

# Budget 2011/12 Consultation Report - SUMMARY

## Background

For public consultation on the 2011/12 budget Members agreed to use a single survey which would be made available online, printed in the Express & Echo and sent to the Wavelength panel. In total **1437** responses were received across the three methods. This response gives us statistically reliable data.

Responses by source

- **Wavelength 838**
- **Online 439**
- **Express & Echo 160**

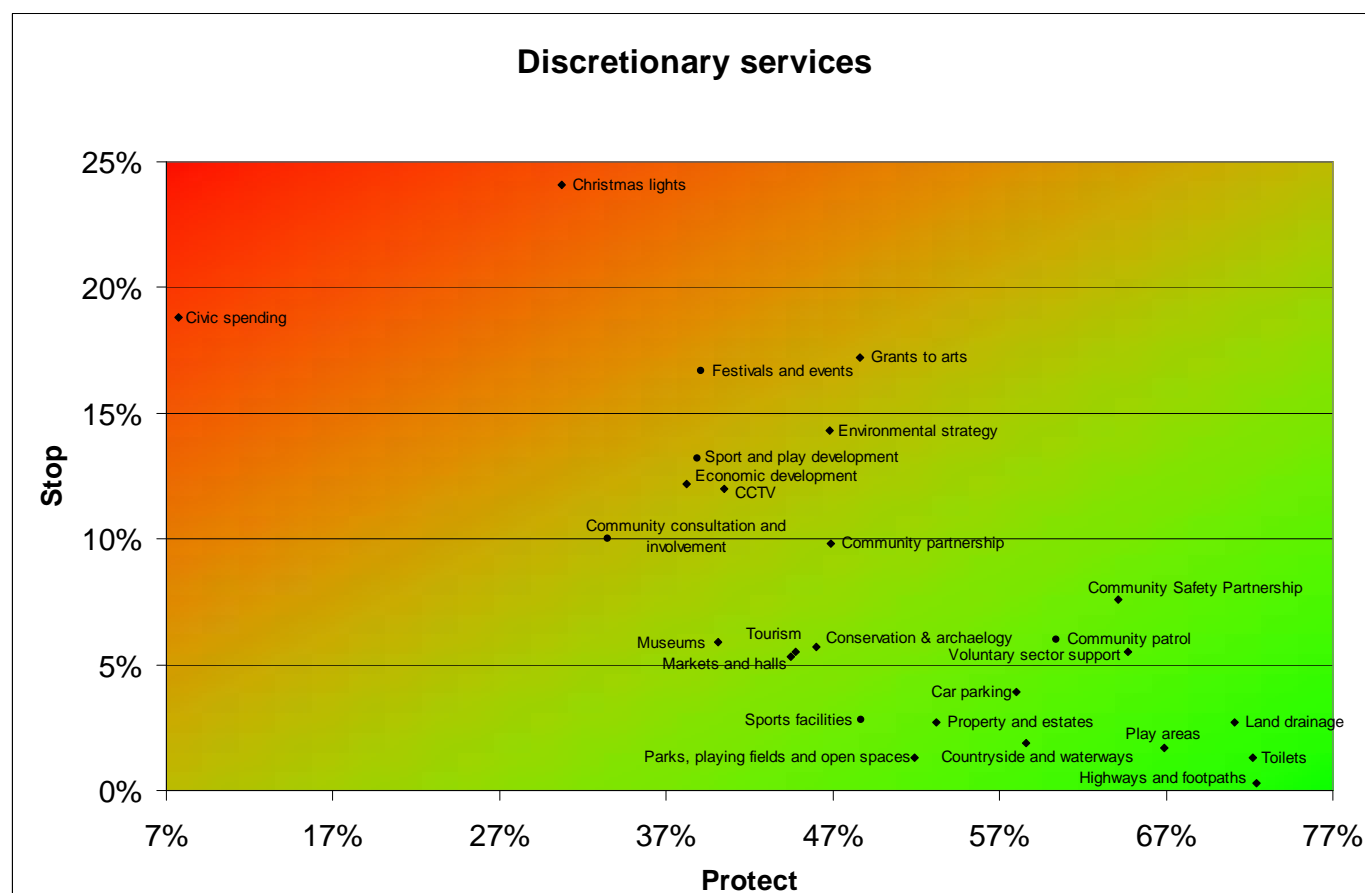
## Methodology

The 2010 budget consultation work consisted of a single survey which asked participants to decide whether to Protect, Reduce or Stop spending on identified service areas categorised by Treasury Services. Participants were given the costs and income associated with each area. Services which are statutory did not have a Stop option.

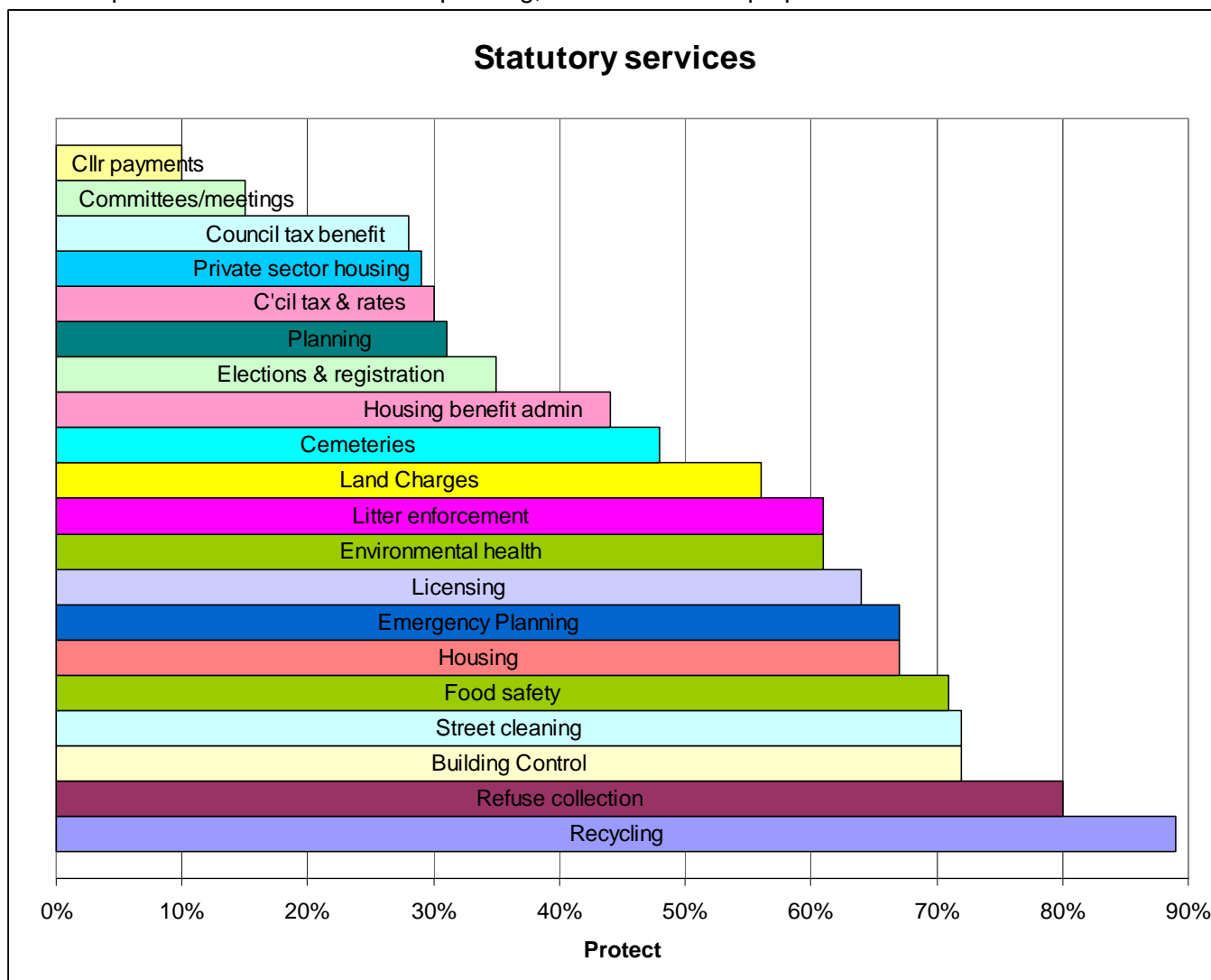
The survey was sent to the Wavelength panel at the end of September. The online survey went live on October 5 and the Express & Echo printed the survey in their edition of October 14.

## Tables and results

The graph below plots the Stop score against the Protect score for each discretionary service. This gives an indication of public priorities. Services in the bottom right corner are more valued than services in the top left.



The graph below shows the Protect score for statutory services. For these services, respondents only had the option to Protect or Reduce spending, there was no Stop option.



**Key Results**

- **Highways & Footpaths, Toilets and Land Drainage were the discretionary services that the public felt should be the most protected.**
- **Civic Spending was the least protected discretionary service.**
- **The discretionary services with the highest Stop scores were Christmas Lights and Civic Spending.**
- **Refuse Collection and Recycling were the statutory services with the highest protect scores.**
- **The statutory services the public felt least inclined to protect were Councillors Expenses & Allowances (Cllr payments) and Supporting Committees & Meetings (Committees/meetings).**

For a more detailed breakdown of these figures and a copy of the full report, please contact Rob Simmonds, Consultation Officer, ext 5891.