

Appendix G : 22-23 Budget Consultation Feedback

Do you agree with the way the Council has allocated its budget? If not, what else would you prioritise and - to ensure we balance the books and deliver services - what savings would you make?		SDC Response
1	Don't want to make cuts	Unfortunately in the longer term the funds the Council receives are not sufficient to cover the costs and therefore savings will be required as reserves reduce. The Council's plans for future savings relate to efficiency and income generation rather than cuts to services but as we implement a single council for the whole of North Yorkshire future opportunities for efficiencies and savings will be a matter for the new council.
2	Yes	
3	would not make savings	Unfortunately in the longer term the funds the Council receives are not sufficient to cover the costs and therefore savings will be required as reserves reduce. The Council's plans for future savings relate to efficiency and income generation rather than cuts to services but as we implement a single council for the whole of North Yorkshire future opportunities for efficiencies and savings will be a matter for the new council.
4	I would like to see some improvements on the properties at Holly tree Walk. The wooden cladding on the front of the properties cannot be heat efficient. The property I live in still has the old pantry with air vents the kitchen is the coldest room in the property. Also there is still asbestos under the fascia boards.	In 2019, the Council agreed a new Business Plan for the Housing Revenue Account which outlined significant increases in the investment made in our housing portfolio from 2020/21. Since the investment was agreed, the Council has been engaged in undertaking a programme of stock condition surveys to inform investment priorities and in 2021/22 commissioned the first tranche of works which included replacement of 179 bathrooms, 130 kitchens and electrical testing and upgrade works to 548 properties. This initial programme is due for completion at the end of January 2022 and a further 60 properties have been issued to our contractor partners for kitchen and/or bathroom replacements by the end of March 2022. The information obtained from the stock condition surveys is being utilised to develop the capital investment programme for 2022/23 and beyond as we seek to transition our management arrangements from a 'run to failure' approach to a cyclical replacement model. Adoption of the latter provides greater clarity for residents as to when they can expect key elements of their homes to be replaced, whilst also enabling the Council to forward plan its investment requirements.
5	Agree with the general views of the council, and commend the view to balance the books with a CT freeze, which isn't an insignificant task. SDC has a commercial portfolio, which I believe could be managed more robustly to deliver a reasonable return to the local tax payer. Can I request that SDC review how it lets its commercial properties to a standard they offer reasonable value for money.	The Council aims to achieve value for money across all of its operations and is currently developing a programme of investment to improve the offer of its small industrial and commercial property portfolio.
6	Yes. There should be no additional costs on the move to the unwanted larger council, only savings, unless of course those politicians who supported it were lying to us.	The case for reorganisation identified one-off implementation costs would be required to achieve a single unitary Council in North Yorkshire but recurring savings would be achieved through joining up services across the existing 8 councils.
7	No. It seems Selby is benefiting from all the funding it has made by building in surrounding villages while they significantly lack the investment that was intended for the villages.	The Council's Programme for Growth is seeing investment across the district not just in Selby. The new Local Plan is also planning for growth in the most sustainable locations with key infrastructure requirements identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
8	We are extremely concerned about air pollution in our area. We would like the council to educate themselves and in turn their residents to the dangers of residential wood burning and the effect it has on their neighbours and themselves. We are surrounded by people who burn constantly throughout winter and often in summer too. Not because they have to but because they choose to. All houses in our immediate area have alternate and clean heating. Whilst our son had Covid we were unable to take government advice to air our house because the air outside was thick with smoke. We were unable to meet family outside when it was allowed due to the pollution. Believing we were paranoid we have installed exterior and interior pm2.5 monitors and our local pollution often rates as the worst in the country. I understand that until National limits are made according to WHO rates (who say that any pm2.5 is not healthy) and until that point all we can do is register our immediate neighbours as causing a statutory nuisance. Again considering how many people are doing it this is unattainable. A recent study in Athens has stated the link between wood smoke and cancer with it being far worse than tobacco smoke. As a registered asthmatic I can also say that it is taking a toll on my health having to go back onto medication after 20 years of managing without. Some local authorities have requested that people think twice about lighting a log burner or open fire when they have alternatives I would like Selby to educate themselves on the subject and to follow suit. When you understand the problem and to what extent it damages the health, mental health and residential amenity of residents it will be hard to ignore. This is the simplest way of improving air quality in the area far easier than replacing diesel cars. Thank you.	Selby DC fulfils its statutory duties when responding to complaints or reports of alleged air pollution. Budget specifically allocated to "air pollution monitoring" allows the Council to also pro-actively monitor air pollution in the district and those findings and additional information is reported to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on a yearly basis in the form of an Annual Status Report. The report will demonstrate the progress the Council has made with measures to address air quality in Selby District.
9	It's as always a very sensible and modest budget. I think keeping council tax frozen is a good move and the capital investment into the town centre will long term return on the investment.	The budget seeks to strike a balance between investing in local services and communities whilst supporting a smooth transition to the new unitary council. Selby's plan to invest to achieve long term economic growth is a clear priority in our Council Plan.
10	Agree	
11	Proposal of a Council Tax freeze is great news for everyone as we continue to experience spiralling costs of living.	The Council is mindful of the pressure on communities and whilst in overall terms the freeze in Selby DC's Council Tax is relatively small it demonstrates our commitment to supporting taxpayers in these very challenging times.
12	I wonder if it makes more sense to spend the budget as if you "save" some of the allocated budget from the central Government do they then think they "give" too much so cut back the saved amount?	Government funding is based on a variety of factors which broadly seek to equalise local government costs across the country whilst taking into account local factors. There are historic pressures in the funding of public sector services, in part from the financial crisis back in 2008 and more recently as a result of the Covid pandemic.

13	<p>I agree but as a new resident to Selby I do wonder about the roads. There are a lot of new houses being built in already busy areas e.g. next to Tesco but I cannot see any provision to improve the roads or access. Portholme road is a nightmare at peak times. How can adding all those extra houses be done without adding in extra access?</p>	<p>North Yorkshire County Council are the Highways Authority responsible for the maintenance of the local highway network. The Highways Authority set out the improvements to the highway network needed to support new housing developments. An Infrastructure Delivery Plan is currently being prepared by the Council as part of the new Local Plan which will identify a range of improvements to local infrastructure including roads to support future growth. The new development of Portholme Road was subject to a detailed planning application which included a full Traffic Impact Assessment to ensure the scheme could be accommodated on the road network. Significant investment in walking, cycling and sustainable transport is also planned including as part of the £20m+ Transforming Cities Fund scheme at Selby Railway Station.</p>
14	<p>Yes, I agree with the decisions on how the money will be allocated in 2022/23; it is clear that priorities have been set and these will be the focus throughout the next financial year.</p> <p>I believe that one of the biggest challenges faced by SDC is getting the local people to understand what percentage of the council tax is actually allocated to SDC - Only about 10% of what you pay actually comes to Selby District Council.</p> <p>There needs to be more transparency around this on social media etc. so that there is a better understanding of what funds are available, the priorities set and how much this will cost. Many people do not understand that not all local services are provided by SDC.</p>	<p>We do highlight the proportion of Council Tax that relates to the district council as part of our budget consultation and there is a detailed breakdown on the Council Tax bill. We also provide information on the Council's website but will consider further opportunities to raise this through other channels including social media.</p>
15	<p>All about spend and no mention whatsoever what we as tax payers will get a return on any spend - quantifiable or not</p> <p>Why spend money on ICT projects when systems will get harmonised over time under the new body seems like a waste of my money</p> <p>Growth investment - what's the cost benefit analysis on this - does it outweigh giving council tax payers a reduction of £13m and that they will spend that money locally and therefore drive even more growth</p> <p>Not sure all options have been considered</p>	<p>The budget supports delivery of the Council's strategic plan which sets out the priorities agreed by the Council as a whole. All investment decisions are the subject of cost/benefit analysis as part of the formal decisions to progress individual schemes. Investment in ICT relates to critical upgrades which are required to ensure the Council's systems remain compliant as we move through the transition to the new unitary council and potentially beyond, should the use of some legacy systems continue post April 2023. The Council's approach to investment of non-recurring funds to support local growth aims to drive more sustainable income which ultimately supports vital front line public services.</p>
16	<p>Reduce the council tax bill you do not have to balance the budget you could choose not to spend any savings people could spend locally e.g. give everyone a £20 spend locally voucher and grow and support local businesses</p>	<p>It is a legal requirement for councils to set a balanced budget.</p>
17	<p>Yes. Freezing Council Tax will help at a time when most other bills are rising. If only NYCC and the others involved would do the same...</p>	<p>Council Tax levels for individual organisations are a matter for those organisations and reflect the issues and priorities for those organisations.</p>
18	<p>Yes - really happy to see the council tax freeze and also the investment which is going to be made in improving council owned play areas and the skate park.</p>	<p>Plans are in place to deliver play area improvements and skate park improvements are currently being planned</p>
19	<p>I agree, and would love to see the skatepark at Selby improved, the skatepark is so small for the amount of people who use it, which means it is unsafe with many people using it at once, if you extended the park and use the area next to it this would be great, I'm not sure that part of the 2.5m is enough though.</p>	<p>Consultation with users will be a key aspect of improving the skate park within approved funding.</p>
20	<p>Why don't you update some of these council houses some people are having to live in? I need new bathroom, kitchen, doors and windows, you've done nothing to this house, disgusting really, you claim there's nothing wrong with my bathroom or kitchen but yet it's all falling apart. Complete joke of a council are Selby council. Should be ashamed of yourselves!</p>	<p>In 2019, the Council agreed a new Business Plan for the Housing Revenue Account which outlined significant increases in the investment made in our housing portfolio from 2020/21. Since the investment was agreed, the Council has been engaged in undertaking a programme of stock condition surveys to inform investment priorities and in 2021/22 commissioned the first tranche of works which included replacement of 179 bathrooms, 130 kitchens and electrical testing and upgrade works to 548 properties. This initial programme is due for completion at the end of January 2022 and a further 60 properties have been issued to our contractor partners for kitchen and/or bathroom replacements by the end of March 2022.</p> <p>The information obtained from the stock condition surveys is being utilised to develop the capital investment programme for 2022/23 and beyond as we seek to transition our management arrangements from a 'run to failure' approach to a cyclical replacement model. Adoption of the latter provides greater clarity for residents as to when they can expect key elements of their homes to be replaced, whilst also enabling the Council to forward plan its investment requirements.</p>