

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

Budget Consultation

Week 1

Priorities

1. Community care – funding - Don't make cuts to community services.
2. Community care - funding - Don't make cuts to home care etc.
3. Community care – funding - Homecare really needs money invested in it
4. Community facilities – toilet - Please keep public toilets. Through my work as a community carer and walking my dog these are a god send
5. CPP - council - comment - you have already made cuts to a very high tune, how can Moray Council sit there and allow more
6. education - Don't make cuts to education
7. Education - funding - Education is massive. I'd hate to see cuts here
8. Governance - comment - look at ways of making money as well as saving money
9. Governance – staff - there has to be a CEO does not mean they must be paid at the absolute top level of the scale
10. housing - funding - Housing is a necessity shouldn't be cuts there
11. Waste - collection - do not mess with the bin collection. I beg you not to change them

Do differently

1. Community - empowerment - Communities should be able to bid for their labour for local projects
2. Community – engagement - Could you have a pop up shop for a week in an empty shop in Elgin and then go to a few other towns for people to come and tell you what they think
3. Community facilities – funding - Why don't you reduce the rates of council owned town halls and buildings in the local towns like Cullen, Buckie etc. so that more people would be willing to use them to create clubs for our youths and elderly, I was saying the rates to hire out local halls are too high, lowering the rate would ultimately increase the usage
4. Community facilities – libraries - Cut back the libraries opening times to the same as we have in the rural communities
5. Community facilities - libraries - Have mobile Library's going around all the towns.
6. Community safety – community justice - Get those on community service orders to clear up some of the overgrown pieces of land
7. Community safety - community justice - Why can't people who get Community Service not tidy up the streets
8. CPP – duplication – If the Council listed everything that HIE and the Council do and everything they don't do in economic development then the Council and the public being consulted on the budget would be clearer about the choice of what could be dropped or changed and what the saving would be
9. CPP - SGovt – Cllrs - Councillors huge salaries
10. CPP - SGovt – funding - the paying structure as a whole was looked at, brought up at the next parliamentary meeting to see about bringing down the annual salary amounts. All councils struggling to give their local areas the services needed yet earning a damn fine wage
11. Economic development – business - Give small business more support
12. Economic development – rates - rents and rates of the high street shops should be more affordable. Councils and big high street names should work together and fill empty shops
13. Education - information – there is so much paperwork comes home from school and hardly any of it is double sided. Invest in an email system
14. Education - information – There is too much paperwork in the post for this as well, send documents electronically to family,

P=priorities Q1; D=differently Q2; Sp=Stop Q3; St=Start Q4; V=Volunteer Q5&6

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15. Education – school crossing - having Lolly pop ladies/men at Pelican crossings stops children learning about road safety. What if they cross that road outwith school times ? It leads them into a false sense of security
16. Education – school crossing - Why pay lolly pop people to press a traffic light, ones who are based at traffic lights why spend thousands installing lights n paying the ones who are at them think the ones who are not at lights are ok
17. Finance – council tax - I think the council tax needs to increase. So a 10% increase of £15.60 could be achievable.
18. Finance – council tax - The council need a slight rise in money for council tax next year
19. Finance – income - Clamp down on all the fraudsters claiming council tax benefits when they're working cash in hand
20. finance – insurance - give a bit of slack on the company's insurance
21. finance - penalties - You would think the council would have the power to increase the rates on property of owners that fail to maintain their buildings to a safe standard
22. Finance – tax - there should be some sort of tax/rates in place
23. Governance – Cllrs - Why do we need a Council Leader AND a Convener, people can be 'convened' by e-mail
24. Governance – comment - the council need to look inside the main building and look at how things are run in there and look at wastage there
25. Governance – departments - work together, one department doesn't seem to know what the other is doing
26. Governance – facilities - free car parks should not be provided for the sole use of council office workers in the town centre. The simple solution is make the 2 car park public pay and display car parks
27. Governance – facilities - staff would have a car parking charge across the board.
28. Governance – facilities - why do you think it is ok for you to get free parking
29. Governance – information - cutting back on the amount of useless printouts that are handed out
30. Governance – procurement - It seems that the same contractors seem to get all of the maintenance / upgrade work for some reason. I'm pretty sure if there was a bigger pool of smaller contractors then the quotations would be far lower, due to more competition
31. Governance – procurement - The procurements process for contracting work
32. Governance – quality - Audit the works carried out and ensure that works are being completed correctly and cost effectively, repair properly first time.
33. Governance – staff - Be interesting to find out how much pension contributions are for management
34. Governance – staff - Car allowance
35. Governance – staff - certainly to many high paid workers out there
36. Governance – staff - Council has vacancies for tradesmen. if we have our own workforce why do jobs go out to tender.
37. Governance – staff - cutting your wages, more like the average person gets
38. Governance – staff - Employee restructure, wage freeze or cut
39. Governance – staff - get executives and heads of department to take a pay cut or voluntary redundancy
40. Governance – staff - Get rid of some of the management staff. If you phone in to speak to a manager you can be put on to their assistant or the assistants assistant and so on down the line
41. Governance – staff - I don't think 3 workers looking and 1 actually working is the way to go
42. Governance – staff - Lot of management cost, not necessarily much management or ability
43. Governance – staff - Lower their ridiculously high salaries

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44. Governance – staff - pay freezes , work longer hours , reduce benefits, stop overtime , cut back expenses to a bare minimum
45. Governance – staff - Reduce staff numbers
46. Governance – staff - too many hangers on at the topmost end of the workforce and not enough at the grass roots side. Lots of money could be saved by getting rid of assistants and assistants assistants etc.
47. Governance – staff - why can't you big wigs not take a pay cut
48. Governance – vehicles - Cut back on fleet cars
49. Governance – vehicles - cut back on hiring cars for staff
50. Governance – vehicles - Get rid of pool cars that sit unused behind offices
51. Governance – vehicles - trackers on vehicles to stop the non-productive hours
52. Governance – vehicles - Vehicle sharing by departments
53. Governance – vehicles - why do you have so many pool cars sitting doing nothing
54. Governance – vehicles - Why is the tax payer. Paying for all council worker to take the vans home
55. Housing – allocation - We need houses aimed at these young people where the council will receive full rent, properties set aside only for young people who can afford to pay full rent and the council get revenue back for the properties.
56. Housing – services - a check over a period of time could save lots expense, house inspectors when Lesmurdie was built if you had nothing to hide you were happy to let them in it was in our house contract
57. Housing – services - part time housing inspector they have to spend thousands on property that have been bad used. Especially when people move and sometimes into other council property private let's do it why not moray council but they say it is intruding in their privacy they have one for the gardens why not the houses
58. housing –quality - how far are we prepared to let standards slide. Who imposed the legislation that limits the council for penalising property owners who don't maintain their property
59. infrastructure - harbour – dredger - Selkie, why are there no contingency plans in place for when something like this happens
60. Roads – maintenance - looked after the roads instead of neglecting them for years you would have saved money in the long run.
61. Roads – quality - if money was spent properly on our roads instead of having to do very poor gravel resurfacing every few months
62. Roads – quality - Proper repairs to roads instead of short term cheap fix "dressing" which requires re-doing every year
63. roads – traffic - turn off all traffic lights in the dead of night say between 9pm and 7am, traffic at that time is light and there aren't many pedestrians around either

Stop doing

1. Community facilities – libraries - happily lose libraries. It's inevitable they will go eventually , we have e-readers- iPads etc., and most schools have their own library
2. Community facilities – MLC - MLC funding must be removed. One of that expanse should be able to run to break even if not for profit as many other privately run projects do
3. Community facilities – MLC - Stop giving Moray Leisure Centre money supposed to be a privately run facility.
4. Community facilities – MLC - Why is money given to the Leisure Centre every year, if it is a stand-alone business then it should be able to support itself.... if not, then sell it to someone who can run it and make money

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5. Environment – maintenance - Stop cutting the grass on roadside verges pointlessly.
6. Governance - information - stop sending out as many paper bills and reduce need for paper forms, get integration into myaccount/set up online accounts so moray residents can take control online and easily view correspondence, make all payments, update details, read FAQs, apply for all key services online etc.
7. governance – information - Magazine. Magazine why don't they ask how many people look at it or just bin it
8. Governance – staff - Cut back on management and increase workers.
9. Governance – staff - Cut down the amount of one workman in a van would help there is three vans three workers at a house
10. Governance – staff - Meal allowance
11. Governance – staff - Phone allowance
12. Governance – staff - Stop regrading those above a band 8
13. Governance – staff - Stop sending out five workers to cut people's grass, who are capable of cutting it themselves
14. Governance – staff - Stop the perks for Council employees i.e. free parking
15. Governance – staff - Stopping the farce of one man working on a tiny job of digging a wee hole then filling it in whilst another four look on. Ensuring the job that WILL take only hours to do is completed in hours
16. Governance – vehicles - Stop wasting cash on vans that run around doing nothing
17. Roads – development - Stop building roads we don't need
18. Transport – bus - dial a bus it is a waste of money. The council sent 3 buses to Dallas to pick up 3 women

Start doing

1. Community safety – services - community service should be made to actually do something in the community. i.e. picking rubbish off the ground weeding because they are horrendous at the moment such a disgrace to the streets paint fences etc.
2. CPP - Police – wardens - Bring back traffic wardens. On any given day in Buckie alone the revenue from vehicles abandoned in no-parking zones or double yellows would more than make up for your funding gap.
3. Economic development – business - How about encouraging retailers to occupy the empty lots on Edgar road retail park
4. Economic development – town centre - high street and allow one way traffic from west to east. People need to see it's not dead. The centre of Elgin can be saved.
5. education – catering - a lot of man hours are lost by over complicated systems, such as the whole needing a dinner ticket at primary level. You would be far better having an online payment service which would take work away from staff leaving them more time to do their jobs
6. Education – estate - Close a few schools
7. Education – funding - From primary 4 why are children not asked to supply their own school supplies
8. Education – information - an app where you can send letters directly to parents and parents can give electronic consent. We used it in England and it was great, saved the school a fortune! Very easy to use! www.parentmail.co.uk / parent gateway which is another system
9. Education – information - stop sending paper copies of letters out from the schools. Invest in something like parentmail so that things are emailed, quicker, easier and must cost less
10. Environment – service delivery - people should be looking at ways to help keep our community clean, tidy, litter & weed free.

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11. finance – budgets - Proper management of budgets
12. finance - comment -Stop all expense
13. Finance - council tax - increase in council tax, 5% then up a % per year for a few years .
14. Finance - estate - Sell all of the compulsory buy house purchases
15. Finance – estate - Vacant buildings in the Council's property portfolio were to be sold off. The sale of these properties should be explored, in every instance, now. Realise the assets, and use the proceeds wisely
16. Governance – efficiency - give social workers electronic devices to update files automatically during reviews to reduce admin
17. governance – facilities - A nominal parking is not too much to ask
18. governance – facilities - Charge a nominal parking fee for Council workers. As a ball park calculation, let's imagine there are 50 vehicles parked at Elgin Academy on a daily basis. At £1 a day = £50 per day or £250 per week (5 days). over 40 weeks (School year) that would take in £10,000. Multiply that across Moray for ALL carparks that Moray Council own, and what would we get? At least £100,000. And it would encourage less cars driven to work which would tick an environmental box. A win-win situation
19. Governance – ICT - Invest in IT more to reduce administration costs and improve customer service
20. Governance - outsource - put all your services out to tender fixed costs and better service. A private firm set spec set costs better off in the long run
21. Governance – staff - start at the top of the Council down
22. Governance - staff - start using Moray council trades people rather than out sourcing to sub-contractors.
23. Governance - staff - take as much as possible back in house.
24. Housing – estate - Build some properties for young people to rent that will pay full rent. I'm talking about young people who work and earn and are not entitled to any help but still earn too little to qualify for mortgages or struggle to pay private rents
25. housing – services - Housing - get tougher on tenants who don't pay their rent, the persistent non-payers. Evict them and take back your properties for people who will pay you.
26. housing – services - I'm just wondering how many empty houses could be spruced up for folks to live in? Do they have anyone who looks into derelict properties? Perhaps provide loans to owners to do up and rent out those properties?
27. Housing – services - Rake back lost revenue from housing or take back your houses
28. housing – support - Maybe you could offer the renters to get the work done themselves at their own cost and then perhaps they could get large rent reductions for them to recoup their cash from you the council
29. transport – parking - Open council only car parks to public 24/7 rather than just weekends.
30. waste – collection - Waste - when we lived in Ireland we had to pay to get our bins collected, it was a small tag we had to buy and put on our bin. Recycling got emptied for free. Why not keep emptying recycling and empty green bins every 4 weeks

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

Budget Consultation

Week 2

Priorities

1. Community care – equipment - I don't like the idea of a returnable deposit-so many pensioners would not be able to afford it
2. Community care – equipment - I tried to return them I was told they didn't take them back!
3. Community care – equipment - it's very important that this service continues. Complete overhaul to the present system where records are kept and once a year the service users are sent reminders to re-register their need or surrender unused items. Perhaps the letters could be sent out together with the electoral register letters to save money and forms could be returned in same way.
4. Community care – equipment - thought the OT equipment would be provided by the health service
5. Community care – equipment - Vital pieces of equipment
6. Community care – equipment - You potentially will be placing people at risk for those that cannot afford to pay for equipment. Careful consideration must be made over this issue
7. Community care – quality - door sensory and epilepsy alarm they are brilliant.
8. Community care – quality - few people in the 'care system' who have no alternative available but to use a private care company for assistance with shopping, ablutions, putting to bed..... The quality and frequency of service would seem to be inadequate. Is there not some way in which the Local Authority can exert time and money in the form of pressure/influence (as a Statutory Authority and with their partner NHS Grampian) so that those desperately in need of looking after can access a reliable service for which they are paying.
9. Community care – quality - Have you checked you're getting the best deal from suppliers? Can you look at sourcing from different places
10. CPP – council – front line - Focus on front line delivery of services –
11. Finance – council tax - maintain the current level of local council tax
12. Governance – staff - lose jobs in middle management
13. Roads – maintenance - more money could be directed towards road repairs

Do differently

1. Community care - equipment - amnesty n drop off point in every town
2. Community care - equipment - council needs to be better at accepting the equipment back, keep better records
3. Community care – equipment - to keep a decent record though and check-up if the equipment is still needed or suitable
4. Community care – home care - Instead of sending carers willy nilly all over the place, have different teams covering a certain area to save on paying out so much for mileage. They could also work back to back within their team and if cover is needed for holidays or for someone off sick, use that teams members. Have a rolling rota making sure that all staff are getting some weekends off or employ folk who are happy to just work a weekend shift
5. Community care – home care - wonder if the time could be managed better to alieve the waiting list for patients who are stuck in hospital waiting for a package to be put in place before they can go home
6. Community care – staff - shift work, but be flexible enough so that if someone can only work on a Monday & Friday for instance incorporate that into one of the teams
7. Community care – staff - staff are getting monthly supervision so that if there are problems within the team or with service users it is flagged up quickly so that it can be dealt with.

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8. CPP – SGovt - funding - Maybe withdraw the policy to not apply for funding outwith Scottish Government. Many joint initiatives in partnership with third sector could be funded by Big Lottery, children in need etc. but the council don't want short term funding
9. Economic development - unemployment - The people who choose not to work could cut grass, pick up litter etc. and earn their benefits
10. Education – estate - look at closing primary schools that are costing a fortune and serving so few
11. Finance - income - Sell properties which were compulsory purchased prematurely. Edgar Road bypass
12. CPP – SGovt - Cllrs - Cut back on expenses paid to Councillors
13. Governance – efficiency - spend a bit of money, to save more money. By that I mean employee either a company or individuals to see where the waste is and where the savings could be made, and then they recommended where to cut. Like value engineering. I know of a big company that had a team that went around every department to make sure costs were being controlled and the waste was cut. It needs carried out by switched on financial/business minded people though. Not by politicians or just anyone in the office
14. Governance – estate - Move Elgin staff to new central offices and sell these properties
15. Governance – procurement - For every worker working on local Forres School upgrade and swimming pool upgrade there are three standing doing nothing. This reveals that tighter contracts and supervision is required
16. Governance – procurement - Negotiate better contracts with sub-contractors. Lights left on in daytime reveal a better deal could have been done
17. Governance – staff - cut out jobs at the topmost end of the scale
18. Governance – staff - Cut out some of the higher up posts
19. Governance – staff - how about minimum pension contributions for staff
20. Governance – staff - personnel above average wage to take a 5% pay cut (top down)
21. Governance – staff - Sort out your own hierarchy
22. Governance – vehicles - Cut down on the pool cars and men taking the vans and trucks home
23. Governance – vehicles - cut down the amount of pool cars
24. Governance – vehicles - They could always try cutting back on the amount of vans they have with only one worker per van and allowing them to use them out with working hours
25. Housing – affordable- Build more council homes and give priority to those that will actually pay their own rent and council tax
26. Infrastructure – lighting – street lighting - cut street lighting by half later on at night, early mornings

Stop doing

1. Finance – support - remove funding in the form of accommodation and benefits to those who , by their own choice , have selected a lifestyle which contributes absolutely nothing to their community
2. Governance – vehicles - stop drivers from taking cars, vans and trucks home

Start doing

1. Community care – adaptations - council should be encouraging high quality adaptations to make houses safer and more accessible and asking for contributions are likely to put people off doing so.
2. Community care – engagement - Ask the carers themselves where changes could be made to improve the system

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3. Community care – equipment - A refundable deposit would be fine, some people need many pieces of equipment it would have to be affordable for all
4. Community care – equipment - A returnable deposit
5. Community care – equipment - Deposit and stickers with 'Property of Moray Council Please Return'
6. Community care – equipment - Either a returnable deposit or hiring it?
7. Community care – equipment - If the equipment is to be borrowed only, why not keep in touch and arrange to pick it back up
8. Community care – equipment - improve the process of collecting aids back in or a deposit returnable or not but it has to be something folk can afford.
9. Community care – equipment - making it easier to return equipment-stickers with a phone number and clear instructions as to how to arrange a return would be best.
10. Community care – equipment - means testing would be rather unfair and difficult to administer, small deposit would be a good idea
11. Community care – equipment - refundable deposit
12. Community care – equipment - Returnable deposit
13. Community care – equipment - returnable deposit is a very reasonable idea
14. Community care – equipment - returnable deposit sounds good as long as it was reasonable.
15. Community care – equipment - returnable deposit would be beneficial
16. Community care – equipment - Returnable deposit, means testing. Although administering that might get expensive
17. Community care – home care - Keep in touch with service users and their families too to make sure they are getting the service they need
18. Community safety – community justice - community service lot to actually do jobs in the community
19. Economic development – business - pursuing these landlords and doing my best to provide the community with a thriving retail environment. If economic development is going to stimulate foot fall in Elgin, promote employment, add to public services
20. Finance – council tax - a 5-10% increase would generate a lot more income
21. Finance – council tax - Also nationally need to really consider how long can the council tax remain the same. I'd be quite happy to pay a little extra if it meant my children could get the education they deserve
22. Finance – energy - Council should maybe look at changing the way electricity is paid, Is it paid in advance
23. Governance – facilities - Also put meters in council staff car parks.
24. Governance – facilities - Put meters in to council staff car park
25. Governance –outsource- Work with neighbouring councils and/or Cosla to share Council Tax Collection b) Purchasing c) other shared opportunities
26. infrastructure – development control – development - As a council you need to be more forthright with individuals who swallow up large areas for development and expansion and then who sit back and let that resource go to waste

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Budget Consultation

Week 3

Priorities

1. Community facilities – toilets - As a visitor to the area was horrified that any other visitors to Cooper park and surrounding area would have to use these if had no local knowledge to know where others are situated! (toilets)
2. Community facilities - toilets - Defiantly still required (toilets)
3. Community facilities - toilets - definitely need the public toilets to remain open
4. Community facilities - toilets - Definitely need to have public toilets open in Elgin
5. Community facilities - toilets - Definitely needed to stay open (toilets)
6. Community facilities - toilets - definitely required particularly for children. a toddler isn't always able to hold on from the cooper park to get to Tesco for example. the library isn't always open so you can't rely on there
7. Community facilities - toilets - I would rather there were public toilets (especially near parks etc.)
8. Community facilities - toilets - If you shut public toilets you end up with loads of people, particularly in busy places like Lossie in the summer, traipsing through cafes and shops not spending any money
9. Community facilities - toilets - Keep the cooper park toilets open especially on Saturday mornings as a lot of the park run runners use them before the start. (toilets)
10. Community facilities - toilets - Keep them open (toilets)
11. Community facilities - toilets - OK letting community groups run them but , we're will it stop community groups road cleaning (toilets)
12. Community facilities - toilets - Public toilets are definitely needed and if we need a community group to keep them open then that is what should be done.
13. Community facilities - toilets - Public toilets are definitely needed. I think the incident in Forres where the poor lady was locked in shows the council should be looking after them
14. Community facilities - toilets - Public toilets are essential
15. Community facilities - toilets - Stay open (toilets)
16. Community facilities - toilets - still needed
17. Community facilities - toilets - that £500 could be better used by keeping the public toilets open. Comfort scheme
18. Community facilities - toilets - they are needed. Stay open.(toilets)
19. Community facilities - toilets - Toilets aren't a luxury. In rural areas there aren't many alternatives
20. Community facilities - toilets - toilets should be kept open, what's the point of the comfort schemeas most people would not know about them
21. Community facilities - toilets - We need these toilets there is a lack of them in Elgin
22. Community safety – CCTV - 2 cameras high street in Forres which isn't enough to cover everywhere in Forres (CCTV)
23. Community safety – CCTV - definitely need it, if it goes the deterrent goes with it (CCTV)
24. Community safety – wardens - heard they could help by attending to some anti-social cases (wardens)
25. Education – school crossing - children's life's are surely worth the money (school crossing)
26. Education – school crossing - crossing patrollers are vital at busy intersections (school crossing)
27. Education – school crossing - either provide them or not. It is not safe to provide them sometimes come home and tell us the lollipop person was not there - especially on very busy roads with no notice (school crossing)

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28. Education – school crossing - no way this should be cut. Some roads are just too dangerous (school crossing)
29. Education – school crossing - They should be kept (school crossing)
30. P - Community facilities - toilets - There's nae a lot o 24 hour supermarkets in the Portgordon , Buckie Strathlene , Finechty Portknockie and Cullen area though (toilets)

Do differently

1. Community facilities – estate - We have grant lodge sitting derelict while you have the money (our money as much as yours) from the insurance pay out I believe, a figure of around 200k possibly? Why is this building not being used as a hub for the town centre? A cafe come local heritage centre
2. Community facilities - toilets - Defo needed as many have said even if charge of 20p was needed they defo in parks are a godsend (toilets)
3. Community facilities - toilets - I can see why it would be a good cut money wise but I don't agree with getting rid of the ones that really do serve a purpose
4. Community facilities - toilets - I certainly didn't mind paying to spend a penny and felt more safe using public toilets when they were manned, a definite must to keep them open.
5. Community facilities - toilets - I think paying to use toilets is a great idea if there is an attendant keeping them clean
6. Community facilities - toilets - I won't mind paying for the use of the toilets, if they were monitored and keep clean. (toilets)
7. Community facilities - toilets - I wouldn't mind paying or even having a donation box. I know for my family if there were no public toilets at parks etc. we wouldn't be able to go
8. Community facilities - toilets - I'd happy pay a small charge to use a public loo
9. Community facilities - toilets - Keep them open id pay a small fee, what about making them lockable n u purchase a smart card to unlock or it gives u pass code to go in. (toilets)
10. Community facilities - toilets - make the toilet in all Council facilities (except the schools) available for public use
11. Community facilities - toilets - most people would be happy to pay for public toilets and also an attendant.
12. Community facilities - toilets - Paying a small fee is acceptable (toilets)
13. Community facilities - toilets - Should you decide to charge will you have a system to allow council workers free access (toilets)
14. Community facilities - toilets - Still need public toilets but charge a fee
15. Community facilities - toilets - Would be happy to pay to use facilities (toilets)
16. Community facilities - toilets - wouldn't have minded paying to use facilities if they're kept clean, as long as have access close to a play park as mostly used by kid (toilets)
17. Community facilities - toilets - You can drive into a Petrol Station and fill up with the 24 /7 plastic card pump. Surely in this day and age there is something similar could be adopted for public toilets or a converted parking machine type thing
18. Community safety – wardens - If wardens are to remain, I believe that their performance and outcomes need to be the subject if KPIs. (wardens)
19. Community safety – wardens - it may be the case they can take away some of the more superfluous and mundane issues that the police normally deal with. I'd rather see two extra police officers than 10 community wardens in my opinion (wardens)
20. Education - Make a saving by removing them at dedicated pedestrian crossings. Children can press a button and wait for the lights to change from a very young age (school crossing)
21. Education – school crossing - A parental rota system would work (school crossing)

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Budget Consultation

22. Education – school crossing - Agree if there are traffic lights then perhaps no requirement for a patroller, surely encouraging walking to school must go hand in hand with child safety on busy roads (school crossing)
23. Education – school crossing - Agree that they are not in the right places(school crossing)
24. Education – school crossing - agree with taking patrollers away from places where there are crossings, But I don't agree with taking them away from busy roads like East Road or in Mosstodloch and Fochabers
25. Education – school crossing - element of cost cutting to be had by not having the newest vehicles on the road (school crossing)
26. Education – school crossing - Even introduce more schemes like the bike proficiency courses (school crossing)
27. Education – school crossing - fit zebra crossings where the patrols are (school crossing)
28. Education – school crossing - If a community really feels that they must have a crossing patroller, why don't they club together and employ one (school crossing)
29. Education – school crossing - if money needs to be saved then it surely does make sense to get rid of the patrollers at traffic lights (school crossing)
30. Education – school crossing - it might be worth taking into consideration adding crossing patrollers to areas of new house building schemes that are often close to dangerous main traffic routes in moray
31. Education – school crossing - Keep the one by Andersons (school crossing)
32. Education – school crossing - Let's take responsibility for our own kids' safety. (school crossing)
33. Education – school crossing - make the roads safer first (school crossing)
34. Education – school crossing - may be possible to take away some school crossing patrollers. If the crossing patroller is taken away from either: (1) the Andersons Institution crossing on the A96, or (2) the Maisondieu Road/Pansport Stores crossing - which is pretty lethal all round for drivers, pedestrians and the patroller, it should be noted that both crossings are heavily used by children end route to East End Primary, St. Sylvester's and two nurseries
35. Education – school crossing - More pedestrian crossings would work (school crossing)
36. Education – school crossing - need to remove patrollers from traffic light crossings
37. Education – school crossing - no real need for patrollers at traffic lights, suggest 2 people at the top of the council be made redundant or retire and hey presto money for patrollers (school crossing)
38. Education – school crossing - not having crossing patrols at traffic lights(school crossing)
39. Education – school crossing - one at Anderson institution must be kept it has two schools using it East End and St Sylvester s and both schools has nurseries (school crossing)
40. Education – school crossing - perhaps the PTF/A could organise their members (school crossing)
41. Education – school crossing - put a zebra crossing there (school crossing)
42. Education – school crossing - Put in more traffic lights (school crossing)
43. Education – school crossing - signal controlled crossings at these points (school crossing)
44. Education – school crossing - signal controlled crossings must be provided to ensure safety of the children. It is very difficult to cross the road at these points even for an adult. (school crossing)
45. Education – school crossing - speed bumps at crossing areas (school crossing)
46. Education – school crossing - traffic lights at our crossings if they wana install those then they should but at both crossings! Not just outside the school (school crossing)
47. Education – school crossing - why is the council paying someone to press the button at the traffic lights (school crossing)
48. Education – school crossing - working out a rota system for either council workers or teachers to cover the crossings as a secondary duty (school crossing)

P=priorities Q1; D=differently Q2; Sp=Stop Q3; St=Start Q4; V=Volunteer Q5&6

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

Budget Consultation

49. Education – school crossing - would be to see if anyone in the community would consider being a volunteer crossing worker (school crossing)
50. Education – school crossing - Would it not be more beneficial to review the service and look at keeping the service at the most condensed areas where children are crossing, banish the crossing patroller at the pedestrian crossings and look at also what impact this would have on legislation such as GIRFEC (school crossing)
51. Education – school crossing - zebra crossings were lolly pop men usually are?? Or lights?
52. Education - Would paying for this service be an option? It is just over £20 per pupil per year to ensure they are getting to school safe (school crossing)
53. Governance – technology - Ability to pay by card

Stop doing

1. Community safety – wardens - Save money on this instead of direct care (CCTV)
2. Community safety – wardens - That sum would pay easily for more than 4 police officers. (wardens)
3. Community safety – wardens - there also needs to be an operator to watch the cameras and talk police officers on the ground where and when the officers are needed and until this is done crime just gets worse
4. Community safety – wardens - they should have vest cameras (CCTV)
5. Community safety – wardens - very much needed (CCTV)
6. Education – school crossing - cut it they don't stand where they are needed they stand at the traffic lights (school crossing)
7. Education – school crossing - Stop paying thousands of pounds each year for school crossing patrollers to stand at traffic lights
8. Education – school crossing - There is no need for them at proper crossings (school crossing)

Start doing

1. Community care – equipment - no objection to a modest deposit for returnable equipment nor a donation for not returnable items.
2. Community care – equipment - refundable deposit sounds like a good idea, may encourage people to return the items too
3. Community safety – dogs - should be fines for dog fouling
4. Community safety – information - A good start would be educating the public on what is and isn't a police matter. (wardens)
5. CPP - SGovt – Cllrs - counsellors taking a pay cut to save money
6. Education – school - actually enforcing the active travel zone around New Elgin Primary, this would possibly mean you wouldn't need two part of people within such close proximity of each other. Enforcing this would stop the volume of traffic outside the school gates, (school crossing)
7. Governance – facilities - maybe charge them all a £1 a day to park their cars
8. Governance – facilities - you could start charging you workers to park in the car park that the public has to pay on the weekends
9. Governance – staff - slashing management posts would recoup more money to put towards retaining those who serve the public

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

Budget Consultation

Week 4

Priorities

1. Finance – comment - Is every penny of possible income being received, from council tax to funds from Holyrood, Westminster and Brussels?

Do differently

1. Education – catering - Paying for children's lunches online!! We have had to pay for lunches twice because tickets have gone lost
2. Governance – funding - Freeze on any expenditure above say £10,000 unless approved by the elected members who represent the public.
3. Governance – staff - better supervision in many departments could ensure better use of time
4. Governance – staff - Perhaps a nine day fortnight or other similar measures could be introduced for all support staff at all levels, so less job cuts but more money saved, half of each dept. off on a Friday
5. Governance – staff - think the upper areas of management or the tiers of management should be assessed in all departments before frontline services are decreased any further
6. Governance – staff - Too many chiefs kick out every 2nd manager one man could easily do the job
7. Governance – vehicles - Get rid of some of the pool cars there really isn't a need for that many
8. Housing – services - I don't see why the council go in and strip everything out and paint it all.
9. Roads – traffic - Bezack Street, in my opinion, would be better if it was a one way street
10. Waste – collection - bin men could do recycled rubbish pick-ups every 3 or 4 weeks instead of every 2 weeks

Stop doing

1. Finance - income - next time you sell off a building/ land don't agree to meet the costs of demolishing/ clearing it first

Start doing

1. environment – outsource - could push grass cutting etc. onto private companies
2. Governance – facilities - Charging for parking sounds a good idea for some staff members who are required to use their cars and regularly can't access pool cars, it could mean paying for several tickets per day during routine comings and goings. Lower grade staff would end up spending a fortune if spaces were available.
3. Governance – facilities - Start charging your staff for using the council car parks £1 per day
4. Governance – facilities - turning lights out in your buildings on a night for a start,
5. Governance – outsource - HR, Procurement and Legal could all be pooled without too many issues
6. Governance - outsource - sharing back room services with our neighbours in Highland or Aberdeenshire
7. Governance – outsource - time surely to link up with either Highland or Aberdeenshire and share the cost of such resources
8. Governance – procurement - that needs to be looked at is their vendor approval process and how much these private firms are charging them
9. Governance – quality - Make sure the employees do their job properly the first time
10. Governance – staff - And have a proper foreman going round worksite ensuring a 2 day job won't take 2 weeks

P=priorities Q1; D=differently Q2; Sp=Stop Q3; St=Start Q4; V=Volunteer Q5&6

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

Budget Consultation

11. Governance – staff - Cut the workforce by at least 30% across the board
12. Governance – staff - have a recruiting freeze for at least the next 10 years so that natural wastage will trim the workforce even more.
13. Governance – staff - more working from home if possible to reduce expensive office overheads and safer if roads are dangerous in winter
14. Governance – staff - Place an earnings ceiling for all employees that is in line with outside business
15. Governance – staff - replace the pension scheme with something more akin to what lesser mortals expect
16. Housing – affordable - There is an urgent need for more council houses to be built

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

Budget Consultation

Week 5

Priorities

1. Education – curriculum - But if a bigger school meant a larger variety of subjects....then surely that's better. It would be giving children a wider insight of what's available in the bigger world rather than a small selection of basic subjects with a 'one fits all' mentality
2. Education – curriculum - If it meant my kids got a better education and more variety then yes, bring it on! Do not believe there is any benefit whatsoever in schools with one or two classes, especially if they are going into a much larger high school (1 school)
3. Education – curriculum - Provided schools maintained e-learning in a controlled and disciplined environment within their walls then I cannot see a downside, only positive outcome for the pupils. Today's generation have so many advantages over previous, one of the many being technology available as a delivery route. (technology)
4. Education – funding - Cut costs now, and suffer the consequences down the line when those young people leave school without the skills necessary to function and thrive.
5. Education – funding - Education isn't about cost-cutting
6. Education – information - Education - so little communication comes from the school, apart from 5 minutes twice a year where the parents get to sit in front of a frazzled looking teacher
7. Education – quality - Aim for excellent teaching in people sized zones where everyone feels comfortable & valued from the bairns to parents to staff (1 school)
8. Education – quality - How about aiming for excellence rather than ticking boxes. Class sizes, whilst meeting the government guidelines are a joke
9. Education – quality - How can one teacher effectively guide over 30 individuals and foster a decent learning environment
10. Education – school - Absolute waste of time, buildings and resources to move everything from where it already is (1 school)
11. Education – school - an awful idea (1 school)
12. Education – school - Bigger is not always better! I personally don't like the idea, pupils will just be like cattle at a cattle ranch....herd them in and herd them out (1 school)
13. Education – school - by having to construct buildings to accommodate that number of children you are talking about and the additional cost of transportation would surely be an issue would it not? (1 school)
14. Education – school - Fine if you live close to school, not so much if it means adding up to 3 hours on to the school day for pupils that require busses!! (1 school)
15. Education – school - I don't agree with one big 'super' school the travel logistics alone would be difficult. (1 school)
16. Education – school - I really do think a larger school with a wider variety of subjects and choice is more beneficial to prepare children for a huge world that is there for them to conquer (1 school)
17. Education – school - it is the education of the kids....however, that can suffer when kids become overwhelmed and unable to cope by the large numbers of pupils and more diverse characters that they haven't spent a cosy 7 years with in a classroom. Also, it can be a case that issues are picked up in high school that have gone unnoticed in small primary schools because of the smaller pupil: teacher ratio, and by that time it can often be too late to benefit from help
18. Education – school - It may save number shortages but what about 1 to 1 feedback, further support. How can a teacher get to know their pupils to ensure the curriculum is being delivered to suit the learners needs (1 school)
19. Education – school - It would devastate rural communities where the schools play a vital role (1school)

P=priorities Q1; D=differently Q2; Sp=Stop Q3; St=Start Q4; V=Volunteer Q5&6

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

Budget Consultation

20. Education – school - it would maybe make sense to have just one big primary and one big secondary school per town. I don't agree with having one Moray super school
21. Education – school - Kids need nurture. I'm not sure that these 'super campuses' can deliver that effectively (1 school)
22. Education – school - Less schools = more available teachers (1 school)
23. Education – school - Make the best of what we already have (1 school)
24. Education – school - Merging schools to tick boxes is not in the best interests of the children. Moray Council needs to preserve the small primary schools it has left as these are where children thrive
25. Education – school - No we love our school (1 school)
26. Education – school - no! Stop closing the wee schools. A school is the heart of a community. (1 school)
27. Education – school - No, absolutely not (1 school)
28. Education – school - Our children are our future and they deserve to have opportunities and facilities on their doorstep (1 school)
29. Education – school - primary school is a different issue, children as young as 4 could not possibly be asked to commute to one central moray location (1 school)
30. Education – school - Schools are the hub of our communities. The previous proposal to zone children from Portknockie and Findochty to a new school in Cullen would have destroyed those villages
31. Education – school - smaller is best (1 school)
32. Education – school - Stop trying to maximise size to minimise cost! (1 school)
33. Education – school - surely teenagers would be able to cope with travel (1 school)
34. Education – school - There may we'll be too many schools in Moray but to close them all in favour of one school is ludicrous
35. Education – school - Why not pick the centre of Moray and build it there (1 school)
36. Education – school - Without schools, the likelihood of families moving to a small town or village diminished
37. Education – school - you will have seen the effect of education cuts & staffing issues as a result of this. Town halls , church halls & community centres could all just as easily act as hubs for a community it doesn't have to be a school.
38. Education – staff - the cuts to support for learning teachers and education auxiliaries?? That's the real problem. Children are failing and being written off due to their being no money in the pot
39. Education – staff - there must be support in place for pupils who need it or some sort of provision made
40. Education – transport - Having thousands of kids unnecessarily on the roads each day is also a bad thing in my opinion. Adding additional time to an already exhausting day for kids (1 school)
41. Governance – equitable - I believe that rural areas bear an unfair brunt of council cuts and this is just another lot of unfair discriminatory reductions
42. Governance – leadership - You cannot save the £ms without taking some unpopular decisions. The worst decision is always not make any decision at all !!
43. P - Education – staff - Children need the opportunity to form a bond with their teacher...teachers need time to get to know their pupils. Not easy when the teachers are job sharing

Do differently

P=priorities Q1; D=differently Q2; Sp=Stop Q3; St=Start Q4; V=Volunteer Q5&6

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

Budget Consultation

1. Education – curriculum - Have children in school for a reasonable amount of time- breakfast club where children learn to cook, regular breaks from sitting down, PE every day, teaching comes in many forms, not just in a classroom
2. Education – curriculum - I'd like to see a hub school somewhere rural so that kids get to benefit from things like forest and nature education
3. Education – curriculum - If the systems were 100% reliable and children could turn up to class and be guaranteed that they would actually get a class, then it might work. Wouldn't want to see children being expected to do classes from home as it would be socially isolating. (technology)
4. Education – curriculum - Use our great landscapes to encourage learning- forests, mountains and beaches. Stop using health and safety and risk assessment s as excuses for keeping our children indoors, no wonder we have so many young people with mental health problems
5. Education – estate - I'm not adverse to the closure of small rural schools that are costing a fortune and running on half capacity. A huge percentage of the children at these rural schools are out with their catchment area
6. Education – estate - Instead of closing smaller schools why not bus kids from overcrowded schools out to smaller schools. Education should be more important than location to parents so shouldn't be a problem
7. Education – funding - Charge school fees as well as for books etc.
8. Education – funding - Invest early so needs are met from P1, this will be cheaper in the long run.
9. Education – school - How about Finland?? 5 hours a day (75mins of that as breaks), don't start school till age 7, max class for science classes is 16 and they have a 93% graduation rate
10. Education – school - Huge schools never have been & never will be the solution. Look at the countries where education seems to do well & schools with their communities are valued & do well.
11. Education – school - Take examples from the Scandinavian learning system, which is consistently considered the best in the world (1 school)
12. Education – school - Teachers could spend one day a week (or whatever) covering their subject. Their travel expenses would still be cheaper than building a new school and having more empty buildings (1 school)
13. Education – school - we need to look at the Scandic countries and how their education system (successfully) works and preferably without the all-expenses paid trips out there!
14. Education – schools - school hours could be brought into alignment.
15. Education – staff - move these teachers into our town primary schools in order to support the vast majority of young children in their education

Stop doing

1. Education – school crossing - I believe it is a parents responsibility to get a child to school not the councils (school crossing)

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

Budget Consultation

Week 6

Priorities

1. CPP -services - Sort the school, hospitals and pavements first; those who need to or want to drive should be able to use snow tires or chains if necessary and as a working professional who uses a car for commuting, I wouldn't have problems with a change in the councils priorities
2. Economic development – tourism - Grounds maintenance needs to be given a larger budget again to help make sure the tourists come back and spend their money here.
3. Government - services - Use council money to grit roads instead of squads of gardeners weeding roundabouts etc. Plants on roundabouts are a danger as you can't see through them
4. Infrastructure – gritting - roads must be kept as well as the pavement (gritting)

Do differently

1. Roads - gritting - All roads that are bus routes should be done first as some people may then use the bus to avoid driving on icy roads, then roads and pavements in towns and villages. More grit bins in all villages would be helpful as people could then spread it about themselves
2. Roads – gritting - put a decent amount of grit and salt down at a time saving the need to do them twice per day every day and use the time freed up to do other routes (gritting)
3. Waste – collection - The blue and purple bins need to be bigger and also a bin for glass rather than the wee boxes

Start doing

1. Community – engagement (gritting) - Maybe do a poll and find out which areas are worse affected School routes, high street route, also think as a disable person who needs to get about, and parents with push chairs and prams. (gritting)
2. Community - gritting - Doing your own wee bit brings back a sense of community which sadly has disappeared from many towns (gritting)
3. Community - gritting - Drop some grit/salt to my place I will happily do the road and pavement
4. Community - gritting - Follow Germanys way you are responsible for clearing the bit outside your own home (gritting)
5. Community - gritting - I think we should all take responsibility. Councils responsibility to maintain the roads and pavements but surely not to clear it all (gritting)
6. Community - gritting - If we could go up to depot to get bags of grit we would do our own pavement (gritting)
7. Community - gritting - In Germany, the householder is duty bound to clear the public pavement running the length of his house every time it snows (gritting)
8. Community - gritting - the majority of householders and shops could probably keep their own small section of pavement clear with a few exceptions which would be totally understandable (gritting)
9. Community - gritting - When it comes to pavements, I believe that the person whose property fronts on to that pavement should be responsible. Obviously exceptions would need to be made for the elderly and those less able. I believe it works in many Mainland European countries.
10. Infrastructure – gritting - School playgrounds should get done as a priority and council should supply residents with salt so that we could salt our own pavements and steps (gritting)
11. Waste – penalties - think if anyone puts items in the wrong skip they should get fined. You see scrap metal in the general waste. That's where the council make extra money back

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

Budget Consultation

Week 7

Priorities

1. Community facilities – leisure - These services should not be cut nor closed they provide education, fitness social wellbeing to all ages
2. Community facilities – libraries - Libraries not only provide crucial free access to books, they also actively encourage reader development for all ages, with an aim to improving literacy for all ages. Plus they provide free computer access as well as myriad other services, the vast majority of which are free. I believe many people take it for granted that every household owns a computer and can afford to pay for broadband every month - this is simply not the case
3. Community facilities – libraries - libraries should be something which must be provided & accessible to everyone. There are models to follow from areas with more problems than Moray, Agree Orkney is an excellent example
4. Community facilities – libraries - Please don't shut down anymore libraries
5. Community facilities – libraries - Save Our Libraries Moray
6. Community facilities – libraries - To close the libraries in smaller towns would deprive those in more isolated areas of access to these crucial services. To those who are less well off, the free services provided by the libraries are hugely important
7. CPP - services - Protect the services that help us keep healthy, and feed our minds
8. CPP – SGov - funding - A stand should be made to the government's to stop spending money they don't have and maybe give more powers to councils to be accountable for their wastage and budgets
9. CPP – SGovt - funding - all the UK council to come together and say no to anymore cuts
10. CPP - SGovt - Tell the SNP to stop the Council Tax freeze
11. Governance – comment - Spend less
12. Governance - comment - Waste less

Do differently

1. Community facilities – access - Adjusting hours so more could use them yes not cutting! Other uses should be extended (libraries)
2. Community facilities – community centres - Forres community centre used to have a table tennis, snooker and pool table which I don't think we're available for the public to use. I would be quite happy to pay a fee to use these if they were available
3. Community facilities – funding- if we want services to continue then we have to pay for them, doesn't council tax pay for things like libraries
4. Community facilities – libraries - A central county library would work with perhaps one mobile library visiting each town once a week
5. Community facilities – libraries - Cutting the hours like someone suggested could make sense and making their 'study' areas/rooms available for other groups to use for meetings etc. at a nominal charge
6. Community facilities – libraries - Elgin library is a good example of how one service can accommodate many and be viable smaller libraries just aren't sustainable any longer
7. Community facilities – libraries - I love the book bug sessions for children but if libraries were incorporated into leisure centres etc. would be good as a community hub
8. Community facilities – libraries - I think the library service should be maintained there could be different hours as a lot of people work and children are at school during the day maybe open 12 til 7 weekdays and all day Saturday or something similar, craft or reading sessions that are charged for.

P=priorities Q1; D=differently Q2; Sp=Stop Q3; St=Start Q4; V=Volunteer Q5&6

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

Budget Consultation

9. Community facilities – libraries - I'd also happily pay a small fee to be a member for my daughter and myself or indeed pay a small fee to access e books to my kindle. (library)
10. Community facilities – libraries - If you want a model of a thriving and inspiring library service have a look at Orkney Library & Archive
11. Community facilities – libraries - I'm sure if it was easier to use, more frequently updated with new titles and even cost a few pence for each book downloaded, there would be a way forward. City of Edinburgh model is much much easier to use! (library)
12. Community facilities – libraries - Libraries should look like places where individuals and groups can access online information using individual devices and interactive screens as well as providing access to published works that are not available online. Licensing is a big issue for libraries with regard to online content
13. Community facilities – libraries - The library provision which is currently fragmented between the Library and Information Service and individual secondary school librarians could be integrated to prevent duplication of costs and provide an efficient use of professional knowledge and smarter working practices.
14. Community facilities – libraries - the majority of children have access to the internet for reference along with their school library....along with older youths with college access. The only way a library to survive is to get people to do one thing....use it or lose it but unfortunately the majority won't
15. Community facilities – libraries - The only way you will see a library succeed is to see money spent on upgrading books constantly but at the moment it's hard enough to even keep them open let alone upgrade the books
16. Community facilities – libraries - Why can't libraries be incorporated in to community centres / leisure facilities? They would need to be scaled down but surely that's better than not having them
17. Community facilities – libraries and leisure - Close the libraries and spend out on the leisure facilities. They no longer can compete with google and online reading. you can use the internet for more benefit than a library and unfortunately the library is a point for the past. these days I'd rather see a street sweeper out than another leisure facility
18. Community facilities – services - The comparisons with Highlife Highland are interesting. I am aware that the organisation manages the leisure and entire library provision (including schools) and have heard that it has the benefit of facilitating innovative services across traditionally separate services like community centres, libraries and sport facilities.
19. Community facilities – services - Why not make a dedicated Heritage Centre which locals and tourists alike could share and enjoy? There is plenty of call for such a facility, and it would bring a much needed service to the town. Don't forget about Leisure and Community Centres too, these provide places for folk of all ages to use and come together. If all three were utilized to their full potential, they could grow and bring out talent and abilities in all skills and age groups. As good as Kindles etc., are for holidays, hospitals or travel, they cannot replace libraries, archives, leisure and community centres. Please see these as assets and put as much into them as possible, these cannot be done without
20. Governance – efficiency - the council should look at the productivity of other areas and make adjustments elsewhere than to keep hurting public services.
21. Roads – quality - Do the road maintenance with proper tarmac not the spray it might be cheaper at the time but if you look at the cost at the end of the year with how many times you have had to go back. You could of done it with proper tarmac.
22. Waste – collection - Also food waste causes flies so if the brown bin was emptied more regularly folks may put less food in green bin too.

P=priorities Q1; D=differently Q2; Sp=Stop Q3; St=Start Q4; V=Volunteer Q5&6

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FROM FACEBOOK

Budget Consultation

23. Waste – collection - If recycling bins were emptied weekly rather than fortnightly then that may encourage householders to use the recycling bins. This could mean less rubbish going in the green bin.
24. Waste – collection - Need more recycling bins out and about, town centres, parks etc.
25. Waste – collection - The savings in landfill tax could outweigh any additional costs of more frequent recycling collections.

Stop doing

1. Community facilities – leisure - I really think the independent non-profit making company running the leisure departments similar to Highlands Hilife company is the way forward
2. Community facilities – leisure - The leisure facilities could be hived off into a separate non-profit making organisation that could continue the success of the Fit Life scheme. Perhaps Moray Leisure Centre could come under the same umbrella so that its users could benefit from the Fit Life scheme also. The council could then provide a grant towards the running costs as I believe it currently does with Moray Leisure Centre
3. Community facilities – MLC - Moray Leisure Centre coming up for renegotiation of contract for 2018 and inability to connect with the views of public or council, I'd be right on the front line to see a CAT

Start doing

1. Community safety – community justice - Keep planting wild flowers. Can the community service lot not be put to use for things like this?
2. Finance – council tax- a smaller increase of say 2% per year would be ok but not the massive 18%
3. Governance – Cllrs - new fresh approach from new admin.(also cut down on size?) may be the start of a solution? And let the people on the street decide what is suggested and definitely not behind closed doors?
4. Governance – estate - maybe you should auction off these properties with no reserve and money raised should go to keeping what's left of our libraries and sports facilities open property Moray council owns but has overpriced and subsequently been left empty and falling into disrepair