

Face to face events were held throughout the county to capture public responses, including cluster meetings, public meetings, the Access for All meeting and Engage to Change meeting.



- Throughout January, 15 events were held to discuss the 20/21 budget proposals, including 11 public consultation events across the County

The engagement events were supported through a pro-active communications plan, which included the creation of Webpages with a link to all documents and a digital feedback form.



- Various media channels were used to encourage engagement, including local press articles and social media promotions through Facebook and Twitter.



- Facebook reached the greatest audience, reaching 1,000s of people per post.
- The highest viewed post was the Budget overview reminder link to budget details and survey form, which had a reach of nearly 6,000 people and received 25 comments.



- The online survey was a successful method for capturing budget response, with 285 people sharing their views via the online form

- Greatest level of objection was received in response to the proposed 2% cut to individual school budgets, with concern being raised at the public engagement events and through the online survey and email responses



Online survey responses – 95% disagreed with the Education proposals

## 1. Do you agree or disagree with the proposals for Education?

 Agree	14
 Disagree	265




- The proposed loan scheme received a more positive response yet this did not relieve concerns that the ISB savings would have a detrimental impact on children



- Whilst the public recognise the pressures local authorities are facing, strong views were expressed in relation to the proposed 4.95% increase in Council Tax, with the majority of responses objecting to the proposed increase.

- The proposed increase was considered to be too high and likely to have an adverse impact on Monmouthshire households.

We propose a 4.95% increase in Council Tax as a result of the financial challenges we face from the inadequate funding recovered from Welsh Government - Do you agree or disagree?

 Agree	67
 Disagree	167





- From the responses received there is an overall consensus that Welsh Government funding disproportionately disadvantages Monmouthshire in comparison to other Welsh Authorities and that it fails to recognise the areas of deprivation within the County.
- The public are in agreement that the current funding floor needs to be challenged in order to protect vital services.

- Survey responses were divided in regards to Planning, Transport and Highways, with almost a 50/50 split between agree and disagree
- Some of the main concerns raised in these areas are in regards to overstretched infrastructure and an inability to cope with increased development
- A lot of the initial feedback concerned Usk recycling centre – which was lessened when decision was put in abeyance.

