability (95% agreed with disability; 82% agreed without disability).

Active Communities

82% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the actions set out in the strategy under the theme of Active Communities

Active Communities: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the actions set out in the strategy are the right ones?

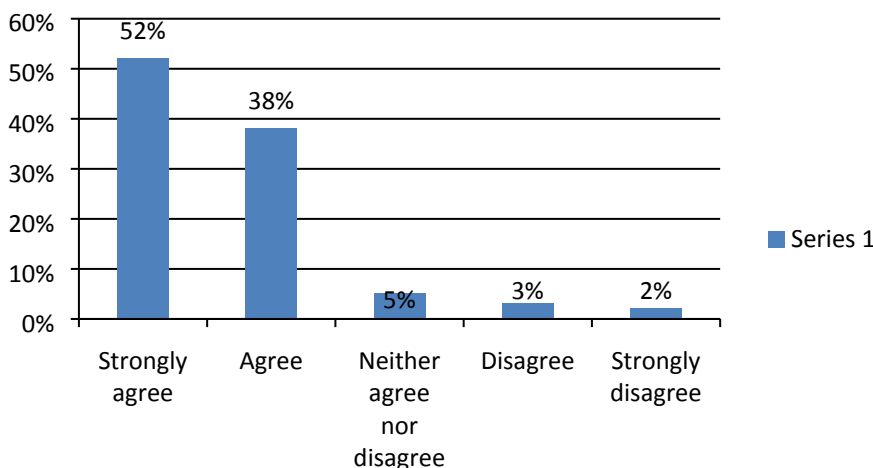


There was a lower rate of agreement when looking at the responses to this question amongst the under 45s, with 20% being less in agreement than those over 45 years. Respondents from BME communities were also 10% less in agreement with this theme and those with caring responsibilities were 14% less in agreement.

Getting People Back to Independence

90% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the actions set out in the strategy under the theme of Getting People Back to Independence

Getting people back to independence: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the actions set out in the strategy are the right ones?



There were no variations in responses in relation to the protected characteristics gathered during the survey.

Being there when we're needed most

84% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the actions set out in the strategy under the theme of being there when we're needed most.

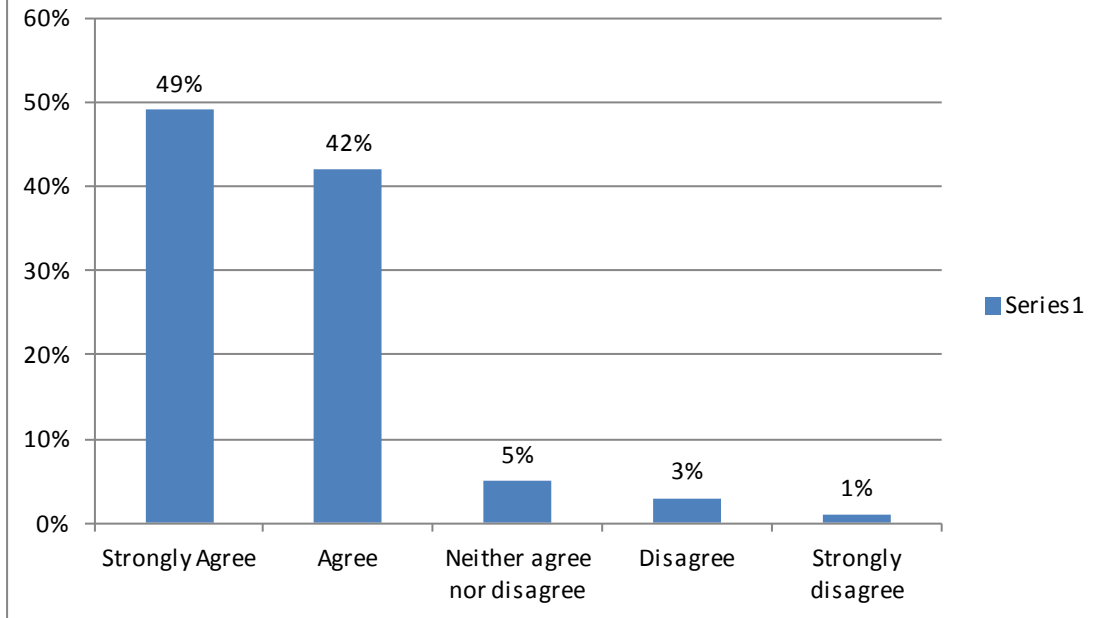


There were no variations in responses in relation to the protected characteristics gathered during the survey.

Providing an infrastructure for a thriving economy

84% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the actions set out in the strategy under the theme of providing an infrastructure for a thriving economy.

Providing the infrastructure for a thriving community: to what extent do you agree or disagree that the actions set out in the strategy are the right ones?

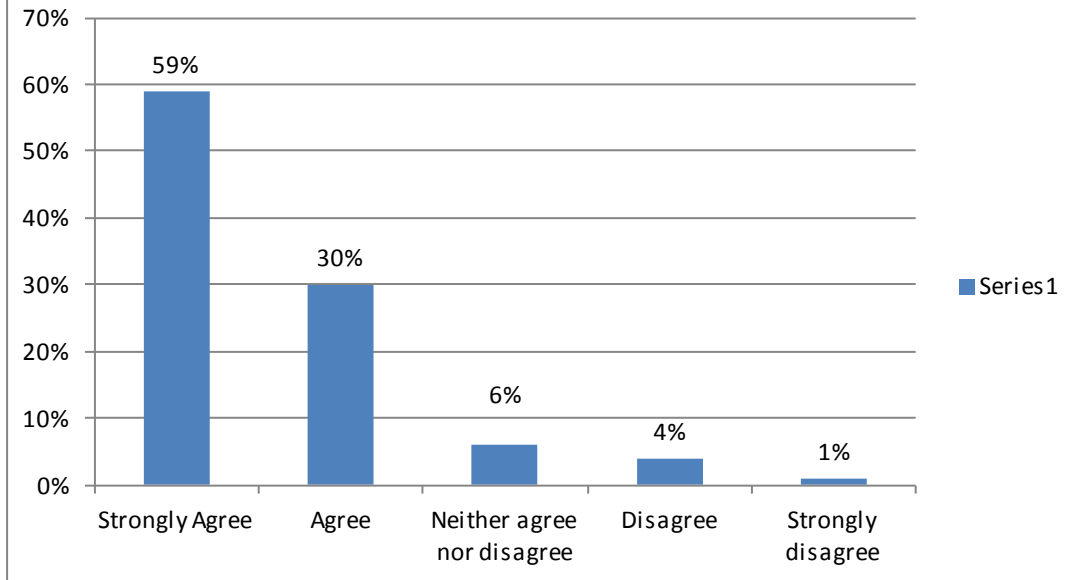


There was less agreement concerning this theme, amongst BME respondents, with 20% in less agreement than those from a White UK ethnic origin. However those respondents with a disability were 10% more in agreement with this theme than those without a disability.

Getting our own house in order

90% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the actions set out in the strategy under the theme of Getting our own house in order.

Getting our own house in order: to what extent do you agree or disagree that the actions set out in the strategy are the right ones?



There were no variations in responses in relation to the protected characteristics gathered during the survey.

Comments: Other areas where we should focus our budget and resources

When asked whether they had any other areas, where they felt the council should focus its budget and resources on, 99 people gave us comments.

15% of respondents to this question gave positive praise in relation to the draft strategy and its focus and direction.

There was strong feeling amongst respondents that we are still not investing enough in both infrastructure and maintenance.

Some respondents indicated that they would like to see resources being used better so that road repairs are done more effectively. It was also felt more can be done to reduce congestion by improving road layouts.

Investment and improvements to public transport was also a strong theme here. Respondents did recognise that the community needs to do more, but they needed help with improved public transport for rural areas, which needs to be regular, reliable and affordable.

Linked to the comments on reducing congestion on our road network, respondents felt this could be helped by providing services from major housing developments i.e. Cheltenham to Barnwood rather than just running services in and out of town.

In addition, respondents wanted to see more support and signposting for carers. With the strategy's focus on communities and families doing more it was felt that we should invest to save with carers. Many family members want to care for a loved one, however they need the right information, advice and guidance, and where needed, physical help with homecare and respite packages. If it is made too hard for carers there is a risk that they collapse which could then result in an increased burden on care homes.

Other vulnerable groups were also highlighted as being in need of vital support, including homeless people and young people.

Comments: General comments on the draft council strategy

When asked whether they had any general comments to make about the draft council strategy, 82 people gave us comments.

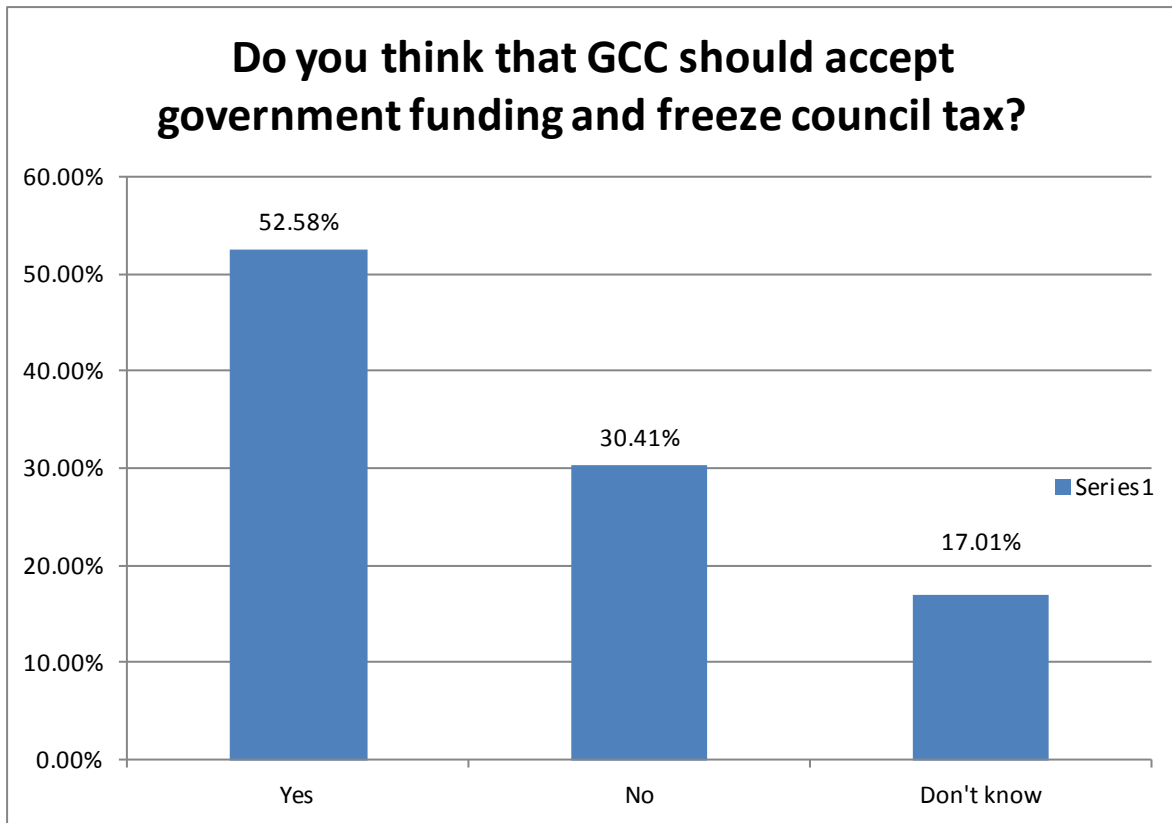
Many respondents felt the need for more detail on how the strategy would be delivered and welcomed ongoing consultation with residents prior and during implementation.

Many felt that our focus should be on getting our own house in order and supporting frontline staff to deliver services to the most vulnerable.

Some felt that the measurements in the strategy were not the right ones, with the focus being too heavy on basic numbers, for example the number of people in residential care. It was felt that more assessment and measurement of outcomes for service users were needed. It was also felt that with increased focus on care in the home, a measurement should be included on time spent with service users in their home, and measure quality as well as quantity.

2.2.2 Council Budget: Council tax

Overall, 53% answered 'yes' to the question on freezing council tax, higher than the 41% that answered 'yes' last year. 30% did not think that the Council should freeze council tax (35% last year). See chart below.



Younger people (those aged 16 -29) were the most likely to agree to a freeze at 60%, and those aged over 60 were the least likely (43%).

Council Budget: General comments

When asked whether they had any general comments to make about the draft budget, 103 people gave us comments.

The most frequent comment made was around the increase in the waste budget. Many people could not understand this increase and felt that if the budget was to increase, that the money should be spent on an increase in recycling and reusing waste.

In addition, many people were concerned over the reduction to the adult budget and some felt that the overall Children and Families budget, should be reduced further in order to minimise reductions in adult services.

3. Voluntary Sector Feedback

In addition to attending the partner workshops on 9th January, a meeting was held with the VCS Alliance on 13th January 2015 to discuss the strategy and the comments which had been received to date from the voluntary and community sector since the summer of 2014, in relation to the policies and the draft strategy.

Initial feedback from the Gloucestershire Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance (GVCSA) indicates much openness and positivity amongst the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) regarding the principles of the active communities policy. The VCS is keen to provide constructive feedback but have not known how best to channel this and engage.

They desire the opportunity to discuss with us how to unpack their role in supporting people to support themselves.

They have also highlighted the risk of considering the activity to be 'free' and available at no cost/investment to the Council.

Going forward:

The GVCSA have asked GCC for more detailed information on the drivers of the policies. They want to inform the risk in relation to the pace, rate and targeting of reducing/withdrawal Council involvement in communities (of both place and interest). As part of the assessment they would wish to include impact on, and capacity of, the VCS and Gloucestershire communities.

GCC and GVCSA would like to support an environment where we have constructive conversations to support co-production and identify appropriate leadership in relation to the outcomes.

It was also identified that there was currently a risk of overload of consultation amongst VCS organisations.

4. Summary of workshops

In the main, participants were in support of the direction on the draft actions within the strategy. A summary of the feedback can be found below. A full report on the workshops can be found in Appendix A.

- Participants were open to discussions about delivering services differently and suggested a wide range of solutions to the perceived barriers. However, they felt that GCC needs to be clear about the expectations on partners, the voluntary sector and communities in delivering the strategy
- Overall, participants describe the actions and themes within the strategy as wholly achievable. However, in order to build community capacity and encourage 'Active Communities' over the longer-term, participants describe the Council's role in placing greater trust in communities and breaking down the barriers and 'red tape' to securing funding (e.g. lending staff out with financial and project management skills)

- Participants in the partner and voluntary sector groups describe how the Council can make better use of their website to promote 'Active Individuals' and community involvement, with stronger signposting and links to partner, voluntary sector and community group websites
- IT investment to make future savings was a cross cutting theme. Participants want IT to be available, accessible and compatible for the public, service users, staff and partners to facilitate more efficient and cost effective services and working practices
- Participants called for greater definition of what independent living means without overly simplifying things by conflating social and interaction needs with medical care
- In considering helping people back to independence and less reliance on residential and nursing care, participants described how transport and housing needed to be central considerations
- Participants felt that a reduction of those in residential and nursing homes is too simplistic and that there needs to be a greater focus on measuring the long-term success of care in the home versus residential care. Questions were raised about whether this strategic shift will lead to long-term success or a greater burden on specialist care if home care breaks down
- Working with schools and children's centres was highlighted as something the Council needed to do more of. Life skills were seen to be really lacking and it was thought these should be pushed more in schools from an early age. Participants described how schools should be seen as hubs in communities
- The workforce understand the difficult budget situation the Council faces i.e. having to deliver services with a growing demand and decreasing financial settlements from Central Government
- The phrase 'SHS' (a play on NHS) was mentioned by the workforce participants as a Self-Help Service. It was suggested that this kind of branding clearly tried to redefine the customer relationships with the Council with more of an emphasis on what you can do for yourself rather than what the Council can do for you
- The importance of listening to and understanding the community and young people to make sure the Council gets it 'right first time' was stressed by the workforce participants. Over the long-term it was felt that this would lead to efficiencies
- Workforce participants commented that the process of rationalising services had already included job losses across the board, with many people having contracts re-negotiated to reflect broader and additional responsibilities. Investment in the administrative hubs to take the burden away from

specialists so they are do the jobs they are best suited (and valued) for were cited as a possible ways forward

- Across the groups, participants described GCC as risk adverse and this was perceived as a barrier. Moving forward there needs to be less of a blame culture and more acceptance of things that are not working as well as they could be
- Moving forward, there is a clear positive intent to work together and a commitment by partners to input into the process of fine-grained action planning. Partners and the voluntary sector welcomed a less prescriptive approach and greater involvement in action planning and moving forward with the strategy. Many felt they were being involved too late in the process. Specifically, they discussed working together and advising on what is needed for their client groups
- Participants felt that the targets within the strategy are too simplistic and arbitrary at present. Participants called for further discussion with delivery partners to form and agree more specific outcome based measures
- There was a strong call for 'proper' partnership thinking, with participants in the voluntary sector groups expressing a desire for GCC to move away from thinking in terms of 'our' strategy as GCC's only, to a more meaningful partnership approach of 'our' strategy to include all partners

5. Trades Union and Professional Organisations Consultation on the Budget 2015-16 (Draft)

Trade Union and Professional Organisation Consultation on the Budget 2015-16

14 January 2015

Present:

Cabinet members:

Cllrs Hawthorne and Theodoulou

Representatives:

Martin Ballard, NAHT
Lesley Bishop and Wayne Powell, GMB
Simon Cormack, UNISON
Andy Hewitt, UNITE
Scott Turner, FBU

Officers:

Jo Walker, Director: Strategic Finance
Dilys Wynn, Director, People Services
Nick Lerry, Principal HR Advisor
Alison Wantenaar, Democratic Services Advisor
Hester Hunt, Consultation Manager

Jo Walker opened the meeting giving an overview of the Budget. There was a 3 % - £13m reduction in the government grant giving a budget for 2015/16 of £415m. Allowances for inflation and cost/demand pressures would equate to £14.5m.

The consultation on the budget was due to end that day and there had been considerable consultation on the budget, the council's three year strategy and its policies between November 2014 and now.

People were consulted by online survey, focus groups and workshops and included residents, the People's Panel, community groups, Parishes & Town Councils, partners, the voluntary sector and the council's workforce.

Feedback would be considered when finalising the draft policies and Cabinet would approve the council strategy and budget on 4 February. Full Council would consider the strategy and budget on 18 February.

Q.1 Wayne Powell, GMB expressed concern that with savings required year on year, the impact on vulnerable people would increase.

Jo Walker replied that the council was continuing to maximise efficiencies and would be taking a demand management approach in future. To do this the council would be looking at customer access, signposting, streamlining and introducing initiative such as the 'Better Care' Fund which maximised effective commissioning.

Jo added that funding reductions would continue although there were areas that were protected such as Schools and Public Health .There were concerns over reaching a tipping point and councils basically going bust. There was also a perception that the economy was on the up but the reality was that it was not so robust.

Q. 2 Simon Cormack, Unison said that the public sector was seen as a drain on the county and he had recently seen an 'Economic Overview 'of the county which only mentioned the number of public sector employees in the county. It was only about commercial sector and he felt that there was a dis-connect as there was no reference to how the public sector contributed to the economy of the county.

Jo Walker commented that the council engaged with private sector through commissioning a whole range of services in addition to staff that the council directly employed. Jo would take this back to Nigel Riglar and asked Simon to raise with Councillor Hawthorne who sat on the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) and Leadership Gloucestershire.

Q.3 Martin Ballard NAHT questioned a perceived trend of bringing people back into the organisation who had left with a package.

Dilys advised that a Policy had been introduced in 2009. Leavers could not be re-employed unless a business case was approved. There had only been two cases since the introduction of the policy for specialist, short-term contracts.

Jo Walker added that this was a morale issue for staff which senior officers were mindful of. Although people leaving could work for other authorities there was a two year window with GCC before former members of staff could apply for jobs back in the authority.

Q.4 Simon Cormack questioned the risk associated with contracting out services and what happened if contracts were not performing well.

Jo Walker explained that this was something that she felt passionate about and the council could do better on. A recent Audit Committee report said that there were elements of poor practice. In response to this the council had set up a Commercial Team which has the capacity for up-skilling contract managers, advising on the tendering process and inclusion of social responsibilities in the tendering process.

The council had been adopting the good practice of talking to possible providers and identifying risks early on in the process. Apprenticeships were also being requested in the Invitation to Tender documents.

Q.5 Simon Cormack questioned the whole approach risk to out-sourcing and quoted the Barnet experience. .

Jo Walker commented that TUPE and pensions were a big risk in outsourcing.

Martin Ballard asked if messages were reaching schools?

Jo Walker replied that Public Health and Schools budgets were currently protected and that issues around pensions and funding were discussed at Schools Forums.

Alison Wantenaar would send a link to the Schools Forum to Martin. These meetings were public and lasted two hours.

Supplied link

[=http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Cid=382&Year=0](http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Cid=382&Year=0)

12 Noon Councillors Mark Hawthorne and Ray Theodoulou joined the meeting.

Councillor Hawthorn opened this part of the meeting by referring to the budget constraints forming part of the Meeting the Challenge 2 (MTC2) programme. He also stated that whatever the outcome of the General Election, things would still be difficult with the financial pressure likely to continue whoever was in power. Another factor was the pressure from our own user base with an increasing older population (doubling of over 85 year olds over the decade).

There would be some tough decisions to make during MTC2's three year plan especially around re-shaping the Health and Social Care provision. There would be an emphasis on demand management and achieving better outcomes. Although there were tough decisions to make the council was committed to protecting the most vulnerable by working more closely with partners and in a more joined up way.

Q.6 Wayne Powell raised the issue of vulnerable people being most affected by the savings and impact on services.

Mark Hawthorne responded that this was challenging and that there was a need to understand the interdependency around Health and Social Care. There is a need to reform Health and Social Care other wise financial difficulties will become impossible to deal with.

Jo Walker added that this would need tackling nationally after 2015.

Q. 7 Simon Cormack commented that when MTC1 was introduced there was no mention of changes to Terms and Conditions but had they been affected and what would the impact be going forward?

Ray Theodoulou replied that there were no immediate plans to do anything on this further as the council had done all that it could in this area.

Q.8 Simon Cormack asked if there would be any planned redundancies with outsourcing and the re-commissioning of the reablement service under MTC2?

Ray Theodoulou replied that there were no redundancies planned and that the council was actually hiring staff but there was a difficulty in recruiting care staff.

Mark Hawthorne added that better outcomes were required around the delay in going into care and that the future of the reablement service was being considered currently. As there was a move towards having less residential care and more services being provided in the home, then staffing changes would be needed. There would be a need to develop domiciliary care markets.

Q.9 Wayne Powell asked what work was being done about retaining Children's Social Workers?

Dilys Wynnn advised that this was being looked at currently by being clear on what we offered candidates and speeding up the recruitment process. There was no crisis in Gloucestershire.

Mark Hawthorne added that he planned to talk to the university about promoting the take –up of Children Social Work courses with a view to training and appointing students here.

Q.10 Scott Turner FBU, questioned the reduced funding to the Fire Service. There was no legal requirement to attend flooding events and with these further cuts he was concerned flood rescue could be withdrawn.

Mark Hawthorne replied that the council must meet need. There was a new IRMP (Integrated Risk Management Plan) out for consultation and a new Chief in place with new ideas to change and evolve the service. Currently the service concentrated on prevention, flood defences and rescue after accidents. Flood rescue could not be looked at in isolation.

Jo Walker added that the IRMP was out for consultation until 27 January 2015 and a report would go to Cabinet in April 2015.

Q.11 Simon Cormack asked if cuts would have an impact on wider Gloucestershire economy?

Ray Theodoulou replied that there was no evidence that local government cuts negatively affected the economy. On the contrary there had been growth in county – the improvement to the railway, A417 £1m investment, £64m assigned last week for the economy. GFirst was helping the economy of Gloucestershire to grow.

Mark Hawthorne added that there were jobs attached to investment in the nuclear industry and a LEP growth plan. The unemployment rate had dropped and jobs and apprenticeships increased .The national economy was fragile but the county's was good now.

Q.12 Wayne Powell raised the issue of low paid jobs and zero hour contracts.

Mark Hawthorne responded by saying that analysis missed the big investments such as nuclear jobs creating highly paid jobs and Renishaw employing engineers. Gloucestershire needed to compete with bigger cities such as Bristol and Birmingham.

Q.13 Wayne Powell asked if there was support for increasing the living wage?

Mark Hawthorne replied that this would be discussed.

Andy Hewitt, UNITE commented that some apprentices in the county were paid £2.70 per hour.

Mark Hawthorne referred to GCC's pay spine which had been distorted at the bottom and that he had supported the 1% pay deal. He added that the council did pay an hourly rate that met the living wage in domiciliary care.

Jo Walker referred to contracts saying that unless the council specified an hourly rate it was up to contractors how to pay staff, there was no mechanism to enforce.

Mark Hawthorne said that the council could only encourage contractors to pay a living wage otherwise the council's costs could increase. This may become part of the Scrutiny process.

Dilys Wynn commented that two London authorities had gone down the enforcement route but found it difficult.

Q.14 Simon Cormack suggested that with Domiciliary Care workers it was not just about the wage but about dignity. Some visits were restricted to 15 minutes per client. UNISON had an Ethical Care Charter which needed to be considered.

Mark Hawthorne responded that he would look at the Charter but was wary of signing - up to Charters normally.

Mark thanked all for their participation and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 12.45pm.

6. Schools Forum Consultation - Budget Consultation 2015/16

The Schools Forum met on 14th January 2015. Feedback for incorporation into the Budget Consultation is detailed below.

GCC Budget Consultation 2015/16

Feedback from Schools Forum – 14th January 2015

The summary MTFS document presented to Cabinet on 10th December 2014 was discussed at Schools Forum along with the Appendices in the detailed MTFS paper relating to Children & Families services. Minutes of the meeting will provide a record of the discussion but a summary of the feedback from the meeting is as follows:-

Overall the Schools Forum was supportive of the budget proposals and a wider discussion was held on the following points:-

- The pressures arising from the difficulties in recruiting and retaining Children's Safeguarding staff i.e. social workers and the reasons for this.
- Clarification on how the home to school transport savings would be achieved in 2015/16.

- The rise in the need for Mental Health support in schools across all ages including post 16.
- The additional Family Support input being provided in Special Schools to meet the needs of children and their families.
- The importance of Schools and the Council combining their joint resources to achieve the best for Children in Gloucestershire.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

This phase of the consultation shows that there is strong endorsement of the Council's draft strategy and the six key themes within it. Many residents and the voluntary and community sector felt that they would like to understand more about how this change can be delivered and would like to see continued dialogue once more detail has been established. One recommendation in relation to the strategy was to look closer at our performance measures to ensure they monitor quality, as well as quantity.

When looking at the proposed budget, there was many who felt that more should be spent on our roads and other infrastructure, to encourage Gloucestershire to be a thriving and safe place to live. Many also felt that our focus should be on the most vulnerable and that more support, advice and signposting is needed for carers and it is important that we continue to give them a voice, when implementing our plans and strategies moving forward.

Appendix B: Survey

Budget Survey 2015/16

Gloucestershire County Council

Q1.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should focus on the actions under each of the themes in the Council Strategy? (details of the actions under each of the themes can be found in the council strategy)

Please click the link to view the Council Strategy
<https://gloucestershire-consult.objective.co.uk/file/3236663>

Themes

(please select all that apply)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Active Individuals - The council can help people stay active by providing access to information, advice and support that can help them make the best choices for themselves and their families	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Active Communities- Helping individuals find support within their own communities and working with community groups to build their capacity – so that people can support each other.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Getting people back to independence - When people need our help, following an accident, emergency hospital admission or other crisis in their lives, our focus will be on giving them the support they need to help them back to independence. Making best use of technology and intensive support we believe we can do more to help people to return to and remain in their homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>Being there when we're needed most - Improving the way we care for the most vulnerable and putting this at the forefront of what we do, we want to help the most vulnerable families at an early stage, before they get to crisis point – this will mean a reduction in the length of episodes of children in care, reducing the number of people admitted to nursing care and putting people back in control over the care they receive, through more use of personal budgets</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Providing the infrastructure for a thriving economy - Jobs, business and growth are crucial to the wellbeing of Gloucestershire people. We will continue to work hard, with our partners, to support businesses and protect jobs. We will make sure we have an infrastructure which supports this.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Getting our own house in order - Keeping the Council's running costs to a minimum. We will continue to be a well run council that is transparent, accountable and focussed on what matters to local people</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Budget Survey 2015/16

Gloucestershire County Council

Q2. Are there any other areas, which you feel the council should focus its budget and resources on?

Q3. Do you have any comments to make about the draft council strategy?

Council Budget

Q4. Do you think Gloucestershire County Council should accept the government funding and freeze council tax?

(please select all that apply)

Yes No Don't know

Funding from central government is decreasing year on year. With increasing demands on our services, this will mean a 3.05% reduction in the overall budget for 2015/16.

Services for children and families and vulnerable adults together make up two-thirds of the Council's budget. For this reason, we cannot afford to exclude them from the need to make savings, but we do believe that, by focussing on the aims of the strategy, we can improve the way we support the most vulnerable people as well as reducing spending in these areas.

In 2015/16 our proposed budget is:

- Adult services - £142 million (3.4% reduction)
- Children & Families – £93 million (0.2% reduction)
- Communities & Infrastructure - £56 million (4.7% reduction)
- Waste - £27 million (2.7% increase)
- Support Services - £18 million (9.2% reduction)
- Technical & Cross Cutting - £54 million (11.5% reduction)

Public Health - £25 million - this budget is a ring-fenced grant which cannot be used for other areas

Budget Survey 2015/16

Gloucestershire County Council

Q5. Do you have any comments to make about our proposed budget for 2015/16?

Equality Questions

The council is committed to ensuring that our services are delivered fairly. We are asking you to answer the following questions about yourself so that we can make sure that this is happening. The information that you provide will be kept confidential and only used for the purpose we have outlined.

You do not have to answer these questions, and it will make no difference at all to the way the council treats you if you prefer not to answer these questions.

Postcode

Please state your postcode:

Gender

Are you?

(please select one answer)

Male Female Prefer not to say

Gender re-assignment

Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?
(please select one answer)

Yes No Prefer not to say

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Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Council

Age

What is your age?
(please select one answer)

16-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54 55-59 60-64 65+ Prefer not to say

Gloucestershire County Council

Ethnicity

Ethnic origin categories are not about nationality, place of birth or citizenship. They are about the group to which you as an individual perceive you belong.

Please indicate your ethnic origin by ticking the appropriate box
(please select one answer)

White

- English*
- Welsh*
- Scottish*
- Northern Irish*
- Irish*
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller*
- Any other White background*

Mixed/multiple ethnic groups

- White and Black Caribbean*
- White and Black African*
- White and Asian*
- Any other mixed background*

Asian/Asian British

- Indian*
- Pakistani*
- Bangladeshi*
- Chinese*
- Any other Asian background*

Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British

- African*
- Caribbean*
- Any other Black/African/Caribbean background*

Other ethnic group

- Arab*
- Any other ethnic group*

Prefer not to say

Other ethnicity

Other - please state

Disability

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

(please select one answer)

Yes No Prefer not to say

Disability type

Please provide additional information by selecting the box(s) that apply.

(please select all that apply)

Mobility (Getting around)

Hearing

Eyesight

Using hands/fingers

Learning Difficulty

Mental Health

Other

Other Disability

Other - Please state

Sexual orientation

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

(please select one answer)

Heterosexual / straight

Gay woman / lesbian

Gay man

Bisexual

Other

Prefer not to say

Other Sexual orientation

Other - Please state

Religion and / or belief

What is your religion or belief?

(please select one answer)

- No religion
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Any other religion
- Prefer not to say

Other Religion and / or belief

Other - Please state

Carers

Do you have caring responsibilities? If yes please tick all that apply

(please select all that apply)

- None
- Primary carer of a child/children (under 18)
- Primary carer of disabled child/children
- Primary carer of disabled adult (18 and over)

Employment Status: Are you currently...?

Employment Status: Are you currently...?

(please select all that apply)

Employed full time

Employed part time

Self-employed

Out of work and looking for work

Out of work but not currently looking for work

Retired

Unable to work

Are you completing this questionnaire on behalf of yourself or an organisation?

(please select all that apply)

Self

Organisation

If on behalf of an organisation, please write the name of your organisation below

Appendix C – Data Tables – Respondent breakdown

Total	195
No response	11
	5.34%
16-24	3
	1.46%
25-29	7
	3.4%
30-34	7
	3.4%
35-39	9
	4.37%
40-44	9
	4.37%
45-49	19
	9.22%
50-54	22
	10.68%
55-59	24
	11.65%
60-64	23
	11.17%
65+	68
	33.01%
Refused	4
	1.94%%

Q12. Record respondent gender

Total	194
No response	12
	5.83%
Male	100
	48.54%
Female	90
	43.69%
Rather not say	4
	1.94%

Q14 Are you a carer?

Total	185
No response	21
	10.19%
Primary carer of a child/children under 18	27
	13.11%
Primary carer of disabled child/children	0
	N/A
Primary carer of disabled adult (18 and over)	10
	4.85%
None	148
	71.84%

Q16. Do you have any kind of disability?

Total	195
No response	11
	5.34%
Yes	20
	9.71%
No	171
	83.01%
Prefer not to say	4
	1.94%

Ethnic Origin	
Total	196
No response	10
	5.1%
White British	183
	93.3%
White Other	5
	2.55%
BME	2
	1.02%
Prefer not to say	6
	3.06%

Q19. Do you identify yourself as...?

Total	191
No response	15 7.28%
Heterosexual/Straight	176 85.44%
Gay man	4 1.94%
Bisexual	2 0.97%
Prefer not to say	9 4.37%

Religion or Belief	
Total	195
No response	11 5.34%
Christian	113 54.85%
Buddhist	1 0.49%
Muslim	1 0.49%
Non religious	64 31.07%
Other	5 2.43%
Prefer not to say	11 5.34%

