

CABINET

13 February 2013

REPORT SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY

Subject Heading:

**THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET
2013/14**

This report supplements the main report to this meeting on the Council's Budget 2013/14.

Public consultation

Between Thursday 24th January and Monday 4th February, the public were invited to comment on the budget proposals and priorities and answer four questions:

1. Do you agree that Council Tax should be frozen next year, by making the sorts of changes outlined above?
2. Do you agree with these priorities? If not what would you change?
3. Can you think of any ways we can be working more closely with local people to improve services and reduce costs?
4. Do you have any other comments about our budget proposals?

Owing to the tight timescale, the consultation was web-based. (A full survey on local priorities and satisfaction with services, called 'Your Council, Your Say' will be undertaken in March, allowing local people to respond through online or paper questionnaires.)

The Council received 161 responses to the consultation.

In answer to question 1: 139 respondents answered 'yes', 22 answered 'no'

Of 108 responses received to question 2 - 88 indicated broad support of the priorities as set out in the consultation, with the most specific support shown for road and pavement repairs, initiatives to make Havering cleaner, crime reduction and parks.

In response to question three, 21 respondents called for more/improved consultation, seven respondents suggested that local people could get involved in tackling litter and seven suggested other uses for volunteers.

Among general comments made in response to question four, ten respondents offered their appreciation for the Council's efforts.