

## Council Tax Web Cast Consultation 2006

12<sup>th</sup> December 2006 saw the Council's first live web cast. The Council decided to invite key partners, parish councillors, business leaders and representatives from minority groups through a formal invitation to attend the event to be held in the Council Chamber. The decision was made to give people the opportunity to send in their questions in advance and to have a live e-mail to receive questions to the panel on the night.

The purpose of the meeting was to maximise the numbers of people we engage with and inform people:

- about our services,
- about our priorities
- about our spending plans
- how the different charges add up to the total on their bill and show how we provide value for money.

It is also to allow people to:

- give us their opinion on the above and
- specifically to indicate how they would prioritise our priorities.

And hopefully it will:

- improve people's overall perceptions of the council
- and increase the public's level of trust in the council

Thirty-six delegates attended on the night and 102 people from across the district logged on at home to watch the web cast via the Council's own website. A total of 3,196 people logged on throughout the night and 2,939 people chose to watch the web cast at a later date through the archive. 31 chose to complete the feedback survey and 80% found the web cast useful. 80% were also interested in other web casts from the Council. Since this consultation web casting has been subsequently used for other events.

The budget consultation meeting was held in the Council chamber and was web cast out live across the District. The meeting was broken down into five sections to cover questions and discussion on the Council Tax System, the Council's Priorities, Efficiencies, Policy Changes and Fees and Charges.

Topics covered throughout the evening were:

- How the Council Tax is set
- Council housing
- What the Council Tax is spent on
- Drainage boards
- The National system
- Why do residents pay twice for Districts and Parishes?
- Business Rates
- 96% of residents do pay their Council Tax
- The Priorities
- Leisure Services
- Consultation
- The Adult Agenda regarding promoting health and leisure facilities
- How will the Council allocate funding to its priorities?
- Access to services

- E-Gov Agenda
- Secure and Diverse Employment
- VFM- for £2 a week the Council delivers its services
- ASB/ Graffiti and Carters Park in Holbeach were issues raised by the Youth Council
- Shared services were discussed in relation improving efficiencies
- Policy changes were discussed
- Problems with transport especially for young people in the District
- Funding for the Community and Voluntary Sector
- South Holland is an enabling authority.

The webcast can be viewed with 'Windows Real Player' via [www.sholland.gov.uk](http://www.sholland.gov.uk)

For more information please contact the Partnerships Team on 01775 761161.