

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- 21/119

Committee:-	COUNCIL
Date:-	19 th January 2022
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Consultation responses on the budget and corporate plan
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

To summarise the consultation replies received to the Council's 2022/23 budget and corporate plan.

2. Recommendations

Council is asked to note the responses and determine if any element of the budget and corporate plan should be changed to reflect what has been said by respondents.

3. Information

3.1. After the draft budget was approved in December, a consultation period was instituted to run from 16th December to 16th January 2022. A section was created on the website to facilitate and encourage responses to the consultation, a media release was issued and a letter was sent to 25 local organisations, plus NNC Kettering Councillors and some NNC officers, inviting a response. A number of questions were posed, although all respondents were asked to make comments in whatever form they wished.

3.2. An article appeared in the Evening Telegraph on 21st December. The clerk also attended a meeting of the Voluntary Sector Network on 5th January to outline the budget and capture people's comments.

3.3. A total of 8 individual responses have been received as at the 12th January and any further responses will be summarised and added to this report for the Council's meeting on the 19th January.

3.4. The comments are captured on the following sheets (appendix one)

3.5. In summary the comments were; in respect of each section:-

1. Corporate Plan – general support – with comments about the importance of focusing on the health of the town centre and on integration of communities within Hanwood Park, and suggestions about the Town Council’s role in supporting the voluntary sector, engaging the community, encouraging sustainable travel, and sourcing external funding
2. Budget – broad support for the proposed increase in the precept and size of the budget
3. Public toilets – a variety of suggestions about opening times, location and style of building, but support for their provision.
4. Grants scheme – a variety of comments about making the process simple for applicants, encouraging innovation and creativity and targeting them in identified areas of need.
5. Events – some comments about supporting Kettfest, contradictory comments about the carnival, and comments about play schemes
6. Community resilience – a variety of suggestions around community safety, young people, but concern that the fund was too small to make a significant difference and would need to be tightly targeted.
7. Community lottery – one comment hostile to the proposals, and some suggestions as to possible good causes.
8. Community facilities – a small number of suggestions as to facilities required.
9. Market – support for efforts to renew the market, alongside providing more specialist markets,
10. Trees and bio-diversity – some detailed comments which question the value and quality of tree planting compared to other bio diversity measures and which favour a more balanced approach involving the creation of “meadows”.
11. General comments – specific comments about sustainable travel and working closely with community groups.

4. Consultation and Engagement

As set out in this report

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

There is nothing in this report which raises any new legal, financial or resource implications.

6. Policy Implications

The report sets out the Council's policy framework and objectives for the coming year.

Background Papers

Consultation responses

12/1/22

