

North Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2023/24 Consultation

Appendix to consultation analysis report

December to January 2023

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Appendix 1: Draft budget consultation questionnaire full results

North Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2023/24 Consultation

Overview

Creating an efficient council which can deliver vital services while being robust enough to withstand economic uncertainty is the cornerstone of North Northamptonshire Council's budget proposals for 2023/24.

The council proposes a balanced revenue budget for 2023/24 and outlines the medium-term financial plan for the next two years within our [22 December 2022 Executive reports](#).

While this has been challenging the authority has laid strong financial foundations for financial stability against a backdrop of global financial uncertainty.

The net revenue budget for 2023/24 is £336 million. This money provides a range of services to residents and businesses across the area including care to vulnerable adults and children, education, the disposal and collection of waste, household waste recycling, highways, economic development, housing and support for the homeless.

We are currently living through very challenging times and the council must do all it can to manage its finances efficiently and with prudence. We must put measures in place, not just with the current situation in mind but as we look toward the medium term.

Local government funding at a national level remains uncertain. Areas that have delivered significant business growth, such as North Northamptonshire Council could find that they are adversely impacted by the new local government funding regime which is due to be implemented in 2025/26.

We therefore need to take this into consideration when making our current budget decisions.

Unprecedented levels of inflation present significant challenges for everyone: individuals, businesses and local authorities, making running costs more expensive.

In these difficult times, we know our services are vital to residents and we are working hard to protect and improve them in the face of increasing demand.

We believe this budget will ensure the delivery of services that are so important to those who live and work in North Northamptonshire.

With the challenging economic climate, putting this budget together has not been easy and we have been very cautious with our finances. We continue to work tirelessly to deliver savings, to innovate, improve services and to attract funding from outside of the area.

Council Tax

Government has permitted local authorities to increase the Council Tax rate by 4.99% in recognition of the difficult financial climate and increased inflationary pressures.

As such the authority is proposing an increase allowed by Government in Council Tax of 4.99%, which includes the 2% adult social care precept.

This increase would contribute around an additional £9m per year towards inflationary and demand lead pressures to enable services to be maintained and would represent a Band D level of Council Tax for North Northamptonshire Council of £1,657.51 for 2023/24.

This is an annual increase of £78.78 (equivalent to £1.52 per week) from the Band D Council Tax level of £1,578.73 in 2022/23. For a Band A property – which makes up the greatest proportion of residences in the area – this would see an annual increase from £1,052.48 in 2022/23 to £1,105.01 for 2023/24, which is £52.53 a year (equating to £1.01 per week).

These figures do not include the Council Tax for individual Town and Parish Councils or the Council Tax set for Fire and Police by the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Increasing Council Tax has the advantage of providing stable funding for the future, helping to further protect services.

With such a large proportion of our income coming from Council Tax – to not increase it, especially when inflation is at exceptionally high levels – would seriously impact our finances going forward and could mean that we would need to consider the revision of some of our services.

There is no change to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme which will continue at 25%.

Next steps

This consultation will run from 22 December 2022 until midnight on Friday, 27 January 2023, with the Executive then meeting on 9 February 2023 to consider the final budget proposals for recommendation to Full Council on 23 February 2023.

The main proposals are:

- To increase Council Tax by 4.99%, comprising a 'core' Council Tax increase of 2.99% covering all services and a further 2% for the adult social care precept, which is the maximum amount permitted. This would contribute an additional £9m per year and would represent a Band D level of Council Tax of £1,657.51 in 2023/24, or the equivalent of £31.88 per week.
- Draft Capital Programme 2023-26.

Your feedback on this consultation is really important to us. All consultation feedback will be analysed and considered and will help inform Councillors of residents' and stakeholders' views when making a final decision on the budget at the North Northamptonshire Council Full Council meeting on 23 February 2023. This meeting is held in public and anyone wishing to speak at the meeting must contact democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk once the agenda is issued on the Council's website on 15 February 2023. Details of how the public can address the meeting will be given on the agenda.

Related Documents

Please read the related documents to gain a better understanding of the budget proposals before you comment on them.

- [Draft Budget 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Plan](#), and its appendices:
 - [Appendix A - Draft Budget Summary 2023/24](#)
 - [Appendix B - List of budget pressures and saving proposals](#)
 - [Appendix C - Dedicated Schools Grant](#)
 - [Appendix D - Reserves Strategy 2023/24](#)
 - [Appendix E - Equality Screening Assessment](#)
 - [Addendum to Budget Report](#)
- [Capital Programme 2023-26](#), and its appendices:
 - [Appendix A - General Fund Capital Programme 2023-26](#)
 - [Appendix B - Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2023-26](#)
 - [Appendix C - Development Pool](#)

The following Housing Revenue Account (HRA) report is being presented to Executive as part of the council's budget papers.

The HRA is a separate ring-fenced account within the council for the income and expenditure associated with its housing stock.

The HRA does not directly impact on the council's wider general fund budget or on the level of council tax. Income to the HRA is primarily received through the rents and other charges paid by tenants and leaseholders.

Council tenants will be consulted via a targeted consultation on the HRA proposals via their respective Tenant Advisory Panel.

- [Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Plan Proposals](#)
 - [HRA Budget - Appendices A to C](#)

Have your say

The following sections gives details of the budget proposals. Please tell us your views by completing this questionnaire. You do not have to answer all of the questions or give us your feedback on every section. If you do not wish to answer a question or give feedback on a specific section, then you can skip those questions and move on to the next section.

This questionnaire focusses on the key new proposals for the draft budget 2023/24 that will likely affect residents. However, there is opportunity to comment on anything within the Draft Budget in the comment boxes towards the end of the questionnaire.

Your feedback will be part of a report with many other people's feedback, so you will not be personally identified.

You can also access this online questionnaire free of charge at any North Northamptonshire Council library. Please see the [Library website](#) or telephone 0300 126 3000 to check opening times.

Alternatively, you can email or send your comments in by post using the contact details below, or by handing it in to one of North Northamptonshire Council's libraries.

You can also hold your own group discussion with others and provide your joint feedback either by completing the online [Group Facilitator's Feedback Form](#) or by downloading the PDF version below and emailing or posting the form back to us.

If you have any queries, comments or would like a copy of this questionnaire in another format (including paper, easy read or large print) you can contact us by email, post or telephone. Our contact details are as follows:

Email address: CET@northnorthants.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 126 3000

Postal address:

Budget Consultation Response
North Northamptonshire Council
Sheerness House
Meadow Road
Kettering
NN16 8TL

The deadline for completing this questionnaire is midnight **27 January 2023**.

For information about how consultation and engagement responses are managed, please see the [consultation and engagement privacy notice](#).

Thank you for helping us by completing this questionnaire.

About you

Q. Are you: Please tick (√) all that apply

There were 444 responses to this question, with respondents being able to select more than one option if applicable.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
A local resident	392	88.3%
A service user	31	7.0%
A North Northamptonshire Council employee	87	19.6%
A North Northamptonshire Council Councillor	4	0.9%
A representative of a Town/Parish Council	3	0.7%
A Town or Parish Councillor	8	1.8%
A representative of the voluntary sector or a community organisation	8	1.8%
A representative of the local business community	3	0.7%
A representative of a health partner organisation	0	0.0%
A representative of a user group	6	1.4%
Other (please give details below)	5	1.1%

Other:

- [Redacted] litter picking group
- 90 years old
- Retired
- Independent adviser
- [Redacted] Bowls

Proposed increase to Council Tax

The Council is proposing to increase Council Tax up to the level currently allowed by the government, without triggering a referendum – 4.99%. This increased rate includes a **general increase of 2.99%** and the allowable **adult social care precept increase, which is 2%**.

The Council Tax increase will contribute an additional £9m per year towards inflationary and demand pressures to enable services to be maintained.

What would a 4.99% increase mean for Council Tax Bands?

As an example, a Band D level of Council Tax for North Northamptonshire Council of £1,657.51 in 2023/24 is equivalent to £31.88 per week. The annual increase on an average Band D property across the area is £78.78, which is a weekly increase of £1.52p.

For a Band A property – which makes up the greatest proportion of residences in the area – this would see an annual increase from £1,052.48 in 2022/23 to £1,105.01 for 2023/24, which is £52.53 a year (equating to £1.01 per week).

These figures do not include the Council Tax for individual town and parish councils or the Council Tax set for fire and police by the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

The following table shows what the proposed 4.99% increase would be for each Council Tax Band.

Band	Annual increase	Weekly increase
A	£52.53	£1.01
B	£61.27	£1.18
C	£70.04	£1.35
D	£78.78	£1.52
E	£96.29	£1.85
F	£113.79	£2.19
G	£131.31	£2.52
H	£157.56	£3.04

With such a large proportion of our income coming from Council Tax – to not increase it, especially when inflation is at exceptionally high levels – would seriously impact our finances going forward and could mean that we would need to consider the revision of some of our services.

The Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) replaced Council Tax benefit in 2013. Council Tax benefit was a nationally prescribed scheme, whereas LCTRS is a local scheme set at the discretion of the Council. The scheme applies to working age claimants. There is no proposed change to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme which will continue at 25%. Eligible pensioners continue to receive up to 100% Council Tax support depending on the levels of income they receive.

The proposed Council Tax increase of 4.99% relates to two elements - the core increase of 2.99% to support all services and a further 2% for Adult Social Care. The following questions will consider each element in turn.

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should increase Council Tax by 2.99% to help fund services? Please tick (✓) relevant answer

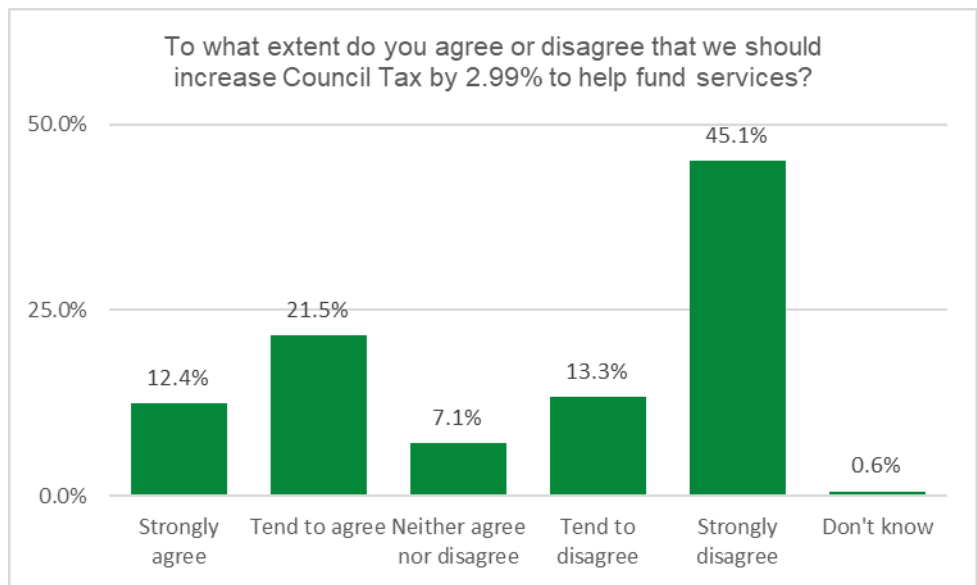
What would a 2.99% increase mean for Council Tax Bands?

As an example, a 2.99% general increase would result in an increase of £47.21 per year (£0.91p per week) for 2023/24 for the average Band D Council Tax payer.

The following table shows what the proposed 2.99% increase would be for each Council Tax Band.

Band	Annual Increase	Weekly Increase
A	£31.48	£0.61
B	£36.72	£0.71
C	£41.97	£0.81
D	£47.21	£0.91
E	£57.70	£1.11
F	£68.19	£1.31
G	£78.69	£1.51
H	£94.42	£1.82

There were 339 responses to this question.



	Response number	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	42	12.4%
Tend to agree	73	21.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	24	7.1%
Tend to disagree	45	13.3%
Strongly disagree	153	45.1%
Don't know	2	0.6%

Q. If you would like to tell us why you answered the previous question in the way that you did, please do so here:

There were 211 responses to this question.

Strongly agree/ Tend to agree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I agree, rising costs around the world impact everywhere, vital services are required by the Council and these need to be funded in some way. • I understand why the council tax will be increased, however, at the moment most of the people who live in North Northants are struggling to either feed or heat, as some cannot afford to have both. It is not the adults but the children who will be going hungry while at school and again when they are at home. • i do not see how NNC can offer the services required for our community without increasing the council tax although it is an additional challenge for residents to find the money. • I recognise there is inflation and with all the extra migrants in the county there will be a greater cost to the council. But people need to see what more is being offered for this increase. In addition there will be a new tax on our grey bins for waste in 2023 - a double whammy. The poorer people / migrants who are on benefits etc won't like it, but I guess it is the hard workers like myself who fund their council tax (and benefits) anyway. • As long as the increase is going towards 'provision of services', that is acceptable. If there is a % increase for salaries then the council has a duty to be transparent and declare what this figure is. • If we want local services then we, as users, need to pay for them alongside Central GoGervt funding allowances • Unfortunately, I don't feel that the council has much choice. Although this will obviously impact on everyone that are already finding life financially difficult, it is important that decent quality services are maintained. • Strongly believe in social responsibility and that we should all pay our part to support our local services. • The Government should prioritise spending on communities rather than dodgy PPE contracts to their mates • There should not be increases in Council Tax at all. In these difficult time people on average earnings cannot afford them. The Council should cut the pay and expenses of top Council earners and Councillors taking huge expenses. Efficiency savings by merging departments and actually reducing staff should be done asap. It is all collapsing. • Council staff will need decent pay rises and costs of maintaining services will increase due to the current cost of living crisis. Most people can afford a few pounds more each month to support that • We need more funding to support local community resources/services. • My concern would be focusing on the issues such as- ensuring that IF the increase is implemented, the expectation would be for those who are in control of the budget to ensure that the additional funding is actively used to support sustainability of community resources and nothing else. Unfortunately, Northamptonshire Councils have a history of spending taxpayers money unwisely. • We are still living with the pain and cuts to services as a direct result of the old district and county councils not raising council tax. The only sensible thing to do is use the powers you have delegated, otherwise you cannot expect/ask for any help from central government • Services have to be funded by some means.

- I tend to agree due to the inevitable nature of the rise... But only "tend" as I cannot see that [redacted] will benefit in any way shape or form from the increase. Our roads are poor, we suffer minimal community expenditure and have poorly enforced planning lumped on us.... Will that change? I fear not...
- I agree that council tax should be increased to mitigate the effects of inflation but I don't think that local government should bear the cost. Only national government can create money necessary to increase funding of local government through quantitative easing. This need not create an unsupportable pressure on government borrowing as the bulk interest payment could be limited by the Bank of England. The problem can only be solved by following the rules of Modern Monetary Theory.
- Services need to be paid for if we want them
- The money has to come from somewhere to pay for all the spending that has been done and is required.
- I can see that you need the money but I think you are possibly asking too much of local residents in the current climate
- It's very hard to pick when we know the money is needed for services. The care sector is the worst funded. Everything is going to the dogs.
- Because obviously I would prefer NOT to have any household bills going up in the current financial climate but I recognise that it is necessary
- We understand the budget for local councils will be reduced so operating costs must come from somewhere, BUT...people will not tolerate funding local council waste, frivolities, or reductions in services that are essential to a decent standard of living.
- Understandable but I feel will create a strain on the poorest families, but equally I strongly believe the council tax is there to support the services that people access so I feel it is vital
- Because I have not seen any improvement since the last council, especially on the counties roads!
- Services are needed . Everyone needs to pay a little more to help those who really need it.
- The public can't continue to expect services to be provided without paying into them. Whilst it's frustrating the constant cost of services/items increasing, the funding has to come from somewhere
- Price of living is high enough how can you feel it's acceptable to make such an increase in council tax? I live on [redacted] and we get nothing in return for council tax as it is!
- That would be affordable for many
- The council needs to be on a healthy financial footing to enable them to keep providing vital services.
- I understand that there needs to be an increase in Council Tax but there needs to be more transparent and relevant community resources beneficial to the town and its people.
- Not sure how else we manage the budget if we don't increase income.
- It is essential to maintain services
- Only a small increase.
- Income can only support a smaller increase, maybe half the proposed
- An increase is acceptable providing the money is used to improve local services and residents get value for money which we don't get at the moment
- Our roads and general streets conditions are a disgrace
- This seems the most sensible way to keep your finances up so you can deliver services.
- Tax for development of vulnerability persons is the concept in this situation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All areas of budgets are stretched so it is pretty obvious that what you pay for services has to increase • We would expect that this level of increase to be sufficient to maintain the expected level of services. • Given the way local government has been financed by the Conservatives in government and the outlook for the way it will be financed in the future by the Conservatives in their remaining time in government to do anything other than raise council tax by the maximum increase allowable would be reckless folly. Of course this only serves to highlight the reckless folly of the Conservatives running the legacy councils that eschewed council tax increases in the past. They are partly to blame for the current difficulties NNC has in achieving a balanced budget. • You don't have any choice but to max out what you are allowed to raise this way • in line with other increases for households • As social care needs are increasing and the council requires revenue to be able to fund these services. • Because while the council clearly needs more money, you can't be trusted to spend it effectively • People cannot afford to eat and heat their homes, where is this money supposed to come from? • Council needs to increase revenue to meet increased demand and offset the impact of inflation • NCC's objective to have the lowest Council Tax in the UK resulted in essential services having insufficient funds to meet increasing customer demand. Our population continues to increase significantly above the UK average, therefore additional funds are required to meet increased service demands. I also believe that having continued to work throughout the pandemic all staff should be recognised and rewarded for their continued loyalty and commitment. • I think services cost more so the council would need to increase the tax in line with this. However, I would say that personally I feel we don't often see the benefit of this with essential services still being cut i.e. children's centres etc • I somewhat agree that this increase is necessary to deliver the services needed
<p>Neither agree nor disagree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whilst I am in a fortunate position that £1 approx per week would not cause me too much hardship I do understand that this would be unachievable for those on limited incomes • no point having a public consultation as you will increase the council tax by 4.99%. • regardless of any public comment. Living in [redacted] you imposed a tariff on continued collection of green bins despite overwhelming opposition and reasoned debate. • Never voted for this new authority which has clearly taken democracy further away from the people of [redacted] whose councillors will never have a say in a larger authority. • What is NNC doing with continuous improvement and efficiency gains? • What is NNC doing to review the management structure, ensure managers span of control is not less than 5. Remove one on one reports. Remove legacy roles that are duplicated from the pre unitary design. Performance review all managers. Particularly ensure £100k roles are needed and provide good value for money. Benchmark performance with other local authorities. The change to unitary authority committed to a fresh start and there should be substantial efficiency benefits - please publish these. • It looks like an inevitable rise

- whatever we say will be completely ignored by the council who have already made up there minds
- Although council tax must increase the extra funds need to be used to build social housing for young working people the future generated rental revenue must then be used for further building to generate more revenue and then the council may find the revenue problems become fewer over time. Action now will cover future projects.
- Local government finances can be created and reshaped in a number of ways, and there could be more summarised evidence here of the other ways that finance could be created, therefore mitigating the need to increase council tax.
- is there any point in this survey when you blatantly ignored the result of the green bin charge fiasco
- I understand that cost of providing service is increased due to overall financial and economic situation of the country and the world, however increases in council tax do not reflect in any visible improvements in a local area. [redacted] especially is deteriorating at a rapid rate, including town centre, local parks (full of potholes, unable to push a pram without considerable struggle), lack of infrastructure investment beyond Rushden Lakes - which proposed expansion has been halted by the local council. I do not envisage living here any longer as all the build up of houses does not come in improvement in road network, quality of education and number of schools, same for medical practices.
- Do not know enough to give an educated opinion
- I think everyone is struggling and everything is going up so I feel this is a hard answer
- Council tax goes up but we will lose our green bin provision
- Cost of living means we need services to match the climate. Income isn't going as far, with everything increasing. Breaking point on what to pay and what to default on!
- I think everyone is struggling and everything is going up so I feel this is a hard answer

Strongly disagree/ Tend to disagree

- In times of inflation for local families who are all struggling, surely not increasing Council Tax even if it does mean a cut in services would be a help for those people.
- This is ridiculous. You've increased it by Max amount last year and nothing was improved whatsoever.
- Reduce your services please.
- The cost of living crisis for most households is causing extreme financial pressure - this seems unfeasible to expect households to be able to afford this increase alongside the other increases. This is only a portion of the council tax so overall the increase will be much higher
- I have no money. You are also going to add a new charge for bins. We are not getting a 5% better service.
- Disagree because the public is paying the increased penalty for Government catastrophes, again.
- There is a cost of living crisis and the council to continue to be supported should not
- Be increasing council tax and should look at cutting non core services like Chester House.
- A review of what is provided, how it is provided, and to whom needs to take place - in consultation with the public - before repeatedly increasing the budget.
- As most is used to fund adult social care.

- You have already decided (despite opposition from local residents) to charge for garden waste disposal. This will make that the council are already saving money AND making extra money by charging for a service that was already paid for within residents' council tax.
- At a time when we are all suffering with the cost of living crisis, yet another increased cost
- At a time where households are struggling financially, to increase local taxation will be another blow to already struggling families.
- As a pensioner my money can't stretch much further
- People are already struggling to feed their families and can not afford to pay more than they already do . The service we get for the amount we pay is awful and definitely not value for money ! All I can see is the council spending more money in court cases when people can't pay
- Wages aren't rising in line with inflation. Energy is already unaffordable. Can't afford more increases
- You are now also charging for green waste, and this as well is a minimum of £100 extra pa for households to find for NNC, are the Fire/Police PCC, parish/town councils also raising their rates? how much is this really going to cost households in Council Tax in total?
- The rates wouldn't need to increase if money was spent sensibly.
- Many services are relying on agency staff at increased costs because we are not permitted to recruit / stuck in a limbo wanting to restructure but unable to do so because of lack of AD support and understanding of what departments need to deliver a sustainable service.
- Rather than increase the tax, you should look at the waste of money the council spends on pointless projects. Also cut back on the expenses that councilors can claim for.
- The increase in cost of living in all areas of expenditure are leaving many struggling financially. Many of those are above the threshold for any support but still struggling.
- On top of our spiralling cost of living expenses, this would not be manageable.
- Because everybody struggles to live as it is.
- I am [redacted]. I do not get any other benefits so would have to use savings to pay for everything else. I don't get to switch off and relax and am [redacted] 24hours a day, 7 days a week for £69.70. And everybody wants a pay rise or increase taxes. What about family carers.
- This is an absolute disgrace, not content with ignoring Residents and imposing an unfair tax for collection of Green Waste for recycling you are talking about increasing council tax when people are toiling with day to day costs and inflation. The Police & Crime Commissioner is also talking about picking residents pockets. You need to stop treating residents like a cash cow and learn to live within your means. If anything a decrease in council tax is called for.
- Cost of living is so bad at the moment it's not the right time
- It is too large rise when people are struggling so much.
- Too much money has been wasted by the North Northants Council by the very formation of it. You only have to look at the cost of new council vehicles in [redact] and their new livery. What was wrong with previous vehicles. I can only say what poor financial 'managers' the so called cabinet officers are on this council.
- Because families struggling as it is.
- you get more than enough for providing low or very low services in general
- What extra services are you going to provide. The council office in the town is only open part, will it go full time. There are no public toilets in [redacted], 1 toilet available

in the office-op during opening hours, but is constantly out of order. Roads are a disgrace with pot holes damaging cars. The list can go on but is there any point as you never listen anyway.

- Due to the current cost of living the council should not be making consideration or raising taxes.
- Where on earth do you councillors (completely out of touch with the people you represent) think our money comes from? No pay increase, energy bills through the roof, car tax up, water up, diesel up, food up, this is a criminal amount to increase council tax year on year, with no improvement whatsoever in the services you provide. Your service to the public you serve is disgraceful.
- It's an absolute disgrace!!
- Council tax is increased by 2.99% to 'help fund services'. Yet moving forward garden waste collections are an ADDITIONAL charge rather than being included as it currently is.
- We're facing a cost of living crisis and the council decide it's a great opportunity to increase costs!
- It is disingenuous to state that it is rising by 2.99%, it is rising by 4.99% regardless of where it is being allocated. I also believe that even with the combined increase of 4.99% that that too is disingenuous because once the cost of police/fire and parish is added it will be significantly more. I believe that once added together the combined total will exceed, as a percentage, will exceed any pay rise awarded to the average person, but might not be quite as high as the expenses raise afforded to Councillors.
- Added to having to pay £40 for grey bin collection is an effective £118 rise, higher than the government rule.
- Plus, like the bin consultation you will ignore it anyway.
- There is a cost of living crisis, no one can afford the increase
- We do not get value for money already.
- Nothing changes in my eyes apart from top bosses bonus! Garden waste your trying to charge more so that will be going in my black bin!
- You said it was going up by 4.9%, you will do just what you want no matter how many people answer this or complain, all done and dusted before you ask us. So rude!
- There is more than sufficient revenue coming in. I do not see why yet again residents have to plug the gap of the local authorities inefficiency and incompetence. Perhaps having less private consultants to pay and people paid huge salaries actually doing the work they are paid to would help!
- What am I as a resident paying for?
- North Northants council are wasting money just like the previous council. It's not their own money so they don't care.
- They want everyone to communicate via email or internet but are excluding a vast majority of people who don't have the facility.
- They represent poor value for money.
- Because you waste enough money on rubbish stuff as it is
- You are like all councils a disgrace. I have recently had to place my child in private education, my son will follow shortly because of how poor the schools in [redact] are. My family also have private healthcare, and I am a high rate tax payer. [redact] are no more than ghettos with homeless/tents everywhere. You do nothing but squander my hard earned money on inflated wages for ineffectual council individuals who are no more than egotistical post offices.
- We get nothing but bins emptied late, all that happens is our rates get used for gold plated pensions inflated salaries ridiculous vanity projects.
- You can't keep taxing us you will kill the golden goose.

- We are already struggling with cost of living, no increase in wages it's making life impossible for working people espec when only one is working as partner is retired. That and you intend to reduce services ie having to pay for green bins
- At the moment times are hard for everyone with gas and electric bills going up drastically. How are we expected to pay for more increases when our income is not going up as much
- After the amalgamation of borough, district and county council it doesn't appear that the new council has done anywhere near enough to reduce it's own costs. It is still using multiple buildings and awarded all councillors a pay rise. Maybe look to yourselves before asking everyone else for money. The idea that the Conservatives are fiscally responsible is just absurd.
- Cost of living crisis on top of rising council tax bills do not make sense.
- I would expect to see large changes in service and proof of use for any extra I pay.
- In a time where household budgets are stretched enough, the cost of living is becoming too much for most households - this rise seems ridiculous. Local residents do not see where their money is going, because it certainly isn't on roads and social care (GPs and Nurses) within the community. If you need to raise funds, perhaps look a little closer to home before adding to the burden that residents are barely coping with.
- There is a cost of living crisis. Maybe if you stopped giving yourself hefty pay rises on top of an already higher than average pay you wouldn't need to raise council tax
- Am sitting here in the cold because there is not enough in my pension to pay for heat.
- Can't afford it
- If anyone is on benefit they shouldn't have to pay a penny
- Pensioners have more than others financially and don't pay anything
- You need to cut costs but pass on increases to residents. Already you've added an additional charge for brown bins despite 80 % of people voting against it. Time to reduce some salaries of your top earners
- We do not get value for money now, what difference will the increase make. How will you improve services?
- This survey is pointless. You didn't listen to us regarding green waste collections. Why would you listen to us now?
- The cost is too much already for very poor services. As a single person who receives a discount any increase is unaffordable in the current financial climate
- Due to the financial ineptitude of the former Northamptonshire County Council we have had forced upon us two unitary district councils. I can only comment upon the effectiveness of the North Northamptonshire Council. Since its inception I feel most strongly that the village communities are being seriously overlooked - our bins are not emptied on time; we never see the Police patrolling our community; the road surfaces are in an appalling & dangerous condition; local services are pretty much non-existent.
- Council wastes too much money and doesn't listen to residents. Previous consultation on bins is a great example of a dictatorship instead of democracy
- You are already increasing the tax by £40.00 per year for a service that should be included already!! We are paying for the mismanagement of the former county council. Our local council did not have problems balancing the books! Now those same people who caused the problems are still managing the budgets!
- Already paying a lot of council tax and services do not match payment. Furthermore residents are not listened to, for example green bin consultation or increase in councillors wages.
- Because a lot of finances are wasted on the salaries of the upper management.
- My household has no extra money
- They can find other ways to raise funds needed.

- I get my bins emptied once a week. No police, constant speeding, pot hoiles and all the money goes to the cities.
- I understand that prices everywhere are increasing. If the money was used correctly on the right resources to start with then we may not need to be putting extra in. After all, is this not the same council who increased the top paid wages recently? The people of north Northamptonshire are already struggling with low wages and high energy, gas, petrol and grocery costs.
- Maybe those that are paid to spend the money wisely could revise their decisions.
- Because they also want to charge £50 per year for garden waste collection. That would mean I would be paying over £100 a year extra for what I already pay for. You don't do anything for where I live [redacted], except collect the bins.
- We can barely afford to feed and heat our homes
- There is a year on year increase in taxation, with no improvement in services but some poor money management leading to excessive pay for executives a rebranding of the council after it went busy through money miss management and is now more cost to the hard working people who have not had proper pay growths. This increase is more than my pay I crease as a government employee - we do not have the means to pay it !
- You don't provide sufficient services now for the amount of money we pay, so it baffles why you think it's acceptable to ask for more. Whilst giving yourselves a 10% pay increase, could that money not have been spent more wisely?
- Don't mind paying for council tax but when you see they want to charge for bin services and the higher people of council and other staff get pay rises then no I don't agree to it and it's disgusting
- Because everything is a tax, im sick of paying taxes, im sick of paying to exist. Shove your council tax where the sun dont shine.
- Cost of living is already affecting people, especially low income working class wages.yet another rise on another bill would add more pressure to already tight incomes.my wage has barely increased this year(just a 2 percent payrise) yet I still have to pay well over the price for gas electric petrol and constant food price rises and now a potential council tax raise.if you want money then stop wasting money like you have done over the years and also how about paying lower wages on the manager and executive side of staff.
- It is unaffordable and services won't improve for it. We are already being penalised next year by being charged for the garden waste to be collected. This is on top of this increase.
- We're living in [redacted] the streets are dirty it looks scruffy weeds and hedges over grown when they park at the school the morons Park around the roundabout [redacted] itself looks untidy
- We pay enough in council tax as it is without paying more and not getting proper services
- There should be no increase, doesn't adds any extra value to what residents receive now.
- The council show nothing for what we pay now, so nobody wants to pay more!!
- We receive nothing in return.
- Finances are tight enough already, let the world settle down a bit then do this. Times are hard
- The service provided is not great now! to ask people to pay 5% more is going to be difficult to accept. everyone is struggling to pay extra for food extra for fuel extra for energy. I for one have not received a pay rise for 2 years and my employer cannot afford one next april either. not sure how far NNC thinks my money can stretch. my water bill went up in september [redacted]. the council do not deserve more money for rent or council tax the services we receive are way below par.

- The only service I get from the council is bin collection - why should I pay more for something that you are going to charge more for anyway? (Extra charge for garden waste)
- Because companies government and support services should care a little less about profit and a little more about people in these hard times. A lot of people won't be able to pay these increases especially in band A and will end up falling into debt and the council will end up taking people to court
- In a time when everything is, becoming more expensive - my energy bills are set to rise again in January, my mortgage keeps rising to nearly levels I cannot keep up with, my weekly shopping is more and more expensive even though I am buying and eating less, fuel prices are still ridiculous, everything at every turn is money money money and now I need to pay more for a council who can't even empty my bins properly? No thank you.
- The council doesn't use the money it already gets efficiently enough. Look around at the state of the roads for one. This cost of living crisis, created by the Conservative Party, isn't going anywhere fast. Increasing council tax as well as all of the other "choices" people don't get a say in is ludicrous.
- Local residents are already struggling to make ends meet with everything rising apart from wages. Something has to give somewhere.
- This is the wrong time for such an increase, cost of energy, fuel and food prices have risen and people are struggling enough. This is just an added burden that people don't need!
- The government has got us into a bad situation and we should not have to pay for their corrupt handling of our money
- People are struggling enough without more and more added to there bills, i'm [redacted] and being asked to pay £150 a month, after i got the £150 rebate before that it was only £85, adding more money to peoples bills is going to make poverty 10 times worse than what it is now
- you are already trying to charge us more for the grey bins to be emptied.
- I strongly feel that we need to be further supported everything has risen to the point that we are surviving - not living
- Hoping the Local council would help us bearing in mind cost of livind(Energy etc)
- Gas, electricity, food and rents are all increasing. Wages are not increasing anywhere near in line with inflation, families are being left with virtually nothing after paying their bills. If MPs can have huge pay rises so can the general public
- With the current financial crisis already stretching residents, I don't feel another increase is warranted.
- Because you do not supply value overal. For example state ofroads footpaths etc. And you now wish to take extra for use of green bin
- Council tax increases are regressive and are not linked to any discernible improvement in services. These increases will leave vulnerable older people who might be asset rich but cash poor with very few areas that they can economies around.
- The cost of living is rising at such a fast rate, paying this extra council tax would create a huge burden on my family finances
- Although you state this is ONLY an increase of X amount PER WEEK over a year this is a large increase escpecially on top of other Utility bills rising and pay isn't. Properties which are in a higher tax band - have much higher increases each time its raised and therefore the higher bands are becoming much wider price bands and not getting anything extra for the service.
- Everyone needs to cut their cloth accordingly, as the council has said everything is going up so services would need to be reduced, if you add this to the increase for green waste collection it will exceed the 4.99%

- Are we not already stretched enough by the cost of living crisis? Yes, services need to be funded but people are already having to decide between food or warmth. What the hell is the local authority thinking of, even considering this at this moment in time? If you want to raise the council tax, raise it for those people in higher bands, and give the poorer residents of our county (me included), a break!
- Not all nice areas get same services, eg grass left long
- Charging for green bins another way of getting money for your ncc, again not all areas services the same.
- 4.99% may be allowable but it is another example of going to the maximum. Much like a speed limit, 4.99% is the highest allowable before disapplication. In times where the majority of people have had zero to below inflation pay review - paying for services that have already diminished in quality, at a higher rate, is highly undesirable.
- There is nothing in paper to justify the increase or priorities
- Services are slowing down
- The new structure has brought no saving or efficiencies
- The roads are in an appalling state and appear to be maintained by cowboy and the work is required to be repeated several time the amount is too low resurfaces required
- The potholes are a danger to cyclists
- Money is being wasted on projects that have not been asked for and there appears to be: no requirement for
- The town needs capital investment not replacing the main road with new blocks let alone the time and disruption
- Policing roads is none existing bad parking on roads and walkways
- Major development are taking place both housing and industrial yet there appears to be no improvement in services or Facilites and no signs of the increased income
- People are already struggling. Most people do not have the salaries of those proposing this increase. It may seem insignificant to them but it is not to the majority of local residents
- I currently £175 a month for my bins to be emptied. Thats all you do in my area. The prices increase is another thing going up and my wages aren't going up. I [redacted] Its getting to the point where my outgoings are massively exceeding my incoming wage. So although you says its £1.35 per week it's still having a huge impact.
- Daylight robbery, services are at a low standard plus you are already robbing people of an extra 40notes a year to clear away garden waste...that is itself a stealth increase on tax, absolute disgrace
- It's going to be too tough on working families that have a number of dependents to support, but do not qualify for income related benefits.
- We are already facing cost of living increases, especially in food, fuel and transport. Council tax is already our largest non-discretionary expense, which we have no control over.
- As a [redacted] I cannot afford the increases you propose.
- Many people cannot afford an increase this high with the incomes that they have, especially when other bills are increasing a significant amount already
- As someone who has lived in this area all my life [redacted] I find it immoral to be increasing the costs at this time, especially when we have roads in a terrible state (holes everywhere) with fly tipping everywhere (an extra charge for garden waste will increase this!) You continually approve building houses without capacity for extra healthcare. Where is the current money going, are we still paying off Northampton Council losses? Why do lots of houses getting multiple Blue bins at no extra cost but you are proposing charging for Garden bins?

- Because we live in an area of high deprivation and people cannot afford anymore increases
- The imposition of this addition takes no account of an individuals ability to actually find the money for the increase. Pensioners in particular
- [redacted] does not benefit from many of the services you are asking us to pay for. We should have an independent review and be charged accordingly.
- I do not use any facilities with the exception of my bins. I believe my council tax is already excessive
- I thought that by removing the Districts and Borough councils this would mke it more efficient however clearly this is not the case! 2.99% rise is unacceptBLE.
- By reducing services (paying extra ie double the cost of garden bin) charges should not go up in general council tax.
- We are not here to serve the council it is supposed to be the other way around .all we get is bins occasionally emptied if they feel like stopping and a shed load of beurerecy you add no value to the lives of the majority.
- I think this is a large raise at a time when the cost is living is already putting a strain on people's finances. Given that one of our neighbouring authorities aren't raising council tax at all (Central Bedfordshire) I don't know why there needs to be such an increase which is above the rate of inflation
- You give no thought to people who are struggling with mortgages, the elderly who's pensions do not go up the money can only be spent once. The villages get nothing for this extra money and then you have police, parish and council on top. I am sick of hearing there is no money when something wants doing and the highway and planners need the sack they have no idea.
- I believe that there are a number of areas where costs of providing services can be reduced without reducing the standard of service. I also consider that there are a number of areas where expenditure is not justified. A small but typical example is why does the Council need so many vehicles and why are they replaced so often?
- we are in a cost of living crisis and the local government who are supposed to be here to serve the public are only making it worse the cost of living payments cannot be used as an excuse as many people were not eligible for this payment so they are left having to work way over their hours and are still unable to afford to heat their homes.
- Cost of living crisis is affective every day, hard working people, we cannot afford to pay any more in tax than we already do, we see no value in the services that we pay for, our roads are in terrible conditions, the town is filthy with rubbish. An explanation of exactly what our money is funding is needed. Single parents that work who don't get anything other than a 25% discount, cannot afford to pay any more, I can't afford it as it is, don't understand how almost a third of my universal credit amount goes towards paying my council tax. Make it make sense??
- times are hard for people currently, these proposed increases are greater than the increase in pay and people are already struggling. This is only one increase to Council Tax, there is also increases to police etc, Parish Council etc
- I am [redacted] with an income above the rate that I would qualify for any rebate to my council tax. With every else going up and my energy costs through the roof I am struggling. The only real benefit I get out of my council tax is my bins emptied and then only twice a month as we don't manage to fill them. We have no other service in [redacted]
- It's difficult to see where current council tax goes in many areas of North Northants. In many areas it feels like so many services are being cut and areas are just becoming more and more deprived. I'm not sure how many local residents are going to be able to afford even a small increase.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think you haven't thought about the fact you have also now put an additional charge on Garden Waste bins so really for a lot of people its not just a £61.27 increase (band B) but its a £101.27 for those who want the bins. • Council tax is already too high, it is unaffordable for those with low incomes struggling through a cost of living crisis. • Cost of living is rising but wages are not • I feel services are going backwards as it is and don't see we're this money is being spent • We already pay enough - manage your finances more efficiently • We physical can afford to pay anymore than we do, we already have to spread ours over 12 months not the 10 to afford it, our village gets nothing for this • We are in a cost of living crisis and people are struggling to pay bills as it is • Services are currently disgraceful, roads are disintegrating, 3 or 4 rcvs where 1 used be sufficient under the guise of environmental friendliness, too many snouts in the trough, councils going the same way as NHS, too many chiefs not enough Indians • Because it doesn't matter what residents pay, it will get swallowed up by adult services as usual • How are people going to afford it ? • I am struggling as it is at moment • Basic services are already affected by the current climate. I don't see how an increase would make that any better. • People are already on their knees, many having to choose whether to eat or be warm! People simply cannot afford to pay any more! By the time all the additions for police and fire services are added, not to mention this Councils inane decision to separately charge for green waste removal, what will the true cost of Council tax be 2023/24??? • Cruel - no other word for it! • No change in service levels. In fact a reduction • With three young children, childcare costs and energy bills this is the last thing we need • Any increase when inflation is so high will lead to more people falling into poverty therefore more people will need help to feed and heat themselves • You have £40 which we paid for green bins so no increase necessary • Due tp the cost of living finding another #5 per month would be taken of the essentials and bills. The government said council tax can be risen to 5% but its the council decision to do this or freeze it • Would have been nice to be lower with cosy of living rising so fast The 2.99% is on top of garden waste collection £40 Which doubles the increase band D £78.78 + £40 is £118.78 + fire and police increase • It is increased every year, people are feeling the effects of the cost of living crisis and already struggling to stay afloat with the added bin charge aswell is another added expense. • I have to pay extra to get a green bin emptied! There is a cost of living crisis, inflation is high, energy is high. We're am I supposed to get extra money to pay this increase!!! • We are already being charged additional fees for gardening waste and the standard rate is going up too as a working family we are already struggling with rising bills
<p>Don't know</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's difficult to decide what is best. I understand that the Local Authority's costs are increasing, but this will have a detrimental effect on individuals finances. I hope that the increased income is spent wisely

Q. If you feel this proposal would have a negative impact, please tell us what you think that impact would be, along with any suggestions on how any potential negative impacts could be mitigated?

There were 167 responses to this question.

- Would be putting more families under financial pressure
- would have for those who are already struggling with cost of living and making ends meet
- Although as a resident I'm against rising costs anywhere as it all impacts me personally, it needs to happen.
- The negative impact again will be on the families who have no more money left to pay for the increase with council tax. whether it is for £1.01 per week that is a lot to find when you don't have it.
- The economy is very treacherous and a slippery slope for some families especially if they are facing eviction due to the mortgage payments raising for some people more than £600 per month.
- Cost of living crisis in case you've missed it.
- It will obviously have a negative impact on individuals as it will increase their annual bill, along with increased inflation, mortgage rates etc stretching individuals beyond their limits. Maybe a lower increase in Council tax at the present time?
- I think people are expecting an increase in council tax, but as we see no changes, many will wonder what we are paying extra for and some may refuse to pay it.
- Not charging for the grey waste bin would help as it seems the council takes and never gives back. As a resident of [redacted] the only thing that helps me from council tax is the rubbish collection and street cleaning.
- The negative impact is that pensioners and unemployed live on limited income. They will not have the opportunity to increase their income to help pay for Council increases, cost of living generally and all other increases that have rocketed up this year. I can see so many people falling further into debt and depression.
- Generally there will always a be negative on lower income families - there is an opportunity to mitigate such impacts via the taxation system but that is not in the gift of local government.
- This will be a struggle for households to manage their finances in an already difficult period and have a significant effect on the mental health of the residents. I would suggest that there are other ways to mitigate this such as business levies, reduced spending or a lesser increase than the 2.99%.
- I would be able to buy food. Heat has already gone
- Will have a negative impact on most households, as will all "cost of living" increases. Need to see demonstrable improvement in service delivery to believe that this council will use any increases wisely.
- No comment
- Risk that services will get even worse
- People are going to struggle with the increase in expenditure on top of everything else at present.
- It is already difficult for many to pay, we voted a Conservative administration for low taxes, they haven't done this and will not
- Be supported again.
- Individuals are facing a cost-of-living crisis; and therefore more families will suffer debt related issues.
- Already crippling a society that is struggling to keep alive since all the coat of living increases.

- It will squeeze the people on the lowest incomes. People who don't pay won't be affected.
- Local residents are already struggling financially and every penny counts. For example, I am [redacted] and due to the current economic climate, I currently have [redacted] in my savings account and [redacted] in my current account until I get paid. I cannot afford to keep paying more and I know that there are many others like me. How can you mitigate negative impacts? Don't increase council tax.
- The negative impact is that people already see the services provided by the Council are poor, and they are paying for Council employees to stay at home (working or not working from home) The jobs just are not getting done at home and so the Council are over staffed. Paying for garden waste will also cost the Council in the long run with more fly tipping and emptying the garden bins at recycling centres.
- Families struggling financially will be forced again to decide between heating, food or transport. Start to prioritise public spending based on local surveys and community needs.
- Involve the residents at every decision.
- The cost of living has already pushed millions of families into poverty and needing to use food banks . Any rise in council tax will only cause more suffering!
- People will have less money to spend on essentials, such as food and energy.
- i see potential for more households who may not be getting equivalent pay rises (which also need to cover gas/electricity/food/petrol bills inflation) not being able to pay - thus the council have to spend more chasing debts, or writing them off - surely its better that people can afford to pay a lower rate and the authority get money rather than default not paying the higher rate which will cost the authority money overall.
- People are already struggling - the community shouldn't be punished due to the council not operating correctly and managing its funds SMARTly.
- all increases have a negative impact
- People can't afford rises the money people pay should be managed better.
- I receive [redacted]. My savings are just going down.
- Of course it will have a negative impact - people cannot afford this. You should look to make efficiencies and live within your budget like the rest of us have to. Reducing council tax would have a positive impact on residents budgets. Concentrate on being smaller and more efficient.
- As above
- People would struggle to pay with all other bills increasing. More people in debt.
- How can pensioners keep on affording these increased costs, when everything else is rising so much faster than one's income!
- Some services the council undertake are not statutory so they should be reduced or not done at all
- unable to afford due to cost of living going up...wages are not
- Cost of living or are you unaware people are already struggling.
- As above
- Leave it at the current levels and instead stop funding useless and meaningless projects, spend the money on what it should be spent on.
- Being a [redacted], it will have some negative impact on my finances.
- People are having to make choices between heating and eating.
- CHILDREN are hungry because households are already struggling before the council tax rise.

- This is in addition to the garden waste collection charge which will simply encourage people to fly tip.
- Because the council are unable to secure a better funding deal from central government, local residents are being asked to fill the gap, what happened to all the savings that the adoption of the unitary authority were reported to bring to us?
- To pay you extra would mean cutting back on food or heating.
- People are struggling already!
- Spend more in [redacted]..... It doesn't seem fair
- How can people afford this, they cannot just make up a figure for a rise and demand they get it. Try cutting top council wages.
- It will cause even more struggle
- The negative impacts, those like me that are working class, claiming no benefits and still struggling will feel a further pinch. The benefits bill will increase as those on benefits already will get the uplift paid so it makes absolutely no sense at all.
- You are putting too much of a burden on the few. Services - are being continually made worse - refuse collection, lack of price presence especially in the rural area, no bus services in the villages
- There is a cost of living crisis where people can't afford to eat or heat their homes and these clowns want to grab more money to waste on frivolous projects
- Because it's hard enough with everything going up without you taking more and wasting it
- Of course it will have a negative impact as it reduces my take home pay, what a stupid question! Money is being spent in the wrong areas but nobody has the guts or backbone (either locally or nationally) to do what needs to be done - it is clear for all to see!
- Yes we will be poorer what a stupid question.
- Mitigation less people doing more! Like the private sector does.
- People will be unable to meet payments as already struggling which will result in bailiffs and court cases. Should leave costs as is for next 12 months at least
- N/a
- See above
- There is a cost of living crisis. People are choosing between heat for their home or to eat. This will be another cost to push them over the edge.
- more old folks will die, due to your pet spending schemes that benefit very few.
- Can't afford it - I can't budget any more than I already am
- People can't afford it as it is
- I won't be paying anymore
- I will not pay more. I cannot afford to do so. Each year your costs increase yet the service I see reduces
- With a cosy of living crisis how are residents expected to find the extra money.
- Why as a [redacted] will our proportion be larger than other locations with more facilities.
- This survey is pointless. You didn't listen to us regarding green waste collections. Why would you listen to us now?
- Less money for people to spend in the town. Other income
- Generating schemes should be considered before hiking council tax. The town has numerous empty units and as a result the town centre is dead reducing the income generated from parking etc. bring back the high street with places people want to go to and shop in
- this increase removes my pension increase!

- I am in no doubt that the extra review raised by this proposed increase would be frittered away on the towns in our area with the villages getting little or no improvement.
- To mitigate this from occurring the authority need to distribute the accumulated wealth more fairly - a much greater proportion of the community in the NNC area live in village/small town communities & thus contribute the greater amount of finance.
- Struggling to heat the house and food is going up daily and can't afford any more increase in any bill
- The people who can will pay it but a lot will struggle and then there will be more costs involved in debt collection.
- More money for administration. Reduce amount of councillors and administration costs.
- Yes, as a working family who is unable to access benefits having to find the increase in bills, plus the extra 3-400 a month on a mortgage we have no money. More support for middle earners who cannot access universal credit needs to be addressed. Household salary needs to be taken into account not just one person earning over 50k as the other parent may not be able to work but then the household loses out on ANY support including child benefit.
- After the highest inflation rates do you really think now is the time to charge more?
- We, working people cannot afford any other increased bills, due to the other increased cost of living; and no increase in wages.
- Paying more for less, with no hope of a pay rise, will make local residents worse off and bolster the council war chests and pension pots.
- People would be in debt. Everyone is struggling with the cost of rent, mortgages and bills and barely scraping through.
- Cost of living is going up. We can't just be expected to keep paying more for the SAME service.
- No money to heat our home
- As a [redacted]... This increase along with all the others has put my family at significant financial pressure and I creased debt. How am I supposed to find the money to pay for this hike in services. I expect if the government allowed you to increase by inflation you would. This is another conservative raid on working families
- We are struggling so much, we just can afford this
- I think you will be forcing some households into poverty and the possibility of ending up having their homes repossessed. I think the council would be better off getting help & advice from a properly trained financial advisor because I have seen absolutely no evidence of any councillors being able to budget properly
- Yes I think my street would get more fly tip as we dont already enough off it and .ore crime will be on the arise too
- Even more hardship on people that are already severely struggling with the cost of living crisis
- Charging for car parking in Wellingborough and Rushden could raise a lot of money and would be fairer than increasing the council tax this much.
- More people getting into debt and living in pivity
- There should be no increase, doesn't adds any extra value to what residents receive now.
- People are living in poverty already and all the council wants is more money off of people who have none.

- We are the only people we know who pay full council tax yet we have a low income. We receive no services in return because we are in a rural village.
- All public sector workers should not accept an inflation increase on their salaries just like a lot of the private sector have suffered for the last three years.
- Win together lose together, government and local councils should not moneygrab right now, so many people are on their knees already
- Why put up rent on houses that are falling apart with workers who bodge things just to get the job done quickly or not at all. houses that paid for themselves years ago. the level of services are sadly lacking. to demand more money is quite frankly insulting
- I am already struggling - I don't qualify for any help. I cannot pay more.
- As above, A lot of people won't be able to pay these increases especially in band A and will end up falling into debt and the council will end up taking people to court as they always do. I think the council needs to be more understanding of the people who can't afford to pay the increase. Stop with the court threats and figure out affordable payment systems for everyone.
- The negative impact is forcing residents to cover costs the council should get elsewhere. We cannot afford to pay these council tax rises year in year out when wages don't rise.
- Additional pressure on top of other increases. However, I would really push the weekly increase which isn't that much, and explain what services the tax funds. £60 is a lot of money however £1.18 a week isn't even a McDonalds coffee anymore !
- People simply cannot keep affording these tax rises.
- It will plunge more people into poverty, it will increase the strain of people's resources. The council says it will impact their finances, but look what damage a 4.99% increase will do to a typical household.
- Residents struggling to pay the huge increase. Could be mitigated by a lower increase. I understand the need for it to rise but such a large jump is unreasonable. We are constantly being told by the government that if wages are raised then it would fuel inflation, yet bills being raised don't?
- Council tax rise on top of a green waste bill, is just too much! Many will not be able to afford such rises and bills will be left unpaid! This in turn will cost the council more to recoup!
- Yes this would be very bad for all low income households and council housing should not increase this is public housing not a form of revenue for a corrupt government. Not so many years ago we were meant to have our building insulated and new windows but funding was stopped and we never got it. They never spend our money on our buildings to so many cuts, but always us paying more
- It would cause more and more people to become unable to live and feed themselves and there families
- People such as myself already struggling to live, this can push us further into debt.
- Do not rise the council tax - instead why not look to do a lottery of some kind
- Families are already choosing between eating and heating. Criteria has changed for the household support fund and many are no longer eligible despite being eligible previously, the same for the warm home grant, 3 years ove been eligible, now I am not, my circumstances have not changed and I am in the same home I was 7 years ago
- With the cost of living crisis and all other bills increasing this will put further stress on our finances
- The problem will just continue unless the council finds revenue streams other than council tax. Build revenue creating projects now not artistic and expensive town ctr / heritage projects. Build low cost houses for working people to rent.

- As above. Also targeting advice on downsizing, releasing capital etc might mitigate.
- Families are struggling already, this increase is going to put more pressure on the communities and let's face it, we don't see anything for it
- People can't afford the increase at this point it's as simple as that
- Along with other prices increases and no pay rises it is getting more difficult for people to find the extra money. Why can you just not have a basis increase for all households instead of a percentage. So everyone is having the same increase & everyone is paying the same amount for this service. We are paying a lot more each year for less services and facilities especially those in rural areas.
- reduce the councils cost
- Are you really even asking us to consider whether this would have a negative impact - are you that out of touch with the reality of what is happening?
- Those who are living on the breadline could find this additional increase in their household payments unmanageable, so offering/working with budgeting support services could help people through this, and those in a really poor situation could be referred for council tax relief.
- Obviously majority of householders are struggling with col at the moment, why add to that?
- Cost of living crisis that we are all currently affected by.
- Whatever you charge has to be collected. You cannot collect what people don't have. Pushing more people into debt.
- The price increase is another thing going up and my wages aren't going up. I [redacted]. Its getting to the point where my outgoings are massively exceeding my incoming wage. So although you says its £1.35 per week it's still having a huge impact.
- Everybody's income is being stripped by the likes of yourselves, people are going to lose their homes and potentially lives due to government and councils like yourselves
- if it means that you will actually maintain some areas in [redacted], i'm all for it
- People will be more cautious about spending having knock on effects to the local economy.
- Higher tax band homes will pay significantly more in actual GBP's than lower Band homes. Just because homes are in a higher band doesn't mean occupants have more disposable/discretionary income. How about a flat increase across all households rather than a % based approach.
- Already struggling to make ends meet so the increase would have a huge negative impact on our lives!
- People are already living paycheck to paycheck, we have seen an increase in mental health issues and suicides since the cost of living crisis began, this will increase further as people have even less money to survive on. There will also be an increase in homelessness because people will not be able to afford their bills. There will be an increase in crime such as stealing, violence, drug abuse and domestic abuse as people are pushed to thier limits. We have seen this before, stats don't lie. More people will have to rely on food banks and other charitable organisations to feed and clothe themselves and thier children.
- Only spend money on basic necessary services and projects. The cycle lane from Corby town centre to the rail station is costly and not necessary, also not safe
- Extra Fly Tipping everywhere will occur therefore you will end up spending the money clearing that up instead of the much needed repairing of roads!
- People cannot afford it. Last year people had a council tax £150 refund so the impact is actually more like £200 with this proposed increase, that is a month's worth of food.

- Any increase in these times of inflation is adverse
- [Redacted] has a high proportion of pensioners and non-working mums with very young children. An increase on our council tax will be hard to bear and seems grossly unfair as we do not have easy access to the services you provide in comparison to that with which the likes of [redacted] all benefit from. Each village in your ward should be charged ONLY for the services they can easily and regularly use
- Just seems excessive
- I'm not sure that all residents will be able to afford yet another increase in their monthly/annual outgoings
- Yes you will put more hard working families into debt. Instead of regrading all your senior jobs upwards try getting senior manager to actually earn their money!
- After the bin consultation last year it was said it would not go ahead garden bin. Now it is . So you do not take any notice of voters.
- Start by getting rid of all your surplus offices and getting your staff to work a proper week .
- The negative impact is on everyone's personal finance at a time when all costs are increasing
- As stated above it will impact families who work and try to better themselves, pensioners. The social lot don't pay anyway so it won't affect them and maybe more stringent checks on people who have disability cars unless they have a wheelchair. You could save money in loads of ways oh and finding where the ten million went from Northampton a few years back would provide this money for a year.
- I believe that there should be a campaign to cut waste in the Councils services and that all expenditure should have a criteria of "is it really necessary" applied before expenditure is authorised.
- I feel that the council don't use their budget appropriately the staff are not paid enough unless you're apart of the CLT of course hence why so many people are leaving which only puts more pressure on the staff i don't see why we should pay more council tax when we aren't seeing any changes so where exactly is that money going to go?
- As stated before, the town like most of the country is on its knees, you say extra amount is to reflect the current financial difficulties, what help is there for OUR financial difficulties?
- Any increase has a negative impact, as pressure is on the funds coming in!
- Help your pensioners who tend to not use your services as much. Reduce the costs based on usage of services. Councils taxes are going up but services are going down for instance rubbish left in the roadside and just recently fly tipping of hundreds of tyres in our village that we paid to be removed via our council tax. These fly tippers are getting away with it at our expense. fines should be higher and re-offenders should be charged double the fine.
- I think that you would see more and more people being unable to pay their council tax. I think that more money would then have to be spent on chasing up late payments.
- It would have a massively negative impact on people in an already struggling county and country. I 100% don't understand how you would mitigate all the negative impacts it would cause and it's not my job to think of those things but I know putting people in a situation of suffering is not on. I wish the best of luck to the people who have to make these decisions and sleep at night after it. It must be hard. One example comes to mind, I knew a lady very well who lived in [redacted] How are we as a county even letting this happen?

- It will have a negative impact as costs to the public are being raised but it is needed
- People are already struggling and it is just more added pressure
- Those how are already experiencing financial difficulties will feel the impact of this increase disproportionately.
- This proposal will have a negative impact on those council tax payers who have difficulty paying their council tax bills, especially those eligible for LCTRS. You should be looking at making a compensatory reduction in the percentage of council tax those people on the LCTRS scheme are required to pay in every year that council tax is increased
- Reduce the amount payable by the lowest income households and max out 2nd home multiplier
- I thought there was going to be levelling up and councils would be given more money. Do people who are struggling get more help
- People will be in more financial hardship and what do they get to show for it?
- People are already struggling and it is just more added pressure
- Everybody is struggling - this rise could be the final nail in the coffin for some
- Listen to your residents! We already deprived enough as it is your increases will further tip us all over the edge
- Get rid of dead wood and pen pushers, provide a service that you are paid to do
- People cannot afford more rises, peoe will loose their homes... Go without food or heat. People deserve to be able to live
- Nobody working as wages won't stretch
- Council should consider carefully the impact on all residents during a prolonged period of rising costs and squeeze on incomes.
- Divert the money from the top to the people that make the difference. Bins, street cleaning, street lighting, repairs
- I wonder whether it would have the greatest impact on working age adults in employment already struggling with inflation and with increasong mortgage payments- made worse due to the impact of Truss' ridiculous autumn 'non budget' event.
- Council Tax will be my largest monthly outgoing/The cost of living crisis and energy costs are having a huge effect on people's disposable income/Charging for garden waste is a further tax
- Services suffer but if jobs suffer the overall effect is nil increase
- Rise in homelessness, shop closures as nobody will have money to spend, poverty and deprivation - the list goes on! Councils must stand up to this Government!
- Less disposable income
- Offering discounts for households with dependents
- for 2023/24 should be frozen at 2022/23 rates as food bills travel expenses etc is still rising and affording to find more money dor services which we dont see from the council is not good.
- I cannot afford it as it is at the moment. Never mind the increase
- it may be better to top end the increase in the higher bands to share the load in a fairer way
- What a confusing question, the negative impact it will have on people is trying to find more money to cover soaring costs on another item while they' re salary has not increased. It could be mitigated by supporting your community.
- I thought there was going to be levelling up and councils would be given more money. Do people who are struggling get more help
- Affordability. More people with have council tax debts

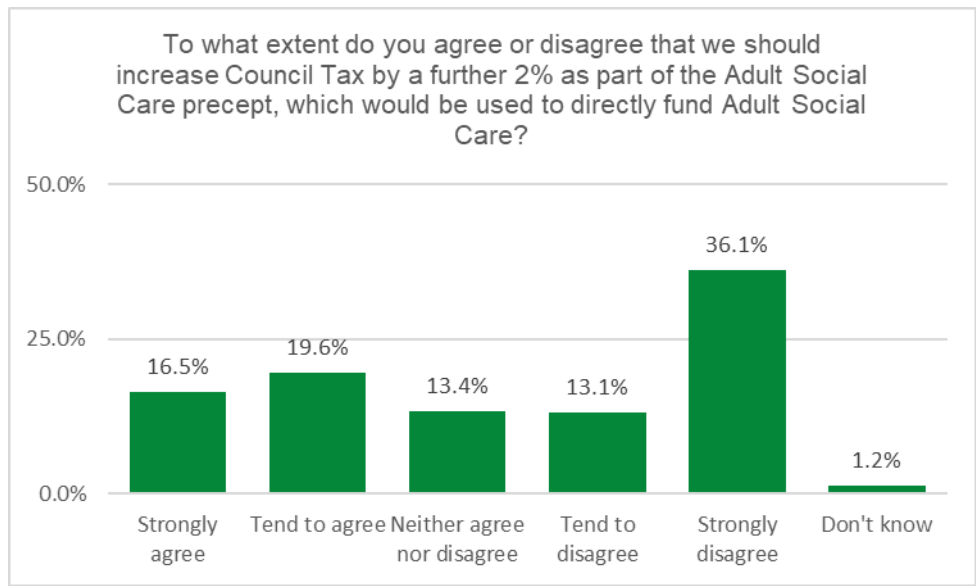
- More families struggling to pay, our annual charges including garden waste will have risen by £110 in one year.

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should increase Council Tax by a further 2% as part of the Adult Social Care precept, which would be used to directly fund Adult Social Care? Please tick (✓) relevant answer

What would a 2% increase mean for a Band D property?
 As an example, a 2% adult social care precept increase would result in an increase of £31.57 per year (£0.61p per week) for 2023/24 for the average Band D Council Tax payer.
 The following table shows what the proposed 2.00% increase would be for each Council Tax Band.

Band	Annual Increase	Weekly Increase
A	£21.05	£0.40
B	£24.55	£0.47
C	£28.07	£0.54
D	£31.57	£0.61
E	£38.59	£0.74
F	£45.60	£0.88
G	£52.62	£1.01
H	£63.14	£1.22

There were 321 responses to this question.



	Response number	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	53	16.5%
Tend to agree	63	19.6%
Neither agree nor disagree	43	13.4%
Tend to disagree	42	13.1%
Strongly disagree	116	36.1%
Don't know	4	1.2%

Q. If you would like to tell us why you answered the previous question in the way that you did, please do so here:

There were 162 responses to this question.

Strongly agree/ Tend to agree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A rapidly ageing population needs supporting • Demand is high and funding is needed to provide the level of care i want to see for my customers but also for my family. • Yes we are all getting older.. it's important. • If we want local services then we, as users, need to pay for them alongside Central Govt funding allowances • Adult social care is on its knees and with elderly relatives relying on it and all of us reliant on easing the burden on the NHS, I feel compelled to support an increase. • Adult Social Care remains a priority, although I do believe that it shouldn't be used to prop up the general hospitals without having access to their funding streams. • Adult Social Care is a core service and is necessary. • Social care is a shambles. The most vulnerable need help - they are being let down • Where actually is the money going? Is it to private Companies providing services. The Council should own its Homes and rehabillitaion homes and run them itself more cheaply. • Care homes and agencies will go out of business if the council doesn't increase the level of funding they receive • as above • [redacted] • ASC costs are rising, and the money is needed to help solve the issues around ASC which directly impact on the NHS. However 2% without a plan will not have the desired outcomes. A serious, credible and deliverable plan both locally and nationally is urgently needed • The service has collapsed. • Only on the basis that is not siphoned off for other uses • Significant improvements in provision are essential and need to be paid for as the population increases as well as to reduce knock on impacts to NHS provision • As long as the money is spent in this area • To protect services such as [redacted] • Adult social care is underfunded. • As long as we know it is directly going directly to adult social care. • Adult social care is an absolute mess [redacted] and needs sorting as a matter of urgency. The correct use of facilities such as [redacted], where I worked, is vital. • Vital service for those who need it. • Social care is very important

- An increase to help less fortunate is welcomed
- Adult Social Care is so important to families and individuals. We are supposed to be a caring state - let us demonstrate those ideals and help others
- The public can't continue to expect services to be provided without paying into them. Whilst it's frustrating the constant cost of services/items increasing, the funding has to come from somewhere
- However, when reading about the closures of facilities [redacted] it does make you wonder why and where the ASC funding goes. These facilities are much needed.
- Adult social care is in desperate need of investment.
- Again, I tend to agree as costs are increasing, but there also needs to be funds put into Early Years and Education, so the other end of the spectrum is supported.
- There is significant demand on Adult Social Care, and it has to be paid for somehow.
- Knew someone who needed this help.
- Adult Social Care is sparse, with infirmed elderly clogging up hospital beds as there is very limited care in the community or convalescence homes upon discharge from hospital. Vulnerable adults deserve better support, and that support should be made available locally to where they live.
- These services are important and investment is needed as little comes from central government
- Adult social care is terribly underfunded as it is
- If it is used for that?
- More has to be spent on Social Care as this also massively affects our NHS, and its ability to perform.
- Adult Social Care is important to the efficiency of the NHS.
- Given our aging population, the way local government has been financed by the Conservatives in government and the outlook for the way it will be financed in the future by the Conservatives in their remaining time in government to do anything other than raise the ASC precept by the maximum increase allowable would be reckless folly
- As above
- adult social care is highlighted as a reason for holding up hospital care and admissions
- Money had better be diverted to other purposes
- As above. Adult services are not sustainable under the current policies
- Adult social care has been very underfunded for a long time.
- Make up some of the lost ground on maintaining social care funding level caused by the previous conservative NCC's insistence on not increasing council tax for years. Possibly too little, too late?
- see above. We have an aging population therefore there will be greater demand for essential services
- We need to transform adult social care services
- Nnc do nothing to deserve it
- services are so broken in Northamptonshire that we need to do something to pay for the services we need. I dread needing services myself and frankly, there are really poor right now. i don't know why our county is so badly funded

Neither agree nor disagree

- I agree in that all services need to continue to operate and provide services for those who need them and also those who will come to need them, it's just the financial situation that a lot of people are struggling with.
- No strong feelings on this subject
- I'd like to see some form of report of how 'social care' will be instigated and identify where the money will go to? For example, will it cover services or salaries? If services, what services are going to be provided?

- It is ok to increase this if the money is actually spent on Adult Social Care and not on Management that are guaranteed high wages and then leave within a year with this money. This has happened several times, the management structure throughout needs to be looked at seriously and costs could be significantly saved.
- No comment
- Care workers pay is less than nurses pay. Is this resulting in large spends with agency staff?
- All costs rises are inevitable
- The money is being mismanaged anyway so I would not encourage giving you anymore.
- I would agree to this if you were not increasing the first part on top of the brown bin add on, and I believed it would go directly to social care and be managed responsibly.
- We need to support families but there is a lot of fraud and corruption in the council which gets hidden and swept under the carpet.
- It adds more pressure to us at home paying when we can't afford any extra payments with the cost of living increasing. However adult social care needs the budget.
- We cannot continue with rising local taxation
- I think this is probably reasonable given the cost pressures in social care, however the system is still ineffective and no amount of money is going to solve this.
- Not sure what kind of Adult Social Care you are referring to, as we have paid our taxes all our working lives & should expect to be looked after when we need it.
- As there is a current crisis regarding the ageing population unable to leave hospital due to a lack of available care in their own homes, I believe, as a nation we should give this priority over all other services you currently provide.
Presently you rely heavily on the goodwill of volunteers to provide community care. This has to stop. Instead funds should be allocated in order to employ our own villagers to do this vital work.
- Families should be more involved with looking after family members who need care. Not council responsibility. Others countries like Spain do not have social care as families already take on this responsibility. Needs tougher legislation to expect families to do more not put on the state. This would relief the strain on local councils. This could be done via a case by case study of each families ability to do it.
- There appears to be little choice in the matter.
- realise you must do this to help adult social care but will this happen if you take an extra 2% from each household
- If it would really help improve adult care services I would agree more
- Costs of social care should be recouped from the users of the service especially those provided by external organisations
- As this is a newish extra 1% would have been better
- I realise you must do this to help adult social care but will this happen if you take an extra 2% from each household

Strongly disagree/ Tend to disagree

- I have said all I need to say in the above boxes. [redacted] I know how much this sector has been neglected by central government. When someone goes into care it is daunting and expensive but the people who provide the support and care do not earn enough for what they do for the people they support.
- Before I can answer these questions properly the councils and the government should be making this priority to increase the council budget for the care required and should note down to the people who cannot afford to pay any more money out just to live
- The cost of living crisis for most households is causing extreme financial pressure - this seems unfeasible to expect households to be able to afford this increase alongside the

other increases. This is only a portion of the council tax so overall the increase will be much higher

- All the money is with old people. People who work get taxed to the point we can't afford food or heat. I work to pay for people who don't and now my living standards have fell through the floor.
- My experience of adult social care has been absolutely appalling. The social workers I have come into contact with are money grabbing vultures who as soon as they hear an elderly relative has savings, their eyes light up. I don't think giving them more money will change this, the culture needs to change.
- Another stealth tax introduced
- At a time where households are struggling financially, to increase local taxation will be another blow to already struggling families.
- We can not afford the council tax as it is so any rise for any reason will financially cripple people
- Should be funded by central government
- You are now also charging for green waste, and this as well is a minimum of £100 extra pa for households to fund for NNC, are the Fire/Police PCC, parish/town councils also raising their rates? how much is this really going to cost households in Council Tax in total
- As above.
- Staff are unable to cope due to mounting cases and pressures - throwing more money at the problem won't help, it will just be absorbed. The issues of permanent staff in stead of reliance on agency that leave at a weeks notice needs to be resolved; along with partnership working to provide holistic resolutions to promote individual / household sustainability and independence.
- People are struggling financially as is it. Money is being taken away from those who are above the threshold to access any support and struggling themselves.
- See the above comment - we cannot afford this. Learn to live within your budgets and stop wasting money.
- As above
- Despite all previous increases adult social care remains over stretched and dysfunctional. Rather than continue to mindlessly increase complete overhaul is needed to get better value for money.
- See above.
- Review the discretionary parts of the service delivery
- you get more than enough for providing low or very low services in general
- As above
- For the reasons I have stated above, WE ORDINARY PEOPLE CANNOT AFFORD ANY MORE.
- It is best to 'make-do' with what is presently available.
- I don't want to contribute towards this. I need to take care of my own children's needs which is becoming increasingly difficult during the financial crisis.
- I do not believe that the new authority has got a grip of it's finances, has not been robust enough in lobbying government. Buildings stand empty in a depressed market where to sell them would not realise their true value. Many councils are notoriously slow at adopting a more commercially based system of operation and I have not seen anything within NNC so far that would make me change that view, show me a leader within the council who has an outstanding record in business and enterprise and is not [redacted]
- As per previous reply would mean cutting back on food or heating.
- There is no proof that the money actually goes to this.

- [redacted] you haemorrhage money at an alarming rate and still manage to blame the current climate. There is adequate funding to deliver services try getting rid of the agency workers, consultants and bring services you have out sourced back in house. Your levels of incompetence are quite unbelievable paying huge salaries for people who should never be in the job in the first place, you have unnecessarily complicated processes making everything worse and more expensive.
- What is the government contributing to? More is placed on the tax payer.
- Because you get enough money as it is you need to budget it properly
- Again with gas and electric going up drastically how can anyone afford any other increases
- Why on earth would I be happy to pay 2% when I have never benefitted or would ever be able to benefit from adult social care help?
- There is a cost of living crisis. Maybe if you stopped giving yourself hefty pay rises on top of an already higher than average pay you wouldn't need to raise council tax
- will be spent upon the minority who have been profligate with their savings
- Can't afford it
- Act like a private company and find savings elsewhere
- This survey is pointless. You didn't listen to us regarding green waste collections. Why would you listen to us now?
- The system is broken. Social care and NHS need to be merged to ensure a better service which would
- Impact both positively
- hug should take this out of general taxation
- Again, the authority finds itself with an appalling record on Adult Social Care because of the previous mis-management of funding to which nobody was held to account.
- People are already struggling to heat and heat this is going to make that worse
- No cash available in my household to pay out
- Same as above...due to the increased cost of living we, we cannot afford it.
- I get my bins emptied once a week. No police, constant speeding, pot hoiles and all the money goes to the cities.
- I feel the money in different areas could probably be better spent, if we can afford to increase wages for the highest paid within our local council I'm sure we could afford more towards adult social care and other areas that are more important
- Same applies for my previous question.
- The fact that adult social care is outsourced to private companies that make profit to pay shareholders is key to why the system is broken. If this was not for profit it would cost far less and the budget could be controlled not increased every year
- I have a neighbour who is in despirate need of being put into secure adult care but the council still do not do anything about it. This has been going on over 10 years and nothing is being done.
- Because I cannot see adult social care improving for this additional charge!
- It doesn't matter how much money you throw at this or the NHS the system is broken and can't be fixed with endless amounts of tax payers money wasted
- Finances are tight enough already, let the world settle down a bit then do this. Times are hard
- Enough is pumped into that already.
- Stop wasting money on other crap and spend it more appropriately. Budget like the rest of us are having to do.
- Because Adult Social services shouldn't be funded by our taxes.
- You have not been clear on what support you currently give and what new support you will give.

- If council funds were managed correctly and not spent on needless things, such as, a useless cycle lane no one wants or needs, there would be no need to increase council tax!
- I agree social services need funding but this should come from the government, not working individuals and families who are already at breaking point
- Its not the time for more financial stress, as a responsible organisation you could show support to your residents and not put further burden onto them
- I agree with the principle of increasing cash for social care. However not when you continue to expect year on year savings in adult budgets.
- Although you state this is ONLY an increase of X amount PER WEEK over a year this is a large increase especially on top of other Utility bills rising and pay isn't. Properties which are in a higher tax band - have much higher increases each time its raised and therefore the higher bands are becoming much wider price bands.
- Take the 2% for adult social care out of council tax now.
- Instead of wasting it on a commissioner.
- already pay enough tighten your belts like everyone else and why did you split the Keir contract into 2 ?
- No plans to show how this can be achieved
- This has been applied by previous authority resulting in no significant improvement in service. Is the extra money being spent wisely?
- Having visited various nnc sites and see the amount of money squandered and wasted,I have yet to see any form of accountability for wasted budgets,that money YOU squander is money I work hard to earn,I resolutely object to these proposed increases before you get your house in order,people will lose homes and potentially lives whilst you tossers rob them blind
- Perhaps the council should look inwards and improve staff satisfaction to reduce the number of costly recruitment exercises and reliance on temps and consultants
- The increase means that 40% of the proposed increase disproportionately benefits a small portion of the population, ie those requiring adult social care. Also, since the formation on the N Northants authority no doubt adult social care per head has increased markedly due to the change in demographics
- Of course this is an extremely important service but people simply cannot afford an increase this high. I would say a lower increase would be more supported
- I understand that Adult Social Care needs support but, I do not think the funds are spent wisely.
- Because people cannot afford a rise and the majority of the proceeds will not go to the people who need it most
- I really don't see the value for value here - there is absolutely no concrete evidence that extra funding would make this service better or remotely improved!
- I am fed up with paying for other peoples social care if they cant look after themselves then their families need to be legally repsonsible not the tax payer!
- See previous answer
- Because a lot who claim lie on their forms they admit it. I don't mean genuinely ill or infirmed but people who swing it. If your genuinely ill you need all the help you can get.
- As previously stated I am sure that savings can be made without any implications to the quality of service.
- see answer above
- I agree that funding needs to come from somewhere to provide better social care but I don't agree that taking it from council tax is the best option.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think there are more issues in Adult Social Care apart from funding. I agree it definitely warrants more funding but I don't have enough faith that it will be used in the correct way to support the decision. • Council tax is already too high, it is unaffordable for those with low incomes struggling through a cost of living crisis. • Regardless of this people still end up finding their own care • Same as before • Probably not enough • You need to find a new way of funding this through central government this is ridiculous • Cut cloth to suit rather than sting poor old taxpayer time and time again..sort of obvious NNC would jump straight on the maximum permissible uplift bandwagon,trim it back,cut top staff salaries • With all due respect i cannot afford to fund other peoples care.[redacted] that i get zero support for as i work hard and apparently earn to much to get extra support so why should i pay for everyone elses • People come into an area and then that area has to pick up the bill • As • If we can't afford it we suffer. • We are all in the same boat • This Tory Council and preceding Tory Council have history both in poor prioritising and mismanaging public funds • As above • I understand adult social services requires funding, perhaps the council should manage its funds and culture better so that there is not a constant turnover of staff. • Again as last question !! • Adult social care is diabolical, and has been for many years, nothing will change. What has changed since the last increase?
<p>Don't know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's my understanding that Adult Social Care is extremely underfunded and would welcome an increase but not sure if this is the right time, maybe a lower increase for the moment • We can't keep social workers as it is because we do not appreciate them and they can get paid more in bordering local authorities. Yes, they need more money but not at the cost of residents who are already struggling. Charge higher taxes to the people who can afford it - people like senior management.
<p>Not answered previous question but still made comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although very important asking resident's that are already struggling are then placing them in vulnerable positions and they may have to seek help themselves. • It's not a huge increase and would help to keep services funded.

Q. If you feel this proposal would have a negative impact, please tell us what you think that impact would be, along with any suggestions on how any potential negative impacts could be mitigated?

There were 93 responses to this question.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • would maybe have an impact on those not able to pay the increase and end up with arrears and causing more stressful problems with families who are already struggling • Although[redacted] I'm against rising costs anywhere as it all impacts me personally, it needs to happen.
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- The negative impact will be making families to stay cold as they cannot put the heating on due to having no money to put on the gas and electric.
- Most of the population have worked most of their lives and contributed to the economy with paying the National Insurance and tax.
- Why do the government not tax the super-rich instead of asking the common man to play out of the pittance they receive each week/month, why is always down to use to sort out the government mishandling of budgets especially the PPE scandal and the amount of money the MPs gave out to their friends, let's look at them to pay back the money the fraudently had taken out of the government budgets, or make the companies who don't pay tax in this country to start paying tax.
- Increases in Council tax will obviously have a negative impact on individuals as it will increase their annual bill, along with increased inflation, mortgage rates etc stretching individuals beyond their limits. Maybe a lower increase in Council tax at the present time?
- Give some statistics to evidence how many people need to use this social service. I have no idea of that and yet I pay it..
- Provide evidence of how the money will be spent. Adult social care is just a title, it does not tell the tax payer what facilities will be made available. For example, would it provide money to fund an open clinic for people suffering with depression. Will it provide money for senior people to be put into well run nursing homes.
- This will be a struggle for households to manage their finances in an already difficult period and have a significant effect on the mental health of the residents. I would suggest that there are other ways to mitigate this such as business levies, reduced spending or a lesser increase than the 2.99%.
- Make old people pay for their care. Many people don't even reach old age. It has to pay to work a 40 hour week, not have the government steel it like Northampton county Council.
- No comment
- Review care staff pay
- People who have worked all their lives will be shafted - people who have sat around on their arses doing nothing will be looked after
- People already don't have enough money to live.
- Efficiency and smarter spending. For instance, the highways dept wastes money on roads that don't need resurfacing, and those that do just neglected
- Families struggling financially will be forced again to decide between heating, food or transport. Start to prioritise public spending based on local surveys and community needs. Involve the residents at every decision.
- More debts more homelessness and more people needing food banks
- People will have less money to spend on essentials, such as food and energy.
- I see potential for more households who may not be getting equivalent pay rises (which also need to cover gas/electricity/food/petrol bills inflation) not being able to pay - thus the council have to spend more chasing debts, or writing them off - surely its better that people can afford to pay a lower rate and the authority get money rather than default not paying the higher rate which will cost the authority money overall.
- As above
- See the above - having a smaller council and local government that can live within its budgets would mitigate the need for increases.
- As above
- The poor would continue to struggle as above with no gain.
- See above.
- As above

- unable to afford due to cost of living going up...wages are not
- As stated above.
- People are having to make choices between heating and eating.
- CHILDREN are hungry because households are already struggling before the council tax rise.
- This is in addition to the garden waste collection charge which will simply encourage people to fly tip.
- It will hit the already squeezed middle earners, those at the bottom will be looked after whilst those at the top continue to look after themselves. Why do we not identify services which might generate commercial income, develop them and offer them out to either other authorities or the private sector, similar to the way Peterborough City Council provides services to Rutland Council? Use some reserves to build more council houses or potentially offer waste and recycling services to the West (subject to their existing contract). I do not see any long term financial sustainability, just the continued cuts in central funding and the increase in Council tax.
- As above
- Cut the wages of those at the top of the council.
- I despair really, you are going to do it anyway as a bunch of idiots with no concept of the real world have already made the decision.
- Provide better value for money in the first place
- N/a
- As previous comments
- There is a cost of living crisis. People are choosing between heat for their home or to eat. This will be another cost to push them over the edge.
- oap,s are shifted out of their property which is then gifted to the son.Five years later the OAP gets free care paid for by the council.DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
- Can't afford it
- Again how are residents supposed to be able to pay this
- This survey is pointless. You didn t listen to us regarding green waste collections. Why would you listen to us now?
- paying twice - ni and precept
- Instead of adopting the usual 'sticking plaster' approach by throwing more money at a system that has been proved not to work; a complete independent review should be undertaken as to how genuine improvements can be made to the present failed system.
- Our household budgets are already over stretched
- Get the cash from the Brexit fund we were lied to about.
- There are other ways to raise the funds needed. Eg re-arrange the spending within the council.
- Paying more for less, with no hope of a pay rise, will make local residents worse off and bolster the council war chests and pension pots.
- Debt. Repossession, hungry families. Poor mental health, illness, poor health and nutrition, ingested homes, navel to afford to get to work.
- As previous, my family and I are in hardship now but you are still ringing us for money
- All public sector workers should not accept an inflation increase on their salaries just like a lot of the private sector have suffered for the last three years.
- Win together lose together, government and local councils should not moneygrab right now, so many people are on their knees already
- where would the extra money go. very few people are paid decent wages. [redacted] your paying 3 people to do a job that one occasionally two can do.
- Return the towns to there's own councils

- See previous, but provide vital service to those who need it. Particularly those with learning disabilities
- People are already struggling to keep their head above water. You do not offer decent support and you certainly do not "advertise" what support you do give!
- Shan many will not be able to afford the increase, causing further financial difficulties!
- Build low cost homes for working people to rent and enjoy a future revenue stream
- Greater integration with the NHS- shared roles, a single estates strategy and the much talked about 500 million for social care going exclusively into delivery.
- People can not afford these high % increase - this charge should be a a lump some increase for each household not a % this would be a much fairer increase.
- Value the staff you already have more, rather than pay thousands of pounds extra to agency staff who flit in and out. Who audits how much money is being wasted on agency staff? Other counties can do it, why can't we?
- Some people who don't use the service still have to pay for it
- As previously noted, the cost of living crisis.
- Hasn't made much difference I the past.
- Cut some NNC deadwood,improve your own efficiency, implement some accountability
- As above
- Again this is adding to the already horrific situation that the majority of people in our area find themselves in where they simply cannot afford to survive. All of these services are extremely important but people have not got the money to spend this amount on them. All of the issues I mentioned earlier are relevant to this question.
- Needs broader consultation, basic needs, not fancy ideas
- Everyone is struggling with any increase at the moment as so many other costs are rising at abnormal speed
- As above. Charge higher tax payers more, charge huge businesses more!
- See above.
- Less childrens funding and more pensioners help
- Yes the proposed increases to my council tax bill and the inefficeny of the council are ruininh my mental health!
- See above
- As stated before jobs are being lost,wages cut, and pensions stagnant and if you had a chance to save any money you get taxed on that and pension. Stop having mayoral parties, corporate events,fancy offices it's our money your spending and our votes put you where you are. Stop being so arrogant over the voters wishes ie this new bin charge.
- As before - "is it really necessary"
- Any increase has a negative impact, as pressure is on the funds coming in!
- I think that those on lower incomes will be more significantly impacted by this increase than those on middle and higher incomes. I think social care contributions should be on an income related basis with the higher earners paying more than the lower earners.
- I believe that the money will not be put to good use or for what its supposed to be for.
- Additional support for people in financial difficulties
- This proposal will have a negative impact on those council tax payers who have difficulty paying their council tax bills, especially those eligible for LCTRS. You should be looking at making a compensatory reduction in the percentage of council tax those people on the LCTRS scheme are required to pay in every year that the ASC precept is applied.
- As above
- Negative as people cant afford it
- Same as before

- Again people can't afford to feed their family's or heat their homes
- Not everyone can afford this
- As above
- Poor excuse
- Council should consider carefully the impact on all residents during a prolonged period of rising costs and squeeze on incomes.
- Does this increase enable increased demand for services to be paid for and mitigate the impact of inflation? What are your plans if it does not?
- We need to recruit contracted staff to reduce our dependence on agencies
- Negative as above
- As above
- Any increase on the 5 charges plus a new green waste charge is not very good Council tax - social care - police - fire brigade - local council .
- if the raise was on higher band housing, the load would be better spread
- What difference will it make? How will it be spent?

Draft Capital Programme 2023-26

The Capital Programme and its appendices includes all capital expenditure and income, including the acquisition, replacement and enhancement of assets financed from government grants, external contributions, revenue contributions, capital receipts and borrowing.

It sets out the key objectives and broad principles to be applied by the Council when considering capital investment and its funding, and provides the context for how the Medium Term Capital Programme seeks to support the realisation of the Council's vision and corporate priorities.

The Capital Programme has been developed to ensure a robust mechanism to deliver our priorities within the finances available.

For further information please see the [Capital Programme 2023-26](#) and its appendices, which contain details of each scheme:

- [Appendix A - General Fund Capital Programme 2023-26](#)
- [Appendix B - Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2023-26](#)
- [Appendix C - Development Pool](#)

If you would like further details about any of the schemes please contact us at CET@northnorthants.gov.uk

Q. If you have any comments you would like us to know on these schemes, please tell us here:

There were 46 responses to this question.

Name of scheme(s):	Comment:
Housing Revenue Account	I [redacted] housing and housing teams to meet the needs of our disabled customers with recommendations for major adaptations and re- housing. The budget is not sufficient for the works needed to be completed particularly large projects in NNC and there is currently no

	ASC or health support when works exceed DFG threshold. Too many of our customers are living in homes which do not meet their needs and with lack of alternative viable options. The complexity of the customers we support continues to grow and the viable solutions to meet their needs are contracting. Urgent discussions between therapy housing and social care are required to look at funding as per DFG guidance.
Flexible and remote working.	This should be dropped completely. Either come to work or don't bother and resign.
Housing Revenue Account	I [redacted] housing and the housing teams to meet the needs of our disabled customers with recommendations for major adaptations and re- housing. The inequity that is experienced as a result of how adaptations are funded for council tenants is vast in comparison to individuals in similar situations but living in privately rented or Housing Association properties. These council tenants are left in unfairly difficult/high risk situations as a result of the policies that are in place surrounding the DFG (Disabled Facilities Grant) or any access to discretionary funding from this fund. Changes in policy surrounding needs to be considered to redress the balance/equity.
Housing Revenue and Development Pool funds	It would appear that the bulk of monies is being spent in Kettering and Corby between 2023 and 2026. Why isn't this being spread around all areas under North Northamptonshire Council? We all pay our council tax, it would be nice to see some investment back into our areas. Street lighting costs seems to be very high particularly as the street lights were changed quite a few years ago in a bid to reduce costs. This resulted in less street lights everywhere.
All of the Appendices...	Very little generally for Wellingborough capital projects it seems - surely Wellingborough needs more than those items listed!! Additionally whilst I note funding & provision for children & families, particularly those at disadvantage, what I am unable to find anywhere in any of various funds/budgets outlined is anything for youth provision. We talk at length about "problem youth" & ASB & drugs & gang violence - can I ask where is the funding that is going to support/divert youth?
Development pool	You say, 'Council's vision and corporate priorities.' What about the people. You have prostituted the borough for years with no benefit to the people just to business. There are no fields left just vast warehouses to store items from [redacted]. where are the walks, country side, Country parks ?? Why not invest in the health of the people? Maybe because there's no much money in that?
Chester House	How can Chester House be kept going with all the cuts that will have to be made - the museum, the library etc
Hanwood Park junctions, Corby Rail link, Remote Working costs	Hanwood Park junctions should be fully paid for by housing/building developers. Corby Rail link should be paid fully financed by [redacted] Rail or Government not the L.A. Stop all remote working. get the staff back into the empty offices. More work done with less staff. If they can work at home now their services can be dispensed with.
Northamptonshire Superfast Broadband	Northamptonshire Superfast Broadband - waste of money to provide copper broadband services. When the FTTC cabinet was placed outside my property I was told this is the next generation of tech. It wasn't. Next gen was full fibre to the premises. Rural locations need encouragement for better services. Will be left behind to have [redacted] in some areas because other third parties won't put in their services.

Infrastructure flexi and remote working	This seems to be taking far too long if ongoing until 2025/26. This is something most public and private sector organisations completed several years ago at short notice. The ongoing revenue savings that can be made by doing this properly have enormous potential. E.g. renting out or disposing of many buildings across the Authority. With rising utility costs This should be a priority to rationalise the estate.
All of them	Do you seriously think people have the time to read this or understand what all of this means to them. Where in the appendix does it say your doing anything for Thrapston?
General Fund Capital Program	I would like to come back at the end of the FY 25/26 and see how many of the proposed projects were delivered on time and within budget?
Development pool	Why all the fuss at Isham. There is no need for a bypass. This will have a nasty impact on the villages boarding Isham.
road repair	
pot hokes	4 million on pot holes? since when do they EVER get done properly. where does the money REALLY go?
General fund Appendix a	Remove the path from the station to the town - I understand it was opposed by residents anyway and considered a waste of time and money. Invest in the path along the [redacted]/ [redacted] road well lit up and maintained instead as you can get to town that way. Why is changing places figures in there when that money came from a government grant ? I spoke to [redacted] re. The proposed toilets in Northants. Great to see disabled access facilities allocated some money
GLaM Kettering	Wasted money should have been used to build rental houses
General Fund	Northamptonshire superfast broadband?
Homelessness prevention	There is a huge amount being spent on this at the moment (rightly so, as it's one of our biggest issues) but we could be a lot more cost effective with this funding. Purchasing a building such as the one near [redacted] (or anywhere else really), to have a permeant support centre, a contract could be created with the voluntary sector who desperately want to support this cause. In Kettering, [redacted] used to offer a free overnight place to stay for those registered as homeless but it was closed down during the pandemic. All the volunteers still want to provide this service and the ideal for them would have been to also have the centre open in the day with computers people can use for free to apply for jobs, showers for people to get clean for an interview, and to provide a hub for advice for those needing housing support or looking for a job. We have nowhere like this in our community that brings all these elements together and it would be a much more cost effective, wrap-around service that reduces our need to utilise hotels, eg. during SWEP periods. Prevention is something we must improve quickly and we do not focus enough in this area. We need to be spending more on this versus temporary housing.
Social Housing	There needs to be more social housing for those residents of who have lived in the town since birth, instead of being placed on waiting lists and having to 'bid' for a home to live in.
	NNC could introduce the need for dog owners to have a dog licence at an annual cost of £100 per dog. This would help towards the cost of cleaning up dog fouling. NNC needs to be much harder and prosecute fly tippers and litter louts. NNC should introduce a zero-tolerance policy with offenders incurring the maximum penalty, rather than making everyone pay for the wrongdoing of a few. Library users should pay an annual subscription and any antisocial behaviour within these establishment

	should incur an annual ban. Grants for traveller sites should be reduced and or rents increased where additional clean up and vandalism costs have been incurred by [redacted].
	How is investment being monitored to ensure that previous errors made by Northants County Council are not repeated?
	This survey is pointless. You didn't listen to us regarding green waste collections. Why would you listen to us now?
	Where are all of the projects being considered by the old Boroughs and the investment in the towns - Kettering, Wellingborough, Oundle, Rushden, Raunds, etc? Corby seems to have plenty.
	I thought the idea behind a unitary council was to pool resources and reduce the cost of running the council? If that's true then if anything, our council tax should have decreased.
	Its strategy cost in comparison to other projects is way too much. Need to set out the objectives
Not to mention	would be good to see more spent in Wellingborough. The wordsworth estate is in great need of repair, footpaths and drainage has not been maintained for years
	We have increasing social problems related to young people. What is the council doing to invest in education and youth programmes to improve and better shape north Northamptonshire's future? What is the council doing to increase its SEN provision?
General Fund and Housing Revenue Account	Both capital programmes seem to benefit Corby more than the rest of the area
all	There seems to be far more being spent in Corby area compared with Kettering area where we live ? Although similar population??? When all the extra new houses are occupied will the revenue from them finally begin to improve Hospitals, roads etc where we live?
Corby town plan. Tresham garden village. Highway maintenance	How will Corby town plan and Tresham Garden village benefit us in Welford village? You appear to be very interested in highway maintenance yet have any one of you experienced the appalling state of the roads in and around Welford? They have been like this for a number of years now. Numerous vehicles have been damaged with no compensation offered. You talk a good job...isn't it time you did one?
Pay regrades	Stop giving more money to already overpaid staff!
	Can't see anything for the villages in any of them.
General Capital Fund	The budget allowances appear to cover a number of non-essential schemes
Adult learning scheme	In provisional case it will be a good plan for development culture of residency Northamptonshire with learning adult scheme 2023/2026.
Levelling Up on Kingswood & Hazel Leys	I don't see any mention of this ongoing project! It is the only Neighbourhood Centre in Corby! So aimed at it?! This centre meets the needs of elderly by means of bowling, & caters for both the year round indoor & outside bowling. It has a thriving [redacted] to help in the area. This could not survive without the use of the centre as one compliments the other! It also now has a thriving new youth club for both younger children & teenagers. Meeting all the key points in your own 'plan' for the future. This is NOT the way to go!
Housing	Only mention Corby and Kettering. What about Wellingborough and East Northants?
Levelling Up on Kingswood & Hazel Leys	I've yet to see any improvement come from the meeting over a year ago!

	<p>We are an area of deprivation; earmarked for Levelling Up, and you want to take away any serious say we can have in our Neighbourhood Centre! If devolved could have a catastrophic impact on the [redacted], which part uses our centre. It was built with a Gov funded loan specifically for a Nursery!</p> <p>It meets the needs of a wide community, and is popular with Asian, African & Nepalese communities, to name a few.</p> <p>The figure is quoted to 'save', is no where near that! I'm not sure where that figure was plucked from.</p> <p>Yes, I work for [redacted], but i am passionate about my job and the place it has in the community, and I have worked tirelessly to promote this!</p> <p>Had my [redacted] not mentioned this to me, how would any normal person have been able to see which such an obscure link; one would not know what they were supposed to be looking at until pointed out! Also, the date for participation into this 'survey' is very short! Almost like its being pushed through under the radar! I would have liked to get more support, however, the more people know, the more it fuels panic, and has the reverse effect, by making users to both the centre, and indeed the [redacted], feel unsure of their future use, so inturn, then look for other venues!</p> <p>Bad move....WE are your FLAGSHIP!</p>
Hazelwood Community Centre	This building and it's services are a fantastic part of the neighborhood and if it is cancelled or pulled from council will be detrimental to the neighborhood and the people who use it including myself.
Appendix A - General Fund Capital Programme 2023-26	Instead of spending £3m on 'IT Strategy' which presumably are expensive and largely useless IT consultants. You could listen to your own IT staff and reduce council tax by £3m so your residents can eat.
Housing Capital Programme	Would like to know the how the authority is forecasting for the demands arising from inward migration and mitigation of local housing demand
Hazelwood centre proposal	<p>The bowls club have used the centre many years,[redacted] happy with the current setup and do not want any changes, the club operates for elderly people, it is much more than bowls,it gives the local elderly social contact. It's the only place and time for [redacted] members to get out and meet people.</p> <p>It's also a mental health benefit. [Redacted] members love the tea break time.</p> <p>Please be very careful with the handling of the centre.</p> <p>[Redacted] are the best club in Corby with a large membership, [redacted] use the centre twice and sometimes three times a week, We are extremely happy with the council running the centre and do not want any changes.</p>
HRA Housing Development	You have factored in huge amounts of money to spend on Housing Development. I trust this means building council houses. However, these amounts are not dissimilar to the amounts budgeted in the previous two years. When will the council actually start building council houses? The fact that the increase in dwelling rents factored in to the HRA MTFP is only from allowable rent increases on current properties makes very clear the complete lack of ambition to actually build any of the council houses budgeted for in the capital programme.
Council Budget Consultation Hazelwood	Reading an email I received on Friday 20/01/23 your looking to devolve the above community centre, WHY. This is a terrific Centre were a lot of people get together, elderly people who are on their own

Neighbourhood Centre	and come to for a chat and to basically help their mental health because they are lonely.
Unfenced DoT money	You are going to need this and more to deal with the current level of potholes which are the worst in years
	cannot fathom out which category the devolved premises come under

Other comments

The budget report sets out the latest estimated funding position, service budget pressures, key financial risks and challenges influencing the development of North Northamptonshire Council’s financial plans for 2023/24 and the ongoing financial impact of those plans, together with the medium term estimates of funding and spending requirements.

This questionnaire focusses on the key new proposals for the draft budget 2023/24 that will likely affect residents. However, you can comment on anything within the Draft Budget.

You can view the suite of [budget papers](#) on our website (item 6).

Q. If you have any other comments you would like to make about the proposals in this draft budget that you have not already told us, including any alternative ideas about how we could save the same amount of money or generate the same amount of income as outlined in the proposals, then please tell us here:

There were 50 responses to this question.

Name of proposal(s):	Comment:
PPP Contracts	<p>Why have we been forced in to overpriced PPP contracts? Legislation change Waste Management Changes to DIY waste charging at HWRCs - £250,000 for what? You don't charge for DIY waste. Thankfully. You already saw the disasterous effects of the van ban in 2005.</p> <p>Your highways maintenance is short sighted. A bit of tarmac rammed in to a hole to fill it. Then a few weeks later it falls out or the crator gets bigger and then takes weeks to get repaired again. Fairly certain you just rely on the public reporting problems rather than going out and finding the problems as we pay our tax to do.</p> <p>What happened to the over 10 million quid from the northampton borough council to the football club? How can that amount of money seriously go missing and not be found? The whole thing stinks.</p> <p>Moving of assets from the council to parish councils thus should cost that area less, but the core rates still go up massivley while the parish does not go up in proportion to one going down?</p> <p>More stealth taxes - adult care, police and crime, fire service? Adult care is still terrible, the [redacted] have no respect as they cannot be bothered to attend an incident unless it's a [redacted] and would rather [redacted] rather than do something against the [redacted] we have.</p> <p>The [redacted] I have utmost respect for, along with the [redacted].</p> <p>When are you going to get money from developers for inreasing the required services such as getting them to directly expand services? Not talking about local schools but to fund hospital expansions or new ones - willingborough can't get that much bigger without having it's own facilites before much longer. Same as directly funding a larger fire and rescue service.</p>

Councillors expenses	Reduce the amount of expenses claimed by having online meetings or by having different committee meetings on the same day so that only one lot of fuel, parking and meals can be claimed
Food waste collection	Although infrastructure costs will be incurred, there should be savings on landfill/disposal costs. It is likely the government will bring in the reforms in the next few years, but why wait?
[Redacted]	A lot of funds are being delegated to the [redacted] office. This is a totally unnecessary post and should be cancelled.
Capital projects	Again there are no plans to help fund projects in the rural North of the county..... We're short changed again
£45 for green waste	and then you sell the stuff back to us - double whammy
Cut the number of councillors senior managers and executives pay	The cost of the council continues to rise but it is not the grass roots hard working members that are taking the money. The exorbitant costs of senior staff and councillors needs to be cut with less managers, middle men and red tape
office refurbishment in Tithe barn rd.	several million on office refurbs??? whats wrong with giving them the same level of repair we get in our council homes!? alot seems to go on transport maintainance. i'm sure better deals saving money could be arranged there. paying for new livery on vehicle's last year wasted a great deal of money.
[Redacted]	Will the £40 green bin taxes be refunded before any increase as we already paid for this
Use the money from the cycle lane	Instead of building a new cycle lane that no one wants maybe you could use those millions towards funding local services instead of massively increasing taxes during a time where people can't afford it.
[Redacted]	Cannot recall when a [redacted] was seen on the [redacted] in my area
Climate Change, Highways, Mandatory introduction of food waste collections, Review Litter bin network, Disposal tonnage - Residual Waste	<p>Climate Change - it is not clear if the budget from last year has rolled over as it has not been spent. Also we do not have anything budgeted for this for 24/25, which, given it poses one of the biggest threats to both us and our residents in the coming years, is poor planning. We should be making more available for this each year, and bidding for supporting funding to allow us to complete retrofit projects, renewable energy projects, free bike scheme projects, cycleway improvement works, public transport improvement works, and more.</p> <p>Highways contract - Potholes is one of our biggest issues in North Northants, and having designated budget within our Highways contract for this has started to make a dent in the backlog but it has in no way closed the gap. Our roads are in such a poor state that we need to be wary of the liability we may have as a maintenance service provider, as I have seen many dangerous potholes that have been reported yet have not been fixed. If a cyclist or motorcyclist is injured, or killed even, we could be opening ourselves up to a whole world of issues as the date of reporting is visible on Fix My Street, so it can be easily proven we were aware but did nothing about the issue. The same with damage to cars as we could be liable to pay for damages. We must continue putting budget towards this, or bid as priority on road repair funding pots.</p> <p>Mandatory introduction of food waste collections - doing this only when legislation dictates is not really the example we should be setting as a council. People have been asking for this for years and we are exceptionally behind the times by not having this service across North Northants.</p> <p>Review Litter bin network - I'd like to query this as a number of bins have been removed from important locations, such as Meadow Road</p>

	<p>following the new high street work in Kettering. If the binfrastructure is changing/reducing permanently, local councillors and the public should be involved in this.</p> <p>Disposal tonnage - Residual Waste. The amount spend on this is absolutely huge. How many waste treatment plants are we using? Are they all in the county? What can we do to communicate this and reduce this tonnage? The two things that would make a difference I think would be free home composters (definitely for flats where there is often space for one) and getting people to recycle soft plastic packaging that is possible to take back to supermarkets. Those two things alone would reduce our waste tonnage a huge amount.</p> <p>Missing projects - Kettering Swimming Pool. This is now a very outdated and run down facility and if we do not have the finances to budget for this capital investment, we should be putting together bids on relevant funding pots, such as the Levelling Up Fund.</p> <p>Kettering Library - the Library roof is in disrepair, leaking water into the listed building and damaging the wooden floor. We did not fix this when it was first reported when it would have been much cheaper to deal with, and if we do not find the money to fix this quickly we could be looking at an even higher cost to resolve the damages.</p>
Social Housing and Repairs	<p>I know of several people (friends and family) who wait a long time to have repairs and refurbishments to their social housing, when these should be deemed a priority.</p> <p>And as I said previously, there needs to be more social housing available to local residents, instead of long waiting lists and bidding for unsuitable housing. And then even once placed in a house, it may not be deemed fit to live in. This is not acceptable.</p>
	<p>Nothing more can be added, the budget generally is a fait accomplit because of central govt control. I did note the opening comment in the preamble to this survey...</p> <p>Local government funding at a national level remains uncertain. Areas that have delivered significant business growth, such as North Northamptonshire Council could find that they are adversely impacted by the new local government funding regime which is due to be implemented in 2025/26.</p> <p>That concerns me - to me it seems to be saying that the Council has been "successful" & that as a reward there will be an adverse impact!! Surely not - doesn't encourage councillors & officers to work hard does it?? I hope I've misread that!!!</p>
	<p>This is all fraud. The budget protects the executive and councillors. You are putting good working people into poverty.</p>
	<p>This whole consultation is a sham. By law, you must allow six weeks for public consultation. You have allowed under five weeks. And to launch the consultation two days before Christmas when few will even see it, let alone take part in it says that you are not interested in responses. This budget will go through regardless of what the public says.</p>
	<p>What are you cutting to make the budget balance?</p>
	<p>None</p>
	<p>You will ignore the public / result and do what you want as usual</p>
	<p>Huge amount of savings can be achieved by simply removing staff at higher level as their salaries are unjustifiable. We need a flat organisation structure. Why do we need so many CEOs/CTOs etc etc etc and so many managers either? They cost the highest, so remove those posts and you don't need to increase the Council tax at all. It will save on their fat cat pensions contributions as well.</p>

	Stop wasting money on [redacted] consultants and consultations and learn how to budget the available funds
	No pay rises for government ministers or cabinet ministers or councillors
	Stop the public service attitude to spending and adopt a private company approach. Continuing to raise residents fees is not the answer. All this will result in is increased defaults on payments
	This survey is pointless. You didn't listen to us regarding green waste collections. Why would you listen to us now?
	You don't really want to know what people think! If you did you would send the survey to every household, not rely on people to find it through social media etc
	Get rid of council staff to save money the council is not fit for purpose it's a shambles
	Tax the rich and stop tax avoidance with multi million pound companies
	is there any point in this survey when you blatantly ignored the result of the green bin charge fiasco
	No summary report to enable to public to spot additional additional charges or change in strategy
Fees and charges	<p>In the past, the county council always published draft changes to its Fees and Charges. I see that West Northants Council are still doing that this year.</p> <p>I can't see any detail of Fees and Charges in your proposals, and it's all hidden behind the statement "Fees and Charges will be set in accordance with the Council's constitution which requires any changes to be agreed by the respective Portfolio Holder in conjunction with the Executive Director and Assistant Director."</p> <p>I see that you expect increased income of £195,000 in Leisure, £10,000 in Place (Growth and Regen), £396,000 in Place (Assets and Env), £1,745,000 in Place (Highways and Waste), and £227,000 in Place (Regulatory). That's £2,573,000 that has no detail behind it. The directorate headings suggest increases to leisure centre charges and car parking fees (including Country Parks and also parking tickets?), as well as all sorts of waste charging increases for green waste and HWRCs, and regulatory fees. Planning? Building Control? Enforcement?</p> <p>This is disgracefully opaque. Your values include "Customer-focussed" and "Trustworthy" Do you consider that hiding details of £2.5 million of increased charges from your customers is either of those? I don't.</p> <p>Either you have no idea how these increased charges will be structured (unlike NCC or WNC who set it out line-by-line) or you've got something nasty planned and your councillors, Chief Exec and directors are too cowardly to publish it transparently.</p> <p>This is no way to regain the trust of your customers after the NCC difficulties.</p> <p>You can do better than this. Try harder.</p>
	in addition as i have said about the works needed, it also help people to take better care of the area if it looks like it is being looked after.
	Don't waste money on woke nonsense.
Council tax	I feel that a wealth tax based on income should be put in place.
Council tax	I believe one alternative way to generate the same amount of income is to introduce a wealth tax system into the council tax system if you want to make increases this high. There are people in this area that could afford the proposed increases but maybe have a lower amount

	for the people who can't? This will still generate money for our services but will not put extra strain on them due to more people needing them because they can't afford to live
Council tax increase	Only wealthier households should pay increase, this may not seem fair but many poorer households are struggling to pay now even before the increase
New housing developments	I am concerned about the housing developments in Raunds. The housing estates are being built but the infrastructure is appalling and cannot support these developments Having read the draft budget proposals for the coming financial year Raunds and the surrounding villages are being ignored to the benefit of larger towns such as Corby and Kettering The road and general highway situation in Raunds and surrounding villages is a disgrace but the council's approach to the problems seems to be just sticking plaster repairs rather than carrying out proper repairs I intend to also contact [redacted] for his comments regarding the situation [Redacted]
Green waste charge	This will just increase the incidence of fly-tipping
Public transport. Affordable village accommodation. Parish Council.	You run this village remotely. That is neither practical or progressive. Our current Parish Council are a bunch of [redacted] who continue to make poor decisions, often against the wishes of the village. A representative from yourselves at least twice a year should be scrutinising their leadership and offering public meetings so the villagers can have a voice.
2% social care rise	I object to paying for a service I will never use or be able to use (because I live within my means!) this is called discrimination!
	Do not give local MP money he is paid by parliament. With every house built this year in this area is more revenue.
	Stop making school bus passes so hard to get and the length of time to issue them what the [redacted] do all the staff do to earn their money I would like to know. Minimum of thirty days to do one it's been longer than that now and a single mum has to work, move out of her village where she's lived and [redacted] generations before so a pensioner has to do the school run you should be ashamed.
Adult social vulnerability scheme	New policy of adult social vulnerability scheme in Northamptonshire it will be positive plan to build in 2023/2026.
Hazelwood Neighbourhood Centre	As outlined in my previous statement, I don't feel this is the way to go! One time we are a flagship of your initiatives, next, last years news & looking to off load. I have worked here for over [redacted] years, and give more than I have ever been paid for, using my initiation, and saving the council plenty along the way! It would be a sad day, and in my opinion the wrong thing to off load this centre, and the way consultation has taken place, downright sneaky! Who has had a chance to see these documents? And the time frame? Hardly sufficient for anything!
Levelling Up on Kingswood & Hazel Leys	Give us some time! We have just had the Youth Club refurbished in a bid (not associated with Leveling Up/different bid) alongside the new pump track out side; thus making the area a much nicer, modern space. I'm sure we can get more interest in this space.
All proposals	It is impossible to comment meaningfully on almost all of the proposals in the draft budget because you have published insufficient information to enable residents to identify the proposals in detail and

	to therefore understand their impact or to be able to make alternative proposals. It is also impossible for residents to put forward alternative ideas as to how savings could be made elsewhere in the council's budgets when there is no detailed budget book available which would enable residents to understand what the council spends its money on. Until such information is made available questions such as this are a sham and a box ticking exercise.
Devolvement of Hazelwood Neighbourhood Centre	This centre is in a deprived area but is helpful in more than this area of the town. Also to far more than the elderly. Recently they have opened a thriving new youth area for the younger members of the community, which was much needed. Devolving the centre would inevitably reduce the groups that are enabled firstly through NNC support to continue to survive.
	same as previous page
Review of Neighbourhood Centre	<p>As a [redacted] of [redacted] Day Nursery I would like to voice my concerns around the review of the Hazelwood Neighbourhood Centre. We have been a long term [redacted] in the centre since [redacted]. Originally [redacted] nursery was only in the centre and we made uses of the sports hall and kitchen.</p> <p>In 2001 the government decided that there was a need to provide more places for early years childcare in deprived areas, Hazelwood was highlighted as one of them. [Redacted] worked very hard and closely with [redacted] council to put together a a proposal to build a building interlinked to the neighbourhood centre to provide extra spaces for children in the area. [Redacted] were successful and [redacted] place nursery that has been providing an outstanding (ofsted) service to the local commuity.</p> <p>[Redacted] rely on the partnership with the centre hugely, as [redacted]. The [redacted] is used everyday to provide the children with a healthy fresh meal and snacks. [Redacted] have very vulnerable children and families, this is paramount to their well being and education. Also the centre provides a quiet space for [redacted] staff to have a well earned lunch break and its also a good place to have private meetings [redacted]. One of the rooms [redacted] rent is vital to the number of preschool children [redacted] can intake. This would cut [redacted] preschool numbers in half if [redacted] were unable to rent it. This would mean [redacted] would be unable to offer the government 30 hours and universal 2 and 3 years funding which would result in job loses for [redacted] dedicated staff.</p> <p>This centre is so important to the community and especially the children and families in [redacted] setting. [Redacted] are working so hard to narrow the gap for the deprived children in this areas and children affected by covid.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
All	Rural areas pay the same rate of Council Tax as Urban areas but we get few benefits. We have no transport system or shared amenities like leisure centres. The roads are in a lamentable state and our [redacted]. Whenever we ask for improvements we are told that urban areas give a better bang for the buck. Rural areas are candidates for leveling up.

Demographics

Q. Are you responding to this questionnaire as an individual or on behalf of an organisation/community group? Please tick (✓) relevant answer

There were 285 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
As an individual	279	97.9%
On behalf of an organisation/community group	6	2.1%

Organisation/community group respondents

Q. If you're replying on behalf of an organisation or community group please tell us the name of your organisation and your job title/role:

Name of organisation:

There were five responses to this question.

- [Redacted] Parish Council (2)
- [Redacted] Bowls (2)
- [Redacted] Day Nursery

Job title/role

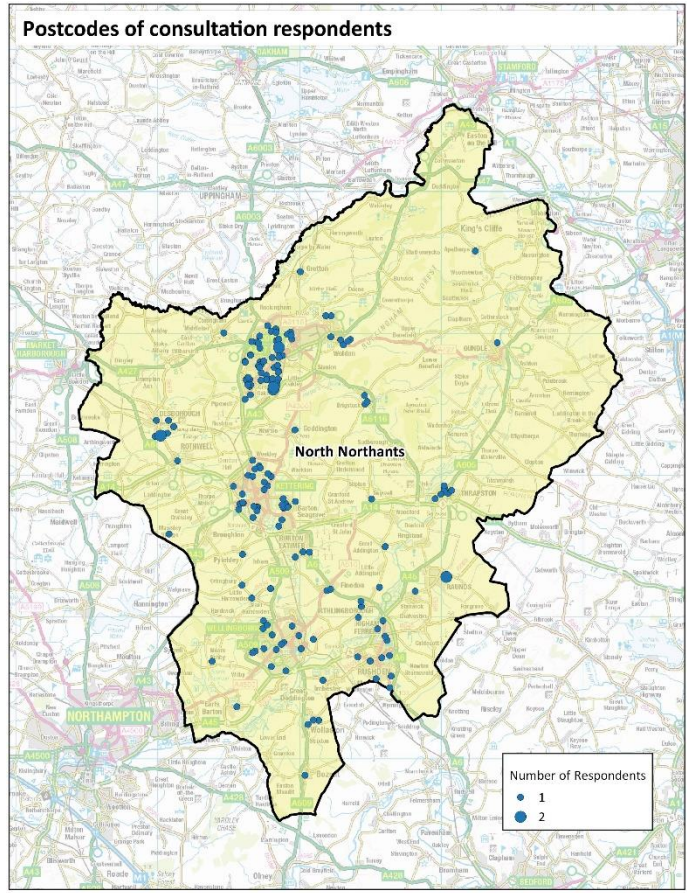
There were five responses to this question. We have not listed the job titles / roles of respondents within this appendix in order to ensure respondents' anonymity is retained.

Individual respondents

Q. What is your postcode?

By providing us with your postcode, you are consenting for us to use this information to understand where respondents live. If you do not consent to us using this information in this way, please do not provide your postcode.

There were 173 valid postcodes provided within North Northamptonshire, 32 were incomplete and two were from outside of the area.



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About this consultation

Q. How did you find out about this consultation? Please tick (✓) all that apply
There were 244 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
From the local media (i.e. newspaper or radio)	58	23.8%
On social media	110	45.1%
From our website	36	14.8%
As a member of the North Northamptonshire Residents' Panel	6	2.5%
As a member of the North Northamptonshire Consultation Register	10	4.1%
From an email alert from my local council	31	12.7%
From a voluntary sector organisation providing me with support and advice	2	0.8%
Other (please give details)	28	11.5%

Other:

- From family member
- NNC email
- North Northants Employee
- Employee of NNC
- Internal comms
- NNC employee
- staff email
- Internal email
- I had to search for it. The consultation is a joke. The opinion of the public only counts when it is in your self interest
- other
- Local facebook town post
- NNC employee
- Staff email
- employee email
- None your business
- Someone told me and it was really hard to find this
- Work email
- Someone shared on social media
- Union newsletter
- Email to All Staff at NNC
- I've had to look for it myself
- From a unison update
- I work in local government
- From my line manager.
- A friend passed it on
- Council tax search
- Facebook
- emailed directly as [redacted] Bowls Club

The next steps

Once the consultation period closes on 27 January 2023, we will analyse the results and then final budget proposals will be developed before going back to the North Northamptonshire Council Full Council meeting on 23 February 2023.

Your feedback on this consultation is really important to us. All consultation feedback will be analysed and considered and will help inform Councillors of residents' and stakeholders' views when making a final decision on the budget for 2023/24.

This meeting is held in public and anyone wishing to speak at the meeting must contact democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk once the agenda is issued on the Council's website on 15 February 2023. Details of how the public can address the meeting will be given on the agenda.

Equality monitoring

If you are responding as an individual and not as an organisation, we would like to invite you to now complete our [equality monitoring form](#).

The information you provide is anonymous and kept separate from any other personal information you have provided in the consultation questionnaire. The council will be unable to identify you as an individual.

Further details are provided within the equality monitoring form.

We appreciate your help to improve our services.

Equality monitoring

Thank you for agreeing to complete our equality monitoring questions.

It is necessary to process this information to evidence how we meet our engagement obligations within the public sector equality duty, under the Equality Act 2010.

The purpose of asking for equality monitoring information is to check that our consultation and engagement activities have reached an audience that reflects our community, and to ensure that everybody has an opportunity to be heard.

The questions we have asked are based around the nine protected groups, afforded protection under the Equality Act 2010. These are referred to as protected characteristics or groups and are as follows:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Re-assignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnerships
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

The information you provide is anonymous and kept separate from any other personal information you have provided in the consultation questionnaire. The council will be unable to identify you as an individual.

This data is only used for the purposes specified below. The results are analysed and compared to known baseline data to help:

- Provide evidence for equality impact assessments.
- Demonstrate that the council is fulfilling its legal duties to prevent discrimination, advance the equality of opportunity and to foster good relations.

- Monitor where the service may not be meeting people’s needs.
- Improve the consultation and engagement service.
- Inform and shape future service planning.

The anonymised data is shared with and published by the Equality Team in the annual duty report, as required under the public sector equality duty.

The details you provide on the ‘Equality Monitoring Form’ is special category data and will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.

Further details about how we process equality data can be found in our Equalities Privacy Notice and our Consultation and Engagement Privacy Notice. For information about how consultation and engagement responses are managed, please see the [consultation and engagement privacy notice](#).

The form should take you less than 5 minutes to complete.

There are ‘prefer not to say’ options for questions you do not wish to answer.

We appreciate your help to improve our services.

Q. How would you define your sex: Please tick (√) the appropriate box

There were 15 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Female	8	53.3%
Male	6	40.0%
Non-binary	0	0.0%
Self define (please state below)	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	1	6.7%

Self define (please state):

- *No comments were received*

Q. Is the gender you identify with the same as you were assigned at birth? Please tick

(√) the appropriate box

There were 15 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes	14	93.3%
No	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	1	6.7%

Q. How would you describe your marital status? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box
 There were 15 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Single (never married)	3	20.0%
Married	10	66.7%
Civil Partnership	0	0.0%
Divorced	1	6.7%
Widowed	0	0.0%
Co-habiting	0	0.0%
Separated	0	0.0%
Other (please state below)	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	1	6.7%

Other (please state):

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments were received |
|---|

Q. Which age range are you in? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box
 There were 14 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
16 – 24	0	0.0%
25 – 34	2	14.3%
35 – 49	4	28.6%
50 – 64	4	28.6%
65 – 74	2	14.3%
75 – 84	1	7.1%
85+	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	1	7.1%

Q. How would you describe your ethnicity? (Please tick (✓) the appropriate box
 There were 15 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Asian British	0	0.0%
Indian	0	0.0%
Bangladeshi	0	0.0%
Pakistani	0	0.0%
Chinese	0	0.0%
Other Asian background (please state below)	0	0.0%
Black British	0	0.0%
Black African	0	0.0%
Black Caribbean	0	0.0%

Other Black background (please state below)	0	0.0%
White/Black African	0	0.0%
White/Black Caribbean	0	0.0%
White/Asian	0	0.0%
Other Multiple ethnic background (please state below)	0	0.0%
White British	14	93.3%
White Gypsy/Irish Traveller	0	0.0%
White Irish	0	0.0%
Other White (please state below)	0	0.0%
Arab	0	0.0%
Other ethnic group (please state below)	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	1	6.7%

Other (please state):

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No comments were received</i> |
|--|

Q. Do you have a disability? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

There were 14 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes	2	14.3%
No	10	71.4%
Prefer not to say	2	14.3%

Q. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a physical or mental impairment which has lasted, or is expected to last more than 12 months? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

appropriate box

There were 15 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes, limited a little	3	20.0%
Yes, limited a lot	1	6.7%
No	9	60.0%
Prefer not to say	2	13.3%

Q. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

There were 14 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Heterosexual (Straight)	12	85.7%
Gay	1	7.1%
Lesbian	0	0.0%
Bisexual	0	0.0%
Not sure	0	0.0%
Self define (please state below)	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	1	7.1%

Q. How would you define your Religion or Belief? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

There were 14 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Buddhist	0	0.0%
Christian	2	14.3%
Hindu	0	0.0%
Jewish	0	0.0%
Muslim	0	0.0%
Sikh	0	0.0%
No Religion	9	64.3%
Other (please state below)	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	3	21.4%

Other (please state):

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No comments were received</i> |
|--|

Appendix 2: Other responses

Feedback received via letters / emails

There were two written responses received.

I am writing today as [redacted] regarding the North Northamptonshire Council budget consultation regarding the “harmonisation of grants to community centres” meaning that the annual devolved grants will no longer be awarded.

If the grant is no longer available the following issues will occur:

- Volunteers will pull out of supporting the centres.
- Hard to find grants to support with running costs and salaries.
- Community Centres may last another year if no supporting funding.
- Rising costs of utility bills, making it harder to afford with limited income
- If based in an area of deprivation, cant increase hall hire.
- Lose amenities, Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre has a community café, drop in centre for services, food bank with children’s centre and nursery attached.
- The ICS and services who attend are very passionate about working out in the community, how can they be if they are no longer available.
- How much will it cost the council if the community centres across the town do close and they all have to be mothballed, potentially business rates and standing rates on electric metres have to be paid.
- Danesholme will lose their library if the community centre closes.
- External funding for projects that have extended timelines of 3 years, funding that has gone in to the facilities to upgrade them.

Background

I am [redacted] of [redacted] community centres and a [redacted] in Corby including [redacted].

[Redacted] are run by the [redacted].

[Redacted] is very pro active in the area of Kingswood supporting its community. [Redacted] that is based at the heart of the Kingswood Estate which is also known as an area of deprivation and is part of the levelling up agenda. The [redacted] provides hall hire, a community café with cheaper prices and in [redacted] was set up which is a food bank based within the centre.

The food bank was initially set up in reaction to the covid pandemic but has carried on for 2 years to help support the local Kingswood Community with the cost of living crisis. The [redacted] now receives daily referrals from North Northamptonshire Council, [redacted], [redacted] and other agencies in the town. The centre is a base that is now trusted with the community, the members of staff work on the ground and know their struggles and hardships. We receive phone calls or people coming in every day asking for help. We have a number of services working in the building on a weekly basis to support such as [redacted] as it has been realised working at a place based level is more effective with communities like Kingswood as it breaks down barriers with the people they are targeting.

[Redacted] was devolved roughly [redacted] years ago. This serves a different audience that is not so much in need of support like Kingswood.

[Redacted] and [redacted] Library are run by [redacted]. [Redacted] offers hall hire and a kitchen available, it supports the library financially and is a base for the library volunteers to raise funds to keep the library open. [Redacted] is currently open every day during the week as a Warm Space for the community who are suffering the effects of the cost of living crisis.

Effects of devolved grants stopping

The devolved grants help us alleviate some of the costs it takes to run a community centre, you have said in your consultation letter sent out via email and I quote “We are currently living through very challenging times and the council must do all it can to manage its finances efficiently and with prudence.” We also are living through very challenging times, these facilities are overseen by passionate volunteers that have worked over many years to keep these community centres afloat and supporting the community they are based in.

I appreciate you always have budgets to stay too, but I don't think you realise that what will save you in one will cost you double in another, by getting rid of these devolved grants, and if these facilities have no option but to close and I am not just talking about the buildings I oversee, but all of the facilities who are currently in receipt of devolved funding, the local authority will have to mothball them all, pay for services such as standing charges on metres and potentially pay business rates and at a higher cost than we do as we are a registered charity which the Local Authority is not. [Redacted] has 8 electric and gas metres that all have separate standing charges let alone adding the other buildings in as well.

As mentioned before [redacted] is in an area of deprivation, we support the community with work and volunteer opportunities that help upskill people who some of which have thrived and gone on to seek employment and do well for themselves, we work hard with other organisations to bring external funding in to make the place better and to create opportunities for the local people.

We are active in the community that we work in and want to provide help and support to the people who access our facilities and services.

We are currently working with two different funders on long term projects lasting 3 years, the [redacted] was a collaboration between ourselves and 3 other organisations. We have managed to secure capital funding to make the outdoor space area updated adding in new equipment, we have the capacity now to employ a youth sports coordinator and have youth engagement with external delivery partners for the next three years. This funding will help tackle a lot of issues on the estate such as knife crime, drug abuse, increasing physical activity in young people. We have signed contracts with these funders who have terms and conditions and if we don't get the support from our local authority of these devolved grants the funding has to come to an end.

We work hard in and with our communities we are based in and think that this budget cut can be made from else where within the local authority as these places are far too important to the local people. We are now a recognisable service with organisations and just this week have been approached to offer support of free hall hire to work in collaboration with [redacted] to support members of the public who have been made redundant.

External funding is difficult to obtain for running costs, capital and salaries/wages. There is a number of funding grants available but is limited if not working in a lower socio economic area where both [redacted] and [redacted] community centres are not. If applying for external funding, a number of pots available are only small grants and applying and end of grant forms take a lot of time and effort to do. If we have to apply for external funding to keep the facilities open this will then limit us as we cant apply for the same funding for the

different projects we run or the other centres eg apply once for one pot of money how will that cover [redacted] facilities that are run by [redacted] different organisations.

Firstly hall hire will have to be increased therefore some members who hire will pull away, volunteers will have to be leaned on more rather than paid staff, putting pressure on them therefore they may choose to leave. We will have to do reduced lighting and heating to try and save on the soaring energy prices not offering a space that our hirers are used to hiring therefore may lose more custom. [Redacted] may have to close therefore the building won't be open for the foodbank to stay operational. Staff hours may need to be cut therefore we could lose members of staff who we have employed for many years. The facility may have to close so current projects in the pipeline for the community have to end. If we have to prioritise what we offer the additional projects will have to close first such as [redacted].

We feel as an organisation the rising costs of the energy and food have not yet impacted us and this will financially hit us later on this year.

To make you aware the online process that is on your website is not very helpful, the links do not work and the online survey is only mentioning council tax. Not an easy process, considering the consultation was out on 22nd dec we were only officially notified on 19th January. This is not good enough and hasn't gave us enough time to consult with all of our stakeholders, directors, organisations we work with to put together an arguing statement on why the devolved funding should not be taken away from these facilities. I don't feel three months' notice of potential devolved grant cuts is an adequate time frame for these facilities.

I would like to invite you and whoever is involved in this budget cut to the community centres to see how they are supporting the communities they are based in and what lifelines some of them are, speak to the users of them to say what would you do without these facilities and show what we are doing for our local communities.

Closing Statement

We are already applying for all possible grants to help support our communities, if we have to apply for these grants for running costs etc to cover what the devolved grant covers then this will take away things like the food bank and activities we currently provide to the community. Most of the grants do not cover running costs or salaries or you can only apply if operating in lower socio economic areas.

I think this amount you are supposedly saving is a small cost in comparison in what the community centres and clubs offer your community for you.

Here are my thoughts on this proposal:

Service Change Development, Efficiencies, Devolved Community Centre grants harmonisation Saving £112k

1 The consultation document giving details on the proposal was issued at 16:20 hours on 19th Jan. We have effectively been given 5 clear working days to respond to a proposal which will mean that many community centres in Corby will become unviable.

2 Are there any community centres in other parts of North Northants e.g. in the former Boroughs of Kettering and Wellingborough which are council operated, i.e. not devolved, where the council directly picks up all the core overhead e.g. payroll, utilities, rates etc etc and are there any community centres in other parts of North Northants that receive any grants from the council that are given for reasons other than to cover core costs? If so, what you are proposing is the exact opposite of harmonisation and is grossly unfair.

3 I dispute the factual accuracy of the assertion that centres were devolved in 2012. It was more like 2003 or even earlier. I also dispute the assertion that grants were given to "help the centres to develop and become sustainable". The grants were given because the running of the centres switched from the council to unincorporated associations which took on the overhead previously borne by the council, in return for which the council made a grant. The arrangement allowed the council to make a saving and ensured the centres remained viable, which they would not be without the grant.

4 The amount to be saved is £112k, a small amount compared to the value that a functioning community centre delivers to its local community. £112k is equivalent to the salary of a senior council manager, of which the council has at least 10 earning at such a level and when pension contributions are factored in the council has many more employees who cost £112k or more to employ. An alternative saving would be to remove one of these posts from the establishment.

5 Far from achieving a saving, this proposal could actually cost the council more than £112k. If community centres close, as many surely will, the council will have to pick up costs such as business rates, standing charges for electricity, gas and water, internal repairs and maintenance, security and other mothballing costs and insurance that is currently recharged to the centres. The council will lose any rents and other income received from those centres, e.g. for commercial waste collection.

6 If centres close or cut back, jobs will be lost as will be valuable community facilities with a consequent effect on the wellbeing of centre users.

7 If councillors are hell bent (I hope not) on implementing this proposal then please defer for a year and fund grants for 2023/24 from reserves, thus allowing the revenue saving to be made in 2023/24 and also allowing a year for either a managed exit or a sensible amount of time for alternative income sources to be found by the community centres affected.

Feedback received via social media

There were two comments made directly to our social media channels regarding the consultation. Names have been redacted from social media comments.

- Why would we bother commenting on this, you took no notice whatsoever on the consultation regarding brown bin waste where 80% of responders were against the charge? Which you steam rolled through and one of your own party had the casting vote
You have raised the council tax by 13% over the past two years, and given yourselves rises way above the norm, unfortunately you just can't be trusted with OUR money
- Yes! I emailed all the Executive about green refuse, but didn't get even a 1 word acknowledge! My local councilor copied my comments to them too, but no effect.