

Leicestershire's future

Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy
2019 - 2023 consultation results



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Strategic Business Intelligence Team
Leicestershire County Council

Jo Miller
Strategic Business Intelligence Team Leader

Alistair Mendes-Hay
Research and Insight Officer

Strategic Business Intelligence Team
Strategy and Business Intelligence
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall, Glenfield
Leicester LE3 8RA

Tel 0116 305 7341
Email jo.miller@leics.gov.uk

Produced by the Strategic Business Intelligence Team at Leicestershire County Council.

With support from:

- Communications Team, Leicestershire County Council
- Communities Team, Leicestershire County Council
- Strategic Finance, Leicestershire County Council

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Key findings

In total, 206 responses were received to the consultation survey, of which 67% were residents of Leicestershire and 62% were employees of Leicestershire County Council.

Half of respondents (51%) were in favour of paying a Council Tax increase of 2.99% or above to fund county council services before any addition of a social care precept, and 15% said they would favour an increase of 2%. In addition, over two-thirds of respondents (69%) were in favour of increasing Council Tax by 1% to fund adult social care in Leicestershire (the social care precept).

Overall, 25% supported an increase in Council Tax (including any social care precept) of 3.99%, and 20% were in favour of an increase of above 3.99%. In contrast, 15% said they did not want any increase in Council Tax.

When asked whether they agreed or disagreed with how the growth and savings had been allocated across services, 42% agreed, and 22% disagreed.

Open comments regarding service reductions highlighted some key areas of concern, particularly early help and/or preventative services, social care (adults or children's), and transport services. Although many respondents indicated that they could not identify any areas where further efficiency savings could be made, several felt staff and councillor expenditure, and transport infrastructure expenditure could be areas where spending could be reduced. Non-essential services were also identified as potential areas for savings. Others suggested investing in preventative services to avoid larger costs in the future.

Whilst several respondents were in agreement about the areas identified for growth, several respondents identified other areas that could be targeted for growth, including social care, apprenticeships, and special educational needs.

With regards to fairer funding, the majority of respondents (88%) agreed that the way funding is distributed between councils should be reviewed and comments reflected several themes, namely the view that Leicestershire specifically is under-funded, general support for fairer funding across the country, that the current distribution of funding is unfair, and that the formula used to determine funding is outdated. A regular suggestion made across the survey by respondents was for the council to consider more opportunities for joint-working arrangements between teams and organisations, with some making specific reference to exploring the potential of a Unitary Authority for Leicestershire.

The majority of respondents (77%) also agreed with the council's desired approach to further develop commercial activities as a way of generating income for the council. Many of the subsequent comments expressed general support for the approach and/or support for specific income generation ideas. Others were more critical of this approach, suggesting the council should not consider commercial opportunities as it may conflict or disrupt its obligations to public service.

In addition to the survey responses, a separate submission was received from Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LEEP). The LEEP recognised the financial pressures facing the authority and outlined its support for the proposals, particularly those promoting economic growth.

Background

Leicestershire County Council's latest four year plan outlines the extremely challenging financial position facing the authority. The proposals include savings of £74m and an extra £50m growth, mainly in recognition of the increased strain on children's and adult social care. To try and limit further cuts to services, the plans propose a Council Tax increase of 3.99%, which includes a 1% adult social care precept. The county council is also continuing to make efficiency savings and transform services to make the organisation much leaner, including income generation, increased partnership working and leading calls for fair funding from the government.

The provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-23 reflects the above context and the consultation exercise on the budget plan was designed to provide an opportunity for residents and community groups to have their views heard and taken into account.

Methodology

Following the publication of the detailed budget proposals, a summary and survey form were made available on the county council's website for the duration of the consultation period of 18th December 2018 to 20th January 2019.

This provided the opportunity for residents, staff, parish councils, stakeholders and other audiences to have their say. Paper copies of the survey and copies in alternative formats (including easy read) were available on request. A dedicated email address was also provided for the duration of the consultation period for respondents to submit their views should they wish. The consultation was promoted to the Leicester Shire Business Council, the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership, Parish Councils and the Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group.

Communication

A range of communications activity was used throughout the consultation period to encourage people to have their say, including direct emails, online content, intranet stories, Yammer posts, media releases, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn posts and emails to staff and businesses. This sparked wide-ranging coverage across high-impact broadcast and print coverage, and ultimately, helped to generate 206 responses.

Questions

The survey asked respondents about Council Tax levels (including the Government's proposed 1% social care precept) and the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with how the budget had been allocated across services. It also asked a number of open ended questions about the budget and the way the council works. These are listed below:

- Are there any specific service reductions you disagree with?
- Are there any additional service reductions or charges you think we should consider?
- Are there any areas where you think we could make further efficiency savings without impacting on services?
- Do you have any comments about the areas identified for growth?
- Do you have any other comments about our draft budget proposals?

The questionnaire included a question on fair funding, asking respondents to what extent they agreed or disagreed that the way funding is distributed between councils should be reviewed. Respondents were also provided an opportunity to add comments to their response.

Respondents were also asked about the county council's desire to develop commercial activities as a way of generating income for the council and to what extent they agreed or disagreed with this approach, including an opportunity to provide open comments.

A range of demographic questions were also asked, namely: gender, gender identity at birth, age, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, postcode, whether the respondents are parents or carers of a young person aged 17 or under, or a carer of a person aged 18 or over. See Appendix 1 for the full questionnaire.

Analysis

Graphs and tables have been used to assist explanation and analysis. Question results have been reported based on those who provided a valid response, i.e. taking out the 'don't know' responses and no replies.

The responses of different demographic groups were also statistically analysed and significant differences are highlighted within the relevant the sections of the report.

Results

In total, 206 responses to the survey were received.

Respondent profile

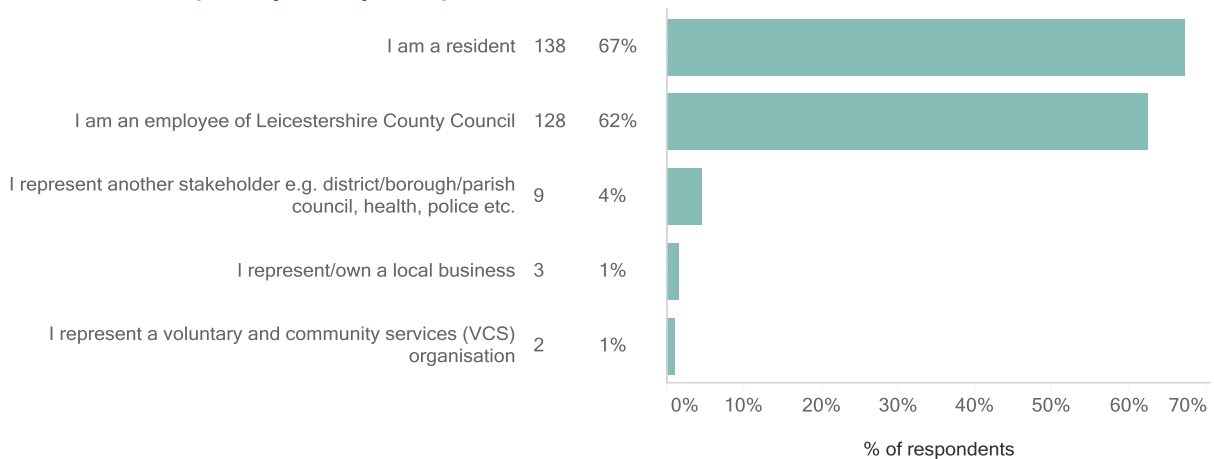
A full respondent profile can be found in Appendix 2.

Question 1 - Role

Respondents were asked in what capacity they were responding to the survey. Chart 1 below shows the breakdown. It shows that two thirds of people who completed the survey were responding as residents (67%) and over half were employees of Leicestershire County Council (LCC) (62%). Chart 2 shows 35% of respondents were residents but not employees of LCC, 31% were LCC employees and not residents, and 32% were both.

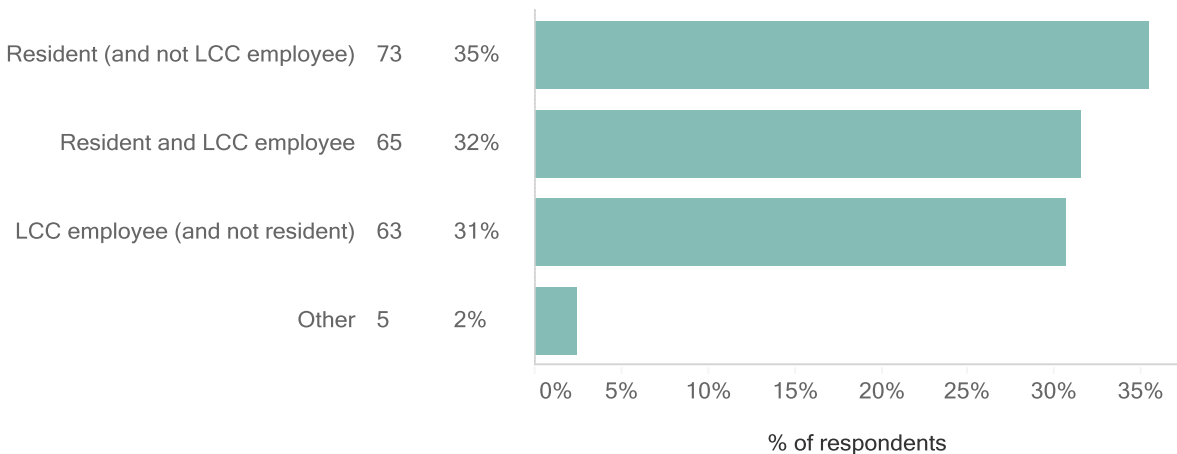
Throughout the analysis that follows, comparison has been made between the views from residents who are not LCC employees (73 respondents) and the views from those who work for the county council (128 respondents).

Chart 1 - Role (multiple response)



Base = 205

Chart 2 - Role (single response)

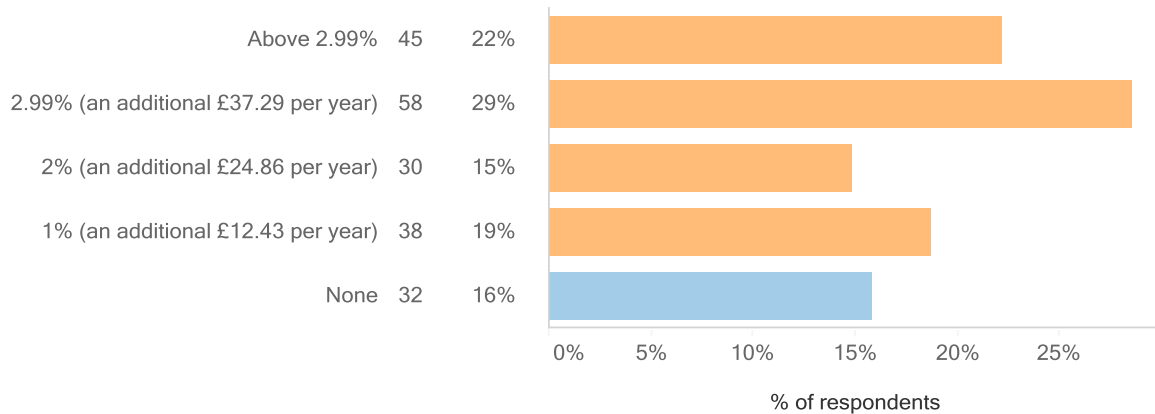


Base = 206

Question 2 - Council Tax increase (excl. social care precept)

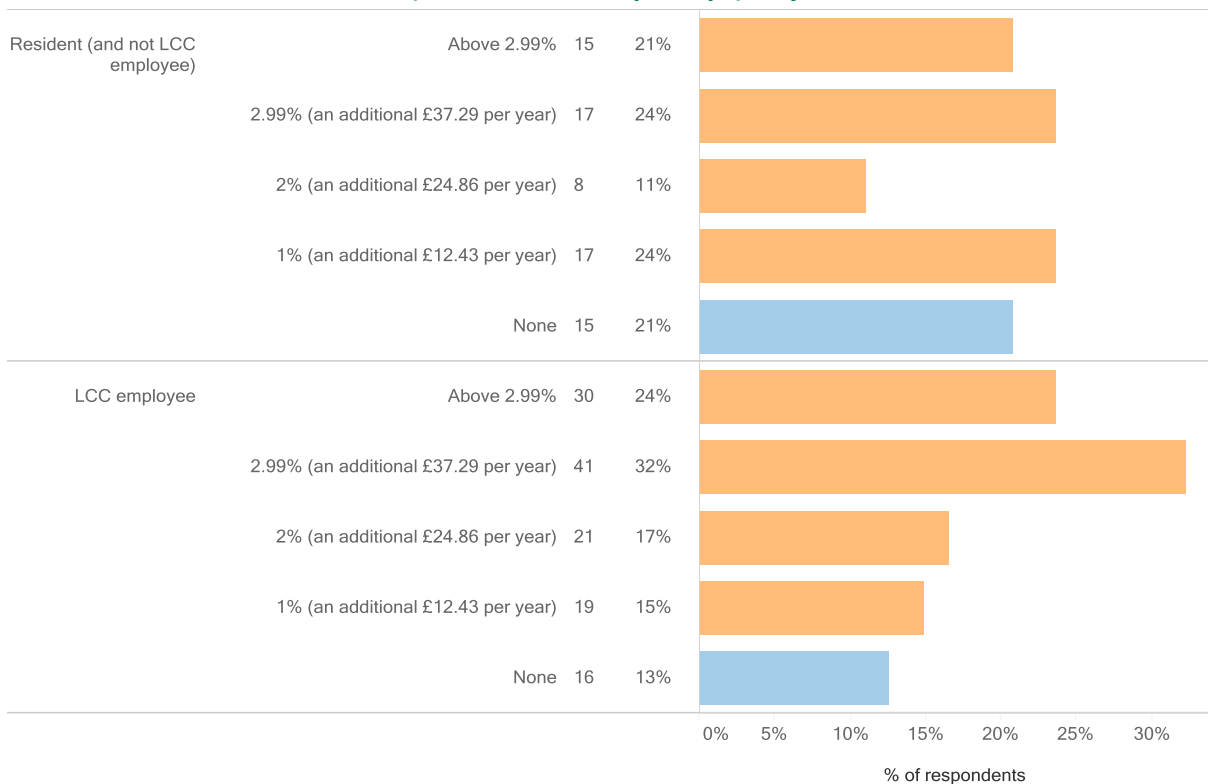
Respondents were asked what Council Tax increase they would be prepared to pay to fund county council services, excluding the 1% social care precept. Chart 3 shows that 51% of respondents were in favour of paying 2.99% or above, and 15% were in favour of paying an increase of 2%. In contrast, 16% said they did not want an increase in Council Tax (excluding any social care precept). There was no statistically significant difference in responses by role (Chart 4).

Chart 3 - Council Tax increase (excl. social care precept)



Base = 203

Chart 4 - Council Tax increase (excl. social care precept) - by role

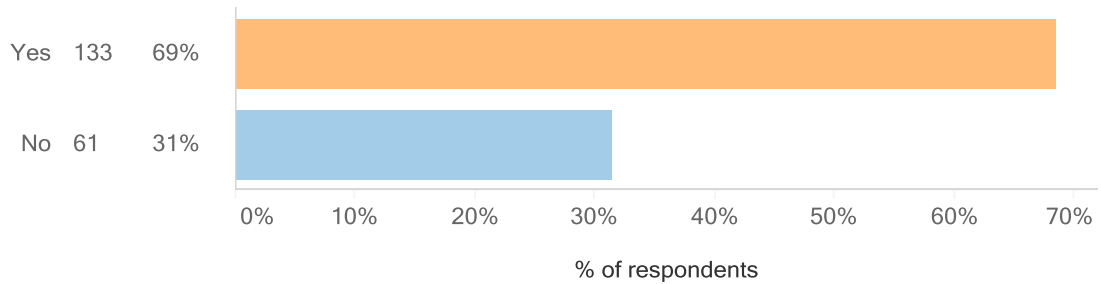


Resident base = 72
LCC employee base = 127

Question 3 - 1% social care precept

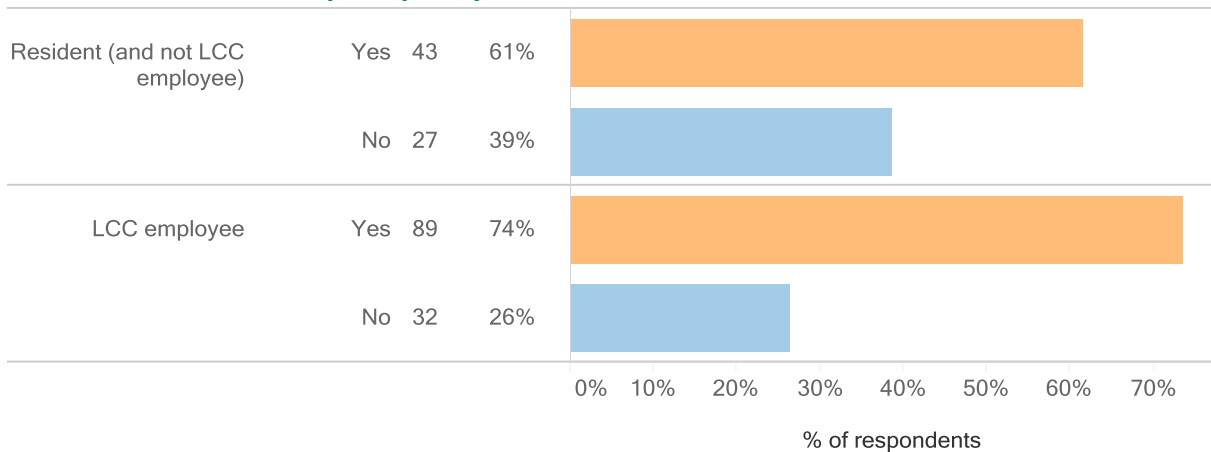
Respondents were asked whether they thought the county council should increase Council Tax by a further 1% (i.e. the Government’s social care precept) to be used exclusively for the funding of adult social care in Leicestershire. Chart 5 shows that the majority of respondents (69%) felt the council should do this. There was no statistically significant difference in responses by role (Chart 6).

Chart 5 - 1% social care precept



Base = 194

Chart 6 - 1% social care precept - by role



Resident base = 70
LCC employee base = 121

Table 1 shows that a quarter of respondents (27%) said they would favour a Council Tax increase (including any social care precept) of 3.99%, and 21% favoured an increase of above 3.99%. 15% wanted no increase in either.

Table 1 - Q2 by Q3

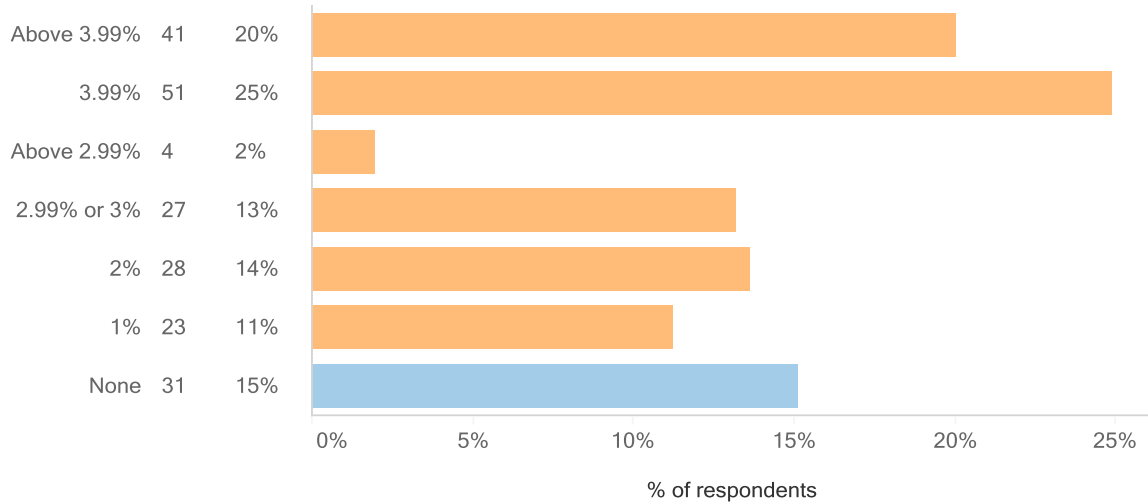
Council Tax increase (excluding 1% 'social care precept')	1% Social Care Precept increase	1% Social Care Precept increase	
		Yes	No
Above 2.99%	21%	2%	
2.99% (an additional £37.29 per year)	27%	1%	
2% (an additional £24.86 per year)	10%	5%	
1% (an additional £12.43 per year)	9%	8%	
None	1%	15%	

Base = 192

Total Council Tax increase

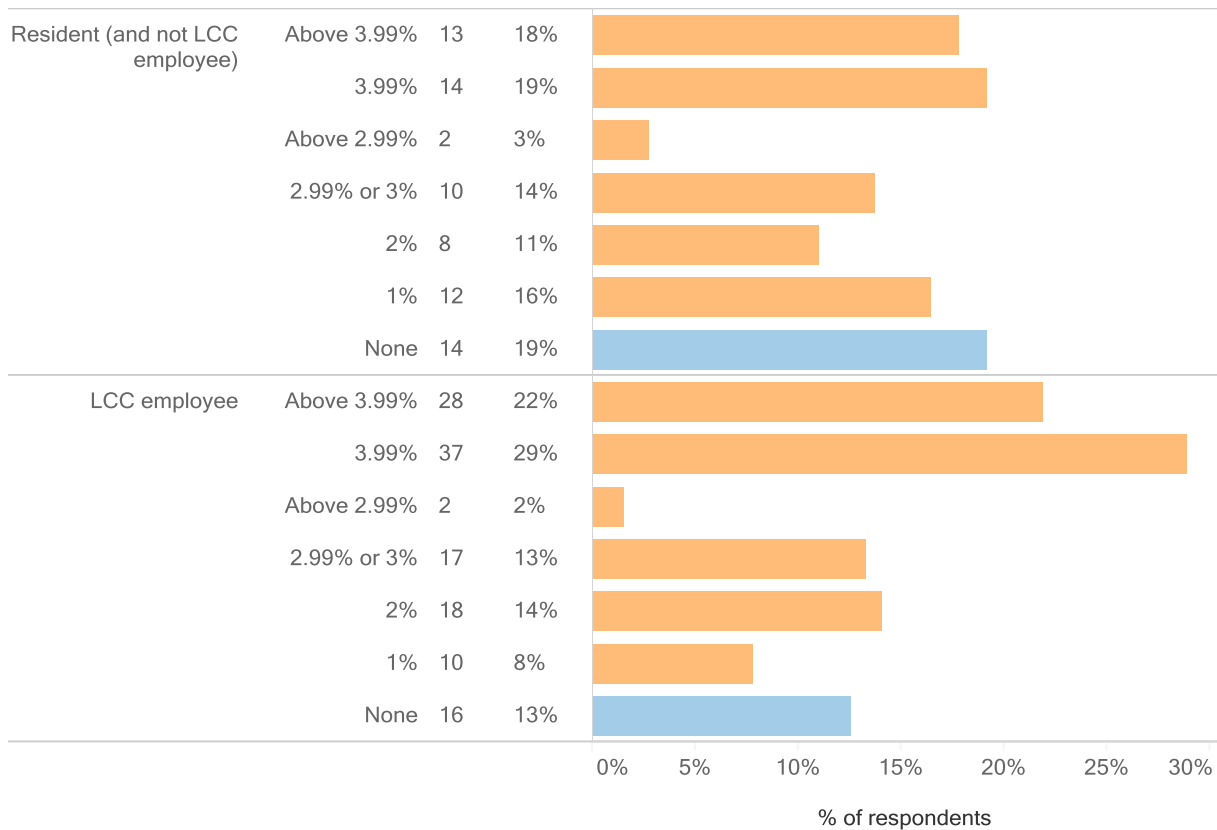
By combining the responses to the questions about Council Tax and social care precept, Chart 7 shows 25% were in favour of an increase in Council Tax (including any social care precept) of 3.99%, and 20% were in favour of an increase of above 3.99%. In contrast, 15% said they did not want any increase in Council Tax. There was no statistically significant difference in responses by role (Chart 8).

Chart 7 - Total Council Tax increase



Base = 205

Chart 8 - Total Council Tax increase - by role



Resident base = 73
LCC employee base = 128

Question 4 - Growth and savings allocation

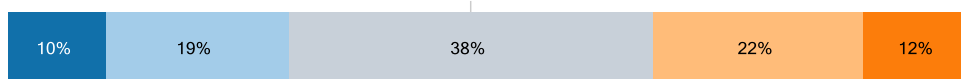
Respondents to the survey were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with how the growth and savings had been allocated across services. Chart 9 shows 42% agreed, and 22% disagreed. A notable proportion of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed (37%). There was no statistically significant difference in responses by role (Charts 10 and 11). Statistical analysis of the results did highlight that respondents who indicated that they had a disability were significantly more likely than the average to disagree with how growth and savings had been allocated across services (39% compared to 22%).

Chart 9 - Growth and savings allocation



Base = 197

Chart 10 - Growth and savings allocation - residents only



Base = 69

Chart 11 - Growth and savings allocation - LCC employees



Base = 124

■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly agree

Open-ended questions

This section of the consultation survey included five open-ended questions. These are listed below:

- Are there any specific service reductions you disagree with?
- Are there any additional service reductions or charges you think we should consider?
- Are there any areas where you think we could make further efficiency savings without impacting on services?
- Do you have any comments about the areas identified for growth?
- Do you have any other comments about our draft budget proposals?

For each question, all comments were read by analysts and a coding frame was devised. The comments were then re-read, and thematically coded using the coding frame.

Q5 - Concerns about specific service reductions

Respondents were asked whether there were any specific service reductions that they disagreed with. Chart 12 lists the top 10 codes (see Appendix 3 for full list of codes).

When identifying service reductions that they disagreed with, a notable proportion of respondents referenced early help and/or preventative services, with several suggesting the council invest in preventative interventions to avoid larger costs in the future. Social care (adults or children's), and educational services represented another common theme amongst responses to this question. Some respondents disagreed with any further reductions in transport with several of these respondents specifically citing Special Educational Needs (SEN) transport. Others disagreed with reductions to library, heritage or cultural services.

Whilst some respondents were critical of any or all service reductions proposed, several respondents said they did not disagree with the proposed savings.

Other respondents criticised the decision to increase council tax at a time of service reduction, and others were critical of various other council operations and decisions.

“Early intervention for families/family centres - these save costs in the long run”

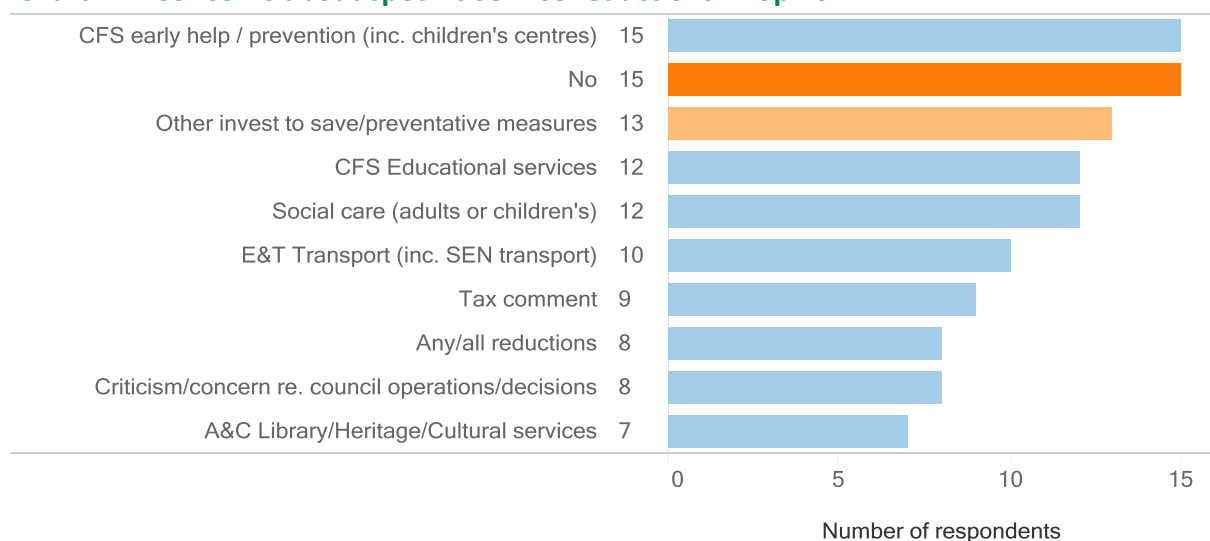
“Education of children in care. By cutting this budget, the council (and society in general) can expect to have to pay out more in future years as a result of children not being in employment education or training, relying on benefits, possibly falling into criminality and having poorer mental health”

“Anything that involves disabled children and adults”

“No, but I would urge you not to completely abandon all support for bus services. They are a lifeline for many people, and their role in benefitting local communities and businesses should not be underestimated”

“I strongly object to any further service reductions”

Chart 12 - Concerns about specific service reductions - Top 10



Base = 89

Sentiment
 Positive
 Negative
 Suggestion
 Other

Q6 - Suggested additional service reductions or charges

Respondents were asked whether there were any additional service reductions or charges that could be considered by the council. Chart 13 lists the top 10 codes (see Appendix 3 for full list of codes).

Although several respondents indicated that there were no areas where they thought further efficiency savings could be made, many respondents did make suggestions. The most frequently referenced theme amongst these suggestions related to staff expenditure, including salaries, hours, management and the use of consultants. Other respondents suggested a reduction in councillor expenditure, ranging from councillors' allowances and expenses to the number of councillors serving at the council.

Other common themes included a suggested reduction in transport expenditure, including bus service provision and transport projects, such as the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road and HS2. Non-essential or non-statutory services were also identified as potential areas for savings. Several respondents suggested an increase in joined up working, including merging services with the city council. Other respondents felt greater levels of income could be generated in the council, via increased charges, council tax and commercialisation of services.

"Cut the salaries of the highest paid members of the Council"

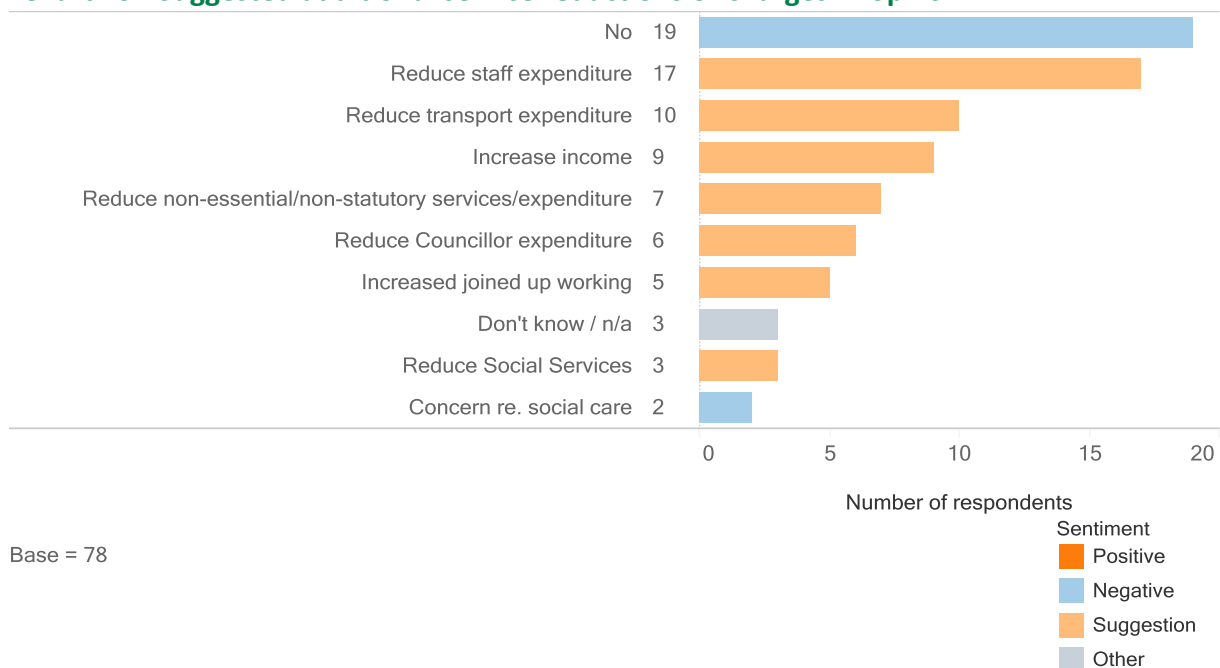
"Reduce councillor benefits / perks"

"It seems to me a lucrative method of generating revenue (e.g. rents from commercial properties) whilst capital values appreciate. Therefore, I feel the Council should take every opportunity to invest in land and commercial properties, especially along the HS2 corridor where future demand might be high."

"Spend only on essentials and do them as well as possible"

"Combining Leicestershire County Council with that of Leicester City Council could mean that you could cut back office duties to make savings"

Chart 13 - Suggested additional service reductions or charges - Top 10



Q7 - Areas for further efficiency savings

Respondents were asked if they thought there were any other areas where the council could make further efficiency savings without impacting on services. Chart 14 lists the top 10 codes (see Appendix 3 for full list of codes).

The most frequently referenced topic related to staffing. The majority of comments on this theme referenced management efficiencies, particularly reducing the number of management roles. Some comments under this theme also suggested a need to address staff performance, absence and culture.

The second most common theme amongst responses to this question was the view that there were no areas where it was felt efficiency savings could be made. However, there were various other suggested areas for efficiency savings, such as shared services (including a unitary merger with the city and/or district councils), reducing expenditure in Environment and Transport, increasing the use of technology, reducing expenditure in the democratic process, reducing in ‘back office’ or internal areas of expenditure, increasing the use of energy efficient methods, and making greater efficiencies in the use of office space.

“More should be done to tackle low-scale staff sickness. The Public Sector can learn a lot from the private sector re. rewarding staff for good attendance.”

“Keep pursuing the Unitary plan.”

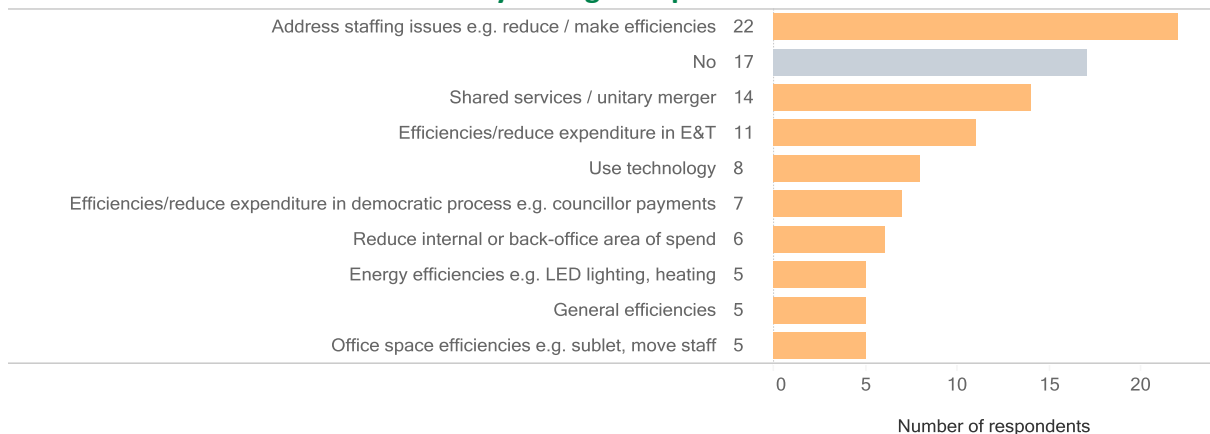
“More LED street lightings and switching off during the night, more efficient vehicles that are used on highways/ maintenance jobs”

“Using Council buildings more efficiently and supporting working from home or at libraries/touch down points consistently.”

“Councillors benefits/perks. Those that run the council shouldn't have the benefit of the expensive cars /chauffeurs.”

“Running projects using current employee skills rather than paying out vast sums of money to external consultants and companies”

Chart 14 - Areas for further efficiency savings - Top 10



Base = 96

Sentiment
 Positive
 Negative
 Suggestion
 Other

Q8 - Areas identified for growth

Respondents were asked if they had any comments about the areas identified for growth. The responses for the top 10 codes are shown in Chart 15 (see Appendix 3 for full list of codes).

Although the most recurring response was ‘no’ or ‘none,’ several respondents identified particular areas that could be targeted for growth, including social care, apprenticeships, and SEN. Some respondents, however, were critical of the proposals posed or the decisions made with regards to the approach to growth, and others were critical of the specific areas identified for growth.

Other respondents were more positive about the proposed areas for growth, and others made suggestions as to how the council could approach their plans. Others felt the council could increase their income, or request further funding from government.

“Ageing and growing population requires greater expenditure”

“Growth could be avoided through more effective assessment and commissioning. The council should be clear that expectations and spending cannot continue to rise - Leicestershire needs to make sure it is not a soft touch relative to other neighbouring authorities.”

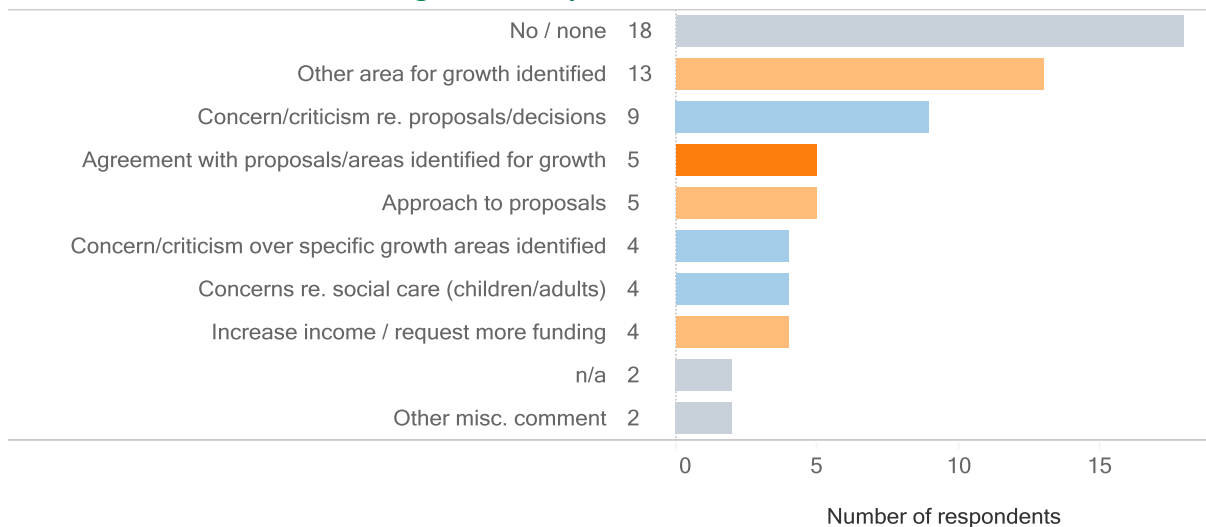
“New capital projects such as Melton road should not be at expense of maintaining existing infrastructure”.

“All identified areas are deserving of extra resources”

“Invest to save - make better use of data assets and knowledge”

“Charge for services where we can. LCC should have a commercial portfolio of what we can offer to stakeholders and a simple charging system to go with it. Perhaps this can be part of the Stronger Economies / Growth Board remit”

Chart 15 - Areas identified for growth - Top 10



Base = 62

Sentiment
 Positive
 Negative
 Suggestion
 Other

Q9 - Any other comments

Respondents were asked to provide any other comments they had about the council’s draft budget proposals. The Chart 16 shows the top 10 codes (see Appendix 3 for full list of codes).

Apart from ‘no,’ ‘none’ or ‘n/a’ responses, several respondents also made negative references to Council Tax increases. Responses also reflected some criticism regarding the proposals, and others expressed criticism of council decisions more generally.

Other respondents made a number of suggestions, including support for more or fairer funding from central government, changes to the proposals, reducing services, being more innovative, and prioritizing social care and the vulnerable.

“You can only put up council tax so much - people are struggling as it is”

“Local authorities should be leading a reaction to the cuts.”

“Savings of £2million for increased recruitment of in-house foster carers is unrealistic. What evidence is there to support this being achievable? Is it fully costed, acknowledging the Independent Foster Agency provision of Social Worker support and training to Carers which LCC will have to also fund?”

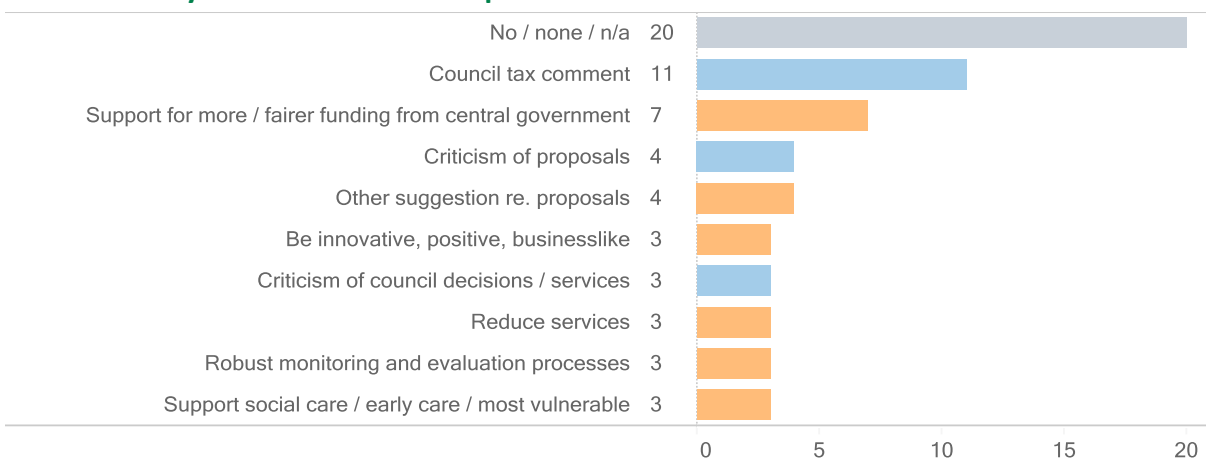
“Only to say what about the 92 million you have in your reserves some of which could be used to support local services!”

“Please reconsider funding cuts for libraries and Children's Centres”

“I don't think council tax rises are fair on people who privately rent as the tax is based on the value of the home and most tenants could not afford to own the home they live in. The tax should be based on earnings rather than property values for tenants”

“Be more critical of growth requirements and address the causes not just the symptoms”

Chart 16 - Any other comments - Top 10



Base = 59

Sentiment
 Positive
 Negative
 Suggestion
 Other

Fairer Funding

The questionnaire explained that Leicestershire remains the lowest-funded county in the country and that the county council is continuing to lead calls for fair funding. Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed that the way funding is distributed between councils should be reviewed. Chart 17 shows that 88% agreed and 6% disagreed. There was no statistically significant difference in responses by role (Charts 18 and 19).

It was also noted during the analysis that caution may be required when interpreting the ‘disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’ responses as six of the thirteen respondents who selected ‘disagree’ or ‘strongly disagree’ provided comments indicating support for a review of the way funding is distributed between councils, suggesting that the response scale for this question may have been misunderstood when being completed.

Chart 17 - Fair Funding



Base = 202

Chart 18 - Fair Funding—residents only



Base = 72

Chart 19 - Fair Funding—LCC employees



Base = 127

Strongly disagree
 Disagree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Agree
 Strongly agree

Q10 - Open-ended comments

Respondents were asked to provide comments for their answer to the question regarding fairer funding (Q10).

Q10 - Open-ended comments on fair funding

Chart 20 shows the results for the 11 codes assigned to these responses.

The response to this question was largely positive, and respondents raised a number of points. Most often, respondents felt that Leicestershire is disproportionately underfunded relative to other authorities. Others felt the issue at a more general level, identifying the current distribution of local authority funding as unfair, and several voiced their general support for the benefits of fairer funding. Other respondents cited their criticism of the current funding formula, considering it to be systematically unfair, whilst several respondents felt concerned about the impact of maintaining the current funding arrangement.

Some concerns were also highlighted by respondents, criticising the approach taken by the council, disagreeing that a funding review is needed, and querying the feasibility or likelihood of being able to secure fairer funding.

"Leicestershire is one of the lowest funded Councils in England. This should be reviewed"

"There needs to be a level playing field for all Councils and it is totally unfair that some authorities get much more funding than others considering they are all facing the same pressures and increasing demand for services"

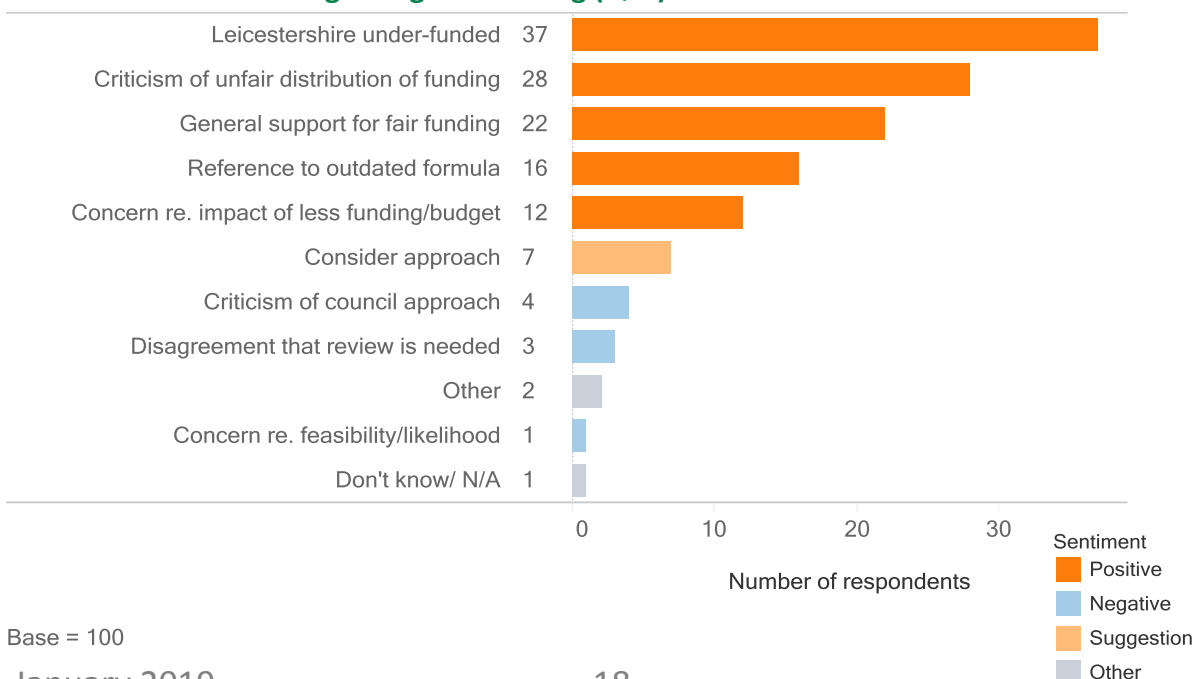
"Fairer funding is at the core of fairer service delivery, efficient and relevant to local residents"

"It is astonishing how central government have got away with this formulae for years. It should be challenged and our MPs should be helping us lobby this cause so we are treated fairly."

"Clearly LCC's governance isn't fighting hard enough to get this problem addressed"

"Using any formula will have a top of the table & a bottom of a table"

Chart 20 - Comments regarding fair funding (Q10)



Commercial Activities

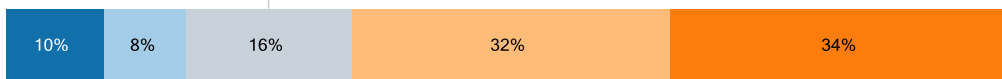
Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the council’s plans to further develop commercial activities as a way of generating income for the council. Chart 21 shows that 77% agreed with this approach and 12% disagreed. Statistical analysis of the results did highlight that respondents who indicated that they were council employees, or male, were significantly more likely than the average to agree with the commercial approach (85% and 86% respectively, compared to 77%). In contrast, those with a long-term illness, infirmity or disability were statistically more likely than the average to disagree with the approach (15% compared to 12%).

Chart 21 - Commercial Activities



Base = 199

Chart 22 - Commercial Activities —residents only



Base = 73

Chart 23 - Commercial Activities—LCC employees



Base = 123

■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly agree

Q11 - Open-ended comments

Respondents were asked to provide comments for their answer to the question regarding commercial activities (Q11).

Q11 - Open-ended comments on commercial activities

Chart 24 shows the results for the top 10 codes assigned to these responses (see Appendix 3 for full list of codes).

In line with the responses to the previous question, several respondents expressed general support for the approach and others reflected support for specific income generation ideas, including HR services, the use of property, and further commercialisation of country parks.

Whilst there was support for the proposal, several respondents felt the approach could only succeed if various criteria were met, including having minimal/no impact of delivery of public services, being genuinely commercial and profitable, and being kept under regular review.

Some respondents expressed disagreement with the approach, suggesting the council should not be considering this option. Others queried how commercial aspects may conflict with public service obligations, whether it could compete in the private sector, and whether the council could make services commercially viable relatively quickly.

"If the Council is able to sell reliable services to external organisations then this is definitely something worth pursuing to help retain jobs and generate income"

"Providing a traded payroll bureau service for local small businesses and charities should be explored (e.g. parish councils)."

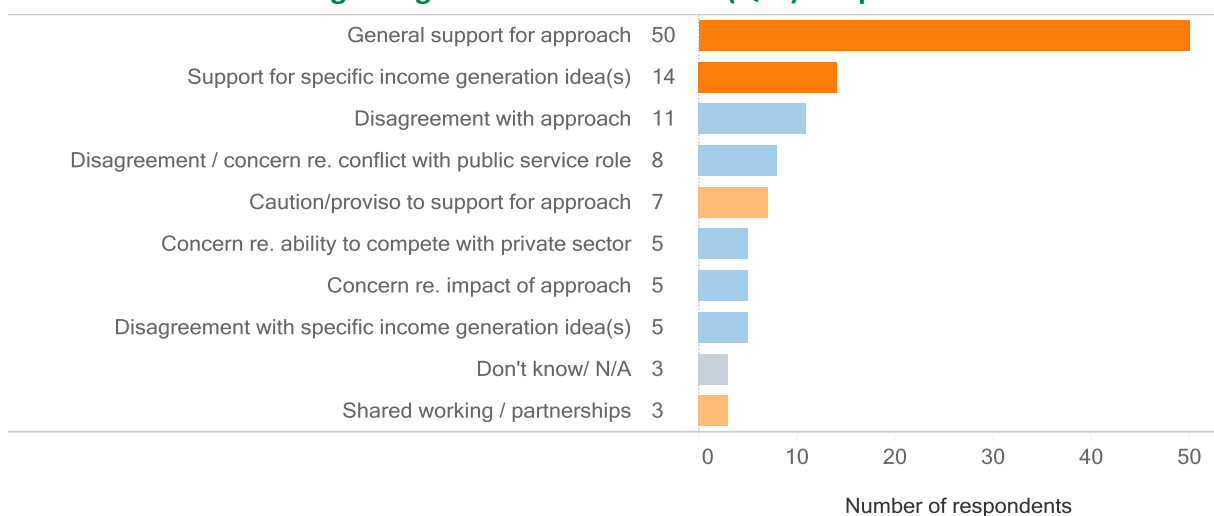
"As long as it supports and doesn't detract from service provision"

"The council is not a private enterprise, and should not be forced to make a profit, or generate income in these sordid ways"

"A local authority is not a business and areas of service delivery should be first, rather than just commercial interests"

"Councils are restricted in the extent to which they can actively compete and make a profit on commercial activities"

Chart 24 - Comments regarding commercial activities (Q11) - Top 10



Base = 86

Sentiment
 Positive
 Negative
 Suggestion
 Other

Other consultation response

In addition to the survey, a separate submission was received from the Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (see Appendix 4 for the responses in full).

The Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) expressed support for the proposals and recognised the financial pressure facing the authority, highlighting their support of the council's position regarding fairer funding. The LLEP commended the savings made since 2010, and supported the areas of planned savings and the proposed Council Tax rise of 3.99%. The LLEP also highlighted their continued support for projects that promote economic growth, including the proposed highway schemes, supported –living developments and the continued rollout of superfast broadband. The response also recognised the importance of the health and social care sector, supporting the proposals for growth in social care.

Appendix 1 - Questionnaire



Have your say on our draft budget plans 2019 - 2023

Background

Our financial position remains extremely challenging. By planning ahead, we've saved £200m since 2010 but a surge in demand for social care and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) support, combined with inflation, is driving up costs by £94m.

Over the next four years, we're planning to save £74m (made up of £34m of detailed savings, a plan to reduce SEND costs by £20m and a £20m gap) amidst ongoing uncertainty about the future funding for local government.

To try to limit the cuts we have to make to services, we're proposing a total Council Tax rise of 3.99% for next year, including the maximum 1% for the adults social care precept. A decision will be taken each year for any future increases. Under current Government rules a local referendum would need to be held for any increase above 3% in 2019/20 (excluding social care precept). The referendum limit for later years is not known but is estimated to be 2%, hence our financial plan assumes an increase of 1.99% for the three years following 2019/20.

Rising demand is placing vastly increased strain on our children's and adults social care. Our proposals recognise this and include an extra £50m growth – mainly for these two areas. In addition, an extra £44m is included to cover inflation costs, covering increases in supplier charges and national public sector pay rises.

We have published our 2019-2023 spending plans for consultation.

If you have any comments about the draft budget proposals, we would like to hear from you. Your views will be taken into consideration when the council finalises its spending plans. We would encourage you to read the budget proposals web page before completing the survey.

The closing date for the consultation is midnight 20 January 2019.

Thank you for your assistance. Your views are important to us.

If completing on a phone or tablet do not use the back button on your device as you may lose your response.

Please note: Your responses to the main part of the survey (Q1 to Q11, including your comments) may be released to the general public in full under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Any responses to the questions in the 'About you' section of the questionnaire will be held securely and will not be subject to release under Freedom of Information legislation, nor passed on to any third party.

Your role

Q1 In which role(s) are you responding to this consultation? Please tick all applicable

- I am a resident
- I represent/own a local business
- I represent a voluntary and community services (VCS) organisation
- I represent another stakeholder e.g. district/borough/parish council, health, police etc.
- I am an employee of Leicestershire County Council
- Other

Please specify 'other' below

Our proposals

Council Tax was frozen by the county council in the four years to 2014/15, followed by a 1.99% increase in 2015/16. In both 2016/17 and 2017/18 there was an increase of 3.99% (2% of which related to the introduction by the Government of an 'adult social care precept'). In 2018/19 there was an increase of 5.99% (3% of which related to the adult social care precept).

The county council is planning to increase Council Tax by 3.99% next year (2019/20). A decision will be taken each year for any future increases. The proposed 3.99% increase would include 1% for the 'social care precept' which the Government introduced in 2016/17 to allow local authorities to raise additional Council Tax to be used exclusively for the funding of services for vulnerable adults. It is proposed that the other 2.99% is used to help cover the costs of increasing demand and reduce the need to make service reductions in other areas.

The Council Tax bill for county council services in 2018/19 is currently £1,243 per year for a band D property*. An increase of 3.99% would mean an average increase in Council Tax of £50 per year on that bill (or £4.13 per month). Every additional 1% increase in Council Tax generates an additional £2.9m of income each year and reduces our total savings requirement. Every additional 1% costs each household in a band D property on average an additional £12.43 per year (or £1.04 per month) on their Council Tax bill.

The county council is proposing an additional 2.99% on top of the 1% for the 'social care precept' to help cover the costs of increasing demand and reduce the need to make service reductions. Under current Government rules a local referendum would need to be held for any increase above 3% in 2019/20 (excluding social care precept)

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Q2 What Council Tax increase would you be prepared to pay to fund county council services (excluding the 1% for the 'social care precept')?

The figures in brackets show what this increase would be next year for a household in a band D property.

- None
- 1% (an additional £12.43 per year)
- 2% (an additional £24.86 per year)
- 2.99% (an additional £37.29 per year)
- Above 2.99%

Q3 Do you think the county council should increase Council Tax by a further 1% (the government's 'social care precept') to be used exclusively for the funding of adult social care in Leicestershire? This would cost an additional £12.43 per year (£1.04 per month) for a band D property.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q4 Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with how the growth and savings have been allocated across our services?

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Q5 Are there any specific service reductions you disagree with?

Characters left: left

Q6 Are there any additional service reductions or charges you think we should consider?

Characters left: left

Q7 Are there any areas where you think we could make further efficiency savings without impacting on services?

Characters left: left

Q8 Do you have any comments about the areas identified for growth?

Characters left: left

Q9 Do you have any other comments about our draft budget proposals?

Characters left: left

Fairer Funding

Leicestershire remains the lowest-funded county in the country. If it was funded at the same level as Surrey, it would be £99 million per year better off, or £330 million, compared to Camden. Faced with an extremely challenging financial situation, we're continuing to lead calls for fair funding.

Q10 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the way funding is distributed between councils should be reviewed?

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Why do you say this?

Characters remaining: left

Commercial Activities

The county council wishes to further develop commercial activities as a way of generating income for the council. The income would be used to support service delivery. The activity could range from financial investment, such as buying property for rental income, through to trading activities. Examples of trading activities include selling services (e.g. HR and other back-office functions) to other organisations, earning income from council buildings, e.g. wedding venues, and providing catering services at council-run facilities, such as country parks.

Q11 To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach?

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Why do you say this?

Characters remaining: left

About you

Leicestershire's future - Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-23

Leicestershire County Council is committed to ensuring that its services, policies and practices are free from discrimination and prejudice and that they meet the needs of all sections of the community.

We would be grateful if you would answer the questions below. You are under no obligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly if you did. Information will be used to inform service development to ensure that what we are providing is fair and effective.

This information will not be disclosed in the event of a Freedom of Information request.

Q12 What is your gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Other (e.g. pangender, non-binary etc.)

Q13 Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?

- Yes
- No

Q14 What was your age on your last birthday?

Q15 What is your postcode? This will help us understand views in different areas

Q16 Are you a parent/carer of a child or young person aged 17 or under?

- Yes
- No

Q17 Are you a carer of a person aged 18 or over?

- Yes
- No

A carer is someone of any age who provides unpaid support to family or friends who could not manage without this help

Q18 Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity?

- Yes
- No

Q19 What is your ethnic group?

- White

 Black or Black British
 Mixed

 Other ethnic group
 Asian or Asian British

Q20 What is your religion or belief?

- No religion

 Jewish
 Christian (all denominations)

 Muslim
 Buddhist

 Sikh
 Hindu

 Any other religion or belief

Q21 Sexual Orientation. Many people face discrimination because of their sexual orientation and for this reason we have decided to ask this monitoring question. You do not have to answer it but we would be grateful if you could tick the box next to the category which describes your sexual orientation:

- Bisexual
 Gay
 Heterosexual / Straight
 Lesbian
 Other

Thank you for your time. Your views will be considered before the budget is finalised in February.

Please click the 'tick' button below to send us your response.

Data Protection: Personal data supplied on this form will be held on computer and will be used in accordance with current Data Protection Legislation. The information you provide will be used for statistical analysis, management, planning and the provision of services by the county council and its partners. Leicestershire County Council will not share any personal information collected in this survey with its partners. The information will be held in accordance with the council's records management and retention policy. Information which is not in the 'About you' section of the questionnaire may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Appendix 2 - Respondent profile

Age	Survey Responses			2011 Census (16+)
	206	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
Under 15	1	0.6	0.5	
15-24	5	2.8	2.4	14.3%
25-34	27	15.0	13.1	13.2%
35-44	43	23.9	20.9	17.2%
45-54	59	32.8	28.6	17.8%
55-64	35	19.4	17.0	15.9%
65-74	8	4.4	3.9	11.6%
75-84	1	0.6	0.5	7.2%
85 or above	1	0.6	0.5	
No reply	26		12.6	

Gender identity*	Survey Responses			2011 Census (16+)
	206	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
Male	77	40.1	37.4	49.0%
Female	113	58.9	54.9	51.0%
Other (e.g. pangender, nonbinary etc.)	2	1.0	1.0	
No reply	14		6.8	

*2011 Census asks for respondent gender

Do you have a long-standing illness or disability?*	Survey Responses			2011 Census (16+)
	206	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
Yes	41	21.2	19.9	19.1%
No	152	78.8	73.8	80.9%
No reply	13		6.3	

*2011 Census asks if respondents day-to-day activities are limited a lot

Ethnicity	Survey Responses			2011 Census (16+)
	206	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
White	172	92.5	83.5	92.2%
Mixed	2	1.1	1.0	0.8%
Asian or Asian British	6	3.2	2.9	6.0%
Black or Black British	2	1.1	1.0	0.6%
Other ethnic group	4	2.2	1.9	0.4%
No reply	20		9.7	

Sexual orientation	Survey Responses			2011 Census (16+)
	206	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
Bisexual	3	1.7	1.5	
Gay	6	3.3	2.9	
Heterosexual/straight	163	90.6	79.1	(Not applicable)
Lesbian	2	1.1	1.0	
Other	6	3.3	2.9	
No reply	26		12.6	

*NR = No reply

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What is your religion?	206	Survey Responses		2011 Census (16+)
		% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
No religion	85	45.5	41.3	25.3%
Christian (All denominations)	88	47.1	42.7	62.6%
Buddhist	2	1.1	1.0	0.3%
Hindu	1	0.5	0.5	2.8%
Jewish	1	0.5	0.5	0.1%
Muslim	5	2.7	2.4	1.2%
Sikh	0	0.0	0.0	1.2%
Any other religion or belief	5	2.7	2.4	0.4%
No reply	19		9.2	6.3%

Are you a parent or carer of a young person aged 17 or under?	206	Survey Responses		2011 Census (16+)
		% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
Yes	77	39.7	37.4	(Census data includes all people cared for regardless of age)
No	117	60.3	56.8	
No reply	12		5.8	

Are you a carer of a person aged 18 or	206	Survey Responses		2011 Census (16+)
		% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
Yes	24	12.4	11.7	(Census data includes all people cared for regardless of age)
No	170	87.6	82.5	
No reply	12		5.8	

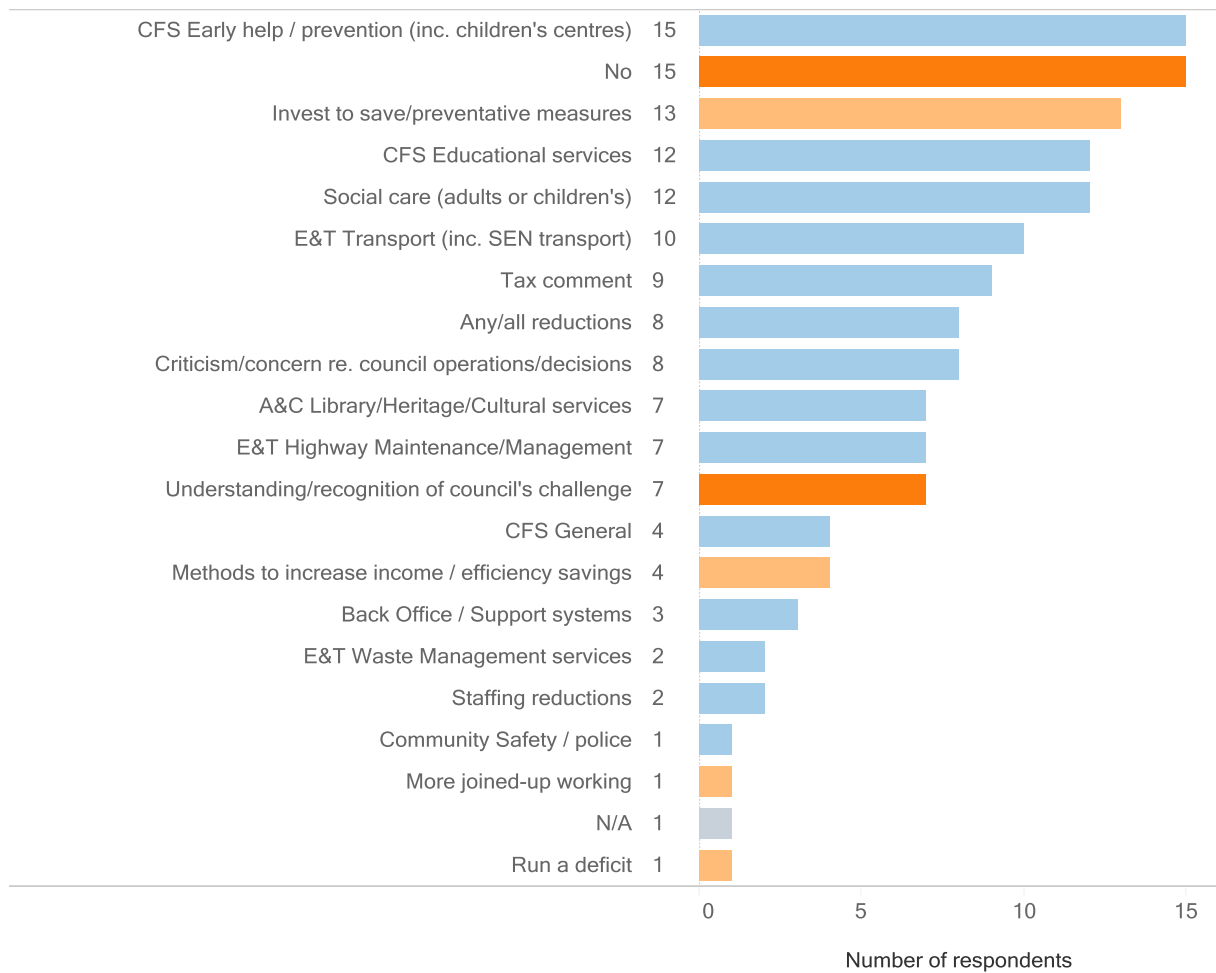
District	206	Survey Responses		2011 Census (16+)
		% Ex M/O [#]	% Inc M/O [#]	%
Blaby	22	21.6	10.7	14.3%
Charnwood	27	26.5	13.1	25.9%
Harborough	13	12.7	6.3	12.9%
Hinckley & Bosworth	18	17.6	8.7	16.2%
Melton	5	4.9	2.4	7.7%
North West Leicestershire	10	9.8	4.9	14.2%
Oadby & Wigston	7	6.9	3.4	8.7%
Missing/Invalid Postcode	93		45.1	
Other authority	11		5.3	

*NR = No reply

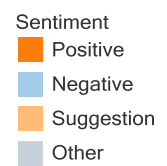
[#]M/O = Missing/invalid or Other Authority postcode

Appendix 3 - All open comment codes

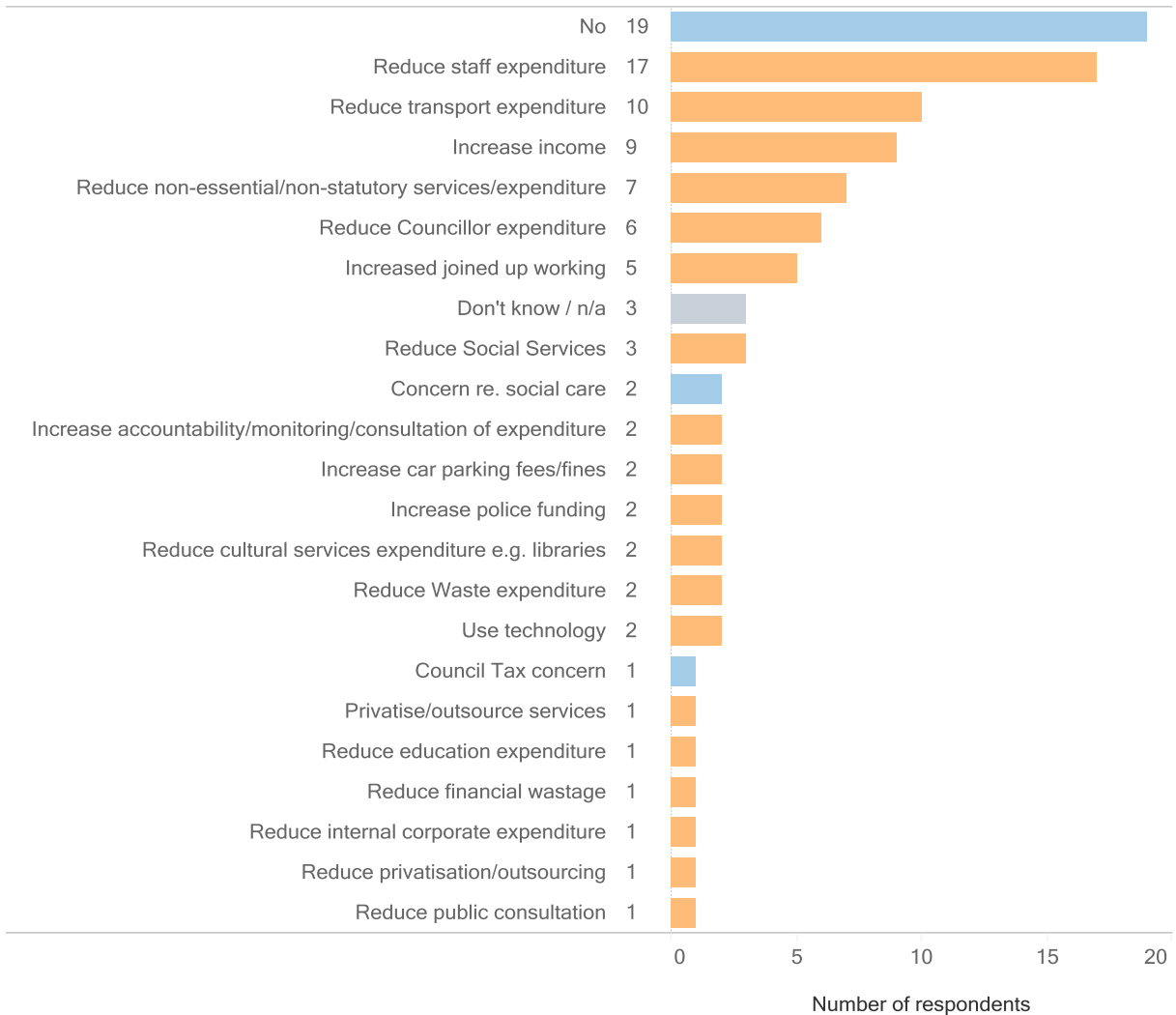
Q5 - Are there any specific service reductions you disagree with?



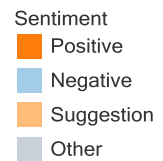
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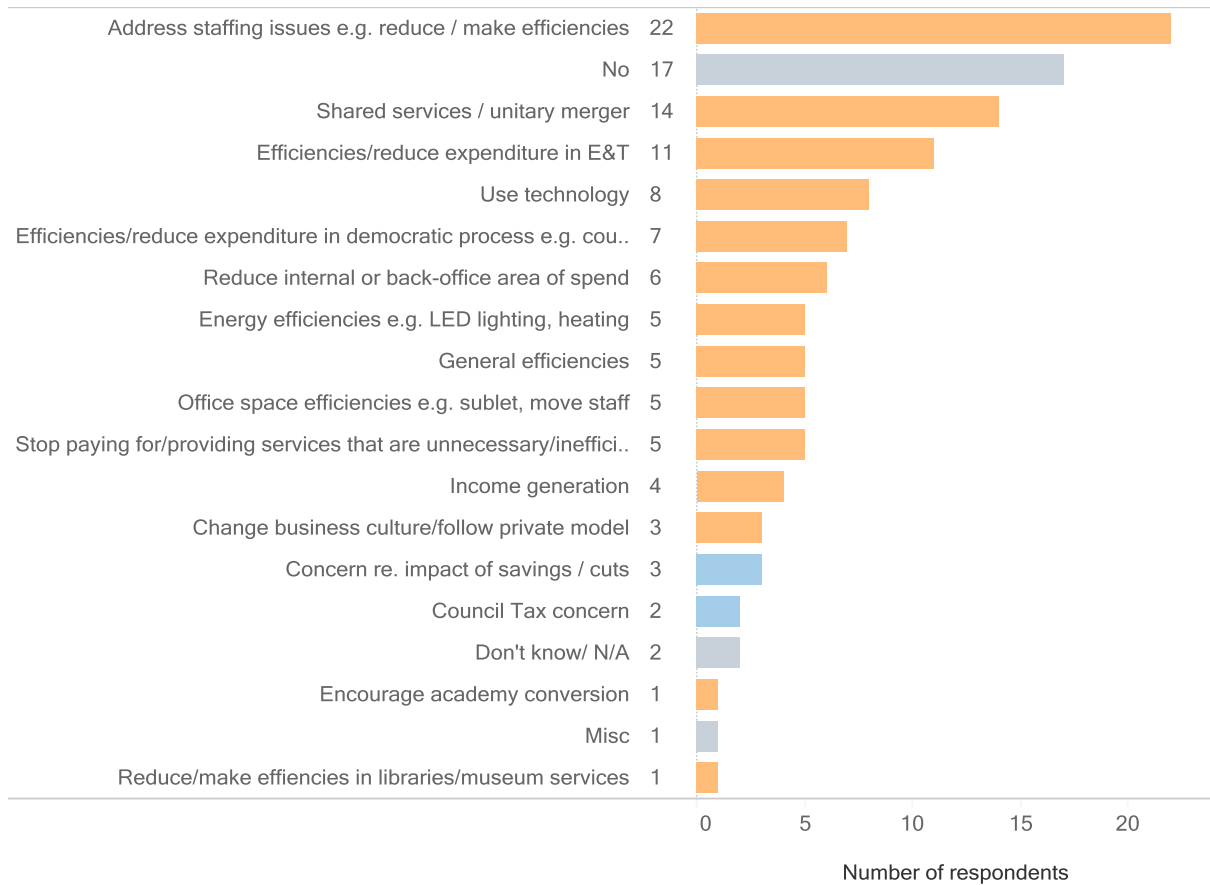
Q6 - Are there any additional service reductions or charges you think we should consider?



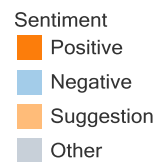
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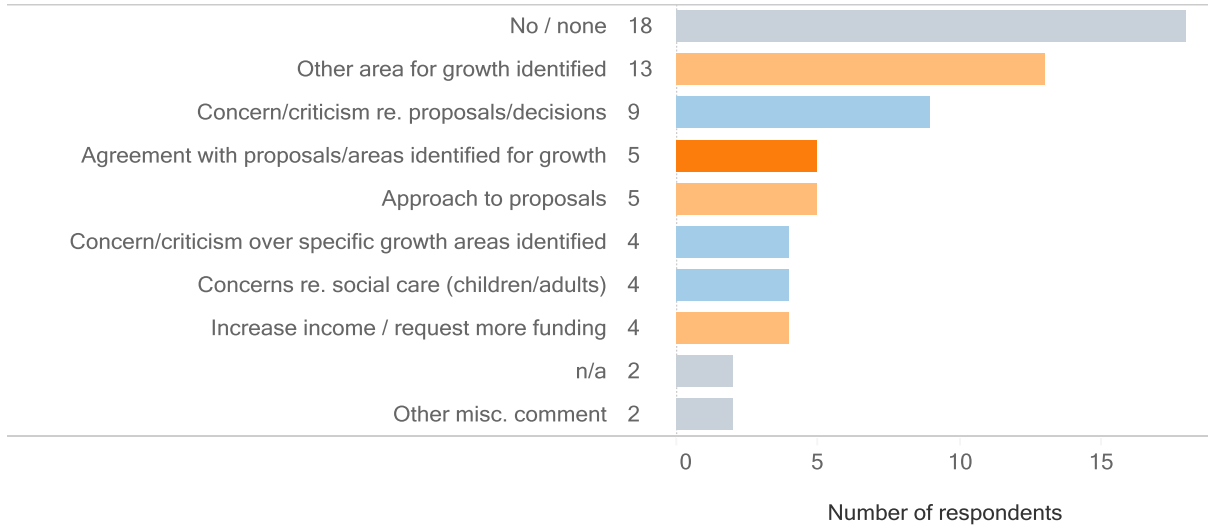
Q7 - Are there any areas where you think we could make further efficiency savings without impacting on services?



Base = 96



Q8 - Do you have any comments about the areas identified for growth?

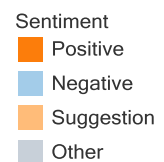


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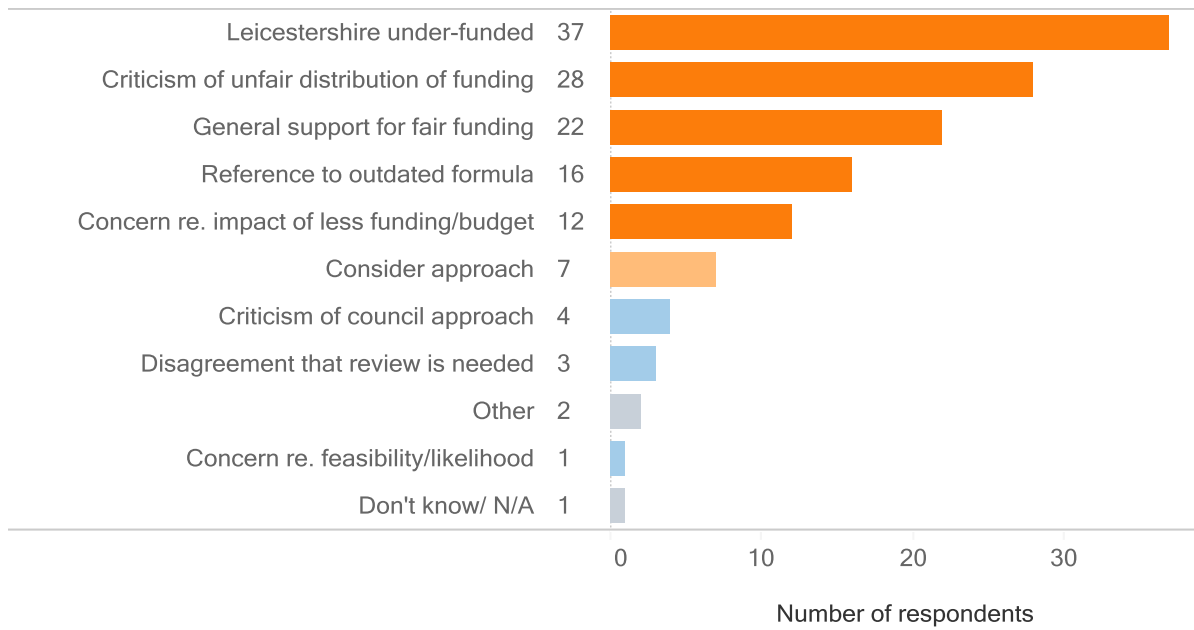
Q9 - Do you have any other comments about our draft budget proposals?



Base = 59

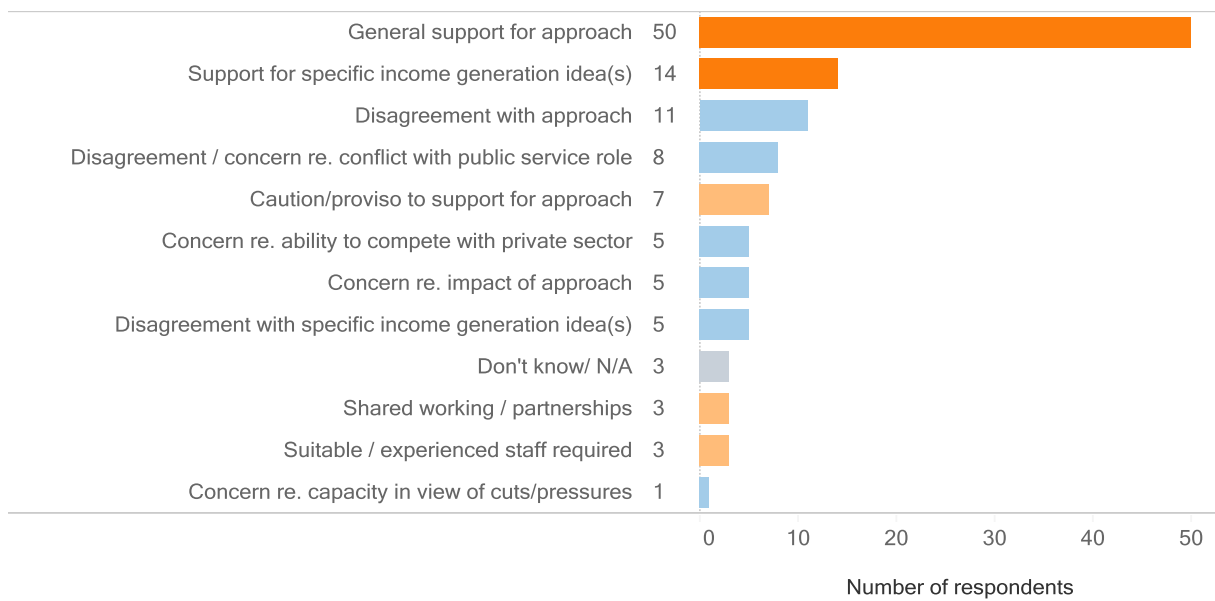


Q10a - Why do you say this (in response to Q10 regarding Fair Funding)

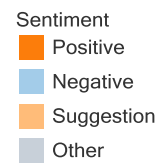


Base = 100

Q11a - Why do you say this (in response to Q11 regarding commercial activities)



Base = 86



Appendix 4 - Stakeholder response

From: [Mandip Rai](#)

Sent: 23 January 2019 08:45

To: [Tom Purnell](#)

Subject: RE: MTFFS Consultation

Dear Tom,

RE: Leicestershire County Council MTFFS 2019-23

Thank you for inviting the LLEP to respond to the County Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-23. The County Council is a key partner on the LLEP and we fully support the proposals in the draft strategy.

The LLEP recognise that the authority is the lowest funded county council in the country and facing substantial financial pressures and we fully support the County Council leading calls for fairer funding. We commend the £200m savings that the council has made since 2010 and support the planned savings of £78m in 2019-23 period and the proposed Council Tax rise of 3.99 per cent per year for 2019/20.

The LLEP will continue to support council projects that promote economic growth and we fully back the council's proposal for a £380m capital programme of one-off investments such as building a relief road for Melton and other highway schemes, creating new school places, developing supported living for adults with disabilities and rolling out superfast broadband. This investment will support new homes and boost the local economy.

As a key partner in the recent Health and Social Care plan we recognise the importance of this sector to the local economy and support the council's proposals for children's and adults social care services.

Regards,

Mandip

From: Tom Purnell

Sent: 20 December 2018 15:51

To: Mandip.Rai@llep.org.uk

Subject: MTFFS Consultation

About the Strategic Business Intelligence Team

The team provides research and insight support to the council, working with both internal departments and partner organisations.

The team provides assistance with:

- Asset Mapping
- Benchmarking
- Business case development
- Community profiling
- Consultation
- Cost benefit analysis
- Journey mapping
- Data management
- Data cleaning/matching
- Data visualisation/ Tableau
- Engagement
- Ethnography
- Factor/cluster analysis
- Focus groups/workshops
- Forecasts/modelling
- Literature reviews
- GIS Mapping/ Mapinfo
- Needs analysis
- Profiling
- Questionnaire design
- Randomised control trials
- Segmentation
- Social Return on Investment/evaluations
- Statistical analysis/SPSS
- Surveys (all formats)/ SNAP
- Voting handsets
- Web analytics
- Web usability testing

Contact

Jo Miller
Strategic Business Intelligence Team Leader

Strategic Business Intelligence
Strategy and Business Intelligence
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall, Glenfield
Leicester LE3 8RA

Tel: 0116 305 7341
Email: jo.miller@leics.gov.uk
Web: www.lsr-online.org

If you require information contained in this leaflet in another version e.g. large print, Braille, tape or alternative language please telephone: 0116 305 6803, Fax: 0116 305 7271 or Minicom: 0116 305 6160.

ਜੇ ਆਪ ਆ ਮਾਫਿਤੀ ਆਪਨੀ ਆਖਾਮਾਂ ਸਮਝਵਾਮਾਂ ਥੋੜੀ ਮਦਦ ਈਝਰਾਂ ਡੀ ਟੀ 0116 305 6803 ਨੰਬਰ ਪਰ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰਥੋ ਅਨੇ ਅਮੇ ਆਪਨੇ ਮਦਦ ਕਰਵਾ ਆਵਥਾ ਕਰੀਥੁੰ.

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਕੁਝ ਮਦਦ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0116 305 6803 ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ ਕਿਸੇ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਦਵਾਂਗੇ।

এই তথ্য নিজের ভাষায় বুঝার জন্য আপনার যদি কোন সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে 0116 305 6803 এই নম্বরে ফোন করলে আমরা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবো।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات سمجھنے میں کچھ مدد درکار ہے تو براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر کال کریں اور ہم آپ کی مدد کے لئے کسی کا انتظام کر دیں گے۔ 0116 305 6803

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，請致電 0116 305 6803，我們會安排有關人員為你提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 6803, a my Ci dopomożemy.

Strategic Business Intelligence
Strategy and Business Intelligence
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall, Glenfield
Leicester LE3 8RA

ri@leics.gov.uk
www.lsr-online.org