

# Cheshire East Council

## Budget Consultation

### Appendix B - Summary of Results

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## Introduction

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### Background and methodology

Between November 2017 and January 2018 Cheshire East residents and other stakeholders were invited to provide their comments and views on the Councils pre-budget report. The following provides a summary of the responses received.

Respondents could submit their views via an online survey, postal survey or via a dedicated e-mail address. Respondents were asked to read through the pre-budget report document before answering the survey questions/ submitting their views.

Efforts to engage with residents with regard to the Budget Consultation realised an increased level of engagement compared to previous year's Budget Consultation activity. The engagement has been wide ranging and has resulted in responses which have allowed the Council to understand the opportunities and challenges associated with the budget setting process.

Details of engagement activity can be found at page 48 – efforts to understand opportunities for improved communication shall be analysed and introduced into subsequent budget setting activity.

The consultation activity resulted in around 600 general or specific responses to proposals listed in the Budget Consultation being raised from a number of sources. The online survey was viewed 1,462 times - whilst we cannot detect if this was by separate individuals it still indicates that engagement was high. A total of 436 valid responses were received for the online/postal survey. 118 further responses were received via the dedicated e-mail address, 14 letters were received & 3 petitions relating to certain proposals were also received. There were also various discussions that occurred via social media pages like Twitter & Facebook (Appendix One). Some of the responses were from elected representatives or from organised groups, although in all cases demographic information on the respondents was requested.

## Summary of Results

### Postal/Online Questionnaire responses

A total of 436 valid responses have been received for the online/postal survey.

### Demographics

Key demographic information collected was as follows:

- 58% of respondents were females, 36% males
- Age breakdown, 16 – 34 (10%), 35 – 54 (30%), 55 – 74 (38%) and 75 and over (17%)
- The majority were White British (89%) with 8% preferring not to say
- 20% of respondents indicated that their day to day activities were limited due to a health problem or disability that had lasted longer than 12 months.
- The majority of respondents resided in Disley, followed by Alderley Edge and Holmes Chapel, (areas corresponding with the proposals for library closures). As The map below shows (*please note not everyone left valid postcode details*).

### Map of respondent postcodes.



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**Question One: Should any of the potential changes to budgets supporting each of the Outcomes be altered, and if so in what way?**

The following tables summarise the comments received into each relatable outcome – please note that comments are NOT written verbatim.

<b>Table 1.1. Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 1. Our local communities are strong and supportive</b>		
<b>Proposal 2. Increase Community Grants</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
Stop community funding and let them get lottery money	Supporting community funding in the right way is key to the prevention and early help offer across adults and children's. We welcome the opportunity for organisations to bid for money such as the lottery and often support them in this. A thriving community sector is essential to the Councils ambition.	No changes

<b>Table 1.2. Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 2 – Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy</b>		
<b>Mixed proposal comment - Proposal 3, 8 &amp; 9</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
Confused by proposals within outcome 2 - proposal 9 - Council wishes to create new investment portfolio through more investment in commercial property - proposal 3 indicates current commercial asset portfolio needs additional funding as it does not achieve its income target - proposal 8. Surely, if the Council chooses to invest in more commercial buildings then these two other proposals will require additional funding beyond that which has been indicated within the pre-budget report?	Proposal 3 relates to reduced income levels in the existing assets owned by the council where a rent is charged which includes garages, industrial units and offices. The growth is required to address the shortfall in income. Proposal 9 relates to the council investing in better performing assets to secure an increase in revenue for the council to assist in supporting essential services. All acquisitions would be subject to detailed business cases.	No changes

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Table 1.2. Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 2 – Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy		
Proposal 16. HS2 Strategy (Revenue Investment)	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<p><b>3 x comments received</b></p> <p>Do not support/ waste of money/won't benefit the North/ cutting this element will save £1.5 million over 3 years.</p>	<p>The arrival of HS2 to Crewe has the potential to deliver significant economic growth which would not otherwise be achieved. The right Crewe Hub station, one which is capable of handling up to 7 HS2 trains stopping per hour with direct services to London, Manchester and Birmingham would unlock significant growth opportunities for Crewe and also across the wider Constellation Partnership area.</p> <p>The current proposals in the phase 2a hybrid bill do not propose a Crewe Hub station and will only see 2 HS2 trains to and from London stopping at Crewe per hour. However, The Council is working with Government to develop a Crewe hub station campus proposal that delivers the Council's ambitions.</p> <p>Following the Full Council decision to petition against the phase 2a hybrid bill we are working with Parliamentary Agents to prepare a response following the second reading. The HS2 budget for this financial year relates to the work required to petition the Hs2 bill and to undertake technical work on the Crewe hub station.</p>	No changes
Town centre revitalisation	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
Make Crewe a town that residents can be proud of and one that people want to visit and spend money in	Cheshire East Council developed a Crewe Town Centre Regeneration Delivery Framework for Growth in 2015 and now has a comprehensive and holistic town centre regeneration programme underway centred around four regeneration zones.	No changes

**Table 1.2. Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 2 – Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy**

	<p>These four zones will be integrated together by an emerging Town Centre Public Realm Strategy that seeks to create a high quality setting to attract visitors, occupiers and investors, and extend dwell time. The regeneration programme recognises the changing role of town centres which will have a greater focus on a mix of uses, leisure and culture. The Council also understands its position as a driver for transformation and catalyst for further commercial investment. Crewe is growing, is set for stronger growth and it is crucial that the town centre benefits and that it's ideally placed to benefit from the Crewe HS2 Hub Station &amp; improvements in wider infrastructure.</p> <p>Macclesfield Town Centre - The Council, working with other stakeholders is developing a holistic strategy and programme of initiatives targeted at improving the vitality and viability of Macclesfield Town Centre. Ongoing initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public realm enhancements in the Primary Shopping Area;</li> <li>• Shop Front Grants aimed at encouraging the upgrading of existing premises;</li> <li>• The sale of Churchill Way Car Park to enable the development of a cinema complex by private developers to boost the currently limited evening economy;</li> <li>• The making of Local Development Orders to encourage residential development to boost the population within walking distance of the town centre;</li> <li>• Exploring options for the reuse of underutilised heritage assets.</li> </ul> <p>The Council fully appreciates the need to retain sufficient convenient parking to serve the town centre balanced against a desire to improve the town centre offer. Objective evidence on car parking capacity has, and will be taken into account when decisions affecting car parks are made. The last commissioned Health Check of Macclesfield Town Centre found that 'Council managed car parking charges are slightly cheaper than found at other town centres which serve a similar shopping role'.</p>	
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**Table 1.3. Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 4 - Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place**

Proposal 31 & 33. Highways Contract/ Procurement	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<p><b>5 x comments received</b></p> <p>Do not reduce highway funding/ in need of greater attention/road maintenance should be increased/ roads are an important asset/ consider bringing back in-house.</p>	<p>It is recognised that the consultation responses do not support reductions in the Highway Service with majority of comments requesting greater service levels. The Council has therefore reviewed the savings proposals.</p> <p>The Council is also in the process of procuring the next Highway Services Contract, as part of this procurement exercise differing delivery methods are being explored to provide improved value for money.</p>	<p>Highways Contract Savings (Proposal 31) are going to be reduced from an initial saving of £500k to only £150k</p> <p>£5m of expenditure in the Highways Investment Programme will be moved from the Capital Addendum and funded as part of the main programme</p>

Table 1.4. Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 5 – People live well and for longer		
<b>Proposal 47. Commissioning all services currently provided by our in-house provider, Care4CE (Revenue Savings)</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<b>2 x comments received</b>	Our plans are to evaluate all of the services within Care4ce to establish the best fit moving forward- this may include maintaining some services, sharing some services, integrating some services or services becoming separate from the Council.	No changes
The complete disbanding of Care4C would leave vulnerable people in the adult social care network at great risk. A baseline service must continue to operate/ Care4CE is currently being reviewed by an external consultancy - outcome of this cannot be pre-judged.		
<b>Proposal 54: Review Early Help Commissioned Services (Revenue Savings)</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
Early help prevention saved / support early years/ more support carers	A full service redesign and refocusing of the services provided will place greater emphasis on early years services and family support services. Support to carers will be included in this offer. Alongside proposals to refocus the council early help, early years and youth support services provided by the council, we also require providers to deliver targeted earlier help that reduces demand. The council, with its partners, is investing in services for example, like emotionally healthy schools, so our children and young people receive earlier support for the emotional health and well-being.	No changes
<b>Proposal 56: Youth Service Restructure (Revenue Savings)</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report</b>
<b>5 x comments received</b>	The Youth Support Service will continue to work with young people who are at risk of NEET and those who are NEET, but due to the changing requirements to track and support young people, the service will be focussing on those who are 16/17 yr olds, rather than those who are 18 +years. The budget reductions will require the service to reshape and to focus on those who are at most need and those who are covered by the Raising of Participation guidance.	No changes
Youth support service helps young people that may not have had any careers advice or guidance at school – concerned that NEET figures for young people may rise if this support is reshaped. Reduction in budget should not go ahead.		

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Table 1.4. Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 5 – People live well and for longer		
Proposal 60. Review all funding and shift to "asset-based" model (Revenue Savings)	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<p><b>2 x comments received</b></p> <p>Support that all options to review Early Intervention &amp; Prevention (EIP) contracts should be explored to ensure value for money &amp; delivering the right services to the right people. However the method should be altered - cancellation of existing contracts is at very short notice without clear &amp; transparent process. Affects the organisation I work for directly (the Bridgend Centre in Bollington) as it is proposed that our EIP contract be allowed to expire with effect from 31st March 2018 which will result in a significant funding gap for our organisation.</p>	There are a number of contracts that are classed as EIP and they are all due to come to the end of their contracted period. Therefore this should have been considered by the organisations involved. There will be opportunity for funding which will be made available through the early help framework which is being developed which will be more targeted and focussed.	No changes
Proposal 67. Cease provision of services at Lincoln House and Mountview (Revenue Savings)	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<p><b>8 x comments received</b></p> <p>Alternative proposition is unclear/ bad idea – should not be closed down/ future service needs to have experienced staff/ keep together groups who have formed friendships/ should be within reasonable distance (keep local) so visits can continue/ provide mental &amp; physical wellbeing activities and support.</p>	The offer of respite, will be looked at as part of a wider review of respite for all residents across the Borough as presented to Cabinet in December 2018. CEC is looking to develop a wide range of alternative models of respite that gives people more choice and control. For those receiving day opportunities they will receive a full reassessment and more personalised service. All service users and their families will be consulted with.	No changes
Comment in relation to SEN support	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<p><b>2 x comments received</b></p> <p>Don't cut SEN/ disability support/ use budget to meet the needs of the children instead of on legal expenses.</p>	There are no planned budget reductions for children with SEND. However there will be an ongoing review to ensure the most efficient use of available resources.	No Proposals in budget consultation

Table 1.5. Summarised Comments in relation to Outcome 6 – A responsible effective and efficient organisation		
Proposal 78. Inflationary Increase for Members	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
Do not think that an inflation equalling increase in allowances is fair or justifiable at this time.	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes
Proposal 79. (83 & 84) Community Library Provision	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>51 x general comments received in relation to proposed closure of libraries</b>	The Council acknowledges that the consultation has received a large number of objections to the proposal to close these libraries, particularly from residents of Disley. The Council invited proposals from local community organisations to deliver these libraries as community managed libraries as an alternative to closure. A community group has submitted a proposal to increase the level of financial support it already provides for the library in Prestbury. No proposals were received for Alderley Edge or Disley libraries, although a group in Alderley Edge has expressed a longer term aspiration in taking over the running of the library.	The Council has decided to keep all of the libraries open. In Alderley Edge and Disley the libraries will achieve some budget savings from revised opening hours and staffing. In Prestbury a small budget saving will be achieved from the increased financial support from the community. Usage at these libraries will continue to be monitored and the proposal to close these libraries will be reconsidered if usage declines significantly. The revised proposal will achieve a saving of £0.046m. The shortfall in saving of £0.104m will be balanced by increased council tax.
Libraries offer vital services and an invaluable sense of community to the most vulnerable in our society/ are well loved and used/ should not be transferred to ESAR.		
<b>33 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Alderley Edge library</b>		
Do not agree with closing Alderley Edge library/ it is an essential & valuable service that has an important role in the community/ its closure would impact the young and old.		
<b>228 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Disley library</b>		
Do not agree with the closure of Disley library/ it is a vital resource and a very important part of the community for all age groups (young and old)/ alternative provisions are too far away/ there has been an increase in housing – growing population.		
<b>7 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Prestbury library</b>		
Prestbury Library should not close – valuable amenity & heart of the community– is little cost to Cheshire East.		
<b>7 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Holmes Chapel library (not being out forward for 18/19)</b>		
Do not close Holmes Chapel library it is an essential service / should not be transferred to ESAR/ do not close even if transferring to ESAR.		

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Table 1.4. Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 5 – People live well and for longer		
Proposal 81. Macclesfield Leisure Centre Improvement Programme	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<p><b>12 x comments received</b></p> <p>Spend less on Macc. leisure centre and use money to fund libraries that are proposed to close.</p>	<p>Macclesfield Leisure Centre is the largest leisure facility in Cheshire East and requires investment to update and modernise the facility to ensure that it continues to provide an attractive leisure offer for residents of Macclesfield and the surrounding area. The investment is expected to increase the income the Council generates from the facility. Sometimes it may seem as though the council is proposing to spend large amounts of money on buildings or infrastructure projects, whilst proposing cuts to important public services such as libraries. Projects are funded from capital resources that we can only use to invest in long term projects which will generate income or savings in the future. We are not allowed to use capital resources to fund day-to-day services such as libraries and so the Council does not spend money on projects instead of services. The income or savings we generate from our capital investments will be used to help run public services in the future.</p>	<p>No changes</p>
Proposals 88 & 89. Changes to 'Everybody Options' Scheme Investment (ESAR) (Revenue Savings) / Car Park Refunds (Revenue Savings)	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<p><b>2 x comments received</b></p> <p>Could have a longer term financial cost to the Council/ put more strain on the NHS and social care groups due to reduced attendances &amp; physical activity. Look at alternatives to a complete removal - phased removal, or continue scheme for the options members who are less well off, look into weekly/monthly bulk discount parking tickets.</p>	<p>The reduction of the discount provided by the Everybody Options scheme from 40% to 30% still represents a significant subsidy by the Council to ensure our leisure facilities are affordable to all. At 30% the discount will be higher than the average for the leisure sector. Users that are currently eligible for free access will continue to benefit from free access.</p> <p>It is noted that the removal of the car park refund could have an impact on participation in leisure activities in the affected locations.</p>	<p>No changes</p>

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Table 1.4. Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 5 – People live well and for longer		
Comment in relation to staff	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>2 x comments received</b>	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes
Reduce staff/ pension benefits/ number of overly inflated salaries/ has the budget made allowances for additional cost of suspended staff?		
Comment in relation to social care tax	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
Council Tax to pay 3% for adult social care - get your house in order and then look at raising council tax - are staff getting a pay rise to cover this increase in their outgoings?	Social care is under pressure across the Country – CEC has an ageing population larger than most areas and an increase in younger people with very complex needs. There is a transformation programme in place for Adult social care but it must be recognised that safeguarding quality requires investment.	No changes

Table 1.6. Summarised comments – Outcomes mixed or unknown		
Mixed comments relating to various outcomes/ proposals	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<p>97. Community Budgets funded from NHB - do not need to spend money on supporting house development - should be against building as pollution and traffic levels are too high and cannot support the existing services.</p> <p>68. Growth in Demand for Adult Social Care - The increase in this is too much - if the county continue to allow people to move into the area by allowing excessive house building we will see even more strain.</p> <p>39. Housing Growth, Waste Contract Inflation and Tonnage Growth - We should be reducing the number of houses built in the area to help reduce this pressure.</p>	<p>Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holders. See above re Adult Social Care.</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<p>Outcome 1 - no longer feel safe - crime gone up as well as fly tipping &amp; anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Outcome 2 - nothing here benefits me.</p> <p>Outcome 4 – feel that Cheshire East doesn't care about the environment</p> <p>Outcome 5 - difficulty accessing services when they are needed, funding for this section needs to be far more and help given too far more people.</p> <p>Outcome 6 – assess staff at higher management levels / struggle to pay council tax.</p>	<p>Outcome 1 – Both fly tipping and ASB have been two key campaigns for the Council. Going forward these remain key priorities.</p> <p>Outcome 5 – The Council agrees and that is why £10.9 million investment is going into adult social care in 2018/19.</p>	<p>No changes</p>

**Table 1.6. Summarised comments – Outcomes mixed or unknown**

<p>1, 18: Maintain bus subsidies at their current level</p> <p>44, 46. Should not be planning further increases in parking charges - only leads to more on-street parking &amp; the decline of town centres.</p>	<p>Parking comments provide a mixed view, however on balance most people accept that charging is required. The comments are focussed on providing greater levels of fairness across the borough together with measures to support our town centres.</p> <p>The proposed high level Parking Strategy, which is planned to undergo public consultation this Summer, will seek to address these current disparities and to develop proposals that would support of our town centres.</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<p>Proposals under Sections 19 &amp; 26 under Outcome 3 (Education) and proposal under Section 54 of Outcome 5 (Health) should be altered. The proposal to "end investment in early help and prevention services" in proposal 26 surely presents a great challenge to the council's statutory responsibilities.</p>	<p>Please refer to previous responses above</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<p>13. Funding for Silk Heritage should not be reduced - our heritage, museums &amp; tourist attractions are important.</p> <p>20. This proposal is very vague - no indication of how advanced technology will reduce expenditure - more information is needed.</p> <p>21. Cared for children - do not increase funding - reduce number of children being taken from parents &amp; focus on the extreme cases.</p> <p>22. Reduce money spent on adoption by leaving more children with their natural parents.</p>	<p>21 &amp; 22. The Council has a statutory duty to safeguard children who have been harmed by their parents or carers and to support families to enable children to remain living with the parents and carers. The overwhelming majority of children in care have met the legal threshold and are therefore placed in care by an order of court. Whilst the number of children in care has increased we continue to have lowest ratio to population in the north west. There has been an increase in children leaving care by being made subject of special guardianship arrangements. The council is implementing a national model of social work called Signs of Safety which focuses on the strengthens of families and whilst it aims to make children safer it seeks to keep children safe within the family.</p>	<p>No changes</p>



**Table 1.6. Summarised comments – Outcomes mixed or unknown**

<p>Outcome 2 - Strong and Resilient Economy. Encourage use of the Town centre (Macclesfield) - do not understand, with the development of a cinema/leisure complex, where people are expected to park? Reduce car parking charges, or have 1 – 2 hours free parking.</p> <p>Outcome 4 - Green and Sustainable Place. Greater use of bus travel should be encouraged; this would have the additional benefit of reducing road congestion. Bus passes should be given to all those over 60. Greater use of bus travel, would again increase the use of the facilities in the town, with the additional benefit of getting people out of their houses, making them more fit and active.</p>	<p>The development of a cinema complex will, it is anticipated in particular boost the evening economy. At the present time the town centre is relatively quiet in the evening with a limited evening offer. Car parking capacity across the town centre car parks has been surveyed, the results showing significant capacity even at peak times. It is therefore anticipated that people currently parking in Churchill Way Car Park will be able to park in alternative car parks such as Duke Street and the Grosvenor Centre, where there are generally high numbers of vacant spaces available. Impact on parking will also be considered again at the planning application stage. Currently parking is free after 6pm in most of the Council's car parks and there is no evidence to suggest that free parking actually significantly increases footfall into town centres. Car parks cost money to maintain and the charges (where applicable) go towards such necessary fees as gritting, business rates, lighting, cleanliness and lines and signs.</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<p>52 - Restructure Prevention and Support - Support this proposal only if there is not a reduction in the offer especially to early years and youth support services.</p> <p>54 - Review Early Help - Should be no reduction in youth support services as these are vital to outcomes 1, 3 and 5. Services contained in 52 &amp; 54 help develop a strong focus on support for children, young people and their families most vulnerable to the poorest outcomes. Need to ensure children &amp; young people have the skills to meet the needs of local employers.</p>	<p>54. Please see previous responses regarding early help &amp; on NEETs. The Director for Education and Skills is working with CE schools and colleges in relation to how best to meet the skills required by employers.</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<p>Outcome 6. Item 79 - closure of small &amp; medium size libraries is damaging to the whole community.</p> <p>Item 78 - Members should have a below inflation increase in allowances.</p>	<p>Please see response above concerning community library provision. All libraries will remain open.</p> <p>Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder</p>	<p>No changes</p>

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**Table 1.6. Summarised comments – Outcomes mixed or unknown**

<p>Went to customer services and document was not on public display – hidden under desk preventing easy access. Feedback papers are a waste of time - having tried to make sense of it I have some questions: Highways contract review - gully blockage will cause flooding, already seen gritters out less &amp; only on major roads. Leave front line staff on low wages alone. How can you support families' and those in need yet reduce children's services. Respite care needs to be more personal, if one can get it as qualifying appears to be getting harder. Do we not pay enough in tax to cover cost of new &amp; replacement bins? What is a channel shift? Libraries are assets that we need for peoples well-being &amp; education. Raise fees will affect those in greatest need. It mentions the living wage to be monitored, rather hypocritical of a council that has wasted millions of pounds of our money, and pays senior staff thousands of pounds a week. It mentions mutually agreed resignation scheme, and golden handshakes, this should be looked at and reduced. What does budges be accountable and appropriate mean and who decides, and on what criteria? Where does the Council tax money go? There are proposals to cut services, yet the expenses of Councillors are not in line for cutting. Outcomes 1-6 are rather a contradiction. Cheshire East council says it will act with integrity, be open and honest and accountable to me there has not been any evidence of this and wonder if it will ever happen.</p>	<p>Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holders</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<p><b>Comment in relation to the document</b></p>	<p><b>Response from CEC</b></p>	<p><b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b></p>
<p>Budget document difficult to understand – should be in plain English.</p>	<p>Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder and be considered for next years budget consultation process.</p>	<p>No changes</p>

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Table 1.6. Summarised comments – Outcomes mixed or unknown		
Miscellaneous/ general comments	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>9 x comments received</b>  Seem appropriate/ think is through properly/ maximise debt recovery/ need stronger partnership theme/ consider those with sensory impairment/ consider prevention budgets/ use of central contracts, agency as last resort/ concessionary bus pass for over 60s.	Responses are noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holders	No changes

**Question Two: What, if any, other proposals should be considered to achieve the Outcomes of the Council whilst maintaining an overall balanced budget?**

The following tables summarise the comments received into each relatable outcome – please note that not all comments are written verbatim.

<b>Table 2.1. Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 2 – Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy</b>		
<b>Proposal 2. Increase Community Grants</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
Fully support this proposal	Thank you for your comment	No changes

<b>Table 2.2. Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 2 – Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy</b>		
<b>Comment in relation to New Homes Bonus (NHB)</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<b>2 x comments received</b>	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes
Better use of section 106 funding/CIL/ NHB - disappointed how the NHB bonus has been lost in existing taxation and not delivered improvements to offset developments. Developers should be made to deliver practical road solutions. Sandbach is being plagued by cycle ways that our not fit for purpose - ignored by cyclists because they do not provide easy connections / Only fair that any NHB payments should be divided between affected wards – reflect number of new homes built as this money was intended to enhance community infrastructure.		
<b>Proposal 16. HS2 Strategy (Revenue Investment)</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
Take money away from this	See previous response above	No changes

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Table 2.3: Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 4- Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place		
Proposal 46. Flat rate Car Parking fee increases	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
All car parking across the local authority should be chargeable - very unusual that in Crewe where footfall needs to be encouraged car parks are not free to use, whereas in Sandbach and other areas of the borough car parks are free.	<p>Parking comments provide a mixed view, however on balance most people accept that charging is required. The comments are focussed on providing greater levels of fairness across the borough together with measures to support our town centres.</p> <p>The proposed high level Parking Strategy, which is planned to undergo public consultation this Summer, will seek to address these current disparities and to develop proposals that support our town centres.</p>	No changes
Comment in relation to Housing Developments	Response from CEC	
Stop further new housing developments - strain on resources.	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes
Comment in relation to household waste bins	Response from CEC	
<b>2 x comments received</b> Reduce the frequency of the green bin collection in the winter/ reductions in recycling & waste collection budgets as per national trend	Thank you for your suggestion which is noted	No changes
Overview comment	Response from CEC	
Outcome 4 point 58 - why are house builders not paying more to help fund local services, e.g. new bins - improve air quality in newly congested towns caused specifically by over build?	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes
37) Refuse disposal at the tipping sites should be charged per visit for commercial waste and larger vehicles cans etc rather than permit certificates, This means of administration has resulted in fly tipping in the countryside which is costly and labour intensive to clear  29) Rents on commercial properties in the main towns of Cheshire East should be reviewed to bring 'life' back into them. Surely a thriving town with reduced rents is better than dead towns and little revenue?	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holders	No changes

Table 2.4. Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 5 – People live well and for longer		
Comment in relation to social care	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>2 x comments received</b>	The Council is constantly reviews it essential and no essential spend to ensure value for money. The proposal is the invest £3 million in children and Families and £10.9 Million in Adults in 2018/19	No changes
Reduce spending on flowers/ 'prettying' up areas - more money spent on social care & children (x1) / cut spending on health & social services (x1).		
<b>Proposal 67. Cease provision of services at Lincoln House and Mountview (Revenue Savings)</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<b>2 x comments received</b>	Please see previous response in relation to proposal 67 above. With regards to possible solutions all these suggestions and more will be considered with NHS partners as part of the transformation programme.	No changes
Day & respite care should be maintained within local area and not outsourced/ operating out of a less expensive asset or a non-council owned asset would still achieve savings to the overall budget without losing the valued service and much needed specialist staff. Possible solutions - sharing space in the Congleton War Memorial/ opening up the Mountview building for additional use as a medical centre i.e. Doctors, dentists, chiropody, counselling to recover revenue to invest in the service.		
<b>Proposal 70. Increase Income (Revenue Savings)</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
This policy proposal isolates income generation only as something related to care charges. An income generation policy should be broader and more strategic than this. It should incorporate an outward looking culture re a number of relevant external funding opportunities.	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes

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Table 2.4. Summarised comments in relation to Outcome 5 – People live well and for longer		
Comment in relation to SEN support	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
Do not cut SEN/ disability support.	There are no planned budget reductions for children with SEND. However there will be an ongoing review to ensure the most efficient use of available resources.	No Proposals in budget consultation
Comment in relation to needs of the D/deaf community	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
"Outcome 5 talks about people living well and for longer - needs of the D/deaf community need to be fully addressed in the on-going commissioning of services, given the high proportion of the population affected & the positive impact to outcomes that good specialist services provide. I would urge commissioners to engage with people experiencing D/deafness and supporting organisations and service providers to ensure evolving needs continue to be met. D/deafness is a cross-cutting theme, relevant to all protected characteristics designated by the Council - action in this area has major benefits to the well-being of the population as a whole.	CEC agrees that support to and co-production with the D/Deaf community is critical. Continually assessing how we meet the needs for this community in particular around the duties under the Care Act remain part of our commissioning plans.	No change

Table 2.5. Summarised Comments in relation to Outcome 6 – A responsible effective and efficient organisation		
Proposal 79. (83 & 84) Community Library Provision	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>68 x general comments received in relation to proposed closure of libraries</b>	Please see response above concerning community library provision. All libraries will remain open.	Please see response above concerning community library provision
Keep the library open/ would support small increase in charges for borrowing items and or an increase in Council Tax to keep libraries open/ review staff or and opening hours		

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Table 2.5. Summarised Comments in relation to Outcome 6 – A responsible effective and efficient organisation		
<b>39 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Disley library</b>		
Keep Disley library open/ reduce spend on Macc. leisure centre and put towards library/ review staff or and opening hours /assess all libraries to spread the cost.		
<b>4 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Prestbury library</b>		
Do not close Prestbury library – help of Anne Whittaker Trust should ensure library is kept open.		
<b>2 x comment received in relation to proposed closure of Alderley Edge library</b>		
Library is a social, community health and education service. Reduce Councillor pay.		
<b>2 x comment received in relation to proposed closure of Holmes Chapel library (not being out forward for 18/19)</b>		
Village is growing - more people will require access to a library – charge extra for services within the building.		
<b>Proposal 81. Macclesfield Leisure Centre Improvement Programme</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<b>21 x comments in received</b>	Please see previous response concerning proposal 7.	No changes
Unsure why Macc. leisure centre needs so much funding – scale back and use money to fund libraries.		
<b>Comment in relation to staff</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<b>16 x comments received</b>	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes
Cut Councillor's expenses and/or number of councillors (x6) / reduce higher management costs (x3) / further savings in staff costs & administration/ voluntary redundancy (x2).		

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**Table 2.5. Summarised Comments in relation to Outcome 6 – A responsible effective and efficient organisation**

Comment in relation to local taxation	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>8 x comments received</b>	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	Council Tax to increase a further 1% for 2018/19
Increase council tax/ revenue in all areas.		

**Table 2.6: Summarised comments – Outcome mixed/unknown**

Comment in relation to Council Processes	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based
<b>19 x comments received</b>		
Various comments received e.g. support local businesses/ review contracts/ bring services back in-house/ proper governance/ think of communities/ remove “ceremonial” costs/ consider internal business budgets.	Responses are noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holders	No changes
<b>Mixed comments</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based</b>
<b>14 x comments received</b>		
Various comments received e.g. Reduce street lighting/ review secondary schools in Macclesfield/ ensure mental health & support services are available/ don’t discriminate the EHCP budget against tax for those who home educate funding should be available for resources to assist/ influence the hospital car parking charges, too high and refunds for those attending appointments.	Responses are noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holders	No changes

### Question Three: ...Do you have any other suggestions about ways in which the Council could deliver its services and achieve the required savings?

The following tables summarise the comments received – please note that not all comments are written verbatim.

Table 3.1. Summarised comments in relation to question three		
Comment in relation to local taxation	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>46 x comments received supporting increase in tax</b>	Council Tax increase (Proposal 101). This was originally set at 4.99% (inc 3% for ASC) but is now changing to 5.99% (inc 3% for ASC). This reflects a lot of comments about increasing CT to support front line services, so this option will allow the above proposals to happen. The balance of the CT increase will be retained within the Financing Reserve to support costs of the Capital Programme	Council Tax to increase a further 1% for 2018/19.
Support increase in council tax to ensure services are maintained (e.g. library service, social care services/ front line services) / tax increase on higher band properties.		
<b>4 x comments received not supporting increase in tax</b>		
Don't put council tax up/ too many people live below the breadline however aren't eligible for support/ exceeds rate of inflation.		
<b>5 x general comments received in relation to tax</b>		
Should never have 'froze' council tax for so long / unfair to increase tax but lose services.		
Proposal 79. (83 & 84) Community Library Provision	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>59 x general comments received in relation to proposed closure of</b>	Please see previous response concerning community library provision. All libraries will remain open.	Please see previous response concerning community library provision.  Also note Council Tax to increase a further 1% for 2018/19.
Closure would impact the community, the elderly – increasing loneliness & impact young children/ would support an increase in Council Tax to keep libraries open		

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Table 3.1. Summarised comments in relation to question three		
<b>27 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Disley</b>		
Closure would impact the elderly & young children. Look at alternatives e.g. reduce spend on Macc. leisure centre and put towards library/ assess opening hours/ happy to pay more council tax and or other fees.		
<b>2 x comment received in relation to proposed closure of Alderley</b>		
Alderley Edge precept could easily accommodate the continued funding		
<b>1 x comment received in relation to proposed closure of Prestbury</b>		
Do not close Prestbury – valuable asset to the community.		
<b>Comment in relation to staff</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<b>17 x comments received</b>	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes
Cut pensions (x2) / review mileage allowances (x1) / more staff efficiencies (x3) / review payments to suspended staff (x7) / review senior payments (x4)		
<b>Comment in relation to social services/ social care</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<b>13 x comments received</b>	As well as the investment Adult social care service the service is also making savings in relation to efficiencies and streamlining across the MTFS.	No changes
Could be savings made within social care – review processes and administration / needs to be correctly funded & managed/ encourage families to look after their elderly relatives. Happy to pay more tax to fund social care services.		

Table 3.1. Summarised comments in relation to question three		
Comment in relation to Council processes	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>24 x comments received</b>	Responses are noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holders	No changes
Various comments received e.g. cut red tape (x2), don't waste money/ value for money (x8), work more efficiently (x7), find better ways to fund services (x1), stop punishing smaller communities on the outskirts (x1)/ lobby government for more central funding (x5)		
Comment in relation to Parish/ Town Councils	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>2 x comments received</b>	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes
Abolish Parish Councils as they are an extra cost / how much subsidy is given to town councils – is it too high?		
Proposal 81. Macclesfield Leisure Centre Improvement Programme	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>10 x comments received</b>	Pease see previous response concerning proposal 81.	No changes
Spend less on upgrading the leisure centre, seems extravagant – use money to fund libraries.		

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Table 3.1. Summarised comments in relation to question three		
Miscellaneous Suggestions	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>35 x comments received</b> Various suggestions received e.g. stop making alteration to roads & pavements that do not need it (x5) / reduction in street lighting to save electricity (x2)/ more green areas could be left uncut/ more families left accountable for elderly relatives (x2)/ reduce fortnightly recycling collections & provide bigger bins/ review working practices (x8)/ volunteers (x3)/ Review high school provision in Macclesfield/ lobby government for more funding (x3)/ community grants paid via the lottery/ more investment in prevention and intervention/ monitor car parking/ don't cut SEN support.	Responses are noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holders	No changes
General Comment	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>3 x comments received</b> Seems reasonable/ not my area of expertise/ impact on funding for third sector	Responses are noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holders	No changes

#### Question Four: Do any of the proposals adversely affect you directly, if so please explain in what way?

The following tables summarise the comments received – please note that not all comments are written verbatim.

Table 4.1. Summarised comments in relation to question four		
Proposal 26. End of Early Intervention short-term funding allocation (non Public Health element) (Revenue Savings)	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
Reductions in early intervention and prevention services will impact our services and ability to carry out our charitable objectives.	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder. Please see answer above.	No changes
Proposal 31 & 33. Highways Contract/ Procurement	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
State of the roads & verges – need to be maintained more often. Issues with cars parking on pavements. More help for older people. Bigger houses should pay more Council Tax.	Please see previous response in relation to proposal 31 & 33.	No changes
Proposal 56. Youth Support Restructure (Revenue Savings)	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>2 x comments received</b>	Please see previous response concerning proposal 56.	No change
Provision of services to young people's education provide them with the skills needed to become a valuable resourceful member of the community/ We would be severely affected if there was a reduction in youth support provision - impacted many young peoples' lives at Bromley Farm Youth Club, Congleton.		

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Table 4.1. Summarised comments in relation to question four		
Proposal 60. Review all funding and shift to "asset-based" model (Revenue Savings)	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
This proposal affects the organisation I work for ( the Bridgend Centre) directly as it is proposed that our EIP contract be allowed to expire with effect from 31st March 2018 in turn this will also affect some of the most vulnerable population groups and members of community.	There are a number of contracts that are classed as EIP and they are all due to come to the end of their contracted period. Therefore this should have been considered by the organisations involved. There will be opportunity for funding which will be made available through the early help framework which is being developed which will be more targeted and focussed.	No change
Proposal 67. Cease provision of services at Lincoln House and Mountview (Revenue Savings)	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>2 x comments received</b>	Please see previous response concerning proposal 67. All eligible service users and cares will continue to receive care and support.	No change
Will affect disabled father and mother who is fathers full time carer – Mountview has been a lifeline for them / doesn't affect yet but getting		
Proposal 79. (83 & 84) Community Library Provision	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>85 x general comments received in relation to proposed closure of</b>	Please see previous response concerning community library provision. All libraries will remain open.	Please see previous response concerning community library provision.
Library closure will affect me/ my family – important part of the		
<b>136 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Disley</b>		
Closure of Disley library will affect me/ my family – no alternate nearby/ essential to the community		
<b>31 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Alderley Edge library</b>		
Closure of Alderley Edge library will affect me/ my family – vital & valuable resource – do not want to have to drive to an alternative.		

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Table 4.1. Summarised comments in relation to question four		
<b>9 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Prestbury library</b>		
Closure of Prestbury library will affect me/ my family .		
<b>3 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Holmes Chapel library (not being out forward for 18/19)</b>		
Closure of Holmes Chapel Library will affect me/ my family - would have to drive to alternate as bus to next nearest library (Sandbach) is being		
<b>Comments in relation to Social Care/ SEN</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<b>4 x comments received</b>	Please see previous response concerning Social Care/ SEN	No change
Lack of funding for adequate social care/ no local provision for short term respite/ disabled, SEN, most vulnerable always lose out – don't cut support.		
<b>Proposals 88 &amp; 89. Changes to 'Everybody Options' Scheme Investment (ESAR) (Revenue Savings) / Car Park Refunds (Revenue Savings)</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
Swim at Nantwich pool – car park refund compensates towards journey costs	Please see previous response concerning proposal 88 & 89.	No changes
<b>Comment in relation to local taxation</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<b>5 x comments received</b>	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes
Paying more council tax would affect me (x 4) / happy to pay increase if money is spent wisely (x1).		

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Table 4.1. Summarised comments in relation to question four		
Comment in relation to staff	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
No wage increase but having to pay out more – lots of ‘acting’ directors in Cheshire East how can we be confident budget has been looked at correctly?	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes
Miscellaneous/ mixed Comments	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>4 x comments received</b>	Responses are noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holders	No changes
Reduced bus service & closure of Alderley Edge library effect me/ state of the roads has cost me/ not me personally but effect a groups within the community that concerned with (care & support for early years)/ losing green belt.		

## Shaping Our Services E-mail responses

The following table summarise the comments received into the Shaping Our Services dedicated e-mail account – please note that comments are NOT written verbatim.

Table 5.1. Shaping Our Services E-mail responses		
Proposal 11. Changes to subsidised Bus Service (Revenue Savings)	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>2 x comments received</b>	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes
Allow women aged 60 to receive a bus pass & reduced rate rail cards to help keep active & involved in the community (WASPI campaign)/ Utilities work has skewed bus service (bottom of park Street) can a schedule be posted with forecasted time of completion.		
Proposal 13. Reduce funding to Macclesfield Silk Heritage Trust (Revenue Savings)	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
Cllr Janet Jackson - object to these cuts in funding to the Macclesfield Silk Heritage Trust. The Town Centre 5 Year Strategy Document to support regeneration of Macclesfield states that ongoing activity includes developing plans to enhance Macclesfield's Museums. This statement is in contradiction to the budget. These cuts could be the final straw for the Museum Trust which is doing all it can to become self-sustainable. CE should reverse the proposed cuts to the Silk Heritage Trust grant.	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes
Proposal 78. Inflationary Increase for Members	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
Over the past few months noticed Mayors in chauffeur driven Bentley cars, are these necessary in the current climate?	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes

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**Table 5.1. Shaping Our Services E-mail responses**

<b>Proposal 79. (83 &amp; 84) Community Library Provision</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<p><b>37 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Disley library</b></p> <p>Against closure of Disley library – central part of the community, valuable to the elderly and helps with social isolation and also valuable to the young and their education. Alternate too far away. Suggestions received inc. assessing opening hours &amp; staffing at all libraries thus spreading the cost reductions required.</p> <p><b>54 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Alderley Edge library</b></p> <p>Central to the community, valuable service to all ages – please do not close. Group of volunteers willing to help one paid member of staff on rotational basis to help keep library open.</p> <p><b>2 x comments received in relation to proposed closure of Prestbury Library</b></p> <p>Object to closure, valuable service for the elderly / Ann Whittaker Trust submitted a proposal to help keep Prestbury library open – they propose to maintain current level of financial support and assist further by foregoing the annual rental charges &amp; offering phased incremental payments.</p> <p><b>4 x general comments received in relation to proposed closure of libraries</b></p>	<p>Please see previous response concerning community library provision. All libraries will remain open.</p>	<p>Please see previous response concerning community library provision</p>

Table 5.1. Shaping Our Services E-mail responses		
Object to closure of libraries.		
<b>Proposal 81. Macclesfield Leisure Centre Improvement Programme</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<b>4 x comments received</b>  The Macclesfield Athletics Development Fund fully supports the proposal n- in particular welcome the proposed improvement of facilities for athletics/ support the plans/ great, that we're all investing in improved sports changing facilities - in favour of the additional Sauna & the changing rooms are in need of improvement.	Please see previous response concerning proposal 81.	No changes
<b>Proposals 89. Car Park Refunds (Revenue Savings)</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<b>2 x comments received</b>	Please see previous response concerning proposal	No changes

**Table 5.1. Shaping Our Services E-mail responses**

Concerned about charges at Snow Hill in Nantwich. Would discourage service users - large number of pensioners would not be able to afford to attend if the motion was carried - the population is living longer therefore the authority should support ways which deflect from the financially overburdened Social Care budget/ car park is free after 3pm so would only effect members who use this facility in the morning may mean more people go in evening when it is already oversubscribed.	89.	
<b>Comment related to EIP contracts</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
Disappointed that the Cheshire Centre for Independent Living (CCIL) have received a notice of intention stating, at this time, that CEC do not intend to re-commission the Good Company. Feel that stopping the funding for the Good Company is not consistent with the Council's own proposals to achieve their outcomes. A meeting was held on 4th January 2018 for the South Cheshire members of Good Company - apparent that everyone was saddened about the intention not to fund the group in the near future. As parents of a Good Company service user, we urge CEC to re-think their proposal to cut the funding for Good Company.	There are a number of contracts that are classed as EIP and they are all due to come to the end of their contracted period. Therefore this should have been considered by the organisations involved. There will be opportunity for funding which will be made available through the early help framework which is being developed which will be more targeted and focussed.	No change
<b>Comment in relating to local taxation</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>

**Table 5.1. Shaping Our Services E-mail responses**

<p>The latest council tax rises are unaffordable to a large number of local residents - especially the elderly pensioners &amp; those that are just about managing. Our Council tax bill is our single largest outgoing each year and equates to a massive percentage of our pension. Given the number of increased households and businesses in East Cheshire I fail to see how this increased council tax amount can be justified. What areas have you looked at and where have savings been made? The 'adult social care budget' is something that should be funded by Westminster. Council tax is not a fair tax. A greater percentage of the population is becoming older and the costs of adult social care will increase significantly. This needs to be addressed now for the future, as the voting baby boom generation reach their golden years.</p>	<p>See above about Adult Social Care.</p> <p>A Green Paper on the future of Adult Social Care is expected later this year.</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<b>Comment in relating to the document</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on</b>
<p>I have read the document - not easily understood, unclear; long winded and not with direct report and action. Plain English clear specific outcome and action is needed.</p>	<p>Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<b>Mixed comments/ proposal unknown</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on</b>
<p><b>6 x comments received</b></p> <p>Various comments received e.g. Use funds to maintain and improve welfare services/ review 'arms length' company processes/ ensure TSS have sufficient funding to support shop mobility charities/ Nantwich town infrastructure needs improvement/ continue funding to Good Company.</p>	<p>Responses are noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holders</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<b>Response from Mottram St Andrew Parish Council</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>

**Table 5.1. Shaping Our Services E-mail responses**

Concerned that no detail has been provided of proposals for solving the projected budget deficits in years 2019/20 and 2020/21. Concerned at the proposed cuts to the highway maintenance budget and the lack of funding in ensuring all parts of CE are able to obtain a decent broadband & mobile phone signal. Feel that consideration should be given to reducing the number of highly paid staff at CE inc. & assessing the suspended staff situation. What service cuts are being made to accommodate extra staff costs - what actions are being taken to overcome this situation & over what timescale?		No changes
<b>Response from Cllr Teresa Clark as vice chair of Barthomley Parish Council</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
Barthomley parish is rural and small compared with many other areas in the county – however due to the proximity to J16 of the M6 experience heavy volumes of traffic leading to eroded & damaged verges, hedges and lane surfaces. Outcome 4 states a commitment 'to make Cheshire East a green and sustainable place', and recognises the 'maintenance of highways is important' yet tables of information show that you will reduce budgets for these areas up until 2020. Please consider providing substantial kerbing of verges, clearing of gullies and tidying of hedges in all areas where lanes are narrow - would help prevent our elderly inhabitants from becoming increasingly isolated – keeping our communities strong and supported.	Please see previous response in relation to proposal 31 & 33 - Highways.	No changes
<b>Response from Goostrey Parish Council</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
Disappointed that CEC cancelled both consultation events. Don't support the proposed increased cost for a food waste collection and suggest the money is used instead to support bus services. We would like to know how CEC is budgeting for the increased costs for the officer suspensions and ask that these are now brought to a rapid end.	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes

## Letter responses

The following table summarise the comments received via letters into the Council – please note that comments are NOT written verbatim.

Table 6.1. Letter responses		
Proposal 67. Cease provision of services at Lincoln House and Mountview (Revenue Savings)	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
Response received from a local resident & dementia champion. Concerned that the facility will be taken away or be reliant on local volunteer organisations - there is potentially an increasing need for a variety of provision inc. good quality care. Suggests the facility turn into a dementia hub for information and day care under one roof.	See previous response for proposal 67. above. All eligible service users and cares will continue to receive care and support.	No changes
Proposal 79. (83 & 84) Community Library Provision	Response from CEC	Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback
<b>Response from David Rutley Macclesfield MP</b>	Please see response above concerning community library provision. All libraries will remain open.	Please see response above concerning community library provision.
Speaking on behalf of a number of residents who have raised concerns about the proposal to close Disley Library. Community hub, alternative too far away. Fully in support of the maintenance of the library service.		
<b>Response from a local resident</b>		
Local library is Disley - request for details of alternatives that have been considered.		
<b>Response from Disley Primary School</b>		
Have strong links to Disley Library – have class visits to the library and visits from library staff to the school to promote the reading challenge. Helps with academic & social development.		
<b>Response from Disley School House Surgery Patient Participation Group</b>		

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**Table 6.1. Letter responses**

Oppose Disley Library closure. Brings the community together – adding to the social value and wellbeing of the residents. Clubs/ events are well attended. Alternative CE library too far away. Hesitant with a volunteer led approach.		
<b>Response from Disley Parish Council</b>		
Oppose Disley Library closure. Closure works against Outcome 5. A small budget should be retained and recognised as investment prevention against reactive care services. Would support increase in volunteer involvement but not complete running. Essential service for the young and elderly. Closure would increase social isolation. The location at the boundary of Cheshire East compounds the situation given the bus network. Alternatives are not accessible and would potentially worsen air quality due to increase in traffic. New housing developments increases need. Parish offices have recently relocated form a ‘Disley community hub.’ The Library provides many events and is central to the community. Closure would put the community centre at risk.		
<b>Response from Prestbury Parish Council</b>		
Library is well used and hosts many community events. Helps to combat social isolation – closure would be felt by the most vulnerable. Anne Whitacker Trust has played active part in supporting the library – cost to CEC is minimal compared to the value it has to the community.	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<b>Mixed comment response from Macclesfield Town Council</b>		
Review funding statement for Silk Heritage Museums as there is no demonstration of a managed transition – feel that cuts would put museum into critical risk of financial collapse. Concerned with cuts to community library services – please revise to find alternative saving option.	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes

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**Table 6.1. Letter responses**

<b>Mixed comment response from Alsager Town Council</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<p>Supportive of: the increase in community grants/ the food waste recycling initiative/ reduction in agency and consultancy costs/increase in care placements budget.</p> <p>Object/ oppose to any reduction in: environmental enforcement/ cuts to the bus service/ cuts which will effect vulnerable people/ cuts to 8-11 year old school transport/ cuts in children's services/ cuts to provision of services at Lincoln House and Mountview/ end of early intervention short term funding allowance/ parking strategy savings (suggests changes will be made before review has taken place).</p> <p>Concerns with: cuts in highway service/ potential cost saving received by charging for replacement household bins be wiped out by residents refusing to purchase &amp; potentially stop recycling altogether/ operational/ pathway design – seems has been pre-determined before approval/ closure of libraries/ who will be effected by cuts to the local welfare safety net – most vulnerable?/ whoever takes over commissioning services must be reliable with high standards of car – should be no reduction/ disappointed that only now is the New Homes Bonus being shared with communities – those who have taken bulk of new homes should have preferential treatment – should be back dated or put into place quickly/ still awaiting meeting for transfer of Alsager offices.</p>	<p>Please see previous responses concerning proposal 67, 31, 33, 79.</p> <p>Other comments have been noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holders</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<b>Mixed comment response from Councillor David Marren</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<p>Should have listed 500+ services against their relative budget so consultees could comment on whether this should be continued or expanded. Some of the proposals difficult to understand &amp; unclear. Concerned that the consultation is just an exercise to achieve 'our duty'. In house services should be justified in term of staff costings and efficiency. Review staff &amp; costs of</p>	<p>Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holders</p>	<p>No changes</p>

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**Table 6.1. Letter responses**

<p>staff Inc. interims, consultants &amp; councillors.          Supportive of proposals: 5, 84, 79 &amp; 83 - providing town council managed.          Object to proposals: 3,4,7,8,15,16,27,28,31,39,40,42,43,44,47,51,72,78,81, 89, 91, 93,95, 96          Proposals that are vague/ unclear or needing more detail: 1, 9,12,18 - 20,24,26,32,33,48,60 – 67, 75, 80, 90.          Suggest that: markets are handed over to their respective town councils/ proposal 73 – target should be doubled or put to tender/ 74 – target saving of 1m should be demanded/ proposal 77 – target reduction doubled – all interims &amp; consultants banned/ proposal 92 – redundancy multiplier to high.</p>		
<b>Response from Prestbury Parish Council (continued letter from Library comments)</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<p>Items 8, 31, 34 and 76. Consultation light on detail but supportive of efficiencies that can achieve these proposals as long as implemented without a reduction in the level and frequency of service.</p>	<p>Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<b>Response from Information &amp; Advice Cheshire East (IACE)</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
<p>In relation to outcome 5. Proposal 60 – support of volunteers is good but not free - have to pay for training, expenses &amp; provide supervision – it all adds up. Without continued funding VCFS will be in a less likely position to support volunteering to deliver previously commissioned services as the proposal intends. In relation to proposal 65 - How can 'Live Well', a website that only provides details of services available, mainly by VCFS organisations and many currently funded by Cheshire East Council, hope to replace services should contracts cease? Many people will seek face to face or telephone help direct from CEC or health services with associated implications for their resources.</p>	<p>See responses above.          Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder</p>	<p>No changes</p>

**Table 6.1. Letter responses**

<b>Response from UNISON</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
Concerned with estimated savings on matters affecting staff reductions, terms and conditions changes, reductions in key local service provision, and potential outsourcing of services. Concerned report does not provide enough detail for trade unions or staff to comment fully.	Response is noted and will be brought to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder	No changes
<b>Response concerning the Bridgend centre</b>	<b>Response from CEC</b>	<b>Changes to Pre-Budget Report based on feedback</b>
Concerned that CE is considering allowing the Bridgend Centre's contract for Early Intervention & Prevention services to expire as believe it had been a valuable lifeline for Cheshire East vulnerable people. A website can never replace one- to – one support please look more critically at the impact this will have. Backed up by MP David Rutley who supports an extension of the contract until alternative funding arrangements can be reached by the Centre.	There are a number of contracts that are classed as EIP and they are all due to come to the end of their contracted period. Therefore this should have been considered by the organisations involved. There will be opportunity for funding which will be made available through the early help framework which is being developed which will be more targeted and focussed.	No Change

## Petitions

The following table summarise the petitions started as a result of the budget consultation.

Subject	Details	Method	Number of Signatures
Save Disley Library From Closure	We the undersigned petition the council to cancel the plan to permanently close Disley Library Justification: The library is an important resource for our community and we will feel its loss if it closes. It is important to many different groups of people in the village: - children who are just learning to read and to love books. Not all parents can afford to buy enough books to keep up with voracious young readers. - older people who may need help using online resources or find it difficult to travel to the next nearest library. - anyone who doesn't have a computer and whose only access to the internet is in the library. - everyone who loves books and reading. If Disley library closes, residents would have to travel the 6 miles to Poynton to access Cheshire East Library services. It is not easy or quick to get to Poynton from Disley - it means a minimum 15 minute drive or taking two different buses.	Online	152
Save Disley Library From Closure	Same main contact as above - however apart from originator signatures differ	Paper	151
CEC intention to withdraw commissioning on Groups for vulnerable adults	We the undersigned petition the council to Reconsider the intention of Cheshire east council to withdraw the commissioning for groups involving adults with health and learning difficulties after 31/3/2018 run by Cheshire centre go independent living in Crewe, Handforth and Macclesfield. Titled "Good Company. " Involving 102+ adults over 19 years of age. Justification: Good company was set up as an early intervention and prevention group in adult services, to promote self-worth and wellbeing in vulnerable adults with numerous disabilities. Meeting to socialise, craft, arts, organised trips, meals, cinema etc. Legislation promotes access for all adults with learning difficulties in order to prevent more expensive services to be called into action. To cancel these groups is causing trauma and denying their respect and dignity in forming friendship groups and the right as an adult to socialise independently within a safe environment whilst gaining confidence and life's experiences.	On-line	On-going until 19/02/2018

## Key Engagement Events

The key events associated with the Budget Consultation are outlined in the below table along with the topics of discussion and any feedback received.

Event	Date	Comments
Corporate Leadership Team / Cabinet Away Day (1)	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	First consideration of budget changes being proposed.
Cabinet	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	<a href="#">Revenue 2016/17 Outturn.</a>
Cabinet	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Receive <a href="#">First Quarter Review of Performance.</a>
Corporate Leadership Team / Cabinet Away Day (2)	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Further update on the process and revisiting of the proposals being considered for consultation.
Corporate Leadership Team / Cabinet Away Day (3)	9 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	Further update on the process and revisiting of the proposals being considered for consultation.
Corporate Leadership Team / Cabinet Away Day (4)	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2017	Further update on the process and revisiting of the proposals being considered for consultation.
Cheshire East Council website	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	<a href="#">Pre-Budget Consultation</a> placed on Council's website and Centranet to launch consultation exercise.
Team Voice	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Issued to all staff and Members to headline release of <a href="#">Pre-Budget Consultation.</a>
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<a href="#">15th November 2017</a>	Received <a href="#">Pre-Budget Consultation</a> and <a href="#">Mid-Year Review of Performance</a> Report.
Cabinet	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Received the <a href="#">Mid-Year Review of Performance</a> Report.
Trades Unions	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Considered <a href="#">Pre-Budget Consultation.</a>
All Member Briefing (1)	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Considered <a href="#">Pre-Budget Consultation.</a>
Cabinet	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Consider the <a href="#">Domestic and Non-Domestic Tax Base</a> for recommendation to

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Event	Date	Comments
		Council.
Schools Forum	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Considered <a href="#">Pre-Budget Consultation</a> .
Council	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Agree the <a href="#">Domestic and Non-Domestic Tax Bases</a> .
Provisional Funding announcements	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	From Central Government
All Member Briefing (2)	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Considered <a href="#">Pre-Budget Consultation</a> .
Third Quarter Review of Performance – Challenge sessions	11 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2017	Provided updated baseline spending calculations for services and potential impact on calculations proposed within the MTFS.
South Cheshire Chambers of Commerce Business Event	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Considered <a href="#">Pre-Budget Consultation</a> .
Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<a href="#">15th January 2018</a>	Considered <a href="#">Pre-Budget Consultation (relevant budget areas)</a>
Environment & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<a href="#">23rd January 2018</a>	Considered <a href="#">Pre-Budget Consultation (relevant budget areas)</a>
Macclesfield Chamber of Commerce Business Event	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Considered <a href="#">Pre-Budget Consultation</a> .
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<a href="#">1st February 2018</a>	Receive MTFS Report / Review Final Budget Proposals
Cabinet	<a href="#">6<sup>th</sup> February 2018</a>	Received the <a href="#">Third Quarter Review of Performance</a> Report. Consider MTFS Report and recommend proposals to Council
Town and Parish Council Conference	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2018	Engagement event with local parish and town councils
Council	<a href="#">22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018</a>	Debate and approval of 2018/19 budget

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## Appendices

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### Appendix One – Social Media Statistics

#### #CECbudget17 – Consultation Social Media Snapshot

Over the time period of the consultation, monitoring of social media was undertaken to gain insight into the conversations that were taking place. This summary is not the complete conversation, but more a snapshot of the type of engagement and discussion that took place during the consultation time frame. Those conversations that were directed '@CheshireEast' form the majority of this snapshot, although effort has been made to capture some of the outside conversations that would otherwise be missing from this narrative.

#### Twitter

Searches were undertaken throughout the consultation period regarding '#CECbudget17' and 'Cheshire East' with those tweets made in relation to the budget consultation captured. Overall approximately 40 tweets were made from the Cheshire East account with 30 replies to those tweets and 55 tweets from other accounts.

Tweets were classified as the following:

- Sharing and promotion of the consultation (45 tweets)
- Complaints (35 tweets)
- Fact sharing and general comments (36 tweets)
- Off topic responses (2 tweets)

The breakdown of the content of the tweets was as follows:

- Library provision (28 tweets)
- Review/ Assess suspended staff (13 tweets)
- Council tax increases (13 tweets)
- Potential cost savings (9 tweets)
- Adult care services (7 tweets)
- Consultation process (5 tweets)
- Leisure centre provision (3 tweets)

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## Facebook

Approximately 30 posts were made by Cheshire East on the subject of the budget on Facebook. A total of 86 comments across these posts were captured for analysis.

Responses were classified as the following:

- Complaints (52 comments)
- General comments and fact sharing (16 comments)
- Off topic responses (15 comments)
- Sharing and promotion of the consultation (3 comments)

The breakdown of the content of the posts was as follows:

- Infrastructure - including road maintenance (23 comments)
- Review/ Assess staff and suspended staff (18 comments)
- Potential cost savings (12 comments)
- Council tax increases (6 comments)
- Consultation process (4 comments)
- Social and health care (3 comments)
- Town centres (1 comment)

From these two platforms we can see that respondents had different priorities with library provision being the top issue on Twitter, and infrastructure being the top issue on Facebook. On both platforms review/assessment of staffing and suspended staff were commonly referred to. Posts on twitter were more likely to be about sharing and promotion of the consultation compared to Facebook, which were more likely to complaints.



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