Appendix 7

Q7 Do you have any other comments on our proposed budget for 2024/25

Good luck
Why is the proposal with regards to the redevelopment of Osborne Grove under Children's Services ?
Everything seems at breaking point.
Several of the branch libraries have either been closed or have only recently re-opened following lockdown and also refurbishment. This means that footfall figures which are being used to support variation in library hours are likely to be extremely unreliable. For example, although Stroud Green & Harringay library was are-opened almost a year ago, the footfall counter was only installed in week beginning 11. 12.23
I~ am dubious about the self service idea at libraries. It is possible that it could lead to greater theft or non return of books
Stand shoulder to shoulder with residents, service users, staff, unions and campaigners against Tory Cuts.
It's all profoundly depressing!
leave the libraries alone!
I think the council should stop doing deals with developers who do not build social housing.
Information for the public is very hard to understand and simply not sufficient to comment in most places
No
More funding for Leisure Centres
Don't cut the library service!
I think that the libraries have already been negatively impacted by blending them with customer service. It would be a real loss for them to suffer greatly reduced opening hours and loss of staff. The staff at the libraries are invaluable, especially to the more vulnerable members of the community, and it always seems to be that the vulnerable and more deprived members are the ones who are impacted by budget cuts.
yeah, will you actually take any notice of what I wrote?
Rethink it
Reduce expending, cut benefits. only protect and fund key services for the members of the borough average working people are already struggling with the cost of living crysis and most of services provided by the council are either obsolete or not worth what the taxpayer its obliged to pay.
N/A
None
Libraries have been cut and devalued for years by Haringey council. It is a false economy. They are so important for making society more equal. Wood Green library has basically become a council office. Marcus Garvey massively cut. The only decent libraries left are in crouch end and muswell hill. People need to feel valued by society in order to be resilient. Libraries with dedicated staff, high quality specialist environments are a amazing way to do this.
I urge you not to go through with your library proposals and maintain your flagship service to the full. Haringey's parks and libraries are the jewels in the crown of the borough. Both are clearly demonstrated to contribute to good mental health, community cohesion and pride in a place.
Do not cut libraries
Stop wasting money on road name changes
Not fit for purpose
No
I recognise the extreme pressure and challenges faced by Haringey Council, and that there are no easy answers. I welcome the transparency of this proposed budget and the

Appendix 7

Q7 Do you have any other comments on our proposed budget for 2024/25

opportunity to participate in consultations. This is vital for local democracy and for Council accountability.
No
Stop cutting and start charging more.
N/a
The library is really important for the community.. it's always full of people and allows access to a range of books and toys and opportunities which would otherwise be inaccessible to many. It provides warmth and hope and a place to build for the future through learning.. please don't start shutting it down.
Do not cut library budgets.
Please consider more to do within Libraries to generate income, such as hiring rooms, offering council services or voluntary groups space within library buildings, etc. Please do not cut library services, this is a lifeline for many residents.
Do not make any cuts
I think the whole council needs clearing out - fingers crossed in the next election, you will be
The new parks team are doing a great job. You can see the difference already
It's good to be able to read and discuss these issues - these are grave times for local government funding and transparency on this is greatly appreciated.
The libraries are crucial assets in our neighbourhoods. You can't reduce their hours, or funding. As a parent I use the library all the time with my family, and so 1000's of others. As a freelance consultant I work in the shared spaces all the time. I see families, the old, the young and everyone in between using the libraries and it's criminal and damaging to not support them. You need some fresh thinking and ideas, not just cuts. Ask local entrepreneurs to contribute to your process with a new way of thinking.
No
N/a
Get your priorities right: that would make a refreshing change.
impact on everyone
Wasting money on security etc for tree removal which could have been better invested in positive investment for communities, not a great idea, and I don't know anyone who can hand on heart vote labour in the next local election.
No
CUT corruption and incompetence. Stop hiring external lawyers at great expense. Fire your incompetent housing team.
No
Good luck
Less ideology, more action
Again, without knowing the proposals it's not possible to comment.
Don't cut library services.
N/A
In the present climate of a country where the graph is going down, you must decide what services are necessary and then sufficiently back them with budget. Bitter pill.
Please do not cut budget allocation for the library service. This is a valuable resource for low income individuals and is used frequently. I use both Muswell Hill Branch and Hornsey library and I am always impressed with the availability of material and the frequent usage of the service by residents. I am quite fed u with library service always being seen as expendable when budget cuts are discussed. I remember this from Camden in the 1980s, when libraries were open for 2-3 days per week only. Surely we have learned the lesson from that time, that limiting access to education and information is a self defeating proposition.

Appendix 7

Q7 Do you have any other comments on our proposed budget for 2024/25

Better analysis of costs and benefits needed
Support libraries and green spaces. One thing that should be improved is the Stonebridge road estate- 100s of people walk through it daily towards Crowland school and the overground etc. it is full of dog mess, fly tipping and drug use (doorway closest to the High Road side). Improving ig would improve the health and well-being of residents, thus reducing public health spend in the future.
I don't know enough about it
I think there are some workable proposals (only those I have supported above), but for the most part, I think the proposals are deeply damaging and short-sighted.
please dont reduce library spend and oprening hours
Make sensible choices for all not just the few
Please take care of parks and street trees.
More joined-up thinking please
No cuts to library services please
Suggest a rethink.
No
No Thankyou
No
no
The solution in my answer (1)
No
This consultation is appalling. You are consulting on issues without summarising or providing access to the proposals within the consultation document.
I work in Barnet - they've done what Haringey's proposing, yes it sustains the service of book lending and access to resources at lower cost, but an important cultural service is lost that is softer and more accessible than social workers, I think savings can be made but a 33% sounds damaging, a body wound to the service
No
No
No
I strongly oppose cutting budgets and to councils attempting to operate as commercial entities when they are there to serve residents and enhance quality of life
This consultation, issued with inadequate publicity just before Christmas, will be a figleaf for council decisions. The form in which documents are presented cannot be considered usable for the vast majority of residents. These documents lack sufficient detail and explanation.
Devastating news
I am the Team Leader for Read Easy Haringey and we have now got 20 adult Haringey residents who can't read learning to read using library facilities across the borough including Marcus Garvey, Wood Green, Hornsey, St Anns, Coombes Croft, Alexandra Park. I am very concerned that our voluntary work will be severely affected by these cuts.
Please do not cut the library budgets, we need the libraries open during the mornings to provide space for parents with pre-school children and the elderly. It's an important space where they can socialise and feel apart of society. Learn, develop and be apart of the local community.
A lot of parents/carers felt very strongly against the cuts.
I am a Labour voter and hope to get these bloody Tories out of Westminster government, councils must be properly funded, we are going back to Dickensian times.
No
Do better Haringey

Appendix 7

Q7 Do you have any other comments on our proposed budget for 2024/25

Not at the moment
As I said, I realise the difficult financial situation but I think it is a serious mistake to do anything which reduces library access
No massive cuts to libraries
Just consider the community and the library workers
No
Open centres for deprived youngsters it will reduce crime
Keep up the good work
I haven't seen the proposed budget
Only to repeat, please don't reduce the library budget. Education, community, current affairs, study space, mothers and toddlers - all need spaces like Stroud Green library. And with known wonderful staff that you have.
No
Don't cut the library budget, don't limit activities or opening hours as these are vital for the local community.
Sorry no. I wish I was better qualified to give a more constructive analysis and feedback.
n/a
I don’t think this is fair on library staff and the service users as it is taking away a lot more than being offered
Perhaps you could give us suggestions as to where you think cuts in spending can be made, so that we can make informed choices. How much for instance, is spent on council buildings, travel for staff etc etc. I know there are enormous challenges. Perhaps if at the general election, the Conservatives are out and Labour in, there will be a more generous m, fairer and realistic plan. Can we wait and see???
Yes, these cuts are disgusting.
Where are civic centre costs?
Back to the drawing board please.Town Hall Meetings!
please don't cut library budgets! i use them and they are great.
No
No
No
Engage, engage and engage: do not be afraid of chairing problems with residents.
No
I fear that Haringey is becoming a ‘big brother’ authority: limiting access to information whilst increasing CCTV surveillance for its own ends.
it has omitted front facing services like Connected Communites and Customer services who are bridging the gap for residents that have needs for support and also supporting predominatnly back office staff like Housing Needs and Repairs, Housing Registration, benefits team (as examples)
No cuts to library services or funding as it is such a core asset in the community
It's good that you are committed to help students who need to study in the evenings.
Overall this is a very fuzzy budget so far
Not at the moment.
There does not seem to be enough room to comment on the proposals I feel negatively about.
Cuts to library funding are a terrible idea and will further restrict children from lower incomes’ ability to progress in their education
No
Needs radical reworking

Appendix 7

Q7 Do you have any other comments on our proposed budget for 2024/25

I am concerned about the cuts to library services. Libraries are one of the few hubs ehere people from all social strata come together for a range of services. For instance, I live in Muswell Hill and am a reading coach for a non-reader from the Tottenham area. We meet at Wood Green library. This is a vital way that people from different communities and ethnic backgrounds can meet and share skills. If your library cuts were to prevent these kinds of exchanges , the Borough would be the poorer for it. Libraries are such vital centres for exchange and community.
Do not defund our libraries
No
Please support our libraries. They are such a precious resource for so many in the community, from young people, to new mums like me, to the elderly coming to read paper newspapers
No
It seems too savage and limited in scope. My personal experience of successful budget cutting is, everything cut by a little bit. Some areas suffering more than others of course. But this looks like some services to the public are likely to immediately become ineffective at best, unusable and potentially at worst, unsafe such as the S19 library cuts
No
No.
No
Don’t cut the library hours or staff
No.
Thank you for everything Haringey!
Be sensible with the expenditures and the Council will have adequate funds to run the Borough.
No
I realise the overall constriction on budget is the fault of central government, not Haringey which has generally done a good job of protecting libraries.
No.
Why did the council spend so much money refurbishing Stroud Green library to now propose to reduce access to it?
Ensure that local communities are appropriately consulted on the details of proposals to cut their library services. The council should consult with the Friends of Haringey Libraries (FORE)
Please do not make cuts to the library service, it is a false economy.
Do not reduce hours and services in our lovely community library
Please do not cut our library services. These institutions are the heart and soul of our community.
The consultation document reads like a late draft. There are notes eg “Name the five boroughs” which should have been acted on and deleted. More seriously, I didn’t actually understand much of the document as I am unfamiliar with how the council works and the jargon you use. If you want a proper consultation you must be much clearer in your document.
It's unimaginative, backward-looking, harmful to residents (most of all those who are vulnerable, disabled, elderly or from a disadvantaged background), short-termist and overall does make me wonder whether those in the Council that have shaped it shouldn't reconsider their own salaries to make necessary cuts to budget in the first instance?
Very disappointed to learn of these proposals with regards to our local libraries which are valued by so many in the community and the fact that the proposals will go unknown by many due to the difficulty in coming across them. This should have been emailed to all library members, a display about it put up in libraries and more.

Appendix 7

Q7 Do you have any other comments on our proposed budget for 2024/25

No
no
Listen to and engage with residents' groups, in particular, Ladder Community Safety Partnership.
Please don’t cut the library services.
I found out about this consultation from a big display in my local library. They are at the centre of local democracy - please don't cut library services.
Important to keep a quality of life for the unfortunate residents in temporary housing
I would like to know more on your proposed review of mental health services and bringing services back in house.
It is tragic that cuts continue.
Please don’t cut funding to Stroud Green Library. This seems counterintuitive after it recently underwent an expensive refurbishment.
No
You are doing your best but I think it is important to preserve what we have in terms of public buildings that work, as well as reviving our public buildigs.
I find it laughable that you think direct payments is a worthwhile workable option. Theoretically I am meant to get them but I have been told that I categorically cannot choose what I spend the money on. I get no help from the local user group because mental health is separate. It’s a complete nightmare trying to deal with money anyway, trying to deal with this too is ridiculous, my friend in Islington has to use her PA time doing admin and chasing up on this all the time and it’s stressful
No
I am appalled at what amounts to an attack on a vital and thriving community service.
Angry that you are considering changes to Stroud Green library. A library without staff and no loo isn’t safe and enjoyable for young families, such as mine
No, thank you
Please do not impose the proposed reductions to library services. Librarians and libraries are so important to the community they serve. The proposals would sound a death knell for our library and it would never recover.
Please look into leasing space for local businesses.
Stop library cuts. Ensure bins / rubbish are picked up weekly and not fortnightly
Think holistically! And please make these forms more accessible. Thank you.
Please do not cut funding to the local library. We used it all the the time. I am in there with my 2 young children as least twice a month, sometimes every week. We just don’t take out books we also use ten space to be creative. The lovely welcoming encouraging librarians give my children colouring pens and colouring sheets. Especially magnolia who has been really encouraging my 5 year old to read, encouraging her to join the summer read and she was awarded a medal. She was thrilled and as a result wants to read more!
All the borough libraries are a well used valuable and much loved community asset to support
The residents could organise a fundraising event or crowdfunding to save Stroud Green library, if you can confirm the amount to be raised please
Every decision a local council takes should have in mind the question "is this good for local children?" - children are the future of our communities. Please protect them.
My nursery regularly uses the library to visit - at least twice a week - and it’s an important part of them learning about booking and getting a love to read and how to behave in society outside of nursery setting. I support staffing being reduced but not the closure of the toilet access, to remove this removes the ability for all young children to go, and the majority of books are targeted at children who need quick access to a toilet.
Please look into leasing space for local businesses.

Appendix 7

Q7 Do you have any other comments on our proposed budget for 2024/25

Improve the performance of your senior management by introducing performance related pay.
No
Don't cut support for libraries.
Please think before you just start reducing hours of the library and the negative effect this will have on our community
The planned proposals for Haringey libraries are I believe very misguided and going down the wrong route . We have in our libraries a really valuable social and cultural asset at the heart of our Communities . They are not just depositories for books but are welcoming community spaces where people of all ages and stages from the very young to the very elderly can come to sit and read , to join in the groups , to study and research , all the time knowing the librarians are there to help and advise .For the children being in the library with the librarians fosters their love of reading and literacy . A library without librarians would just be an empty shell. I think that Haringey is hoping to be seen as a Borough with a rich and diverse cultural life as this can bring both social and economic benefits to an area . Therefore to run down our libraries runs directly counter to this strategy and seems perverse . I would urge the Council to think again about its proposals to reduce library hours and to move to a digital system . It might save money (that is debatable) but at what cost to the social and cultural fabric of the Borough ?
Cherish these key touch points to actually interact with the community, invest in them more and they will flourish.
Respite provision for children with SEND and their families needs to be improved. Overnight care for SEND kids has evaporated; Markfield holiday playschemes are not enough to cover the need. We have a personal budget but struggle to find appropriate things to spend it on due to lack of actual provision. Carers save the council untold heaps of money, and yet are inadequately supported as respite is not available, and the battle to access what is available is so draining that carers' resources and wellbeing are further challenged - this is so wrong.
The Cuts to Library Services should be urgently reconsidered: the staffed Library services and existing hours should be maintained and alternative savings found. The proposals at present will also have a knock on effect to local groups and charities who use the libraraies as meeting space.
Before cutting services to the public, including libraries, the council needs to try harder to contain its own, internal costs. Some of the most senior roles could be shared with other Boroughs; The bloated salaries for senior managers could be trimmed and the huge bill for Agency staff needs attention. There can be no confidence that such internal costs will be cut, before short-changing services on the ground, for the public.
No comments
No
It fails libraries.
I understand that, because of lack of government funding, councils have to cut their budgets, but we careful. Do you need so many managers? Retain some staff in libraries - don't cut them.
As previous answer.
Disappointed that the budget which is so pertinent wasn't a longer consultation.
Very good luck
None identified
I feel that the consultation process on this budget is totally inadequate and that the response is likely to be low and unrepresentative of the people who live here.
Please reconsider the proposed cuts to Library Services. The provision of a comprehensive and efficient library service is a statutory responsibility on local Government under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act.You budget proposals cut library services by >30% including 40% cuts to staffing, scrapping hard copy newspapers

Appendix 7

Q7 Do you have any other comments on our proposed budget for 2024/25

and reduced opening hours. The Council are planning to change the way our libraries are currently used by making them self-service libraries with reduced standards of operation:users will have to swipe inthey will be using volunteers instead of professional librarianspremises will be monitored by CCTVtoilets will not be available in libraries without staffother organisations will be making use of the library spacesI am particularly incensed by the assumption that volunteers can provide or even support an acceptable, let alone comprehensive and efficient acceptable library service. Librarianship is a Profession which usually requires a post-graduate qualification. Would you ask volunteers to be GPs or accountants? Of course not, so please don't expect non-qualified people to prop up the Library service. Librarianship includes stock selection & collection management, budgeting, invoice management, supplier liaison, cataloguing, classification, IT troubleshooting, fines, serials management and claims, etc etc etc. It's not appropriate for volunteers to do any of these parts of the job. It seems particularly ironic that Haringey is bidding to become London's Borough of Culture in 2027. If these cuts are approved, I hope the bid fails due to it. LIbraries are essential to cultural life and is often where people's love or art and culture begins. You will be depriving the people of Haringey of those opportunities if you go through with the suggested cuts, which will never be reversed.
I would like to see an increase in parking devices for bikes.
None at present
I volunteer at the community garden at st Ann's library and am very aware of how helpful the staff are there. I am therefore against self-servicing. When the library is open, the public can visit the garden which is important for wellbeing. The library adds to the sense of well-being to cissbury road and the surrounding roads. By limiting the hours, it would appear it will be busier and harder to access the resources.
Instead of focus on homelessness and people in need of accomodation, could also focus on families living in are, paying council taxes here and who needs to feel safe (more security would be welcome, more police, cleaner streets) ... and above all with things to do in the area (library !, activities for kids like in islington, better play area , ...),
Libraries are important communication places not a luxury
No
The consultation paper is extremely difficult to navigate. It seems to be organised in such a way as to make answering very awkward.
I think you information is too detailed and difficult to access and properly consider. There should be some sort of summary which is easier to access.
I think there is a good balance of proposals in very difficult circumstances.
Cut for community service everyone can access place like libraries should not be the place for cut. Good to consider how you can generate money with empty spaces/unused space for hires
I think this budget consultantion is incredibly in accessible and has been up t together in such a ways to make it really hard to engage with being able to give an opinion
I support the comments of FORE re libraries. The cuts and proposed changes to the model are seriously harmful and retrograde
The library's offer a vital service to the community, I suffer with mental health and I am studying my second year of my degree just being able to go to the library to see friendly and familiar faces is really reassuring and helps my mental health when I am having really bad days.
The idea to introduce libraries with automated systems but no physical presence risk these spaces becoming areas of crime and antisocial behaviour esp. as the libraries often offer the only toilet public toiler facilities in the area. I also expect that removing librarians will reduce the use of the libraries as they will not be there to encourage, inform and facilitate the access to the books which is key esp. to young children. I would also encourage the use of library spaces as spaces for hire either in or out of hours for local groups in an effort to generate revenue.

Appendix 7

Q7 Do you have any other comments on our proposed budget for 2024/25

Library closure and reduction in services are a shame. We should value our public spaces and services
We, as Friends of Muswell Hill Library, believe the budget proposals, as currently set out, will cause untold and reckless damage both in the short and longer term. This will harm not just libraries but have a knock-effect of ever-increasing costs to other areas such as social care, hotel accommodation, employment services and education and support for the disadvantaged. These additional costs in other areas should be planned for if the libraries budget cuts were implemented.
All this has been a shock for the community and it is a great pity that those involved chose not to share the options at an earlier stage.
I have found it difficult to thoroughly read through the whole consultation information. I have focused my comments on the issues for my local library.
Do not work on reduced hours or get rid of the toilet
Please consider the genuine repercussions on a concentrated residential area - elderly people using libraries for company, warmth and mental stimulation , unemployed people using the facilities to job hunt, young students using the library as a safe space to study, parents bringing young babies for daytime activities, families bringing school children for book knowledge and reading, the disabled person who can access the space and feel safe and unjudged, the list is endless and goes on. Please stop harming our communities and removing the vital organs that keep the spaces breathing and thriving.
I would like to understand more the ownership of Alexander Palace and why the council is providing such large capital investments - what is the expected return on these for the council/council tax payers?
we understand the problem all councils are facing due to lack of money, but if you cut essential services, you might as well give up and not look after the community you have been elected to protect.
I understand that the council has to make difficult decisions, yet urge you to reconsider the time scale in order to allow interested persons and user group to help to identify areas where efficiencies might be made with limited damage to those who live and work in Haringey.
I understand that many of the problems are caused by deliberate government underfunding over many years. The Council should take steps to make residents aware of this, especially in the run up to forthcoming elections this yer.
No
Please do not slash highly valued library services.
I appreciate that the Council has a major problem balancing its budget in the face of the iniquitous government cuts. Plans to cut the libraries' budget by nearly a third, however, prompts me to emphasise the major importance of our local library, Alexandra Park, as a community hub, and its support role for the most vulnerable in our community. Its provision of books for children, help with digital inclusion for the elderly, disabled and others, and a place to study for schoolchildren, are particularly important for those families who are too poor to provide books/studyspaces/computer equipment and a warm environment which makes such activities possible. I have been in there when three of these groups have been using the services at the same time - carers with children in the toy library, elderly people having a coffee morning in the central space, and school students doing their school work in the excellent, well-lit study spaces between bookshelves (in school hours - they don't just work there after school). It seems short-sighted to cut these services just when they are most needed. The librarian plays a key role in helping the digitally excluded, controlling chatter among the schoolchildren, giving advice to carers with small children, providing a supportive space for the elderly and disabled. Issuing books is not the librarian's most important role. Volunteers are needed in so many roles these days that finding those who can give adequate advice and support may not be easy. The library has just been refurbished (at what cost?!) and has pianos for people to use, and a meeting/lecture room for hire - what a waste if these cannot be used much of the time

Appendix 7

Q7 Do you have any other comments on our proposed budget for 2024/25

because the library is closed! And similarly for the excellent events that used to be put on by the Supporters of Alexandra Park Library. Finally, a minor point - if you must remove the printed newspapers and magazines, instead of using pressreader - which I find really difficult to use - please think of using the newspapers' own apps, which are very much simpler.
Don't defund libraries
None
Libraries as they are the heart of the community and much needed during covid, energy and cost of living crisis, so please don't make any cuts to this vital service.
Build more houses please
N/a
N/A
HANDS UP, THIS CONSULTANCY IS BROAD AND THERE IS MUCH MORE THINKING INVOLVED THAN WE ARE AWARE OF OR CAPABLE TO UNDERSTAND. JUST ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY !!
How long have you got...Thank you for this, and for all the hard work you all do. We may complain, but we couldn't do without you!
I do believe that due to Haringey having a large proposal of assylum seekers, older people, vulnerable and disadvantaged residents, the council must try harder to achieve the necessary and appropriate funding from central government. Please don't make residents suffer.