

APPENDIX G: Consultation Approach

In the past, the Council has shared the budget proposals with consultees, and then attended and/or run various meetings, events and focus groups to seek their views.

Following feedback, this year will see greater focus on explaining the intent of the budget proposals, rather than just creating forums for drawing in viewpoints.

The budget consultation taking place between November 2016 and February 2017 is intended to encourage consultees to provide their views via the online questionnaire, or equivalent paper format.

Consultation activities will be set up to provide more information on the intent of the proposals, allowing consultees to themselves provide more meaningful feedback.

With this in mind the following activities are being set up for this year's consultation.

1. Information on the budget proposals on the Bradford Council web site to support the consultation.
2. Online questionnaire asking people to outline any concerns and also any suggestions for improvements/alternatives for whichever proposals they wish to comment on.
3. Freepost address for the public to write in to, to share their views.
4. Meetings scheduled with community of interest groups centred on the protected characteristics as set out in the Equality Act (e.g. the Equity Partnership and the Women's Forum) and with low income groups.
5. Meetings with the Voluntary and Community Sector through the Bradford District Assembly (e.g. BDA Steering Group, Equality Forum).
6. Support for groups wishing to arrange their own consultation.
7. Direct mailings to key stakeholders and groups which may be affected by the budget proposals to encourage engagement in the consultation and responses via the online questionnaire. This would include Town and Parish Councils, the business community, and Members of Parliament.
8. Use social media (Twitter and Facebook) and the Council's app to promote the consultation.
9. Specific consultation with commissioned organisations and grant-holders, and statutory consultation with service users and other interested parties. In addition it is necessary to undertake specific consultation with service users or other interested parties where a proposal would have a significant effect on persons with particular protected characteristics.