

## **Results of Isle of Wight Council December 2010 Budget Survey – ‘You Choose’**

### **Introduction**

The on line budget simulator used for the December 2010 budget survey was developed and offered free of charge to local authorities. It was used to consult on a range of options for IOW council budget reductions, set within a context of a £32m budget gap over the next four years.

The range of options reflected those areas already identified as part of the CX report ‘The future size and shape of the council,’ published on 7 December 2010, which outlined the budget situation facing the council and those discretionary service areas which could be considered for savings.

The on line simulator was presented in 3 sections which offered respondents the opportunity to select those areas where budget cuts or savings should be made. These were:

- Service funding – offering the choice of 17 service areas where budgets could be increased or decreased by up to 30% either way
- Income – offering 2 service areas where income could be increased – a simple yes or no option
- Efficiencies – offering 8 service areas where budgets could be saved – a simple yes or no option

A total of £32m of savings was required to meet the council tax increase target of 0%, from an optional savings total of £47m.

The simulator also offered an opportunity to give other suggestions or just comment on the options provided.

The simulator was available from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010 to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2011 via the council’s web site; [www.iwight.com](http://www.iwight.com).

### **Results - Responses**

Overall, 397 responses to the survey were received.

## Section 1 - Service Funding

The responses from the service funding section can be analysed in two ways:

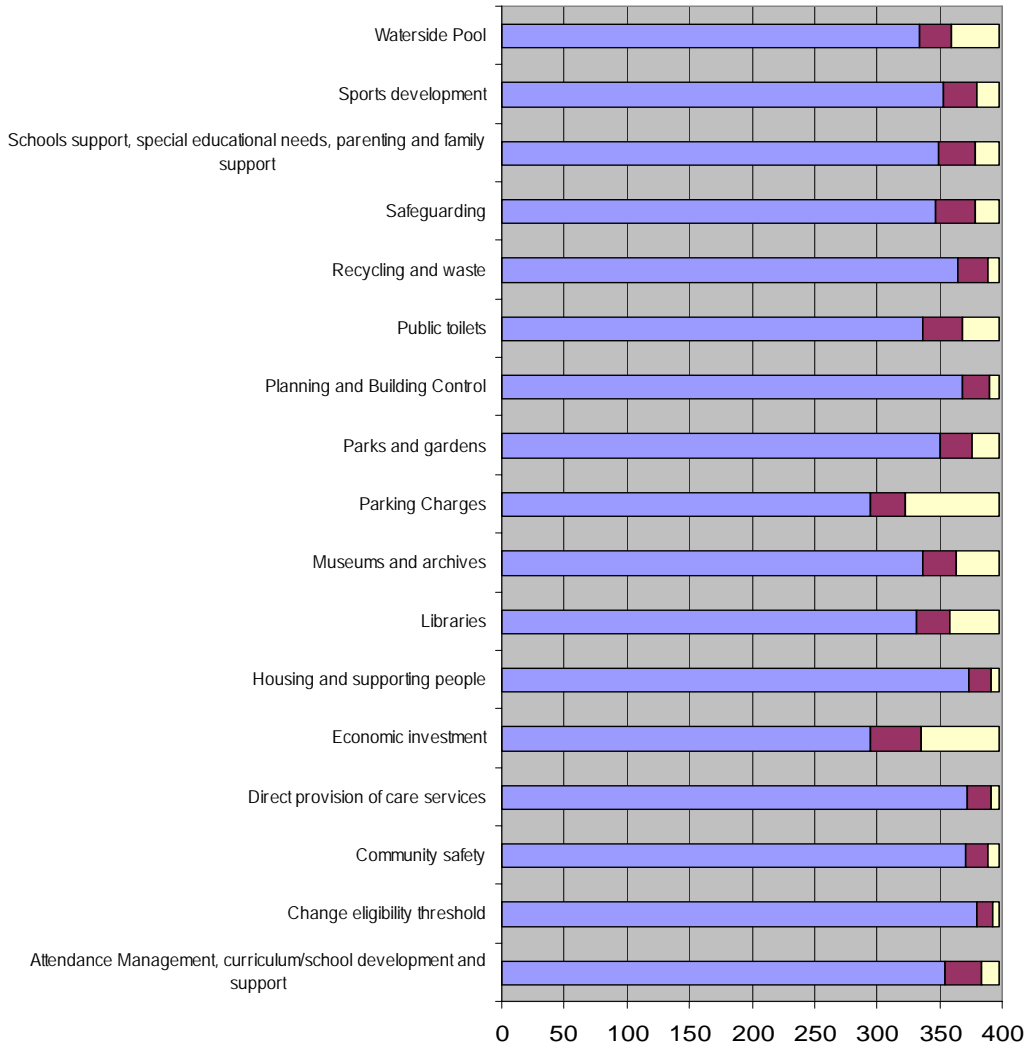
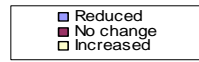
- by the number of people choosing to change the budget;
- and the percentage by which it was changed.

Numbers choosing to change budgets	Reduced	No change	Increased	% selecting reduction
Attendance management, curriculum development, school development and support eg HR, payroll etc	354	29	14	89%
Change eligibility threshold	380	12	5	96%
Community safety	371	17	9	93%
Direct provision of care services	372	19	6	94%
Economic investment	295	40	62	74%
Housing and supporting people	373	18	6	94%
Libraries	331	27	39	83%
Museums and archives	337	26	34	85%
Parking Charges	294	28	75	74%
Parks and gardens	351	25	21	88%
Planning and Building Control	368	22	7	93%
Public toilets	337	31	29	85%
Recycling and waste	364	25	8	92%
Safeguarding	347	32	18	87%
Schools support, special educational needs, parenting and family support	349	30	18	88%
Sports development	353	27	17	89%
Waterside Pool	334	25	38	84%

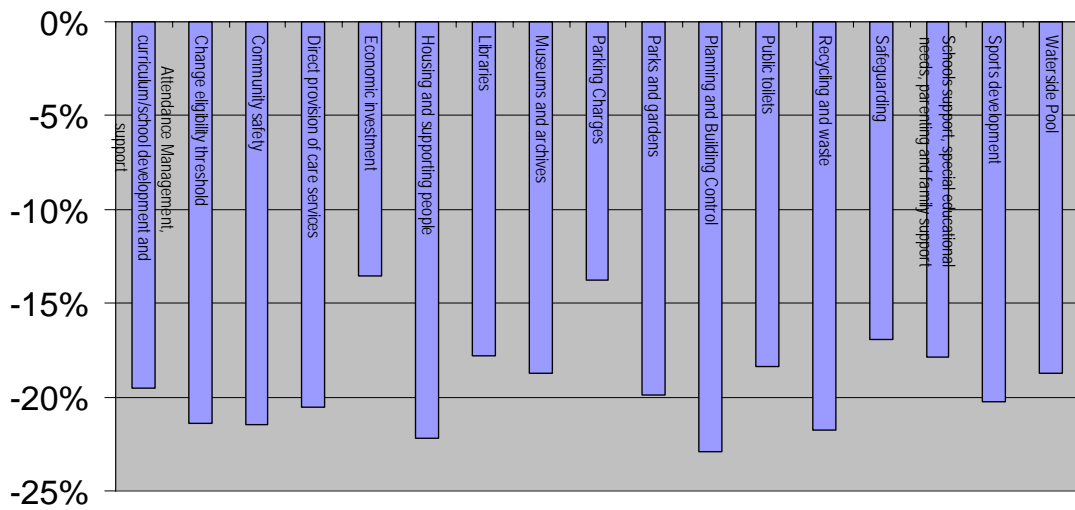
Average change to budget	%
Attendance management, curriculum development, school development and support eg HR, payroll etc	-20%
Change eligibility threshold	-21%
Community safety	-21%
Direct provision of care services	-21%
Economic investment	-14%
Housing and supporting people	-22%
Libraries	-18%
Museums and archives	-19%
Parking Charges	-14%
Parks and gardens	-20%
Planning and Building Control	-23%
Public toilets	-18%
Recycling and waste	-22%
Safeguarding	-17%
Schools support, special educational needs, parenting and family support	-18%
Sports development	-20%
Waterside Pool	-19%

From this section of the simulator, the majority of options were reduced by over 80% of the respondents, and the corresponding average budget reductions were all over -17%. The two exceptions to this were parking budgets and economic investment where only 74% of respondents voted to reduce budgets, by an average of -14%.

### Number of respondents choosing to increase or decrease budgets



### Average changes in budgets (max possible +/- 30%)



## Section 2 and 3 – Income and efficiencies

These two sections were presented as a simple tick box option if the respondent wanted to either increase income or take the action stated.

Income and efficiency options	Selected	Not selected	% selecting
Increase Adult Social Care Charges	317	80	80%
Implement Cowes Chain Ferry Passenger Charges	318	79	80%
Cessation of beach life guards	175	222	44%
Cessation of Wightbus	207	190	52%
Close TICs	249	148	63%
Delay fire station rebuilds	317	80	80%
Establish community enterprises	283	114	71%
Halt investment in Leisure Centres	262	135	66%
Reduce management structure	372	25	94%
Reduce subsidy to West Wight Leisure Centre	287	110	72%

Only one service area showed less than 50% of respondents voting to cut the service – cessation of lifeguards where only 44% expressed this as a preference. All other options had voting of over 50%.

## Summary of voting preferences

If the combined results are analysed as a voting preference – which service areas did most people vote to reduce or cut – only one has votes of less than 50%.

Sorted by preference	% selecting
Change eligibility threshold	98%
Reduce Direct provision of care services	95%
Reduce Housing and supporting people	95%
Reduce Community safety	94%
Reduce management structure	94%
Reduce Recycling and waste	93%
Reduce Planning and Building Control	93%
Reduce Attendance management, curriculum development, school development and support eg HR, payroll etc	90%
Reduce Sports development	90%
Reduce Parks and gardens	88%
Reduce Schools support, special educational needs, parenting and family support	88%
Reduce Safeguarding	88%
Reduce Museums and archives	87%
Reduce Libraries	86%
Reduce Public toilets	86%
Close Waterside Pool	84%
Increase Adult Social Care Charges	81%
Implement Cowes Chain Ferry Passenger Charges	80%
Delay fire station rebuilds	79%
Reduce Economic investment	73%
Increase Parking Charges	73%
Establish community enterprises	73%
Reduce subsidy to West Wight Leisure Centre	73%
Halt investment in Leisure Centres	68%
Close TICs	63%
Cessation of Wightbus	55%
Cessation of beach life guards	43%

## Demographics

Demographic profile for respondents is as follows:

<b>Total completed surveys</b>	397
Number of completed by staff	115
<b>Demographic profile of respondents</b>	
Under 18	1
18-24	23
25-34	47
35-44	97
45-54	79
55-64	64
65 or over	15
White British	301
Other	25
Disabled	34
Male	217
Female	109

Note: The results reported have not been weighted.