

Case study

South Wales Police Authority Budget Simulator



South Wales Police Authority enhanced their budget consultation with a custom version of our proven tool

What SWPA wanted

SWPA wanted to get visibility and informed feedback on the public's spending priorities to help them present an accurate proposal.

Setting the police budget and the council tax precept is one of the most difficult jobs for a Police Authority Member. We would like to know what members of the public would do, and where any increases should be spent.

Chair of the Police Authority,
Councillor Russell Roberts.

Why they got in touch

SWPA had seen a local authority using Budget Simulator and were interested to see if they could apply the tool and methodology to their own budget consultation. The police authority sent us an email to say they were interested and to ask 'how can we make it work for us?'

How we helped them

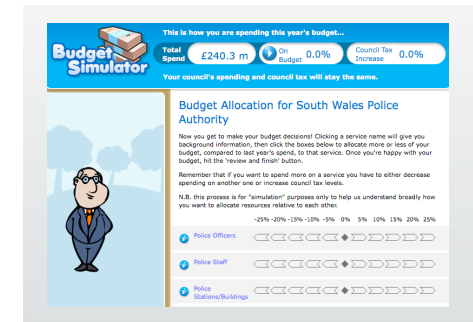
We were happy to tell them that Budget Simulator could do exactly what they wanted, and that we'd tailor it to match their needs. Features of the SWPA Budget Simulator included:

- the ability for SWPA to define budget areas for themselves, meaning the consultation accurately reflected their realistic options
- a custom formula, determined together, that showed authentic changes to the council tax budget as the police budget was modified
- top-line numbers to instantly show users their total spend, how far they were under or over budget and the resulting change to council tax
- 'consequences' information explaining to people some of the likely effects of their proposed spending decisions
- customisation of the site contents and logo to match official branding.

Why SWPA are happy

In Budget Simulator, SWPA found an engaging and affordable way to complete their consultation process in time for their budget assessment. It also enabled them to have an appealing online presence for the consultation, opening up a new channel for participation and contributing to the ongoing dialogue between the Police Authority and residents of South Wales.

The results received via Budget Simulator were used alongside those from postal surveys to help the Police Authority set the budget for 2009-10.



See it in action:

www.budgetsimulator.com/swpa

Get in touch

To chat through this project in more detail, or to see if we can help you in a similar way, get in touch with Michaela »
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