

1. Executive Summary

This Executive Summary provides an overview of the Budget Consultation exercise. It is not a detailed summary of the full report, but an articulation of some of the key findings.

1.1 Background

The consultation on the *Changes for Cardiff* Budget Proposals ran from 11th December 2015 until 12th January 2016. The city-wide public consultation was communicated and shared through a range of mechanisms, whilst face-to-face engagement events were undertaken in locations across the city.

The consultation took three forms:

- **City-wide public consultation** on issues of general interest set out in the [“Changes for Cardiff”](#) document
- **Service-specific consultation** with identified service users/groups or organisations.
- **General consultation** – this included all of the Council’s other savings that have been released for consultation, including internal changes within the Council such as; back office efficiencies, staff changes and process improvements.

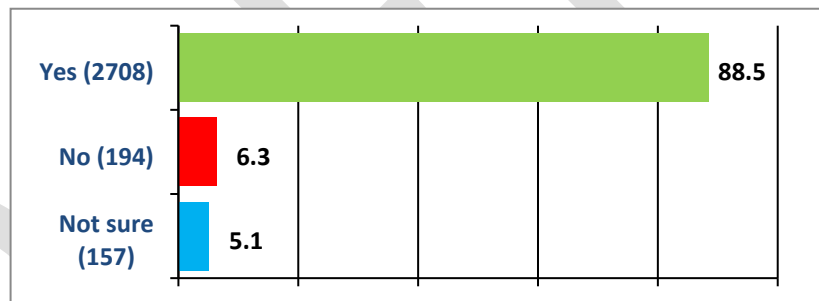
A full set of the proposals can be seen at www.cardiff.gov.uk/budget.

1.2 Headline Figures

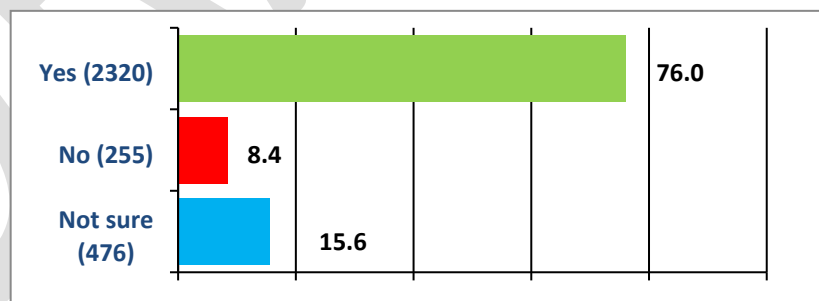
3,348 people took the time to complete the *Changes for Cardiff* questionnaire and public views were also given via petitions, social media, attendance at 'drop-in' public engagement events, and through correspondence.

From those completing the survey in response to the 2016/17 budget proposals, the following headline figures can be seen. Please note that numbers in brackets indicate responses:

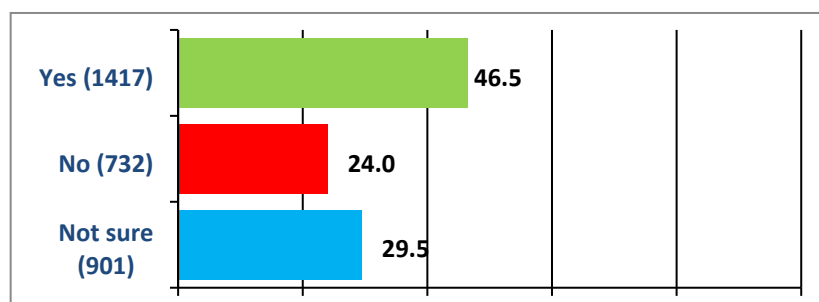
Do you recognise that a budget gap of a potential £45.6m for 2016/17 means that difficult budget choices are required?



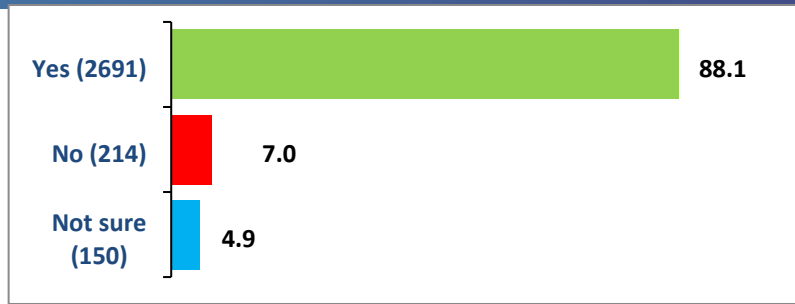
Do you support the Council in exploring new ways of working with other organisations to deliver its services?



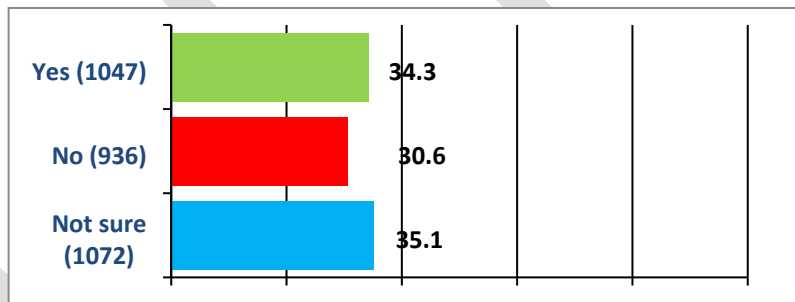
Would you support the Council charging more for some services if it meant that they could be continued? (e.g. meals for older people, leisure and cultural activities, etc.)



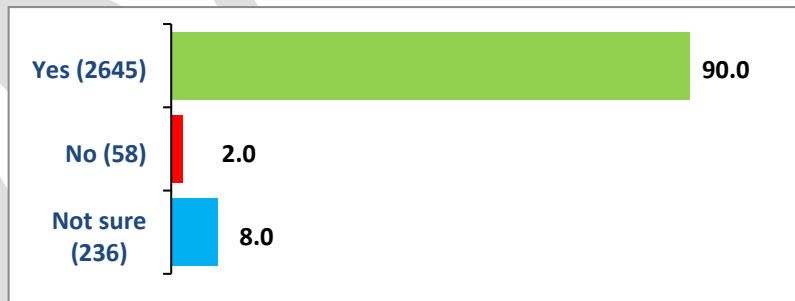
The City of Cardiff Council is increasingly looking to provide services online. Do you support the increased digitalisation of services which will encourage residents to contact the Council and make payments online, while maintaining face-to-face and phone methods for those who need it most?



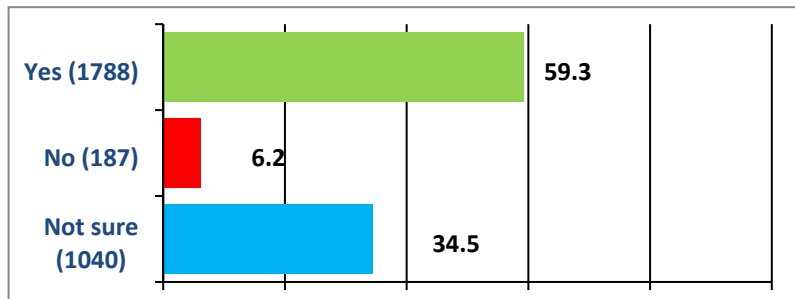
Do you think that community groups and the third sector should be asked to run more services and facilities? (e.g. running local community buildings, maintaining local open spaces etc.)



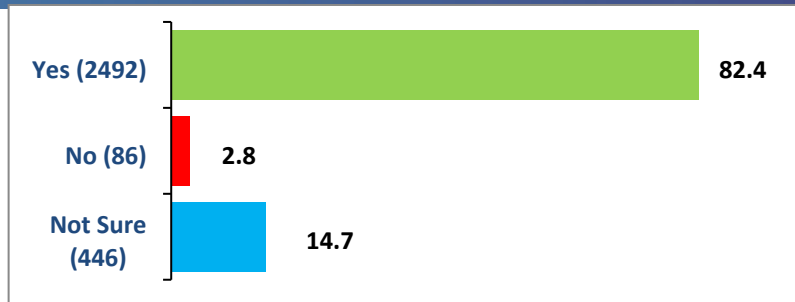
Is an emphasis on early intervention and prevention an approach that you support?



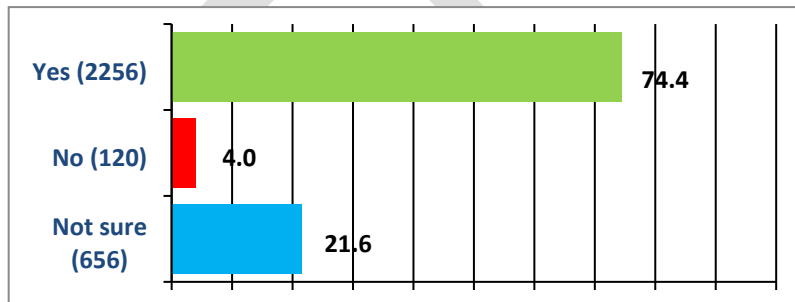
Do you agree with the new model of day service provision?



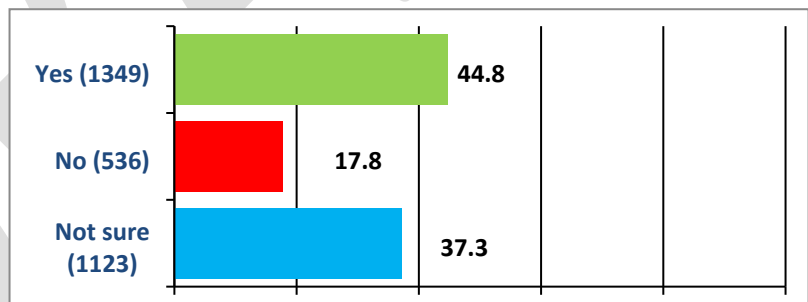
Do you agree with the proposal to continue the Meals on Wheels service?



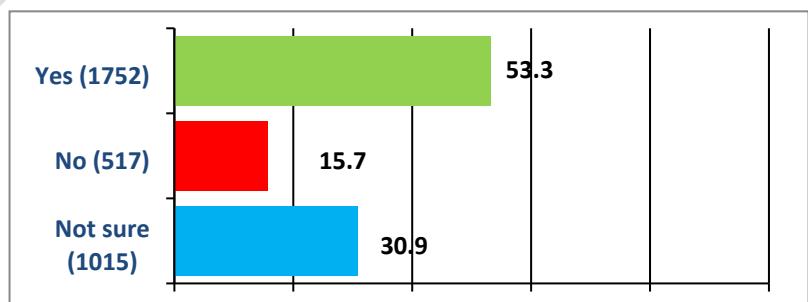
Do you support the Council's plan to deliver care services on an area basis?



Do you agree that delegated school budgets should contribute to the financial challenge facing the Council?

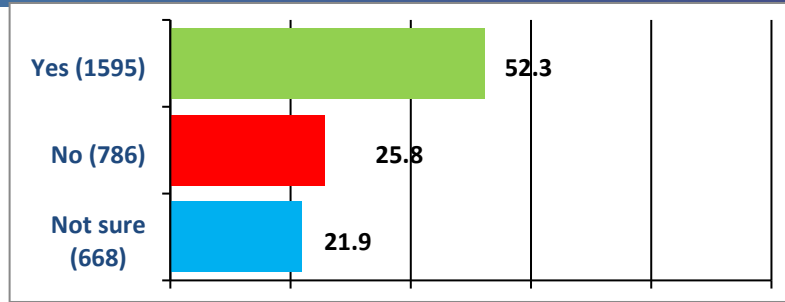


Do you agree with our new model for play services being delivered from a range of community facilities?

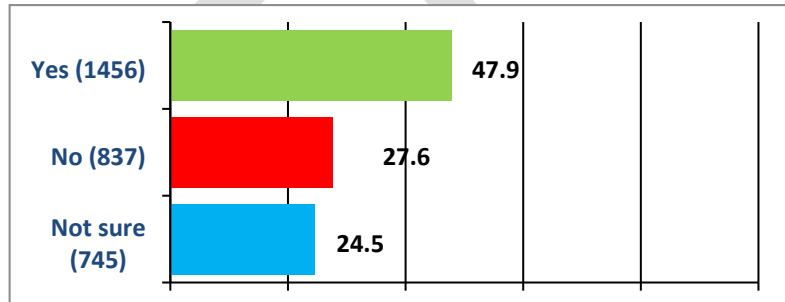


Cardiff Back Report

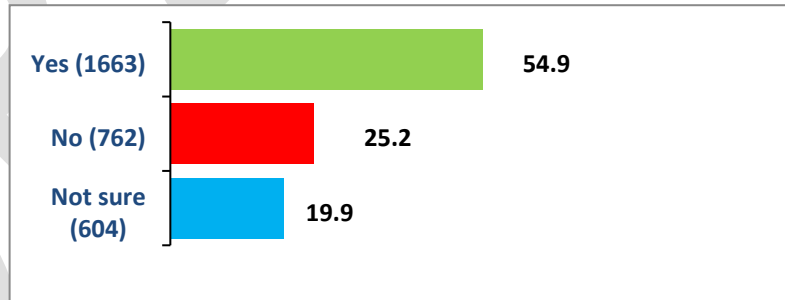
Do you agree with the City of Cardiff Council's decision to cease funding? (Cardiff Contemporary Initiative)



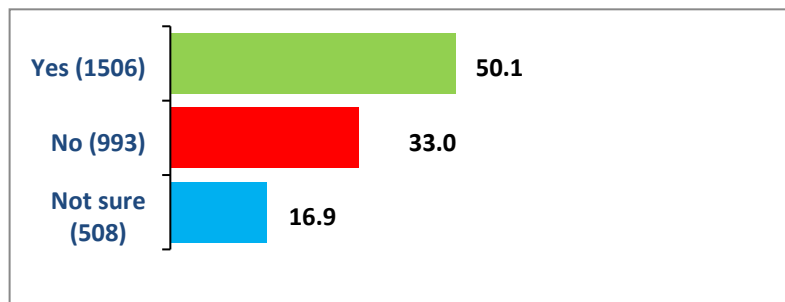
Do you support the decision to cease funding for Arts Active?



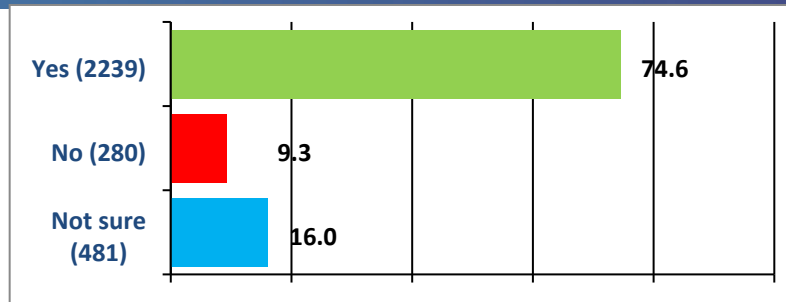
Do you agree with a phased removal of the grant for Artes Mundi?



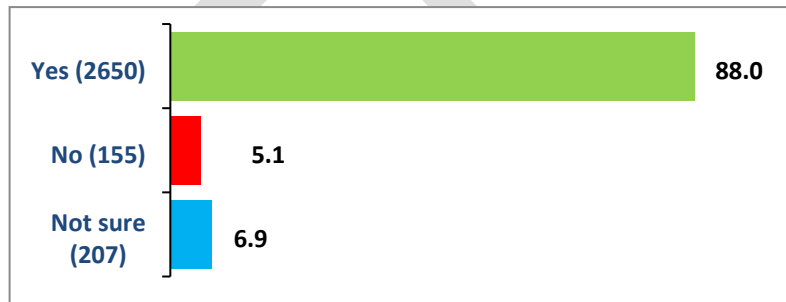
Do you agree with a phased removal of the grant for Cardiff Singer of the World?



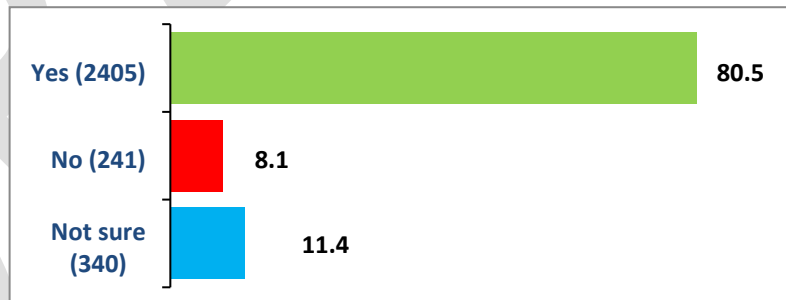
Do you support the Council's proposal to seek alternative funding for Operation Mistletoe?



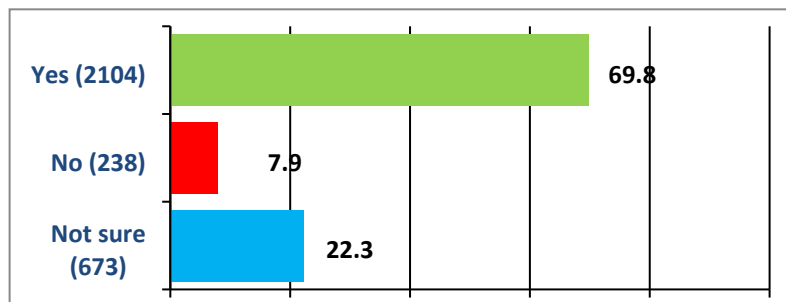
Do you believe that the private sector, including pubs and clubs, should make a financial contribution to managing the night-time economy in Cardiff?



Do you support further enforcement activities with increased fines for non-compliance?



Do you support a different grounds maintenance regime being considered?



1.3 Overarching Themes

It is clear that respondents to *Changes for Cardiff* recognise that the financial challenge, alongside other service demand pressures, means that difficult budget choices are required. This understanding is reflected throughout the responses to the Council's budget consultation, with broad support for many of the proposals, notably for the Council to explore new ways of working and increased digitalisation of services.

- Q1. The financial reality:** An overwhelming **88.5%** (2,708) of respondents recognised that a £45.6m budget gap for 2016/17 meant that **difficult budget choices** are required. This response was consistent with last year's consultation (**88.7%**).
- Q2. Support for new ways of working:** **76.0%** (2,320) **supported** the Council in **exploring new ways of working** with other organisations to deliver its services. Again, this level of support was consistent with last year (**75.1%**).
- Q3. Greater charging:** There were mixed levels of support for the Council **charging more for some services** if it meant they could be continued with **46.5%** (1,417) supporting the proposal **24.0%**, (732) disagreeing but **29.5%** (901) 'not sure'.
- Q4. Increased digitalisation of services:** **88.1%** (2,691) of respondents supported the increased digitalisation of services with only **7.0%** (214) against.
- Q5. Community involvement:** **34.3%** (1,047) of respondents agreed that **community groups** and the **third sector** should be asked **to run more services and facilities** – **30.6%** (936) said 'No'; **35.1%** (1,072) said 'Not sure'.
- Q6. Volunteering:** **23.7%** (715) of respondents were currently engaged in volunteering in the city with 887 respondents expressing an interest. The highest levels of interest for volunteering were seen in relation to libraries, litter picks and parks maintenance.
- Community interest - volunteering:** Individuals (**19.2%**) or groups expressed an interest in becoming more involved in the delivery of services. Many were interested in volunteering to assist in delivering a Council service.
- Q7. Local insights:** The nature of the feedback received from different areas on similar issues varied. This has provided the Council with a **valuable insight into what different areas consider appropriate solutions** to identified issues and is further explored and supported in **Appendix 2**.

1.4 City-wide Budget Proposals

Social Care

The City of Cardiff Council is working with its partner organisations to focus resources on developing services based on early intervention and prevention in respect of social care.

Q8. 90.0% (2,645) of respondents were **in favour of the early intervention approach**.

Day Services for Older People

Provision of elderly care services is facing challenges which will result in changes to the way that elderly day services work in the city. Building on last year's budget consultation, the Council has developed a model for day services with a set of proposals that will deliver the outcomes that people will want in order to improve their lives.

Q9. 59.3% (1,788) of respondents **agreed with the new model of day service provision** whilst **6.2%** (187) were **against** and **34.5%** (1,040) **'not sure'**.

Q10. 87.3% (2,642) **agreed** that the Council should **continue to invest in day centres** for those with assessed high care needs.

Q11. There was broad agreement (**68.7%** / 2,082) that it is better to have modern high quality services designed to meet today's need for **support for those with dementia along with health and social care services located in one place**. However, **9.3%** (281) disagreed and **22.1%** (669) were **'not sure'**.

Q12. The majority of respondents agreed that the Council should **support individuals in accessing community facilities to enable them to live independently** and achieve their personal outcomes (**87.7%** / 2,660).

Meals on Wheels Service

Q13. 82.4% (2,492) agreed with the proposal to **continue with the Meals on Wheels service**.

Q14. Nearly two-thirds (**61.4%** / 1,862) agreed that the **cost of a meal should increase by £1** to allow the service to continue to provide a sustainable service. **15.5%** (469) were against and **23.2%** (704) weren't sure.

Q15. The Council is considering ways to **expand the Meals on Wheels service** and **88.2%** (2,606) agreed there should be flexibility to use the service when needed e.g. during recovery from hospital.

In addition, **71.7%** (2,097) supported provision to **sheltered housing**; **70.8%** (2,076) supported **delivery to group settings** including luncheon clubs and community groups and **69.2%** supported options of **provision of an evening meal** (2,033).

Opinion was mixed in respect of the **option to open up the service to anyone** who wants to receive the service (**36.5%** / 1073 in favour, **32.8%** / 964 against and **30.6%** / 899 not sure).

Q16. Three quarters of respondents stated that individually they would not or did not know of anyone who would **benefit from the service** (**74.5%** / 2,110). **25.5%** (721) said that they or a relative / friend would benefit.

Education

School Delegated Budgets

The additional financial demands falling upon school delegated budgets in 2016/17 are estimated to be approximately £13.541m. The budget proposals include an additional £9.511m funding for school delegated budgets which would represent an increase to schools of 4.6%. The Council anticipates that the Welsh Government will continue to ask local authorities to protect school delegated budgets.

Q18. 57.9% (1,753) of respondents supported the proposal to increase **Delegated School Budgets** of £205.609m by £9.5m.

Q19. 44.8% (1,349) agreed that school budgets should **contribute to the financial challenge facing the Council**, whilst 17.8% (536) disagreed and 37.3% (1,123) were not sure.

School Meals Provision

School Meals are supplied to every primary and secondary school in Cardiff (with the exception of Cardiff High School) which cost £2.20 and £2.65 for set meals in primary and secondary schools respectively.

Q20. Only 11.8% (357) of respondent households **used the service** whilst 59.7% (1,810) did not and 28.5% (863) weren't sure.

Children's Play

Q21. Over 70% (71.9% / 2,170) support an **increase in the cost of meals** by 10p each day, compared to 13.1% (396) who disagreed and 14.9% (451) who weren't sure.

As part of the budget approved in February 2015, the Council agreed that an alternative model be put in place for play services which included funding to support the transfer of play centre buildings into community use. In 2016/17, there will be a new delivery model for Children's Play services which is responsive to the needs of children and young people. Play, including after school and holiday club activities, will in future be run from a range of community facilities within Neighbourhood Partnership Areas.

Arts and Culture

Cardiff Contemporary Initiative

The Council proposes to withdraw funding for the range of activities, events and exhibitions held across the city and the initiative will cease unless alternative funding can be identified.

Q24. Three quarters of respondents (**75.7%** / 2,300) had **not taken part in the initiative**.

Q25. Just over half (**52.3%** / 1,595) of respondents **agreed with the proposal to cease funding**, whilst **25.8%** (786) were against the proposal and **21.9%** (668) were not sure.

Arts Active

The Arts Active charity receives funding from the City of Cardiff Council providing education, community and audience engagement projects through St David's Hall and the New Theatre. The Council will withdraw funding but will seek contributions from private organisations and foundations to minimise the impact.

Q26. Just under half of respondents (**47.9%** / 1,456) supported the decision to **cease funding for Arts Active** compared to **27.6%** (837) who were against and **24.5%** (745) who were not sure.

Artes Mundi, Cardiff Singer of the World and Community Arts

The Council proposed to withdraw funding on a phased basis over 2 years for Artes Mundi and Cardiff Singer of the World and reduce the Arts Grant to organisations which support community led art programmes.

Q27. Over half of respondents agreed with the proposal to **remove funding for Artes Mundi** (**54.9%** / 1,663), compared to **25.2%** (762) who were against and **19.9%** (604) who were not sure.

Half of respondents agreed with a **phased removal for Cardiff Singer of the World** (50.1% / 1,506 respectively) compared to **33%** (993) who disagreed and **16.9%** (508) not sure.

- Q28.** Opinion was mixed in relation to the proposed **reduction in arts grant for community led art programmes** with **38.9%** (1,176) in agreement compared to **40.9%** (1,237) who disagreed and **20.2%** (612) not sure.

Community Safety

Community Safety funding proposals include a £25k reduction in funding for the joint city centre Christmas and New Year 'Operation Mistletoe' safety initiative and replacing the existing 9 ageing mobile cameras with 3 new cameras.

- Q29.** **62.2%** (1,873) of respondents supported the **change in the way CCTV cameras are used**, compared to **11.8%** (354) against the proposal and **26.0%** (783) not sure.
- Q30.** Nearly half (**46.5%** /1,394) were in favour of **reducing funding for Operation Mistletoe**, compared to **28.7%** (862) against and **24.8%** (744) not sure.
- Q31.** Approximately three-quarters of respondents (**74.6%** / 2,239) supported the proposal to **seek alternative funding for Community Safety activities** and **88.0%** (2,650) believed that the private sector should financially contribute to management of the night time economy.

Bereavement & Registration Services

Bereavement Services is responsible for the undertaking of over 4,000 funerals per year as well as maintenance across 7 sites including Thornhill Cemetery and Crematorium, Western Cemetery and Cathays Cemetery. Available cemetery space within the city is becoming critical and investment is required to ensure new sites can be developed in the future. The City of Cardiff Council's Crematorium and Burials Services income from crematoria and burials has been reinvested in the cemeteries and crematoria to ensure long term provision can be maintained. The price of a burial or cremation fee ranges from £500 - £675 and the Council propose to increase the cost by 10%.

- Q33.** **32.0%** of respondents **felt positively towards the Crematorium and Burials service** stating that they were "very" (16.0%) or "fairly" (16.0%) satisfied with the service whereas **1.9%** (57) of respondents felt either "fairly" dissatisfied (1.5%) or "very" dissatisfied (0.4%).

- Q35.** Over half (**52.8%** /1,588) of respondents supported an **increase in burial or cremation fees** by 10%, compared to **21.9%** (658) against and **25.4%** (764) not sure.

The **Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages** is a statutory service provided by the Council and most fees charged are set at a national level however some are set by the Council. Investment is required to modernise the service and make it more accessible for the public. Income from marriage ceremonies undertaken by the City of Cardiff Council's Registration

Commercialisation

The Council has a view that provision of frontline services should be supported by increasing commercial activities. The Council will be reviewing fees and charges in comparison to other local authorities and changing the ways of working to raise more income from trading, advertising and sponsorship.

Q41. Overall, respondents **supported increasing commercial activities** in the following areas:-

○ Transport	65.5% (1,953)
○ Leisure & Culture	62.3% (1,851)
○ Recycling & Waste	60.6% (1,805)
○ Environment	59.4% (1,759)
○ Parks	52.0% (1,544)
○ Planning	50.1% (1,477)
○ Libraries	49.0% (1,455)
○ Education	41.1% (1,216)

The Environment

We want our city to have green flag parks and open spaces in addition to a high quality city environment and an attractive public realm. This means having clean and well managed streets in addition to challenging poor social responsibility in neighbourhoods. The City of Cardiff Council will be increasing enforcement of offences and the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices with increased fines

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Parking and Traffic Enforcement

The City of Cardiff Council has already consulted with the public on increasing enforcement for parking infringements and stopping in yellow boxes and now proposes to extend this to key strategic routes into the city.

Q48. **43.1%** (1,153) of respondents were either “very satisfied” or “fairly satisfied” with **increased enforcement to date**, compared to **25.0%** (670) who were “fairly” or “very”

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