

# North Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2024/25 Consultation

## Appendix to consultation analysis report

December to January 2024

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## **Appendix 1: Draft budget consultation questionnaire full results**

### **North Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2024/25 Consultation**

#### **Overview**

The draft revenue budget for North Northamptonshire Council was approved by the Executive on 21 December and we are now seeking views on our proposals for the next financial year.

The consultation phase is a very important one in the budget setting process as it's essential that we get the views of all the people the proposals effect before we can shape the final plans in February.

North Northamptonshire Council's budget proposals set out a detailed spending strategy for the authority for the financial year 2024/2025 as well as outlining the medium-term financial plan for the following three years.

Protecting and investing in local frontline services against a backdrop of continued national financial uncertainty is the focus of the Council's budget proposals.

The budget is not just about how to manage within available resources but also where funding should be invested, recognising residents' priorities and working with partners to jointly develop service delivery proposals, giving families strength and self-reliance so they will benefit from greater self-determination and improved life chances.

There is a balance to be maintained between encouraging growth, providing high quality universal services and protecting those that are the most vulnerable.

Financial stability is one of the cornerstones of local government and it's essential that we're in a robust and stable position if we are to deliver quality services to the people of North Northants both now and in the future.

Our commitment to maintain vital service provision has seen the Council invest an additional £53.4million into services, including adult social care and children's services to protect the most vulnerable in communities and address a growing need for services.

These pressures are, in part, offset by savings, efficiencies and further income of £18.5m. Taken together with an improvement in funding expected from business rates, Council Tax and government grants the Council has been able to set a balanced budget for 2024/2025.

The proposed net revenue budget for 2024/2025 is £371.5 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, highways maintenance, economic development, housing and support for those that are homeless.

We are also proposing a programme of capital investment totalling £163.5m over the four-year period 2024-28 across a number of schemes including investing over £49.1m into our highways, £12.2m for our schools, £10.7m to support disabled facilities, £9.1m in improving

our digital infrastructure, £2.7m from the Corby Town Fund and £2.9m for Electrical Vehicle infrastructure.

We continue to be cautious with our finances and continue to work to deliver efficiency savings, innovate, improve services and to attract funding from outside of the area.

### **Our call for funding certainty**

There is much uncertainty regarding Local Government funding in future years with potentially a new funding regime being implemented from 2026-2027.

This brings substantial risk to areas, such as North Northamptonshire, that have experienced a significant increase in their business base as those that have delivered most in terms of business rates growth could stand to be the most adversely affected through changes in Government funding.

We have updated our medium-term budget assumptions based on the latest information available. This will require us to identify proposals to meet the anticipated gap between our spending needs and our forecast funding.

Unfortunately, the continuation of single year settlements hinder the ability of councils to develop effective spending plans over the medium to long term.

We would like to see a minimum three-year settlement that recognises the scale of the challenges we face and assists with meaningful planning over the medium term.

This will not only benefit our residents, as we can be much clearer about future investment in our services and our localities, it will also enable us to confirm our longer-term funding on to others such as the voluntary sector organisations that do so much for our communities.

Greater certainty of funding is essential as we continue to transform our services to better meet the needs of our residents in a way that ensures we are financially resilient for the future.

### **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 £9.6m 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 £1,740.22 for 2024/2025.

This is an annual increase of £82.71 (equivalent to £1.59 per week) from the Band D Council Tax level of £1,657.51 in 2023/2024. Around 57% of properties in North Northamptonshire are in Council Tax Bands A and B which will see an annual increase of £55.14 (equating to £1.06 per week) and £64.33 (£1.24 per week) respectively.

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.

Council Tax is the most stable form of income that the Council receives, which is important as we enter a period of significant uncertainty around Government funding.

We recognise that increasing Council Tax will inevitably impact on household finances. However, our services are seeing both rising demand and higher costs, and the funding we receive through Council Tax plays an important part in helping to protect those services that individuals, families and our communities value, need and rely on.

There is no change to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme which will continue at 25% (minimum contribution towards Council Tax).

### **Next steps**

This consultation will run from 21 December 2023 until midnight on Friday, 26 January 2024, with the Executive then meeting on 8 February 2024 to consider the final budget proposals for recommendation to Full Council on 22 February 2024.

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 £9.6m per year and would represent a Band D level of Council Tax of £1,740.22 for 2024/2025, or the equivalent of £33.47 per week.
- Draft Capital Programme 2024-28.

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 22 February 2024. This meeting is held in public and anyone wishing to speak at the meeting must contact [democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk) once the agenda is issued on the Council's website on 14 February 2024. 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 2024/25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan](#), and its appendices:
  - [Appendix A and B - Draft Budget Summary 2024/25 and list of budget pressures and saving proposals](#)
  - [Appendix C - Dedicated Schools Grant](#)
  - [Appendix D - Reserves Strategy 2024/25](#)
  - [Appendix E - Equality Screening Assessment](#)

- [Budget Update 2024/25 – following publication of the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement](#)
- [Capital Programme 2024-28](#), and its appendices:
  - [Appendix A - General Fund Capital Programme 2024-28](#)
  - [Appendix B - Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2024-28](#)
  - [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.

This year's HRA proposal is for a balanced budget for the two Neighbourhood Accounts.

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

- [Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget 2024/25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan Proposals](#)
  - [HRA Budget - Appendices A to C](#)

## **Have your say**

It's important our residents get the opportunity to comment on these proposals and it would be great to hear from as many people as possible from a variety of backgrounds. We would encourage you to have a look at the proposals and give your feedback.

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 2024/25 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: [YourVoiceMatters@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:YourVoiceMatters@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 **26 January 2024**.

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

	<b>Response number</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
A local resident	418	91.7%
A service user	36	7.9%
A North Northamptonshire Council employee	64	14.0%
A North Northamptonshire Council Councillor	6	1.3%
A representative of a Town/Parish Council	5	1.1%
A Town or Parish Councillor	19	4.2%
A representative of the voluntary sector or a community organisation	12	2.6%
A representative of the local business community	8	1.8%
A representative of a health partner organisation	2	0.4%
A representative of a user group	3	0.7%
Other (please give details below)	4	0.9%

Other:

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A relative to multiple vulnerable residents in the county</li> <li>• Council tax payer</li> <li>• [redacted]</li> <li>• [redacted]</li> </ul> |
|--|

## **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 £9.6m 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 £1,740.22 in 2024/25 is equivalent to £33.47 per week. The annual increase on an average Band D property across the area is £82.71, which is a weekly increase of £1.59p.



Around 57% of properties in North Northamptonshire are in Council Tax Bands A and B. These households would see an annual increase of £55.14 (equating to £1.06 per week) and £64.33 (£1.24 per week) respectively.

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	£55.14	£1.06
B	£64.33	£1.24
C	£73.52	£1.41
D	£82.71	£1.59
E	£101.09	£1.94
F	£119.47	£2.30
G	£137.85	£2.65
H	£165.42	£3.18

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

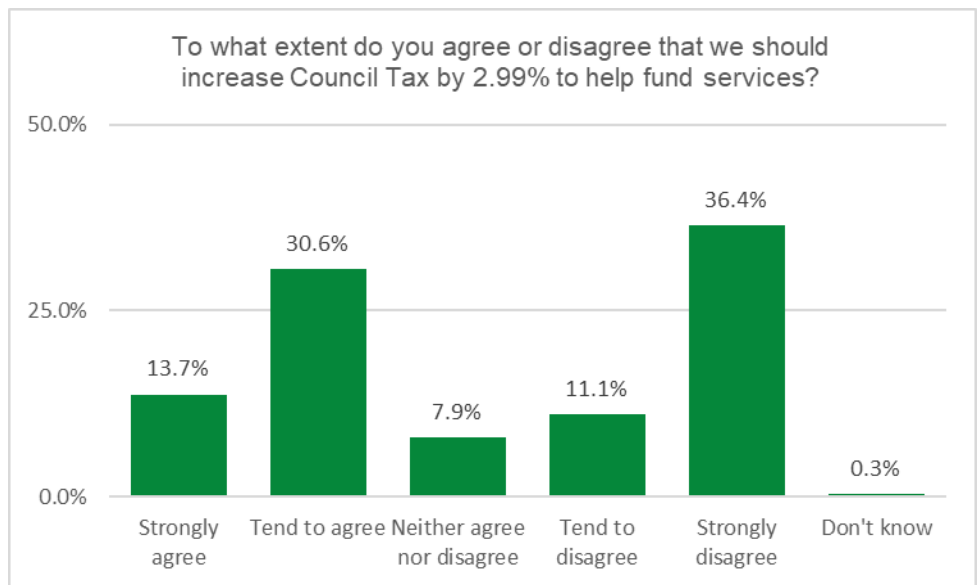
**What would a 2.99% increase mean for Council Tax Bands?**

As an example, a 2.99% general increase would result in an increase of £49.56 per year (£0.95 per week) for 2024/25 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	£33.04	£0.63
B	£38.55	£0.74
C	£44.05	£0.84
D	£49.56	£0.95
E	£60.57	£1.16
F	£71.59	£1.38
G	£82.60	£1.58
H	£99.12	£1.90

There were 343 responses to this question.



	Response number	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	47	13.7%
Tend to agree	105	30.6%
Neither agree nor disagree	27	7.9%
Tend to disagree	38	11.1%
Strongly disagree	125	36.4%
Don't know	1	0.3%

**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 204 responses to this question.

<b>Strongly agree/ Tend to agree</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inflation is running high and the additional increase will be needed to provide services.</li> <li>• The only alternative to increasing Council Tax is cutting services - which are already at breaking point</li> <li>• we need to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our residents and local services.</li> <li>• Awareness of historical funding cuts by central government, so funds need to be achieved from somewhere.</li> <li>• We would like a return of the public services lost through the repetitive cutting of Council Tax over the past few years. The purpose of a local authority is to provide public services, not make money which appears to be the reason for current policies</li> <li>• I cannot see what else can be done.</li> <li>• Obvious need to increase due to inflation but still feel some expenditure is misguided and wasteful.</li> <li>• Would tend to agree, because of the amount of funding required to improve our highways infrastructure.</li> <li>• It is obvious that in times of high inflation the increase is necessary but we need to see results. We have probably the worst roads in the country and we need a vision for and delivery of enhanced Social Care</li> <li>• If the 2.99% increase is genuinely required to maintain services, I agree it's necessary.</li> <li>• If we want improved services they have to be paid for.</li> <li>• Dependent on where the extra money will go and will I see it working for me. Roads must be improved and maintained, libraries and the arts must be supported and protected.</li> <li>• Council Tax needs to increase to fund valued services. The lessons that should be learnt from the former County Council is that if you don't put it up every year, you cannot catch up and spending power therefore reduces with a devastating impact on local services. The increase in Council Tax should of course be considered with a fit for purpose Council tax reduction scheme for those facing hardship.</li> <li>• While Central government chooses to squander taxpayers cash on illegal immigrants and foreign aid I think that it is a scandal that this council should even consider raising tax at all, let alone by 5 per cent. Any increase in the council's budget should come from Central government</li> <li>• It's fair enough with prices going up.</li> <li>• We need better services but on the fence about an increase as I don't believe you will deliver the improvements</li> <li>• Services need to be paid for</li> <li>• It's less than the current rate of inflation.</li> <li>• A lower than inflation increase helps focus on the need to improve efficiency, reduce waste and bureaucracy that is clearly present currently. There should be significant benefits from the reorganisation to a unitary authority coming through now, it is time to pass the on to your customers.</li> <li>• So long as contracted work is monitored and measured. No point throwing money at poor contractors</li> <li>• Providing the money is spent wisely and not squandered on infrastructure projects few residents want it's a good idea.</li> </ul>

- Must accept that all costs have increased
- If the services are there for good reasons keep them. If they're superfluous get rid.
- Seems fair, given inflation etc
- Although raising costs for residents isn't helpful, more more is definitely needed for adult social care
- Happy with the proposal
- If there is no choice then that's what's going to have to happen. The question is why is the government so skint when Brexit was going to put millions back into the economy?
- 2.99% + 2% on core council tax, plus Police Fire and Crime commissioners levy on council tax payers, plus local parish/town levy. So how much will the true rise be?
- it is vital to keep helping those who cannot speak for themselves and need mental health and learning disability assistance. It is time we re-named Social Care, a term I have always felt was used to make the public think that these people are getting plenty of help to attend tea parties instead of working with them to relieve their every day suffering.
- If there's not an increase an improvement in service cannot be expected
- Inflation is at 4% and NNC needs to spend on public services not increasing profit whilst keeping council tax the same.
- The increased in council tax will enable the council to deliver services desperately needed by residents.
- I understand that there need to be some incresment and 2,99% could be achieved but 4,99% is quite high
- This should mean more funding for those who need repairs actually get the repairs they need
- The increase looks realistic and sensible.
- Cost of living is up, so Council costs go up - increase in wages, utilities, transport of goods. I am grateful for the services I receive for free
- Maintain standards
- The council should greatly consider the impact an increase would have on residents, in times of financial hardship. While pressures on council services increase a need for further revenue might be needed. But with a decrease in services in our area from the council an increase can be a struggle to justify.
- In order to be realistic increased costs across the board have to be met. However I do object to funds being made available for a traveller stopping site at Rothwell in view of the suggested logistics site that would make the traveller site wholly unfeasible
- I understand that the Council needs the Council Tax to deliver their services. And the Children's Trust and Adult social care budgets are very difficult to plan for and control and are invariably over spent. But there comes a time when we have to face reality and get better support from Central Government. With the current situation where residents are struggling to buy food and pay their energy bills, and everyday bills, additional increases in Council tax can push residents into serious debt, which then in turn causes greater finance issues.
- The years of not increasing Council Tax are beginning to bite.  
If you had gently increased over the last ten years the council would be in a better position over those years and not be proposing a maximum increase now. But hey ho.
- As a % increase it's justifiable if we want the services we require.
- If savings can't be found then increases have to be applied but i would examine the profitability of major suppliers to the council to determine if pressure could be applied to those reporting increased profits.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All council services need to be improved and restored to acceptable levels. There is no way to do this without funding.</li> <li>• Easiest way to increase council funding.</li> <li>• it is important to fund services, particularly as the area is seeing massive growth.</li> <li>• Costs are going up, the Council cannot maintain the same Council tax as previous year.</li> <li>• Not opposed to funding increases if we see the benefits of this through schemes or spending that helps residents, this year though we have again seen unnecessary and self promotion spending by the council on councillors favoured pet projects that seemingly don't actually help residents. Such as the undoubtedly expensive tourist shop at Rushden Lakes that there doesn't really seem to be customers in.</li> <li>• [redacted] I know how vital our services are. I just wish that instead of money to help fund them it would be able to be money to improve them.</li> <li>• everything is going up including a better wage and maybe you could include the green dustbin being emptied instead of us having to pay for it.</li> <li>• We have to maintain core services wherever possible</li> <li>• I feel we need to pay more to ensure our vulnerable are getting the care they need. However I do appreciate this will be hard for people on low incomes</li> <li>• I think it's important that everyone contributes their share to ensure that essential core services continue to function.</li> <li>• Services are a priority but central government should pay far more towards all aspects of local government.</li> <li>• I understand the shortfall in overall budgets hence the need to increase the council tax</li> <li>• With inflation as high as it is it seems feasible to make a reasonable increase</li> <li>• I don't mind paying more if the money is used appropriately.</li> <li>• I understand there is inflation and increasing the Council tax will generate more revenue for the council. However, we should also bear in mind they many households are still on the same income pre/post-pandemic. Therefore, increasing the council tax now will have a negative impact on their household's upkeep which will ultimately affect residents' well-being.</li> <li>• Make sure you are getting as much money from central government as you can.</li> <li>• With Government funding for the future being uncertain and pressure on local Councils to allocate funding carefully in light of economic volatility and inflationary pressures, I understand why an increase is necessary but it MUST be on the basis that the increase is not used to fund non essential projects, or plug / backfill allocated capital spend from existing funding reserves. This includes projects like the travellers' stopping site at J3 of the A14 nr Rothwell. This is neither essential, necessary or justified. The c£1.3m cap ex could be used much more effectively within the local area for the benefit of local residents and not others, who are transient and not adding value to NNC.</li> <li>• I tend to agree that more needs to be spent therefore more collected but not confident in the council's use of the funds.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Neither agree nor disagree</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As long as it is spent wisely and not wasted</li> <li>• I think it has the protentional to damage the councils reputation with the public as households are hit hard and yet view that they are potentially not getting value eg with state of roads and in light of media reports. However I do understand the costs involved. I think cost cuts can be found from within the council by doing away with the fuel allowance for employees for example and reducing the facilities in light of hybrid working.</li> </ul>

- This increase in rates isn't really helping to improve the services but just to keep them the same, we've already had to pay for green bins to be emptied this year, it's biodegradable that must of raised money, just waiting to be charged for general waste to be added, in years to come.
- I'm not convinced services are commissioned well with value for money thoroughly tested
- If you are going to spend it wisely agree, but if not I disagree. How shall I know?only negative effect will be on those that can't afford it.
- I agree that inflation has happened and more money is needed, however there are still major savings that can be made by the council and taxing struggling families is not the best method for a stable country.
- Depends on how the increased revenue is spent. I'd support the increase if it meant roads would be mended and maintained better but not if it is used to increase councillor's salaries.
- The constituents really need to see a full list of where last years council Tax has been spent and whether it could be better spent, there for no need for an actual increase, just the council to do a better job of spending the money?
- Increasing the council tax to 4.99% would mean less money for my daily living expenses.  
 Every year my benefits go up with the rate of inflation, but I have no savings anymore due to the cost of daily living expenses being so high. Food shopping has got ridiculous and the price increases every week.  
 My 'priority' bills' amount increases each month and I'm struggling to provide my family with a balanced healthy diet, clothing, and trying to put money aside for birthdays and Christmas. It's impossible to budget when ALL our bills are increasing but my income doesn't give me enough to save anything or try and go for a weekend away during the summer when prices are so high.
- Regardless how much council tax are increased the services the council should provide is non existent - not fit for purpose
- be nice if the removal of your garden waste was included in this if you added £1 onto the bill per week you wouldn't notice that extra payment so much
- I would be happy to pay an increase if I thought that all the money is spent well and not wasted.
- we need services and costs increase
- I feel that my opinion on this would make no difference
- Wether or not council take should increase should drmdnd on thd overall management.

**Strongly disagree/ Tend to disagree**

- Simply, I couldn't afford the increase. Everything has increased, it all costs too much, please don't raise the cost of another thing. It is almost impossible to afford just to be alive already. [redacted]
- You are pushing the people who work to breaking point, you can only get money out of the people who are working while the people on benefits get every hand out going, [redacted] and it is more than my full time monthly salary , so why should they pay less.
- Due to financial issues the public are going through i believe this will cause some upset with them in regards to this proposed increase.
- How on earth can you justify this with the rise in prices council services a lot of which are useless, none of them can even be bothered to answer the phone this is outrageous and your excuse is the rate of inflation which is everyone's excuse for raising prices, if you feel you are doing the right thing why don't you make the announcement in front of the public see if they agree, this authority has destroyed the town [redacted] and once loved you have stabbed the residents in the back and continue to do so while claiming you are here for the public.

- [redacted] I feel that too much money is spent on interim staff. If more local people were employed on a permanent basis, that would help to reduce costs.
- Too many things going up, creating more hardship
- Not very good services.
- [redacted] I am already struggling to cope with the increases in all other aspects of my outgoings
- You do this every year. Same question about the MAXIMUM increase allowed, residents say no, you go ahead anyway. All I can say is I hope you all get voted out next election. You increase this constantly yet there is never ever anything to show for the increases,
- It is a cost of living crisis and budgets are squeezed super thin. A smaller 1% maybe more palatable,
- Households are already struggling and you have given less and less each year
- CTAX hits the poor the most. NNC waste huge amounts of money. The streets are filthy. The roads are unusable. NNC can't do the fundamentals, more money won't help.
- A lot of people struggle with increase in living costs.
- Many of North Northants residents are of low income - I am not sure that many would see a return on their investment so to speak and are living day to day. I am worried that many will feel punished by such an increase.
- There are so many families struggling to even buy basic food provisions. I think this is going to hit so many people really hard.
- Inflation is dropping !!!! Thousands of new homes have been built in Northamptonshire, with all the new taxes you shouldn't need to increase our taxes.
- With the additional costs of precepts for individual town councils and police and fire we, the residents, just cannot keep paying out like this. It is not a never ending pocket of money to keep paying to Councils, it has to stop.
- NNC's council tax is already exceptionally high and the budget demonstrates that savings have been found - it feels like there is a presumption in favour of the 'default position' of the highest possible increase. This does not consider the potential hardship caused to residents.
- At what point does the increase stop [redacted] the poll tax will take over 10% of our state pension
- We continue to give the government a pass on their requirement to provide funding for the good of residents in this country. The more we give, the more they will take so that they can fund their priorities and not the peoples. We should not avoid referendums, this is the people's money and they should have a say.
- there are so many councils taxes to pay so yours may "only be 2.99%" but then there is the ASC 2% then what are the town, parish, PFCC taxes going to be?
- Council needs to tackle overspend and wastage not increase tax.
- Because nobody at the council is strong enough to address the shambolic and poor management of social care services - from AD level down. There is no way residents should be paying for incompetence. Get our money back from Newton Europe to start.
- The current poll tax I pay I donot receive a benefit. Hs2 money should not be used for fixing pot holes
- Council tax is paid but see very little going back into the town for the services it is supposed to be used on. Even to the point where a double tax on waste disposal now happens. Streets and rubbish not maintained, [redacted] has never looked so bad. Pre NNC wasn't like this at all.
- Council Tax needs to see a better return into the Arts and Leisure and public transport
- Cost of living and heavy reduction in public services like pot holes not being fixed.
- We get the bins emptied [redacted] for £2500. The roads are a disgrace, there is no public transport and all of the mony goes to your pensions, war chest and the cities.

- Times are hard
- It feels the increase might be ameliorated slightly by a reduction on the costs of running NNC (inc councillors allowances) and costs on running multiple sites in NNC admin? For example, the heating costs of the old ENC building in Thrapston must be substantial when not all the offices are now used?
- Seeing the worsening state of the roads, unactioned reports from residents re: pot holes, gives me no confidence about the council actually investing some money and resources into properly maintaining the roads. Also, instead of seeing patches of tarmac, the whole road should be properly done.
- Parking restrictions, bays not currently monitored in residential areas.
- There's alot of dirty streets in the urban areas of Wellingborough that should be cleaned up by the council, to avoid rats. Residential areas in/around the town centre.
- It is clear that the council continues to live beyond its means and has learnt none of the lessons from when Northants County Council issued a section 114 notice! There should be no increases at all unless it is for statutory services. How on earth can you be suggesting a capital programme of over £169m when the only items listed only come to less than £99m, what is the other £63m being sepnt on, items you do not wish to be public t this stage I assume? If we assume that you will need to borrow only £41m of this, it would cost c. £2m in annual borrowing costs (@average 4.5% pwlb borrowing cost) and then a further a further c£1m in MRP costs, this level of "investment" in what no doubt will be vanity costs is clearly unsustainable and all you are doing is stacking up problems for the future. As for the spend on social care please can you stop funding everything and again only fund what is absolutely statutory which I know you are not currently doing!
- The cost of living affects residents. For the council to get the funding it needs, I would prefer to see that money coming from central government to fund councils properly. Too many councils are suffering financial crises - I see this as a wide-spread funding issue not specific to Northamptonshire.
- [redacted] any increase will put substantial pressure on my finances. You've already taxed me for the garden waste, you've stopped me going to the local tip [redacted]. The roads are an absolute shambles and I don't believe the figures are acceptable with all the new houses being built round the area, have they been included in the years budget?
- The Council should look at raising the money elsewhere. I would start with cutting the number of councillors to save on expenses etc.
- You already charge too much for a poor level of service and should look to make economies
- Where do you think all this extra money comes from? It's high time you look at what public money you WASTE, and reign some of that back in to fund services.
- This should be REDUCED for [redacted]
- I've not seen a good return on any previous council tax, so until then I will oppose it.
- I do not see why the public should continue to fund undemocratic vanity projects that do not offer comparable benefits to the tax paying public. The mismanagement of the library/cornerstone project is a prime example. £7 million to repair the library roof that has been damaged by an adjacent project is egregious abuse of public funds. A cost that is now being passed on to families under immense cost pressures. This cannot be justified while other more critical services such as waste collection and leisure funding are being neglected current service levels are offering little value to the majority
- Because people are already struggling to pay bills and the lowest bands are going to really struggle to pay this. Then I see money thrown away building electric charging points for people who are already rich enough to afford an electric vehicle. Ridiculous.



- The quality of services provided by the council by no means justify the raise. Few points why:
  - corby and surrounding areas have horrendous and dangerous road conditions with pot holes everywhere
  - extra payment for green bin recycling already in force
  - schools do not benefit from any grants or they are not visible, parents have to foot a lot of costs
  - there is absolutely nothing that is being done for teenagers or younger kids to do, everything that is out there seems pricey and or costly to already struggling parents
  - estates that pay monthly fee for maintenance are treated the same as all other estates who do not need to pay for maintenance yet still pay the same.
  - fly tipping is on the rise, and rubbish is flying everywhere
- You cannot keep increasing our council tax and providing less service the roads get worse the quality of all services get poorer year on year. We should have a reduction.
- the values of properties do not reflect accurately the ability to pay, higher cost of living means people who once had disposable income that allowed them to purchase the property they are now in, no longer have that to justify higher banded council tax
- people are already strapped for cash, for some finding even £1 a week could be difficult, especially on a fixed low income
- Our council tax increased by a huge amount last year and things that were normally included in it, like brown bin collections, we're taken out, despite an overwhelming opposition!
- Our streets are a mess, we never see a street cleaner. Rubbish bins are left out from one month to the next. What happened to enforcing the removal of rubbish bins? Pedestrians have to walk out in the road due to bins and parked cars blocking the pavements. I don't know how disabled in wheelchairs or prams/buggies cope. Is this increase include having to pay for the 'Cornerstone' ? Seriously, how can replacing a roof cost millions to do!!
- You waste too much on non essential things
- You keep bleeding us dry, year on year, so instead, cap salaries & councillor payments, reducing staff working hours etc !
- Neither [redacted] or wages have increased this year but food, gas, electric and water has.
- I believe that putting further hardship on the local residents at this time is not correct. This is not just a revenue issue, and cost management appears to have been ignored in the proposal. What organisational efficiency savings have been proposed by NNCB to reduce the burden imposed on the local tax payers?
- We simply CANNOT keep sustaining these increases without wage and pension increases to counteract. You councillors are being highly irresponsible, you do not have any interest whatsoever in the people you serve.
- The services received do not support or justify any increase.
- Families are really struggling at the moment with wages and benefits not keeping up with inflation yet your proposal increases in line with recent inflation figures. Stop waste and corruption first. Be more efficient.
- No improvements ever seen from increases previously, towns are a mess , roads are a mess
- People are struggling with cost of living pressures with many bills increasing. Any rise in council tax will seriously impact those on low incomes especially
- as increasing council tax when residents are still facing cost of living crisis with food/utilities still high
- Although additional funding is necessary, particularly highlighted by the closure of Kettering Library and the state of the shopping centre, I strongly disagree with a 2.99% Council Tax increase without first ensuring that current resources are allocated efficiently. The council should focus on creating a more sustainable and

economically vibrant community that attracts business, which in turn could fund the necessary services without disproportionately impacting residents through tax increases

- Adult social care should not be increased, because most of it is a waste of resources.
- What extra are residents going to get from the constant increase in council tax? Roads are diabolical, the local leisure facilities haven't been updated in many, many years, and we are paying for services that other areas don't, including areas within the North Northants area that didn't previously.
- Why is it always down to us to bale out your poor budgeting. Every year another increase. Everywhere you drive in this county there are new houses being built. Where does all this extra revenue go?
- How about u don't pay such ridiculous amounts in wages to the top people? That would save loads
- Struggling to afford any increases. Wages havent gone up. Everything else is. We may need to move out if area
- I literally cannot afford any more expense
- Since the Unitary Council came into being we have had massive increases in our council tax. What we have also seen is no improvement in our services - our roads are atrocious - social care is in crisis. The flip side is our elected councillors have given themselves large increases in their allowances above and beyond what our fantastic public services and NHS workers have been given!
- The roads are appalling and the council is continually wasting money.
- We are supporting far too many people around the world and have forgotten the UK altogether. We are too small and have exceeded our budget by far and it has to stop.
- The name of the council may have changed but the behaviour is the same. You have shown yourselves to be profligate with our money and yet you have the gall to ask for more every year.
- This increase is making the difference in bands more as the higher bands are having a higher increase. Each year this band is increasing and get no additional services to a lower band. People can not afford this increase on top of other increases in cost of living.
- The current cost of living and fuel charges are making most households struggle, even those with more than one regular full time working wage. I feel that increases to costs should be kept at a minimum/frozen until the fuel costs reduce at least.
- Because you receive adequate money to fund services. If you spent less money on consultants, agency staff and actually managed services you procure we wouldn't be in this mess
- You increase the tax every year but the services get less and less, I see lots of areas where tax is wasted, signs pointing to nowhere wooden posts in the ground, totally useless
- We are on a fixed income and this has not increased by 4.99%. Start making all the scroungers pay and chase the debts more efficiently. Stop wasting money on diversity, woke rubbish and projects that the majority don't want.
- Need to use funds more efficiently, ie repair roads rather than patching and filling potholes which last no time and cannot be a cost effective way of provceeding
- The cost of living crisis has left millions unable to eat their home or afford to eat. As I fill out this survey, I returned home from a long shift, marginally above minimum wage, to a cold house and an empty fridge.
- It may seem a little amount, but people are really struggling. It's not the time to do this and ask for more from residents.
- Why are working people always funding others who pay nothing or very little .....
- Where do I get the money from? [redacted] I already cannot heat my home, I have good insulation but it is 12 degrees in my home this morning. I'll just cut down even

more on food shall I? And yes I have asked but apparently I am not entitled to any assistance despite [redacted]

- Fed up of paying more & getting less! Dog warden was useless when I was bitten by a dog. Couldn't even speak to them! The only person I could speak to on the phone after trying every option when ringing was the council tax line which still took an hour to through. But they were the only people answering their phones - surprise! Get back to work!!
- Thought unitary authorities were supposed to be more efficient and have lower costs. Not seen any benefit yet
- The police are not fit for purpose. Every single review of their performance says they need to improve.
- I feel you need to make more in-house saving and spend less on vanity projects
- The police are not fit for purpose so why should we pay extra. Every review of the police says they need to improve.
- Cut back on unimportant nice to have projects concentrate on vital expenditure you
- Rather than increase council tax to local residents perhaps the council should look at what they are spending already. How much is still allocated to the vanity project at Chester House? What is there another 900k to be spent on that over the next few years on top of what they have already spent on the project. Its nothing more than a vanity project for the council and the council should not be propping up any business. Its a bad business plan from day one when it can't reach a profit for the first six years without money from the council.
- Cut your cloth according to your means
- The council needs to balance its books, it is scandalous that the salaries of high rating staff take priority over public services and the financial sustainability is not acceptable, particularly following the reasons for the council split.
- Services decrease and payments increase.
- Appreciate the financial issues, but this is down to your own mismanagement of funds. We should not be bailing out mismanagement
- As you have clearly stated in your spiel above, household budgets are seriously stretched already, you lot want to take more for a [redacted] service..beyond shocking
- Because Council tax already costs enough!
- We already have one of the highest council taxes in the country coupled with the worst public services. A further increase above inflation should not be necessary
- Given the last huge increase and the lack of apparent use it's been, why increase it further? Maybe if we actually see our taxes being put to use other than local MP's getting better cars or more holidays and see improvements in our high streets and services, we'd be more inclined to agree to yet another obscene hike!
- I can't afford the bill now , most people on the street sleeping ruff don't want to work and spend there money on alcohol or drugs. Why should my money go to support such people who have no interest in getting work or being rehomed. All they want is the money for drugs or alcohol.
- Unfortunately we don't seem to see any benefits from these rises. Our streets are a disgrace with uneven pavements rubbish everywhere. Very little seems to be done in our town
- Take into account the amount of new housing developments currently. Times council tax. I feel = greed.
- [redacted] we saw a huge increase in council tax following the introduction of the unitary authority
- We have seen a reduction in local services, an absolute joke of a road network in the county and you plan to spend money on nonsense schemes to be frank. You should be offering us a refund not increasing the rate we pay. As for proposed spending on improving our digital network, WHAT? they are privately run. Electric Vehicle charging points? get with the programme, EV's are dead in the water before they even started.

- [redacted]  
 This is my representation on the Budget Consultation Response to be in by the 26th January and would expect it to be considered at the executive meeting on the 8th February.  
 My representation/objection to the funding of £1.3 Million to construct a temporary stopping site for travelers at Junction 3 of the A14 Rothwell that Cllr Howes says in his words that the site is likely to stand empty/unused for long periods of time. So no income to pay back the borrowed money. However you dress this up this money is being borrowed at 5.4% that is over 70k per year in interest alone of rate payers money.  
 They did say at the meeting on the 18th Jan that the money could be found inhouse but this is still borrowed money at 5.4% over the 10 years is £700,000.00p  
 It is an ill thought out project by Cllr Howes at £1.3 million to construct the site and would cost the ratepayers around £270,000 per year to pay back interest, loan and the running costs of the site and there will be other expenses and this would be £2.7 million over 10 years and there will still be on going costs year on year after the 10 years.  
 The following was not considered properly at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 18th January. If we do need a temporary stopping off-site for travelers then a cheaper solution would be to take one of old large layby on the A43 between Kettering and Northampton and convert it into a temporary stopping off point they are large enough to accommodate 10 pitches or more. the hard standings are already there all you would need to do is put gates at each end and a fence around to the road side so the children cannot get to the road and supply a portable toilet shower unit, water supply and electricity supply and this would cost around £50,000 against the £1.3 million and the running cost around 50% less than what is proposed at Rothwell site. Then surely this would be the best solution financially to the council taxpayers and needs to be considered.  
 [redacted] the costs 50k is a realistic costing for carrying out this work. A saving £1.25 million on the construction cost. When they discussed this at the meeting on the 18th Jan the only thing they could come up with to not to go ahead with this was that the Laybuys on the A43 are near the road and the children could run on the road, which when fenced would be safe, These laybys are large areas and well of the road. Yet Cllr Howes wants to put the site right next to junction 3 of the A14, A6 and the Lorry park which is far more dangerous than the A43. And £1.25 million pounds cheaper. This is only a stopping of site that is unlikely to be used.  
 There is no excuse for not saving £2.5 million pounds over the 10 years if you use the cheaper alternative.  
 If this was to go ahead at a 10 year cost in excess off £2.7 million it would be an unacceptable and appalling liability to the Local Council tax payers that will be ongoing year on year. The money should be spent on more important amenities. There is no government requirement for a stopping off site for travelers so we should not be considering spending £2.7 million on one.  
 This is not Best Value for money and should not be approved.  
 [redacted]
- Inflation is softening and this proposed increase is arbitrary without a proper plan to utilise it.
- The services in Rothwell have been cut and cut again , from regular bin emptying. Pathway and road maintenance, cuts to RTCs funding , maintenance and planting, mowing ,public parks , planting of roundabouts, hedge and tree maintenance, the list hoes on ,  
 And now want to build a temporary', stop travellers site at the cost of approximately 1.3 million pounds , and the promise that it probably will never be used, on a greenfield site , when no evidence that other sites , a lot more suitable and cheaper , have ever been seriously considered, seems to be a blatant waste of taxpayers hard earned money

- You are proposing to spend £1,300,000 on a traveler's site on Rothwell's beautiful green space. How on earth can you have the cheek to increase everyone's council tax when you're wasting it on things that will: increase crime in the local area, greywash green areas & put local businesses and residents at risk of crime. In a time when the government is telling us to protect the planet you are actively trying to destroy the the green areas that residents of Rothwell use. How many councillors live in close proximity of this site? If you did I guarantee this would not be happening. I have no problem paying more council taxes if the money was being used for public services, however this is an abomination and a complete backwards step.
- Cannot afford it money being wasted by NCC
- Don't think we should pay for the council going bankrupt and help get out of debt we pay enough tax and nothing get done around here other than thing we don't want !!
- Poor service generally from potholes to waste services.
- Because I never see any improvement in services for the increases.
- everyone is struggling and enough is enough , perhaps the chief officer would take a pay cut as it seems like you could not organise a p&s up in a brewery , expanding area of council , re branding vehicles, waste of money, never seen so many council vans driving around doing nothing, revamp of kettering town centre another waste of money , garden waste charges !!!!!, who ever is leading ( fleecing )the council needs removing
- Current rate of council tax does not offer value for money for single person households. Consideration should be given to reducing the rate for single person households and charged on a per person rate to ensure the rate payable is fair and proportionate.
- Unable to afford an increase. Completely object to £1.3m being proposed on a temporary travellers site on my doorstep. The £1.3m could be spent on better things or even not spent at all so we don't have an increase in our council tax
- Temporary travellers site in Rothwell is not value for money and means the destruction of a green field site. Travellers don't want it either and costs over £1 million.
- You claim that inflation has been at "exceptionally high levels" - it hasn't (I remember it being at 25%) and certainly isn't as of now (below 4%) so justifying this increase for next year only based on this is basically wrong. Also, most of the inflation cited in your department budgets are contractual i.e. You have signed up to paying these rates. 2/10 Must do better.
- Household income stretched across the full range - not easy to see how to afford to keep on top of these bill increases
- Most of these adult care groups have already gone owing to lack of funding
- I go outside, I see unkept street. What services you are charging me for? The road I never drive on? The bins I have to pay out of my own pocket if I have anything extra to take away? The people to clean up streets from fallen leaves or trash (oh, right, you don't have those, at least not in my area, do I get a discount then?). This will go into your pockets, be honest for once in your life. If things are more expensive, why is this MY problem? Speak to the government about it, get THEM to give you more money, cause they tax ME already A HELL OF LOT!!!!!! Why don't you take that 4.99% out of my government taxes, hmm??
- I strongly disagree that the council tax should rise, NNC has leveled up in the area and added the police & fire commission and adult care
- As a [redacted], whilst they keep increasing Council Tax they are not taking into account the rate of paye being paid to staff. along with Gas, electricity, water and rent where does one find all this capital. [redacted]. these figures are not a reflection of all house holds. [redacted]
- I have seen little evidence of any funding supporting the rural areas and the proposed budget does little to change my point of view.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's goes up every year by a massive amount while all the services get less and less</li> <li>• I strongly disagree because your [redacted], you have cut back services so much now I'm surprised you have anything left to maintain, as of recently look at the local flooding issues due to blocked drains that are no longer maintained</li> <li>• Less money in the pot meana less money for you to squander on things not needed or wanted by residents.</li> <li>• Year up year you are raising the council tax by the maximum you are allowed. The roads are still in massive disrepair. Most of the county as just flooded because funding isn't being spent in the right places. Instead of buying new council vehicles every year and rebranding nonsense to North and west, spend the money wisely without hitting the pockets of residents!</li> <li>• We are paying a ridiculous amount already and get less and less for what we pay</li> <li>• Wast more money</li> <li>• Having to pay this extortion council tax every month is crippling for normal working families, our roads are disgraceful full of potholes and then our cars have to be fixed at our own cost, all councillors are just out for themselves and do nothing to help decent working people</li> <li>• People Are Struggling To Eat &amp; Keep Warm .So Many People On Streets &amp; Homeless Can't Aford Any More Rises .</li> <li>• I wonder if the council had to cover all its costs before paying its councillors whether the council would be able to provide a better service within the allocated budget, I imagine so because the councillors would make it work so they got paid! Join councils together was supposed to stop the over spend and make things better but the service has been nothing but rubbish, never should have wasted the money on the art gallery/corner stone project, probably an inside job, where it's a councillors friend getting all that money. Now you want to allocate money to a traveller site, why they don't pay council tax, why should our council tax increase to fund their lifestyle, the disrespect the villages and area they live in, dump their rubbish, race their cars through the villages, park where they like, they are rude and disrespect to others, why should council tax payers fund that, especially when it's a nice green area with British wildlife?</li> <li>• I disagree with my council tax being increased to house travelling families that cause nuisance to our local pubs, steal from our shops litter our town and not uphold the law</li> </ul>
<b>Don't know</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't know much about Council Tax but I feel like screaming and running away when I hear talk about more Council intrusion on people's lives.</li> </ul>

**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 reduced or avoided?**

There were 137 responses to this question.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above, you are asking the working people to pay more, when their wages have not increased, yet the people on benfits have had additional funding but their payments stay the same.</li> <li>• Public will not like it as they do not see the physical impact it will have such as on roads as that is a big complaint currently due to potholes.</li> <li>• take a walk down [redacted] open your eyes and tell me that its having a positive impact on the community, ask the residents.</li> <li>• Unfortunately the increase will put additional strain on many struggling households. I do not believe there is scope to make cuts to budgets without adversely affecting services</li> </ul>
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- The proposal, whilst it may help to improve services if funds were used effectively, will impact residents who are already struggling in the current economic climate. Also, employees are again being given a pay increase which in effect only helps to cover some of the increase in council tax.
- Cost of living
- The long delay in sorting out the pay structure has resulted in a great many "consultants/contractors" working within the Council. These consultants are being paid a great deal more than persons in permanent equivalent post. This has caused some understandable unrest. The delay has no doubt caused a great increase in the wage bill, which is large proportion of any budget. It is felt that the wage re-structure should have been a priority.
- The general public can just about manage with the amount of tax already taken from their earnings. This increase no matter how 'small' will have a negative impact on individuals and families.
- We can't afford it. It's written in terms of only being 'x' amount extra a week but it adds up.
- Already stretched financially.
- I think that the council needs to be seen as a voice of the local community and should therefore focus on employing and training local youth, look carefully about who holds top positions in the council regarding their socio-economic and local backgrounds and review how much top earners receive.
- Budgets are extremely stretched especially for the disabled, elderly and vulnerable, you as a local authority already struggle to cater to the needs of this group this is a further kicking while they're down
- As above the negative impacts are that you are causing people to choose between food and going to court
- Last year your increased it by 4.99%. You removed services and then charged us more. We can see deterioration every where. We used to be able to come into the council and speak to people. This has been stopped. You have now invested our money in pushing everyone on the phone or internet. Yet charge more. Since staff from Northampton took over everything has got worse without exception.
- If people had a choice of food on the table, heating their homes, or emptying a bin I think we all know what they would prioritise.
- Increase a smaller percentage
- If people are going to default on a bill then I feel that Council Tax is likely to be the one that people would not pay. Surely if people cannot afford to pay their council tax then you are not going to generate the revenue from it that you expect. I think a better way of raising the revenue is to stop paying consultants who live outside of the local area to come in commanding ridiculously large payments to reform services and stop awarding the highest paid members of the local authority pay rises. Listen to the views of current LA employees on how services can be streamlined and improved. Pay the skilled staff who work in the low paid services such as early years, education and care roles a wage that makes them feel valued and reduce the need to pay high agency fees to fill gaps in schools and EY settings. This will encourage staff retention and wellbeing and make less of a dent in your budget.
- The negative impact is that an increase will see a lot of people who just can not afford to pay, they will be bad debtors and the rest will have to cover the cost. The Council needs to reduce its employees, it is over manned in many ways.
- NNC should seek to balance their budget without relying on already-stretched households to bear the cost burden. NNC's Band D council tax is already above the national average.
- You present this as a small increase, and yet essentials such a police and fire are a separate and addition precept. What do we get out of income tax? As you will not give the people a vote in a referendum perhaps the failure of Councils to make ends meet might send the right message.

- People are already struggling, maybe streamline the services rather than keep increasing everything and wasting money
- you are also rising fees and charges so you are just adding and adding a burden to households some of whom will fail to pay and increase the pressure on your services
- This will impact low income families, and as a consequence we may struggle to collect it.
- There should be NO Council Tax, or indeed general taxation in the United Kingdom. The Welfare State should be abandoned and those with needs should be left to fend for themselves. We do not need Councils or Governments to control society. Those with the financial resources to cope will be just fine, and the weaker in society - including those with limited financial means - should be left to fend for themselves. Those who do a good job at it will amass enough financial resources to pull themselves out of poverty under their own initiative, without the need for Council support.
- We are struggling to meet our essential needs anyway. Many of us cannot. It is your responsibility to find answers which keep us safe
- Reduce the salaries of those working in government
- Already have additional on all other bills. It's another strain on my finance when there is no results seen locally from the money.
- Household budgets are already high enough.
- More money for no service improvement. How could this be a positive.
- Finances should be focused on the right resources to maintain and clean up the roads
- Yes you are bankrupting the council for future generations and all of the senior officers and members should be ashamed if they allow anything other than statutory spend!
- The negative impact would be on household incomes, making the council tax bill less affordable. I suggest appealing to central government for a review of how councils are funded.
- Impact on my financial situation, with every thing going up, gas, electric, water, rent when does it stop? Just because you can raise the council price by 4.99% doesn't mean you have to!
- Many people are struggling financially. History tells us that the extra revenue will be swallowed up and not benefit residents
- We are in a cost of living crisis, a proper fit for purpose Council tax reduction scheme needs to run alongside council tax uplifts
- You already charge too much for a poor level of service and should look to make economies
- Yes it would most definitely have a negative financial impact.
- It will have a negative impact on people already struggling to pay bills, maintenance fees, mortgages with high rates, high energy costs..... Just another kick in the teeth from what appears, on the outside, to be a council who cares little about their residents.
- Of course it will have negative impact on people's already stretched finances.
- Apart from not having enough money already?
- Means testing would be the only way to make it fair!!!
- Punishes tax payers for a failure of governance Avoid the increase by reducing inefficiencies in the council organisation
- Don't increase it for the lower bands. Increase council tax on multimillion pound developments instead and stop wasting taxpayers money.
- There will not be any visible change to residents, any increase will put a strain on households already struggling and those will be eaten by inflation anyway.
- Reduce digital infrastructure to 0 keep disabled services the same stop using tax payers money on consultation. Reduce number of council administrative



employees. Reduce the costs of senior salaries no salaries to exceed 60k per annum. reduce the use of private companies and start increasing in-house skills to prevent this requirement.

- Increase the budget from other areas of expenditure such as MP wages/claims for expenses
- as above, essentials are going up, food increases etc people on fixed low income are already struggling, ie pension and minimum wage people
- People are already struggling to pay the Council tax and other bills. This increase would really stretch their budgets and livelihoods to the brink. Pensioners struggle, families are struggling (unless they're in the high earners group).
- Only help's councilers to have more expense claims and jollys
- People being hit from all sides by increases, without individual income rising. You keep bleeding us dry, year on year, so instead, cap salaries & councillor payments, reducing staff working hours etc !
- There are only so many bill rises that one household can take without major impact on household finances. If every household bill increases by 2.99% e.g. gas, electric, food, water, vehicle insurance and tax, then the over all total is massive especially if we have no increase in income.
- Many people are already struggling, we have seen energy, food, fuel, cars, childcare, everything soar in price and you want to tax us more! That is a negative for everyone that works to pay their council tax!
- The council tax rise will have a negative impact on of people if wages don't rise to cover them, along with all their other outgoings that continue to rise?
- The risk occurs if this lower than inflation increase is passed on to your customers as reduced service.
- There is a clear and obvious negative impact of increase the tax burden at this time during cost of living crisis. The negative impact could be avoided by delaying the increase by 12 months- by putting on hold unnecessary / non-urgent capital expenditure / new projects and seeking increased efficiencies within the NNCB and their contracted services.
- More financial hardship, more mental health issues.
- The increase will leave people in even more debt
- Taking more money off me for poor services is insulting. Worst council I have ever lived in with the worst services. I am a pensioner and don't have extra money lying around to feed your greed and incompetence
- Too many people struggling financially and this will make their situation worse
- as im on benefits and the extra per month would be taken out from my food allowance
- The negative impact of the proposed tax increase could be felt most acutely by those already under financial pressure. The council should strive to minimise this by pursuing efficiency in current spending, investing in infrastructure that encourages commerce, and exploring alternative funding models like business partnerships. Transparency in spending and clear communication of the tangible benefits of tax increases could also help alleviate concerns. These steps can help ensure that essential services are maintained without unduly burdening taxpayers.
- An increase will massively affect everyone's finances, no matter how small. All these small increases add up. There isn't a single year where the council hasn't increased the taxation by the maximum allowed. Upon the "formation", a loop hole was used to increase by MORE than the maximum allowed.
- We see no improvements to the extra money required. This will have a negative impact on local peoples budgets that are already tight.
- You want to spend £2.9 million pounds on electric charging points, yet how many people can realistically afford to buy an electric car.
  - [redacted] even the notability cars that are electric are way out of my price range. How can we switch to electric when the prices are so high for an electric car?

- If someone buys an electric car then surely they should pay for the electric hook up point? Or pay a percentage if the charging point is on public land like a street over a driveway?
- What happened to spending more on SEND children and services.
- [redacted]
- North Northants Council's SEND team are not fit for purpose and should be in special measures because of the ridiculous staff turnover and zero communication with school staff, parents and other professionals.
- I find the lack of SEND schools to be shocking, the lack of places in a school to be too few and then there are 10+ children fighting for one school space.
- I have zero confidence in NNC [redacted]
- Why spend so much on electric car charging ..another pig in a poke scheme like that waste of time cycle lane on st .Mary's road
- Struggling to afford any increases. Wages havent gone up. Everything else is. We may need to move out if area
- Resident's cannot afford any more expense. Especially when current council tax is not spent wisely
- It would have a negative impact on families who are already struggling. Negative impacts could be reduced by councillors taking smaller allowances - in the past councillors would submit their expenses and would be reimbursed for this so no one was out of pocket . These large allowances attract the wrong people to public service and are crippling the council.
- Yet more money taken from the people and as in the past years little to nothing put into health and care. [redacted. Roads forgotten. Parking dismissed where there could be fantastic financial returns completely lost since it was de-criminalised and handed over to the local councils who do nothing at all. It appears since the East Europeans came to our land in droves they have brought their laws with them, such as that of 2 wheels must be placed on the pavement to park. I worked abroad for years training logistics, hence my knowledge.
- In a cost of living crisis you are taking more money from those that can least afford it without any effort to reign in your own spending.
- You will be putting more people into debt.
- The current cost of living and fuel charges are making most households struggle, even those with more than one regular full time working wage. I feel that increases to costs should be kept at a minimum/frozen until the fuel costs reduce at least. People won't be able to afford their basic bills and will get into further debt, which in turn will cost the council more money taking people to court for non payment?
- Of course it will have an impact, those not on any benefits will see a hit to their pocket and those on benefits will be funded from money that comes from central government and hits the taxpayer so a double whammy.
- I understand the issue with lack of funding and increase in spend, however residents also feel the pressure with the cost of living and have less money, so increasing council tax during these times will not be a popular decision unless people see things actually happen.
- Look at the salaries of your Exec and top Managers. Make all staff accountable and "earn" their salaries. If they don't perform then no pay rises. That is what happens in the Private Sector , bring yourselves in line with well run Companies.
- N/A
- Another cost on already stretched household budgets?. More efficiency, less admin
- Increased debt
  - Increased homelessness
  - More children on free school meals
  - Increased need for council housing
  - Lower education rates due to poorer quality of education in lower income families/areas

- The only way to mitigate these issues is to decrease the cost of living, and provide bursaries and increased funding to those who are struggling - as most funding opportunities are online available to those on universal credit, not full-time working families who still struggle
- People will be poorer. The working poor will be putting less into the economy, their health will get worse, there will be more reliance on benefits.
- Families are already struggling. You mention that not increasing it would 'seriously impact your finances'. As it would many residents. It's well documented that money has been wasted by our council. Use what you have wisely, without penalising residents.
- Remove the £2.9 million destined for Electric Vehicle infrastructure. Councils didn't build petrol stations, petroleum companies did. So why not electricity suppliers spending £2.9 million.
- Do you not think its hard enough for working people just over the threshold to get any help...metal health affects us all .stop taking from average worker ...take higham infant school ..every year having major work done ...the playground looks like its Disney land! ....give people who have no child at school a reduction
- See above
- Stop taking more money from people who cannot afford to keep giving & getting nothing in return when we are in a cost of living crisis
- People will struggle to pay along with food and energy increases
- You are the 'experts' just do your jobs that your paid for, no more no less
- Your the 'experts' just do the jobs you're paid for
- The only negative impact is that I would like an income that could support me in my profession. My income in real terms has been falling for over 2 decades now!
- The council demonstrated that it cannot provide basis services that residents are paying for - residents are no longer confident that the council act in the interests of the people
- Internal balancing of the council staffing and salary scales as a start point,you are an organisation expected to provide social value not adopt a corporate risk averse approach to business.
- I think this could impact those in the lower income brackets so the rate of increase could be lower than the 2.99% for A, B bands and more than 2.99% for the highest band.
- [redacted] and I really not understand why my flat is classed as a band b just because of location I live in Nn157hs. This high increase will really have a impact of people lifes where in my opinion only band c-d should be increased.
- Tax the rich
- Cut cloth to suit whats already being stolen from hard working locals,cut your expenses etc
- [redacted]. You get enough money from us. So does the government.
- You will plunge more families into poverty. There are already people that cannot afford to heat their homes or feed their families properly.
- Any potential hardship should be signalled by people who consider that the would incur hardship.
- People are already struggling enough, give us a break or at least show us where the money is going because it certainly isn't into local areas and services!
- All extra money for homeless would be better of given to help people who want to get into work. Maybe those who really do have a medical problem that need help get the help they need not those you give money too just because it is easier for them to take drugs or alcohol then get a job and a home and the responsibilities that go with that . Most will hang around town centers if you are going to reward them for it. A hard days work never hurt anyone.
- Those on low wages, those with families will feel the cost.  
Disabled people will feel it a lot.

There needs to be more information about what can be provided for free and what services are available to help. Too much has been contracted out so there is sometimes duplication.

There is too much reliance on the internet to give information.

- People are struggling already with bills this will make their lives harder.
- Albeit a small increase, this will impact significantly on the who are already struggling and contributing to the footfall at foodbank providers.

As well as the single person discount, it may be worth considering a discount which can be means tested

- [redacted]

This is my representation on the Budget Consultation Response to be in by the 26th January and would expect it to be considered at the executive meeting on the 8th February.

My representation/objection to the funding of £1.3 Million to construct a temporary stopping site for travelers at Junction 3 of the A14 Rothwell that Cllr Howes says in his words that the site is likely to stand empty/unused for long periods of time. So no income to pay back the borrowed money. However you dress this up this money is being borrowed at 5.4% that is over 70k per year in interest alone of rate payers money.

They did say at the meeting on the 18th Jan that the money could be found inhouse but this is still borrowed money at 5.4% over the 10 years is £700,000.00p

It is an ill thought out project by Cllr Howes at £1.3 million to construct the site and would cost the ratepayers around £270,000 per year to pay back interest, loan and the running costs of the site and there will be other expenses and this would be £2.7 million over 10 years and there will still be on going costs year on year after the 10 years.

The following was not considered properly at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 18th January. If we do need a temporary stopping off-site for travelers then a cheaper solution would be to take one of old large layby on the A43 between Kettering and Northampton and convert it into a temporary stopping off point they are large enough to accommodate 10 pitches or more. the hard standings are already there all you would need to do is put gates at each end and a fence around to the road side so the children cannot get to the road and supply a portable toilet shower unit, water supply and electricity supply and this would cost around £50,000 against the £1.3 million and the running cost around 50% less than what is proposed at Rothwell site. Then surely this would be the best solution financially to the council taxpayers and needs to be considered.

[redacted] the costs 50k is a realistic costing for carrying out this work. A saving £1.25 million on the construction cost. When they discussed this at the meeting on the 18th Jan the only thing they could come up with to not to go ahead with this was that the Laybys on the A43 are near the road and the children could run on the road, which when fenced would be safe, These laybys are large areas and well of the road. Yet Cllr Howes wants to put the site right next to junction 3 of the A14, A6 and the Lorry park which is far more dangerous than the A43. And £1.25 million pounds cheaper. This is only a stopping of site that is unlikely to be used.

There is no excuse for not saving £2.5 million pounds over the 10 years if you use the cheaper alternative.

If this was to go ahead at a 10 year cost in excess of £2.7 million it would be an unacceptable and appalling liability to the Local Council tax payers that will be ongoing year on year. The money should be spent on more important amenities.

There is no government requirement for a stopping off site for travelers so we should not be considering spending £2.7 million on one.

This is not Best Value for money and should not be approved.

[redacted]

- A reduction in the percentage, as this could put a struggle on peoples finances, as i previously mentioned a reduction in services from the council over the past few years does not justify an increase such as this one.

- Inflation is softening and local residents are still dealing with the cost of living crisis. This increase will not help that.
- See above. Councils need to keep actively lobbying Government for better funding and support and a 3 year settlement plan, which we have been talking about for years, but still nothing happens.
- I am sure that it will be hard for many householders.
- The raising of council tax payments is not the issue at hand. The issue is that this incompetent council have decided to flush nearly £1.5 million down the toilet while also potentially putting local businesses and residents at risk of crime. This is an absolute disgrace.
- Would like to see councillors expenses reduced
- Money is tight at the minute we don't need bills going up any more.
- It might cause additional hardship to people already struggling with day to day living costs
- This would have a negative impact for households that are already financially stretched along with not receiving good value for money on council services. Each and every service and cost incurred by the council should be scrutinised and savings made through this route, rather than simple increasing taxes.
- Everything has increased in price yet my wages haven't.
- Waste of tax payers money. Not value got money
- I think if the increase will be used in social care and supporting the staff with pay rises this would be a good investment
- Look at the number of people claiming they cannot afford the council tax and investigate their cases. Don't penalise pensioners who have worked all their lives with no benefits
- [redacted] obviously it will have a negative impact on me and others purely because of our age (see your equality assessment nonsense).
- Unfortunately, how the money is spent is the question that people are more concerned about.
- People have to pay council tax it's mandatory not a choice, so just another increased bill struggling people don't have control over. More pressure will go on council services as people continue to struggle and fall into needed g the services but you're asking for a large increase.
- You give money with one hand and then take it back with the other. It just goes round in circles no one is ever any better off financially. As I said before, it feels like you are just always funding the bare minimum requirement but never actually improving and bettering the services. And you make this money for 'funding' the services but yet when we actually work in the services we just get more and more cuts.
- Get priorities right
- for many people that extra £50 is a lot of money especially if you are on a low income
- I look at my bills and I want to just leave or kill myself. I'm depressed as depressed can get. There are a lot of people like this, who have taken their lives. There are a lot of people who have FROZEN TO DEATH because its either your greedy pockets or their heating.
- Of course it has a negative effect, the sum rise is over and above inflation. Hiding behind the 4.99% cap and adding extra costs separately is misleading and dishonest.
- Loan parent families are the ones most at risk with poverty and lack of support this is huge area that always gets missed or never offered any additional support
- The impact is you will further contribute to personal financial struggles all prices are going up and I cannot see that this increase will actually improve anything, if you had some competent staff to investigate how much money your wasting you can use that money

- You could actually listen to what the public wants and they would then offer support.
- Perhaps people on benefits could be exempt from the increase in some way
- Whilst I understand the need to increase taxes to cover costs, this increase would present a financial struggle to many, including myself at a time when the cost of everything else has also increased but wages have not. Whilst I understand that local authorities have to manage their own budgets at a local level, it doesn't feel like central govt is doing enough to fund vital services, instead wasting billions on projects like HS2, PPE contracts etc.
- Everyone is struggling due to the cost of living crisis
- No continue
- People Are suffering enough greedy councils poor service get your act together
- I understand there is inflation and increasing the Council tax will generate more revenue for the council. However, we should also bear in mind they many households are still on the same income pre/post-pandemic. Therefore, increasing the council tax now will have a negative impact on their household's upkeep which will ultimately affect residents' well-being.
- See above
- Can't Aford Any More Rises Too Many On Streets & Struggling For Food & heat ..
- Everyone costs have risen, mortgage rates, gas and electricity, fuel costs, food costs, and now you want to increase council tax, but the increase won't improve the rubbish service we experience. The council needs to learn to live within its budget and provide the service we are paying for before considering increasing our cost. And stop favouring certain towns. [redacted] We have also had the green waste charge recently added to our council tax another increase!
- Don't spend on land for travelling families that don't pay their way they move from place to place to avoid rates, damage and steal and its towns people that foot the bill

**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 help fund Adult Social Care?** Please tick (✓) relevant answer

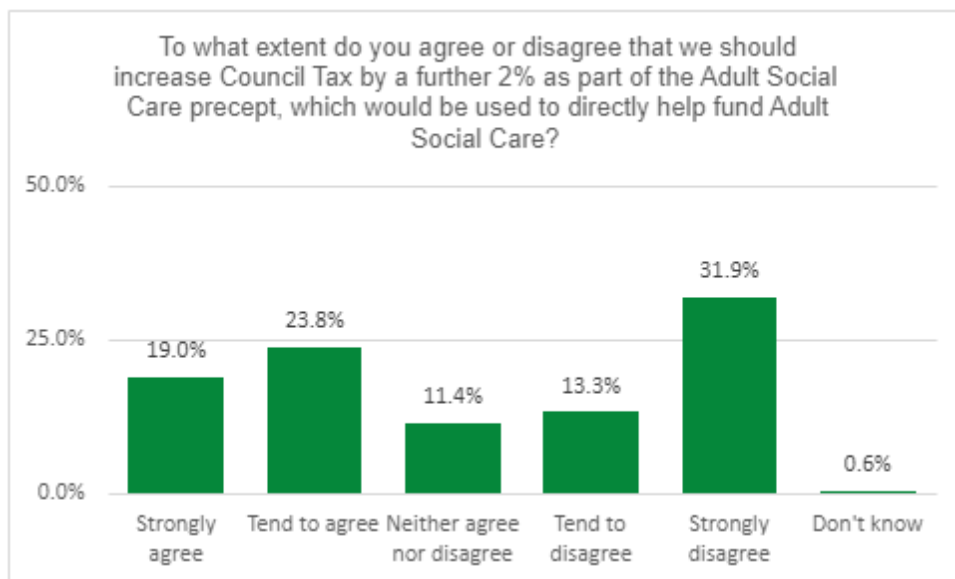
**What would a 2% increase mean Council Tax Bands?**

As an example, a 2% adult social care precept increase would result in an increase of £33.15 per year (£0.64p per week) for 2024/25 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	£22.10	£0.43
B	£25.78	£0.50
C	£29.47	£0.57
D	£33.15	£0.64
E	£40.52	£0.78
F	£47.88	£0.92
G	£55.25	£1.07
H	£66.30	£1.28

There were 332 responses to this question.



	Response number	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	63	19.0%
Tend to agree	79	23.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	38	11.4%
Tend to disagree	44	13.3%
Strongly disagree	106	31.9%
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 151 responses to this question.

Strongly agree/ Tend to agree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is getting more important due to the aging population.</li> <li>• The only alternative to increasing Council Tax is cutting services - which are already at breaking point. I do not believe there is scope to make cuts to budgets without adversely affecting services.</li> <li>• Too many begging and rough sleepers around Wellingborough. Rude and aggressive to everyone else.</li> <li>• So many cuts have been made in this area by government and it is much needed.</li> <li>• There are two proven cost effective ways of resolving the housing crisis: Building council housing as proven in the UK in the post WW1 and WW2 years; giving the homeless homes with rent increasing according to ability pay as being proven in Finland and even, in the past, in the USA (being the a right wing government they kept quiet about the positive results!</li> <li>• I think individuals and families would see this as worth the increase and would probably feel the benefit.</li> <li>• Numbers are increasing.</li> <li>• Again, I don't know what else we can do. The demand for Adult Social Care continues to increase and it has to be funded somehow.</li> <li>• Understand the need to increase due to inflationary impacts</li> </ul>

- We need drastic improvements in Social Care and we are still counting the cost of failed NCC experiments. Agree with more funding but please deliver positive change
- I understand Adult Social Care is 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement'. If a 2% increase in the ASC precept helps to improve the service, I agree with the proposal.
- Social care is extremely poor and needs to be improved.
- Libraries must be protected
- Anything that helps to improve the ability to provide social care is a positive, and as it is not readily coming from the government, it means local councils have to find the additional funds elsewhere, and adding it to the council tax seems a logical thing to do.
- Social care needs a reboot.
- Adult Social Care is the largest area of spend and will get worse with an ageing population and complex care needs. However more funding alone will not fix the problem, the services should still be reviewed to ensure that value for money is obtained in all areas of ASC alongside lobbying for Central Government to properly fund the service and enhance links with the NHS
- Services need to be paid for
- It's less than the current rate of inflation.
- It will give you more to spend on social care especially for yourself
- Social care needs funding wisely and is needed far more than improvements in digital infrastructure and electric charging points.
- As above
- This should be central government funded like the NHS.
- Adult social care is always underfunded, the increase will go some way to offset this.
- Because the service is necessary
- Our population is constantly growing as we live longer. Help the aged will be even more vital.
- We're all getting old and need care
- Certain adults do need this provision. Without which we would not be a caring society.
- Care is being rationed and that is by using tick box answers instead of trying to properly understand vulnerable people true needs.
- Adult social care is the responsibility of NNC not the NHS. Adult social care is a public service, the reason NNC exists so should be providing for properly.
- Adult social care is woefully underfunded so any increase is of help but probably not enough!
- There is greater need for adults to be cared for particularly oap's
- Adult Social Care expenditure is becoming increasingly necessary. More people are living longer than most used to live - and prices increase.
- Adult social care should be a priority due to ageing population, people are living longer and need looking after
- adult social care is an essential service.
- Help the community
- With an increasingly ageing population enough care is not available
- As I have previously stated, we need better Government support, and a better settlement plan which could then enable us to not put the onus on our local residents to pay for additional Children's and Adult Social care.
- See above.
- Specific ringfencing for vulnerable people is good IF the money spent wisely
- £5 or £7 a month is hardly bank breaking.
- these are also needed costs increase



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult social care is important but how the money is spent is crucial. The council should look to work more in partnership with charities and organisations with specialist skills with the aim of preventing rather than having to cure many issues.</li> <li>• Adult social care is a requirement that continues to increase, but the whole system needs revising and more care provision on a not for profit basis available.</li> <li>• same as the answer above but help in improving the care agencies and care homes as well so they have better trained staff to provide this care</li> <li>• protecting our vulnerable residents is important, Services need to be invested in and the needs of the residents considered and taken seriously.</li> <li>• We need to look after them better</li> <li>• As previous answer</li> <li>• I tend to agree that more needs to be spent therefore more collected but not confident in the council's use of the funds.</li> <li>• Adult social care is near non existing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Neither agree nor disagree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As before, whilst I appreciate that Adult Social Care needs a financial injection, so does Children's Social Care.</li> <li>• It's tricky because carers important but also people can't really afford stuff right now and this is another budget drain</li> <li>• As this doesn't impact me at this moment in time I can't really comment. I would prefer this over the council tax though.</li> <li>• Regardless what the consultation outcome the council will do whatever it want</li> <li>• I am not convinced of the need to increase this budget.</li> <li>• Not actually clear on what this money will be spent on.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strongly disagree/ Tend to disagree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [redacted] where i see how much is spent on adult services each week, its a joke, we pay over £5000 a week to put one child in supported living,</li> <li>• You don't need to increase council tax to do this, focus less on trying to build a brand and wasting money on propaganda consult with the public ask them if that's what they want THIER money spent on or maybe reduce CLT salaries, obviously that would never happen.</li> <li>• Cost of living</li> <li>• This has been an historical problem for some time inherited from the County Council. I am not aware that any significant changes have been made to change matters. Just throwing money at it doesn't work. As per the NHS. I was led to believe a separate trust was set up following this problem in the previous County Council. Do they not have the ability to raise funding other than Council Tax ?</li> <li>• Fund it from your reserves</li> <li>• You are already charging too much and wasting it. CLEAN THE STREETS. FIX THE ROADS. STAFF THE OFFICE.</li> <li>• See previous answer above.</li> <li>• It seems that NCC was abolished because of cost involved with social care. That cost has been passed onto two Unitary Authorities for more efficiency, but where is it more efficient if we just keep increasing the council tax. More efficiencies within the UA please.</li> <li>• i dont use the services, but ultimately a little here a little there adds up to becoming unaffordable for households who will not pay then cause further pressures because they will need your services but not pay into it.</li> <li>• There should be NO Council Tax. The Council should not exist, and statutory services such as rubbish collection, Adult Social Care and schooling should all be disbanded. Those with the financial means to pay for these services will be okay, and those without will learn to fend for themselves without support of the Welfare State.</li> </ul>

- As above
- As previously stated you donot deserve a 2% increase
- Re evaluate where current money is placed. Look at salaries of those employed by NNC I'm sure additional funds can be found
- I'm not really sure the money is spent wisely in this area, I also think to much is being pushed to this area, I've had to struggle with mental health issues because I work I couldn't get any help unless I gave up work but I had a mortgage so that wasn't an option, I feel we are to soft in this area.
- [redacted] We will never see this service provision.
- Stop funding anything that is not statutory! most of the people who need funding are there because of their own (or their parents) choices and I don't want to be paying for this. People need to understand that if they cant afford to look after themselves then they will be cold and hungry!
- Again financially struggling for the last 6 months
- A full review of the top 20% users needs doing in light of what has been exposed in other council areas across the country.
- You already charge too much for a poor level of service and should look to make economies
- You do not consider the financial and mental stress this increase will cause for thousands of people.
- As above
- [redacted], there are no services that will provide support for me!
- Disagree as I believe we pay billions for the NHS and offloading this care to local government is incorrect in incompetence from central government and only leads to battles between hospitals and local care
- There could be a revolution.
- Much of the social care budget is wasted.
- Same as above, there should be no increase as no justification was made. Could explain where and how money was spent during covid lockdowns where no services were used or working.
- You cannot keep increasing council tax and reducing services and quality of services.
- Social care should be funded by central government
- low income families are struggling, also isn't there something about how people needing social care decide themselves how their benefit such as PIP is used. The NHS provides some free services too.
- I disagree to ANY council tax increases at the moment.
- What adult social care is there [redacted]?
- Social Care has turned into a self-perpetuating revenue making industry.
- People in North Northamptonshire are often treated appallingly by the local council, and if they're blaming that on lack of funding, then I guess funding needs to be increased?
- I believe that putting further hardship on the local residents at this time is not correct. This is not just a revenue issue, and cost management appears to have been ignored in the proposal. What organisational efficiency savings have proposed by NNCB to reduced the burden imposed on the local tax payers?
- As answered above. Start looking at where you are grossly wasting public money instead.
- The council should find efficiencies to channel into social care not expect the residents to pay for it
- Probably the worst social services department in the country with incompetent staff. Try getting a service... absolutely useless and throwing more money at it isn't going to solve the problem. It will just fund wage increases.

- That money won't go directly to social care to look after care packages , it will be used to pay higher salaries and continue to pay sick pay for those people always off sick
- Central government should be providing extra money to offset these extra pressures. Who is scrutinising how much money the Children's Trust executives are earning ?
- While I acknowledge the critical importance of Adult Social Care, I have not had to utilize these services personally. This, combined with my concerns over the council's current spending efficiency and the need for a more sustainable approach to budgeting, leads me to strongly disagree with a further 2% increase specifically for Adult Social Care. A more balanced approach would be to scrutinise current expenditures, improve efficiency, and ensure all residents feel their contributions are being utilised effectively.
- [redacted] Throwing money at issues is rarely the best solution, and should never be the first thing done.
- While adult social care is important. This excuse is used each year to increase our council tax. The council should budget better and use the extra income from the thousands of houses being built in our county
- Sort the council out first. ..instead of getting money from residents
- Struggling to afford any increases. Wages havent gone up. Everything else is. We may need to move out if area
- There are more worthy causes
- We pay enough already and the mismanagement of this county, hence it was one of the first to be taken into receivership is dire. Promises of money for health care, where is it?
- You make no attempt to reduce costs to the taxpayer, simply demanding more every year.
- Why does it have to be a % on all properties why can it not be a set fee for all properties this would be a better & fairer system. Just because someone is in a high tax band does not mean they are going to be relying on the system more than anyone else or can afford the increase.
- As above
- Because you receive adequate money to fund services. If you spent less money on consultants, agency staff and actually managed services you procure we wouldn't be in this mess. If you were a business you would not have lasted very long. I have never seen such a bunch of imbeciles precious about their jobs in my life. You waste money every minute of every day. [redacted].
- Adult Social Care should be paid from Government from NI contributions.
- I don't think money is being well spent in this area, therefore I do not support this proposal. There is a lack of tangible evidence that support service effectiveness, despite the constant uplift in funding.
- See above
- The government funds projects such as fixing Big Ben, or repainting the Houses of Parliament, spending millions - these funds could be used on important issues such as Adult Social Care, as opposed to reducing the incomes of full-time workers, who are already suffering, as this ultimately leads to future generations suffering.
- I'm not convinced it would be spent on social care. Many can't afford to pay additional council tax - and still not see any significant benefits.
- Because I have paid in all my working life ....tax national insurance ....the retirement age has gone up ....feel punished as everywhere you turn its pay for everything and everyone
- The money will not go where it's needed. You clearly mismanage funds & budgets. Why not take the money intended for ev change points & give this to adult social care instead!

- People can't afford to pay more council tax. How many housing officer's do you have who do nothing every day of the week? There's too many and you can easily make some of them redundant. [redacted].
- You need to find saving not keep increasing the burden on the taxpayers
- People can't afford to pay more at this time. Remove some of your housing officer's who do very little every day. You can save hundreds of thousands by removing some staff .Rural housing officer - gone. A normal housing officer should now do the jobs of 2 housing officer's [redacted] Don't believe me? Well, you should.
- Again your the 'experts' just do the job that you're paid for, simple
- You're the experts just do the job you are paid for
- We already pay these taxes
- Should be enough in the pot for all if you lit stopped lining your own pockets,this sort of stuff is simply added to attain the sympathy of those you are continually fleecing
- You get enough money from us as it is. Tax should be decreasing not increasing. I didn't benefit from ANY government handouts that put us into debt so why should I pay to relieve any current financial pressure.
- Same reason as above
- The council is poorly run by people that are over payed and over powerful. Most have family members working for them, they go on twinning holidays and stuff for fun . Spend thousands of pounds on meals out. Stationary is a joke Don't get me on about migration. I think charity should begin at home. There are plenty of oaps here that are in need of helping first before helping people who are in this country 2 minutes and have access to everything a oap can only dream of.
- Maybe get rid of the unnecessary wages of the people that don't actually do any work. The wages that you save from paying them could go towards the adult social care. Also get rid of mayoral cars and balls they are so unnecessary.
- As previous comment.
- [redacted] we saw a huge increase in council tax following the introduction of the unitary authority
- [redacted], if you cant currently home them then I doubt 2% is going to fix it so dont bother.
- Adult Social Care takes up a massive amount of the councils budget, and this is a nationwide problem. NNC should be exploring other way to manage this problem and generate revenue for it, simply increasing the budget on it doesn't solve it, it just pushes the problem further away and reduces the amount of funds available for other projects.
- local residents are still dealing with the cost of living crisis. This increase will not help that.
- Would like to see the council stop wasting tax payers money such as Kettering library and Alfred east gallery both of which not usesble
- Yes money from the gypsy site you want to put in Rothwell for the adult care that's more important
- Don't feel that the money is used wisely
- Household budgets are already stretched and an additional increase would mean some people, especially pensioners who are on a low income but not entitled to pension credit would be stretched.
- bad management
- Again, unable to afford increase.
- See my comments above.
- Why does it have to be by the maximum? Can it not be increased a smaller amount as nearly 5% on your council tax bill overall is a lot to pay. There are many residents who don't use the adult social care services and younger working age people feel that local services will not be there for them when they are older so don't welcome continuing to pay into these.

- The reason I disagree is because every year it goes up for Adult Social Care but I fail to see improvement in the sector itself in line with what it does. I think if there was clear outlines for how this money would actually positively impact residents it would make you feel more committed to providing that extra funding.
- What is adult social care. Adult social care aims to help people stay independent, safe and well so they can live the lives they want to. This includes people who are frail, have disabilities or neurodiversity, mental health issues. [redacted].
- There are better ways to save money. Too much money is wasted internally and adult social care could make savings.
- How about you sort out NHS first? No dentists available in the entire area. Are teeth not part of your body? Is it bad to die from an infection in the body, but okay to die from an infection in the mouth? Because you absolutely can, by the way. When you go to sleep, think about all the people who pay you their hard earned money just to cry to sleep with tooth aches. I hope it keeps you awake.
- No precepts, run the council on council tax with fair rises at the rate of inflation only.
- As above
- It's just a false way of increasing the overall council tax
- Funding social care is vitally important but I feel this should be funded centrally like the NHS and not locally.
- The money we already pay should be used better, too much money is being wasted
- It's 4 .99 % don't try to white wash it
- My feelings are that a huge proportion of “;adult social care is claimed by a those who choose to take advantage of the system.
- Council tax is already too high
- Corby Town Is Cold Looks Dörtyol & Roundabouts Are A Mess .Too Many Homeless & People Strughling to Heat & Buy Food .& Now We Pay For Our Grass Bins Which Pay For 1 Year & Green Bin Only Out 6 Months Of The Year Council Tax Is Eneogh At The Moment We Are Higher Than Other Towns .
- Care homes run by private companies are making extensive profit of local authority payments for resident care for adults already. Government and council needs to work harder to curve these profits before increasing payments on the public.

**Not answered previous question but still made comment**

- Yes as long as the money was firmly ringfenced
- See comments as above - better stewardship and management of the funds that the council has would make a slicker, better run Unitary Council.

**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 reduced or avoided?**

There were 82 responses to this question.

- The amount "landlords" supported housing " can request from us shouls be capped, or better still open our own care facilities to look after these peopl instead of farming the work out.
- Unfortunately the increase will put additional strain on many struggling households
- Again, residents are struggling in the current climate and more families are being driven in to poverty.
- Cost of living crisis
- As above.
- Transparent newspaper press/ online social media to highlight this increase and where it is actually going- with real life focus on local residents.

- I feel better lobbying of Central government is a better route to take that way the Grant's are in play and you know not have to rely so much on the back of a struggling at Electorate, maybe also worth considering the contracts you have to see if any of the providers can do it cheaper than the current ones
- As above
- Making people who work poorer while those who don't prosper.
- Don't know enough about this to comment.
- See previous answer above.
- Putting up Council Taxes means local residents get to keep less of their hard earned money and are forced to pay for services that they may not require or even want. For example, not everyone wishes to have their waste collected once a fortnight, or needs Adult Social Care. Why should people with no need for these services be forced to pay for the poor financial planning of those who reached Old Age without a financial plan? It is the same for Public Health Funerals. Why do residents have to pay some of their hard earned money to finance the funeral of someone who did not have the foresight to financially plan for their own funeral? In these circumstances, rather than Public Health Funerals being funded from Council Tax, local residents should receive a 1% in their Council Tax Bill, and those who pass away without means to pay for their own funeral should be disposed of with the Non-Recycling Waste amongst the standard fortnightly refuse collections.
- As above
- Reduce the salaries of government
- Pay even more for nothing. Totally negative.
- Yes all of this spend is having a negative impact on mine and a lot of tax payers mental health, we are sick of looking after those who didn't work hard enough and save for their future. Asking me to pay more for this type of expenditure through more taxes is immoral, it should be up to me if I want to give to charity to fund this kind of expenditure not the government (local or otherwise!) to decide to take more of my extremely hard earned money to look after the lazy and stupid!
- Don't raise it to the maximum, have a look at the budget and councillors wages, the wasted money in local schemes that don't work
- Again this needs to be considered with a proper fit for purpose Council tax reduction scheme
- You already charge too much for a poor level of service and should look to make economies
- As above
- What's the point, you'll just take the money and there is nothing I can do about it!
- Disagree as I believe we pay billions for the NHS and offloading this care to local government is incorrect in incompetence from central government and only leads to battles between hospitals and local care
- As before only means testing would make it fair.
- To keep collecting more council tax encourages waste the tax payers cannot be expected to keep paying more and more each year. You should be working on more ways to raise revenue from your assets. Otherwise you will not have money to invest in more housing and other finance generating programs.
- A new government with a fairer budget and adequate provision for the entire social care sector, driving more people into poverty is not the answer, increase taxes for those who can afford it only
- Don't allow/encourage revenue to be spend on unjustifiable projects, treat the funding as if it was your own money/savings, if you can justify spending your own cash, don't spend ours!!
- As above
- The risk occurs if this lower than inflation increase is passed on to your customers as reduced service.

- There is a clear and obvious negative impact of increase the tax burden at this time during cost of living crisis. The negative impact could be avoided by delaying the increase by 12 months- by putting on hold unnecessary / non-urgent capital expenditure / new projects and seeking increased efficiencies within the NNCB and their contracted services.
- Financial hardship and mental health issues
- Inflation has far outstripped wage increases for most of us. Further unjustified council tax increases will add to the debt spiral
- Be more efficient. Train your staff in basic customer service.
- The proposed 2% increase for Adult Social Care could heighten the financial burden on those who don't use these services. To avoid this, the council could consider means-tested increases, ensuring those who can afford to pay more do so. Additionally, investing in preventative care could reduce long-term costs, lessening the need for higher taxes. Implementing cost-effective care solutions and improving the efficiency of current spend are essential steps to mitigate the impact of tax rises.
- It's yet more money that is paid out, for people that don't and will not ever use the services!
- Always seems as a excuse to raise taxes. This shortfall should be taken from the council tax taken from the new homes being built
- Struggling to afford any increases. Wages havent gone up. Everything else is. We may need to move out if area
- There's more worthy causes that need money spent on them
- Impact on families who are already dealing with high inflation, mortgage/rent rises and the energy crisis
- What is a negative impact on people who are struggling now already, isn't that a huge show of 'negative impact'?
- In a cost of living crisis you are taking more money from those that can least afford it without any effort to reign in your own spending.
- As above
- As previously stated.
- You are reducing services to the people who actually pay on time, thus rewarding those that don't pay their way. This has a massive negative impact on those of us who actually finance you.
- I think other areas around NNC towns like Wellingborough would benefit in some revitalisation projects to attract working families contributing to local economy rather than opting to spend elsewhere - closure of shops, cafes, pubs and influx of charity chops it's not a good look (not to mention damage pathways in local parks etc.). Just to highlight, there is not much to do for families
- Less impact than previous proposal
- - It is likely that these funds will not go to vital segments of Adult Social Care, once again taking taxpayer money to fund alternative government projects and programmes.
  - There needs to be more opportunities to aid the average family in surviving the current economic crisis.
- The people who pay tax will be the ones paying for everything. I'm happy to do that but there will come a time when we go bankrupt again
- Families would suffer, having to find more money to fund an already broken social care system. Addressing the core issues, rather than chucking money at it is preferable.
- I've said it in the one above !!
- See above
- Again you're the experts
- The only negative impact is that I would like an income that could support me in my profession. My income in real terms has been falling for over 2 decades now!

- The negative impact is the lack of services provided for residents
- I would prefer that this with the ability to pay more should do so.
- Tax the rich
- Should lead to greater level of care, provided it's managed correctly
- It would put a burden on most [redacted] families and increase poverty.
- Why are you expecting the young, who have been disproportionately affected by the cost of living crisis, to be forced into further poverty to pay for social care for a generation that's had massive increases in pensions but have failed to plan for their old age?
- I can see no likely negative impact.
- The negative impact would be immense. You will have even more of your poorest committed struggling to pay and not being able to feed their kids because unlike the refugees and homeless they go to work but are on just enough money they can't get freebies. They have to budget and cut out maybe a meal a week so you lot can afford your payrise or so called twinning jolly
- see above
- Once again people are struggling with day to day bills you are just adding to the worry.
- Albeit a small increase, this will impact significantly on the who are already struggling and contributing to the footfall at foodbank providers.  
As well as the single person discount, it may be worth considering a discount which can be means tested
- [redacted]

This is my representation on the Budget Consultation Response to be in by the 26th January and would expect it to be considered at the executive meeting on the 8th February.

My representation/objection to the funding of £1.3 Million to construct a temporary stopping site for travelers at Junction 3 of the A14 Rothwell that Cllr Howes says in his words that the site is likely to stand empty/unused for long periods of time. So no income to pay back the borrowed money. However you dress this up this money is being borrowed at 5.4% that is over 70k per year in interest alone of rate payers money.

They did say at the meeting on the 18th Jan that the money could be found inhouse but this is still borrowed money at 5.4% over the 10 years is £700,000.00p

It is an ill thought out project by Cllr Howes at £1.3 million to construct the site and would cost the ratepayers around £270,000 per year to pay back interest, loan and the running costs of the site and there will be other expenses and this would be £2.7 million over 10 years and there will still be on going costs year on year after the 10 years.

The following was not considered properly at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 18th January. If we do need a temporary stopping off-site for travelers then a cheaper solution would be to take one of old large layby on the A43 between Kettering and Northampton and convert it into a temporary stopping off point they are large enough to accommodate 10 pitches or more. the hard standings are already there all you would need to do is put gates at each end and a fence around to the road side so the children cannot get to the road and supply a portable toilet shower unit, water supply and electricity supply and this would cost around £50,000 against the £1.3 million and the running cost around 50% less than what is proposed at Rothwell site. Then surely this would be the best solution financially to the council taxpayers and needs to be considered.

[redacted] the costs 50k is a realistic costing for carrying out this work. A saving £1.25 million on the construction cost. When they discussed this at the meeting on the 18th Jan the only thing they could come up with to not to go ahead with this was that the Laybys on the A43 are near the road and the children could run on the road, which when fenced would be safe, These laybys are large areas and well of the road. Yet Cllr Howes wants to put the site right next to junction 3 of the A14,



A6 and the Lorry park which is far more dangerous than the A43. And £1.25 million pounds cheaper. This is only a stopping of site that is unlikely to be used.

There is no excuse for not saving £2.5 million pounds over the 10 years if you use the cheaper alternative.

If this was to go ahead at a 10 year cost in excess of £2.7 million it would be an unacceptable and appalling liability to the Local Council tax payers that will be ongoing year on year. The money should be spent on more important amenities.

There is no government requirement for a stopping off site for travelers so we should not be considering spending £2.7 million on one.

This is not Best Value for money and should not be approved.

[redacted]

- Supporting people within communities, so they are not as reliant on adult social care, as well as massive investment in community groups that support people who struggle with these issues. As further care from within the community will result in less need for social care. These projects will support older people, and people with learning disabilities. But they will also provide other people with in the community a service.
- local residents are still dealing with the cost of living crisis. This increase will not help that.
- The Government would be better investing more into these services, as we have an ageing population living longer and needing far more care. Constant increases in Council Tax and Social services puts a constant strain on residents finances.
- Stop spending on non essentials
- Means tested council tax.
- As above.
- N/A
- As above any larger increased on spending for residents is difficult financially.
- Exactly as I said before, you take more money to fund the services but the people in the services still get cuts and barriers to do their job. Nothing is made better.
- How do the council think people have ever increasing costs and be able to pay rises ?, look at the real cost of living instead of guessing.
- Many of these people get some sort of benefits while many people have to work to support their families with no extra support.
- If you think this survey is nasty, I suggest you don't look in the mirror. The sight is much worse there.
- The people of this country are already financially struggling
- The council are so out of touch , the town centre is a shithole and they spending our hard earned money on a bloody water fountain that's neither use nor ornament to anyone , they need to live in the real world .
- Implement efficiency to reduce the need to increase the precept
- Too Many Rises For Our Country Without Any More ..
- N/a
- Impact on families who are already dealing with high inflation, mortgage/rent rises and the energy crisis

## **Draft Capital Programme 2024-28**

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 2024-28](#) and its appendices, which contain details of each scheme:

- [Appendix A - General Fund Capital Programme 2024-28](#)
- [Appendix B - Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2024-28](#)
- [Appendix C - Development Pool](#)

If you would like further details about any of the schemes please contact us at [YourVoiceMatters@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:YourVoiceMatters@northnorthants.gov.uk)

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

There were 56 responses to this question.

Name of scheme(s):	Comment:
Council Tax Support Scheme	I think this should be altered so customers pay a little more. It has been at 25% since North Northamptonshire Council started. I think it should be increased to 30%. I realise this would have an impact on those in receipt of support but those paying are subsidising those and are still struggling even though they don't qualify for help.
Appendix C - Development Pool	The most cost effective way of procuring developments is to carry out the design work in house to allow a precise brief that meets the council's needs and then tender to contractors to build. Contracting the design out to developers and contractors can only result in buildings that meet their needs! A fact proven by the numerous PFI hospitals and schools etc that fail to meet the requirements of the users.
Appendix B	Stop farming services out to the private sector who charge more and give a worst service.
LEVI - Electric vehicles	All electric vehicle projects should be put on hold until a total strategy is available and electric vehicles become viable and affordable to the majority of citizens
Travellers Temporary Stopping Site	This should not be funded by NNC ratepayers - it should be funded by the users off the site at a rate that is commercially viable including interest on any loan required. For example the Rothwell Truck Stop was not funded by NNC for the use of Truckers "Travelling Through"
Travellers Temporary Stopping Site	This site is not suitable for anyone to stay in even on a temporary basis. I cannot find where the council has monitored air quality as the site would probably accommodate young children as well as vulnerable adults. It would also deprive the residents of Rothwell green space.
Housing revenue	Housing local people is one thing but bringing in thousands of people(Kettering) then buying expensive houses to put them in is another thing!

Capital Programme	It feels the Rural North of the county is rather short changed.....and will much of the £9m for roads be seen here?
Appendix B & C	Too many homes bring developed instead of the actual town itself (Wellingborough) Too many empty shops in Irthlingborough and Wellingborough etc. Sore sight, gives the impression of high poverty and crime
Borough Wide - Recycling Bins	[redacted] and I have already paid for my recycling bin why am I now being asked to pay for them for other residents who don't have them just because their councils were badly run? The cost for these should only be charged of those areas where this is only just being rolled out, it is unfair to those of us who have these already to fund these!
	I notice that there is no provision in any of the papers for replacement/upkeep of bus shelters in the North Northants area, as there are over 1500 bus stops, most of which have either a pole with a bus stop sign, or a bus shelter at them and damage happening throughout the year due to accident, ground issues or general wear, it would be helpful to have some provision for their replacement as many are simply removed due to their poor condition to make them safe but are never replaced as there is no budget set aside for such things. As a result councillors and local residents become very frustrated and irate at the lack of infrastructure provision and visibility of where such bus stops exist, resulting in lower patronage on the buses and further reputational damage of the council and bus operator.
Remote working	Support this if savings can be derived from reducing office space/renting out surplus space
Section 5.10	A new temporary gypsy site. You are joking?
Discretionary funds	Lack of transparency for this section is deeply troubling when public health have been allocated a mere fraction of this budget.
Electric vehicle infrastructure	[redacted] Now there are 2 less parking spaces and noone uses it because noone on the street has an electric car. Anyone who can afford an electric car can afford their own electric charging point and our roads are appalling so I'd prefer 2.9million spent on pothole repair and cats eyes along roads like cottingham road, Corby.
It spending and recycling vehicles superfamily broadband electric car charging points	2.5 million pounds to be spent on IT. This is a joke you have functioning equipment, this needs to be reduced by a considerable amount. The spend on new recycling vehicles of nearly £3 million is unbelievable that is the same amount as you propose spending on the road repairs. This needs to be spread over many years and the budget for road repairs needs to be trebled. A recycling truck comes to my street to collect 2 garden waste bins ??? Maybe the charge for garden waste could be dropped and you would find your landfill waste charge would fall. Fund this by delaying superfast broadband and proposed electric car charging facilities.
	Services need to be paid for
General Fund Capital programme	No one in Corby wants the train to town centre cycle track and there is already a footpath on both sides of the road. Shouldn't the broadband be the responsibility of the providers, why is it being paid for out of public funds Potholes and the state of the roads in general
Each and all of them	Manage and optimise current infrastructure better. Try more "make do & mend" rather than "spend, spend" philosophy!

	Electric points should be funded by private resources not by my council tax.
Decarbonisation & LEVI	Decarbonisation - Salix - no information at all but it's costing £3.8m! LEVI - £2.8m on electric vehicle charging is a joke. It shouldn't be funded by government, it should be funded by the operating company. [redacted] hasn't received any money to 'get it to market'! Stop wasting that money and put it into new doctors surgeries or similar!
£1.3m across 2024-25 (£164k) and 2025-26 (£1.136m) to develop a Traveller's Temporary Stopping Site funded from borrowing.	Given the need to raise taxation - it seem strange to keep this unwanted capital expense in the budget. It also ignores the un-budgeted expenses of it ongoing up keep which the studies have indicated will cost NNBC c£50k per-annum. It would be better allocated to dealing else where, and then reallocated when a proper scheme has been evaluated and costed properly. This particular scheme is also likely to be subject to legal challenge due to how it has been pursued by NNBC, and the clear and high levels of local objection. Given the relatively high value of CapEx of this one scheme - if delayed 12 months that may well reduce the "Amber Risk" allocated to the Capital Program to Green.
Travellers temporary site	Not fair for all residents to pay for a travellers site. Remove it and save £1m!
	N/A
Library	Why did the council not maintain the roof and let it get into a state of disrepair
Hospital Government Grants	Where is the money as promised to update KGH, which is so old now it is more like 'Lego Land' than a hospital. The new proposed KGH money appears to have been forgotten? Always hollow promises?? It is time the CIPFA accounting system was drastically reviewed of better still changed.
Flood Alleviation & Sladebrook Reservoir	Please can you send on details for these projects. [redacted] There may be additional benefits with these projects with collaborative working.
No	No
	Whatever we say, do you actually listen
	Just do the critical work, no fancy nice to haves
Those that involve building;dings (new and alterations/extensions).	NNC could would save thousands by having a building design team of appropriately qualified chartered professionals (competence a requirement of the new Building Safety Act). A direct labour force would also be cost effective. Those two have been proven, time and time again, to be more cost effective than contracting out. A business that is contracted out to has to make an additional profit and will design and build to meet its requirements not those of the NNC. Again that is something that has been proven repeatedly at national and local level.
	Kettering could do with some form of modernisation to attract more people moving here hence keeping businesses in business - i have lost faith in the council and the lip service is not fit for purpose
Travellers site: Oakley valr	It would appear that the local traveller community doesn't even want this site, data shows we have seen a reduction in people stopping over in the county also.

	<p>For Oakley Vale, how are we funding this adoption process? Where I live hasn't been adopted so why am I paying for elsewhere</p>
<p>New investments.</p>	<p>New investments:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not borrow money to invest in highways. Reduce investment into highways to maintenance of current level of service only.</li> <li>- Do not borrow money for temporary stop site for travellers. The funding bid was unsuccessful and alternate funding should be sought.</li> <li>- Increase investment for cycle networks and pedestrians</li> </ul>                     Be more sensible with capital expenditure, unless money is fully funded from government, grants, council tax etc., do not borrow it. If borrowing is to happen please present how the money will be repaid or the timeline for the return on investment.</p>
<p>Traveler stopping off site</p>	<p>[redacted]                      This is my representation on the Budget Consultation Response to be in by the 26th January and would expect it to be considered at the executive meeting on the 8th February.                      My representation/objection to the funding of £1.3 Million to construct a temporary stopping site for travelers at Junction 3 of the A14 Rothwell that Cllr Howes says in his words that the site is likely to stand empty/unused for long periods of time. So no income to pay back the borrowed money. However you dress this up this money is being borrowed at 5.4% that is over 70k per year in interest alone of rate payers money.                      They did say at the meeting on the 18th Jan that the money could be found inhouse but this is still borrowed money at 5.4% over the 10 years is £700,000.00p                      It is an ill thought out project by Cllr Howes at £1.3 million to construct the site and would cost the ratepayers around £270,000 per year to pay back interest, loan and the running costs of the site and there will be other expenses and this would be £2.7 million over 10 years and there will still be on going costs year on year after the 10 years.                      The following was not considered properly at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 18th January. If we do need a temporary stopping off-site for travelers then a cheaper solution would be to take one of old large layby on the A43 between Kettering and Northampton and convert it into a temporary stopping off point they are large enough to accommodate 10 pitches or more. the hard standings are already there all you would need to do is put gates at each end and a fence around to the road side so the children cannot get to the road and supply a portable toilet shower unit, water supply and electricity supply and this would cost around £50,000 against the £1.3 million and the running cost around 50% less than what is proposed at Rothwell site. Then surely this would be the best solution financially to the council taxpayers and needs to be considered.                      [redacted] the costs 50k is a realistic costing for carrying out this work. A saving £1.25 million on the construction cost. When they discussed this at the meeting on the 18th Jan the only thing they could come up with to not to go ahead with this was that the Laybuys on the A43 are near the road and the children could run on the road, which when fenced would be safe, These laybys are large areas and well of the road. Yet Cllr Howes wants to put the site right next to junction 3 of the A14, A6 and the Lorry park which is far more dangerous than the A43. And £1.25 million</p>

	<p>pounds cheaper. This is only a stopping of site that is unlikely to be used.</p> <p>There is no excuse for not saving £2.5 million pounds over the 10 years if you use the cheaper alternative.</p> <p>If this was to go ahead at a 10 year cost in excess off £2.7 million it would be an unacceptable and appalling liability to the Local Council tax payers that will be ongoing year on year. The money should be spent on more important amenities.</p> <p>There is no government requirement for a stopping off site for travelers so we should not be considering spending £2.7 million on one.</p> <p>This is not Best Value for money and should not be approved. [redacted]</p>
A.	<p>A. Money for Superfast Broadband ? £1 m for a Traveller Stopping site ? So much for Corby town fund (again) No inflation increase over next 4 yrs ?</p>
Appendix A - Highways road condition works	<p>3 Million a year does not seem like enough to combat the detreating roads in the county, instead of filling pot holes NNC should focus on resurfacing large parts of roads.</p>
Temporary traveller stopping site	<p>Comments already made to your voice matters but strongly object to the site in view of a proposed logistics site being constructed which could result in wasting money over something deemed to be therefore becoming unsuitable</p>
Travellers Temporary Stopping Site	<p>This is definitely not good value for money. We are looking to develop a site for a stopping site, when all of the travelling community I have spoken to don't want a stopping site they want permanent sites. The travelling community who do only travel, will not pay to stay there or pay a bond. The portfolio holder himself said that the site would hardly or if ever be used. We plan to Borrow £1.3 m over 10 years plus interest this is almost £2.3m and then the £50k a year to run it is nearly £3m pounds. Is this really Value for Money?? The Council has just declared a cap on spending, so anything over £500 has to go to a committee. The Council is currently over £8m overspent. The site is not needed and will not be used yet you continues to ignore local resident's and Councillors objections. You are about to set a budget for £377m for 2024/25 and a proposed budget for 2025/26 with a budget gap of almost £37m. Where do we plan to get these savings from? Do we think that spending almost £3m of public money on a transient site that will not be used is good value for money, because it is not.</p> <p>You have not done a full Consultation with any Stakeholders, yet you continue to push this through. You are not Listening to your residents.</p>
A,B	<p>A. Make it easier for people to have there own electric charger on their property if they have a drive way or they could have a drive way put into their property.Also why aren't you doing more to stop people parking on the pavements I thought this was illegal and people should be find. Also the amount of pot holes they come and fix 1 but their is another one next to it.</p> <p>B. Why do only selected people get help to have stair lifts and walk in showers put in their houses even though they are disabled.[redacted]</p>
	<p>What about conservation? What about fair services for villages?</p>

Temporary travellers site at Rothwell	Your commitment to your tax payers is skewed, rather than concentrating on the basics , you appear to come up with these wonky do-gooder ideas that cost us money. Please stop!!
Proposed Temporary Travellers Site	It is unbelievable that, where I understand, there may be other brownfield sites in other areas in NNCC land; NNCC are seriously considering building on such a beautiful greenfield site. The irony that a councillor from Desborough is suggesting this for Rothwell beggars belief.
Travellers temporary stopping site	Just so that i'm clear on this... So the council are spending almost 50% of their spend on local electric vehicle infrastructure on housing 10 travellers? The same 1.3 million could be put into grants to incentivise locals to install solar panels. Given as a 50% grant that would install solar panels on around 200 houses. For £3 million a wind turbine could power 1,000 houses or perhaps the hospital! God knows how many trees could be planted for £1.3m?! I'd like a clear explanation of why it is felt that this is a good use of so much money when it benefits so few people?
Travellers Temporary Stopping Site	A disgraceful waste of public money. Building on a green space at the cost of £1.3M when other more suitable site could be used at a fraction of the cost
Temporary travellers site at Rothwell	I have seen no evidence that other sites have been properly considered. WASTE OF MONEY- area is a nature haven which will be destroyed. Geography of site is extremely hilly- will cost more than budgeted to level. Travellers in area do not want it- please approve temporary site at Desborough rather than using this site as a reason why you can't. Who will pay for ongoing maintenance and security costs- no budget in later years provided. Roads already busy- who wants to live by the A14??? Money would be far better being allocated to education or social care
Travellers' Temporary Stopping Site	Is this really the best time to pursue a new project? There are so many financial demands on the budget right now and an application for a grant from central government to cover such a development was unsuccessful last year. Might there not be grants available in the future in order to avoid borrowing costs? The site is not urgently or even legally required and will be very costly. According to members of the travelling community in Desborough it is not wanted and people who are moving through the county would not be prepared to pay to stop there. This proposed development is proving to be very controversial and taxpayers are quite rightly querying its necessity at the present time.
Travellers Temporary Stopping Site	[redacted] I do NOT want a stopping site taking over green space outside a town that is already being developed significantly by Persimmon. The funds being allocated would be put to much better use supporting local schools and services. The stopping site is not wanted or needed (as voiced by intended users on public forums) and is an unnecessary spend. Don't do it.
Travellers Temporary Stopping Site	I don't consider this as an effective use of council funds especially as we are being asked to support a council tax increase. This spending will not bring any benefits to the residents of North Northants and will permanently alter the green space that will be developed. It should remain as a haven for nature. It will be detrimental to residents in the nearby area.

	Other sites, especially brown field options should be considered first
General Fund Capital Programme	<p>I strongly disagree on the proposed expenditure on the Travellers Temporary Stopping Site under the Directorate Place and Economy budget for three reasons.</p> <p>1. The proposed development will result in further destruction of the countryside surrounding Rothwell. This area pre the construction of the A14 was a beautiful area of countryside. However, it is being systematically spoiled by both national and council programmers. Recent developments include construction of the A6 by-pass, the truck stop and housing estates. Why can't this project be placed on an existing brown field site that needs re-development?</p> <p>2. The people on which this sum is being spent have no links to or interest in the needs of the local community. As a result, the site is unlikely to be kept in good repair without continued expenditure over the next 5 years. However, the need for continued expenditure is not allowed for in the Capital Programme Fund as only the construction and set up costs have been budgeted for in 2024/25, and 2025/26. How is this maintenance of this site to be funded beyond 2025/26? Will it be allowed to fall into disrepair?</p> <p>3. The amount of money planned for this project is £1.3 million. This sum exceeds the amount of money that the council is allocating for improvements to the local environment, treescape and the Sywell Country Park, and the councils contribution to the Rural England Prosperity Fund. The latter can be drawn on by rural projects to improve the availability of employments opportunities and connectivity of rural communities to utilities and services. These three elements of the programme would bring more benefit to the local rural community if the £1.3 million was re-distributed to these programmes.</p>
Travellers temporary stopping site	I feel this would create disruption to the area we live- we live very close to the proposed site. The counsellors seem to have been deceptive in this proposal yet again.
Rothwell temporary travellers site	Not value for money. Not wanted by the people it is for and destruction of green field site
Temporary traveller stop	Strongly object and would ask the council to think again. This is not the best place and should be retained as green space for locals. An attractive site which needs to be retained
Housing ( new)	New housing will have a negative effect ,increase flooding,impact infrastructure,car parking is diabolical [redacted],,traffic increase causing pot holes galore ,I think the increase in housing is unnessasary Desborough is large enough .

## **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 2024/25 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 2024/25 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.

**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 48 responses to this question.

Name of proposal(s):	Comment:
Bus subsidies	I do feel that transport is one area that cannot be cut further back as many were all areas in our county lack a bus service to start with, the subsidized routes that are in play are quite frankly a joke and finished far too early allowing local connections from rail
Road surface	Local roads are in dire need of resurfacing, not a hole filling that reoccurs when the weather turns bad again.
Corby Town Fund - Train Station to Town Centre	What is this for? £2m buys almost half the housing stock in Corby let alone a few hundred yards of footpaths and street lighting? Another project that is not statutory and does not need to be done!
Highways /Roads	The road network is appalling from years of not investing, are the highways schemes ambitious enough? Could more be done to fix the roads and make North Northamptonshire a place people want to visit
Salaries delaying broadband electric car facilities and buying new waste vehicles	Reduce salaries to a maximum of £60k pa Stop superfast broadband expansion for 2 years. Delay replacement of waste vehicles for 1 year and then start a plan of staged replacement and refurbishment. Reduce IT spending to a minimum, appoint someone to oversee spending in each department to prevent waste. Remove plan for electric car facilities. Look at spending on car parks each year. Investment in housing to be made a priority to raise funds in the future. Manage all current assets to make sure the maximum amount of funds are being generated. Encourage all staff to reduce waste and ensure all funds are spent well, appoint persons in all departments to help ensure this happens.
All	Educate your staff to maximise utilisation of current infrastructure, Cut out some of the employee 'dead wood'
Travellers Temporary Stopping Site Land at Junction 3 of the A14, Rothwell	There is very little information as to the cost of borrowing for this scheme. With Interest Rates at a current unfavourable level, NNBC should delay this until it can be carried out within its own means, or until such time that rates are more beneficial to the borrower. To do otherwise seems to be an unnecessary cost to the public purse.
IT expenditure	Appears high!
Efficiency and Sustainability in Council Spending	I suggest the council could launch a comprehensive review of current expenditures with a focus on identifying cost-saving measures that do not compromise service quality. Exploring more aggressive energy efficiency measures across council properties, renegotiating supplier contracts, and leveraging technology for better service delivery can potentially offer savings. Additionally, consider incentivising local businesses to invest in the community, potentially increasing revenue

	without raising Council Tax. These steps could contribute to financial sustainability and reduce the reliance on tax increases.
All Proposals	As always with Northamptonshire, the priorities are all wrong. From Travellers sites to health.
A decrease in surplus spendings on Government Projects	Decreasing the funds used by the government for luxuries such as repainting the Houses of Parliament, and re-wiring Big Ben. Innocent children are suffering.
Climate change issues	I trust the new refuse vehicles will be electrically powered. All replacement NNC vehicles should be EVs. The funding for public chargers is provided by central government, use it to the full. PVs and small vertical wind turbines can be fitted to all council buildings to reduce the energy demand from the national grid. NEVER sell off property, it is far more cost effective in the longer term to earn an income from the buildings. NNC ought to be getting the correct advice from the appropriately qualified chartered professionals, too many NNC decisions appear to have been the result of the advice of amateurs. An 'expert' who is not a fully qualified/registered/chartered professional is just an interested amateur not an expert.
Reduce Councillor wages	All government should be on minimum wage the same as us normal people. That would save millions in costs.
	CLEAN THE STREETS. FIX THE ROADS. STAFF THE OFFICE.
	I believe I have provided some ideas in the first response
	Brexit bonus should cover it
[Redacted] Laxton Village, Very north Northants [Redacted]	It would be very nice if the roads in this village could be gritted in the bad weather, we don't ask much of the council and we don't get much. But in 24years only once has the road been gritted and I think that was a mistake. Just because we live in the country we have not all got 4x4 vehicles also there is no chance of a school bus, Ambulance or fire engine getting through we there is snow and ice on the road.
In-house building design team	Such a department, over time, develops an in depth knowledge of the council's requirements and how best to meet them in the long term. The short term thinking of councillors has not benefitted any community. The UK government's best buildings were those designed by the 'in house' PSA (Property Services Agency) building design team of registered architects and chartered engineers.
Reduce all capital and other expenditure by a percentage across the board.	Reduce all capital and other expenditure by a percentage across the board. Review it all to reduce costs. I did not see anything about Kettering library, but a prime example of being able to save money. Find alternative cost and materials, even though it is listed.
Inflationary Allowance	Allowing 1% of the entire budget for contingency-based inflation provisions may no longer be appropriate as inflation is rapidly dropping. NNC should seek to balance their budget without passing ever-growing cost increases onto taxpayers. How will this contingency be saved if it isn't required? IT costs seem excessive and there is a lack of detail in the proposals as to what the expensive 'Silver' programme entails.
Highways Incentive Maintenance	Contractors should not need any further incentive as they are paid for the job ?
School	Increase of EHCP assessments and funding needs needs more than proposed. This is for the benefit of the children in this category, their

	peers and the supporting teaching staff. Looking at more budgets for children to have alternative provision or be home schooled with the SEN needs paid for by the LA will provide the children with why they need to flourish
Public bins	Bins area being removed from West glebe Park corby, [redacted] I also see more rubbish on the ground now. I can only think this is a saving less bins to empty, this year I have never seen so many street bins over flowing with rubbish, I feel since NNC was formed Services have deteriorated in corby, best not go on about how bad the roads our and the terrible way the pothols are repaired.
Additional services	Need to encourage, invest in more shops in Wellingborough and Irthlingborough. Stop allowing more pound shops as this gives little choice in the supply of goods to the consumer.
Electric vehicle charging points.	It is a scandal that this council propose to spend £2.9m. of it's ratepayers money on the dead end that is electric vehicles. If people want electric cars they should be made to pay the full cost of owning one themselves. It is not the council's or government's responsibility to provide charging points or any other infrastructure which panders to the need's of electric vehicle owners. Would the council also be building petrol stations for vehicles with internal combustion engines?.
Roads	Fix roads and drainage and you will save money on emergency services attending accidents.
	Services need to be paid for
	Kettering needs a new swimming pool. The town is so outdated and we're getting left behind by nearby towns. I prefer to shop in Corby or Wellingborough. There's nothing in town except mobile phone shops, charity shops and pop-up cafés etc.
EV infrastructures	Reallocate proposed EV funding to pothole repairs. Without pothole repairs, there will not be many roads for EVs to use in the future
	Business rates are quickly ruining local businesses all over North Northants, because they're often far too high? Maybe if they were reduced then you'd have more people opening up businesses which in return would bring in more money through business rates?
All proposals !	Every proposal here & throughout this form need debated & put forward publicly with many public representatives attending & reporting back to the public at large in community centres, sports halls or wherever is necessary.
Council	Restructure staff at higher levels and sort it out
	Look - I know many people who work for the council and they're decent people but you have too many of them. You can save hundreds of thousands of pounds each year by removing some of them.
	Do you listen?
Funding of Children's Trust : and of Adult Care Services	Recognising the 'artificial' nature of the way these services are delivered - and that NNC has limited control over their possible excesses, it is imperative that NNC strive for a 5+ year plan for both with the aim of returning more servcies to LA control and limiting the dependence on private, profit-making, organisations.
Oakley vale	Where I live has been adopted, so why am I forking out to pay for okaley Vale adoption
	[redacted]

	<p>This is my representation on the Budget Consultation Response to be in by the 26th January and would expect it to be considered at the executive meeting on the 8th February.</p> <p>My representation/objection to the funding of £1.3 Million to construct a temporary stopping site for travelers at Junction 3 of the A14 Rothwell that Cllr Howes says in his words that the site is likely to stand empty/unused for long periods of time. So no income to pay back the borrowed money. However you dress this up this money is being borrowed at 5.4% that is over 70k per year in interest alone of rate payers money.</p> <p>They did say at the meeting on the 18th Jan that the money could be found inhouse but this is still borrowed money at 5.4% over the 10 years is £700.000.00p</p> <p>It is an ill thought out project by Cllr Howes at £1.3 million to construct the site and would cost the ratepayers around £270,000 per year to pay back interest, loan and the running costs of the site and there will be other expenses and this would be £2.7 million over 10 years and there will still be on going costs year on year after the 10 years.</p> <p>The following was not considered properly at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 18th January. If we do need a temporary stopping off-site for travelers then a cheaper solution would be to take one of old large layby on the A43 between Kettering and Northampton and convert it into a temporary stopping off point they are large enough to accommodate 10 pitches or more. the hard standings are already there all you would need to do is put gates at each end and a fence around to the road side so the children cannot get to the road and supply a portable toilet shower unit, water supply and electricity supply and this would cost around £50,000 against the £1.3 million and the running cost around 50% less than what is proposed at Rothwell site. Then surely this would be the best solution financially to the council taxpayers and needs to be considered.</p> <p>[redacted] the costs 50k is a realistic costing for carrying out this work. A saving £1.25 million on the construction cost. When they discussed this at the meeting on the 18th Jan the only thing they could come up with to not to go ahead with this was that the Laybuys on the A43 are near the road and the children could run on the road, which when fenced would be safe, These laybys are large areas and well of the road. Yet Cllr Howes wants to put the site right next to junction 3 of the A14, A6 and the Lorry park which is far more dangerous than the A43. And £1.25 million pounds cheaper. This is only a stopping of site that is unlikely to be used.</p> <p>There is no excuse for not saving £2.5 million pounds over the 10 years if you use the cheaper alternative.</p> <p>If this was to go ahead at a 10 year cost in excess off £2.7 million it would be an unacceptable and appalling liability to the Local Council tax payers that will be ongoing year on year. The money should be spent on more important amenities.</p> <p>There is no government requirement for a stopping off site for travelers so we should not be considering spending £2.7 million on one.</p> <p>This is not Best Value for money and should not be approved.</p> <p>[redacted]</p>
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Traveller Stopping Site	<p>I am appalled by the actions of NNC with regards to the proposed Traveller Stopping Site.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) proper diligence has not been undertaken and shared about alternative sites;</li> <li>2) £1.3m is a vast amount of money to spend without wider consultation.</li> <li>3) further this money could be better deployed given the current challenges facing the wider NNC community</li> <li>4) the proposed site is an area of beauty and should not be concreted over;</li> <li>5) traffic around J3 of the A14 is bad and getting worse. Adding to this is folly.</li> </ol>
Travellers Temporary Stopping Site at Jct 3 of the A14	<p>Save nearly £3m and don't build it. There are other sites which are suitable and could be developed at a fraction of the price.</p>
Culture	<p>Room needs to be made within the budget for the reinstatement of the Manor House Museum for provision of alternative museum facilities in Kettering. Without this resource a whole generation of children will grow up without access to the history of the place that they live in which , in turn, will not encourage them to learn about and encourage them to know about their heritage.</p> <p>The removal of Adult Learning 'Arts' and other courses needs to be looked at as they have a direct impact on the well being of people who use them.</p> <p>There is minimal provision of Adult Learning courses in Kettering and Corby.</p> <p>Chester House is very difficult for people to access and is also not central to North Northamptonshire.</p>
To spend £1.3 million on a Traveller Temporary Stopping Site	<p>This proposal does not represent best value for money, there are other more suitable and more economic sites. Additional funds should not be applied to this project particularly when the authority is extremely short of money. If these additional funds are to be spent then there are many other projects much more suitable than this one. The libraries, adult care, pot holes the list goes on.</p>
Stopping site rothwell	<p>Why? Absolutely ridiculous Spoiling an area of natural beauty, short sighted will cost more to maintain than the payoff from Westminster</p>
Traveler's site Rothwell	<p>As you have seen in my previous comments, this is a gross misuse of funds. The council is there to serve the people. Now do any council members live in a close proximity to this proposed site? I bet they don't. How about we propose a traveler's site next to their house? Then it will be their family at risk, their house at risk. I guarantee it would not go ahead if it was near their homes.</p>
to build on Rothwell Green space	<p>As far as Travelers are concerned this will very quickly become a Permanent Eyesore and becoming a travesty. Why must we tamper with a part of our shrinking country side? LEAVE IT ALONE!</p>
	<p>Do not waste money on outlandish ideas, concentrate on the basics. Make the residents of this area feel happy not just a cash cow.</p>
Travellers Temporary Stopping Site	<p>The proposed site at Rothwell is inherently unsuitable. The junction from the A14 is already extremely busy with HGV traffic going to Desborough, and using the Truck Stop. Vehicle movements will</p>

	<p>increase substantially with the opening of the additional warehouse which has just been approved on the B576 at Desborough. It would be dangerous to mix that concentration of heavy traffic with slow moving caravans entering a stopping place in that location. It would also be detrimental to the health of travellers - children especially - to be subjected to the noise of HGV traffic and the inevitable resulting air pollution 24 hours a day. The site would not have a safe pedestrian route to Rothwell, so access to shopping, schooling and medical care, although within easy walking distance, would still require use of a vehicle to cross the A6. I am not in any way disagreeing with the need for this provision in itself, as travellers need a network of safe temporary stopping places across the country, but this is the wrong location for it. Has any consultation been carried out with the travelling community to confirm that they would want to stay there given the exposure to constant noise and pollution? It could be a very expensive project that gets minimal financial return if unpopular - compared to a similar scheme in a more remote location.</p>
<p>Travellers Temporary Stopping Site</p>	<p>The site proposed is totally unsuitable for many reasons. It is firstly environmentally unsound for the humans you are proposing to place surrounded by the busy a14 emissions, emissions from the truckstop, emissions from the slip road, which is utter madness when we now know how dangerous this is, particularly for families with children (your intended victims), and also the wildlife you will destroy if you do go head - both so environmentally unsound.</p> <p>The total unsuitability of the site in terms of ground levels, together with the destruction of the very many species of flora and fauna intentionally destroyed for a site that even the travellers themselves have said they do not want and will be too expensive for them too. Rothwell is short on good green space with access to the countryside reduced by the placing of the A14. How much better to provide a green space accessible to all where there already is one and improve access and safety to get there whilst preserving a precious site that will not suit your proposed purpose without extensive and expensive alteration, whilst destroying a valuable green space to serve no purpose (other than perhaps filling someone's pockets).</p> <p>Traveller sites are needed but must be placed in consultation with them and in suitable places - this is not one of them! It is not a case of NIMBY - this is not a safe site for humans to rest awhile and breath the strong traffic fumes. It is green site that is already sifting emissions for everyone and supporting a strong ecosystem. Look after it, and provide your local electorate with a valuable green space to a town cut-off by the over-busy A14, and don't waste the budget on a badly situated and difficult expensive for building site - so inappropriate that is not even wanted there by your asserted target. extremely expensive site</p>
<p>7. Travellers Temporary Stopping Site Land at Junction 3 of the A14, Rothwell</p>	<p>A more appropriate location should be sought by working with the travelling community.</p> <p>This location is on a very busy roundabout and close to residential roads that already has traffic congestion. There are a lack of local amenities in the area with no large supermarkets or affordable petrol stations and no facilities in walking distance.</p> <p>There is an abundance of places surrounding Market Harborough, Corby and Northampton that have good facilities and amenities being larger towns. This would offer both better value for money and better quality of life for the traveller community, without causing disturbance with one of the few green spaces left surrounding Rothwell.</p>

## 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	280	98.2%
On behalf of an organisation/community group	5	1.8%

### 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 5 responses to this question.

- [Redacted] Parish Council (3)
- [Redacted] Town Council
- Patient Participation Group

**Job title/role**

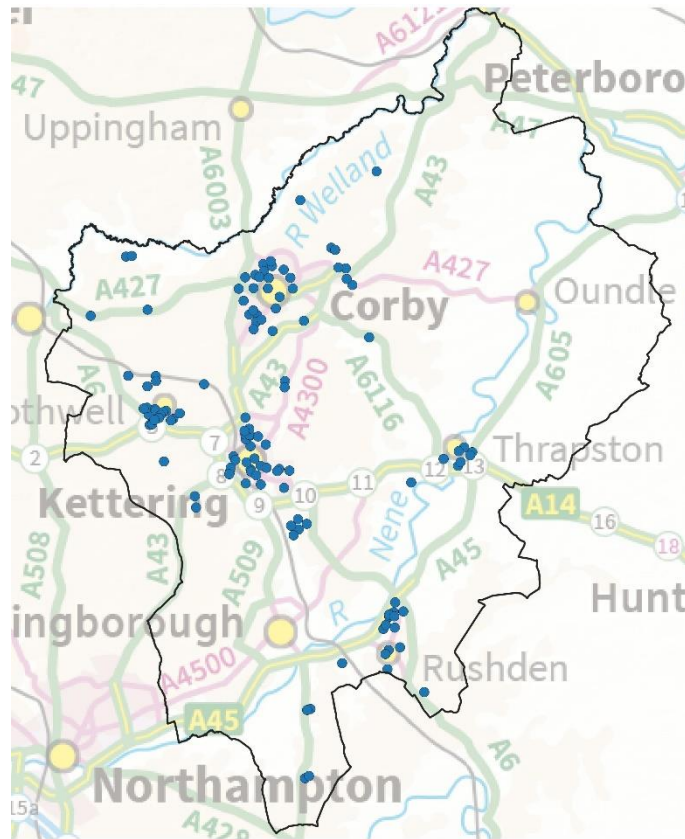
There were five responses to this question. We have not listed the job titles / roles of respondents within this appendix in order to ensure respondents' anonymity is retained.

### 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 178 valid postcodes provided within North Northamptonshire, 28 were incomplete.



Draft Budget 2024-25 consultation

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## About this consultation

**Q. How did you find out about this consultation?** Please tick (✓) all that apply  
 There were 256 responses to this question.

	<b>Response number</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
From the local media (i.e. newspaper or radio)	20	7.8%
On social media	136	53.1%
From our website	39	15.2%
As a member of the North Northamptonshire Residents' Panel	14	5.5%
As a member of the North Northamptonshire Consultation Register	15	5.9%
From an email alert from my local council	34	13.3%
From a voluntary sector organisation providing me with support and advice	2	0.8%
Other (please give details)	15	5.9%

Other:



- Weekly Staff Bulletin (NNC)
- Email
- Work for NNC
- Luck
- Internal work email
- I have worked for local government for 20 years so know how this works including not being transparent with the electorate and allowing both senior officer and local members to spend as much money as they wish on their pet projects whilst us your pay masters have no recourse to remove you from office!
- internal comms
- As an employee, through Council communications
- Staff email
- Parish Council News Letter
- From a friend
- I received this Consultation on my personal e mail address.
- From a County Councillor
- From our local councillor
- A councillor opposed to the traveler's site.

## The next steps

Once the consultation period closes on 26 January 2024, 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 22 February 2024.

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 2024/25.

This meeting is held in public and anyone wishing to speak at the meeting must contact [democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk) once the agenda is issued on the Council's website on **14 February 2024**. 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 16 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Female	9	56.3%
Male	7	43.8%
Non-binary	0	0.0%
Self define (please state below)	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%

Self define (please state):

- An average guy interest in everyone's life & welfare.

**Q. Is the gender you identify with the same as you were assigned at birth?** Please tick (✓) the appropriate box  
There were 16 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes	16	100%
No	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%

**Q. How would you describe your marital status?** Please tick (✓) the appropriate box  
There were 16 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Single (never married)	3	18.8%
Married	9	56.3%
Civil Partnership	1	6.3%
Divorced	0	0.0%
Widowed	2	12.5%
Co-habiting	1	6.3%
Separated	0	0.0%

Other (please state below)	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%

Other (please state):

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

**Q. Which age range are you in?** Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

There were 16 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
16 – 24	1	6.3%
25 – 34	2	12.5%
35 – 49	3	18.8%
50 – 64	8	50.0%
65 – 74	1	6.3%
75 – 84	0	0.0%
85+	1	6.3%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%

**Q. How would you describe your ethnicity?** (Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

There were 16 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	1	6.3%
Other Multiple ethnic background (please state below)	1	6.3%
White British	13	81.3%
White Gypsy/Irish Traveller	1	6.3%
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	0	0.0%

Other (please state):

- White Caucasian & Black African

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

There were 16 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes	3	18.8%
No	13	81.3%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%

**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

There were 16 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes, limited a little	2	12.5%
Yes, limited a lot	2	12.5%
No	11	68.8%
Prefer not to say	1	6.3%

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

There were 16 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Heterosexual (Straight)	14	87.5%
Gay	1	6.3%
Lesbian	0	0.0%
Bisexual	1	6.3%
Not sure	0	0.0%
Self define (please state below)	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%

Self define (please state below)

- I'm a very straight 'acting' gay chap.

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

There were 16 responses to this question.

	<b>Response number</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Buddhist	0	0.0%
Christian	7	43.8%
Hindu	0	0.0%
Jewish	0	0.0%
Muslim	0	0.0%
Sikh	0	0.0%
No Religion	7	43.8%
Other (please state below)	1	6.3%
Prefer not to say	1	6.3%

Other (please state):

- agnostic.

## **Appendix 2: Other responses**

### **Feedback received via letters / emails**

There were nine written responses received.

Are the savings and efficiencies referred already in the pipeline for implementation and hence fully deliverables in 24/25 and future years?

Other than through the budget setting process have all proposals for savings/efficiency that impact on customers, residents been subject to separate consultation exercises. Aware the the Council got itself into a mess with School Transport recently due to inadequate consultation and failing to recognise local views/opinions. So savings undeliverable..

or are efficiency and savings “cuts” or additional “income generation” by another name that are still being explored or subject to further consultation. (e just pipe dreams to help balance the budget )just like the former NCC built into its budget and lead to its S114 notice)

Basically are savings robust and deliverable next year - how have your governance arrangements provided Councillors with the appropriate Assurances?

[redacted] I am aware originally your officers argued that the changes to school transport for Thrapston children was in part to help deliver savings in its budget. Although this appeared to have be ignored when the Council back tracked on its decision after pressure from Parents and Others due to the lack of consultation and local insight.

So would you confirm the budget and MTFS includes on going funding for free school transport for Thrapston children to continue to attend PWS over the medium term without further “significant” increases in the fee for 6th formers and there are not plans to end the free offer in the Medium Term plan. And you’re not revisiting the issue ( like NCC did with 3 tier education in East Northants) as you didn’t succeed the 1st time!

Basic necessities like improved quality of social housing, children’s services, Kettering’s library etc need to take priority over pet projects like Chester House.

The original purpose of the councillor/officer relationship was that the officer implemented the wishes of the electorate as gleaned by the councillor. The councillors I know either sit in an officers pocket or are held at such length as to be rendered almost ineffective. The structure and relationships within NNC need vastly improving and this will improve the effectiveness of the service.

This is my representation on the Budget Consultation Response to be in by the 26<sup>th</sup> January and would expect it to be considered at the executive meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> February.

My representation/objection to the funding of £1.3 Million to construct a temporary stopping site for travelers at Junction 3 of the A14 Rothwell that Cllr Howes says in his words that the site is likely to stand empty/unused for long periods of time. So no income to pay back the borrowed money. However you dress this up this money is being borrowed at 5.4% that is over 70k per year in interest alone of rate payers money.

They did say at the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan that the money could be found inhouse but this is still borrowed money at 5.4% over the 10 years is £700.000.00p

It is an ill thought out project by Cllr Howes at £1.3 million to construct the site and would cost the ratepayers around £270,000 per year to pay back interest, loan and the running costs of the site and there will be other expenses and this would be £2.7 million over 10 years and there will still be on going costs year on year after the 10 years.

The following was not considered properly at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. If we do need a temporary stopping off-site for travelers then a cheaper solution would be to take one of old large layby on the A43 between Kettering and Northampton and convert it into a temporary stopping off point they are large enough to accommodate 10 pitches or more. the hard standings are already there all you would need to do is put gates at each end and a fence around to the road side so the children cannot get to the road and supply a portable toilet shower unit, water supply and electricity supply and this would cost around £50,000 against the £1.3 million and the running cost around 50% less than what is proposed at Rothwell site. Then surely this would be the best solution financially to the council taxpayers and needs to be considered.

[redacted] the costs 50k is a realistic costing for carrying out this work. A saving £1.25 million on the construction cost. When they discussed this at the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan the only thing they could come up with to not to go ahead with this was that the Laybuis on the A43 are near the road and the children could run on the road, which when fenced would be safe, These laybuis are large areas and well of the road. Yet Cllr Howes wants to put the site right next to junction 3 of the A14, A6 and the Lorry park which is far more dangerous than the A43. And £1.25 million pounds cheaper. This is only a stopping of site that is unlikely to be used.

There is no excuse for not saving £2.5 million pounds over the 10 years if you use the cheaper alternative.

If this was to go ahead at a 10 year cost in excess off £2.7 million it would be an unacceptable and appalling liability to the Local Council tax payers that will be ongoing year on year. The money should be spent on more important amenities.

There is no government requirement for a stopping off site for travelers so we should not be considering spending £2.7 million on one.

This is not Best Value for money and should not be approved.

After a failed attempt to request further consultation on this matter as a Parish Councillor I strongly object to the amount allocated in the budget to the above matter. In view of a possible logistics terminal being constructed adjoining the site I cannot see that this is a reasonable location for a traveller stopping site. It can only be a waste of money should the logistics site go ahead the traveller site must only cause interference in any construction. To my mind it's putting the cart before the horse. We need decisions on the proposed logistics site before attempting to provide a temporary stopping site.

NNC must revisit their manner of recording complaints and controlling contracts to ensure that value for money is achieved and that matters of concern are included in future expenditure plans.

Recent Wall Coping Stone repairs at NN14 2RB have been carried out on inadequately prepared bricks.

Previous repairs were carried out using plaster-like material instead of mortar.

Fixing with a weak material hastens the need for many of the stones to require repeated repairs.



Three contractors spent approximately three hours, some of which were spent in the cab eating lunch.

There was no evidence that any of the substandard material had been removed.

It was anticipated the flatbed truck would contain a quantity of the removed material ready for disposal.

The truck did not contain any removed material that would have been visible in the relatively tidy open rear compartment.

The new complaints system can follow through to work orders for subjects worthy of action.

However, the council deliberately breaks this system by changing the reference number when it is next actioned.

When a communication is sent back to the originator of the problem, there is no efficient way to link and file the communications.

Even worse is that an individual's wording identifies communications sent to and from NNC staff who are responsible for progressing the matter.

This seems to be part of the plan to make it challenging for complaint originators to manage the submissions they make.

This is tantamount to reverting to the council's previous decisions not to identify complaints.

This enables the council to 'forget' problems and ensure that important subjects are not on hand for inclusion in upcoming expenditure plans.

[redacted] Having heard all the comments, we felt there did seem a certain amount of secrecy with regard to the council proposing to forward an application for the planning permission in December, it seemed to have been "hurried through" the explanation given last Thursday didn't seem to hold much weight.

We have no issues with travellers requiring temporary sites, it's just that this particular sight has the abundance of wildlife, where we also learnt on Thursday, there were also 4 rare species there. We understand the councillor who is in contact with the travellers pointing out that, they too are a rare species, but how lucky they are that they can speak up, the wildlife can't.

We are lead to believe from our group, that the other proposed sites would be absolutely fine and indeed cost somewhat less to create, here also, there seemed a certain amount of secrecy surrounding these sites.

We await further information, and hope this is resolved with everything taken into account.

Proposed travellers site at Rothwell

I am writing to request further consideration to the proposed site, as above.

I believe that this site is not suitable for the proposal for several reasons.

Firstly, from an environmental perspective, this is one of the few green places we have left around the town. With the recent development at Woodland Valley, a huge piece of countryside has been concreted over, and the impact to wildlife is already overwhelming.

[redacted] see a range of wildlife including several species of birds, bats and other animals like Hares, Rabbits, etc.

further damage to our green area would be more damaging, not only to the wildlife but also the human population of our small town! Where to walk that is free of pollution? [redacted], I'm am so very concerned about this and feel that this must be further considered.

Secondly, from a safety perspective, we have recently had the Truck Stop opened at Junction 3. This has increased the already heavy traffic in the locality. Some mornings it is very difficult to get onto the roundabout at A6/J3 , and I am seeing close shaves and accidents on a regular basis. Any further increase in traffic attempting to access this already busy junction will again increase the risk of accidents and also pollution, with vehicles idling at the roundabout.

Additionally, during peak travelling times, we are already seeing traffic queueing to exit the A14 and with the amount of lorries using this extremely busy road, it won't be long before there are further serious accidents.

I implore you to reconsider this siting, for the benefit of the people of this town and also the environment for our wildlife.

Rothwell travellers site at J3 A 14

This should be stopped as it is unworkable. It is a fantasy to think that travellers will only stay for 3 weeks. You will need an on site manager to police their entry and length of stay. They will need to not be allowed to trash the place or leave loads of rubbish that Rothwell Town Council has to pay for clearing. The police have enough to do without and extra place to continually have issues with. A site like this needs permanent and proper funding and a manager living on site to stop unsocial behaviour and it becoming a NO Go area- this is not needed in Rothwell- I seriously object to it. [redacted]

Rothwell - Temporary traveller site

I would have to question how essential this is, and whether it is more important than other critical services, especially given that all Councils are under budgetary constraints including NNC.

It does not seem clear how this has been given priority over other essential services, as it feels like a convenient way to dispose of land that the Council appear to have no other use for.

Have Housing Associations been approached to see if it would be appropriate for Social Housing?