

Mayor's Budget Roadshows – Budget Consultation Feedback

As part of the Mayor's budget roadshow, two consultation events were held, one on the 21st of January 2014 at the Bow Idea Stores and the other on the 27th of January 2014 at the Whitechapel Idea Stores.

The events were widely advertised through east end life, idea stores, media releases, online via the council website and other social media sites and the communication was translated into various community languages. The events were open to all members of the public and over 45 people attended.

A total of 22 questionnaires were completed and returned. Below is the summary of key findings:

Residents were asked whether they agreed with the four principles guiding the budget proposals.

- Out of the 22 responses, 90% (20 individuals) agreed with the principle of protecting the vulnerable and the services residents rely on. 1 individual disagreed with this response and 1 individual had no response.
- All respondents agreed with the principle of reducing the cost of living for residents.
- 19 agreed with the principle of creating growth and regeneration.
- 18 agreed with the principle around a Lean, Flexible and Citizen Centre organisation.

When asked whether residents agreed with the proposed activities for 2014-15, we received 17 responses that agreed with the proposed activities, 2 did not know and 3 did not respond.

When asked about priorities that they wished to add, we received a variety of responses the majority of which were related to prioritising housing, repairs and maintenance and health and social care support. There were also comments around exploring the opportunities for a new town hall as a way of saving money in the longer term.

When asked whether it was a good idea to freeze council tax, a total of 17 respondents agreed that it was, 3 disagreed, 1 was not sure and 1 did not respond. Comments on why residents thought it was a good idea to freeze council tax included 'it is a good form of support for unemployed families and single parents'.