

## **Moray Council Budget Consultation**

### **Public Roadshows, Public Workshops Activity 2 & Suggestion Forms**

A series of 8 public roadshows were held across Moray, one in each Associated School Group (ASG) area, at which members of the public could discuss budget issues with senior officers and elected members and make suggestions as to where and how savings could be made.

Following on from the Roadshows, a series of workshops were held across Moray, again one for each ASG area, plus an additional one for S5/S6 school pupil representatives. Attendees divided into groups and undertook three activities with the assistance of a facilitator from the Council. Activities 1 and 3 are discussed later but Activity 2 enabled participants to discuss issues and similarly to the roadshows, make suggestions for service areas they wished to protect and those where savings could be made.

In addition there was a suggestion form available online and at the roadshows, which members of the public could complete to contribute their ideas for savings.

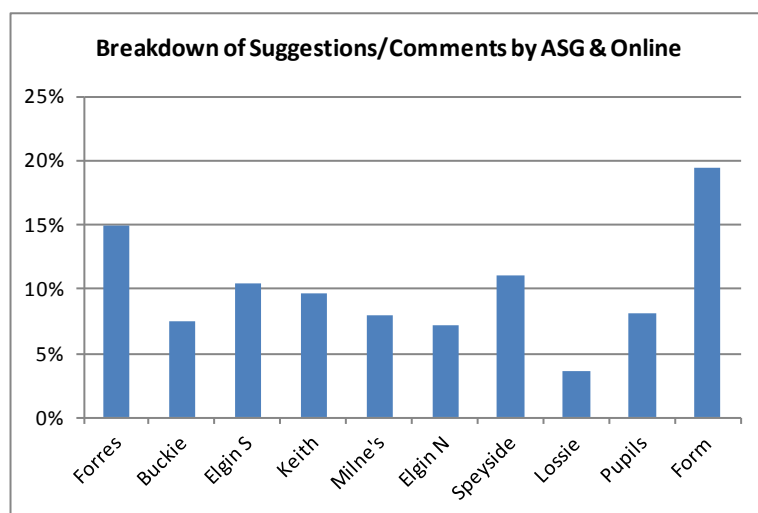
The suggestions from all three sources have been combined together with the comments made by a number of Budget Challenge participants. They were then sorted according to service area and service sub-area using the service breakdown that was shown on the current expenditure pie chart on the Moray Council website. Comments that related to more than one service were duplicated and assigned to all the relevant services.

The “Other” category covers comments in 3 sub-areas: benefits (housing and council tax); general comments that did not relate to any specific service; and partners – comments relating to other agencies.

In total there were 1,439 suggestions/comments received, broken down by ASG/suggestion form as shown.

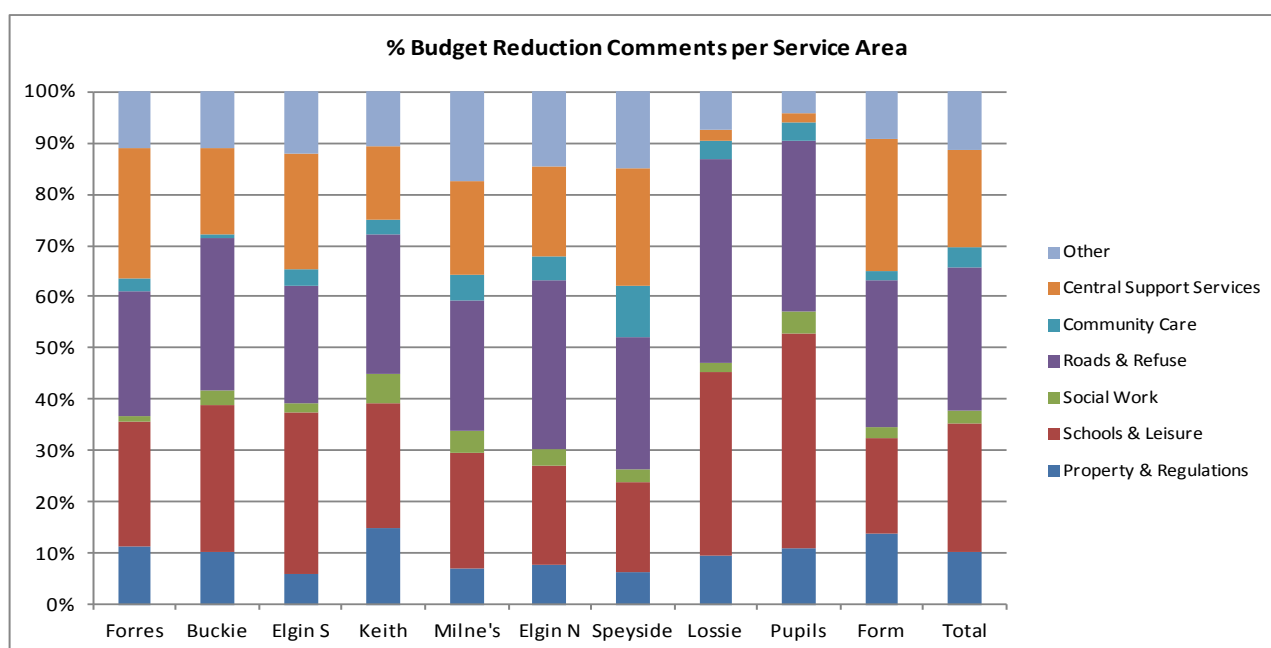
There was a low turnout at the Lossiemouth roadshow, perhaps because it was the first to take place, hence there were only a few suggestions received.

A breakdown for the whole of Moray by service area indicates 3 services in particular where the public feel budget savings could be made: Roads and Refuse, Schools & Leisure and Central Support Services attracting 28%, 25% and 19% of comments respectively.



The Other category received 11% of comments, Property & Regulations received 10% and Community Care and Social Work received 4% and 3% respectively.

A similar breakdown for each ASG area highlights that the same three service areas were identified as most popular for budget savings by all but 2 ASGs and the pupils. In both Keith, Lossiemouth and for the pupils Central Support Services was replaced with Property and Regulations.



An analysis of the suggestions/comments for each service for the whole of Moray reveals that there are particular sub-areas within services that the public have identified for budget savings. The following table details the sub-areas that attracted more than 20 comments (approx. 1.5% of the total) and the ASGs where more than 5% of comments related to that sub-area. The specific issues most commonly targeted within each sub-area are listed and the ASGs that mentioned those issues are shown. The number of comments made in total about each specific issue is also shown.

Service Area	Sub-Area	N°	ASG – 5% + of area comments	Issue	ASG – any mention	N°
Property & Regulations	Homelessness / Allocations	33	B	Repercussions if cause trouble / damage	B, EN, F, P	7
				Faster (re)-allocation / empty too long / move if circumstances change	B, EN, F, M, P	8
	Property Services	70	F, ES, S, L, O	Reduce heating in Council buildings (public & offices)	F, ES, K, M, EN, S, O	18
				Turn off lights	F, ES, K, M, S, O	12
				Greener / cheaper fuels	F, ES, EN, L, S, O	16
				Sell off / Combine offices	B, ES, K, M, S, P, O	15
Schools & Leisure	Primary Schools	94	F, B, ES, K, M, S, L, P, O	Close small / rural / under capacity / expensive schools	F, B, ES, K, M, EN, S, L, P, O	86

Schools & Leisure	Leisure Services	55	ES, M, L	Cease funding / review management of Moray Leisure Centre	F, B, K, M, EN, S, P, O	13
				Increase prices	F, B, ES, K, M, EN, O	10
				Reduce hours / Close facilities	ES, M, P, O	11
				Promote & run more like business / manage better	F, ES, K, S, L, O	9
	Libraries	39	P	Charge for library services, particularly internet use	F, B, ES, K, P, O	10
				Reduced service / close libraries	F, B, ES, K, M, EN, L, P, O	17
	Museums	23	P	Charge	F, P	9
				Reduce / close / transfer to community	F, ES, EN, S, P, O	12
	School Strategic Management	41	None	Reduce/merge management, staff and Head teachers	F, B, ES, K, M, EN, S, O	19
Roads & Refuse	Waste Management	110	F, B, ES, M, EN, L, P, O	Charge for bin collection	F, B, M, L, P	8
				Reduce collection frequency	F, B, ES, K, M, EN, S, O	19
				Encourage / increase recycling	F, B, ES, K, M, EN, S, L, P, O	31
				Incineration plant	B, ES, M, EN, S	6
				Increase fining for litter / dog fouling	F, ES, K, O	7
	Grounds Maintenance	59	B, ES, P, O	Reduce plants, grass verges gardening	F, B, ES, S, P, O	26
				Communities to maintain flower beds	F, B, ES, K, EN, S, L, P, O	18
	Building Cleaning & Catering	24	None	Charge for school meals	F, B, EN, S, L, O	8
				Economise on cleaning	B, K, EN, P, O	6
	Fleet Services	44	K	Don't allow staff to take vehicles home	F, B, ES, K, EN, S, O	13
				Better use of pool cars	F, K, S, L, O	11
				Review number of vehicles	F, B, K, EN, S,	6
	Roads Management & Maintenance	72	F, K, S, L, O	Reduce street lighting / length of time on	F, B, ES, K, M, EN, S, L, O	33
				Gritting /snow clearing done by residents / businesses	F, K, M, L	10
				Review frontline staffing	F, B, K, O	6
	Traffic & Transportation Management	40	None	Don't build Western Distributor Road	ES, K, M, EN, S, P, O	14
				Review parking charges	F, B, M, EN, S, P, O	9

Roads & Refuse	Public Transport Unit	33	K	Reduce / remove subsidies	F, B, ES, K, S	6
				Review School Transport / use for public too	B, ES, K, M, EN, S,	13
Central Support Services	Committee, Election & Members Support	21	None	Reduce members salaries / expenses / benefits	F, B, ES, K, M, S, O	12
	Payments & Procurement	28	F	Use consultants less – do in house	F, ES, K, M, P, O	17
				Procurement too expensive/unnecessary	F, ES, K, EN, S, P, O	14
	Human Resources	150	F, B, ES, K, M, EN, S, O	Reduce expenditure on managers – pay, expenses (trips), pensions	F, B, ES, K, M, EN, S, O	51
				Reduce working week	F, B, ES, EN, O	10
				Don't pay sick pay – first 1 or 2 days / at all	F, B, ES, EN, O	11
				Reduce workforce & or wages	F, ES, K, M, EN, S, O	25
	Chief Executive's, Policy & Governance	28	None	Reduce staff in Corporate Policy Unit	F, ES, K, M, EN, S, O	15
Other	General	100	F, ES, K, M, S, L, O	Spread cuts evenly / cut services cut less before	F, B, ES, K, M, L, O	11
				Use communities, voluntary groups more	F, B, ES, K, S, O	11
				Combine services with other LAs / agencies & remove duplication	F, B, ES, K, M, EN, S, L, P	19
	Partners	49	B, M, EN	Increase Council tax (e.g. lobby Alex Salmond to allow without penalisation)	F, B, ES, K, M, EN, S, O	13

F = Forres; B = Buckie; ES = Elgin South; K = Keith; M = Milne's; EN = Elgin North; S = Speyside; L = Lossiemouth; P = Pupils; O = Suggestion form

The extended summary of the suggestions is also attached – APPENDIX 2. Where similar suggestions were received they are grouped by denoting the number at the start of the suggestion e.g. if 5 people suggested reducing managers this is noted as 5 x reduce the number of managers.