

Budget Consultation

YouChoose Budget Calculator Results

Prepared by Phil Jones
Corporate Research and Intelligence Team
Policy Unit
Lancashire County Council
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1 Executive summary

Lancashire County Council must save approximately £128 million from its budget over the next two financial years (2011/12 and 2012/13). Lancashire residents were invited to share their views on how to make these savings by completing an online budget calculator. In total, 736 responses were received.

1.1 Key findings

- Services respondents were more likely to reduce spending for were: council support and public engagement; cultural services; and adult social care (699, 698 and 690 respondents, out of 736, respectively).
- Services fewer respondents chose to reduce spending for were: roads and public transport; children and young people; and waste services (600, 625 and 630 respectively).
- Respondents made the highest proportional reductions in spending for: cultural services; council support and public engagement; and environment and public protection (27%, 22% and 18% reduction in budget respectively).
- Respondents made the lowest proportional reductions for: children and young people; adult social care; and waste (13%, 14% and 14% respectively).
- A small number of respondents chose to increase spending in a number of areas. The highest increases were for roads and public transport; environment and public protection; and council support and public engagement (14%, 13% and 13% budget increase respectively).
- Within each group are a number of individual services that respondents could change the budget for independently. The largest proportional reductions of these were to: libraries; museums; and finance, human resources, communication and information technology within the council (27%, 27% and 23% reduction respectively).
- The largest absolute reductions (i.e. the largest reduction by monetary amount) were services for older people; people with a learning disability; and placements for looked after children (£21m, £12m, and £7m reductions respectively).
- Chart 1 on the next page summarises residents' proposed budget reductions.
- 302 respondents chose to increase the charges for adult social care services (41%).
- Respondents could also select a number of efficiency savings to help meet the new budget. Respondents selected to: reduce the use of consultants (599); reduce use of agency staff (588); reduce travel and conference costs (580); reduce management costs (555); savings on accommodation (532); strategic partnership (513); and reduce policy, performance management and administration costs (510).

1.2 Limitations

- The above results should be treated as indicative only, as they do not form a representative cross-sample of Lancashire residents.

Chart 1 - Current Budget (2010/11) and Average Proposed Budget Reduction

