

Your Borough, Your Voice campaign

The Council has carried out extensive consultation under the Your Borough Your Voice campaign, in order to consult effectively on annual budget and savings proposals and to identify longer term priorities to inform the Medium Term Financial Plan and the Partnership Community Plan.

The programme includes a range of methods to ensure there are different opportunities for people to take part. These include web-based opportunities, awareness raising events in the community, face to face discussions with specific service user groups and consultation with groups with specific needs.

A summary of the key methods of consultation is set out below.

- **Online:** Each savings proposal that the council is considering has been published on a dedicated web page: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/yourborough. This allows residents to see, in full, the scope and impact that the savings proposals could have. Residents can sign up to My Tower Hamlets, the council's main consultative tool, to provide feedback. Further support, where necessary, is being given to residents if they need help signing up to My TH to ensure that access to the consultation is maximised. 451 surveys have been completed as part of the consultation by 166 individual respondents.
- **Raising awareness of the consultation through local events and stalls at market locations throughout the Borough:** The council is encouraging people to review savings proposals and feedback on priorities through a programme of events where specific community and interest groups are likely to attend. Staff have also held information stalls about the consultation at key market locations, including Roman Road, Bethnal Green, Watney Market and near the ASDA store in the south of the borough. 800 people have attended local groups and service user events. The feedback provided has been used to assist in understanding and responding to the impact of the proposals.
- **Survey and qualitative workshops:** The consultation has included an independent, statistically representative, survey of residents to understand their views about priorities and opportunities for savings, complemented by a series of more in-depth workshops with sample groups of residents.
- **Equality impact assessments:** These have been undertaken for each savings proposal, to ensure that due regard is given to the possible impact on groups with protected characteristics. Services are also leading discussions with service user groups where an equality impact assessment has highlighted that a group(s) with protected characteristics may be affected by the proposed changes.