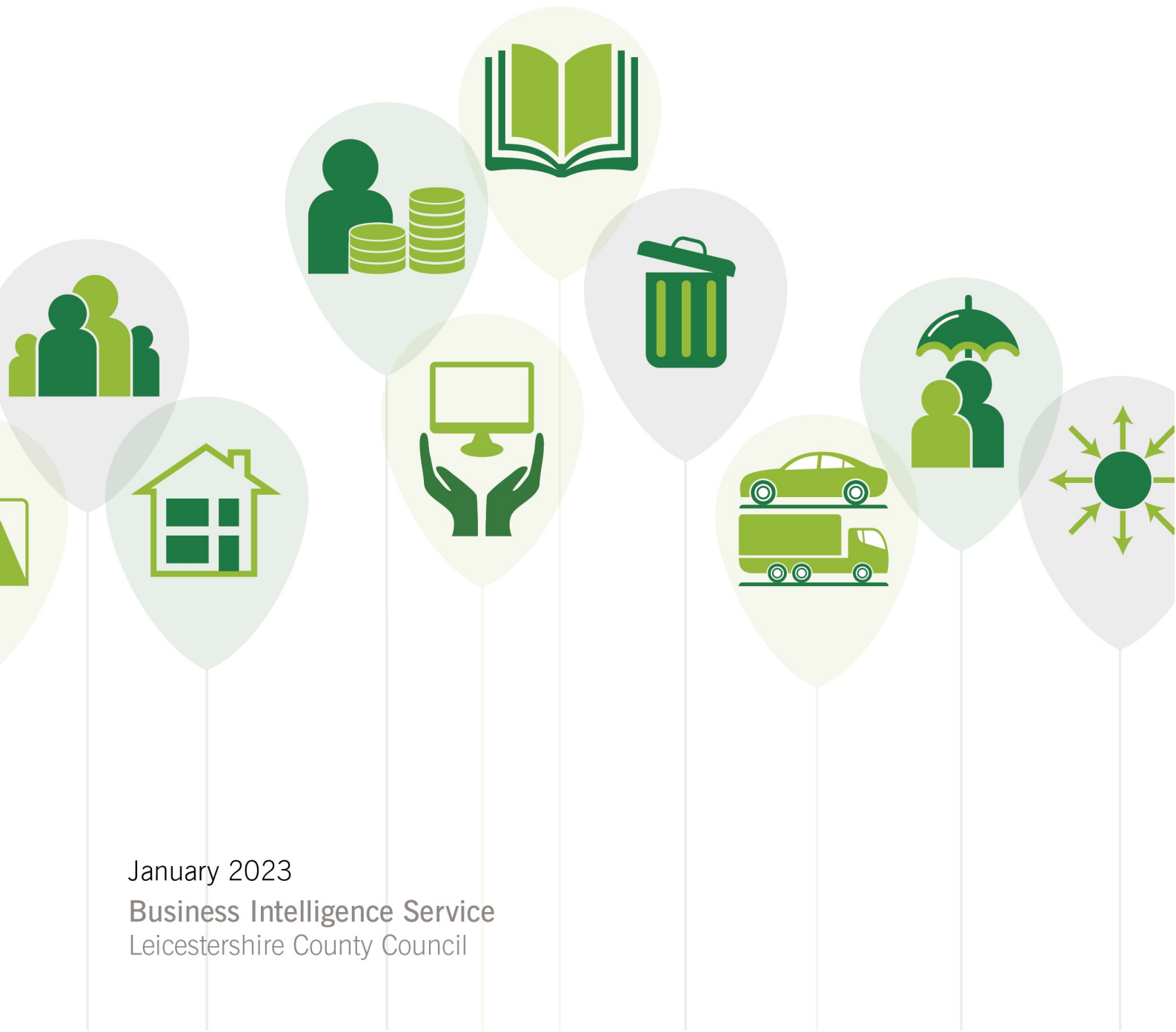


Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2027

Public consultation results



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CONTENTS

	Page
Key findings	4
Background	6
Methodology	6
Communication	7
Questions	7
Analysis	7
Results	
Role of Respondent	8
Core Council Tax increase (excl. adult social care precept)	10
Adult Social Care Precept	12
Total Council Tax increase	14
Impact of a 5% increase in Council Tax	18
Growth and savings allocation	22
Open-ended questions	23
Funding Reform	29
Other comments on the council's budget proposals	30
Communications	32
Other consultation response	33
Appendices	34
Appendix 1 - Questionnaire	34
Appendix 2 - Respondent profile	43
Appendix 3 - Open comment codes and quotes	45
Appendix 4 - Statistical Analysis	60
Appendix 5 - Other consultation response	67

Key findings

In total, 619 responses were received to the consultation survey, of which 61% were residents of Leicestershire and 58% were employees of Leicestershire County Council (multiple-choice question).

Council Tax

Excluding any social care precept, just under a quarter of respondents (23%) were in favour of paying a core Council Tax increase of above 3% to fund County Council services and just under a third (31%) favoured an increase of 3%. Just under a sixth (15%) were in favour of an increase of 2%, a tenth (10%) were in favour of an increase of 1%. Over a tenth (12%) did not want to pay an increase in core Council Tax, whilst 9% said they thought core Council Tax should be reduced.

A fifth of respondents (20%) were in favour of an increase of above 2% in Council Tax to specifically fund adult social care in Leicestershire (the adult social care precept). Just over a third (34%) said they favoured an increase of 2% and just under a quarter (23%) said they favoured an increase of 1%. A notable proportion opposed to paying any adult social care precept (24%).

By combining the responses to the questions about core Council Tax and adult social care precept, 42% were in favour of a 5% increase or above in overall Council Tax (including the adult social care precept). Just under a tenth (8%) said they would not be prepared to pay any increase in any Council Tax and 7% said they thought all Council Tax should be reduced.

Respondents were asked what impact an overall 5% increase in Council Tax (the proposed total of core Council Tax and social care precept) would have on their household finances. Just under a quarter of respondents (24%) said this would have a significant impact, a third (33%) said this would have a moderate impact and just under a third (32%) said this would have a slight impact. Just over a tenth (11%) said this would have no impact on their household.

The cost of living crisis was the most reoccurring theme when respondents were asked why an overall 5% increase in Council Tax would have an impact on their household finances. Respondents were particularly worried about how this increase, combined with other increases, would affect their household. Several respondents said this increase would impact their essential household costs, whilst some were concerned about struggling to afford this as a single-income household. Although many respondents said this increase would have a slight or no impact on their household finances, some were fearful for lower-income households and vulnerable residents. Many respondents said they understood the need for this increase to protect essential council services and compared to other price rises it was a relatively small increase.

Growth and Savings

When respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with how the growth and

savings had been allocated across services, 41% agreed and 24% disagreed (35% neither agreed nor disagreed).

Open Comments

Open comments regarding service reductions highlighted some key areas of concern, particularly service cuts to community wellbeing and safety. There were some concerns in relation to what further savings would mean for front-line workers and LCC employees in a time where caseloads are already high and at capacity. Others were worried about how additional cuts would impact the most vulnerable in the community, particularly those accessing homelessness services. Some respondents criticised service reductions in Environment and Transport services, specifically waste sites and road maintenance.

Respondents were asked whether there were any other areas where the council could make further savings. Despite many respondents not leaving a comment, or answering “no”, there were some suggestions made around making council expenditure more efficient, in relation to staffing and office space. With regards to staffing, respondents mentioned reducing agency staff and external consultants. As staff have worked from home during the pandemic, some respondents proposed the council should sell or utilise unused office space or reduce electricity and heating costs at County Hall. Other respondents made suggestions for the council to become a unitary authority and said sharing services could help make further savings.

Whilst several respondents were in agreement about the areas identified for growth or capital investment, others mentioned the need for the council to make further investments into children and family services and increase support for the most vulnerable residents. Some respondents made specific suggestions, including increasing funding to tackle poverty, for youth services and country parks. Others felt they had a lack of understanding and required more information to provide a more informed response.

When asked to provide any further comments or suggestions about the council’s budget proposals, several respondents provided suggestions including reducing costs in unused council buildings and generating income through investment. Some respondents requested for the council to continue funding certain services, specifically adult and children’s social care and homelessness services. A notable proportion of respondents had criticisms or had concerns regarding the council’s proposals and the council services. Some respondents felt that current council services were not operating adequately, specific mentions were made about waste sites and support for vulnerable residents. There were many mentions of Leicestershire being underfunded, with support for the council to continue lobbying central Government. Positive comments reflected general support for the budget proposals and acknowledgement of the difficult financial position the council faces.

Funding Reform

With regards to Fairer Funding, the majority of respondents (92%) agreed that the council should continue lobbying Government to review the way funding is distributed between councils, 5% disagreed and 3% neither agreed nor disagreed.

Background

Leicestershire County Council's latest in-depth financial plan is designed to protect public services and support vulnerable people during tough economic times over the next four years.

Service demand is adding £70m and rising inflation is set to cost another £80m by 2026/27. The National Living Wage increase drives up social care costs significantly and adds another £18m for 2023/24 alone. The proposals include a £508m four-year capital pot—for the cost of building roads, schools, and other one-off projects—which is also subject to significant inflation pressures.

The Council's budget proposals include £57m more to support vulnerable people - paying for more home and residential care, and supporting people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health needs. They also include £59m of efficiency savings - reducing back office costs by providing the right level of support to residents, maximising digital technology and simplifying processes. Service cuts totalled to £4m, which include reviewing street lighting, Green Plaques, Shire Grants, and local waste sites.

The proposals outline a proposed 3% increase on core Council Tax in 2023/24 with the Government permitting an additional increase of a further 2% to fund adult social care (known as the 'social care precept'). A decision on core Council Tax and the adult social care precept will be taken each year for any future increases.

The consultation exercise on the budget plan provided an opportunity for residents, staff, businesses, community groups, and other stakeholders to have their views heard and taken into account when the budget plan is considered and finalised by Cabinet.

Methodology

Following the publication of the detailed budget proposals, a consultation summary and survey form were made available on the County Council's website for the duration of the consultation period of 19th December 2022 to 15th January 2023.

This provided the opportunity for residents and other stakeholders to have their say. Paper copies of the survey and copies in alternative formats (including easy read) were available on request.

Communication

A range of communications activity was used throughout the consultation period to encourage people to have their say, including: newsletters, webinars, videos, online content, social media (Twitter, Facebook LinkedIn, TikTok and Next Door), intranet content, Yammer posts, media releases and direct emails to residents, staff, parish councils, partners, businesses and other stakeholders. This generated engagement across social media platforms, dialogue in online forums and wide-ranging press coverage in print, online and broadcast media and ultimately, helped to generate 619 responses. This report has been shared with decision-makers and will form a part of the feedback to participants following the presentation to Cabinet.

Questions

The survey asked respondents about Council Tax levels (including the Government's proposed adult 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:

- What impact, if any, would an overall 5% increase in Council Tax have on your household finances? Why do you say this?
- Are there any savings you disagree with?
- Are there any areas where you think we could make further savings?
- Do you have any comments about the areas identified for growth or capital investment?
- Do you have any other comments about our draft budget proposals?

A range of demographic questions were also asked, namely: gender, gender the same as sex registered 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. The comments in full have also been passed on to Finance Department for further consideration.

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 sections of the report. See Appendix 4 for the full statistical analysis.

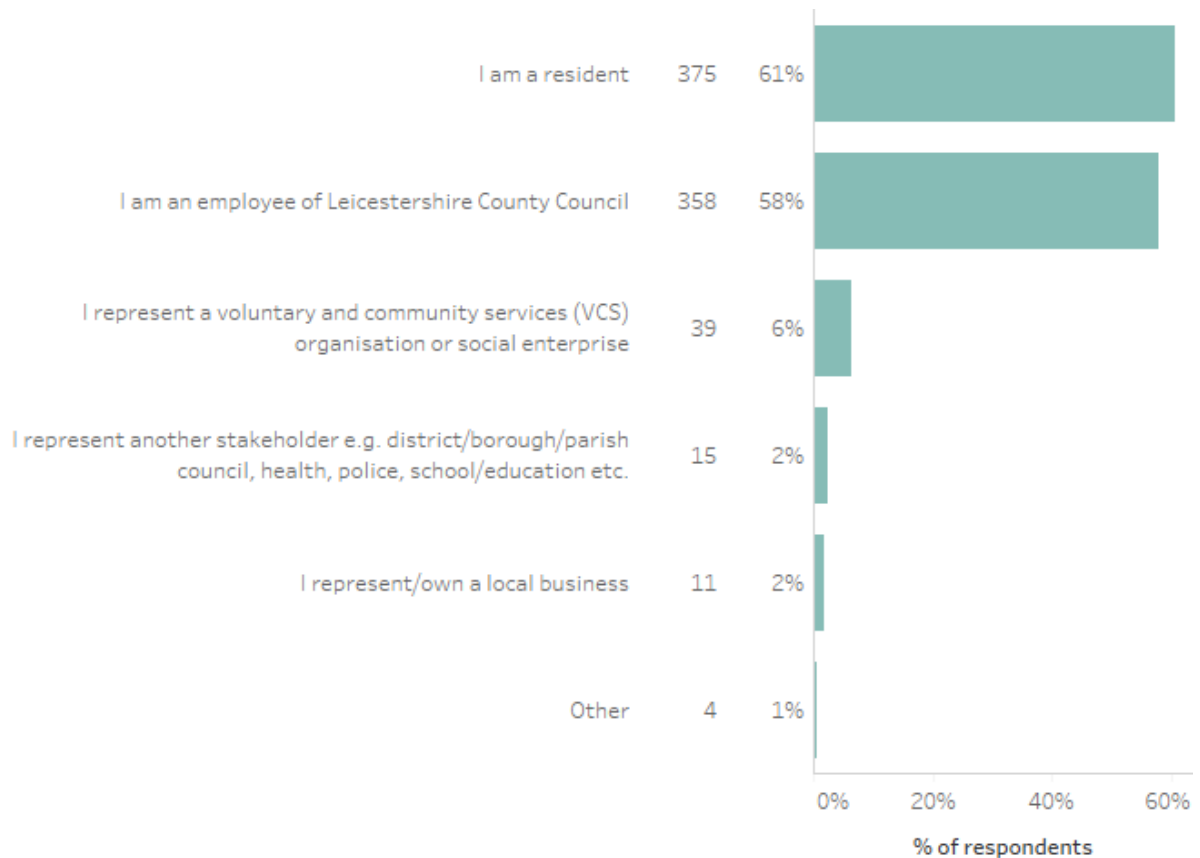
Results

In total, 619 responses to the survey were received. A full respondent profile can be found in Appendix 2.

Question 1 - Role of Respondent

Respondents were asked in what capacity they were responding to the survey. Chart 1 below shows the breakdown. It shows that 61% of people who completed the survey were responding as residents and 58% were employees of Leicestershire County Council (LCC). This question was multiple choice.

Chart 1 - Role of Respondent (multiple response)

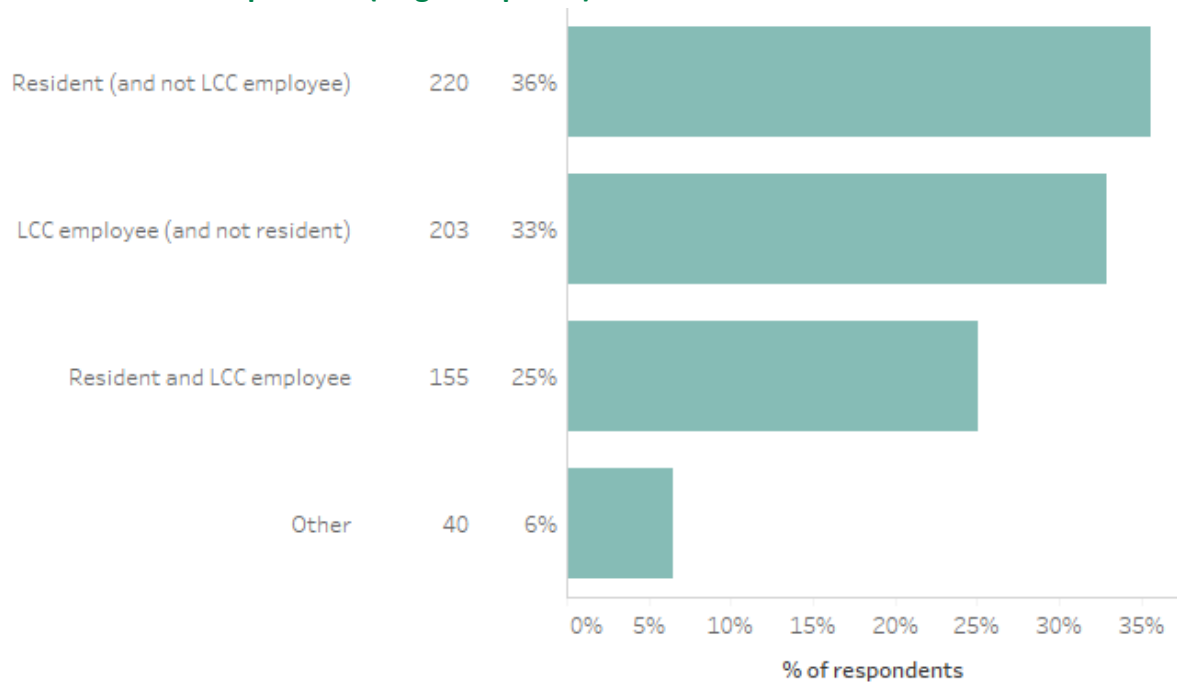


Base = 618

Chart 2 shows 36% were residents and not employees of LCC, 33% were LCC employees and not residents and 25% were both.

Throughout the analysis that follows, a comparison has been made between the views from residents who are not LCC employees (220 respondents) and the views from LCC employees (358 respondents).

Chart 2 - Role of Respondent (single response)



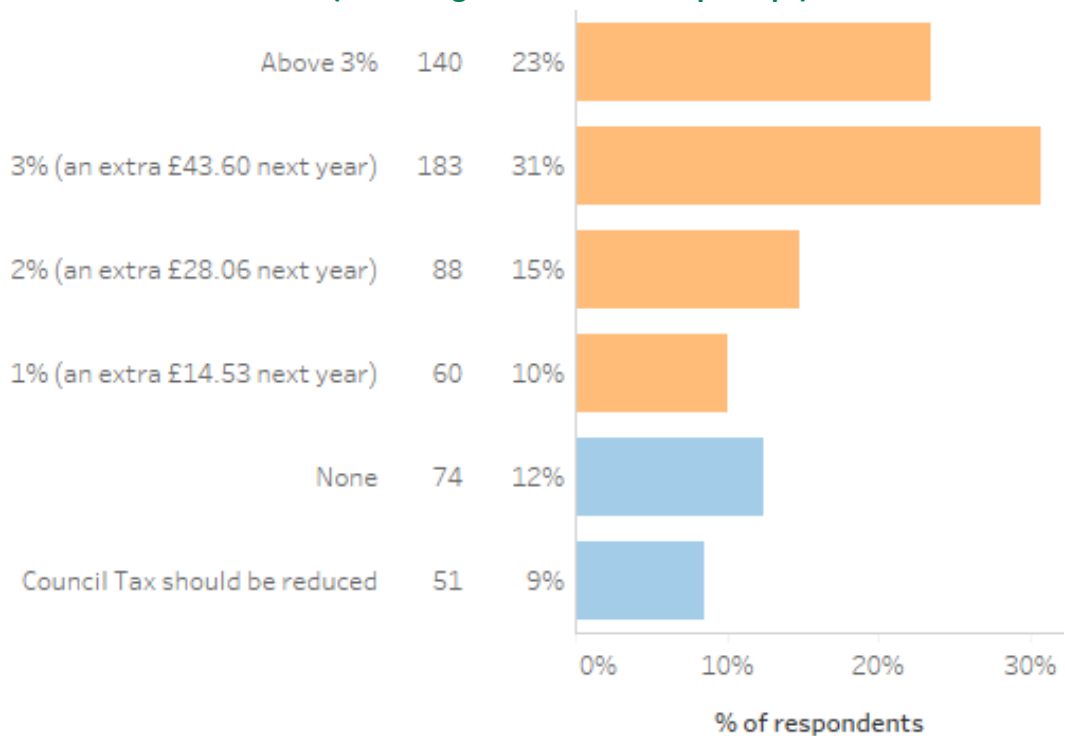
Base = 618

Question 4 - Core Council Tax increase (excluding adult social care precept)

Respondents were asked what core Council Tax increase they would be prepared to pay to fund County Council services, excluding any adult social care precept.

Chart 3 shows just under a quarter of respondents (23%) were in favour of paying an increase of above 3%, 31% were in favour of paying an increase of 3% (the current proposal), 15% were in favour of paying an increase of 2% and 10% were in favour of paying an increase of 1%. Over a tenth (12%) thought Council Tax should not be increased and 9% thought it should be reduced.

Chart 3 - Core Council Tax increase (excluding adult social care precept)



Base = 596

Statistical analysis shows that male respondents were significantly more likely (33%) and female respondents were significantly less likely (17%) to be in favour of a core Council Tax increase of above 3% when compared to the average (23%).

LCC employees were significantly more likely (36%) to be in favour of an increase of 3% when compared to the average (31%). Respondents who said their religion or belief was Christian were also significantly more likely (36%) to favour a core Council Tax increase of 3% compared to the average (31%).

Females were significantly more likely to be in favour of an increase of 2% (20%) and 1% (13%) when compared to the average (15% and 10%, respectively). Respondents who said they lived in Hinckley and Bosworth were also significantly more likely to be in favour of a 1% increase (18%) compared to the average (10%)

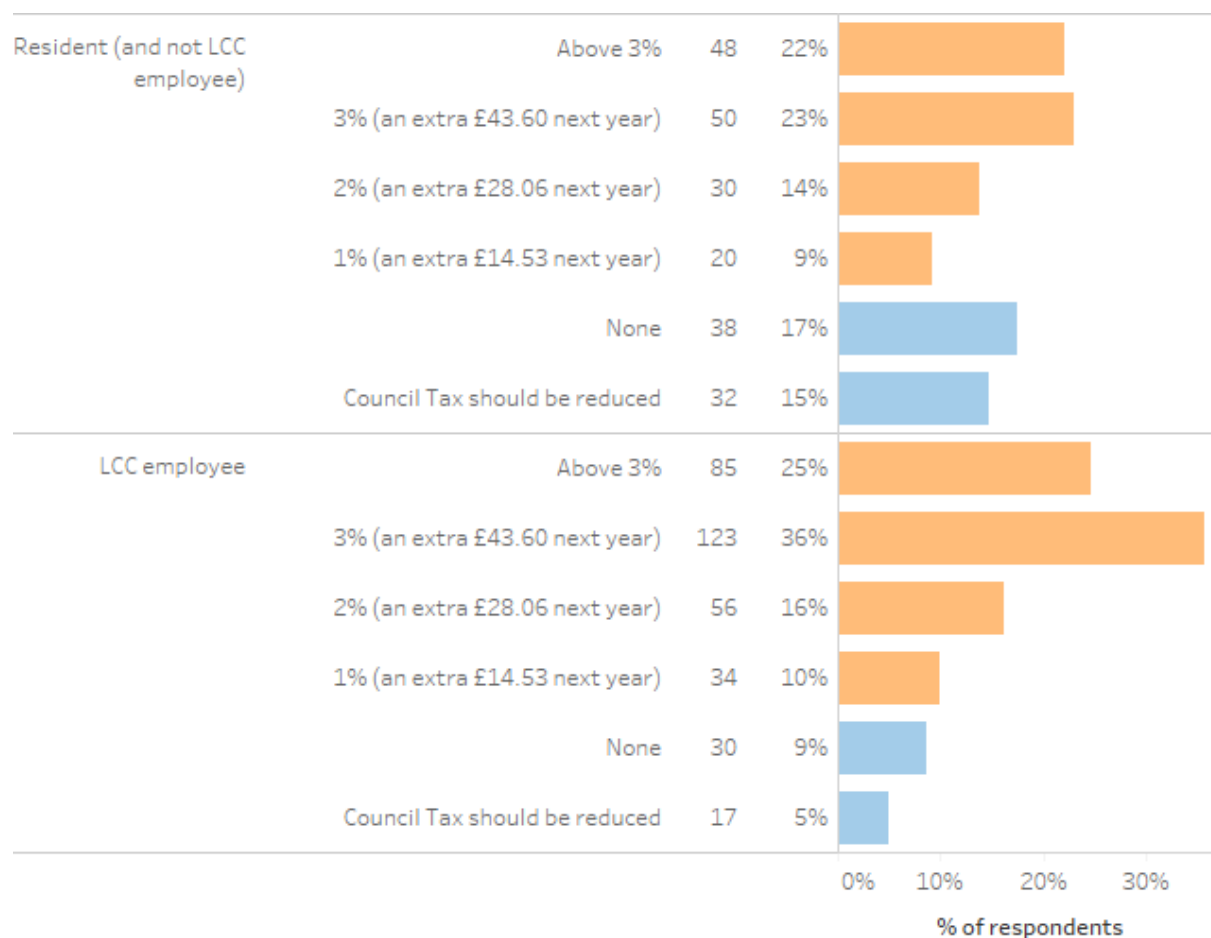
Statistical analysis shows that residents were significantly more likely to say they did not want Core Council Tax to be increased (17%) or wanted it to be reduced (15%) when compared to the average (12% and 9%, respectively). Respondents who said they lived in Harborough were significantly more likely to say they wanted Council Tax to be reduced (19%) when compared to the average (9%).

Chart 4 shows a comparison between residents and LCC employees. A higher proportion of LCC employees said they were prepared to pay an increase of above 3% in core Council Tax (25%) compared to residents (22%).

A larger proportion of LCC employees said they would be prepared to pay a 3% increase (36%) or 2% increase (16%) in core Council Tax than residents (23% and 14% respectively).

There was a larger percentage of residents who said they thought core Council Tax should not be increased (17%) or it should be reduced (15%), compared to LCC employees (9% and 5%, respectively).

Chart 4 - Core Council Tax increase (excluding adult social care precept) - by role



Resident base = 218

LCC employee base = 345

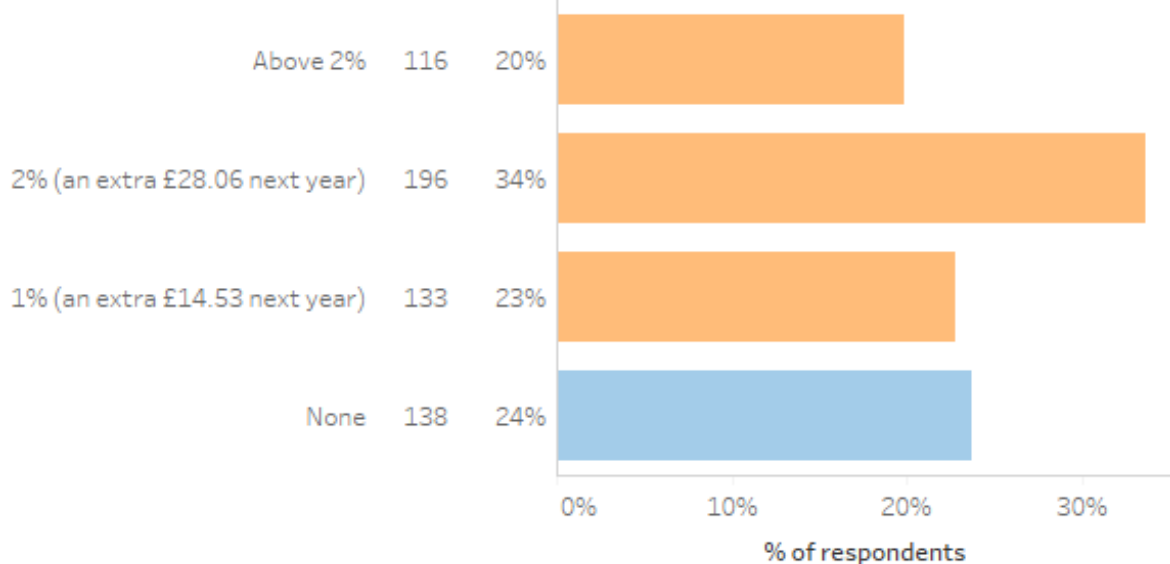
Question 5 - Additional Adult Social Care precept

Respondents were asked whether they would be prepared to pay an additional increase in Council Tax as a separate social care precept to be used exclusively for the funding of Adult Social Care in Leicestershire.

Chart 5 shows that the majority (77%) would be prepared to pay an additional increase, but just under a quarter of respondents did not want any additional increase in Council Tax for this purpose (24%).

Overall, a fifth of respondents (20%) said they would be prepared to pay above 2%, just over a third (34%) said they would be prepared to pay 2% (the current proposal) and just under a quarter (23%) said they would be prepared to pay 1%.

Chart 5 - Council Tax increase for social care precept



Base = 583

Statistical analysis shows that male respondents were significantly more likely to be in favour of a social care precept increase of above 2% (26%) than the average (20%). Female respondents were significantly less likely to be in favour of this increase (16%) compared to the average (20%). Respondents who lived in an urban area (22%) and those living within an area categorised in the second most deprived IMD Quintile (34%) were also significantly more likely to be in favour of an increase above 2% when compared to the average (20%).

LCC employees were significantly more likely to be in favour of a social care precept increase of 1% (28%) when compared to the average (23%). Females were also significantly more likely (28%) to be in favour of this increase than the average (23%).

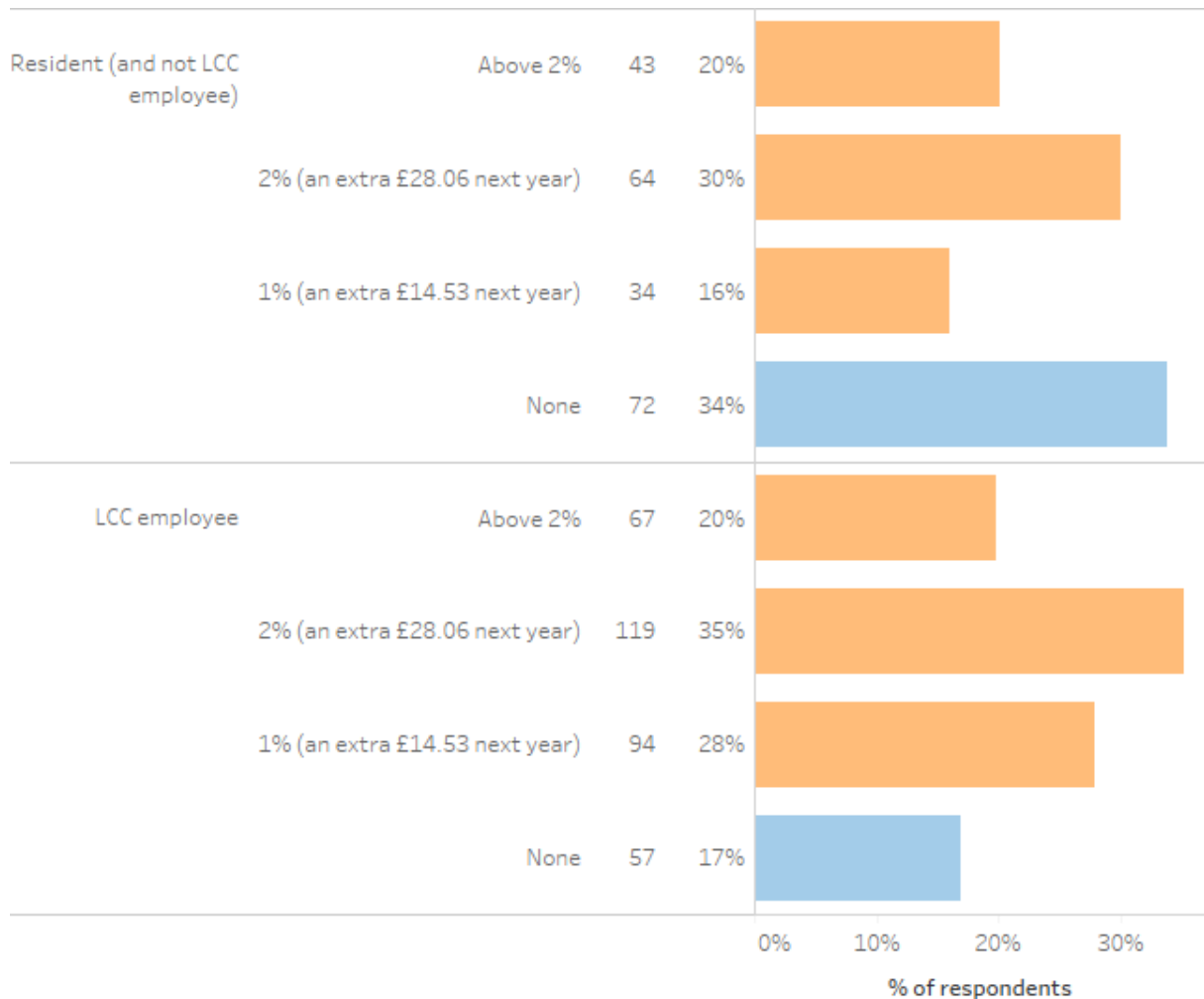
Statistical analysis shows that LCC employees were significantly less likely to say they did not want an increase in Council Tax for social care precept (17%) when compared to the average (24%). Residents were significantly more likely to favour no increase (34%) compared to the average (24%).

Chart 6 shows a comparison between residents and LCC employees. The same proportion of residents (20%) and LCC employees (20%) said they were prepared to pay an increase of above 2% in Council Tax as a social care precept.

A higher percentage of LCC employees said they would be prepared to pay a 2% increase (35%) or a 1% increase (28%) compared to residents (30% and 16%, respectively).

A notably larger proportion of residents said they would not be prepared any increase in Council Tax for social care precept (34%) compared to LCC employees (17%).

Chart 6 - Council Tax increase for social care precept - by role



Resident base = 213

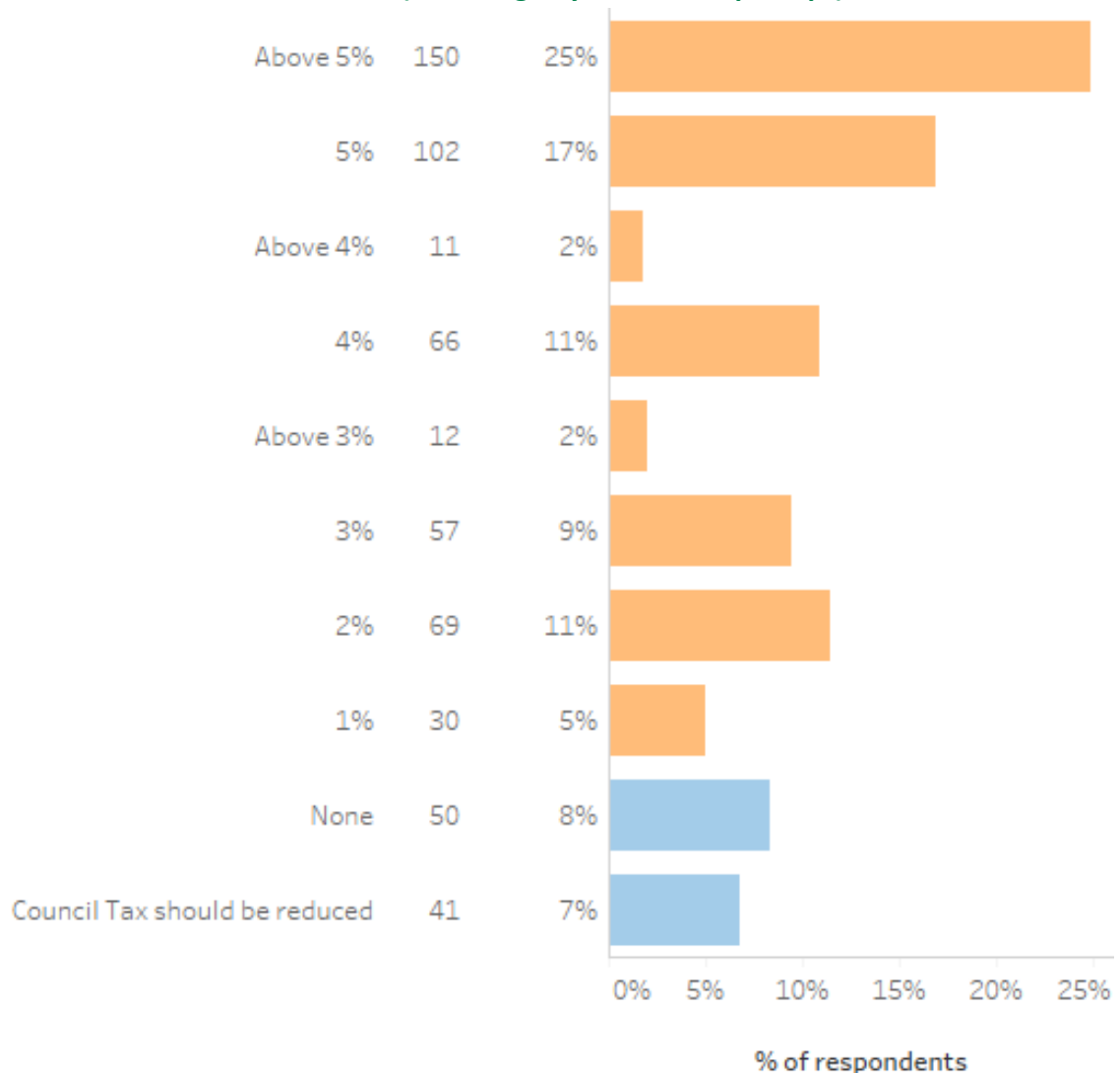
LCC employee base = 337

Total Council Tax increase

By combining the responses to the questions about core Council Tax and social care precept, Chart 7 (which is a summary of Table 1) shows that 82% were in favour of a Council Tax increase (including any social care precept). Of those supporting an increase the majority (42%) were in favour of a 5% increase in Council Tax (17%) or above (25%).

Only 8% said they did not want any increase in Council Tax and 7% said they thought Council Tax should be reduced.

Chart 7 - Total Council Tax increase (including any social care precept)



Base = 588

Note this chart excludes 10 cases where people indicated they wanted core Council Tax to reduce but an increase in social care precept.

Table 1 - Q2 by Q3

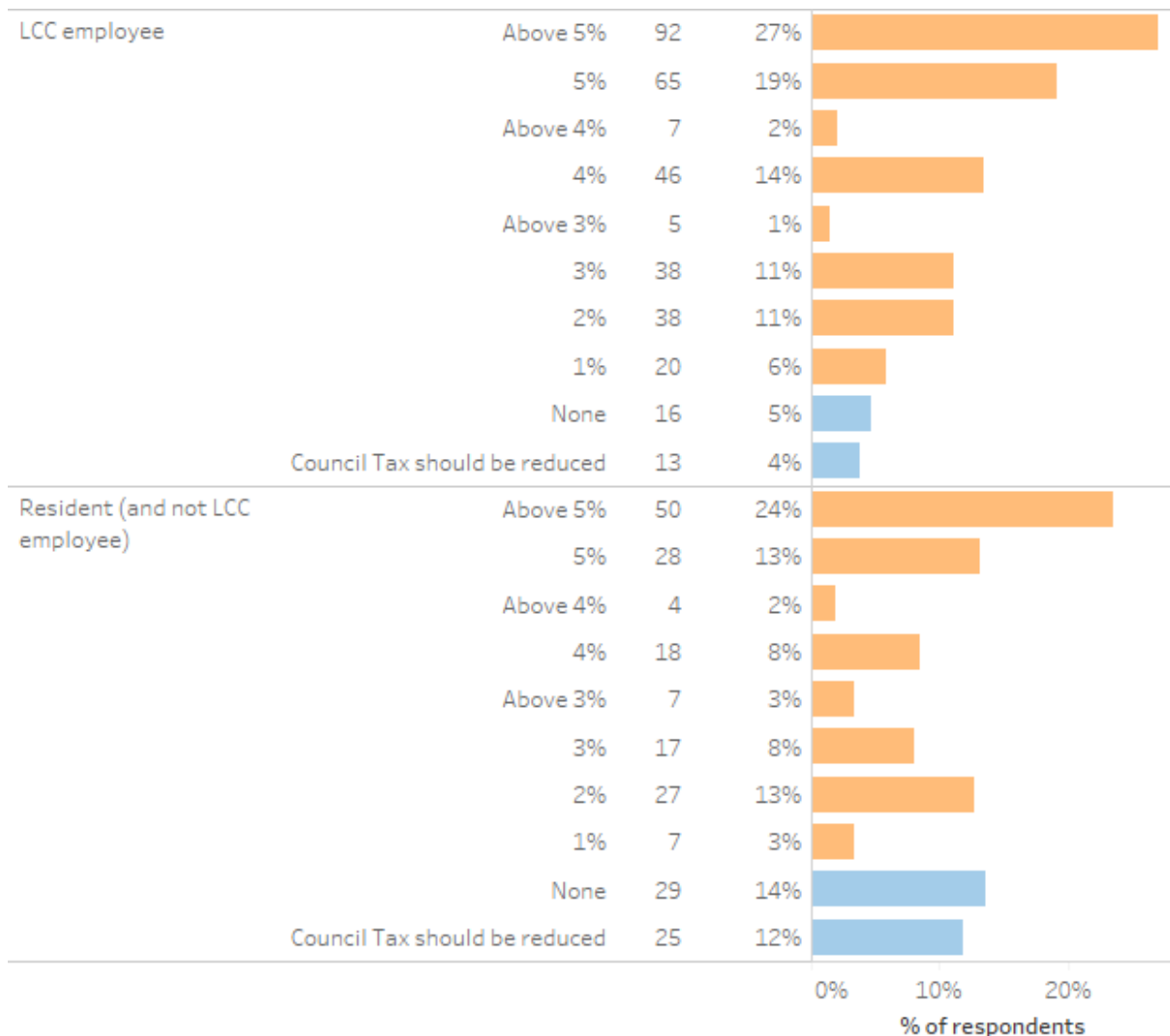
	Social Care Precept increase				
	Above 2%	2% (an extra £28.06 next year)	1% (an extra £14.53 next year)	None	Don't know
Above 3%	79 13%	41 7%	10 2%	4 1%	5 1%
3% (an extra £43.60 next year)	30 5%	102 17%	35 6%	13 2%	3 0%
2% (an extra £28.06 next year)	1 0%	31 5%	30 5%	25 4%	1 0%
Council Tax increase (excluding 'social care precept')	2 0%	11 2%	36 6%	9 1%	1 0%
1% (an extra £14.53 next year)		8 1%	15 2%	50 8%	1 0%
None					
Council Tax should be reduced	4 1%	3 0%	3 0%	37 6%	3 0%
Don't know			4 1%		14 2%

Base = 611

Chart 8 shows the comparison of total Council Tax (including any adult social care precept) between residents and LCC employees. A higher proportion of LCC employees were prepared to pay a total Council Tax increase of 5% or above 46% compared to residents (37%).

A higher proportion of residents were not prepared to pay any increase in Council Tax (14%) and thought Council Tax should be reduced (12%) compared to LCC employees (5% and 4%, respectively).

Chart 8 - Total Council Tax increase (including any social care precept) - by role



Resident base = 212
 LCC employee base = 340

Note this chart excludes 10 cases where people indicated they wanted core Council Tax to reduce but an increase in social care precept.

Statistical analysis shows that male respondents were significantly more likely to agree with a total Council Tax increase of above 5% (33%) when compared to the average (25%). Female respondents were significantly less likely to agree with an increase of above 5% (21%) than the average (25%).

Respondents who resided in Charnwood (25%) and those living in the middle IMD Quintile (27%) were significantly more likely to be in favour of a total increase of 5% than the average (17%). Residents were less likely to agree with a total increase of 5% (13%) when compared to the average (17%).

LCC employees were significantly more likely to agree with a total increase of 4% (13%) than the average (11%). Respondents who identified as straight/heterosexual were significantly more likely to agree with a total Council Tax increase of 4% (13%) compared to the average (11%).

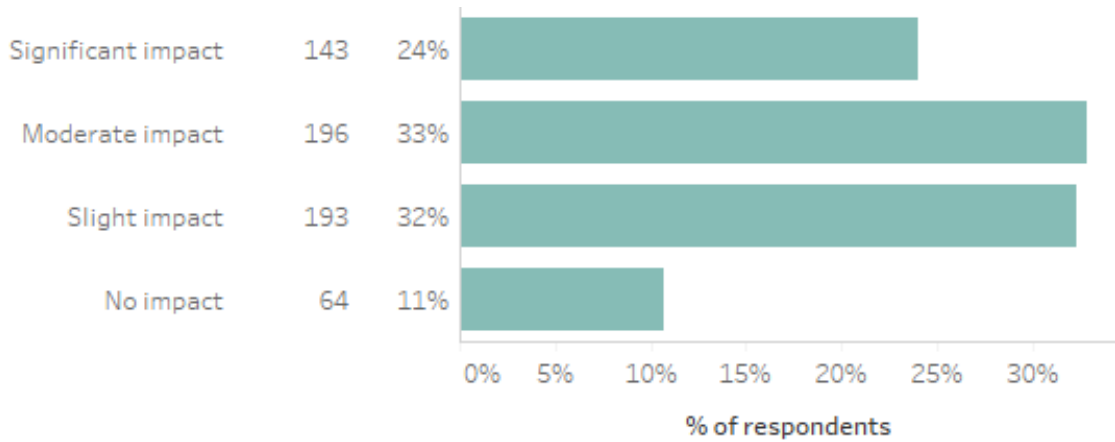
Residents were significantly more likely to be in favour of no increase in Council Tax (14%) or for Council Tax being reduced (12%) compared to the average (8 and 7%, respectively). Respondents aged 35-44 were also significantly more likely to be in favour for Council Tax to be reduced (12%) when compared to the average (7%).

Question 6 - Impact of an overall 5% increase in Council Tax on household finances

Respondents were asked what impact an overall 5% increase in Council Tax (the proposed total of core Council Tax and social care precept) would have on their household finances.

Chart 9 shows that just under a quarter (24%) of respondents said this would have a significant impact on their household finances. A third (33%) said this would have a moderate impact, and just under a third (32%) said this would have a slight impact. Just over a tenth (11%) said this would have no impact.

Chart 9 - Impact of an overall 5% increase in Council Tax on household finances



Base = 596

Statistical analysis shows residents were significantly more likely to say that an overall 5% increase in Council Tax would have a significant impact on their household finances (33%) compared to the average (24%). Respondents who said they had a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity (31%) were significantly more likely to say this than the average (24%).

LCC employees were significantly more likely to say that an overall increase of 5% would have a moderate impact on their finances (37%) when compared to the average (33%).

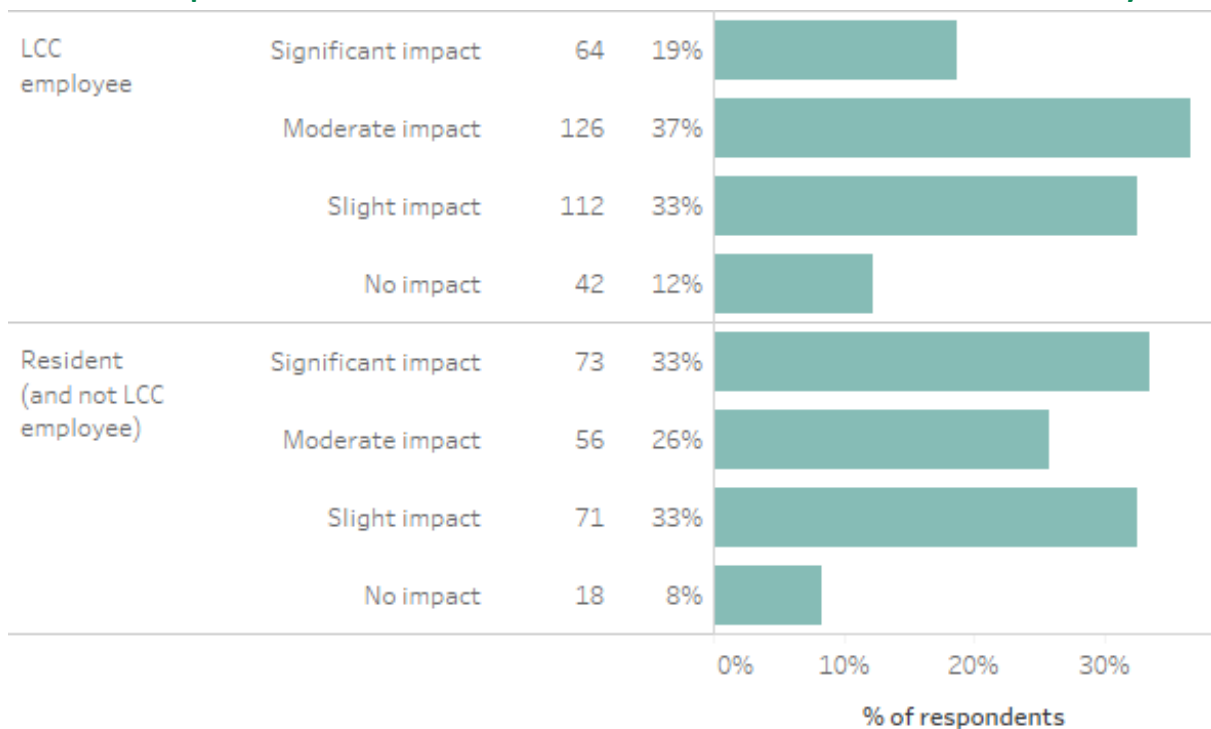
Male respondents were significantly more likely to say that this increase would have a slight impact on their household finances (38%) than the average (32%). Respondents who identified as LGB+ (48%) and those who said they had no religion or belief (40%) were also significantly more likely to say that an increase of 5% would have a slight impact compared to the average (32%).

Chart 10 shows a comparison between residents and LCC employees. Over a third (33%) of residents said an overall 5% increase in Council Tax (the proposed total of core Council Tax and social care precept) would have a significant impact on their household finances compared to 19% of LCC employees.

A higher proportion of LCC employees (37%) said a 5% increase would have a moderate impact, compared to residents (26%). The same proportion of LCC employees (33%) and residents (33%) said this increase would have a slight impact.

A larger proportion of LCC employees (12%) said this increase would have no impact compared to residents (8%).

Chart 10 - Impact of an overall 5% increase in Council Tax on household finances - by role



Resident base = 218

LCC employee base = 344

Q6a - Why do you say this?

Respondents were asked why they gave their answer to the previous question about what impact an overall 5% increase in Council Tax would make on their household finances. Chart 11 shows the top 10 codes from the qualitative analysis of this question (see Appendix 3 for a full list of codes and quotes). For this 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. All comments have been passed on to the Finance Department, in full, for further consideration.

Many of the open comments mentioned several different reasons why an overall 5% increase in Council Tax would impact their finances.

The cost of living crisis was the most commonly referenced theme, with several respondents stating they were already struggling due to increases of household bills, fuel expenses and childcare costs. Many of these respondents felt an additional 5% increase in Council Tax would significantly affect their family's finances, with several referencing that they felt they were already paying enough Council Tax and that this increase would add extra financial pressure. Some respondents were particularly worried that an increase in Council Tax would mean that they would need to choose between essential household costs, such as prioritising food or fuel.

Similarly, many respondents expressed general concerns over how this increase in Council Tax will affect their household finances, with many stating that this would be an additional cost that they could not afford. Some said that they would be able to pay an increase in Council Tax if other bills were not also increasing, whilst others stated that this increase was a lot for an average family.

A notable number of respondents mentioned that their wages, benefits or pension had not increased in line with inflation. Some said that this was the reason they could not afford an increase of 5% in Council Tax, with others stating that their wages had not increased for a number of years and said that their income did not match the increases in the cost of living.

General complaints about the increase specifically referenced the lack of funding and support from central Government, the ongoing increase in Council Tax year-on-year and concern over the council wasting money and not providing adequate services to residents. Other respondents felt that they would not see a benefit in paying an increase in Council Tax and would effectively be paying more to receive less. These comments included a respondent who said the only council services they used were being continually cut.

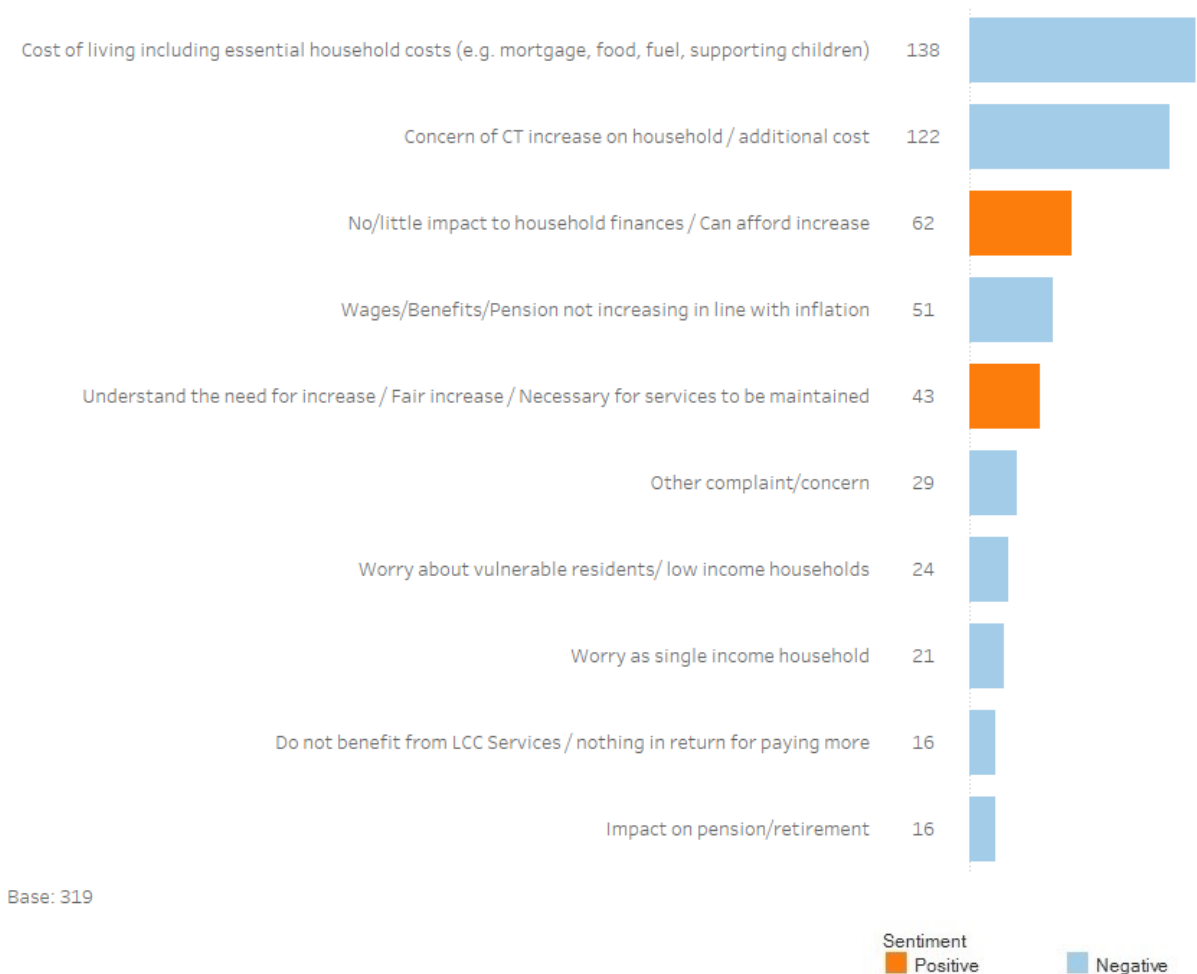
Some respondents mentioned that they were from a single-income household and felt that this increase would be unaffordable for them. These responses mentioned that they were supporting their children or other members of their household already and would struggle to pay the extra 5% with one wage.

Although some respondents said they could afford the increase or did not reference their own finances, several felt worried about how this increase would impact vulnerable or low-income households. These comments expressed concern over how the current economic situation and rises in the cost of living would affect residents who were already struggling.

Whilst the largest proportion of respondents said they were concerned about the increase, many respondents said that an additional increase of 5% would have little or no impact on their own household finances. Some stated that this would be a minimal amount for some households and would be affordable for a lot of residents. Others said they felt fortunate to be able to afford this increase and were happy to pay to help maintain council services.

Several respondents said that they would be happy to pay for this increase if it meant keeping essential services and minimising the loss of jobs. These respondents said they appreciated why the council were proposing this increase and understood the importance of funding council services, with specific references to social care and libraries.

Chart 11 - Increase of 5% on household finances - Why do you say this?



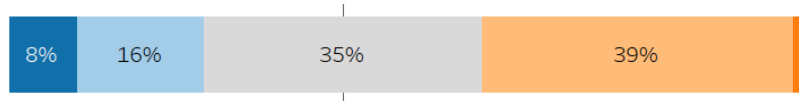
Question 7 - Growth and savings allocation

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with how the growth and savings had been allocated across services. Chart 12 shows 41% agreed, 24% disagreed and a notable proportion of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed (35%).

Chart 13 shows 29% of residents agreed with how growth and savings had been allocated across services, 41% disagreed and 30% neither agreed nor disagreed.

Half of LCC employees (50%) agreed with how growth and savings had been allocated across services, 12% disagreed and 37% neither agreed nor disagreed (see Chart 14).

Chart 12 - Growth and savings allocation - All Respondents



Base = 593

Chart 13 - Growth and savings allocation - Residents only



Base = 212

Chart 14 - Growth and savings allocation - LCC employees



Base = 345

Response

- Strongly disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to agree
- Strongly agree

Statistical analysis shows that LCC employees were significantly more likely to agree with how growth and savings had been allocated across council services (51%), compared to the average (41%). Respondents (overall) who lived in North West Leicestershire (66%) and respondents who lived in the most deprived areas were also significantly more likely to agree (49%) than the average (41%).

Residents were significantly more likely to disagree with how growth and savings had been allocated (42%) than the average (24%). Male respondents (28%) and those who said they had a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity (34%) were also significantly more likely to disagree than the average (24%).

Open-ended questions

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

- Are there any savings you disagree with?
- Are there any areas where you think we could make further savings?
- Do you have any comments about the areas identified for growth or capital investment?
- 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. All comments have been passed on to the Finance department, in full, for further consideration.

Q8 - Disagreement with specific savings

Respondents were asked whether there were any savings they disagreed with. Chart 15 lists the top 10 codes (see Appendix 3 for full code lists and quotes).

Although a notable proportion of respondents answered “No” or “N/A”, there were comments where respondents disagreed with or raised concerns about specific savings. Most comments were around community wellbeing and community safety. Concerns were raised that making further savings to the Shire Grant would result in services being removed from the third sector delivering services, as well as services that link the community with council provisions. Many commented on the impact of reducing street lighting on individual safety and about the impact of savings on those experiencing homelessness.

Many disagreed specifically with savings that would consequently remove services from those experiencing homelessness. Respondents were generally concerned what further cuts would mean for this vulnerable community, with specific mentions of this causing increases in poor mental health, higher reoffending rates and higher long-term costs to adult social care services. Mainly concerns were made about what further savings would mean for residents accessing social care services, with more reference to adults than children’s social care.

Several comments were made about the impact of savings on the most vulnerable in the community, these were often made in reference to specific services or groups (e.g. elderly residents or residents with SEND). In one example, a respondent disagreed with the savings proposed for library services, which were referenced as being “a safe haven for people”. Those in need of social care support or experiencing homelessness were also mentioned.

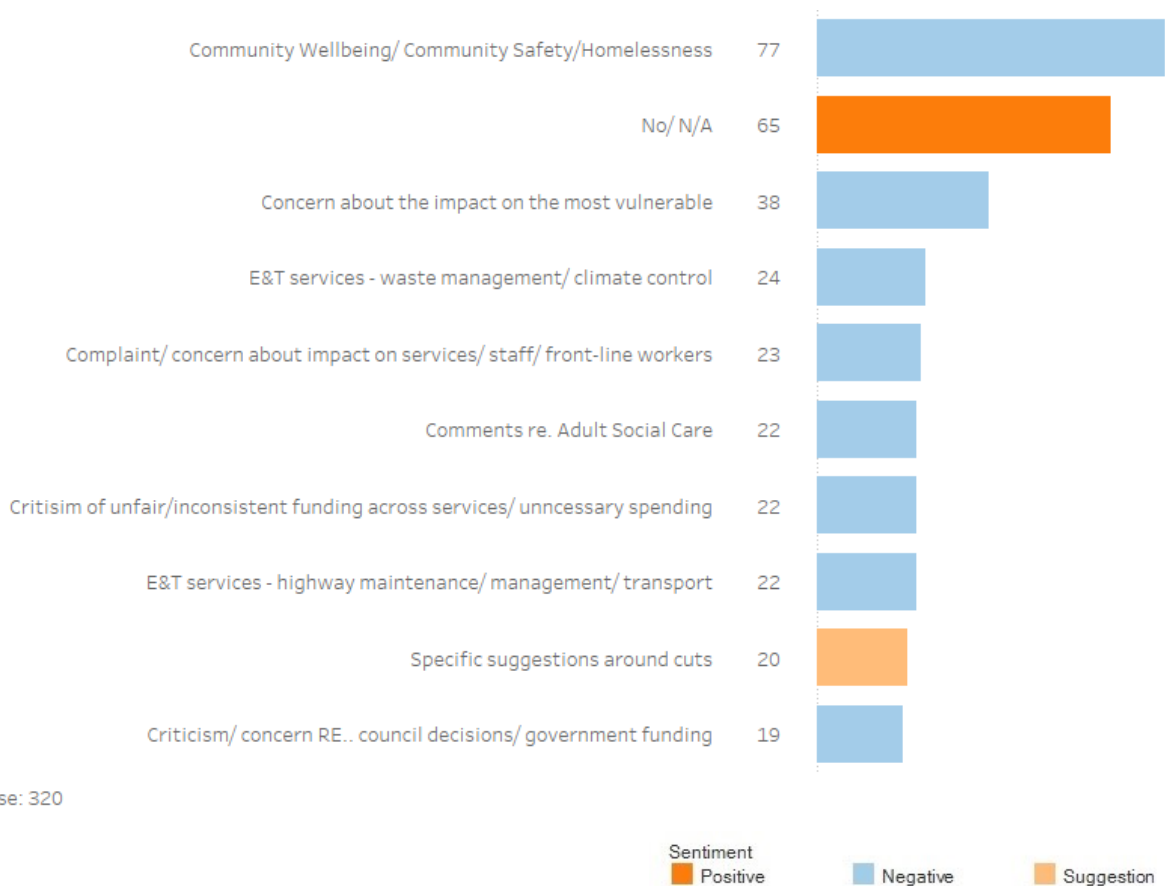
Environment and Transport services, including waste management sites were specifically cited in relation to disagreeing with further council savings. There were concerns that a reduction in waste management would increase fly tipping. Few comments expressed concerns about how savings would impact on the Green Agenda. There were criticisms of savings that would have an impact on other Environment and Transport services, such as road and pavement maintenance and concerns over cuts to bus services.

Concerns about the impact on savings to staff were made, many in reference to savings made in social care and community services that would impact on high caseloads already experienced by staff, with several mentions that these services are already at capacity. There were other concerns regarding what further savings would mean for front-line workers and LCC staff.

There were some general criticisms of council decisions for Leicestershire and the unfair and inconsistent funding across council services. For example, some questioned whether cuts should be made and how they were being made. Several respondents mentioned national funding and others questioned the rationale of making savings when they were likely to be opposed, such as street lighting.

Specific suggestions were made about how to increase savings, these included cutting staff at certain levels or reevaluating how some services were run.

Chart 15 - Disagreement with specific savings - Top 10



Q9 - Suggested areas for further savings

Respondents were asked whether there were any savings they disagreed with. Chart 16 lists the top 10 codes (see Appendix 3 for full code lists and quotes).

Suggestions for making efficiencies in staffing was the most common theme, with many references to reducing the number of staff and management levels. Numerous respondents mentioned that recruiting more staff internally and offering shorter contracts for staff would be more cost-effective than having external agency staff or consultants.

There were some suggestions to review staff expenditure, whilst some felt the salaries councillors and council employees receive were too high and should be reduced. Other respondents that mentioned staffing, stated that the council should improve initiatives for staff, such as providing better pay, more training and improvements in staff contracts.

Several made suggestions for making efficient use of office spaces, by renting or selling parts of County Hall to local community groups, businesses and services. These respondents mentioned that as a large proportion of staff are working from home, there are a large number of unused office spaces in the county that could be better utilised. Some respondents said cost savings could be made by reducing energy wastage across unused council buildings.

Several respondents said that the council should consider making efficiencies or reducing expenditure in Environment and Transport services. Switching off street lighting during certain time periods or having energy efficient street lighting were some suggestions made. Other suggestions for saving overall costs included only permitting essential roadworks, reducing waste collections and issuing more local bins to reduce fly-tipping (note that these waste services are provided by district councils, and not the County Council).

Although some respondents answered "No" or "None" to indicate that there were no areas where they thought further service reductions could be made, a few respondents suggested that the council should stop paying and providing services that are unnecessary or inefficient, such as reviewing what services spend and evaluate where savings could be made. Other respondents specifically mentioned school transport, suggesting taxis should be the parents' responsibility rather than the councils.

Many respondents said sharing services and joining with district and city councils should be considered to save costs. Respondents specifically mentioned that there are too many individual councils across Leicestershire.

Some respondents were generally concerned about the cuts to services and increased Council Tax during the current cost of living crisis. A few respondents expressed concerns about the increase in cost of living and lack of support for residents, whilst others were worried about how continued job cuts in the front-line services targeted at helping vulnerable families will have an impact on communities overall.

Chart 16 - Suggested areas for further savings - Top 10



Q10 - Comments about the areas identified for growth or capital investment

Respondents were asked whether they had any other comments about the areas identified for growth or capital investment. Chart 17 lists the top 10 codes (see Appendix 3 for full list of codes and quotes).

Apart from “no, “none” or “n/a” responses, the most common response were concerns regarding social care. These respondents suggested the council should provide additional funding and support for vulnerable groups such as those with disabilities, the homeless community, and people accessing children and adult social care. Comments were made specifically about the impact adult social care has on the NHS and that training staff should be a priority. Some respondents expressed concern that social care is causing NHS and emergency service issues (e.g. bed availability) and that social care needs to be expanded in order to allow patients to stay at home safely. Other references were made to providing suitable infrastructure for convalescence homes or facilities to ease the pressure on the NHS.

Some comments mentioned that more investment is needed for children and adults with additional needs (e.g., after-school day centres), otherwise high-cost agencies will need to be used. Concerns were raised regarding the removal of funding for the homeless, with a specific mention that the proposals did not mention how the council is planning to deal with the growth in homelessness.

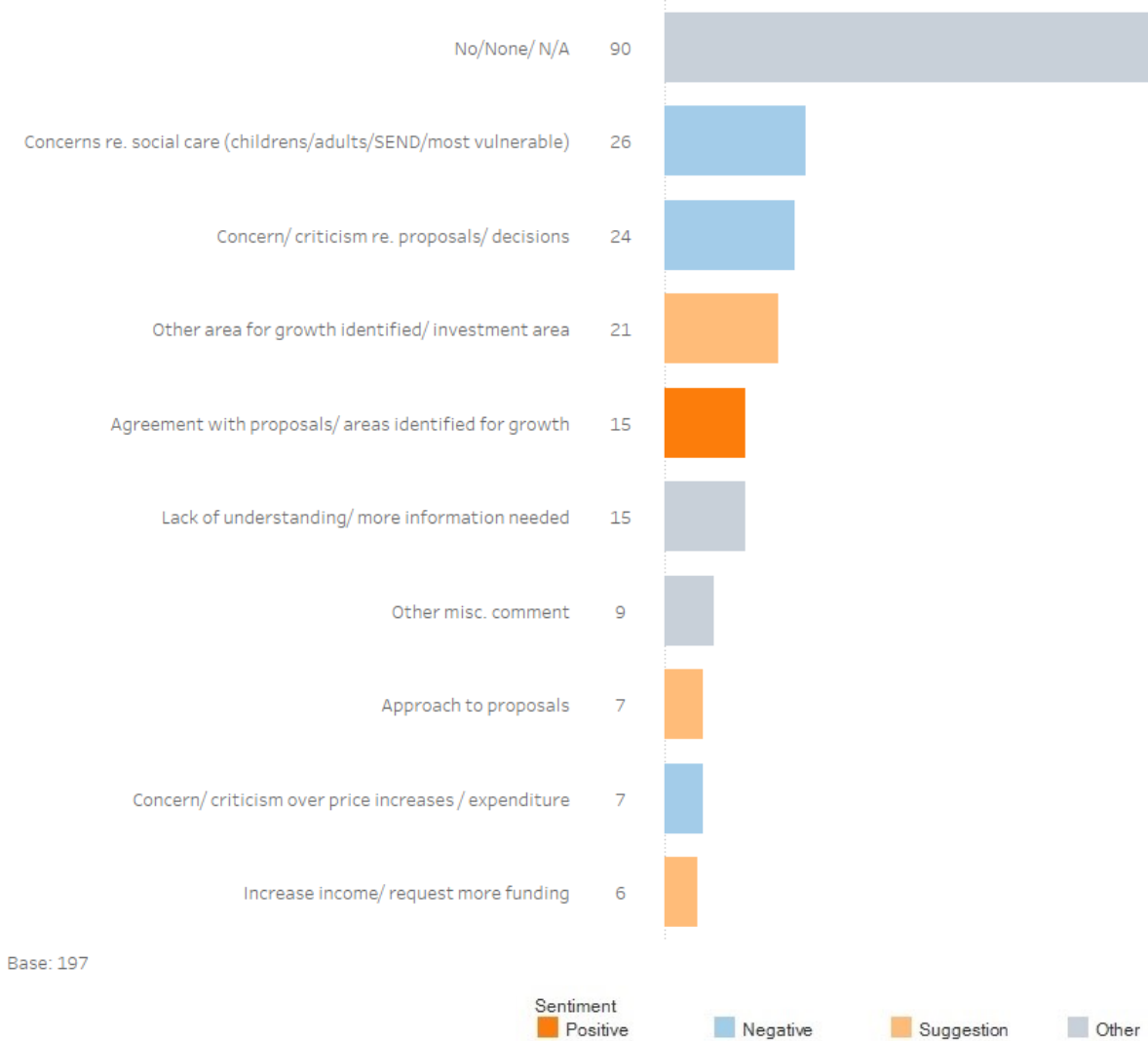
Several also expressed concerns and criticisms regarding the council’s proposals/decisions. These respondents mentioned that an investment in education should be a priority for councils over housing or support the business sector. Some respondents said that public transport, public roads and highways need improving. Services such as libraries, country parks, social care staffing, and the voluntary sector were areas mentioned by a number of respondents where growth and investment are needed.

Whilst a few respondents felt that they would need more information to be able to comment about the areas identified for growth or capital investment, some respondents agreed with the proposals/areas identified for growth. They mentioned feeling positive and were in agreement with supporting the vulnerable people in the county, including children and families and residents accessing adult social care services.

Other respondents made specific suggestions including renting or selling unused buildings, and the use of consultants should be stopped. Some made specific suggestions, such as for the council to minimise growth and investment in order to save, only have schemes that are necessary and create more partnerships with other statutory bodies and the voluntary sector.

Some respondents were generally concerned about increases in expenditure. Respondents specifically mentioned the current cost of living crisis and having to spend less as their income will not increase with inflation. Other respondents said that adult social care is a massive cost pressure and must be addressed by central Government.

Chart 17 - Comments about the areas identified for growth - Top 10



Funding Reform

The questionnaire explained that Leicestershire remains the lowest-funded county in the country and that Council Tax levels are unfair for Leicestershire residents. It was also mentioned that although faced with an ongoing challenging financial situation, the County Council is continuing to lead calls for funding reform and to look for opportunities to work more efficiently and effectively.

Q11 - Council continue lobbying Government for fairer funding

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed that the council should continue lobbying Government to review the way funding is distributed between councils. Chart 18 shows that the majority of respondents agreed (92%), 5% disagreed and 3% neither agreed nor disagreed.

The majority of residents (90%) agreed that the council should continue lobbying Government, 7% disagreed and 3% neither agreed nor disagreed (see Chart 19).

Chart 20 shows a higher proportion of LCC employees (95%) agreed with this, 3% disagreed and 3% neither agreed nor disagreed.

Chart 18 - Reviewing the funding distributed between councils - All Respondents



Base = 605

Chart 19 - Reviewing the funding distributed between councils - Residents only



Base = 213

Chart 20 - Reviewing the funding distributed between councils - LCC employees



Base = 355

Response

Response	Color
Strongly disagree	Dark Blue
Tend to disagree	Light Blue
Neither agree nor disagree	Grey
Tend to agree	Light Orange
Strongly agree	Dark Orange

Statistical analysis shows that LCC employees were significantly more likely to agree that the council should continue lobbying Government to review the way funding is distributed between councils (95%) compared to the average (92%). Respondents who identified as white were also significantly more likely to agree (94%) than the average (93%).

Residents were significantly more likely to disagree (7%) compared to the average (5%).

Q12 - Other comments on the council's budget proposals

Respondents were asked to provide any other comments they had about the council's draft budget proposals. Chart 21 shows the top 10 codes (see Appendix 3 for full list of codes and quotes).

Apart from "no", "none" or "n/a", most responses highlighted an understanding of the council's difficult position and offered suggestions regarding council services and the proposals.

A notable proportion of respondents criticised or had concerns regarding the council's proposals and further cuts to council services. There were several comments where respondents expressed their concern about how additional service cuts would impact essential services, particularly those for vulnerable residents. These respondents feared how council services will run efficiently if further reductions were made. Other respondents were worried about how the council's proposal to further increase Council Tax would impact some households and felt residents have already been stretched with rises in inflation and general living costs without the additional increase in Council Tax.

Several respondents provided suggestions including selling council buildings or reducing costs in unused council property, re-evaluating council tax distribution across different households, reviewing how services are being delivered, and generating revenue through investment or the provision of council services.

A notable proportion of respondents made requests for the council to keep funding certain services, specifically adult and children's social care. Respondents also asked the council to prioritise and reconsider cuts to other specific services, including public transport, Shire Grants, education and homelessness support.

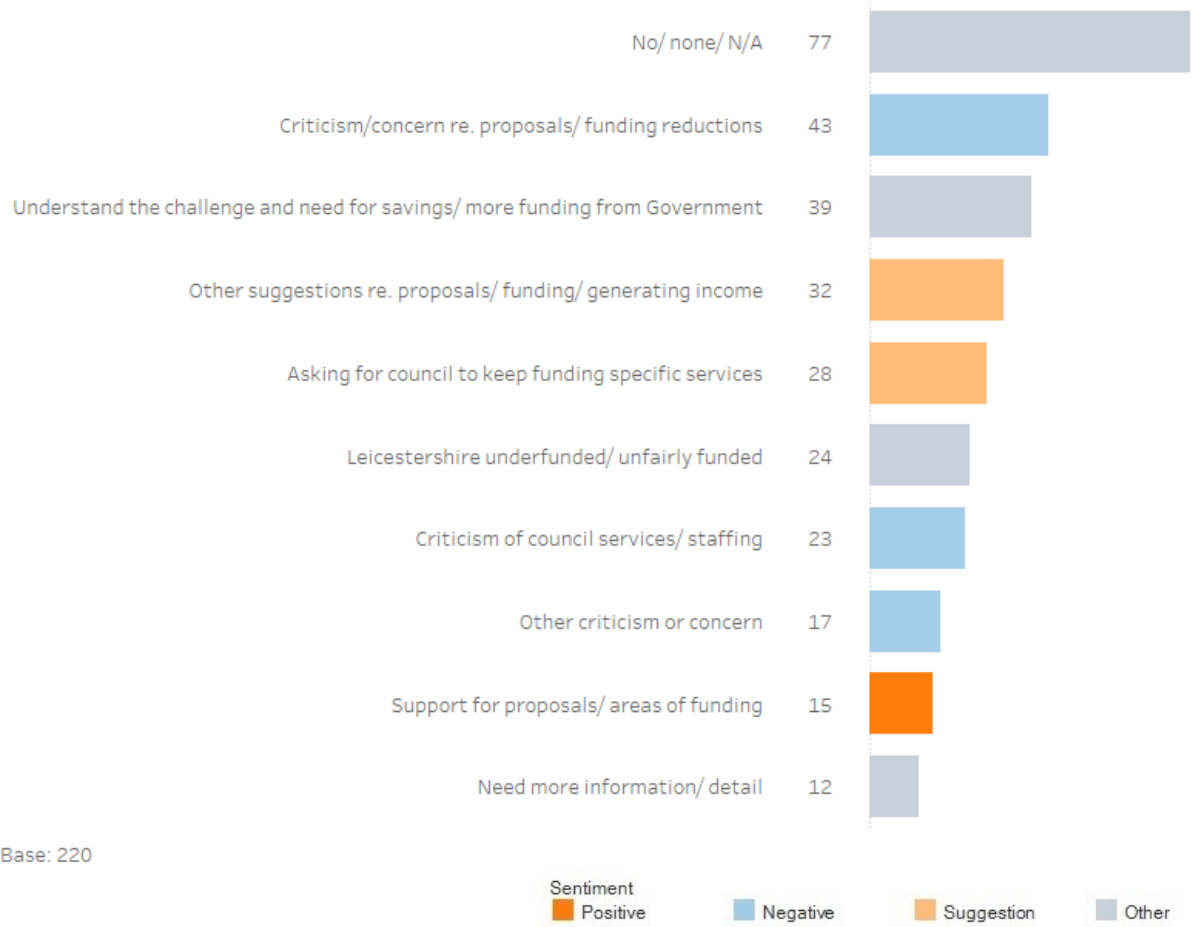
There were many mentions of Leicestershire being unfairly underfunded. Some respondents agreed the council should continue lobbying central Government, whilst others said that central Government does not seem to be listening and the council should do more to fight for fairer funding for Leicestershire.

Current council services and staffing structures were criticised by some respondents. Several said they felt residents were already not receiving adequate council services despite increases of Council Tax. Others criticised specific services such as waste sites and the lack of support for vulnerable residents.

Positive responses reflected a general support for the council's proposals and an understanding of the responsibility and difficulty the council faces due to underfunding from central Government during a difficult financial time.

Several respondents said they needed further information or detail to provide an informed response. Specific references were made to "back office savings" and the understanding of growth and capital plans.

Chart 21 - Other comments on the council’s budget proposals - Top 10



Communications

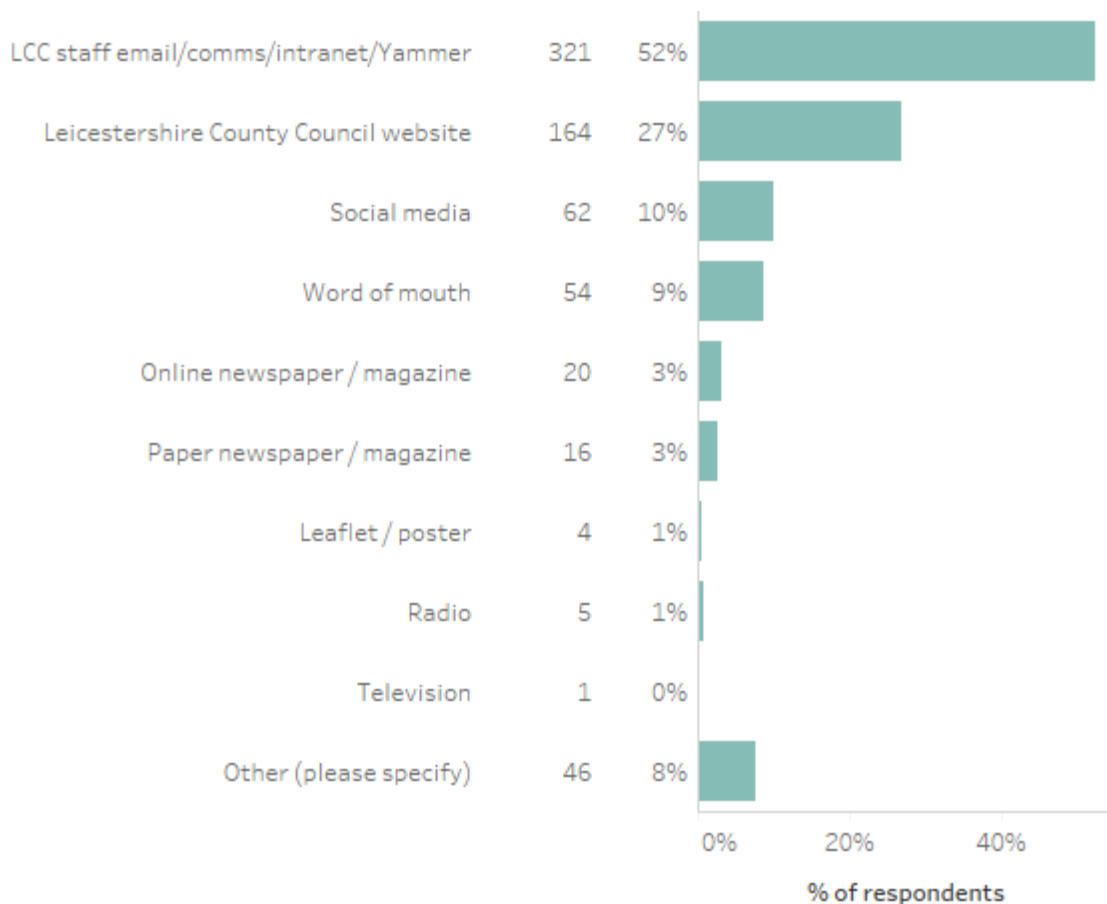
The questionnaire asked respondents how they found out about this consultation.

Chart 22 shows over half (52%) of respondents said they found out about the consultation through LCC staff email/comms/intranet/Yammer and over a quarter (27%) said Leicestershire County Council website.

A tenth (10%) said they found out about the consultation through social media and 9% said they found out through word of mouth. A smaller proportion said they found out through online or paper newspaper/magazine, leaflet or poster, radio or television.

Some respondents said they found out about the consultation through other sources, including emails from other organisations, from their employer or at a briefing meeting.

Chart 22 - How respondents found out about the consultation (multiple response)



Base = 613

Other consultation response

In addition to the survey, separate submissions were received from Blaby District Council and Charnwood Borough Council.

Both councils were concerned about how the County Council's efficiency savings would impact their own councils. The representative for Blaby District Council (the Section 151 Officer) understood the financial challenges facing all local authorities but said they had obvious concerns about how the County Council's plans may impact Blaby residents and the demands that are placed on their own services as a consequence.

The submission from Charnwood Borough Council was in the form of a letter to the Leader of the County Council, which refers to suggestions sent by the Leader of the County Council to district council leaders at their request of opportunities for district councils to support the County Council in meeting its funding pressures. The letter is enclosed together with a copy of the Leader's reply (see Appendix 5).

Appendix 1 - Questionnaire



Have your say on our draft budget plans 2023- 2027

Background

We've published an in-depth financial plan, designed to protect public services and support vulnerable people during tough economic times.

Although councils fared better than expected in the Government's Autumn Statement, the financial outlook remains extremely tough with the authority's budget gap set to rise to over £90m by 2026.

Service demand is adding £70m and rising inflation is set to cost another £80m by 2026/27. The National Living Wage increase drives up social care costs significantly and adds another £18m for 2023/24 alone.

Our proposals also include a £508m four-year capital pot - for the cost of building roads, schools and other one-off projects – which is also subject to significant inflation pressures.

Our budget proposals include:

- **£57m more to support vulnerable people** - to pay for more home and residential care, and support people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health needs. The number of home care users has increased by 600 since January 2020.
- **£59m of efficiency savings** – reducing back office costs by maximising digital technology, simplifying processes and providing the right level of support to residents
- **Service cuts totalling £4m** - including reviewing waste sites, streetlighting, Green Plaques and Shire Grants
- **A five per cent rise in the County Council's portion of Council Tax for 2023/24** – this includes a two per cent adult social care levy, equates to £1.39 a week for a band D home and generates £17.7m for front line services

Under current Government rules a local referendum would need to be held for any core increase in Council Tax above 3% in 2023/24. However, the Government is also permitting an additional increase of up to a further 2% to fund adult social care (known as the 'social care precept'). A decision will be taken each year for any future increases.

We have published our 2023-2027 spending plans for consultation. These plans assume a proposed 3% increase on core Council Tax for 2023/24 followed by 2% increases in the following three years. It incorporates an additional 2% 'social care precept' increase in 2023/24. Decision on future years' Council Tax levels, including the adult social care precept, will be taken prior the start of each year.

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: <http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/budget>

Consultations on individual proposals will be brought forward in due course.

The closing date for the consultation is midnight 15 January 2023.

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

Please note: Your responses to the main part of the survey (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

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a resident | Go to Q4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I represent/own a local business | Continue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I represent a voluntary and community services (VCS) organisation or social enterprise | Continue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I represent another stakeholder e.g. district/borough/parish council, health, police, school/education etc. | Continue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am an employee of Leicestershire County Council | Go to Q4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | Continue |

If 'Other' please specify below

Q2 If you indicated that you represent an organisation, business, community group, school/other educational establishment, please provide your details.

Name:	
Organisation:	

Q3 Are you providing your organisations official response to the consultation?
Please select one option only.

- Yes
 No

Our proposals

Growing demand for county council services - plus general price rises (inflation) - are increasing the cost of delivering services. Council Tax is the county council's main source of income and annual increases contribute towards covering these costs.

In recent years Council Tax increases have been higher than inflation due to the combined impact of an increase in the number of people requiring support and the cost of providing services.

We have published our 2023-2027 spending plans for consultation. These plans assume a proposed 3% increase on core Council Tax and an additional 2% 'social care precept' increase in 2023/24.

The Council Tax bill for county council services in 2022/23 is currently £1,453 per year for a band D property. An increase of 3% would mean an increase in band D Council Tax of £43.60 per year on that bill (or £3.63 per month). Every additional 1% increase in Council Tax generates an additional £3.5m of income each year and reduces the need to make savings. Every additional 1% costs each household in a band D property an additional £14.53 per year (or £1.21 per month) on their Council Tax bill. Figures for the other Council Tax bands can found on the website.

Q4 What core Council Tax increase would you be prepared to pay next year to fund county council services (excluding any 'social care precept')? Please select one option only.

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

- Above 3%
- 3% (an extra £43.60 next year)
- 2% (an extra £28.06 next year)
- 1% (an extra £14.53 next year)
- None
- Council Tax should be reduced
- Don't know

Q5 What, if any, additional increase would you be prepared to pay next year as a separate 'social care precept' to be used exclusively for the funding of adult social care? Please select one option only.

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

- Above 2%
- 2% (an extra £28.06 next year)
- 1% (an extra £14.53 next year)
- None
- Don't know

- Q6 What impact, if any, would an overall 5% increase in Council Tax (the proposed total of core Council Tax and precept) have on your household finances? Please select one option only.

A 5% increase would be an extra £72.65 next year or £6.05 per month in a band D property.

- Significant impact
 Moderate impact
 Slight impact
 No impact
 Don't know

Why do you say this?

- Q7 Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with how the growth and savings have been allocated across our services?
Please select one option only.

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

- Q8 Are there any savings you disagree with?

Q9 Are there any areas where you think we could make further savings?

Q10 Do you have any comments about the areas identified for growth or capital investment?

Funding Reform

Leicestershire remains the lowest-funded county in the country. If it was funded at the same level as Surrey, it would be £120 million per year better off, or £413 million if compared to Kensington and Chelsea. Council Tax levels are unfair too – the average Leicestershire resident (band C) pays more Council Tax than a resident living in the most expensive properties (band H) in Westminster in London. Faced with an extremely challenging financial situation, we're continuing to lead calls for funding reform and look for opportunities to work more efficiently and effectively.

Q11 To what extent do you agree or disagree that the council should continue lobbying Government to review the way funding is distributed between councils?
Please select one option only.

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

Any other comments

Q12 Do you have any other comments about our draft budget proposals?

Q13 How did you find out about this consultation? Please tick all applicable.

- Leicestershire County Council website
- Word of mouth
- Leaflet / poster
- Online newspaper / magazine
- Paper newspaper / magazine
- Social media
- Television
- Radio
- LCC staff email/comms/intranet/Yammer
- Other (please specify)

If 'Other', please specify below

Please continue if you said in Q1 that you are responding as a 'Resident' or 'An employee of Leicestershire County Council'.
Otherwise, please skip to the instructions at the end of the questionnaire.

About you

Leicestershire County Council is committed to ensuring that its services, policies, and practices are free from discrimination and prejudice, address the needs of all sections of the community and promote and advance equality of opportunity.

Many people face discrimination in society because of their personal circumstances and for this reason we have decided to ask these monitoring questions.

We would therefore be grateful if you would answer the following questions. You are under no obligation to provide the information requested, but it would help us greatly if you did.

Q14 What is your gender? Please select one option only.

- Male
- Female
- I use another term

Q15 Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? Please select one option only.

- Yes
- No

Q16 What was your age on your last birthday? (Please enter your age in numbers not words)

Q17 What is your postcode? This will help us understand views in different areas.

Q18 Are you a parent or carer of a young person aged 17 or under? Please select one option only.

- Yes
- No

Q19 Are you a carer of a person aged 18 or over? Please select one option only.

- Yes
 No

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

Q20 Do you have a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? Please select one option only.

- Yes
 No

Q21 What is your ethnic group? Please select one option only.

- White
 Mixed
 Asian or Asian British
 Black or Black British
 Other ethnic group

Q22 What is your religion or belief? Please select one option only.

- No religion
 Christian (all denominations)
 Buddhist
 Hindu
 Jewish
 Muslim
 Sikh
 Any other religion or belief

Q23 What is your sexual orientation? Please select one option only.

- Bi
 Gay or Lesbian
 Straight/ Heterosexual
 I use another term

Thank you for your time. Your views will be considered before the budget is finalised in February 2023.

Please return your completed survey to:

MTFS Consultation
Corporate Resources Business Support Services
Room G40
Leicestershire County Council
Have Your Say
FREEPOST NAT18685
Leicester
LE3 8XR

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+)
	619	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
Under 15	0	0.0	0.0	
15-24	9	1.7	1.5	14.3
25-34	47	9.1	7.6	13.2
35-44	119	23.1	19.2	17.2
45-54	164	31.8	26.5	17.8
55-64	121	23.5	19.5	15.9
65-74	39	7.6	6.3	11.6
75-84	15	2.9	2.4	7.2
85 or above	1	0.2	0.2	2.8
No reply			16.8	

Gender	Survey Responses			2011 Census (16+)
	619	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
Male	208	38.4	33.6	49.0
Female	328	60.6	53.0	51.0
I use another term	5	0.9	0.8	
No reply	78		12.6	

Do you have a long-standing illness or disability?*	Survey Responses			2011 Census (16+)
	619	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
Yes	112	20.8	18.1	19.1
No	427	79.2	69.0	80.9
No reply	81		12.9	

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

Ethnicity	Survey Responses			2011 Census (16+)
	619	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
White	481	91.3	77.7	92.2
Mixed	7	1.3	1.1	0.8
Asian or Asian British	28	5.3	4.5	6.0
Black or Black British	2	0.4	0.3	0.6
Other ethnic group	9	1.7	1.5	0.4
No reply	92		14.9	

Sexual orientation	Survey Responses			2011 Census (16+)
	619	% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
Bi	15	2.9	2.4	
Gay or Lesbian	15	2.9	2.4	
Straight/Heterosexual	467	91.4	75.4	(Not applicable)
I use another term	14	2.7	2.3	
No reply	108		17.4	

Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-27

What is your religion?	619	Survey Responses		2011 Census (16+)
		% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
No religion	259	49.0	41.8	
Christian (All denominations)	228	43.1	36.8	
Buddhist	2	0.4	0.3	
Hindu	15	2.8	2.4	
Jewish	0	0.0	0.0	
Muslim	12	2.3	1.9	
Sikh	1	0.2	0.2	
Any other religion or belief	12	2.3	1.9	
No reply	90		14.5	

Are you a parent or carer of a young person aged 17 or under?	619	Survey Responses		2011 Census (16+)
		% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
Yes	176	32.7	28.4	(Census data includes all people cared for regardless of age)
No	362	67.3	58.5	
No reply	81		13.1	

Are you a carer of a person aged 18 or over?	619	Survey Responses		2011 Census (16+)
		% Ex NR*	% Inc NR*	%
Yes	106	19.7	17.1	(Census data includes all people cared for regardless of age)
No	431	80.3	69.6	
No reply	82		13.2	

District	619	Survey Responses		2011 Census (16+)
		% Ex M/O [#]	% Inc M/O [#]	%
Blaby	69	16.6	11.7	14.3
Charnwood	109	26.3	18.4	25.9
Harborough	48	11.6	8.1	12.9
Hinckley & Bosworth	82	19.8	13.9	16.2
Melton	27	6.5	4.6	7.7
North West Leicestershire	53	12.8	9.0	14.2
Oadby & Wigston	27	6.5	4.6	8.7
Missing/ Invalid/ Non-LLR Postcode	176		29.8	

*NR = No reply

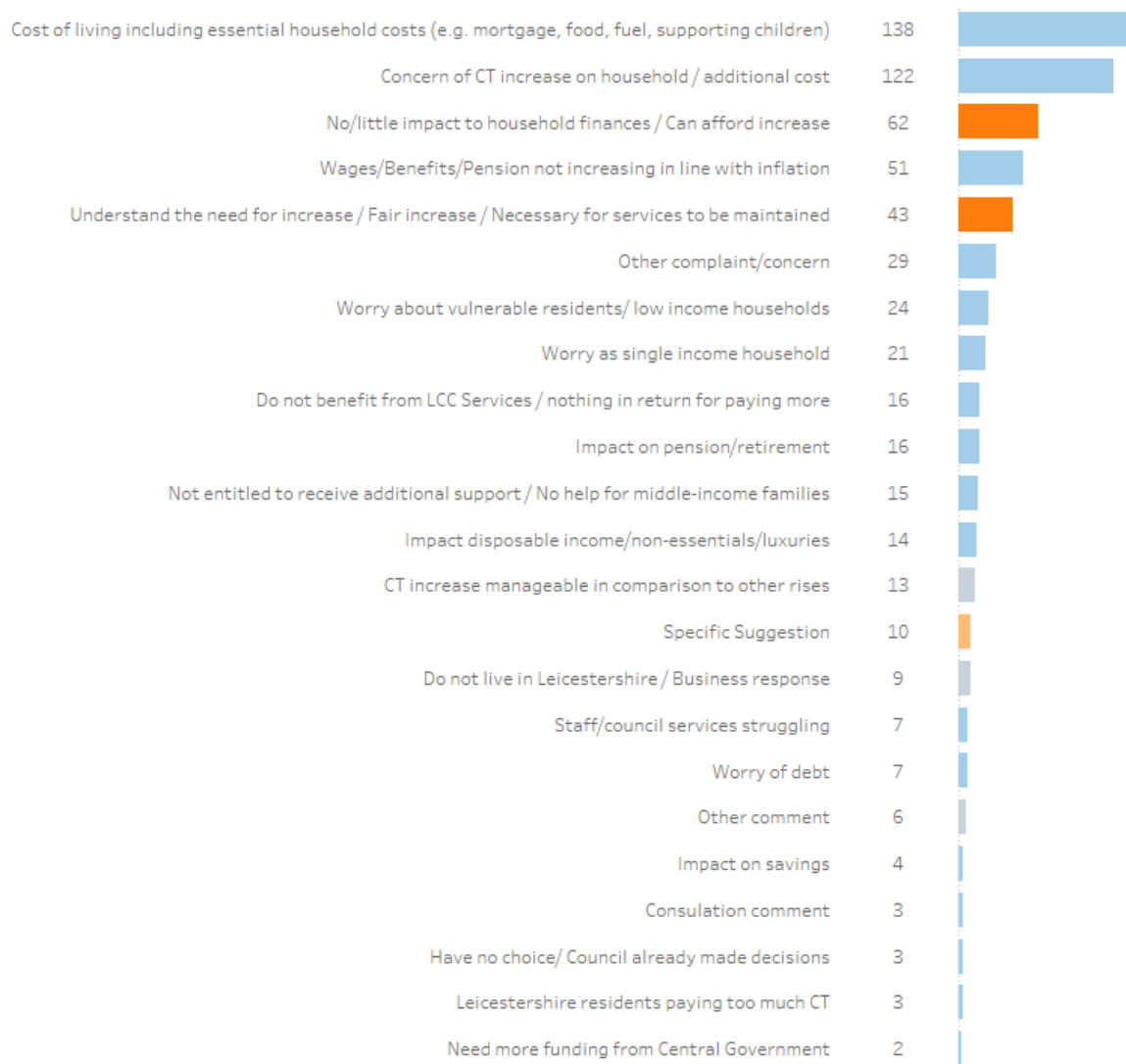
[#] M/O = Missing/invalid or Other Authority postcode

Please note at the time of writing this report the 2021 Census data (16+) had not been released.

Appendix 3 - All open comment codes and quotes

Q6a - Impact of overall 5% Council Tax increase. Why do you say this?

Full list of codes



Base: 319



Q6a - Impact of overall 5% Council Tax increase. Why do you say this?**Quotes**

"It would have a bigger impact next year than what it would have done in previous years due to the rising costs of other bills, such as food, gas, electric etc"

"Council Tax is so expensive anyway, an increase when we're already in a cost of living crisis, just adds more pressure to families."

"Cost of living is increasing at a phenomenal rate - I feel a 5% increase will affect lower income households massively"

"With the cost of living rises at the minute most people in low paid jobs are barely struggling to keep their heads above water. There has been no easy access to people in this bracket to gain help and receive the many benefits of being on universal credit or such like. There are no luxuries and money is tight. I would want to know why is band D the targeted band for this money to be gained from?"

"Already struggling to pay for childcare, Utilities and food. We also have to sit in the cold."

"We are currently living from hand to mouth with my LCC wages only just covering the running of our household, I can not afford any sort of increase without starting to either turn the heating off or missing meals"

"Money is tight enough we are barely surviving as it is"

"You are cutting services, families are cutting food for their children. Any increase is a meal taken away from a child or vulnerable person"

"With the cost of almost everything increasing, even small increases to any outgoings add up"

"On it's own would not be too bad, but compounded by everything else costing more will make a significant difference to our finances."

"Would struggle even more to pay this"

"People already cant afford to live, that is a lot of money for an average family"

"Because I work for Social Care and am a low earner. The government got us into this mess, take the income from high earners."

"too many other financial questions to answer elsewhere currently"

"Council tax has already risen in the last 3 years. Council tax costs for Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire are some of the highest in the country. we pay enough already"

"It's not the 'price' it's the 'Value'. As far as I see there is significant wastage in LCC and in particular too many levels of higher management where their income fails to match their abilities."

"Whilst we are lucky that a 5% increase in council tax would have very little affect on our house hold finances, there are many families in the county that would struggle with this increase. Given the current economic situation and the cost of living rising, any increase in household expenditure would have a significant impact on low income and vulnerable households"

"I am fortunate enough to have sufficient income to deal with the cost of living increases although I am concerned that for many already on low income with little or no savings this will have a significant impact."

"My husband is disabled an no longer able to work. The pay rises we have had over the last number of years has in fact meant we are worse off year on year and with the increase in energy bills, petrol and food any increase to council tax will leave me struggling"

"I work full time for Leicestershire County Council. However as a single income household, my salary does not always cover my basic bills."

"Yet again, I would be having to pay more yet seeing no benefits personally. The only services I use are being continually cut and more is being spent on social care and bureaucracy which is wrong"

"We would be paying extra and getting less"

"I am happy to pay £6.05 extra a month of council tax, I feel this would have a very slight impact on my household finances as I can afford this increase."

"I am a 2 adult household with no dependents and no mortgage/rent with both working full time so would be happy to pay the increase with no impact"

"It is a small amount for those earning a good wage and is little to ensure services continue for those most in need."

"We are fortunate to have 2 incomes coming into our household, with a low mortgage. This means we are in a position to deal with additional costs required for council and social care."

"I have a low income, however £72.65 spread over the year (i.e. £6.05 monthly) will have no impact on my finances - I'd prefer to pay that instead of cuts to local services e.g. libraries!"

"It would have an impact, but it is important to fund County Council services, assuming no extra money from central government."

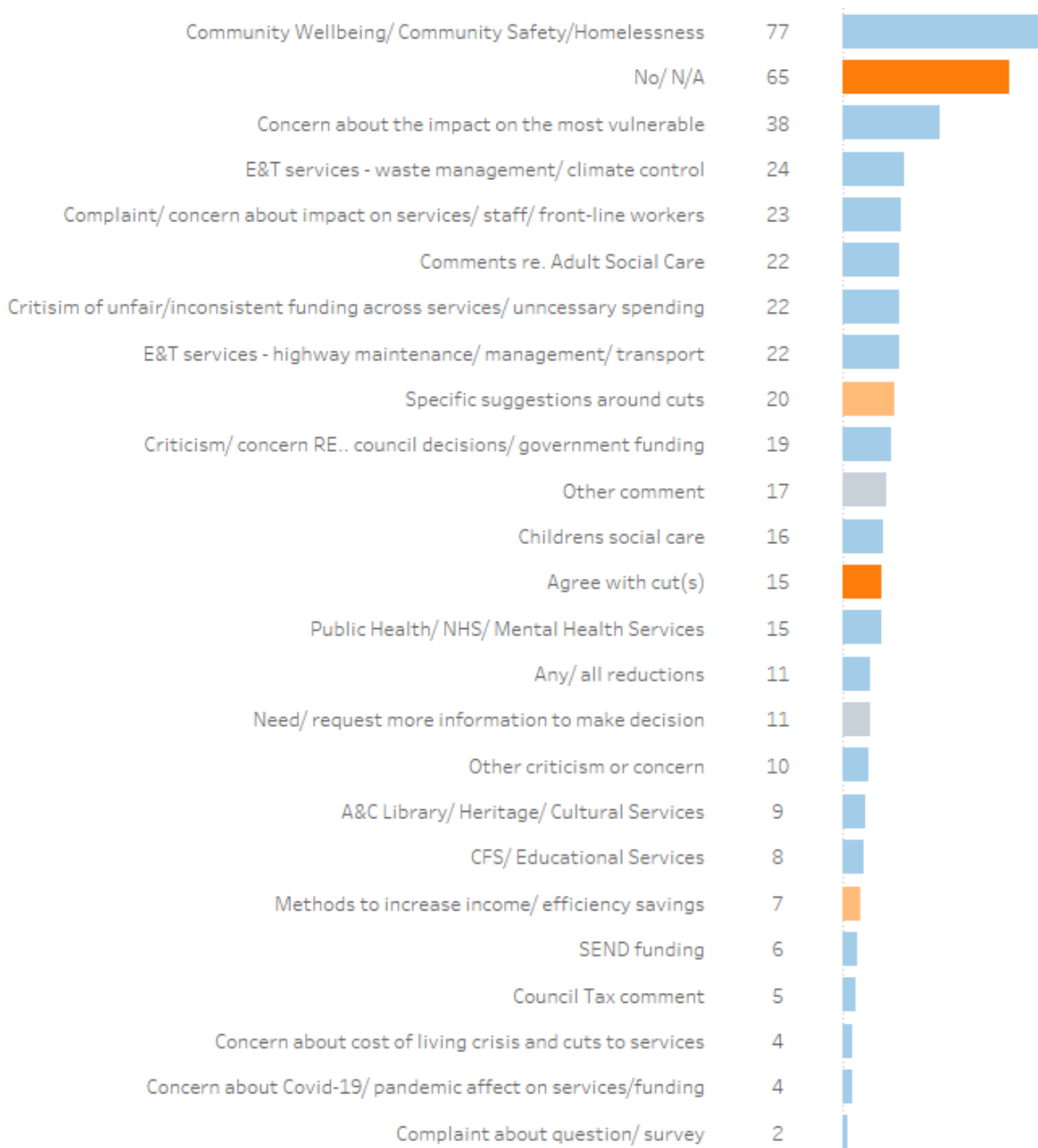
"I may just be able to afford with a another stretch. However, totally appreciate the additional contribution is paramount."

"I want to help ensure Council services are adequately funded. The work of the Council and all it provides is essential and is about how we live together and support each other as a society. We cannot afford to lose any Council service. Please, do not make these cuts."

Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-27

Q8 - Are there any savings you disagree with?

Full list of codes



Base: 320



Q8 - Are there any savings you disagree with?

Quotes

"Getting rid of the shire grants. These are vital for the communities and without them, there would be further pressure on council services."

"Street lighting, I honestly think this proposal how important street lighting is for safety and decreasing crime rates. Street lighting really changes the way you feel about an area at night and I think perceived safety alongside good street lighting can affect peoples attitudes towards an area"

"I strongly disagree with the cutting of the funding for homelessness. A short term saving will in the long term result in significantly higher costs to services such as adult social care, probation, courts, prison services and the NHS due to the impact on a homeless persons mental and physical health and likelihood of offending/reoffending. Homeless people report that they feel excluded from healthcare services and as a consequence receive poorer diagnosis's..."

"The cut in children's social care—are already on our knees with case loads and a cut will increase the pressure on staff that are already stressed out and tired"

"I don't see how losing any more jobs will help the council. Staff are overloaded as it is. If you need to cut staff, the workload needs to go with it. Another company needs to take on the work, not the staff that are left behind."

"The tips need to be opened more days of the week . There are huge amounts of fly tipping in the area having cut down our only tip within the area is causing more problems of fly tipping . We are paying for a service that doesn't service"

"Waste site provision is stretched as it is, so further changes could potentially severely impact things such as fly tipping, recycling and the like - quite important considerations for the green agenda."

"The Council have pledged to support vulnerable people. It is very important that they keep libraries open as these offer vital support to a cross section of the community who are vulnerable. The libraries need to be staffed as people with disabilities need help to issue books, talk to staff when they feel worried & to feel they are in a secure, safe environment. People of all nationalities visit libraries & need the help of staff to access services. Libraries are a vital safe, warm place for older people, families & homeless people too. Having Smart access is ok for some people but many vulnerable people won't use it as they don't feel safe when no staff are present."

"we need to protect those that are vulnerable especially those that are homeless"

"I have looked at the savings they are meaningless to a normal tax payer if you don't understand the setting so yes I have to disagree .I support increasing council taxes and minimising cuts. I realise you are in the unenviable position of being forced to make cuts through insufficient funds to maintain services. Efficient working practices are of course necessary but ever diminishing services is in no-one's interest in the long run. We are in the middle of a perfect storm..."

Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-27

"the reduction in capital programme, more funding should be allocated to make Leicestershire more attractive to investment, businesses and housing."

"The reduction in expenditure on environment and transport cannot result in a worsening transport infrastructure - this is a key component on Leicestershire businesses own journey to net zero i.e. reducing the use of private vehicles for employees to commute and for doing business in general."

"Reducing money on street lighting will lead to more crime. Recycling centres are already closed too much, resulting in far more fly-tipping. Lack of verge cutting, especially around junctions, is making driving more dangerous as views can be greatly restricted. More money needs to be spent on improving the roads - there are far too many dangerous potholes and inadequate road markings."

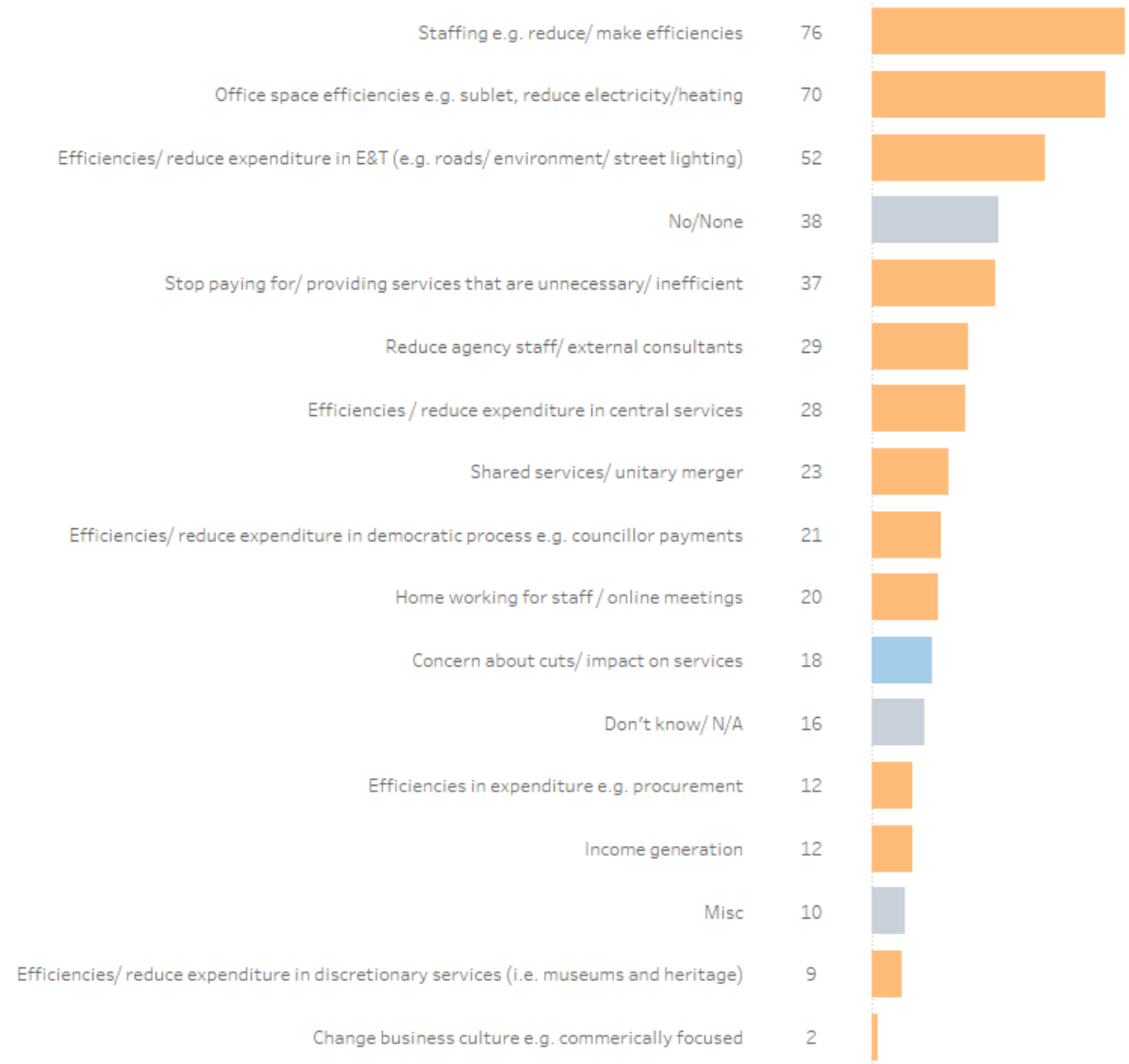
"Any local service such as subsidised bus fares, local libraries and public amenities should be supported. That's what 'Councils' are meant for the - The good of all, not the benefit of the few."

"I think we live in a very difficult times, we know savings have to be made, as an employee working in adults and communities, my strong view is that we cannot cut any further , we would have problems with the safeguarding issues and well being of individuals causing a heavy an more intense workload than we have, its not a viable option ,we need to be resourceful when working in adult and communities , using community assets etc , but please do not cut vital services which are a lifeline to the most vulnerable people in our society ."

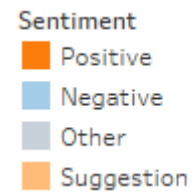
"LCC is massively top heavy in terms of management and supervision. We could easily clear out two or three layers of management in every service area.."

Q9 - Are there any areas where you think we could make further savings?

Full list of codes



Base: 362



Q9 - Are there any areas where you think we could make further savings?**Quotes**

"Need to make working for LCC more attractive by offering more competitive salaries rather than relying heavily on agency staff within Social Care, this would be an invest to save model as we would be retaining staff rather than them leaving to become locums. Also need to tighten up some internal policies and make members of staff accountable for the spend within their service. I also believe there are some further savings that could be made in relation to libraries and waste"

"Look at staffing hierarchy, too many levels of management"

"by recruiting fewer but better paid staff."

"Stop employing agency staff and support current colleagues development and progression. Job descriptions are too specific, there needs to be leeway with roles and support for those that don't quite meet criteria but have the relevant experience in the role/sector. Agencies are known for paying above the odds in certain roles; LCC need to make it more appealing to those internally to develop or expand into different roles."

"The use of consultants over employees. Would it not be of financial benefit to use short term contracts for staff as opposed to more expensive consultant options?"

"Reduce consultancy use by training/recruiting more internal staff and providing more services 'in house' which has been successfully implemented within some teams in E&T."

"Letting out more office space at County Hall. Allow employees to work at a wider range of council properties including smaller town libraries etc."

"Reduce the amount of office space at county hall. Large offices are being lit and heated with low capacity of workers."

"Street Lighting on Main Roads be switch off from 00:00 till 05:00 (12am till 5am) Expect roundabouts and junctions."

"LED lighting for all council street lights. Make sure all council buildings are lit and heated as efficiently as possible - make sure employees switch off lights when they leave a room. Thermostat on heating systems to 18 degrees except in exceptional circumstances."

"making sure roads that need resurfacing are done and not doing elaborate road change schemes - had a few in Hinckley / Burbage in 2022 that i personally feel did not make a difference at all to road users that I know would have cost a lot of money."

"Waste- these could be dropped to fortnightly collections. It's not popular but very common in London councils Fine utility companies who run over roadworks"

"Encourage responsible disposal of litter and better use of recycling centres. Where possible police fly-tipping hotspots"

Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-27

"I think that there is a massive issue with litter and fly-tipping. That needs looking at for a long term solution. Charges brought against companies and residents that do it. I think the keep Britain tidy campaign is worth revisiting, Education in recycling and fixed penalties to offenders. Countries have now introduced underground bin containers which would definitely help with overflowing bins and the problems that brings. It would be helpful to contact them and see what difference they have made, if they think they work, do they pay for themselves, have residents noticed a difference in the local area?"

"maybe have a look on what departments might be spending their budgets on and see what of those things are absolutely necessary. See if there are any buildings are hardly getting any use but may be costing the council a lot of money to run."

"School taxi's and bus services. I know taxis and school transport are provided for many children. This is the parents responsibility not the state. I personally have seen obscene amounts of money being spent to send excluded kids and kids in care to education centres. More is spent on the taxi rather than the days education...."

"The Council seems to operate very inefficiently, with lots of money being spent on non-essential stuff. The Council should set aside all the non-essential 'nice to have' activities/jobs and focus on things that actually deliver the services people need."

"Without knowing full details of the council budget it is difficult to comment, but I wonder how much time the Council has put into eradicating waste/making savings within their own departments. E.g. are agency staff used, where people could be employed at a lower cost to the Council?"

"Having 8 councils and 8 sets of councillors for Leicestershire is not efficient. Could look at better joining up of services e.g. all place services together etc."

"Combine with District Councils and maybe Leicester City Council to share certain back office functions and avoid duplication, reduce confusion"

"Need to review the salaries of members and the amount that they spend on expenses etc. When the staff are subjected to pay freezes and minimal pay rises is it acceptable that they get paid so much? A fair and equitable process should be applied across the board to all staff and council representatives"

"Sell Council owned property assets, e.g. County Hall. A remote working infrastructure is already in place and budgeted for."

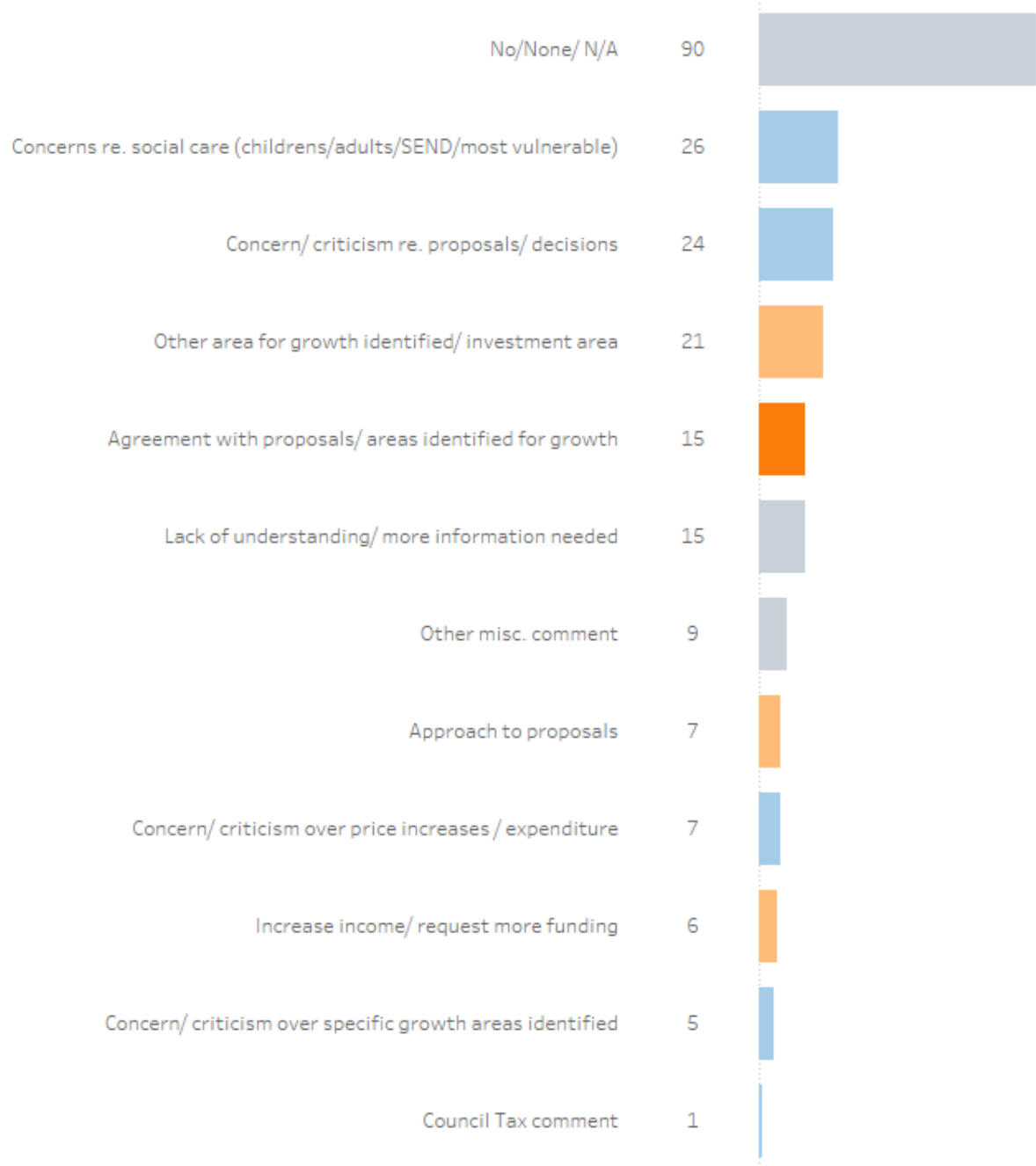
"By investing directly in supporting people with the rising cost of living, residents are more likely to be able to meet their council tax requirement. At present, the cuts to other services, increased council tax, and lack of recognition of the need for cost-of-living support in the 23/24 budget creates a substantial risk of loss of income to the council, due to people being unable to afford to pay council tax. This loss is often unrecoverable because people's don't have the money."

"no everything is getting cut back as much as it can - some areas such as job cuts in front line services that help vulnerable families will have a negative impact on the communities."

"You could invest more in preventative services now, which aim to reduce your ongoing costs for adult and children's social care in the future. You will never get spending under control if you continue to top slice services and/or decommission preventative services."

Q10 - Do you have any comments about the areas identified for growth and capital investment?

Full list of codes



Base: 197



Q10 - Do you have any comments about the areas identified for growth and capital investment?

Quotes

"I am concerned about the impact of adult social care needs on the NHS and the provision of good quality care for older people. Adequately trained and paid staff should be a priority to ensure older people are given quality care to enable them to stay in their own homes. Rising demand on children's social care and recruitment and retention difficulties across social care mean that this area has to be a priority or ultimately lives will be lost."

"Social care is what is causing a large part of the NHS and emergency services issues (bed blocking accounting for 19% of beds in Leics. NHS!) therefore Social services provision needs to be expanded to allow patients to return home. The 2% rise won't cover what's needed. This needs to be at least double that!"

"Adult Social care and care is struggling."

"There is not enough adequate support for children with additional needs and trauma, both in and out of school. More investment is needed in this area."

"Could we have capital investment considered in the adult social services sector - i.e. provision of suitable infrastructure for convalescence homes/facilities to ease the pressure on the NHS - how could the infrastructure be provided? (developer contributions?) and would this be a financially more efficient option than the current model?"

"I can't see any reference to dealing with the growth in Homelessness in the County in the proposed expenditure and any evidence of any practical solutions on how it may be tackled"

"I may not have understood correctly but there does not seem to have been any investment for Education in particular SENA. The process between schools and children needing specialist services and support is completely broken...There should be better access to specialist dyslexia, ADHD, Autism, speech and language support services."

"I feel you are too slow at building schools. A housing estate gets built before you school. Each house has 2 children moving in almost immediately..."

"funds allocated to building more roads should be re-directed to encourage people to stop using cars etc"

"We need to invest in a good public transport system. The recent bus cuts have left many struggling to get to work. Leicestershire seem very backward or invest in the wrong areas which have left them behind many other local authorities."

"Investment in capital road projects without sufficient revenue funding to maintain them and

Provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-27

existing roads seems counterproductive. With roads deteriorating, we shouldn't be thinking of building more."

"Very positive that children and family care are identified for growth, particularly social care."

"I agree that adult social care will need more as there will be an aging population"

"The areas around Adults and Communities seem sensible and well thought through. Thinking about Community Services (and involvement of those communities) is, in my view, a positive step forward towards greater involvement of communities..."

"The general proportions in growth seem to be good in terms of priorities (mainly children, and SEN transport, then adult and community), though it is sad to see a high reason is due to social care, rather than growth in support for all children (such as surestart type provisions)."

"Highway Network is deteriorating and needs money investing. the longer the Network is left without investments, the costlier it will be in the long run"

"Growth required in Library services due to how important they are to local communities, especially vulnerable people still living in their own homes"

"Social Care staff - workforce pressures/instability should be an area under Adults Social Care as well as Children's, currently too many cases, not enough staff to allocate them to Customer Service Centre needs more resource"

"renting/selling unused buildings"

"Stop using consultants"

"More partnerships with other statutory bodies and also the voluntary sector"

"There should be NO increases. We can't afford this in a cost of living crisis. My income isn't going to rise by this amount so I have to spend less. Don't waste my money by spending more than can be afforded on the current taxes."

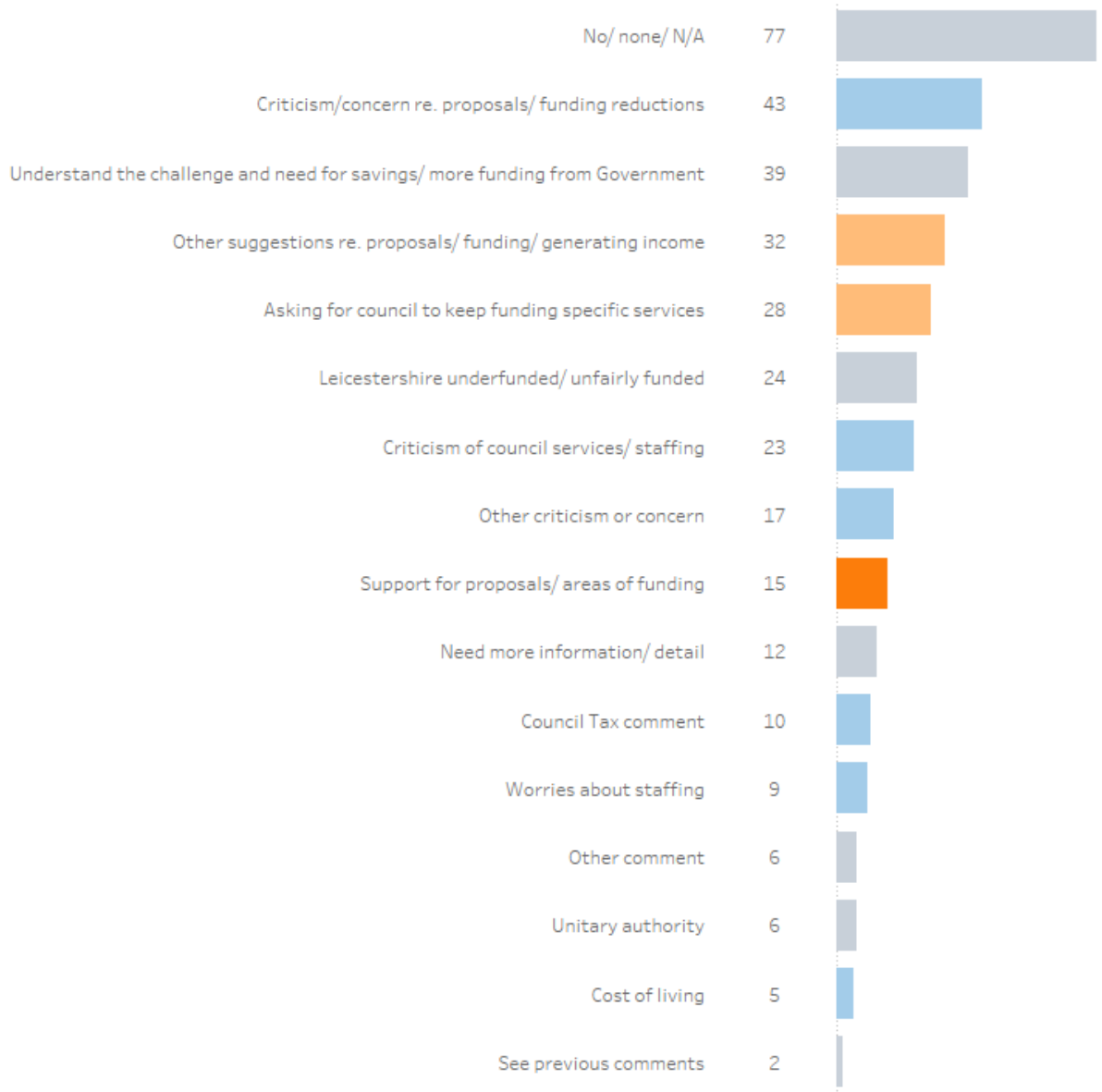
"Concern over the future of capital investment - fair funding and increased funding for capital schemes in light of soaring costs must continue to be advocated for by LCC to central govt."

"Need to ensure we still invest to reduce expenditure and avoid future cost rises"

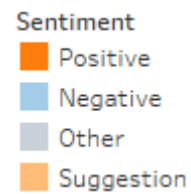
"With regard to growth, clearly adult social care is a massive cost pressure, and nationally. This must be addressed by central government. With regard to capital investment, I hope that the Council takes a longer-term view and seeks 'invest to save' opportunities, e.g. cafes in our County Parks which may cost a lot initially but with good payback opportunities later down the line."

Q12 - Do you have any other comments on our draft budget proposals?

Full list of codes



Base: 220



Q12 - Do you have any other comments on our draft budget proposals?**Quotes**

"Whilst it is clear that drastic savings are required, I fear that the cuts to essential services will result in greater spending due to the lack of preventative measures being undertaken - particularly in social care and public health"

"Just think very carefully about cuts that will affect the vulnerable of our society."

"How if every departments budgets are being cut so dramatically are services still even going to be run, will the cost of not running these services be greater than if they were continued to be ran?"

"I think that the budget proposals are going to have an impact on a number of households - that are already finding it difficult to keep up with the rising cost of living."

"Consider sale of buildings and property ahead of cutting front line services for vulnerable people."

"Try reviewing whether certain properties should be paying more council tax based on their current worth, instead of relying on what the properties were worth decades ago."

"Such a large proportion of the budget is spent on adult and child social care (over half), compared to the rest of the services the council provides. This is an area where changes and efficiencies should be focused. Does the way LCC provides this service need a full review and may be some of the services provided in a different way?"

"Little reference is made to income generation - could more be done to generate revenue through investment or provision of services? Have we studied models used by others? How do we compare to comparable councils with regard to successful funding bids?"

"services for children and adults need to be protected or there will need to be more spending in the future to recover from the impact from services being cut."

"I see there is very little regarding public transport. If you are genuinely serious about supporting the vulnerable, subsidising rural NU's services would be on your list of priorities. Access to reasonable public transport aids mental and physical health of the elderly, for example. This could actually cut your social care bill..."

"I'd ask you again to reconsider where you make cuts - the benefits to the wider public of the small amounts used for Shire Grants, Green plaques etc outweigh their cost."

"More needs spending on education for children with SEND"

"I do understand the reasons the support for homelessness is being reviewed but it's concerning it's non statutory. The work Falcon Support Services delivers transformational support for people at their most vulnerable."

"The way funding is distributed is very unfair. We need to team up with Nottingham which tends to have similar issues and lobby with other authorities to be heard more loudly."

"More pressure needs to be piled onto fighting for fair funding, far too much public money is spent in and around London while the rest of the country is left in poverty with broken services and limited access to those services."

"I appreciate that it is a challenging and difficult task. Seriously think about the constant impact that raising council tax has. Residents get a lesser service year on year despite increases. With the cost of living crisis etc times are difficult for most people...."

"Please don't shut smaller waste sites. Operating days and hours have already been reduced, it's so frustrating that we can't now take things down after work as local site shuts at 4pm...."

"Exactly what are the "back office savings" that is referred to. What are these? It refers to a review of processes and income levels. Surely these have already been looked at (with regards to income levels under financial regs we are required to review fees and charges each year). It needs to state how in greater details these are going to be achieved"

"Not without further understanding of Growth & capital plans"

"Exactly what are the "back office savings" that is referred to. What are these? It refers to a review of processes and income levels. Surely these have already been looked at (with regards to income levels under financial regs we are required to review fees and charges each year). It needs to state how in greater details these are going to be achieved"

Appendix 4 - Statistical Analysis

How to read these tables

These tables allow you to statistically compare a response by a specific demographic group against the overall respondent sample. The statistical test used to identify statistical significance is called chi-square.

Statistical significance using chi-square tests is determined by looking at the difference between the expected and observed proportion of respondents. For example if 50% of the whole sample said 'agree' for a given question, the expected proportion of any demographic (e.g. males) saying 'agree' is 50%. The expected proportion is then compared to the actual/observed proportion of the demographic who said 'agree', and a measure of statistical significance is calculated.

To maximise statistical reliability, responses were aggregated where appropriate. For example, Matrix 1 displays the statistical analysis for Question 4. Responses were aggregated into 'Agree' = ('Strongly agree' and 'Tend to agree') and 'Disagree' = ('Strongly disagree' and 'Disagree').

Matrix 1
Q4- “What core Council Tax increase would you be prepared to pay next year to fund County Council services (excluding any ‘social care precept?’)”

Response	Avg %	Role (combined response)		Gender		Age				Disability		Ethnic Group		Religion			Parent/ Carer u17		Carer u18		Sexual Orientation			District					Rural/Urban		IMD Quintile								
		LCC employee	Resident (and not LCC employee)	Female	Male	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55+	Yes	No	White	BME	No religion	Christian religion	Non-Christian religion	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Straight/Heterosexual	GBT	Blaby	Charwood	Harborough	Hinkley & Bosworth	Melton	North West Leicestershire	Oadby & Wigston	Non-Leicestershire Authority	Urban	Rural	1- Most deprived	2	3	4	5- Least deprived
Above 3%	23	25	22	17	33	20	19	27	23	22	24	19	26	20	28	24	23	25	23	22	19	20	21	22	22	21	20	21	22	35	26	40	24	23	38	34	22	20	24
3% (an extra £43.60 next year)	31	36	23	32	31	20	31	31	35	28	33	23	28	36	30	30	38	30	31	38	33	28	26	26	28	33	28	31	22	32	50	31	32	50	23	38	31	30	
2% (an extra £28.06 next year)	15	16	14	20	10	20	17	15	14	20	15	16	17	14	13	18	15	16	18	16	9	18	22	22	18	9	18	13	22	8	16	16	13	7	7	18	20		
1% (an extra £14.53 next year)	10	10	9	13	4	40	9	7	12	7	10	9	16	9	8	8	8	9	10	8	7	18	0	10	7	18	7	10	7	4	10	9	0	16	9	9	9		
None	12	9	17	11	10	0	15	10	9	10	11	10	16	12	13	11	11	11	15	9	13	10	15	6	13	10	15	6	11	8	11	10	0	7	16	12	9		
Council Tax should be reduced	9	5	15	7	12	0	9	13	7	13	8	9	8	9	10	9	6	10	2	4	9	20	6	15	6	15	6	11	8	8	10	0	14	7	10	8			

Significance

- Very significantly higher
- Significantly higher
- Significantly lower
- Very significantly lower
- Similar
- Suppressed

Matrix 2

Q5: “What, if any, additional increase would you be prepared to pay next year as a separate ‘social care precept’ to be used exclusively for

Response	Avg %	Role (combined response)	Gender	Age	Disability	Ethnic Group	Religion	Parent/ Carer u17	Carer o18	Sexual Orientation	District	Rural/Urban	IMD Quintile
Above 2%	20	LCC employee	Female	Under 35	Yes	White	No religion	Yes	No	Straight/Heterosexual	Harborough	Urban	2
		Resident (and not LCC employee)	Male	35 - 44	No	BME	Christian religion	No	Yes	LGB+	Hinkley & Bosworth	Rural	3
			Female	45 - 54	Yes	White	Non-Christian religion	Yes	No		Melton	Urban	4
			Male	55+	No	BME	Christian religion	No	Yes		North West Leicestershire	Urban	5 - Least deprived
2% (an extra £28.06 next year)	34	LCC employee	Female	Under 35	Yes	White	No religion	Yes	No	Straight/Heterosexual	Harborough	Urban	2
		Resident (and not LCC employee)	Male	35 - 44	No	BME	Christian religion	Yes	No		Hinkley & Bosworth	Rural	3
			Female	45 - 54	Yes	White	Non-Christian religion	No	Yes		Melton	Urban	4
			Male	55+	No	BME	Christian religion	Yes	No		North West Leicestershire	Rural	5 - Least deprived
1% (an extra £14.53 next year)	23	LCC employee	Female	Under 35	Yes	White	No religion	Yes	No	Straight/Heterosexual	Harborough	Urban	2
		Resident (and not LCC employee)	Male	35 - 44	No	White	Christian religion	No	Yes		Hinkley & Bosworth	Rural	3
			Female	45 - 54	Yes	White	Non-Christian religion	Yes	No		Melton	Urban	4
			Male	55+	No	BME	Christian religion	No	Yes		North West Leicestershire	Rural	5 - Least deprived
None	24	LCC employee	Female	Under 35	Yes	White	No religion	Yes	No	Straight/Heterosexual	Harborough	Urban	2
		Resident (and not LCC employee)	Male	35 - 44	No	White	Christian religion	No	Yes		Hinkley & Bosworth	Rural	3
			Female	45 - 54	Yes	White	Non-Christian religion	Yes	No		Melton	Urban	4
			Male	55+	No	BME	Christian religion	No	Yes		North West Leicestershire	Rural	5 - Least deprived

Significance

- Very significantly higher
- Significantly higher
- Significantly lower
- Similar
- Suppressed

Matrix 3
Q4 and Q5 Combined: Total Council Tax Increase

Response	Role (combined response)		Gender		Age			Disability		Ethnic Group		Religion			Parent/ Carer u17		Carer o18		Sexual Orientation		District					Rural/Urban					IMD Quintile								
	LCC employee	Resident (and not LCC employee)	Male	Female	Other	Use another term	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55+	Yes	No	White	BME	No religion	Christian religion	Non-Christian religion	Yes	No	Yes	No	Straight/Heterosexual	LGB+	Blaby	Charwood	Harborough	Hinckley & Bosworth	Melton	North West Leicestershire	Oadby & Wigston	Non-Leicestershire Authority	Urban	Rural	1-Most deprived	2	3	4	5-Least deprived	
Above 5%	25	27	33	21	24	40	22	24	28	26	26	27	18	18	25	25	29	26	26	23	27	26	33	26	22	26	21	23	33	23	40	26	23	50	36	15	26	25	
5%	17	19	18	17	24	0	13	15	20	18	15	18	18	16	18	18	17	17	18	20	17	19	12	13	25	16	14	12	23	8	24	18	17	38	7	27	16	18	
Above 4%	2	2	1	2	0	0	2	1	4	3	2	2	2	0	2	2	0	1	2	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	4	8	4	0	2	2	0	0	6	1	2		
4%	11	13	9	14	6	0	13	11	12	11	12	11	12	7	10	13	10	13	11	12	11	13	2	15	11	9	12	12	8	8	10	15	0	14	7	13	11		
Above 3%	2	1	3	2	0	0	4	3	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	7	0	2	2	2	2	0	4	4	2	2	0	5	3	1	1		
3%	9	11	7	12	6	7	20	7	9	11	12	10	9	18	10	10	10	9	11	13	10	14	9	11	14	11	12	8	27	4	12	9	13	7	9	8	16		
2%	11	11	8	14	12	8	40	20	9	8	12	13	11	12	9	13	10	11	12	10	16	16	11	11	5	16	8	8	4	11	13	0	7	12	16	9			
1%	5	6	6	6	6	2	0	4	5	4	5	5	7	7	4	6	5	6	4	4	5	0	6	5	2	6	12	4	0	5	5	0	11	6	1	5			
None	8	5	7	15	14	7	0	9	6	5	8	7	14	14	8	6	7	8	8	8	6	14	9	4	14	7	4	12	8	7	7	0	2	9	8	7			
Council Tax should be reduced	7	4	10	6	6	0	7	12	6	5	11	6	7	9	7	7	10	9	6	4	8	2	4	8	12	6	12	6	8	8	7	8	0	11	6	8	6		

Significance

- Very significantly higher
- Significantly higher
- Similar
- Suppressed
- Very significantly lower
- Significantly lower

Matrix 4
Q6: “What impact, if any, would an overall 5% increase in Council Tax (the proposed total of core Council Tax and precept) have on your household finances?”

Response	Avg %	Role (combined response)		Gender		Age			Disability		Ethnic Group		Religion			Parent/ Carer u17		Carer o18		Sexual Orientation		District					Rural/Urban		IMD Quintile										
		LCC employee	Resident (and not LCC employee)	Female	Male	Use another term	Under 35	35 - 44	45 - 54	SS+	Yes	No	White	BME	No religion	Christian religion	Non-Christian religion	Yes	No	Strait/Heterosexual	LGB+	Charwood	Harborough	Hinckley & Bosworth	Melton	North West Leicestershire	Oadby & Wigston	Non-Leicestershire Authority	Urban	Rural	1 - Most deprived	2	3	4	5 - Least deprived				
Significant impact	24	19	33	25	21	20	17	21	24	27	31	21	24	30	30	19	30	28	24	23	28	22	23	25	18	24	36	26	33	17	22	8	23	25	0	29	21	25	23
Moderate impact	33	37	26	34	29	40	33	33	30	39	39	31	39	32	32	35	32	33	33	29	34	34	34	33	33	30	25	30	30	41	46	34	31	43	29	43	34	30	
Slight impact	32	33	33	29	38	40	41	33	32	27	34	34	18	40	26	23	31	34	35	20	32	48	38	33	26	38	33	30	30	31	34	35	63	29	32	32	37		
No impact	11	12	8	11	12	0	9	15	11	3	13	11	14	9	13	15	14	10	7	12	7	5	10	9	11	4	15	7	15	10	9	25	13	4	9	11			



Matrix 5
Q7: “Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree with how the growth and savings have been allocated across our services?”

Response	Avg %	Role (combined response)		Gender		Age			Disability		Ethnic Group		Religion			Parent/ Carer u17		Carer o18		Sexual Orientation		District					Rural/Urban		IMD Quintile								
		LCC employee	Resident (and not LCC employee)	Female	Male	Use another term	Under 35	35 - 44	45 - 54	55+	Yes	No	White	BME	No religion	Christian religion	Non-Christian religion	Yes	No	Yes	No	Straight/Heterosexual	LGBT	Charwood	Harborough	Hinckley & Bosworth	Melton	North West Leicestershire	Oadby & Wigston	Non-Leicestershire Authority	Urban	Rural	1 - Most deprived	2	3	4	5 - Least deprived
Agree	41	51	19	43	45	0	40	46	42	32	46	44	44	43	42	48	46	42	43	44	44	39	33	43	40	41	66	30	52	42	41	41	63	41	35	36	49
Neither agree nor disagree	35	37	30	38	28	60	33	34	37	35	34	35	33	36	33	28	30	36	35	34	31	41	35	28	43	26	19	52	28	34	37	38	34	33	37	34	
Disagree	24	12	42	19	28	40	27	17	26	34	20	22	22	20	24	25	24	22	23	22	26	20	31	17	33	15	19	20	24	22	0	25	32	27	18		



Matrix 6
Q11: “To what extent do you agree or disagree that the council should continue lobbying Government to review the way funding is distributed between councils?”

Response	Avg %	Role (combined response)	Other	Female	Male	Use another term	Under 35	35 - 44	45 - 54	55+	Disability	Ethnic Group	Religion	Parent/ Carer u17	Carer u18	Sexual Orientation	District	Rural/Urban	IMD Quintile		
Agree	92	LCC employee	90	95	93	60	98	92	93	94	94	94	94	95	92	93	94	94	94	93	
		Resident (and not LCC employee)	86	95	93	93	94	94	94	94	94	87	94	94	94	93	94	94	94	93	94
Neither agree nor disagree	3	LCC employee	3	2	4	0	2	3	4	2	2	3	7	5	4	3	3	5	7	2	4
		Resident (and not LCC employee)	5	2	4	0	2	3	4	2	3	3	7	2	2	3	3	3	5	7	2
Disagree	5	LCC employee	2	3	3	40	0	6	2	3	4	7	4	10	3	4	3	4	4	4	2
		Resident (and not LCC employee)	7	3	3	3	0	6	2	3	4	3	7	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	2



Appendix 5 - Other consultation response

Submission from Charnwood Borough Council



Southfield Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire. LE11 2TX
Email: clr.tom.barkley@charnwood.gov.uk

13 January 2023

VIA EMAIL
Nick Rushton, Leader of the Council
Cabinet Office
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leics
LE3 8RA

Dear Nick

CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S BUDGET CONSULTATION

We would like to take the opportunity to respond to the Leicestershire County Councils budget proposals and offer some thoughts on the suggestions made to District Councils about how they might support the County Council. These suggestions were recently sent by letter to District Council Leaders by Cllr Rushton.

Firstly, we would like to be clear that we absolutely support the principle by which councils and other partners can work together to both reduce costs and improve services for our residents. We are also empathetic to the budgetary challenges faced by the County Council, not least due to the fact that we are also facing significant budget challenges of our own.

Within your suggestions to Districts, we can identify some areas where working together could be advantageous, such as care technology, and the use of Disabled Facilities Grant funding.

However, other suggestions would appear to indicate that District Councils could end up taking on the revenue funding for services currently provided by the County Council or gifting assets to the County Council. Some of those assets will clearly have a value that we are not in a position to give away.

We have also reviewed the savings areas set out within the consultation area on your website. Again, we reiterate that we are keen to work together where a 'win-win' opportunity can be created.



Telephone: 01509 263151
Email: information@charnwood.gov.uk
Visit us at www.charnwood.gov.uk

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However, we could not support any proposals where the outcome would likely impose additional costs onto Districts. We believe that this may be a risk within the Environmental and Waste proposals in particular, but also in other areas such as homelessness support.

We would therefore welcome further information and discussion on the detailed proposals prior to any policy decisions on savings or operational changes being implemented.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Barkley', is centered below the text 'Yours sincerely'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'T'.

**Cllr Tom Barkley
Deputy Leader of Charnwood Borough Council
and Cabinet Lead Member for Finance and Property Services**

Reply from Leicestershire County Council to Charnwood Borough Council

24 January 2023

By Email

Cllr. Tom Barkley, Deputy Leader of Charnwood Borough Council and
Cabinet Leader Member for Finance and Property Services

Charnwood Borough Council
Southfield Road
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 2TX

Dear Tom

**CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO LEICESTERSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL'S BUDGET CONSULTATION**

Thank you for your letter of 13th January.

In regard to care technology and the use of Disabled Facility Grants, I understand that the Lightbulb Programme is due a review of its business case. Taking forward my suggestions and your response within that framework would seem sensible. I am aware that Charnwood has not been funding the Locality Teams which are integral to Lightbulb.

If you have identified 'win-win' areas, presumably you have identified a cost saving for each. It will be helpful to know which areas and what savings? It can only help if we can have some specific proposals from a district on the table.

I note what you say about waste management, which is disappointing given the potential savings to taxpayers. I should add that Cabinet members have discussed a proposal which I understand has come from district chief executives for a new member and a new officer structure to discuss waste management, including the collection and treatment of food waste. That is not something we support. We have confidence in our officers to liaise with district officers in the current partnership structure, which can make recommendations accordingly.

Cont.../

Cabinet Office
Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire. LE3 8RA
Telephone: 0116 3056111
Email: nicholas.rushton@leics.gov.uk

Nicholas Rushton, Leader, Leicestershire County Council
www.leicestershire.gov.uk

In regard to homelessness and using it as an example, this is a savings proposal from the County Council, although not yet approved, which would not be implemented until 2024/25 and would be the subject of consultation.

Thanks again for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'NR', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nicholas Rushton CC
Leader of the Council



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 ਮਾਭਿਨੀ ਆਪਨੀ ਆਖਾਮਾਂ ਸਮਝਵਾਮਾਂ ਥੀੜੀ ਮਦਦ ਈਝਨਾਂ ਡੀ ਨੀ 0116 305 6803 ਨੰਬਰ ਪਰ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਡਰਥੀ ਅਨੇ ਅਮੇ ਆਪਨੇ ਮਦਦ ਡਰਵਾ ਅਵਥਾ ਡਰੀਥੁੰ.

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।

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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.

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