

3. DELIVERING BETTER OUTCOMES CONSULTATION

A report had been circulated by the Chief Executive providing the Panel with an update on the feedback received from respondents as part of the Delivering Better Outcomes (2014) consultation.

The Panel was informed that the number of responses received by the close of the consultation period was 3,467. A breakdown of this figure by Type of Respondent was set out in Table 1 to the report.

The report also provided the following tables relating to the consultation responses:-

Table 2 A summary of the number of comments per respondent category, grouped under the associated PDSP.

Table 3 An analysis of the 16,098 comments allocated to the service areas which reported to the Partnership and Resources PDSP. It was noted that two of the fifteen measures had been reported to more than one PDSP.

Table 4 A summary of the categorised responses.

An analysis of all the comments allocated to the Partnership and Resources PDSP was set out in Appendix 2 and 3 to the report, and full details of the officer response to each comment was available to view online on the council's website.

The Chief Executive advised that, whilst there remained further work to be done in developing the measures and timescales for implementation, officers had identified, where applicable, the potential number of reductions on Full Time Equivalent (FTE) posts that would be required to deliver the proposed measure. The potential FTE posts and the measure was set out below in Table 5 within the report.

The Panel was asked to note that the council had a no compulsory redundancy position and all reductions in staffing would be managed in accordance with the council's Organisational Change policy.

The Chair then invited questions from Panel members on each of the measures shown in the tables within the report. The Chair indicated that he would invite comments at the conclusion of the question/answer session.

Questions raised by Panel members were then dealt with by the Chief Executive and members of the Corporate Management Team.

In relation to proposal 1s (Appendix 2) concerning Changes to Fixed Staff Holidays, the Depute Chief Executive undertook to provide Panel members with a breakdown by 'Type of Respondent' of the figures presented.

The Chief Executive recommended that the Panel note:-

1. the statistical information relation to the consultation (outlined in Appendix 1 to the report).
2. the high level summary of the comments and feedback received relevant to the remit of the Partnership and Resources PDSP (outlined in Appendix 2 to the report); and
3. that the consultation results would be used by the council to help balance its budget for the period to 2018.

The Chair thanked Panel members for their contributions. He advised that the consultation process had been helpful and that the results would be used by the council to help balance its budget for the period to 2018.

Councillor Johnston advised that the SNP Group did not support the measures outlined in the report and, specifically, proposed increased charges for swimming clubs. The SNP Group was not in favour of using Scottish average figures as a methodology for setting charges and had concerns that the public sector benchmarking data from SportScotland did not provide information about school pools only.

Finally, the GMB Representative advised that, while the Trade Union was supportive of the consultation process, he considered that there was a lack of detail presented to the Panel in relation to the specific measures identified.

Decision

To note the terms of the report and the contributions by Panel members.