

MILLOM TOWN COUNCIL RESPONSE TO COPLAND B.C. BUDGET CONSULTATION

<i>CBC Prepared Question</i>	<i>Millom Town Council Response</i>
<p>. Q1. We are working with residents and partners on investment plans for our four towns. What developments would you like to see in our town centres?</p>	<p>Complete the overdue PUBLIC REALM project in Millom Market Square using the funds originally set aside for this project and use the Town Deal funds for other improvements to heritage buildings to make them ‘workable’.</p>
<p>Q2. We are currently assessing our Beacon Museum and potential events. What activities or events would you like to see at the Beacon Museum?</p>	<p>This Project does not help the resident and council tax payers of Millom/South Copeland. If Council funding is short, find another funds. If funding is not short develop a visitor attraction within Millom Especially if the declared regeneration of Millom is as a <u>Tourist destination</u></p>
<p>Q3. Climate change concerns and affects all of us. We are considering planting trees and wild flowers in selected areas across the borough. Would you support this initiative?</p>	<p>Yes we would support this. However we would also support CBC initiating incentivised property regeneration schemes to reduce carbon footprint. And incentivise the installation of vehicle electric charging points.</p>
<p>Q4. Working with partners we are looking at signed public toilet provision in Whitehaven for the benefit of residents and</p>	<p>No! This work should be funded by Whitehaven Town Council as per other Towns /Parishes in the Borough.</p>

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<p>tourists. Do you feel this would be a positive project?</p>	<p>If the Borough support this then they MUST support the construction of public toilets elsewhere in the Borough.</p>
<p>Q5. It currently costs Copeland £110,000 per year to collect resident's brown (garden) bins. Should this service be chargeable or continue to be provided for free?</p>	<p>We support the continuation of free brown bin collections.</p>
<p>Q6. Since the Covid-19 pandemic our customer facing services have been conducted online and by phone. Understanding the use of modern digital technology and the resulting cost savings, would you want to see this way of conducting customer enquiries continue, or would you prefer face-to-face contact to resume when possible?</p>	<p>Both methods. However for those individuals who have no access to technology, make it freely available with training and centred at places like public libraries /churches/schools./village halls.</p>
<p>Q7. We propose a council tax increase of 1.95 per cent, which is less than the rate of inflation. We need to increase our share</p>	<p>Yes we support an increase at this level provided CBC demonstrates efficiency improvements. And set improvement targets ahead with published levels</p>

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<p>of council tax in order to maintain the services we provide for you.</p>	
<p>Q8. The UK Government has invited the six district authorities and the County Council to submit proposals in respect of the creation of unitary authorities for Cumbria. Our preferred option is two unitary authorities, with an overarching combined authority lead by a Directly Elected Mayor. We would welcome your comments on these proposals.</p>	<p>We are sympathetic to proposals for larger and more efficient local government units, but are not convinced that a directly elected mayor is necessary or even the best way forward for this. We also believe it is important that more powers and resources should be devolved down to town and parish level to ensure that local government does not become too remote from local people</p>
<p>Q9. We plan to review our fees and charges to ensure they are covering costs, and where applicable, we plan to raise them by RPI in line with current inflation rates. We would welcome your comments on this proposal.</p>	<p>In principle we support this proposal, however to undertake an across the board increase without specific justification on each generic charge type is incorrect.</p>

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<p>Q10. Do you have any other suggestions that you would like the Mayor to consider in terms of his budget?</p>	<p>Yes. <u>You MUST re-double your efforts to LEVEL-UP the delivery of regeneration (Housing /Transport/Economy/Education etc) to ALL areas of the Borough.</u></p> <p><u>South Copeland continues to be the second class community with regeneration initiatives.</u></p> <p>Please contact us for a full and frank discussion if you are serious about this part of Copeland</p>
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We would welcome your comments on this proposal. How to respond. Visit www.copeland.gov.uk and complete the questionnaire online. The deadline for responses is Friday, January 8. You can also request a hard copy of this document by email at communications@copeland.gov.uk or by calling 01946 598300