

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 12 January 2026

Question from: Malcolm Walker

Question to: Councillor Durrans, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities

QUESTION

FOI 53680 confirms that the Council holds no records showing how consultation responses on Item 3.2 were analysed, interpreted, or presented to decision-makers, and no evidence that Cabinet received disaggregated data distinguishing support for each disposal route. It also confirms that free-text comments were summarised without any documented codebook or methodology.

Given this absence of analytical records, what evidence did Cabinet rely upon to understand the pattern of public views on each disposal option, and how did it assure itself that the reported consultation findings were accurate, balanced, and not misleading?

Response

The Council undertook a comprehensive consultation as part of its financial planning and budget-setting process. This included an online survey, Facebook Live Question & Answer, attendance at ward forums, youth council, and parish council liaison meetings, aiming to reach all stakeholder groups, especially local taxpayers and service users. The survey sought views on the principle of the proposed saving, not on the specific method of disposal, and provided opportunities for free-text comments on each Directorate section.

The consultation was conducted at a formative stage, with sufficient information provided to enable intelligent consideration, and adequate time for responses. All feedback was conscientiously considered, including both quantitative and qualitative data, in line with the Gunning Principles.