

APPENDIX 5

Cutting Our Cloth response

Report To: Full Council

Date of Report: 9 December 2014

Report by: Denbighshire's Destination Marketing and Communications Team

Title: Cutting our Cloth – Public Engagement - Response Summary

Introduction

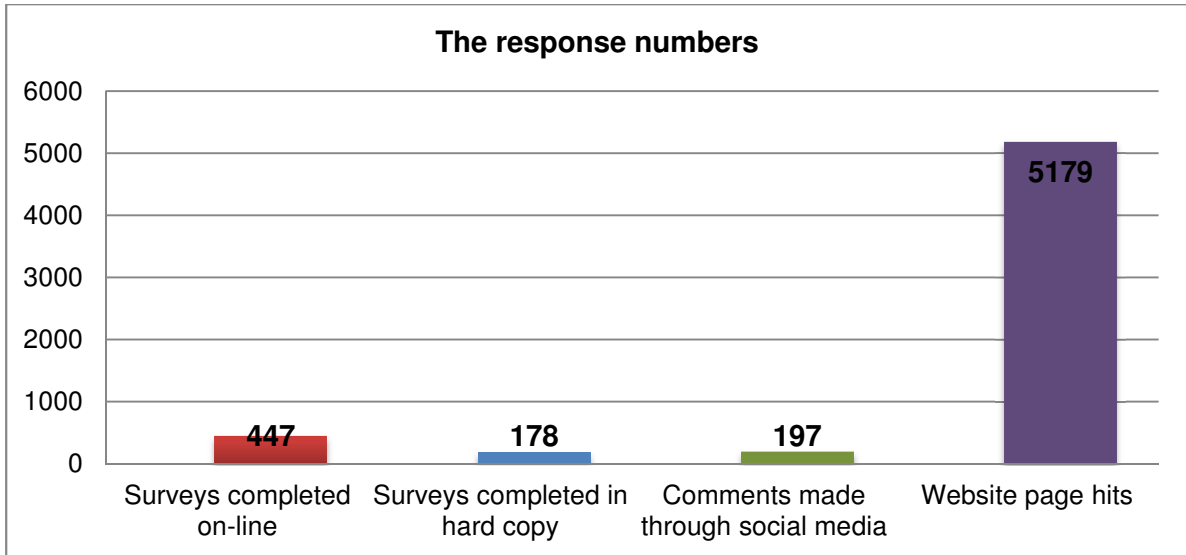
The first phase of the public engagement on the Cutting our Cloth debate is now complete. All responses received to date have been taken into account in this report. Whilst a decision will be taken on many of the proposals in December, the opportunity for residents to comment on the proposals will remain open until the final budget setting process is complete in February 2015. This is to consider any further ideas that may be submitted on how we can lessen the impact of cuts on our communities.

The Cutting our Cloth debate has been promoted through press releases and briefings, social media, and promotion in key buildings. This has provided the opportunity for residents to submit their contributions in different ways.

Cutting our Cloth has generated **822** survey responses through the completion of the official survey (as well as hard copies returned), including comments made on social media. A large number of responses were received during the first week when the newspaper features appeared. See Appendix 1.

Breakdown by response mechanism

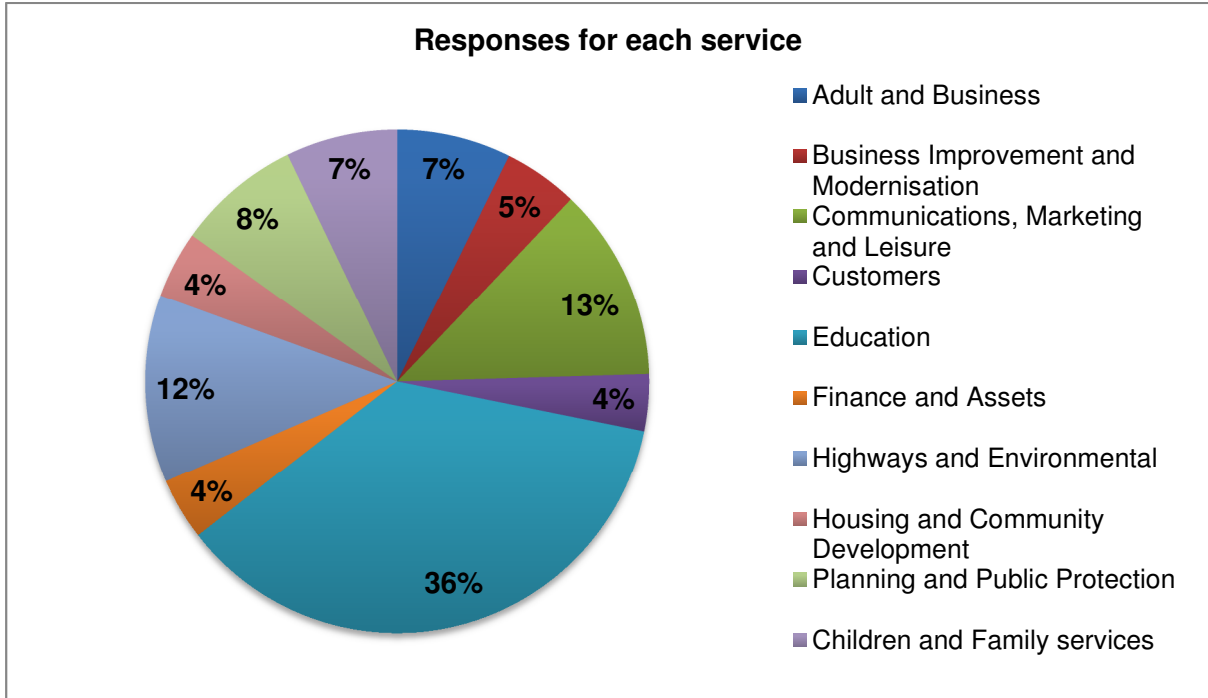
Website page hits	5,179
Surveys completed on-line	447
Surveys completed in hard copy	178
Comment made through social media	197



The information on the number of website hits has been included to demonstrate the level of engagement with the debate. Some people will have viewed the survey without actually completing the questions.

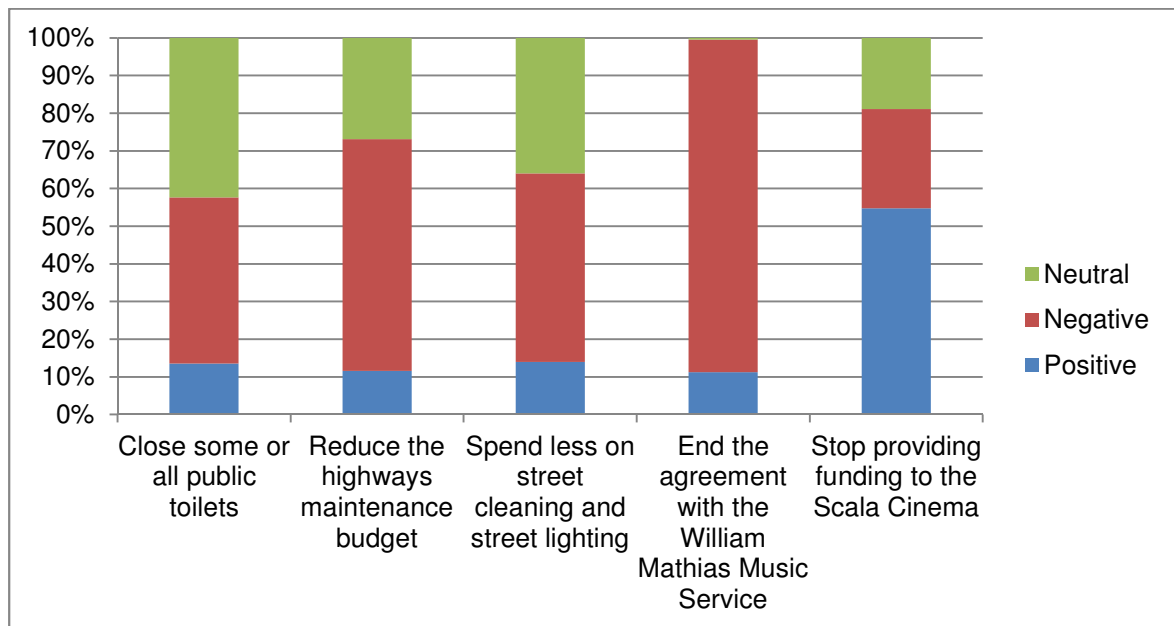
1. Responses by Service

Below is a chart showing the percentage of responses for each service.



Top five most commented on proposals

Below is a chart showing the top five most commented on proposals.



The most commented on proposal was from the Education Service proposals; to end the agreement with the Williams Mathias Music Service. It must be stressed that the majority of the feedback received on this item was as a result of an organised campaign, as well as some feedback through the official survey.

The Highways and Environmental Services had the second highest number of responses, with three of the proposals being in the top five.

These were; closing some or all public toilets, reduce the highways maintenance budget and spend less on street lighting and street cleaning.

The fifth most commented on proposal was from Communication, Marketing and Leisure Service; stop providing funding to the Scala Cinema. There was general support to stop providing the subsidy that is currently provided.

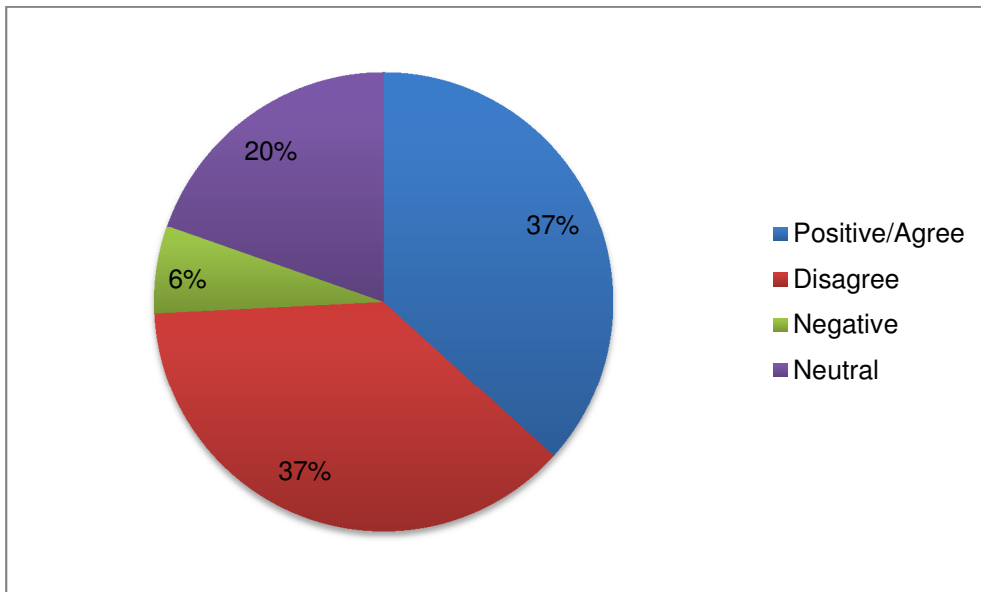
It must be noted that the Council is aware of a number of petitions relating to some of the proposals, including a petition on the care homes review (up to 5,000 names), the proposal to stop funding the William Matthias School Music Service (1,846 names) and a call for a full public consultation on the proposals (250 names).

The Council is also aware of a general discussion on social media about a number of issues, including the William Matthias School Music Service, the review

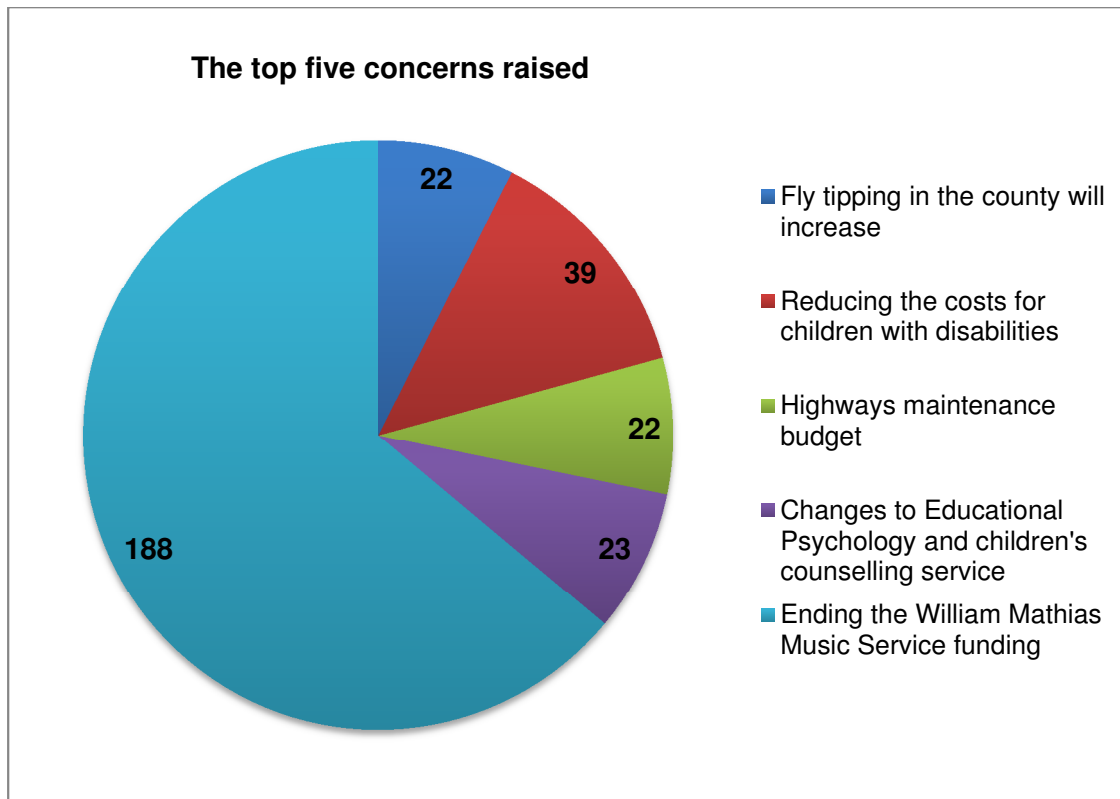
of care homes and the CCTV. Whilst these may not be deemed official responses to the debate, it is important to note that these discussions are taking place.

Appendix 2 includes the list of cuts and a summary of the comments raised by residents.

Below is a summary of the breakdown of survey responses and comments received in percentages (positive/ agree, disagree, negative and neutral).



Below are some of the key concerns raised by respondents to the debate.



The proposal to end the agreement with the William Mathias School Music Service drew the most number of comments, with concern expressed about the potential impact on music tuition and opportunities in Denbighshire.

Both proposals to charge for green waste collection and reduce the number of recycling parks in the county caused concern about the potential for an increase in fly tipping. Suggestions included having seasonal collections only; when the most waste is collected and reducing the amount of collections.

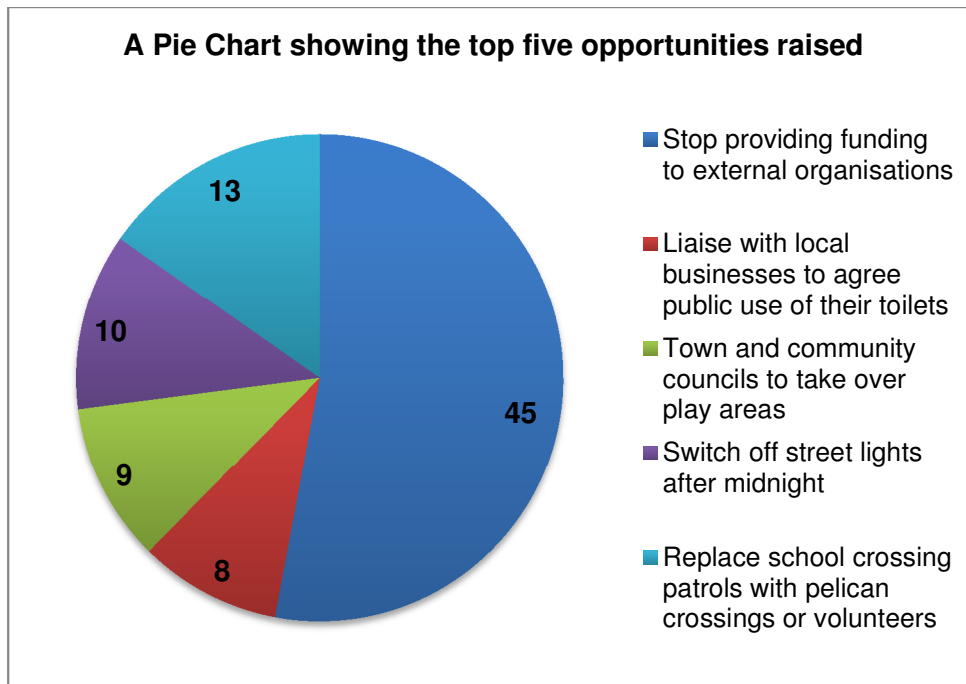
The proposal to review council-run care homes caused some concern for the closure of care homes, as this is perceived to be a much needed service.

Reducing the highways maintenance budget caused concern for the safety of the roads; residents perceive the condition of the roads to be poor as they stand, reducing this budget will further decrease their condition and safety.

Changes to the psychology and counselling services within education caused concern as people stated it is a much needed service and the capacity is limited as the service stands; children will not be supported as outside organisations are not able to fill this gap.

Ceasing funding to the CCTV service caused concern because of a belief that anti-social behaviour could increase if the service was no longer provided.

2. Range of opportunities raised



Residents suggest external organisations, such as the Scala Cinema in Prestatyn and the Ruthin Craft Centre should be self-sufficient and responsible for their assets themselves.

Some suggested that the Council liaised with local businesses to come to an agreement for toilets in shops/cafes to be used by the public and visitors to the county. Some state the lack of toilets will deter custom and tourists.

Play areas were deemed important by residents, with suggestions made that the Town and Community Councils could take these over.

Switching off street lights after midnight was suggested, to help reduce spending.

School crossing patrols were deemed important; an opportunity included introducing pelican crossings in place of patrol officers, the crossing could be used by all throughout the day.

There was a general public consensus about the need to make savings wherever possible. General observations supported outsourcing to the private and voluntary sectors, along with Town and Community Councils where possible.

A full list of the proposals with opportunities / suggestions put forward by the public, together with any comments from Heads of Service, can be found in **Appendix 3**.

3. Response undertaken to date

After the first week we identified a number of key areas of concern and put together the FAQ document entitled "You asked ... here is more information". This document was updated as the responses came in and was designed to deal with the main areas of concern or confusion raised by residents during the process. These were around services for children with disabilities, review of care homes and the proposal on the school uniform grant.

The latest version of this document will remain on the website and the survey will remain open until the final budget session in February 2015.

Individual press releases or press statements have been issued in response to specific issues raised.

4. Formal feedback to contributors

Where contributors left their contact details we will respond to them directly alerting them to the summary of responses which will be hosted on the website. A press release will be issued explaining that the formal part of the engagement has completed, that councillors have seen and taken into account the summary of the responses and that the survey is still open for any contributions residents may still wish to make. The report will appear on the website after the council meeting and will be placed on the Council's social media accounts.

5. Summary response from City Town and Community Councils

Feedback has been received from City, Town and Community Councils to the proposals. There was a general consensus that if a town council is in discussion to take over a County Asset / Service there has to be an acceptance that the discussions may take months.

There seemed to be conflict between what was considered to be priorities in the Town & Area Plans and what was subject to the budget proposals ie floral planting in Rhyl and Prestatyn.

The Councils were asked to discuss the budget proposals with their members and to come back if more detailed information was required. Such a request should be based on a genuine interest by the TC in entering into discussions and not purely as a speculative request which can be resource intensive.

A number of town councils have come forward and have expressed an interest in receiving more information on some of the proposals, with a view to considering whether they could look at taking over the services.

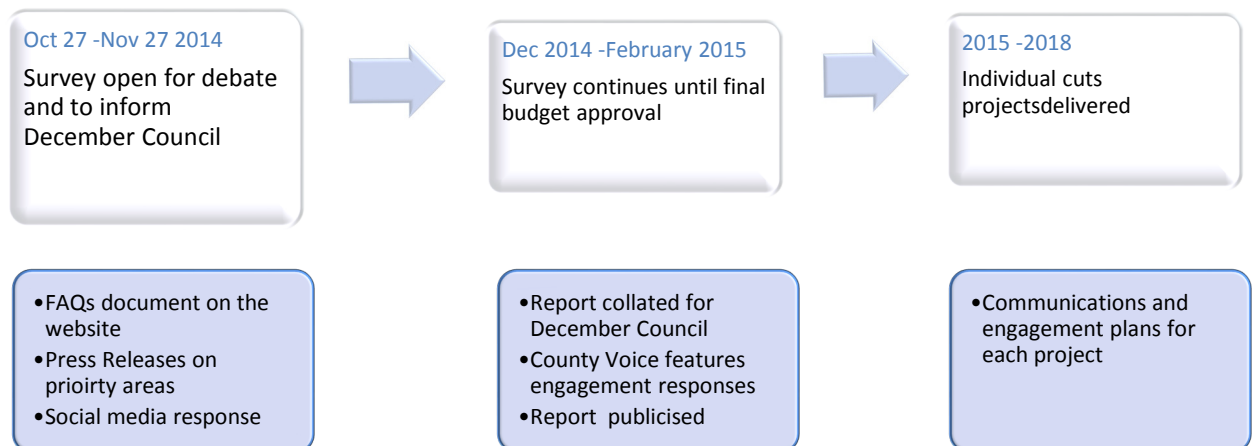
They have provided a response on a wide range of proposals. Their specific feedback on individual proposals have been included in the total number of comments received.

6. Summary response from partners

The Council has also been involved in discussions with the Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) to discuss the implications of our savings proposals, and to explore whether or not the Third Sector could assist the Council to soften the impact on some of these cuts to services.

There are a number of proposals which could benefit from further discussions with DVSC, including proposals on the Welfare Rights Service, volunteering in services such as the Scala, restructure of Adult Services in local communities and the potential of transferring community assets.

7. High Level Process



Impact assessment work has been carried out for each proposal and this will be considered by councillors at the same time as the feedback from residents when decisions are made.

Eich barn ar effaith y toriadau

Cutting our Cloth

Your views on the impact of cuts

Angen eich barn ar y drafodaeth toriadau yn y gyllideb

Your views needed on budget cuts debate

Mae'r Cyngor yn awyddus i glywed eich barn am y toriadau arfaethedig sy'n cael eu hystyried fel rhan o'r ymgyrch i ddod o hyd i £17 miliwn mewn arbedion dros y ddwy flymedd nesaf.

Rydym wedi lansio trafodaeth o amgylch y toriadau yn y gyllideb o'r enw 'Tori'r Gôt yn ôl y Brethyn', i ofyn i chi beth y gellir ei wneud i leihau effaith y toriadau anoch chi a'ch cymuned.

Mae'r Cyngor eisoes wedi cytuno ar becyn o doriadau gwerth £4.6 miliwn. Mae'r rownd bresennol o gynigion sy'n cael eu hystyried yn werth £6 miliwn a bydd cynghorwyr yn eu hystyried yn ffurfiol mewn cyfarfodydd ym mis Rhagfyr a mis Chwefror.

Dywedodd y Cynghorydd Hugh Evans, OBE, Arweinydd y Cyngor: "Mae'r Cyngor wedi gweithio'n galed iawn dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf i amddiffyn swyddi a gwasanaethau cyhoeddus hanfodol lle bynnag y bo modd.

"Rydym wedi llwyddo i arbed £20 miliwn trwy ganolbwyntio ar aneffeithlonrwydd, biwrocratiaeth a rheolaeth a chostau diangen, ond mae'r amser wedi dod i ni wneud toriadau.

"Mae'r toriadau hyn yn anrffod. Maent y dewisiadau 'lleiaf-gwaethaf' mae'n rhaid i'r Cyngor eu hystyried wrth iddo drefnu ei gyllideb ar gyfer y flyyddyn ariannol nesaf.

Dywedodd Dr Mohammed Mehmet, Prif Weithredwr Sir Ddinbych: "Nid yw sefyllfa'r gyllideb yn Sir Ddinbych yn sicr ddim yn unigryw ac rydym yn wynebu ein heriau mwyaf ers datganoli.

"Cyn y gwneir penderfyniadau terfynol ar y cynigion hyn, mae'r

Cyngor yn dymuno deall eu heffaith ar y cyhoedd, ar staff ac ar y gymuned ehangach.

"Er y bydd maint y toriadau sy'n wynebu llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru yn newid y strwythur a phwrpas, a bydd cynghorau yn anochel yn gwneud 'llai gyda llai', byddant yn dal i ddarparu gwasanaethau hanfodol i drigolion a gofal diogel o arsawdd da i'w hoedolion a phlant diamddiffyn.

"Ac rydym yn gwneud ymrwymiad yn Sir Ddinbych i barhau i ddarparu'r gwasanaethau gorau posibl, er gwaethaf yr heriau mawr sy'n ein hwynebu."

Mae crynodeb o gynigion i'w gweld ar y wefan, www.denbighshire.gov.uk, ynghyd â ffurflen ar-lein fer i chi ei chwblhau. Gallwch gyflwyno eich ymateb ar-lein.

Fel arall, gallwch anfon e-bost: public.relations@denbighshire.gov.uk neu ysgrifennu at: Torri'r Brethyn, Adran Gyfathrebu, Cyngor Sir Ddinbych, Neuadd y Sir, Ffordd Wynnstay, Rhuthun, LL15 1YN neu gallwch adael eich sylwadau yn unrhyw un o dderbynydd y cyngor.

Os ydych yn dymuno i'r Cyngor gysidro'ch sylw yn y cyfarfod ym mis Rhagfyr, bydd angen i chi sicrhau bod eich sylw yn cyrraedd cyn Tachwedd 27.

Bydd yr holl adborth a dderbynnir fel rhan o'r drafodaeth yn cael ei gyflwyno i gynghorwyr.

The Council wants to hear your views on the proposed cuts that are being considered as part of the quest to find £17 million in savings over the next two years.



Foreword by Hugh Evans
Leader of
Denbighshire County Council

We have launched a debate around the budget cuts called 'Cutting our Cloth', to ask you what can be done to lessen the impact of cuts on you and your community.

The Council has already agreed a package of cuts worth £4.6 million.

The current round of proposals being considered are worth £6 million and councillors will consider them formally at meetings in December and February.



Dr Mohammed Mehmet
Chief Executive
Denbighshire County Council

Councillor Hugh Evans OBE, Leader of the Council, said: "The Council has worked

really hard over recent years to protect jobs and vital public services wherever possible.

"We have managed to save £20 million by concentrating on inefficiencies, bureaucracy and management, but the time has now come for us to make cuts.

"These cuts are unavoidable. They are the 'least-worst' options that the Council has to consider as it sets its budget for the next financial year".

Dr Mohammed Mehmet, Chief Executive of Denbighshire, said: "The budget situation in Denbighshire is certainly not

unique and we are facing our biggest challenges since devolution.

"Before final decisions are made on these proposals, the Council wishes to fully understand their impact on the public, on staff and on the wider community.

"While the scale of cuts facing local government in Wales will change the structure and purpose and councils will inevitably do 'less with less', they will still continue to provide vital services to residents and good quality, safe care to their vulnerable adults and children.

"And we are making a commitment in Denbighshire to continue providing the best possible services, despite the big challenges we face."

A summary of proposals can be found on the website, www.denbighshire.gov.uk, together with a short online form for you to complete. You can submit your response online.

Alternatively, you can e-mail: public.relations@denbighshire.gov.uk or write to: Cutting Your Cloth, Communications Department, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or you can leave your comments at any council reception area.

If you wish your comment to be considered by the Council at its December meeting, it should arrive with the Council no later than November 27.

All feedback received as part of the debate will be reported to councillors.

Below is a list of proposals and a summary of the main comments raised.

Service	Proposal	Summary of the concerns raised
Communication, Marketing and Leisure	Reducing spend on job advertising in newspapers	General support for this.
	Stop printing County Voice in hard copy	General support for this. Some questions on how people without internet can access the document.
	Additional income and savings in Leisure Centres	This was generally supported. Some concerns raised that increasing membership in leisure centres could result in queues for activities.
	Restructure at the Rhyl Pavilion and introduce transactional fees for bookings.	General support for this proposal, as the majority of similar venues charge a transaction fee. However, some concern that it will discourage people from visiting the theatre.
	Consider more efficient ways of running Llangollen Pavilion	Support for this proposal. One suggestion states all facilities like this should be offered to the private sector.
	Reduce costs in Youth Service	Mixed response. Some concern that this will impact on other elements of the Council's work.
Highways and Environment	Introduce charges for green waste collections	Some concern this will increase fly tipping. Others state they should receive this service as council taxpayers should receive the service
	Spend less on street cleaning and street lighting	Suggestion to switch off street lights after midnight and question whether there should be lighting at all in some areas.
	Reduce public rights of way activity	Some concern about this proposal having a detrimental effect on the countryside, less visitors coming to Denbighshire.
	Increase burial charges	Some concern that this will placed added pressure on people on low income.
Finance and Assets	Reduce the amount of office accommodation	This is supported.
Business Improvement and	Reduction in the opening hours of County Archives in	This is generally supported, as more information is becoming digital. Some suggest we should charge for

Modernisation	Ruthin.	the service, as private providers such as Ancestry.com do.
Adult and Business Services	Charging for the service we provide to manage financial affairs for people, when appointed to by the courts.	This is generally supported by respondents.
	Restructure of services in local communities.	Some support for this proposal – reducing the number of managers and having more staff on the ground.
	Find a more effective way of providing benefits and welfare advice.	General support for this proposal, although there is some concern about staffing and effects on low income families.
Children and Family Services	Reduce costs around staffing, technology, and contribution to regional young carers service, children with disabilities equipment, the adoption support costs, the Regional Youth Advocacy contract and external fostering costs.	Some concern that services to the most vulnerable could be affected. Some support for cutting administrative costs.
Planning and Public Protection	Planning and Public Protection – prioritising services	Small number of responses – some state they are vital services that need protecting. Others are in full agreement with the proposals.
	Increasing fees	Agreement to this.
	Closure of Pest Control Service	Some people say this proposal will make it harder for low income families to meet costs of any service they may need in the future. Others are supportive of the idea.
	Stop providing consumer trading standards advice	General agreement with this proposal.
Customer Service	Website advertising	General support of this proposal.

Savings – Phase Two

Service	Proposal	Summary of the concerns raised
Communication, Marketing and Leisure	Stop the funding provided to the Scala Cinema and Arts Centre, Prestatyn	Mixed response to this proposal. General support for this proposal, although there are some concerns raised.
	Reduce or remove funding provided to Ruthin Craft Centre.	General support for this. Some respondents say the centre should be self-financing. Also some suggest the funding be cut altogether, similar to the Scala proposal.
	Reduce funding to Rhyl and Llangollen Tourist Information Centres	General support for this. Some say the information is readily available online.
	Rhyl Pavilion Theatre - consider a different way of operating.	Strong views. Most people support this proposal. Some argue it should be self-financing and that taxpayers shouldn't need to foot the bill. Small number of people calling for investment in the Pavilion.
	Introduce charges to use the Drift Park and a reduction in the beach lifeguard cover during May and June.	Some concern about the reduction in lifeguard cover with questions around what will be done to educate people about the dangers, signage etc.
	Reduce opening times for Denbigh Town Hall and / or consider transfer to Town Council.	General support for this. One suggestion that the building is sold.
	Stop Council run exhibitions in library galleries in Rhyl, Denbigh, Ruthin and Llangollen and reduce costs in Library Service.	General support for this proposal, although some call for exhibitions to continue in some other form.
	Review the library asset portfolio	General support for this. Respondents want to see the libraries protected. Some suggestions about changing/ extending opening hours.
Education	Review school budgets in line with reduction in number of pupils.	Some disagreement with changing budgets. Some suggest this will only work if it is done properly, with funding evenly distributed.

	Managing facilities in schools.	Some concern over health and safety aspects.
	The Council to end grant for school uniforms for low income families and stop financial support for school trips	Some concerns at the effect this will have on lower income families. Some ask why a uniform is needed in the first place.
	Change the way we support governors	General support for this.
	Change the focus of the Young Person's Counselling Service and focus the work of the Education Social Work team on school attendance and safeguarding.	General concern about this proposal. People argue young people's health services should be protected.
	Savings in Educational Psychology Team	General support for this proposal.
	End the agreement with the William Mathias Music Service.	Generally there is opposition to this proposal, stating it will have a detrimental effect on music lessons in schools. A petition and e-mail campaign has been generated to respond to this proposal. Some people have expressed their support to the proposal.
	Stop the School Library Service	Small number of responses. General disapproval, with concerns that this move will affect children's literacy.
Highways and Environment	Reduce budget for supporting local bus routes	Some concern about the effects of the proposal on transport in rural areas. Also some concern that bus fares will increase as a result.
	Reduce highways maintenance budget	Some concern that the roads are not in the best condition currently, also some concern about reducing gritting routes.
	Reduce grounds maintenance budget	Some think it's a good idea and should be implemented. Others fear it will affect the visual impact of the county from a tourism perspective.
	Closing some or all public toilets	Some concern that this will have an effect on the elderly and visitors. Others argue there are plenty of public toilets in the county (shops, shopping centres,

		restaurants, cafés etc)
	Closure of one recycling park in Denbighshire	Mixed response. Some think it's a good idea. Others are concerned about the potential risk of fly-tipping and the effect on the county's recycling rates.
	Reducing the budget for Countryside Service	Mixed response. Some think it's a good idea. Others fear of the effects on tourism and countryside.
Finance and Assets	The Council owns a number of non-operational assets with a cost associated with maintaining them.	General support for this proposal.
	Create a business partnership in Revenues and Benefits	Mixed response. Some support, providing the residents see a benefit.
	Reduce property support for schools	Mixed response.
Planning and Public Protection	CCTV	Concern over the impact on community safety, a small number of people think it's a good idea.
Housing and Community Development	Remove the budget for the new Town and Area Plans projects	General support for this.
	Reduce costs in Economic and Business Development	General support for this proposal.
	Housing Revenue Account	General support for this proposal.
Children's Services	Parental contributions for services to children with disabilities	Mixed response. Some concern about effects on low income families, some question will this be means tested.
Adults Services	Provider services	Concerns raised about the review of care homes. Clarification sent out to explain the position. An online petition has been arranged on this subject.
Customer Services	Rhyl One Stop Shop modernisation	General support for this proposal, stating that the Prestatyn model has worked well.. Some say it makes sense to centralise services.

Opportunities and suggestions from the 'Cutting our Cloth' engagement with Head of Service comments

Savings – Phase One

Service	Proposal	Opportunities/ Suggestions	Comment from Head of Service
<p>Communication, Marketing and Leisure</p>	<p>Reducing spend on job advertising in newspapers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where Welsh is essential for a post, only advertise in Welsh. • Have one generic advert with job titles only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We plan to have on generic advert which will direct potential applicants to the Council website. This will need to be bilingual in line with our Welsh Language Policy. • All posts will also be advertised on the corporate social media accounts, to ensure maximum audiences to view our job opportunities.
	<p>Stop printing County Voice in hard copy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop it altogether if you are only going to produce it electronically. I would bet that a fair number of its readers do not use electronic means to access it - perhaps having it in Welsh and English online and producing it in English only in print would save just as much. • Produce one issue with a front page blast saying that future editions will be available on-line only and e-mailed to residents on publication date. Delivery of County Voice will be by request only. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The electronic version will allow us to be more responsive to residents as we will be able to measure the take up and residents will be able to feedback their views directly. • We will be producing the December edition in electronic and hard copy format with clear advertising to promote the fully electronic version to follow in the Spring of 2015. • We need to ensure that we have a clear communication channel for our residents to feel informed, something they have highlighted in previous resident surveys.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider not producing it at all. • Promote through local news e.g. llanblogger. blogspot.com, it would still get seen. 	
Additional income and savings in Leisure Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopping discounted rates for DCC members would help reduce the oversubscribed gyms at peak times. • I think there are not enough local leisure centre facilities for residents, this should be an area of growth first, have more centres, offer good facilities, before you look to increase any costs. • £14-15 per month may be quite a lot for older people to find. Sometimes, it might be worth offering a considerable concession in an attempt to attract more members with a resultant increase in income. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have reopened the North Wales Bowls Centre in Prestatyn and in 2015 will re-open the Nova Centre and therefore the leisure portfolio is growing in Denbighshire. • There is already a membership concession in place for older people and of course swimming is free for Over 60's 	
Restructure at the Rhyl Pavilion and introduce transactional fees for bookings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why not try to attract better quality of show to attract a greater audience. • Reduce box office open hours. • £2.50 transaction fee sounds high in comparison to other ticket agencies - could there be a reduction to Denbighshire residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will consider this going forward • The transaction fee is below industry average and includes both card fees and postage. 	
Consider more efficient ways of running Llangollen Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close it over the winter months. • What about just closing for certain months of the year - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening hours are tailored to booked events. We are working with a partner to develop more events / 	

		hopefully increasing demand for the rest of the year.	conferences.
	Reduce costs in Youth Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tie in with academic year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Youth Service programme operates on a financial year although it contributes to activity through the academic year. Reduced costs therefore are fine based on the financial year.
Highways and Environment	Introduce charges for green waste collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why couldn't you just cut down the number of collections per year? Surely we don't need as many in the winter? • Could the collections not be reduced to once every two months in winter and once a month other times and if people want more frequent collections they can pay for it? Green waste collection only between March and October when the need is required. • Green waste as a potential fertiliser - process it (not by a private firm use council workers) and sell it back to Denbigh gardeners at a price less than you'd pay in a shop - the money collected goes to the council for the peoples benefit and not a private company. Use the same model for other areas. • This should be waived for the elderly and disabled • Half the charge, may seem more palatable to residents • Leaflets on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That already happens, however it doesn't deliver the budgetary reductions that are required. • As above. Reducing frequency doesn't deliver the budgetary savings that we are required to make • Our green waste is already composted and re-used. The resulting compost is already offered to commercial outlets, however, the market is flooded by the volumes of material that are generated, and consequently, the compost has little or no residual value. For example; Flintshire give it away free. • The elderly and the disabled are not necessarily poor, especially the people who have private residences with significant gardens • Nobody is forced to opt in. • See comments above on composting

		composting? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should have an option to opt out • How about introducing community compost 	
	Spend less on street cleaning and street lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating the public to keep the streets tidy would reduce the amount of street cleaning needed. • Look at which areas require most cleaning and observe the reasons why, who actually creates the mess? When and how often. • Those on Community Service could do the street cleaning. • More bins (in the right places) would allow for less Street cleaning. • Greatly reduce the amount of street lights in towns and the time they are switched on reduced. • We need to teach people not to litter first. Impose fines not just make rules that aren't enforced. • Ask for volunteers. Offer grants to community groups/ youth projects? • Why not take the clearance of sand from the promenade in-house, this will save the extortionate costs paid to the contractors. Surely DCC gardeners etc have the machinery to do this? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We already try to do this • We already do this • This already happens. • Unfortunately; people litter even in areas where there are plenty of bins. • This will be considered if any further cuts are required. • We already try to do this • Most street cleansing is done using ride-on machines. • It is not accepted that any contractors are paid extortionate amounts.
	Reduce public rights of way activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the people doing community service or on benefits to clear this up - way for them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We already use the community payback teams on public realm work

		<p>to "earn" their money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public rights of way - healthier living - people should be made aware of where they can exercise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council runs frequent publicity campaigns in this area of activity.
	Increase burial charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase should be phased - increase is too much in one go. • Would prefer if Rhuddlan owned their own piece of land for burials, and hope the town council would look into it in the near future. <p>Could this increase be potentially made less by also introducing a small increase to burial of ashes / cremation / removal + reinstatement of headstone memorials etc?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases have been phased • That's a matter for the TC • The increases are across the whole service area
Finance and Assets	Reduce the amount of office accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't leave empty buildings. For example Ty Nant could have been rented to local agencies and consultancies as "virtual offices" with one or two staff manning the central phone line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are reducing the amount of office space where possible. Ty Nant was advertised for rent for several months but there was no interest from anyone either to take it all or in part.
Business Improvement and Modernisation	Reduction in the opening hours of County Archives in Ruthin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does DCC charge for this service? Much of this is available online but providers charge for access. DCC should also charge. • If you're considering reducing the hours, how about open on a Saturday morning giving opportunity those working Mon-Fri to access this fantastic facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have already reacted to some engagement to reduce the hours for 4 – 2 days to look at reducing it from 4 – 2 ½ days. We are currently consulting on which days these 2 ½ should be. • By reducing our opening hours, we will provide a reasonable level of public opening hours for visitors, whilst also allowing staff more time

			<p>to spend on essential behind the scenes work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cataloguing • publishing our catalogue of holdings online • digitising collections and making them available online • digital preservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are proposing to reduce the opening hours from the current 28 hours a week, to 17 hours a week from January 2015. We are proposing three options for the new opening hours, and we would like you to vote for your preferred option. You also have the opportunity to propose a fourth option, if you like. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The closing date to have a say is Friday 5th December 2014. We will make a final decision shortly after this date, and the new opening hours will come into effect in January 2015.
Adult and Business Services	Charging for the service we provide to manage financial affairs for people, when appointed to by the courts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why can you not get accountants to do this job and charge the full amount to the client 	
	Restructure of services in local communities,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions provided. 	
	Find a more effective way of providing benefits and welfare advice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave it to CAB. There seem too many organisations offering the same service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Service felt no specific response was necessary.
Children and Family Services	Reduce costs around staffing, technology, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions provided. 	

	contribution to regional young carers' service, children with disabilities equipment, the adoption support costs, the Regional Youth Advocacy contract and external fostering costs.		
Planning and Public Protection	Planning and Public Protection – prioritising services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members training should not cost the council anything, as it should be carried out by internally qualified staff. Members council allowances should also be looked at should the number of members there are in the authority - do we really need 40+!! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The training is carried out by internal qualified planning staff. The saving seeks to reduce this internal cost. • The issue of Members allowances and the number of Members in the Authority is not a matter linked to this savings, and is a matter best addressed by others.
	Increasing fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No response needed
	Closure of Pest Control Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You could charge for the service. • Perhaps help for those on very lowest incomes could be subsidised if private services are really needed and pests are a health risk to neighbours? • Makes it harder for those on low income - could it be reduced and offered just to those people? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pest Control is not a statutory function. We do have an existing charging regime for our Pest Control Service, but that income never covered the cost of providing the Services. There are numerous providers of pest control services in the private sector, so the public have options in the free market who to engage should they have a pest problem. The Council will retain a public health statutory duty which may result in statutory notices being served on private land owners to resolve a pest problem themselves, if that problem has broader

			public health implications. The Council will have options in terms of ensuring compliance with such statutory notices.
	Stop providing consumer trading standards advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No response needed
Customer Service	Website advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions provided. 	

Savings – Phase Two & Three

Service	Proposal	Opportunities/Suggestions	Comments from Heads of Service
Communication, Marketing and Leisure	Stop the funding provided to the Scala Cinema and Arts Centre, Prestatyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions provided. 	
	Reduce or remove funding provided to Ruthin Craft Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce an admissions fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will shortly be holding discussions with the Arts for Council for Wales that provide around 87% of the funding. Admissions fees will be part of the discussions.
	Reduce funding to Rhyl and Llangollen Tourist Information Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at footfall and only open during peak times, or close during the winter months. • Try to pass some of the cost in the form of increased business rates? • Create information points in libraries, information boards with leaflet racks. • Create an online facility within the buildings similar to banks. • An online provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footfall has been analysed and will be used to determine opening times. • Rateable values are set by the valuation office, the rate in the pound set by the Welsh Government and Westminster sets any reliefs or changes through legislation. • We continue to develop the opportunities to

		should remain.	promote tourism through the other outlets suggested.
Rhyl Pavilion Theatre - consider a different way of operating.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could it be transferred to the community? • Arts Council should be approached for more support. 		
Introduce charges to use the Drift Park and a reduction in the beach lifeguard cover during May and June.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only have lifeguards at weekends or busier periods. • Suggest a Family charge of £5 for the day and look at other options 		
Reduce opening times for Denbigh Town Hall and / or consider transfer to Town Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions proposed. 		
Stop Council run exhibitions in library galleries in Rhyl, Denbigh, Ruthin and Llangollen and reduce costs in Library Service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why not start by having a massive sale of old stock books to see if this can fund buying new books and promoting some exhibitions. To reduce staff costs, appeal for users as volunteers. • Consider charging for book reservations. Consider charging adults for more than one hour of computer use per week. • Could accept second hand books. Those not req. could be given to charity shops • Rent the gallery space to interested parties. • Can libraries become multifunctional hubs? • Only have one arts offer per town. For example, Ruthin has the Craft Centre and the Oriel; this is the case in most 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ex-Library books are purchased by 2 organisations which goes towards the service income target. • The Library service is currently looking at increasing its use of volunteers as part of the developing community offer. • Charges are levied on reservations on books borrowed from outside of Wales. We are not able to charge for books borrowed within Wales due to Welsh Government requirements. Similarly charging for public use of the internet to access information is contrary to the Welsh government agreement. • Second hand books: The 	

		<p>towns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charge the exhibitors for using the space. • Reduce not stop. • The libraries could look at other ways of raising money e.g. charging for DVD rentals, voluntary charge for adults on books, 'premium' membership to avoid late fees and allow more books to be taken out. 	<p>staff time taken in processing, jacketing, cataloguing and labelling etc is significant - this practice was stopped previously due to the high costs in processing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative use of gallery space is part of the proposed efficiencies. Art gallery exhibitors have been charged through a commissioning sales process. Charges are unlikely to provide a good level of income / efficiency. Unfortunately reducing the use of gallery space will not generate the savings required. • Libraries currently are multi functional (e.g. council one stop shops, Tourist information etc) and moving forward this will be part of proposed continuing and further developments. • Libraries are unable to charge for books as this would contravene the public libraries act. Charges for DVD's was stopped in May 2013 due to the low interest from the community.
	<p>Review the library asset portfolio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the opening time of ALL libraries to get better value for money from the Capital investment. • Hire out the facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending the operational hours of all libraries would only increase certain elements of the revenue costs of the building i.e. staffing and utilities. The focus of reviewing the asset portfolio will be to ensure we make better use of these assets and consider a number of options going forward such as sharing facilities

			with other service provider or third sector organisations.
Education	Review school budgets in line with reduction in number of pupils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support schools that are popular and full to capacity and rationalize those that underperform and parents obviously avoid. • There are schools where there are very low numbers yet the money from DCC is still going into them. DCC needs to close these schools. DCC needs to stop the modernising education programme and wasting money on that! • P.T .A.'s could help with the shortfall. • A formula based on need would be preferable and not disadvantage smaller schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Modernisation Programme is about reviewing all schools and understanding where the need for school places are, both now and in the future. Surplus capacity has been removed by closing and amalgamating schools where the case has been made and agreed by elected members. • The funding formula has been reviewed recently and a significant proportion of funding is based on pupil numbers. Small schools are supported but there is a point at which they become unsustainable.
	Managing facilities in schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions proposed. 	
	The Council to end grant for school uniforms for low income families and stop financial support for school trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools could also organise internally a swap shop for outgrown uniforms. • Maybe we should get rid of school uniform - they don't have it in other countries, and parents do have to pay extortionate prices for uniform. • You could save money by doing away with wear school uniform completely. All you need to do is specify that pupils wear a particular colour of clothing and leave it at that. Uniform is not a great leveller – the rich kids wear an expensive uniform and the poor kids wear a cheap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Governing Body has responsibility for their own school uniform policy including how they deal with cases of hardship when parents/carers are unable to afford to pay for a uniform.

		uniform so it just emphasises social inequalities in a different way.	
	Change the way we support governors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Governors Wales is there for support instead. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is taking place to ensure Governors are aware of this service.
	Change the focus of the Young Person's Counselling Service and focus the work of the Education Social Work team on school attendance and safeguarding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reduce the funding given to the Educational Social work team. They DUPLICATE what other social workers do anyway. •This could be out sourced &/or taken by qualified help e.g. Retired counsellors 	
	Savings in Educational Psychology Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions proposed. 	
	End the agreement with the William Mathias Music Service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The poorer families cannot afford music lessons, could the council not support funding for the less well off? Peripatetic music services used to be run by councils themselves - paying a private, profit making company must be more expensive. 	<p>There is currently an agreement in place with the William Matthias Music Trust to manage and administer the peripatetic music service, county ensembles and instruments held by the Council. Peripatetic lessons are held either on an individual basis for those students who want to learn a musical instrument in school, as an addition to the core music curriculum. Schools pay to have lessons from the delegated school budget with a contribution from parents, dependant on the schools individual charging policy. There are currently 861 pupils in the primary sector receiving lessons and 328 pupils in the secondary</p>

			<p>sector. The Denbighshire Youth Choirs are not currently affected. These services are above and beyond music lessons that all children will continue to receive as part of their curriculum offer.</p> <p>The current arrangement is in the form of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) which costs the Council £103,000 a year, with approximately £50,000 paying for the administration costs of the peripatetic service in schools and approximately £52,000 for the six ensembles. Currently, the membership for the six ensembles is approximately 192 Children. The six ensembles are:</p> <p>Ysgol Glan Clwyd Area Wind Band: 24</p> <p>Fusion Band : 9</p> <p>Rhyl String Group: 24</p> <p>Ruthin Area Training Brass Band: 33</p> <p>Denbighshire Senior Brass Band: 41</p> <p>Dinas Bran Area Wind Band: 61.</p> <p>All of these ensemble groups meet for 30 rehearsals a year - 10 per term. The groups participate in a range of events, concerts and competitions.</p> <p>The proposed cut is in relation to the maintenance of the Service Level</p>
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			<p>Agreement. This is an agreement which is in addition to curriculum provision and is not a statutory requirement. Although the Council is considering cutting the payment for this SLA, we would potentially consider alternative ways of providing this type of opportunity for children and young people. We think there could be new ways we can work that will improve accessibility for children across the board and would like to be able to discuss these fully with the William Matthias Trust.</p>
	<p>Stop the School Library Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could you share whether schools would be able to access this stock on a permanent basis? /Buy it at discount from the service? • Allow the children to attend the local library in school time; the librarians could attend the school. 	
<p>Highways and Environment</p>	<p>Reduce budget for supporting local bus routes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take buses back into public ownership. • Why not reduce the budget for councillors' travel expenses? • Would a reduction in the frequency of some services rather than the cutting of routes entirely help to lessen the impact? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough money available • Not relevant • Those options will all be considered
	<p>Reduce highways maintenance budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage on roads should be looked at so that gritting levels can be reduced also a map of the areas where there are regular problems with temps and rainfall throughout the year preventive work should be done rather than a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already being done • Frequency is determined reactively, according to forecasts.

		<p>sticking plaster at the time of the problem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the same gritting pattern, but do the minor roads less frequent. • Maintenance should be done by contractors then you would only have to pay for the work that needs to be carried out at a specific time saving money on staff that have to be paid all year round. • If reducing the gritting in bad weather, need better information (web/phone) on when roads will be cleared. Similar with school too - if you knew what time the roads were being gritted there wouldn't be the panics at 7.30-8 when it snows/freezes. How many schools publicise at 8 that they're not open and roads ok by 9.30-10? How about opening schools at 10 when the weather is bad? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are already increasing the proportion of work undertaken by contractors • The cuts relate to precautionary gritting, not to the response in snow conditions (which most of this question relates to).
	<p>Reduce grounds maintenance budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider letting community groups take over and plant vegetables or wild flowers. There is zero sense in ceasing the cutting of the bowling green (for example) but then not allowing the club members to take over that role. • Replace flower beds with wild flowers that will regenerate every year. This will not only provide something nice to look at but will be important for pollinating insects. Also look for local groups who would be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy to consider • As above • More expensive to grown your own than buy-in. • Lower maintenance displays are already being introduced

		<p>willing to take over the management of the flower beds or look for sponsorship from local business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be reduced without losing staff. Council staff could grow their own plants rather than buying them in, schools and youth organisations could be involved as part of their education. Lower maintenance planting could be used - the towns need to look attractive for visitors. • Look at more business sponsorship. • Encourage home owners to plant in their gardens to add colour to towns and villages • Maybe local businesses could make donation towards the cost of the flowers and maintenance of beds and borders • How about using the 20% to offer as grant to community groups (if they can match fund) so that there is the potential to keep the communities colourful but by transferring the work and ownership to local groups? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already done • The cuts relate to public open space, generally on main roads and in town centres, not private gardens in suburban areas. • See above • See above
	<p>Closing some or all public toilets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could local services, currently posting signs, "Toilets for customers only", not be encouraged (reimbursed) for permitting people to use their facilities without charge? • Would be happy to pay a nominal fee to use available toilets. • Could alternative options be considered, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to ideas, but it would need to be case by case, site by site. • See above • See above • Yes • See above

		<p>for example the toilets at the Pavilion Theatre could become public toilets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could cuts be to the areas of least use first to minimise impact i.e. NOT main tourist or population areas • Consider joint ventures with local businesses - eg pubs, cafes. • These could be self-funding possibly through sponsorship, plumbers' merchants even. • How about considering some when other nearby toilets are open in council buildings e.g. is there any need for the Market Street toilets to be open 9-5 Mon-Fri when there are toilets available in County Hall which is 100yds away? And in Ruthin Craft Centre and Nantclwyd y Dre which is less than 5 mins away. How about putting signs on council buildings advertising the public toilets e.g., Ruthin Gaol, Nantclwyd y Dre, Ruthin Craft Centre, County Hall, Caledfryn, Russell House, Plas Newydd, Town Halls, Leisure Centres etc by noting the nearest when those buildings are closed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above • Would be considered case by case, but likely to be more expensive than the current arrangements. Also difficulties over security.
	<p>Closure of one recycling park in Denbighshire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could the council not run them themselves? A recycling centre should be a source of income to the council, not a cost incurred by contracting the service out to private, profit making companies. • Could the opening times be reduced? And staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They cost money to run. There is no net profit. The private sector runs them more cost effectively than the council could. • Will be considered as an option

		numbers reduced.	
	Reducing the budget for Countryside Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions provided. 	
	<p>Phase 3 - Play areas. Consider the degree to which we are able to continue supporting play areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve local residents in looking after them. • Town council to maintain them & transfer responsibility. • There should be a levy on the sale of computers to contribute towards the maintaining of play areas which are physical and require healthy movement which prolongs an active life. • Hand this to town councils with an increase in their budget, this must not be ring fenced. • Transfer them to self-funding community groups. 	
	<p>Phase 3 - School crossing patrols. Consider whether we can continue to provide school crossing patrols.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install pelican crossings and stop paying a lollipop lady just to push the button. • Provide automated crossing instead of people school staff could take on this task or concerned parents. Drivers would be more vigilant if they knew that the onus was on them. • Could parents or teachers voluntarily man the crossings? • Schools should fund them themselves. 	
Finance and Assets	The Council owns a number of non-operational assets with a cost associated with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions proposed. 	

	maintaining them.		
	Create a business partnership in Revenues and Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions proposed. 	
	Reduce property support for schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions proposed. 	
Planning and Public Protection	Stop providing funding for the CCTV service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could it be a 'shared resource'? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is not about "stopping" the Public Space CCTV in Denbighshire (it only operates in the 3 Towns of, Rhyl, Prestatyn & Rhuddlan), but about the Council withdrawing in 2016/17 £200k of its expenditure on the function. There is therefore 18 months or so for DCC to work with partners, including NWP and the 3 Town Council's to consider alternative ways of providing some Public Space CCTV facility in these 3 towns. These discussions will look at "shared resource"/partnership approach.
Housing and Community Development	Remove the budget for the new Town and Area Plans projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop spending money on Rhyl and spend more money on the rest of Denbighshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments needed.
	Reduce costs in Economic and Business Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions proposed. 	
	Housing Revenue Account	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions proposed. 	
Children's Services	Parental contributions for services to children with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low income families should be exempt from this contribution. • Could a mean testing contribution policy be considered? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our proposal would not apply to families living on benefits, we had considered means testing beyond that, but felt that the costs of administration meant

			that to generate the same savings we would need to collect a much greater amount in contributions just to cover that cost so on balance our proposal using a flat fee approach for working families but set at an affordable level.
Adults Services	Considering starting a consultation on the future provision of council-run direct care services, to ensure that services are provided in a way that individuals tell us they want in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suggestions provided. 	
Customer Services	Rhyl One Stop Shop modernisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close the cash office, offer alternative payment methods. 	

Other suggestions received:

1. To make more savings, why not offer council tax free to council officials, in exchange for a decrease in their salary. This would save on Income Tax and National Insurance payments to staff and the Council. Eg. A reduction of £1,000 on council tax bill of a staff member would equate to around £1,300 of salary before tax and national insurance. The Council would need to pay less employer contributions. Therefore, in this example, the Council would save £300 in the case of one member of staff. A similar scheme already exists for pensions (Salary Sacrifice).
– Response is that this is illegal.
2. Stop producing publications in Welsh and English. Would reduce translation costs.
3. Charge a parking levy on all domestic properties when they park on the highways and footpaths when parking is available for them elsewhere.
Reduce expenses claims – Response is that we have already reduced mileage rates and introduced new technology to reduce the number of miles travelled by staff