



Gwynedd Challenge

Public consultation survey results

September – December 2015

www.gwynedd.gov.uk/GwyneddChallenge

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Message from the Council Leader

As was explained in the 'Gwynedd Challenge' questionnaire handbook and on the www.gwynedd.gov.uk/GwyneddChallenge web pages, the government's policy of continuing to cut the funding that we receive means that councils throughout the UK no longer have any option but to cut local services. Unfortunately, Gwynedd Council is no exception and we will now need to bridge the significant funding shortfall.

As we have previously noted, our continuing efforts to work more efficiently will contribute around £34 million towards addressing the gap and a Council Tax increase will contribute around £9 million.



Despite this, unfortunately, we will have no option but to meet the £5 million gap which remains by cutting services. During the consultation process, we were planning on the basis of needing to find £7 million worth of cuts, but as the reduction in the grant Gwynedd Council receives from the Welsh Government was less than anticipated, this figure has reduced to £5 million.

Rather than implementing knee-jerk service cuts, we have been determined to base our response to this UK-wide austerity agenda on the priorities of local people and communities. That's why, over the last few months, we decided to start this important debate by inviting local people, communities and organisations to read through the services that could conceivably be cut and to tell us which services from this 'long list' they wanted the Council to protect.

The response to this invitation has been hugely positive with more than 2,100 individuals and organisations having their say by returning the 'Gwynedd Challenge' questionnaire and more than 600 local people attending one of the 32 public meetings and drop-in sessions held in locations across the county.

It has been very positive to see so many local people of all ages actively contributing to the 'Gwynedd Challenge' debate. Without doubt, this has been the most comprehensive and detailed public consultation exercise that the Council has ever carried out and is possibly one of the most comprehensive exercises of its kind ever held in Wales.

As a Council, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to participate in what was undoubtedly a difficult and challenging process for all who took part. I know that many found the choices so difficult that they were unable to finish the task and I can sympathise with that. It is no easy task to try to find savings from those services that are important to us.

Between now and the Full Council meeting of the 3rd of March, all 75 of us who have been elected to serve as Gwynedd Councillors must carefully weigh-up all the responses and available evidence and decide which service cut proposals to include in a finalised list of cuts. Our task will be to set a budget that will be the foundation to help us to plan our future as communities and as a county.

Councillor Dyfed Edwards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Dyfed Edwards'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gwynedd Council Leader

1. Background

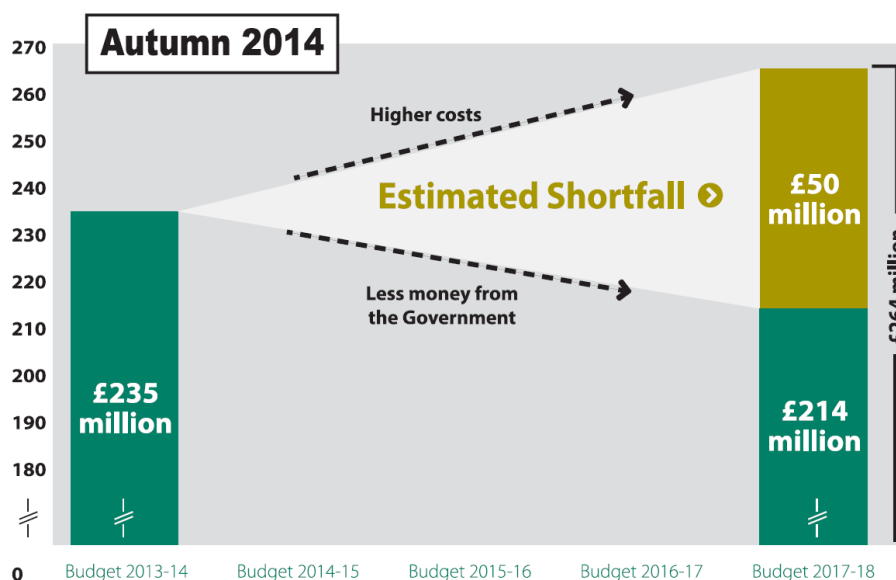
1.1 As is the case for every council in Wales, Gwynedd Council is facing significant cuts to the funding it receives from the government towards the cost of paying for local services.

1.2 At the same time, the pressure on the Council is increasing significantly in light of factors such as the forecasts that there will be a substantial increase in the number of older residents living in the county over the next ten years, coupled with the need to protect essential services such as education and social services.

1.3 So far, through careful financial planning and by identifying new and different ways of providing services, Gwynedd Council has been able to avoid the service cuts that some other councils have had to implement.

1.4 However, the government's decision to continue to cut back on the funding the Council receives means that by now, Gwynedd has no option but to implement service cuts.

1.5 Over the three years between 2015/16 and 2017/18, Gwynedd Council had estimated that it would face a financial shortfall of approximately £50 million*.



*By now, the financial situation has changed and the Council estimates that the financial shortfall it faces will be £48 million rather than the £50 million originally anticipated. This means that the Council now forecasts that it will need to implement £5 million worth of cuts from the original 'long list' of possible service cuts noted in the consultation.

1.6 The Council already has arrangements in place to bridge approximately £43 million of the shortfall by:

- implementing a significant number of efficiency savings (worth approximately £34million)
- introducing Council Tax increases over the three year period (approximately £9million).

Despite this, it is likely that there will be no option but to implement around £5 million* of cuts in the period up to March 2018 so that the Council can continue to pay for the services that local people consider to be essential.



*By now, the financial situation has changed and the Council estimates that the financial shortfall it faces will be £48 million rather than the £50 million originally anticipated. This means that the Council now forecasts that it will need to implement £5 million worth of cuts from the original “long list” of possible service cuts noted in the consultation.

1.7 In March 2016, Gwynedd Councillors will have to decide which services to protect and which to cut.

1.8 Before then, as part of a county-wide consultation exercise, individuals and organisations were given the opportunity to have their say on the range of possible service cut options.

2. Consultation Exercise

2.1 The Gwynedd Challenge consultation exercise was held between September and December 2015.

2.2 The aim of the exercise was to explain to the public:

- **Why** the Council is facing a financial shortfall
- **Why** the Council has no option but to identify and implement service cuts from April 2016 onwards
- **What** the Council has done to address the financial shortfall
- **What** the process will be to deliver the necessary cuts
- **How** the Council has drawn up a 'long list' of possible service cuts
- **How** the Council intends to decide on a finalised list of cuts
- **How** members of the public could have their say on the "long list" of possible cuts options before Gwynedd Councillors consider all the available evidence before agreeing to a finalised list of services to be cut.
- That there was an opportunity for local people to **have their say** and influence this democratic process.

2.3 There were three specific parts to the exercise:

- i) **Presenting and explaining the challenge** to the public, to partners and to relevant organisations and raising awareness of the available opportunities for them to take part **Appendix A**
- ii) Delivering a publicity campaign to **raise awareness** and encourage as many individuals and groups as possible to complete and submit a Gwynedd Challenge questionnaire **Appendix A**

- iii) Provide **appropriate opportunities** for individuals, community groups, interest groups and equality groups to take part in the exercise by:
- organising a series of 13 **formal public forums** in each of the county's secondary school catchment areas, and 19 **informal 'drop-in sessions'** in towns and villages across the County - **Appendix B**
 - producing and promoting an **online information pack and questionnaire** www.gwynedd.gov.uk/GwyneddChallenge which included:
 - a video presentation by the Council's Chief Executive
 - a 'How to complete the questionnaire' video
 - an electronic version of the consultation handbook
 - an online questionnaire
 - information about the dates and locations of the public forums and 'drop-in' sessions along with a registration form
 - producing and promoting a **paper copy of the handbook and questionnaire** for those with no access to the internet. This included:
 - an introduction by the Council Leader
 - a detailed presentation of the background to the exercise by the Council Chief Executive
 - detailed information regarding each possible service cut option
 - a response form
 - a freepost envelope to return the questionnaire
 - directly contacting **partner organisations and third sector** groups to invite them to take part in the exercise.

3. The public's response

3.1 Public Forums and Drop-In Sessions

3.1.1 Over **600** residents attended one of the **public forum or local drop-in sessions**:

- **318** individuals attended one of the 13 evening public forums
- **297** individuals attended one of the 19 informal drop-in sessions

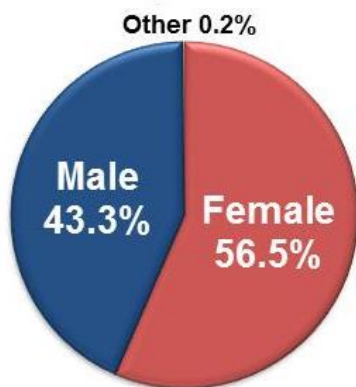
3.1.2 In general, the feedback received suggested that the people of Gwynedd welcomed the opportunity to attend a session of this kind in their local area.

4. Overview of the questionnaire respondents

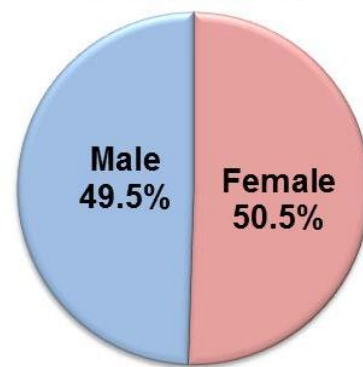
4.1 A total of **2,142** valid questionnaire responses were received - 2,064 from individuals and 78 on behalf of organisations / businesses.

4.2 Of the individuals who responded, 1,126 were female, 862 were male, 5 were individuals who stated that they thought of themselves in another way whilst 71 chose not to answer the question.

Gwynedd Challenge consultation responses - gender of respondents



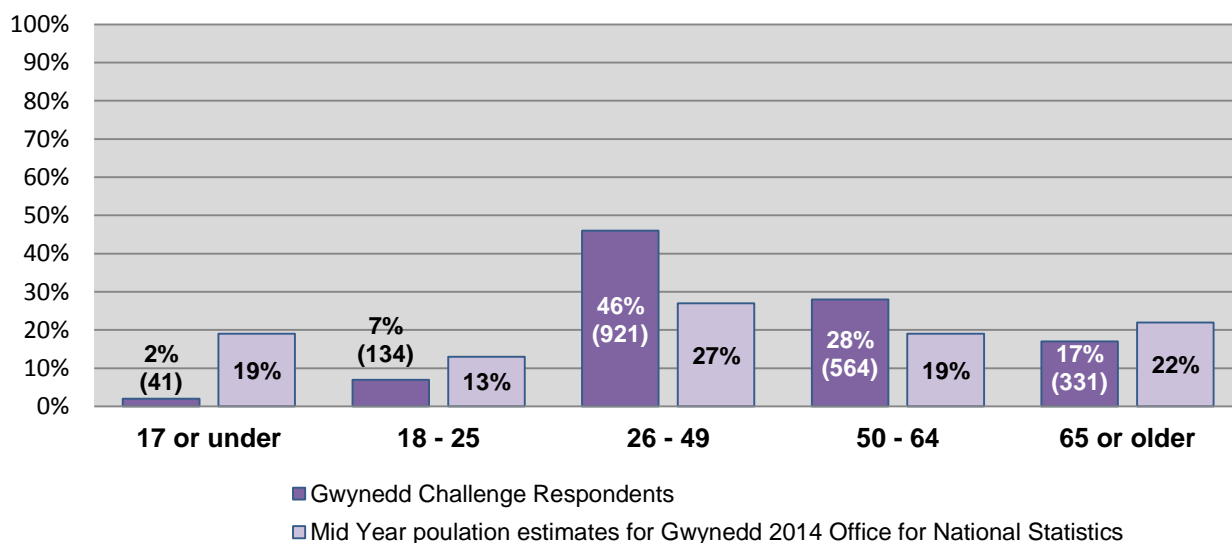
Gwynedd residents - gender
(Source: Mid Year population estimates 2014, Office for National Statistics)



N.B Respondents who did not answer the question have not been included in this graph.

4.3 The graph below shows the total and percentage of individual respondents by age group. 73 individuals decided not to answer the question.

Respondents by age group



4.4 The graph below shows the number and percentage of respondents by language.

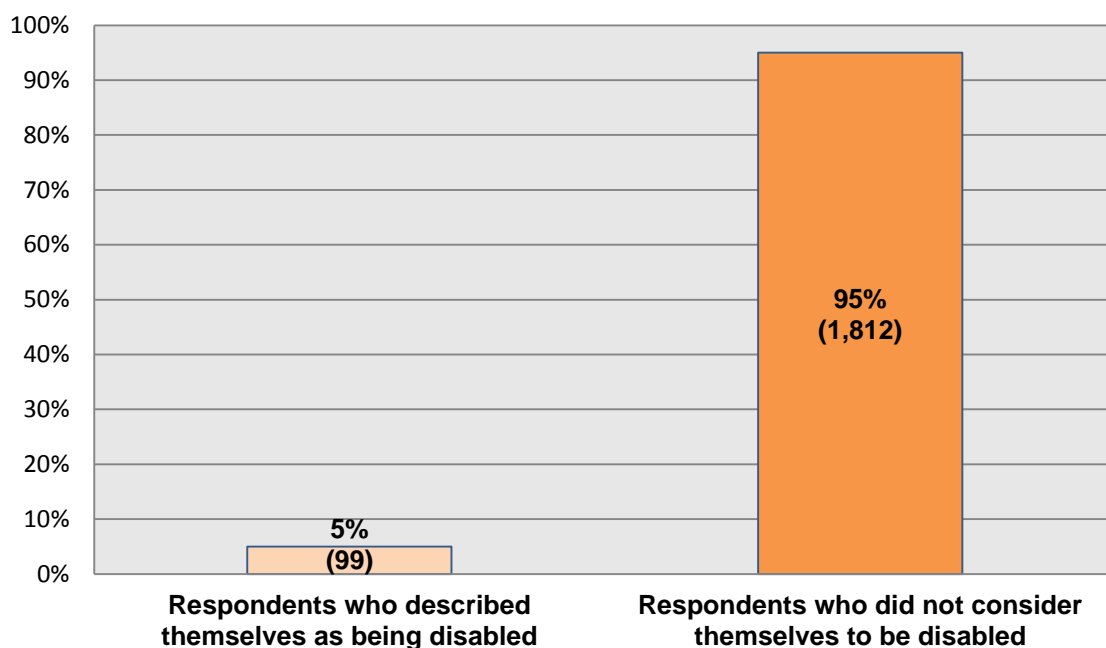
Language Background of Gwynedd Challenge respondents



Language Background of Gwynedd residents (Source: Census 2011)

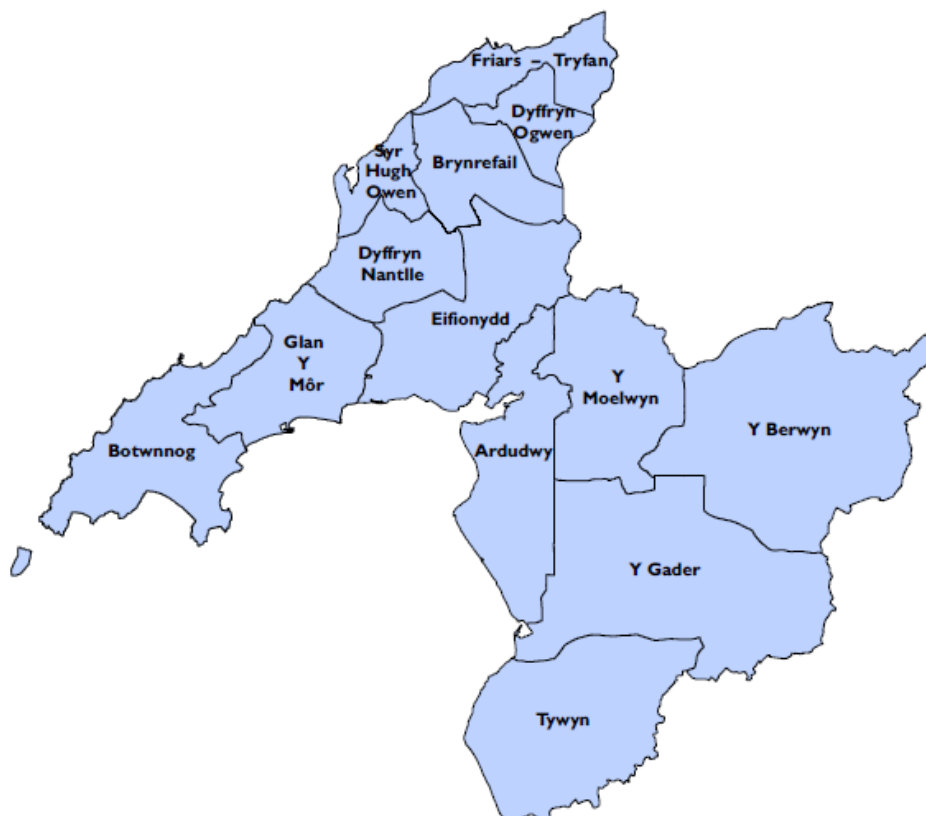


4.5 The graph below shows the number and percentage of Gwynedd Challenge respondents who stated that they considered themselves to be a disabled person. A total of 153 respondents opted not to answer the question. Whilst it is not possible to make a direct comparison, according to the 2011 Census results, 9.7% of Gwynedd residents stated that they had a condition that “significantly restricted their day to day activities”.



5. Responses by Secondary School Catchment area (Appendices F – R)

5.1 The results by secondary school catchment area can be seen in Appendices F - R. Some areas of Gwynedd fall into more than one catchment area. In these cases, we have placed the results in one catchment area only in order to avoid double counting.



Appendix	Catchment area	Number of responses
C	Ardudwy	137
D	Y Berwyn	91
E	Botwnnog	182
F	Brynrefail	210
G	Dyffryn Nantlle	138
H	Dyffryn Ogwen	110
I	Eifionydd	162
J	Friars / Tryfan	157
K	Y Gader	150
L	Glan Y Môr	237
M	Y Moelwyn	89
N	Syr Hugh Owen	278
O	Tywyn	173
	Total*	2,114*

*28 of the 2,142 respondents did not note a full Postcode

6. Survey Results

6.1 The results for all the survey responses (2,142) can be seen below.

Prioritising options – respondents were invited to read through the 118 options on the long list of possible cuts and to identify up to £5million of options which they did not want to appear in the final list of services to be cut.

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
ENVIRONMENT					
ENV 1	Recreational Routes (the cycle paths): Delete the maintenance budget	806	37.6%	Single Option	
ENV 2	Nature Reserves: Delete the maintenance budget	457	21.3%	Single Option	
ENV 3	Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB): Bring the service to an end	384	17.9%	Single Option	
ENV 4	Road Works Management: Delete the budget by 7.5%	592	27.6%	Single Option	
ENV 5	Cutting Grass in Council Cemeteries: Reduce the frequency of grass cutting from 7 times to 5 times a year	223	10.4%	Single Option	
ENV 6	Street Cleaning - Arfon Community Gang: Delete the Community Gang in Arfon	333	15.5%	Single Option	
ENV 7	Street Cleaning - street bins and dog fouling bins: Delete the provision of 2,000 street bins and dog fouling bins	1102	51.4%	Single Option	

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
ENVIRONMENT					
ENV 8	Street Cleaning - in villages and industrial estates: Reduce the frequency of street cleaning in town centres and industrial estates	392	18.3%	Single Option	
ENV 9	Street Cleaning - in town centres and shopping centres: Reduce the frequency of street cleaning in town centres and shopping centres	650	30.3%	Single Option	
ENV 10	Flood Risk Management: Reduce the resource by 7.5%	498	23.2%	Single Option	
ENV 11	Building Control: Reduce the resource by 7%	226	10.6%	Single Option	
ENV 12a	Closed Circuit Television (CCTV):Protect the whole service			258	12.0%
ENV 12b	Closed Circuit Television (CCTV):Maintain part of the service by reducing the CCTV resource			641	29.9%
ENV 12	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting the whole service	899	42.0%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
ENVIRONMENT					
ENV 13a	Public Footpaths: Protect the whole service			278	13.0%
ENV 13b	Public Footpaths: Keep 80% of the budget and cut 20% of the budget			417	19.5%
ENV 13c	Public Footpaths: Keep 60% of the budget and cut 40% of the budget			561	26.2%
ENV 13	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting 60% of the budget	1256	58.6%		
ENV 14a	Biodiversity: Protect the whole service			259	12.1%
ENV 14b	Biodiversity: Cut 50% of the resource			515	24.0%
ENV 14	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting the whole service	774	36.1%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
ENVIRONMENT					
ENV 15a	Joint Planning Policy with Anglesey: Protect the whole service			91	4.2%
ENV 15b	Joint Planning Policy with Anglesey: Keep 90% of the resource and cut 10% of the resource			153	7.1%
ENV 15c	Joint Planning Policy with Anglesey: Keep 80% of the resource and cut 20% of the resource			374	17.5%
ENV 15	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting 30% of the service resource	618	28.9%		
ENV 16a	Traffic Management: Protect the whole service			268	12.5%
ENV 16b	Traffic Management: Cut 50% of the budget			721	33.7%
ENV 16	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cut £130,000 from the budget	989	46.2%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
ENVIRONMENT					
ENV 17a	Maintain Promenades, Benches and Street Name Signs: Protect the whole service			198	9.2%
ENV 17b	Maintain Promenades, Benches and Street Name Signs: Cut 50% of the service			593	27.7%
ENV 17	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting the whole service	791	36.9%		
ENV 18a	Highway maintenance: Protect the whole service			336	15.7%
ENV 18b	Highway maintenance: Keep 93% of the budget and therefore reduce the budget by 7%			777	36.3%
ENV 18	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely reducing the budget by 21%	1113	52.0%		
ENV 19a	Street Enforcement Unit: Protect the whole service			160	7.5%
ENV 19b	Street Enforcement Unit: Keep 5 posts and cut 2 posts			209	9.8%
ENV 19c	Street Enforcement Unit : Keep 4 posts and cut 3 posts			508	23.7%
ENV 19	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting the whole service	877	40.9%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
ENVIRONMENT					
ENV 20a	Grass cutting main areas of our towns: Protect the whole service			74	3.5%
ENV 20b	Grass cutting main areas of our towns: Reduce grass-cutting in the main areas of our towns from 8 to 6 times a year			835	39.0%
ENV 20	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting the whole service	909	42.4%		
ENV 21a	Grass cutting in children's play areas: Protect the whole service			184	8.6%
ENV 21b	Grass cutting in children's play areas: Grass-cutting every two months, rather than every month in the 131 children's playing fields			837	39.1%
ENV 21	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting the whole service	1021	47.7%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
ENVIRONMENT					
ENV 22a	Recycling Centres:Protect the whole service			558	26.1%
ENV 22b	Recycling Centres:Keep 5 recycling centres open and close 3 recycling centres			295	13.8%
ENV 22c	Recycling Centres:Keep 3 centres in the most convenient locations, having 4 other centres open one weekend per month and close one centre			573	26.8%
ENV 22	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely reducing the number of recycling centres from 8 to 3	1426	66.6%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE					
CHILDREN 1	Social Workers for Children:Reduce the resource by 4%	842	39.3%	Single Option	
CHILDREN 2	Service for young people between 16 and 21 years old:Reduce the hours that are available to support these young people by 30%	627	29.3%	Single Option	
CHILDREN 3	Young Carers Scheme:Discontinue the scheme	868	40.5%	Single Option	
CHILDREN 4	Women's Aid Service:Discontinue the contribution	613	28.6%	Single Option	
CHILDREN 5	Youth Justice Service:Reduce the resource by 4%	507	23.7%	Single Option	
CHILDREN 6	Youth Grant>Delete the youth grants	511	23.9%	Single Option	
CHILDREN 7a	Primary School Meals:Protect the whole service			352	16.4%
CHILDREN 7b	Primary School Meals:Continue to provide a hot meal and increase the price of primary school meals			927	43.3%
CHILDREN 7	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely bringing the provision of hot meals in primary schools to an end	1279	59.7%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE					
CHILDREN 8a	Youth Service:Protect the whole service			340	15.9%
CHILDREN 8b	Youth Service:Keep 12 Youth Clubs, close up to 30 Youth Clubs and provide fewer youth projects			364	17.0%
CHILDREN 8c	Youth Service:Close all of the 42 Youth Clubs and provide fewer youth projects			144	6.7%
CHILDREN 8d	Youth Service:Close every Youth Centre and Club and end the youth projects			154	7.2%
CHILDREN 8	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting the whole service	1002	46.8%		
CHILDREN 9a	Free Breakfast:Protect the whole service			252	11.8%
CHILDREN 9b	Free Breakfast:Reduce the hours of employment for staff and/or charge a fee for supervision			577	26.9%
CHILDREN 9	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting the whole service	829	38.7%		
CHILDREN 10a	Derwen Children's Service:Protect the whole service			425	19.8%
CHILDREN 10b	Derwen Children's Service:Keep 90% of the resource and cut the resource by 10%			506	23.6%
CHILDREN 10	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting 20% of the service resource	931	43.5%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE					
CHILDREN 11a	Derwen Support Service:Protect the whole service			357	16.7%
CHILDREN 11b	Derwen Support Service:Keep 90% of the resource and cut the resource by 10%			496	23.2%
CHILDREN 11	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting 20% of the service resource	853	39.8%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
CARE, HEALTH & WELLBEING					
CARE 1	Community Safety and Domestic Violence Projects:Delete the budget	472	22.0%	Single Option	
CARE 2	Domestic Violence:Delete the contribution	714	33.3%	Single Option	
CARE 3	Reducing the Budget for Voluntary/Charitable Organisations : Reduce the budget	415	19.4%	Single Option	
CARE 4	Housing Enforcement:Reduce the staffing resource by 12%	411	19.2%	Single Option	
CARE 5	Healthy Living:Delete the Healthy Living Programmes	448	20.9%	Single Option	
CARE 6	Sports Development:Discontinue the Sports Development Programme	511	23.9%	Single Option	
CARE 7	Homelessness:Reduce the staffing resource by 5%	664	31.0%	Single Option	
CARE 8	Benefits:Reduce the resource by 5%	318	14.8%	Single Option	
CARE 9a	Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and Care Officers : Protect the whole service			388	18.1%
CARE 9b	Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and Care Officers : Keep 97.5% of the budget and cut the budget by 2.5%			215	10.0%
CARE 9c	Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and Care Officers : Keep 95% of the budget and cut the budget by 5%			163	7.6%
CARE 9d	Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and Care Officers : Keep 92.5% of the budget and cut the budget by 7.5%			420	19.6%
CARE 9	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely reducing the budget by 10%	1186	55.4%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)		Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)
CARE, HEALTH & WELLBEING					
CARE 10a	Leisure Centres:Protect the whole service			576	26.9%
CARE 10b	Leisure Centres:Keep 10 leisure centres open and close 2 centres			272	12.7%
CARE 10c	Leisure Centres:Keep 9 leisure centres open and close 3 centres			208	9.7%
CARE 10d	Leisure Centres:Keep 7 leisure centres open and close 5 centres			399	18.6%
CARE 10	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting the whole service	1455	67.9%		
CARE 11a	Food Hygiene:Protect the whole service			305	14.2%
CARE 11b	Food Hygiene:Keep 93.5% of the resource and cut the resource by 6.5%			591	27.6%
CARE 11	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely reducing the budget by 13%	896	41.8%		
CARE 12a	Pollution Control:Protect the whole service			286	13.4%
CARE 12b	Pollution Control:Keep 89% of the resource and cut the resource by 11%			653	30.5%
CARE 12	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely reducing the budget by 22%	939	43.8%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
ECONOMY & TOURISM					
ECON 1	The Council's Tourist Information Centres:Close all Tourist Information Centres	547	25.5%	Single Option	
ECON 2	'Snowdonia Mountains and Coast' booklet:Stop producing the 'Snowdonia Mountains and Coast' booklet	199	9.3%	Single Option	
ECON 3	Marketing and Tourism>Delete the service	531	24.8%	Single Option	
ECON 4	Support for Events>Delete the resource	451	21.1%	Single Option	
ECON 5	Aber swing bridge, Caernarfon:Close the bridge to pedestrians, cyclists and families	759	35.4%	Single Option	
ECON 6	Barmouth Bridge:Stop paying the fee to Network Rail for the right for pedestrians, cyclists and motor cyclists to use the footbridge	691	32.3%	Single Option	
ECON 7	Business Support:Discontinue the service	415	19.4%	Single Option	
ECON 8a	Strategic Economic Projects:Protect the whole service			245	11.4%
ECON 8b	Strategic Economic Projects:Reduce the resource by 50%			496	23.2%
ECON 8	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting the whole service	741	34.6%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
ECONOMY & TOURISM					
ECON 9a	Beach Management:Protect the whole service			480	22.4%
ECON 9b	Beach Management:Manage Blue Flag or Green Flag winning beaches only			333	15.5%
ECON 9c	Beach Management:Manage Blue Flag beaches only			381	17.8%
ECON 9	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting the whole service	1194	55.7%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
VARIOUS					
VARIOUS 1	Community Arts Unit:Delete the resource	282	13.2%	Single Option	
VARIOUS 2	Lloyd George Museum:Close the museum	346	16.2%	Single Option	
VARIOUS 3	Neuadd Dwyfor, Pwllheli:Close Neuadd Dwyfor	550	25.7%	Single Option	
VARIOUS 4	Mobile library service for rural communities:Discontinue the mobile library service	728	34.0%	Single Option	
VARIOUS 5	'Gwynedd Ni' Information Service for children and families:Reduce the Gwynedd Ni budget	194	9.1%	Single Option	
VARIOUS 6	Noddfa Centre, Caernarfon:Delete the grant	294	13.7%	Single Option	
VARIOUS 7	Processing Council Tax:Reduce the resource by 5%	198	9.2%	Single Option	
VARIOUS 8	Council Tax Payments:Pay a fee in the Post Office	205	9.6%	Single Option	
VARIOUS 9a	Public Toilets:Protect the whole service			502	23.4%
VARIOUS 9b	Public Toilets:Keep 23 of the Council's public toilets and close 50			617	28.8%
VARIOUS 9	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting the whole service	1119	52.2%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
VARIOUS					
VARIOUS 10a	Grants for the Disabled and Adaptations:Protect the whole service			500	23.3%
VARIOUS 10b	Grants for the Disabled and Adaptations:Keep 80% of the resource and cut 20%			521	24.3%
VARIOUS 10	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely reducing the staff resources by 40%	1021	47.7%		
VARIOUS 11a	Archives:Protect the whole service			172	8.0%
VARIOUS 11b	Archives:Reduce the opening hours of the Dolgellau Record Office from 3 days to 2 days a week and reduce the opening hours of the Caernarfon Record Office from 4 days to 3 days a week			695	32.4%
VARIOUS 11	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely closing the Dolgellau record office and reduce the opening hours from 4 days a week to 3 in Caernarfon	867	40.5%		
VARIOUS 12a	Strategic Grants for the Arts:Protect the whole service			160	7.5%
VARIOUS 12b	Strategic Grants for the Arts:Reduce the budget by 50%			381	17.8%
VARIOUS 12	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely abolishing the grants entirely	541	25.3%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
VARIOUS					
VARIOUS 13a	Libraries:Protect the whole service			517	24.1%
VARIOUS 13b	Libraries:Keep 9 main libraries and establish a combination of community libraries or community links in 8 communities			289	13.5%
VARIOUS 13c	Libraries:Keep 9 libraries and close 8 libraries			130	6.1%
VARIOUS 13d	Libraries:Keep 9 libraries, reduce the opening hours in those libraries and close 8 libraries			156	7.3%
VARIOUS 13e	Libraries:Keep 9 libraries and reduce the activities for promoting reading			247	11.5%
VARIOUS 13	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely closing 8 libraries and keep 9 libraries open but with reduced opening hours and delete all activities	1339	62.5%		
VARIOUS 14a	Budget for purchasing library books:Protect the whole service			225	10.5%
VARIOUS 14b	Budget for purchasing library books:Keep 90% of the budget and cut 10%			173	8.1%
VARIOUS 14c	Budget for purchasing library books:Keep 75% of the budget and cut 25%			524	24.5%
VARIOUS 14	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely cutting the budget by 50%	922	43.0%		

Reference	Option (opposed to cut)	Number who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Percentage who want to protect the service (All Respondents)	Number that chose this option (All Respondents)	Percentage that chose this option (All Respondents)
VARIOUS					
VARIOUS 15a	Community Regeneration:Protect the whole service			192	9.0%
VARIOUS 15b	Community Regeneration:Reduce the resource by 64%			441	20.6%
VARIOUS 15	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely abolishing the Area Regeneration Officers and therefore the Council would not be able to provide support for the communities	633	29.6%		
VARIOUS 16a	Voluntary Grants:Protect the whole service			205	9.6%
VARIOUS 16b	Voluntary Grants:Reduce the grants by 50%			397	18.5%
VARIOUS 16	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely abolishing the grants entirely	602	28.1%		
VARIOUS 17a	Public Transport:Protect the whole service			552	25.8%
VARIOUS 17b	Public Transport:Reduce the budget by £100,000			256	12.0%
VARIOUS 17c	Public Transport:Reduce the budget by £200,000			308	14.4%
VARIOUS 17	Therefore total who wish to protect at least an element of the service, rather than implement the most severe cut namely reduce the budget by £300,000 that would result in reducing specific journeys within approximately 12 routes	1116	52.1%		

7. Comments received from respondents

7.1 At the end of the questionnaire there was an opportunity for respondents to note any further suggestions / comments.

7.2 **Further comments / suggestions were received from 1,037 respondents. Every individual comment received will be presented to all Gwynedd Councillors in a Gwynedd Challenge exercise information pack and will be available on www.gwynedd.gov.uk/GwyneddChallenge**

7.3 Whilst the comments presented covered a wide range of issues, a number of issues featured prominently:

7.3.1 Environment

Comments were received by 134 respondents wishing to safeguard services in the Environmental field. The key matters were as follows:

- **Public Footpaths (Env13a, Env13b, Env13c)** – 50 comments received, **Highway Maintenance (Env18a, Env18b)** – 34 comments received, **Recreational Routes (the cycle paths) (Env1)** – 25 comments received and **Recycling Centres (Env22a, Env22b, Env22c)** – 25 comments received. These were the matters which received the highest number of comments under the Environment heading, with respondents eager for them to be protected and concerns raised about the potential negative impact on tourism, health and wellbeing.
- **Street Cleaning (Env6, Env7, Env8, Env9)** – 24 comments were received expressing a general desire to protect these services. A number of comments (16) were received which suggested that this service could be delivered in an alternative way, for example by using volunteers.
- **Grass cutting (Env5, Env20a, Env20b, Env21a, Env21b)** – 10 comments were received expressing a general desire to protect these services in some way. A total of 26 comments suggested that the service could be delivered in

an alternative way, with 12 respondents suggesting reducing the frequency of grass cutting, and 12 suggesting using local resources for example using volunteers.

7.3.2 Children and Young People

Comments were received by 152 respondents wishing to safeguard services in the Children and Young People field. The key matters were as follows:

- **Youth Grants (Children6)** - the highest number (51) of comments received expressed opposition to cutting youth grants. Of these, 46 specifically referred to Young Farmers clubs whilst 8 referred specifically to the Urdd.
- **Primary School Meals (Children7a, Children7b)** - 37 comments received, **Youth Service (Children8a, Children8b, Children8c, Children 8d)** – 28 comments received, **Free Breakfast (Children9a, Children9b)** – 29 comments received, and **The Derwen Service** – 17 comments received.
- **Free Breakfast (Children9a, Children9b)** – 11 respondents suggested that parents should pay for the breakfast club for their children with some describing the provision as "free childcare". A number of parents emphasised that the provision enabled them to work and requested for it to be saved and that they were willing to pay for the service. 6 respondents felt strongly that it was the responsibility of parents to provide food for their children.

7.3.3 Care, Health and Wellbeing

Comments were received by 192 respondents wishing to safeguard services in the field of Care, Health and Wellbeing. The key matters were as follows:

- **Leisure Centres (Care10a, Care10b, Care10c, Care10d)** – leisure centres were the service that received the highest number of comments opposing the cut proposals (144), with the emphasis on the importance of health and wellbeing and the impact on the future of children and young people. Of these comments, 17 emphasised the importance of swimming.

- **Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and Care Officers (Care9a, Care9b, Care9c, Care9d)** received the second highest number of comments opposing their cut proposals (35 comments). The emphasis here was on the impact on older people.

7.3.4 Economy

Comments were received by 59 respondents wishing to safeguard services within the field of the Economy. The key matters were as follows:

- **Barmouth Bridge (Econ6)** – received the highest number of comments in the field (35 comments). The bridges (Barmouth Bridge and the Aber Swing Bridge, Caernarfon) also received the highest number of suggestions, with the suggestion of charging a fee being the most popular (25 comments), especially with regards to Barmouth Bridge.

7.3.5 Various

Comments were received by 176 respondents wishing to safeguard services in the “Various” field. The key matters were as follows:

- **Libraries (Various4, Various13a, Various13b, Various13c, Various13d, Various13e, Various14a, Various14b, Various14c)** - 86 comments were received with concerns being expressed regarding the impact on rural areas.
- **Public Transport (Various17a, Various17b, Various17c)** – 64 comments were received with concerns being expressed regarding the impact on rural areas.
- **Public Toilets (Various 9a, Various9b)** – a number of comments (26) were received regarding Public Toilets, with concerns relating to health and wellbeing.

7.3.6 General comments noted in the questionnaire

In addition to the comments regarding the specific cut proposals noted in the questionnaire, a number of comments were also received which made more general points regarding the financial challenge, and on the Gwynedd Challenge process itself.

(i) Many respondents expressed concerns about the cumulative effect of the possible cuts across the county with:

- 198 comments on the possible impact on **children and young people**
- 108 comments on the possible negative impact on **tourism**
- 98 comments noted concern on the impact of **health and wellbeing** of Gwynedd residents
- 77 comments regarding the need to **protect the most vulnerable individuals** in the community in the process of deciding which services to cut.

(ii) **A number of** comments were received regarding finding possible solutions to bridging the financial gap by means of efficiency savings rather than cuts with:

- 65 comments regarding **reducing the number of / or salaries of the Council's senior officers.**
- 34 comments regarding **reducing the number of Councillors** (it should be noted that it is the responsibility of the Boundary Commission for Wales to decide on the number of councillors for each local authority in Wales and that Gwynedd Council does not have any control on these decisions).
- 34 comments regarding **reducing Councillors' salaries / expenses** (it should be noted that setting Councillor expenses / salaries for all Welsh local authorities is the responsibility of The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales and that Gwynedd Council does not have any control over this process).
- 21 comments regarding **working more efficiently and / or reducing staffing numbers in general.**

(iii) A number of comments were received regarding the process of identifying possible cuts and deciding how they should be implemented with:

- 71 comments expressing dissatisfaction with the Gwynedd Challenge exercise itself, with some noting that the questionnaire was difficult to follow and / or complete
- 43 comments acknowledging that Gwynedd Councillors have **difficult decisions** ahead of them.
- 28 comments noting dissatisfaction with the fact that Government policy is forcing Gwynedd Council to implement cuts.

8. Correspondence received regarding the Gwynedd Challenge exercise

8.1 In addition to presenting comments in the relevant boxes on the questionnaire document itself, over the course of the exercise, the Council received 123 enquiries, letters and e-mails regarding the exercise from organisations and individuals.

8.2 General correspondence

8.2.1 These included enquiries regarding completing the exercise or offering further comments (either concerning the cut options under consideration or the Gwynedd Challenge exercise itself):

- a total of 12 enquiries were received regarding problems in completing or submitting the online questionnaire and 8 general enquiries about the process (e.g. the closing date) or specific information in the questionnaire.
- a total of 12 individuals declared that they did not wish to complete the questionnaire:
 - 8 because they were unable to restrict the services to be protected
 - 3 as they felt that completing the questionnaire would suggest they are in favour of the cuts,
 - 1 because they thought the questionnaire was too complex.
- A total of 8 respondents believed that the questionnaire was too structured and that it did not invite or encourage other ideas from the public on how to find savings or cuts.

8.3 Correspondence regarding specific cut options

8.3.1 The single option that received the most comments in correspondence was **Neuadd Dwyfor, Pwllheli (Various3)**. There were 12 respondents who wanted to protect against this cut, with several expressing concern about the loss of opportunities for young people, and any possible effect it could have on Pwllheli Library which is located within the building.

8.3.2 The other proposals which attracted a number of comments were:

- **Community Arts Unit (Various1)** – correspondence was received from 10 individuals and/or organisations, with a number referring to the positive impact specific projects have on the health and wellbeing of residents and specific groups, such as offenders and people with mental health problems.
- **Barmouth Bridge (Econ6)** – correspondence was received from 8 individuals and/or organisations, with many of these expressing concern about the impact on tourism and asking if research could be carried out into the possibility of charging a fee on bridge users.
- **Leisure Centres (Care10), Archives (Various11), and Libraries (Various13)** – correspondence was received from 5 individuals and/or organisations, noting that they wanted to see these services protected.

8.3.3 General comments regarding savings and cuts:

- 5 comments were received expressing concern about implementing cuts that would affect tourism in general, and emphasizing the possible effects that this could have upon the Gwynedd economy.
- 3 comments were received highlighting the possible impact to the Economic Development sector which could potentially have an impact on Gwynedd's reputation for promoting businesses.
- 2 comments were received expressing concern about cuts to the Arts in general.
- 7 individuals noted that further savings should be made in areas such as staff numbers / salaries and councillor allowances, as opposed to cutting services.
- 6 respondents voiced their opposition to the cuts agenda at a national level.

- Some respondents made specific comments about the possibility of increasing council tax so as to avoid some of the cuts, with 4 indicating that they would be in favour of this and 1 indicating their opposition.

8.4 Every individual comment received will be presented to all Gwynedd Councillors in a Gwynedd Challenge exercise information pack and will be available on www.gwynedd.gov.uk/GwyneddChallenge

9. Survey results for Young People (up to 25 years of age), Older People (65 years or older) and people who considered themselves to be disabled

9.1 Young people (up to 25 years of age)

9.1.1 A total of 175 responses were received from young people aged up to 25 years. The results for these respondents can be seen in **Appendix P**

9.1.2 In addition, a total of 81 comments were received from children and young people of which 26 comments related to **Youth Grants (Children6)** and 6 comments relating to the **Youth service (Children8)**

9.1.3 No comments were received regarding protecting Libraries, Public Footpaths or Barmouth Bridge from Young People.

9.2 Older people (65 years or older)

9.2.1 A total of 331 responses were received from older people aged 65 or older. The results for these respondents can be seen in **Appendix Q**

9.2.2 In addition, a total of 216 of the comments were received from older people. The main concerns related to the possible cut proposal options for **Leisure Centres (Care10)** – 30 comments received, **Public Transport (Various17)** - 28 comments received and **Libraries (Various4, Various13, Various14)** – 18 comments received.

9.3 People who considered themselves to be disabled

9.3.1 A total of 99 responses were received from people who considered themselves to be disabled. The results for these respondents be found in **Appendix R**

9.3.2 In addition, a total of 41 comments were received from people who considered themselves to be disabled. The main concerns related to the various possible cut proposal options for **Libraries (Various4, Various13, Various14)** – 8 comments received, and **Public Transport (Various17)** – 7 comments received. Apart from the above, the number of comments received from this group per proposal were too low to identify any discernable differences / patterns in relation to the comments from all respondents.

10. Overview of all respondents who completed the questionnaire on behalf of an organisation or business

10.1 A total of 78 (3.6% of the 2,142) responses were completed on behalf of an **organisation or business**. Of these:

- 41 were businesses of various sizes or groups representing the business community
- 25 were completed on behalf of an organisation or charity / third sector organisation
- 5 responses were received from Town or Community councils
- 7 responses were received from art or educational organisations.

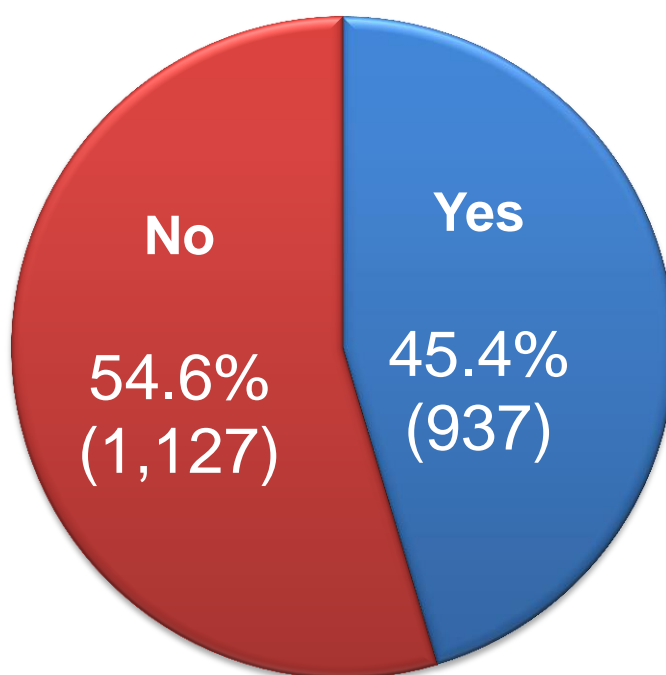
10.2 A total of 32 comments were received from organisations or businesses. Of these:

- The number of comments received by individual proposal were too low to note any specific differences or patterns.
- The options in the questionnaire that organisations or businesses were most eager to protect were **Public Footpaths (Env13)**, **Recycling Centres (Env22)**, **Beaches (Econ9)** and **Libraries (Various13)**
- A number of general comments were received regarding areas rather than specific options for cuts. A total of 8 comments were received on the possible negative effect of cuts on tourism, whilst 6 comments were received on the possible effect of service cuts on the county's economy. An additional 5 comments were received expressing concerns of the possible effects of cuts on children and young people.

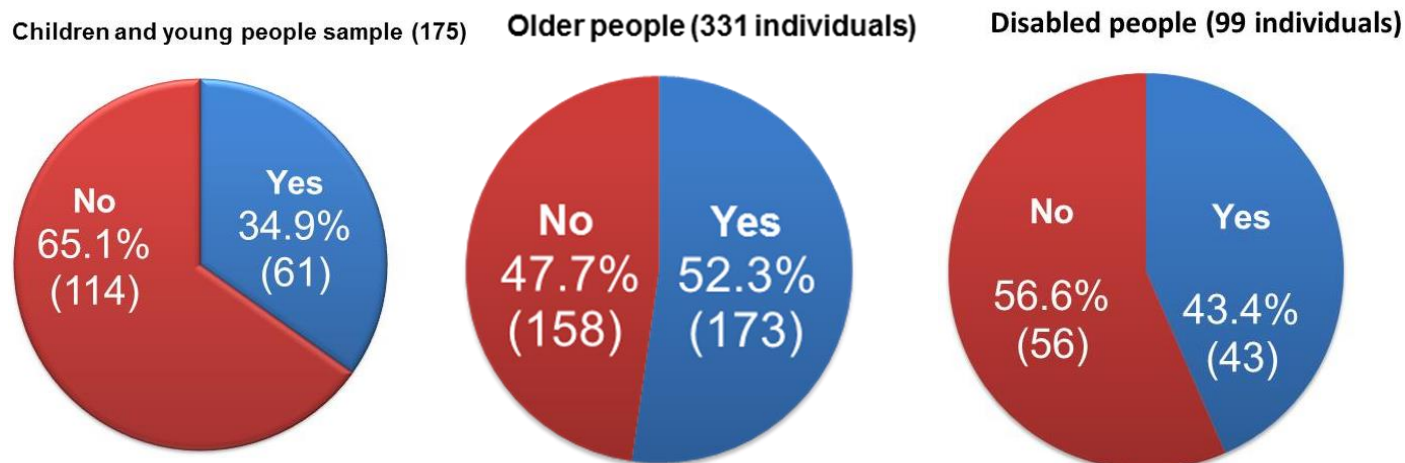
10.3 A detailed analysis of the results received from businesses and organisations can be seen in **Appendix S**.

11. Council Tax Survey Question

- 11.1 At the end of the questionnaire, respondents were invited to answer an additional question regarding council tax levels - ***“When considering the services that you have not been able to save in your choices, would you prefer the Council to increase Council Tax by a percentage that is higher than the 3.5% increase that is currently planned in the current figures to save more of the services?”***
- 11.2 In response to this question, **1,127 (54.6%)** stated that **they did not wish** the Council to consider increasing the council tax percentage by more than 3.5%, whilst **937 (45.4%)** stated that **they would prefer** the Council to consider increasing the council tax percentage by a higher percentage than 3.5%. It should be noted that the graph below does not include the 78 organisations who responded to the questionnaire.



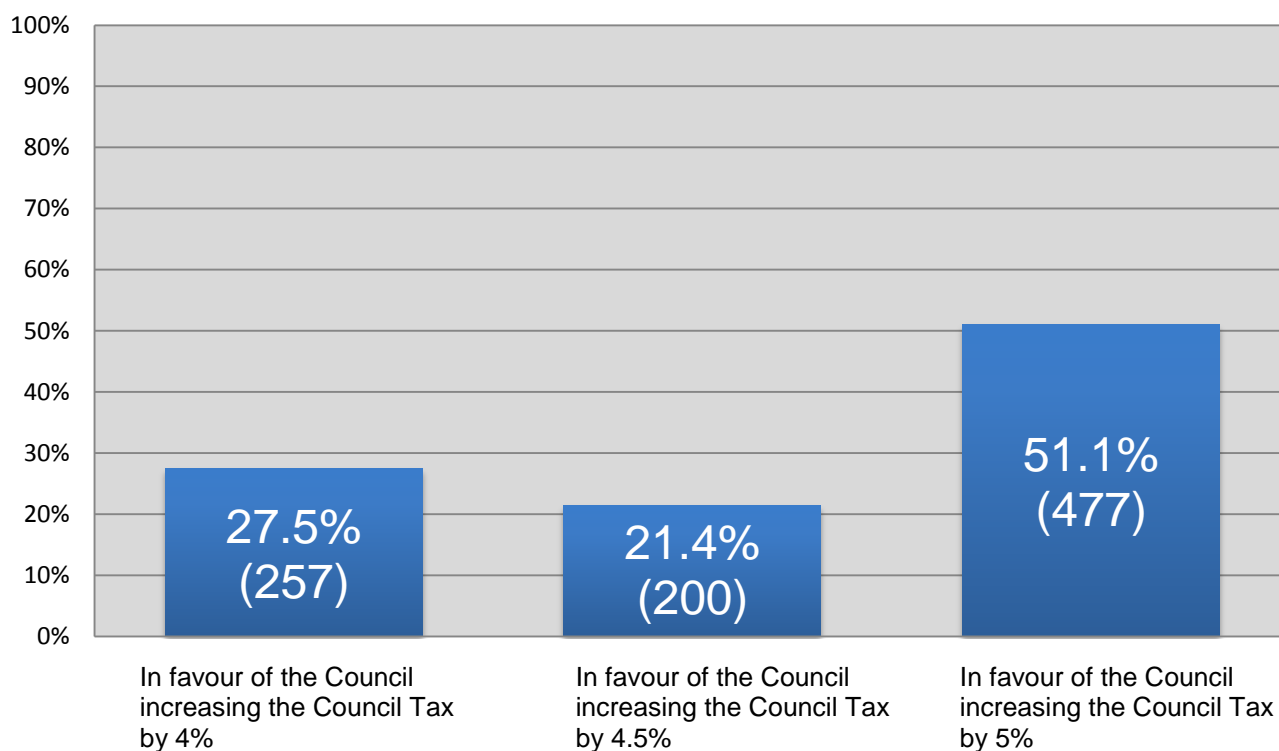
11.3 In the response to the council tax question, the following responses were received from children and young people, older people and people who considered themselves to be disabled:



11.4 There was then an opportunity for the 937* respondents who had noted “Yes” as their answer to the council tax question to answer an additional question – ***“If you would like us to consider doing this (increasing Council Tax by a percentage that is higher than 3.5%), to what extent?”***

Respondents could then select one of three options:

- increase of 4%
- increase of 4.5%
- increase of 5%



*No responses were received from 3 respondents.