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| REPORT TO EXECUTIVE | | | |
| PORTFOLIO AREA: FINANCE & RESOURCES | | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 6th February 2003 | | |
| Public | | | |
| Key Decision: | No | Recorded in Forward Plan: | Yes |
| Inside Policy Framework | | | |

Title: BUDGET CONSULTATION

Report of: Policy & Performance Manager

Report reference: SP03/03

Summary:

The report provides members with the feedback from recent consultation on the budget proposals.

Recommendations:

Members of the Executive take into account the feedback from the Budget Consultation when considering their final budget recommendation to Council.

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1. Under the constitution of the City Council the Executive is required to undertake consultation on its draft budget proposals before making a recommendation to Council.
2. The Executive at its meeting on 17th December proposed its draft budget and sought the views of Overview and Scrutiny, National Non-Domestic Ratepayers, Trade Unions and the public. Minutes of these meetings held on the 9th, 15th and 17th January respectively appear earlier on this Agenda.
3. Consultation with the Public began with a press release on the 17th December and was followed by a leaflet outlining the main options together with a list of 8 possible future initiatives. This leaflet was delivered to approximately 46,500 to all households in the week commencing 30th December via Royal Mail.
4. The closing date for responses was 27th January 2003. The Councils Internal Audit unit has been responsible for the counting of response.
5. Up to and including 27th January 8,447 reply cards have been received, a response rate of 18.1%
6. In addition we have received 27 letters with comments and observations on both the process and the possible initiatives. Anonymised copies of these letters are available to the Executive for inspection.
7. We have also received 15 emails again anonymised copies of these are available to the Executive for inspection.

2. THE RESULTS

1. In terms of the options A, B and C the overall returns were as follows:

Option A 3,608 = 42.7%

Option B 3,012 = 35.6%

Option C 851 = 10.1%

Spoiled/Unmarked 976 = 11.5%

2. In terms of those who 7,471 who indicated a preference for options A, B or C the returns were as follows:

Option A 3,608 = 48.3%

Option B 3,012 = 40.3%

Option C 851 = 11.4%

3. Analysis of the response to the list of possible initiatives is currently underway and will be reported to future meeting of the Executive.

3. CONSULTATION

1. Consultation to date

As outlined above

2. Consultation proposed

There is no further consultation proposed

4. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

N/A

5. CITY TREASURER'S COMMENTS

N/A

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

N/A

7. CORPORATE COMMENTS

N/A

8. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

N/A

9. EQUALITY ISSUES

N/A

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

11. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

N/A

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Executive take into account the feedback from all consultation when considering their final budget recommendation to Council.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure that the Executive take into account the views expressed by the before making a final budget recommendation to Council.