

## CONSULTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET PROPOSALS JANUARY 2016

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Between December 2015 and January 2016, the Council undertook a seven week period of consultation on its budget proposals for 2016/17, prior to making the final decision on its budget.
- 1.2. The Council reported on its priorities, the budget setting context and local financial position and gave an outline of the proposals to balance the Council's 2016/17 budget. The Council asked consultees for their views on its proposals for delivering services in the future while achieving the saving needed.

### 2. Consultation Process

- 2.1. The Council hosted a survey on its website asking for people's views of the budget proposals. This survey was publicised through the Council website and Facebook pages. There were a total of 22 respondents, 11 of whom left comments. The results of the survey are summarised in section 3.
- 2.2. In addition, a meeting was held with the Chamber of Commerce during January to understand the views of the Chamber on the council's budget proposals. The issues raised during the meeting are summarised in section 4.

### 3. Outcomes of the Consultation on the Council's Budget Proposals

- 3.1. The main themes and issues are summarised below.
- 3.2. A full list of comments from the meetings, online survey and written feedback can be received by contacting [insight@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:insight@coventry.gov.uk).

#### Feedback from the on line survey and written feedback

- 3.3. The feedback from the online consultation identified some similar themes. The majority of comments received suggested ways in which the Council could save money without making changes to services. For example, some respondents suggested that the Council use its reserves to continue to fund services, whilst others suggested exploring joint working with other councils. Some respondents suggested that the Council could work in different ways to reduce the impact of the cuts, e.g. fortnightly waste collections; allowing communities to take ownership/management of some local services.
- 3.4. A number of respondents highlighted that the both the budget report and consultation should be improved in order to make it more meaningful to local people.

### 4. Feedback from Consultation Meeting

- 4.1. A presentation was given, which generated a discussion on a number of areas, although no comments were made on the Council's proposed budget. The topics discussed included the Council's plans for regeneration and developing new social and aspirational housing; proposals on redefining local authority boundaries; and HS2.