



# Briefing Note – Budget Consultation Results

**Date** 10 November 2025  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk/RFO

## 1. CONSULTATION METHODS

- 1.1. An important part of the budget-setting process is hearing from local residents and businesses and a consultation is carried out each year to inform the proposals set before councillors and a final budget agreed.
- 1.2. The 2026/2027 consultation was launched on 1 October 2025 and ran until 8:00 am on 3 October 2025.
- 1.3. The consultation was advertised as follows:
  - Posters displayed at Council’s toilets, in the park, at the Broadway Centre and by local businesses. Posters include a QR code linking to the online survey and details of where hard copy consultations were available.
  - On the Council’s website (home page and public engagement pages)
  - The Council’s Facebook page, (also shared by councillors to community groups and Sandown Hub)
  - Hardcopy Questionnaires available at The Broadway centre during opening hours, Sandown Library and from Councillors on request.
- 1.4. There were 230 responses, 205 online responses and 25 hardcopies. The results can be found at Appendix A

## 2. SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- 2.1. The majority of respondents indicated that the Council should prioritise Place and Town Improvements (which is reflective of last year). Toilets was ranked the next most important followed by the Beach. Communication was ranked as the least important priority as it was last year.
- 2.2. 60.9% of respondents were happy with how the council communicates with residents. 33.5% felt communication levels should be increased and 4.3% thought levels should be reduced.
- 2.3. Residents were asked if they would support funding community Warm Spaces. 25.2% of respondents supported funding provision of £6,000 and 50.4% supported funding of £4,000. 20.4% of respondents did not want to fund Warm Spaces.
- 2.4. Residents were also asked if they felt the council should provide funding for the Breakfast at the Bay School. 22.6% of respondents supported funding provision of

£6,000, 43.9% funding provision of £4,000 and 30.4% of respondents did not want to fund the initiative.

- 2.5. In relation to monies to fund Place and Town improvements, 34.8% of respondents supported a budget of £35,000, 30.4% supported a budget of £30,000 and 19.6% a budget of £25,000. 7.8% of respondents proposed alternative amounts ranging from no provision to £50,000.
- 2.6. In terms of the Beach, 73% of respondents were in favour of Securing the Blue Flag/Seaside Award (dependent on water quality) and 50.4% of respondents supported a Seasonal Beach Events Programme. 6.5% of respondents did not support either initiative.
- 2.7. This year residents were asked if they would support a various activities to clean-up Sandown. 37.4% of respondents supported funding additional Environment Officer time and 30.4% tidying up around the Canoe Lake.
- 2.8. In terms of litter 58.7% of respondents felt there should be increased Litter Bin Provision on the Esplanade, April to September, 39.1% supported permanently increased capacity on the Esplanade, 46.5% supported increased litter bin provision between Eastern Gardens and Yaverland, April to September. 7% did not support cleaning up Sandown.
- 2.9. Residents were asked which Civic Space initiatives they would support: 75.2% supported Hanging Baskets/Planters on the high street/war memorial, 82.6% supported funding Sandown Green Towns Volunteers, 37.8% supported a contribution to Isle of Wight Council to maintain Ferncliff Gardens and the Cliff Path hedges, 20.9% supported a Micro Sculpture Trail, 26.1% a Mural Fund and 7.0% did not support any initiatives.
- 2.10. Support for events was broadly in line with previous years: 37.4% supported an Armistice Day event, 67% supported a Remembrance Service, 26.5% supported Celebration Projects with Schools (i.e., Mug Design Competition for Jubilee, Library Windows Competition for Christmas) and 49.6% supported Pop Up Summer Events Programme, 84.3% supported Carnival and Regatta 23.9% supported the Town Council organising Shop Window Competitions, 30.0% supported exploring a Christmas Ice Rink and 0.9% did not support any events.
- 2.11. Following the proposal that a Community Benefit Society be created in Sandown, 80% of residents supported the Council investing in the initiative, 14.8% did not. 5.2% of respondents did not answer the question.

Finally, in relation to new initiatives, which included an all of the above option which has been added to each category, support was as follows: Bringing enforcement in relation to dog fouling and littering in house to increase provision (54.3%) Repurposing or Replacement of Seafront Shelters (46.5%) Provision of Allotments (28.7%), A Dotto Train (41.7%) and 6.1% did support any new initiatives.

### **3. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY, CRIME AND DISORDER AND BIODIVERSITY**

#### Equality and Diversity

- 3.1. The council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- 3.2. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 3.3. The Isle of Wight Council's decision to cease operation of the public conveniences was taken some time ago, and the facility has only become partially operational since. Therefore, taking on the site is not believed to have any direct equality and diversity implications.
- 3.4. The Town Council will need to consider Equality and Diversity in any future decisions should they become responsible for the site.

#### Crime and Disorder

- 3.5. Derelict and empty properties are often subject to vandalism and attract antisocial behaviour. Particularly when they are in poor condition.
- 3.6. Regeneration can reduce the risk of crime and disorder opportunities.

#### Biodiversity implications

- 3.7. There are no direct biodiversity implications to taking on the site. There may be considerations in regard to these duties at a later stage.

#### **4. APPENDICES**

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| Appendix A | Budget Survey        |
| Appendix B | Consultation Results |