



# Budget 2022/2023 – 2024/25 and Council Plan Consultation Results

## Introduction

On Wednesday 22 December 2021, we launched a consultation on our Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and our draft Council Plan 2022-2025. The consultation was open for five weeks, closing on Friday 28 January 2022. It was conducted through an online survey with paper copies, different versions and translations all available on request. People were also given the opportunity to write in with any other comments they had. In total **108** people gave their view through the online survey.

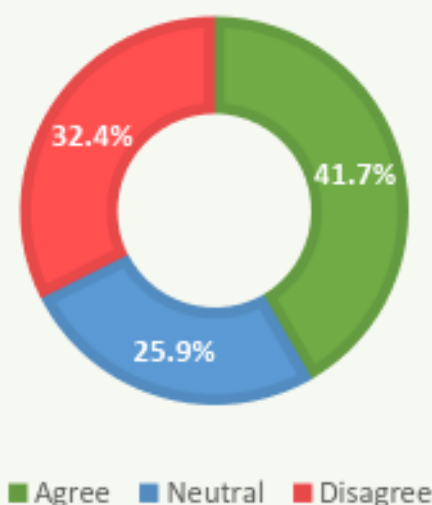
**A note on the data in this report:** Data from the 'closed' option questions is presented in the report as a % score. The data in the text of the report is rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage point. Charts or tables therefore may result on occasions adding up to 99% or 101%. If a table or chart does not match exactly to the text in the report this occurs due to the rounding up or down when responses are combined. Results that differ in this way should not have a variance that is any larger than 1%.

When reading the data, please note that there is a base number against all charts and tables; this is the valid number of responses for that question and the figure used to calculate the percentages shown.

## Feedback on our budget

The consultation document set out the approach that was taken when planning and balancing our budget. 42% of those responding reported that they agreed with this approach, and just under a third (32.4%) disagreed. Comment analysis in Chart 3 shows the varying comments on the budget.

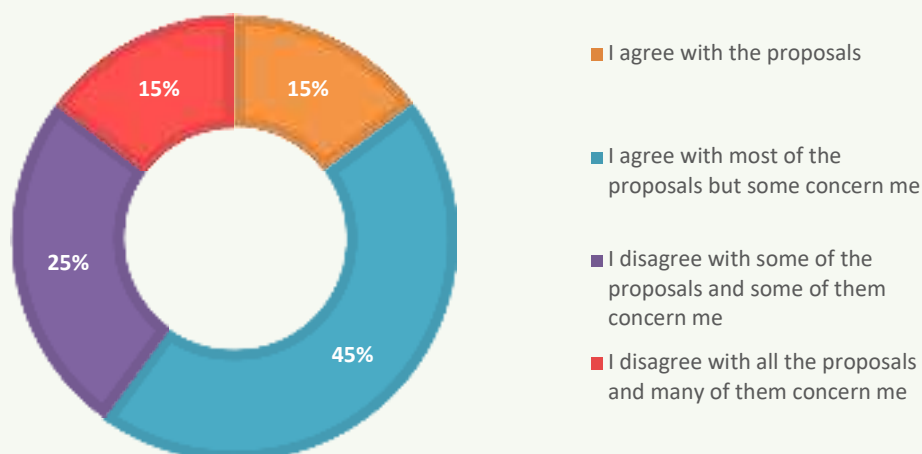
Chart 1: Level of agreement with budget approach



Base responses 108

When asked their view on the actual content of the MTFP proposals and whether they broadly agreed with them or not, the response was overall favourable. Over half of those responding (60%) stated that they agreed with all or most of the proposals (Chart 2). A quarter of respondents, however, disagreed with some or many and said some of the proposals concerned them. 15% felt that they disagreed with all the budget proposals included in the plan.

Chart 2: To what extent do you agree with the proposals set out in the medium-term financial plan?



Base responses 95

## Comments on the Budget Proposals

Respondents made varied comments on the budget, with many not fitting into specific themes. The most common areas of feedback received related to:

- Proposed reductions in staffing with comments on the pressure that this might result in for those left, the voluntary redundancy (VR) process, and a need to look at the structures
- Comments on the complicated MTFP document and needing more detail on proposals
- Looking at smarter ways of working
- Disagreement in the proposed Council Tax increase.

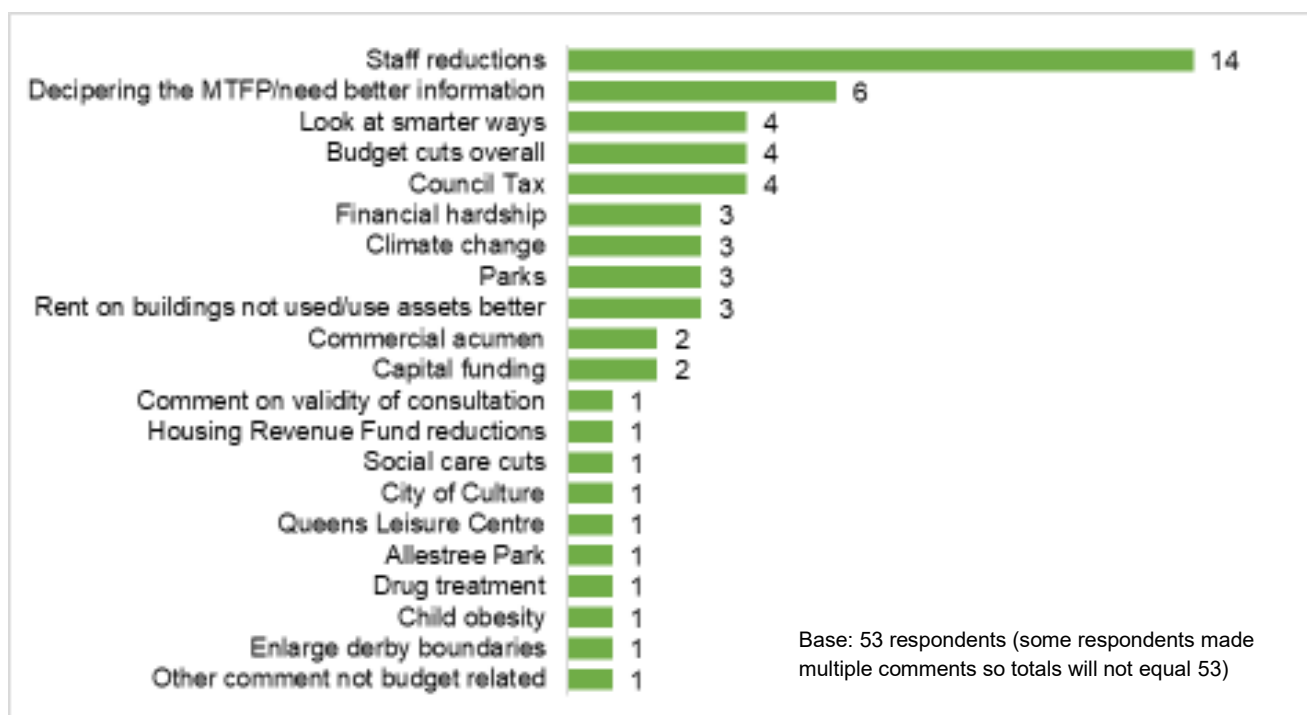
Although I understand that savings need to be made, budget cuts and reducing posts puts pressure on already overstretched services.

I couldn't decipher the documentation well enough to work out exactly where savings would fall.

This has move to a place where we are smaller in size but bigger in our ability to enable and influence.

The comments made on the proposals have been coded into themes for the purpose of the analysis.

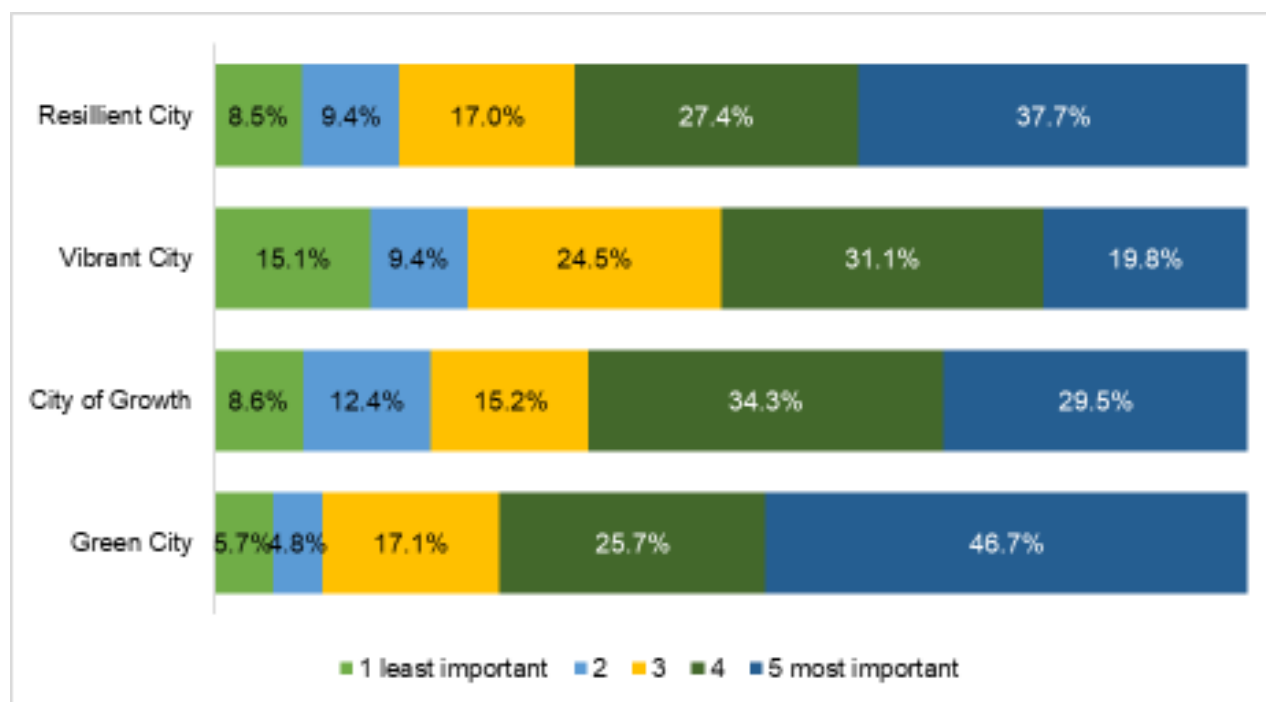
Chart 3: Common themes emerging from budget feedback



## Feedback on our Council Plan

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of the draft Council Plan priority themes, from 1 to 5. Green City was seen as the most important area, with 72.5% rating this as important: scoring it either a 4 or 5 (5 – 46.7% and 4 – 25.7%). Vibrant City was rated as the least important priority theme within the plan, with 50.9% rating this as either a 4 or 5 (5 – 19.8% and 4 - 31.1%).

Chart 4: Feedback on the Council Plan focus areas



Base: 108 respondents

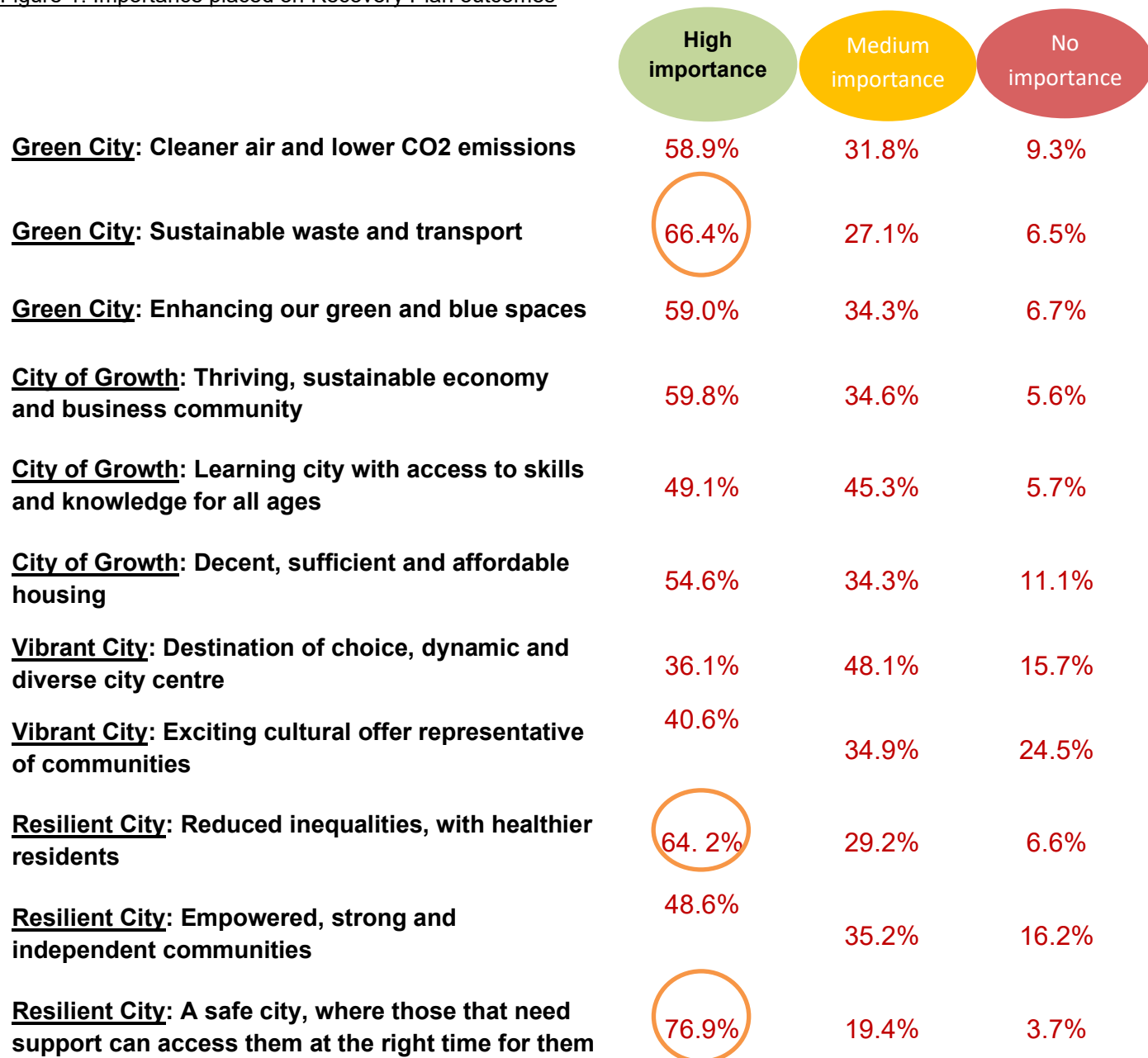
Each of the five priority themes within the draft Plan are underpinned by a small number of key outcomes, which the actions for delivery (our must do's) will aim to support improvements or developments against. Respondents were asked to rate these as either high importance, medium importance or of no importance.

Overall, the outcomes that respondents prioritised highest were those relating to Resilient City, with 76.9% of respondents assessing the outcome, 'Safe city, where those that need support can access them at the right time for them' as having the most importance; alongside 'reduced inequalities, with healthier residents' rated as high importance by 64.2% of respondents.

Under the priority theme Green City, 'sustainable waste and transport' was rated with a high importance by 66.4% of respondents.

In contrast to this, for the priority theme a Vibrant City, just over a third of those responding felt that 'destination of choice, dynamic and diverse city centre' was an important outcome to focus on (36.1%), however 48.1% felt it was of medium importance.

Figure 1: Importance placed on Recovery Plan outcomes



## Comments on the Council Plan

Consultees were also given the opportunity to give feedback or suggestions on the draft Council Plan 2022-2025. 48 people responded, some commenting on multiple parts of the consultation. Comments and suggestions have been themed. 18 of the comments made were around the budget proposals, with 4 comments around other concerns.

The most common comments received related to the 'green agenda' reflected within the 'Green City' priority theme and supporting outcomes. 11 comments mentioned how key this is to the city and how parks are crucial to keeping the city healthy and green. 7 comments asked for more context around the cost of the priorities with more details on how they would be achieved.

Figure 2: Council Plan comments and suggestions (themes)

	Theme	No. of responses
Comments on Council Plan	Green agenda/green space is key	11
	Timescales/costs/more details of the plan	7
	Resilient City linked to poverty	3
	How have a Vibrant City with COVID and lack of offer	2
	Be more Ambitious	1
	Partner Contributions to the Council Plan	
Budget Comments	Staff reductions	4
	Make most efficient use of our buildings and spaces	4
	Council Tax	2
	Local Community better working/spending	2
	Do not close Queens	2
	Do not rewild Allestree Park	2
	Social Services funding needed	1
	Stop the cycle schemes work	1
Other comments	Discuss a skatepark	1
	Issues with yellow lines	1
	Normanton Park improvements	1
	Do not build new eyesores	1

Base: 48 respondents

## Feedback from Voices in Action and Children in Care Council

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On Wednesday 5 January 2022, members of the Voices in Action and Children in Care Council met to discuss areas of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which they felt were key to them.

Young people were asked to think about which services are most important. They then undertook a discussion on their concerns. Figure 3 shows the top 5 as voted by the young people. Appendix B contains full details of the comments.

Figure 3. Top 5 important services – Voices in Action and Children in Care Council

Order of most important	Service Proposals	No.
1	Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation	42
2	Expand Stay Together Team	37
3	More Local Foster Homes for Children	34
4	More Foster Care and Less Private Homes	25
5	Review of Early Help Services	13

Young people were then asked why they think these services are most important. The key themes were:

- Being homeless can have a big impact on mental health and general wellbeing and it could be failing children in care if they end up homeless.
- It can be hard for young people to relocate so it is important to provide more local foster care.
- Early intervention could help take the pressure of other services further down the line such as foster care.
- Important for families to stay together as much as they can
- Every child needs at least one home to go to
- Moving around is difficult, affects mental health being away from where they live

## Appendix A: Data Tables

**Table 1: Having read the consultation document, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the approach that we have taken?**

	No.	%
Strongly agree	7	6.5%
Agree	38	35.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	28	25.9%
Disagree	25	23.1%
Strongly disagree	10	9.3%
Total	108	100.0%

**Table 2: To what extent do you agree with the proposals set out in the medium-term financial plan?**

	No.	%
I agree with the proposals	14	15%
I agree with most of the proposals but some concern me	43	45%
I disagree with some of the proposals and some of them concern me	24	25%
I disagree with all the proposals and many of them concern me	14	15%
Total	95	100%

**Table 3: Importance of Green City**

	No.	%
1 least important	6	5.7%
2	5	4.8%
3	18	17.1%
4	27	25.7%
5 most important	49	46.7%
	105	100%

**Table 4: Importance of City of Growth**

	No.	%
1 least important	9	8.6%
2	13	12%
3	16	15%
4	36	34%
5 most important	31	29.5%
Total	105	100.0



**Table 5: Importance of Vibrant City**

	No.	%
1 least important	16	15.1%
2	10	9%
3	26	25%
4	33	31%
5 most important	21	19.8%
Total	106	100%

**Table 6: Importance of Resilient City?**

	No.	%
1 least important	9	8.5%
2	10	9%
3	18	17%
4	29	27%
5 most important	40	37.7%
Total	106	100%

**Table 7: How important is 'Cleaner air and lower CO2 emissions'?**

	No.	%
High importance	63	59%
Medium importance	34	32%
Low or no importance	10	9%
Total	107	100%

**Table 8: How important is 'Sustainable waste and transport'?**

	No.	%
High importance	71	66%
Medium importance	29	27%
Low or no importance	7	7%
Total	107	100%

**Table 9: How important is 'Enhancing our green and blue spaces'?**

	No.	%
High importance	62	59%
Medium importance	36	34%
Low or no importance	7	7%
Total	105	100.0%

**Table 10: How important is 'Thriving, sustainable economy and business community'?**

	No.	%
High importance	52	49%
Medium importance	48	45%
Low or no importance	6	6%
Total	106	100%

**Table 11: How important is ‘Decent, sufficient and affordable housing’?**

	No.	%
High importance	59	55%
Medium importance	37	34%
Low or no importance	12	11%
Total	108	100%

**Table 12: How important is ‘Destination of choice, dynamic and diverse city centre’?**

	No.	%
High importance	39	36%
Medium importance	52	48%
Low or no importance	17	16%
Total	108	100%

**Table 13: How important is ‘Exciting cultural offer representative of communities’?**

	No.	%
High importance	43	41%
Medium importance	37	35%
Low or no importance	26	25%
Total	106	100%

**Table 14: How important is ‘Reduced inequalities, with healthier residents’?**

	No.	%
High importance	68	64%
Medium importance	31	29%
Low or no importance	7	7%
Total	106	100%

**Table 15: How important is ‘Empowered, strong and independent communities’?**

	No.	%
High importance	51	49%
Medium importance	37	35%
Low or no importance	17	16%
Total	105	100%

**Table 16: How important is ‘A safe city, where those that need support can access them at the right time for them’?**

	No.	%
High importance	83	77%
Medium importance	21	19%
Low or no importance	4	4%
Total	108	100%

**Table 17: Gender**

	No.	%
woman/ girl	51	47%
man/boy	48	44%
non-binary	1	1%
Prefer not to say	9	8%
Total	109	100%

**Table 18: Age**

	No.	%
30 and under	9	10%
31-45	32	36%
46-65	40	44%
over 65	9	10%
Total	90	100.0

**Table 19: Do you identify as a gender other than what you were assigned at birth?**

	No.	%
Yes	17	16%
No	76	70%
Prefer not to say	15	14%
Total	108	100%

**Table 20: To which group do you consider you belong?**

	No.	%
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	1	1%
Any other Asian background	1	1%
Black or Black British - African	2	2%
Black or Black British - Caribbean	2	2%
Any other Dual Heritage background	1	1%
White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	87	85%
White - Irish	3	3%
Any other White background	4	4%
Total	102	100.0

**Table 21: Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?**

	No.	%
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Yes	15	15%
No	84	85%
Total	99	100%

**Table 22: I consider myself to be...**

	No.	%
heterosexual/straight	78	73%
Bisexual	2	2%
a gay man	4	4%
a gay woman/lesbian	3	3%
Other	2	2%
Prefer not to say	18	17%
Total	107	100%

**Table 23: Do you have any religious beliefs?**

	No.	%
Yes	21	20%
No	53	50%
Prefer not to say	32	30%
Total	106	100%

**Table 24: If yes, to which religion do you belong?**

	No.	%
Buddhist	1	2%
Christian	19	46%
Muslim	2	5%
Other	6	15%
Prefer not to say	13	32%
Total	41	100%

## Appendix B: Comments from Voices in Action and Children in Care Council

Why are these services important?	
1. Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation	
Money – could see the benefit of working with approved providers and saving money on housing benefits.	Talked about failing young people in care if they become homeless and how this linked to the early help work.
Talked about the stigma of being homeless and work to help raise awareness of it.	Talked about reusing the savings made to help more people.
Better accommodation is needed so it is more financially sustainable, and it would make it easier and better to work together with Derby Homes.	Derby Homes could invest or build more homes to not impact on the amount of social housing available.
Need some kind of temporary accommodation for the homeless.	Being homeless can have a big impact on your general health and wellbeing including mental health.
It is a basic need for everyone to have a roof over your head.	It can prevent people from being involved with the wrong crowds.
2. Expand Stay Together Team	
Taking pressure off services down the line such as foster/residential homes.	It is important to provide services for more families and help more people.
Need to be flexible in approach of working with families and adapt to their needs.	Helps different groups in need such as victims of domestic violence.
Prevention is beneficial as it would help to save money in the future.	It would reduce the number of 10-15 age going into foster care.
3. More Local Foster Homes for Children	
Important to keep foster homes local as it can avoid young people being taken to an unfamiliar place.	Important for Children and Young people to live local to their area and not have to go to a carer/home out of area.
It would be harder for teenagers to move away than younger children.	Important to prevent long distance movement for children and young people.
Need to spend time recruiting local foster carers so young people are less likely to move away.	Local fostering can allow young people to have a fresh start in a new home in a city/area they are familiar with. However, staying could bring up bad memories for some young people.
Having choice of where to live is important.	Foster care helps so many young people at a young age.
4. More Foster Care and Less Private Homes	

More comfortable for young people being with a family.	Important for all children and young people in a home to receive same opportunities.
Being in a foster home rather than a private home would provide a better sense of familiarity by being with a family rather than workers.	Foster care will help young people in care relate to other young people more by being with a family and may have more of a choice to see other people.
<b>5. Review of Early Help Services</b>	
Concern about losing youth workers.	Early intervention help could prevent services down the line such as foster care.
Early help services are necessary as there have been a lot of incidents in the news recently, so it is important to help prevent situations in the family.	Young people who are NEET would be harder to reach if youth workers are reduced which could lead to more long-term problems.
Early Help service can benefit the whole family rather than just the children and could prevent children going into foster care – could have volunteers such as uni students to help with intervention.	Should be a priority on early help services as it is better to prevent foster care entirely due to its possible mental health damage.
Mother and baby placements important to support parents to learn to parent safely.	
<b>Further Questions and Ideas Raised</b>	
How are potential foster carers targeted and how is the foster care service promoted?	Could talk to young people so that when they are older, they know how to become foster carers.
Have an option to put postcode into the council webpage where the fostering information is so they can receive more detailed information.	Work with local schools to promote what it is to be a foster carer and then young people can promote to adults.
How can young people who need help access the service?	How do we know the Early Help work is successful?
Do we work with schools on all of the areas?	Could have a partnership between Derby City and Nottingham to look into research of prevention into foster care.
Focus on the 10–15-year-old age group and research the reasons and causes of going into foster care – could email surrounding universities to carry out research to reduce costs.	Could have support groups for foster carers to discuss their experiences and this could help make the service better.
More support for children's mental health as children in care often have big life changes such as relocation and need extra support.	More advertising on safe spaces for the homeless and temporary accommodation that is available.

## Why are these services important?

### 1. Expand Stay Together Team

Important for families to stay together as much as they can

### 2. Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation

Every child needs at least one home to go to

### 3. More Local Foster Homes for Children

Important as experienced being moved around and found it difficult.

It can really affect a young person's mental health when they are away from where they have lived.