



Neuadd y Sir / County Hall, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5LG

## **QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

<b>Question From:</b>	County Councillor Pete Lewington
<b>Subject:</b>	Budget Consultation
<b>Question To:</b>	County Councillor David Thomas Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Transformation

### **Question:**

The responses to the recent Powys County Council budget survey were deemed to be representative of the Powys population and 3 particular responses were:

1. Only 30% disagreed with increasing council tax by less than 5% even if it meant there would be more service reductions,
2. 63% disagreed with increasing council tax by more than 5% even if a higher increase would limit the need for service reductions and
3. The majority of respondents (44% versus 38%) who expressed an opinion disagreed with increasing charges for some services so those who use the facilities pay more eg.green waste , parking , transport

Whilst engaging with Powys residents in the budget development process it appears that these responses have been ignored.

Consequently, could the portfolio holder please set out in detail why those responses were ignored and also how these responses were evaluated and subsequently dismissed when setting the level of council tax.

It is clear from these responses that our residents are telling us they can't afford high levels of council tax and charges which is at odds with the portfolio holder's written assertion that "careful consideration has been given to the affordability for Powys residents" when setting the level of council tax at 7.5%.

Could he please explain in detail the careful considerations he has undertaken to reach his conclusions based on what residents have told him in the survey?