



**Plans and Budgets Consultation
15 August – 30 September 2021**

(Image shows a word cloud generated from the comments received in Social Pinpoint)



1. Background

The principle of consulting on plans and budget priorities was agreed at Angus Council on 17 December 2020 ([report 330/20](#)) and the methodology and content for the consultation was agreed at Angus Council on 24 June 2021 ([report 215/21](#)).

The methodology agreed comprised of a three-pronged approach:

Strand 1) We used the Delib Simulator tool to test it out and get feedback from the public on some of our existing Council Plan priorities.

Strand 2) We used the Social Pinpoint tool to share key information about the Council's plans, budgets and challenges to enable an online conversation to take place with the public.

Strand 3) We offered a phone-in/online questions and answer session where the public were able to contact us to ask questions about our existing plans and budgets and hopefully have them answered there and then, or if not, answers can be posted later

2. Results

Summary

The tool was advertised extensively across Angus Council social media channels of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram between 16 August and 29 September.

10 posts on Facebook
7 posts on Twitter (2xconsultation)
3 posts on Instagram

Total of 20 posts obtained a combined Reach of 57,615 with over 9,000 engagements (a like, click or share). This is low to moderate reach for an Angus Council post and reflects the Facebook algorithm deselecting posts which take users out of Facebook's platform.

The frequency of the messages reflects the relative size of the Angus Council audience following across those channels. Each post promoted the engagement platforms, the non-digital channels available and finally the online engagement offered.

Image below shows 9,000 engagements across social media, the online budget tools, the live event and via the council's dedicated webpages.



2.1. Strand 1) Delib Simulator

Summary:

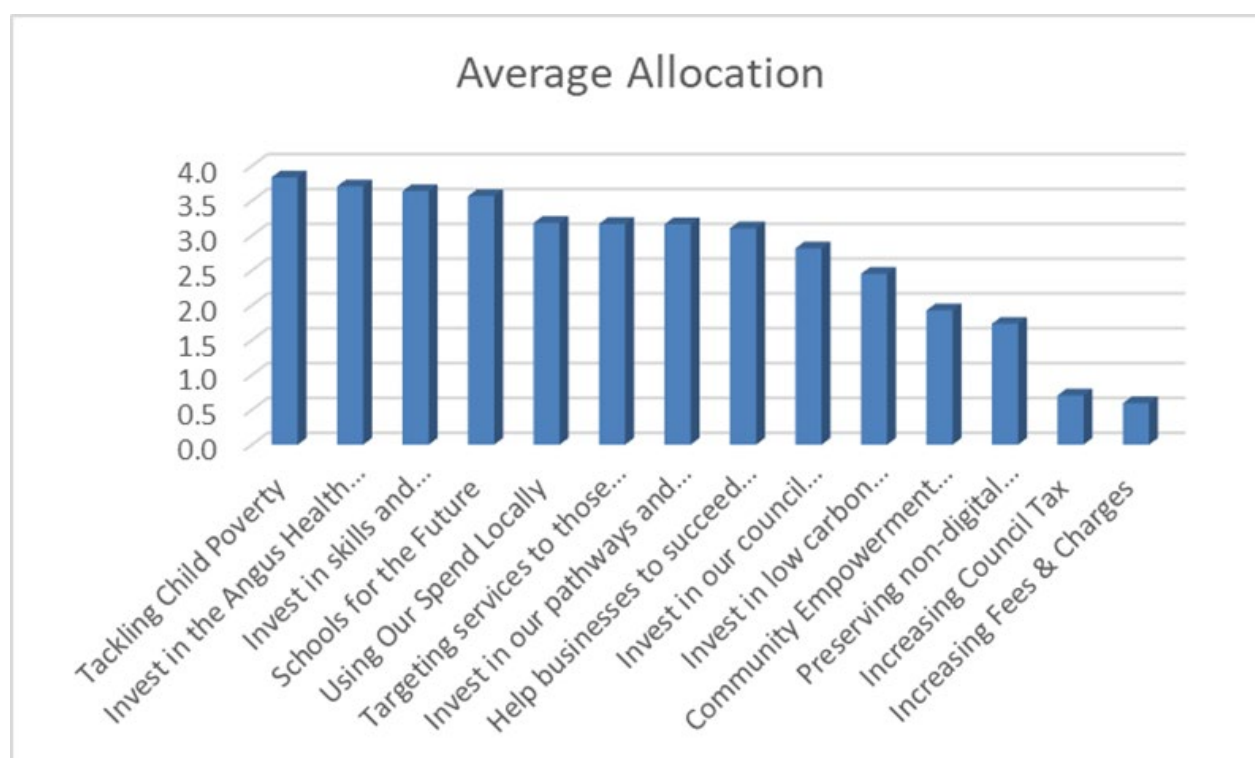
- 208 completed responses
- 15 final comments and free text
- No duplicate IP addresses (i.e. no 'block' voting)
- High demographics engagement
- Clear evidence of understanding of how the tool worked

Table 1. the Average Points Allocation

Group	Item	Average Allocation
Our Economy	Tackling Child Poverty	3.8
Our Economy	Invest in the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership	3.7
Our Economy	Invest in skills and employability, particularly for young people	3.6
Our People	Schools for the Future	3.6
Our People	Using Our Spend Locally	3.2
Our People	Targeting services to those most in need	3.2

Our Places	Invest in our pathways and roads, particularly to encourage active forms of travel	3.2
Our Places	Help businesses to succeed in Angus	3.1
Our Places	Invest in our council housing stock and build more homes	2.8
Our Council	Invest in low carbon transport and technology	2.5
Our Council	Community Empowerment and Participatory Budgeting	1.9
Our Council	Preserving non-digital methods of communicating with us	1.7
Raising Income	Increasing Council Tax	0.7
Raising Income	Increasing Fees & Charges	0.6

Table 2. Graph to illustrate information shared above



Demographic Information

The following questions were asked to allow an assessment of inclusivity for the survey. They were based on those asked by Police Scotland and NHS Scotland for their national consultations. All questions were optional and did not require completion to submit an entry.

Where are you based?

Ward	Number
Arbroath East and Lunan	23
Arbroath West, Letham and Friockheim	22
Brechin and Edzell	24
Carnoustie and District	13
Forfar and District	52
Kirriemuir and Dean	21
Monifieth and Sidlaw	21
Montrose and District	15
Prefer not to say/blank	17
Total	208

Which of the following best describes you?

Gender Identity	
Bisexual	4
Gay	4
Heterosexual	162
Lesbian	1
Other	2
Pref not say/blank	35
	208

What is your age?

Age Range	
16-19	3
19-29	14
30-39	44
40-49	64
50-59	45
60-69	13
70+	5
Pref not say/blank	20
	208

Would you consider yourself to have a disability?

Disability?	
Yes	25
No	161

Prefer not to say/blank	22
Total	208

Which of the following best describes your ethnic background?

Ethnicity	
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	1
Other	4
White Scottish/British/Irish/Welsh	178
White other	4
Prefer not to say/blank	21
Total	208

Final Comments/Free Text

Final Comments on Simulator (free text)

1. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to make comments
2. Please don't allow this consultation to allow you to be led by the mob. I share my opinions but only hope that you will consider them. Position builders in the admin at the council and our reps on the council are the best folk to set the agenda. You have the information and the data use it in our best interests. Please let your biases be in favour of what's best for the people on the street and not simply liberal progressive ideals. Like the bit at the end of this where you ask my sexual inclination. Why is that relevant to my opinions on your use of my money, it's not it's just you pandering to an agenda. Pls take care of which agendas you work within.
3. Where we place funds should be to help those most vulnerable and giving everyone equal opportunities to grow in this county. I understand why people place so much importance well some councillors do on cycle lanes and making the town more eco-friendly. Which I agree to a certain extent but not when we still have a huge amount of children in poverty, people suffering from mental health or simply need a bed in a care home and cannot get one. Please look at the fact that Angus needs help with education and social care and social housing it isn't fair that in this day in age that we are still talking about these social inequalities.
4. Angus councillor must make the climate crisis as a priority. There is no life on a dead planet. All spends need to be sustainable. Retro fitting all houses should be a priority. No planning permission should be given to houses which use gas. Bus and train travel should be supported. More importance should be placed on social care than businesses
5. Big projects need wider community involvement in shaping the proposals, but also in making the decisions.
6. Key themes are combating climate change, increasing employment and incomes, improving personal resilience and wellbeing to reduce demand and improve lives with investment in people and communities as much as possible.

Intention to help people thrive reducing demand from things like looked after children, substance misuse, criminal justice, social care and simultaneously grow Angus employment and incomes to increase tax take and deliver financial sustainability.

7. focus on those that need us most.
8. By investing in local businesses and economy, you will boost overall spend in the region and lead to upskilling of young people and new jobs. Help small businesses thrive and adapt. Do not waste money on vanity projects like the cycle path through Arbroath.
9. Some of the budget to be spent in Brechin area would be a nice change.
10. While raising income from the community the council must be ruthless on cost control in particular member expenses and massive executive salaries while the community suffer falling incomes and rising pricing on a never ending basis.
11. Angus Council needs to start involving the public more in decision-making, rather than making decisions behind closed doors, without even acknowledging objections when they are made.
12. Including Birkhill with Monifieth puts it at a disadvantage as they are nowhere near each other and not remotely convenient so e.g. summer offering for children or leisure facilities etc are miles away so not accessible
13. I feel while some people are on benefits that are completely needing of them and am glad they are able to get the help required there is a culture of generations that have not worked a day because that is how they have been raised and they see how to make it work to their advantage. They need taught to want to work. I know it sounds harsh but it's the harsh reality and one of the biggest reasons for child poverty
14. Health and Social Care and preventing child poverty should be the main priorities over the next few years and these need to be adequately funded. Having additional suitable housing will also help to tackle poverty.

2.2. Strand 2) Social Pinpoint

- 22 comments were received
- 2 IP addresses were listed twice (two individuals left two comments) – this is allowed by the tool

Comments/Questions from Social Pinpoint

1. Child poverty Summer plans and follow what fife council did before covid. They opened certain schools for free lunches during summer. There was also summer activities which included giving free pack lunches out. These activities included outdoor messy play, marshmallow cooking and other outdoor sports. These were helped by local groups like brownies/scouts, homestart and other local groups. The lockdowns have increased poverty but also obesity in children and family due to the lack of exercise.
2. More social groups for children with additional needs. The lack of these makes a lot of children feel isolated. There are lots of extracurricular activities that are not

accessible for children with additional needs in 2021 shouldn't we be making every child feel included?

3. Birkhill needs better facilities for children and adults. A basketball/multi use court and skate park (similar to the one beside The Lynch Centre in Dundee) would be excellent. There is a large space beside the Millenium Hall and there would still be plenty of grass for the football pitches. With Birkhill being part of Monifieth and Sidlaw, the facilities 'available' are miles away so not at all accessible

4. Please can the library service be looked at?? Angus Alive is running it into the ground, opening hours are at a minimum and this used to be an excellent service - people who need to use library for computer & printing facilities are being disadvantaged.

5. A larger proportion on council tax revenue should be redirected to local community councils.

6. Monifieth receives a paltry peppercorn rebate of £680 a year to service local community events and organised community meetings.

7. It costs over £2000 a year to organise the local Christmas event

8. Why does it take so many Officials and Elected Members to set and agree a budget? Surely this is a waste of time, effort and just another unnecessary cost and drain on an over stretched budget.

9. Officials and Elected Members must remember assets belong to the people/community of Angus. Therefore, they must be looked after and disposed of efficiently and in the most cost effective and profitable way. Leaving assets/property empty is an ongoing cost which drains an already depleted budget. (8&9 have same IP address)

10. Angus adults and children have very few all-weather sports facilities in their communities that are lit up and free to use throughout the winter.

11. Apart from a small skate park at the abandoned leisure centre in Forfar, there are no facilities that is free to use throughout the winter in Forfar. No Multi Use Game Areas, no astro pitches, no basketball courts. To play sports on such facilities with a group of friends, you must pay Angus Alive to use their facilities. (10 & 11 have same IP address)

12. Access to the Forfar Community Campus is not easy for many in Forfar due to its location.

13. The dark and cold nights are approaching fast, and kids and adults will be forced indoors as they have no facilities to meet up and use unless they pay Angus Alive for the privilege.

14. I would suggest taking some of the budget from Angus Alive and investing this directly into the communities that are most disadvantaged.

15. Also ensuring there are safe walking and cycling routes to Forfar Community Campus.

16. Having seen media reports that Moray Council is investigating ways to combat the seagull nuisance which as we have all seen is growing year on year, the smell, the mess, dead seagulls in the roads, the noise which at times is particularly bad at 2,3,4 in the morning, aggressive seagulls attacking people and their pets etc etc is Angus Council also going to look into this issue which is effecting many people in Angus?

17. Seagulls are fine, but the sheer numbers are a problem.

18. Can you please look at investing into our local swimming clubs, who have been impacted hugely during the pandemic and we're one of the last sports allowed to re-open. These clubs are vital not only for teaching valuable lifesaving skills, but for promoting sport, fitness and community. Since the easing of most restrictions, Angus Alive have given our local clubs less pool time than ever before, which will eventually lead to a loss of swimmers, in turn fees, in turn clubs having to close down

19. Please look at rural bus services. Our local service has stopped leaving you people struggling to get to college and elderly people cut off from services they once enjoyed.

20. There was a budget set for bathroom replacements for all council houses. Is this budget still available for this?

21. I would like to see more groups directed towards additional education and support for children and adults also groups directed towards creative pursuits such as creative writing and arts and crafts.

22. I feel it is important for Carnoustie and Monifieth District should have a recycle centre somewhere in between with a non-recyclable skip due to size of both areas and to save on our travel footprint to Arbroath. Both areas are expanding over the next few years with all the new builds. This would also take pressure off the already busy Arbroath site.

All comments were acknowledged via the platform.

2.3. Strand 3) phone-in/online questions and answer session

Summary

- No responses were received from libraries
- No calls were received on free phone line
- Three participants at online engagement which ran on Wednesday 29 September
- Communities' teams, other frontline services, community councils and third sector partners were sent a link to book a place (in addition to the online tools)
- All councillors were sent the link to share with constituents

Live (online) engagement

Five people responded. One mistook the date and one only wanted to leave a comment (below)

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform

"Priorities for budget are defo invest it in homes not parks, statues etc. Your wooden doors and windows are severely outdated and constantly needs repair let's water in Borrowfield area, Montrose, especially kitchen and bathrooms renovated to vacant properties are getting them why not invest and spend time on your long-term paying tenants. Brechin is ahead of Montrose"

Feedback from the attendants was positive:

Angus Council Budget Consultation Event Feedback form

Thank you for taking part in our first live budget consultation event on Wednesday 29 September. Please take the time to answer the following questions to help us learn from this event and improve for the future.

1. Did you welcome the opportunity to put questions to senior officers?

Yes

a. Why?

It is good to get an opportunity to speak to senior officers.

2. Did you find the event informative?

Yes

a. Why?

Interesting to find out how the budget is split between Different departments.

3. Did you find the answers helpful and were they sufficiently detailed?

The answers were helpful, more detail would have been good about actual priorities.

3. What was the best thing about it?

Officers appeared happy to talk to the public.

4. What was the worst thing about it?

More time would have been good.

5. How do you think we could improve in the future?

Try and attract more

members of the public.

6. Any further comments?

More of this type of event would be good to get information out to the and vice versa

Due to the small number of participants, it was decided not to share via You Tube.