

Appendix H Summary of feedback on Budget Saving Proposals: Community Conference and Café Choice and Mitigation Strategies

Budget Savings Proposals	Feedback on services at Community Conference (budget proposals were not yet drafted)	Café Choice Feedback		Mitigation Measures (where consultation results do not support proposal)
		Votes AGREE	Votes DISAGREE	
Councillor Allowances	None	87 (100%)	0 (0%)	-
Community Reception and Civic Links	None	62 (95%)	3 (5%)	-
Chronicle Magazine	None	74 (95%)	4 (5%)	-
Winter Planting	None	52 (78%)	15 (22%)	-
Stevenage Museum	Poor location and condition. Analyse visitor patterns and reduce opening hours	44 (56%)	34 (44%)	-
Garages	None	38 (54%)	32 (46%)	-
Animal control	None	32 (44%)	41 (56%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory duties will still be fulfilled. Stray dog control and controlling pests on Council land will need to be carried out via a contractor. A list of 'approved contractors' for referral of public enquires will be created and potential contractors who wish to be included on such a list will be asked to consider offering discounts for benefit recipients.
Grants for Voluntary Organisations	No specific comments about reducing 'community' services – want communities to be supported but need to demonstrate <i>efficiency, productivity and accountability</i>	26 (39%)	40 (61%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Voluntary Sector Summit was held on 22 January where organisations were informed about the anticipated budget reductions. The event provided opportunities to explore new, collaborative ways of working to help the sector thrive in difficult times. In 2011 a comprehensive review of the Council's support to the voluntary and community sector, both financial and in kind, will take place, combined with consultation to establish a new approach to supporting the sector through a Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy. Where possible, the Council will work with organisations that will not be receiving funding to secure alternative funding.
Parks Maintenance	Pavilions, parks and open spaces: valued service, but frequently mentioned as area for reductions	23 (35%)	43 (65%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks maintenance will still be carried out, but less frequently.
Children's Play Services	One group mentioned - only provide up to age 11 years	25 (33%)	51 (67%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will continue to provide a holiday play scheme at its 3 permanent sites and users will be encouraged to use them.
Community Transport	No specific comments about reducing 'community' services – want communities to be supported but need to demonstrate <i>efficiency, productivity and accountability</i>	21 (31%)	46 (69%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's Community Transport service will restructure its schedules to include a "dial a ride" element.
Luncheon Clubs	No specific comments about reducing 'community' services – want communities to be supported but need to demonstrate <i>efficiency, productivity and accountability</i>	19 (27%)	52 (73%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will phase the reduction in subsidy over three years to minimise the impact.
	Sub total	503 (58%)	361 (42%)	
	Total number of votes	864¹		

¹ Participants at Café Choice were offered four votes, two for proposals they agreed with and two for proposals they disagreed with.