

North Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2025/26 Consultation

Appendix to consultation analysis report

December 2024 to January 2025

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Appendix 1: Draft budget consultation questionnaire full results

North Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2025/26 Consultation

Overview

The draft revenue budget for North Northamptonshire Council was approved by the Executive on 19 December 2024 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 2025/2026 as well as outlining the medium-term financial plan for the following three years.

Protecting and investing in our local frontline services against a backdrop of continued national financial uncertainty is the focus of North Northamptonshire Council's budget proposals for the next financial year (2025/2026).

The proposed net revenue budget for 2025/2026 is £400.93 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.

A commitment to maintain vital service provision has seen the Council invest an additional £51.9 million into services, including £23.7 million into adult social care and £6.2 million into children's services to protect the most vulnerable in our communities and address growing demand for these vital services.

These pressures are, in part, offset by savings, efficiencies and further income of £26.3 million. 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 2025/2026.

Council fees and charges have been reviewed for 2025/2026 and set in accordance with the Council's constitution.

The Council is also proposing a programme of capital investment totalling £180.4m over the four-year period 2025-2029 across a number of schemes including investing over £43.6m into highways, £36.6m for continued investment into our Housing Stock, £27.9m for investment into schools, £8.1m to support facilities for those with disabilities, £8.2m in improving digital infrastructure and £2.6m for Electrical Vehicle infrastructure.

Council Tax

Government has permitted local authorities such as North Northamptonshire Council to increase the Council Tax rate by 4.99%, including 2% for the adult social care precept, in recognition of the difficult financial climate.

The authority is proposing an increase allowed by Government in council tax of 4.99%.

This increase would contribute around an additional £11m 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 £1,827.06 for 2025/2026. This is an annual increase of £86.84 (equivalent to £1.67 per week) from the Band D Council Tax level set in 2024/2025.

This means that North Northamptonshire Council's Council Tax rate will be in the lower third for unitary councils.

Increasing Council Tax has the advantage of providing stable funding for the future, helping to further protect services, and will provide the Council with a degree of certainty around funding. This is important as there will be a review of how government grants are distributed from 2026/2027.

This Band D figure does 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.

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 19 December 2024 until 23:59 on Friday, 24 January 2025, with the Executive then meeting on 6 February 2025 to consider the final budget proposals for recommendation to Full Council on 20 February 2025.

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 £11m per year and would represent a Band D level of Council Tax of £1,827.06 for 2025/2026, an increase of £86.84 from £1,740.22 in 2024-25, which is equivalent to a weekly increase of £1.67.
- Draft Capital Programme 2025-29.

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 20 February 2025. This meeting is held in public and anyone wishing to speak at the meeting must contact democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk once the

agenda is issued on the Council's website on **12 February 2025**. 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 2025/2026 and Medium-Term Financial Plan](#), and its appendices:
 - [Appendix A and B - Draft Budget Summary 2025/2026 and list of budget pressures and saving proposals](#)
 - [Appendix C - Dedicated Schools Grant](#)
 - [Appendix D - Reserves Strategy 2025/2026](#)
 - [Appendix E - Equality Screening Assessment](#)
 - [Post-Financial Settlement Budget Update](#)
- [Capital Programme 2025-2029](#), and its appendices:
 - [Appendix A - Capital Programme 2025-2029](#)
 - [Appendix B - Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2025-2029](#)
 - [Appendix C - Development Pool](#)

Housing Revenue Account

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 Draft Budget for the HRA is in a balanced position while crucially the medium-term is also showing a balanced position.

There is also a proposed rent increase of 2.7% for the next financial year, which accords with the Government's rent setting policy for 2025/2026. Any funding received by the HRA is retained within the HRA and will be used to support investment into the Council's housing stock through improvements and maintenance.

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

- [Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget 2025/2026 and Medium-Term Financial Plan Proposals](#)
 - [Appendix A – Draft HRA Budgets for 2025/2026](#)
 - [Appendix B – Draft HRA Medium Term Financial Plan](#)
 - [Appendix C – HRA Summary of Reserves](#)

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 2025/2026 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

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 23:59 **24 January 2025**.

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

	Response number	Percentage (%)
A local resident	169	85.4%
A service user	14	7.1%
A North Northamptonshire Council employee	64	32.3%
A North Northamptonshire Council Councillor	5	2.5%
A representative of a Town/Parish Council	2	1.0%
A Town or Parish Councillor	4	2.0%
A representative of the voluntary sector or a community organisation	4	2.0%
A representative of the local business community	2	1.0%
A representative of a health partner organisation	1	0.5%
A representative of a user group	1	0.5%
Other (please give details below)	1	0.5%

Other:

- I live in [redacted]. I am a member of [redacted] Northamptonshire Healthwatch

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 £11m 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 £1,827.06 for 2025/2026 is equivalent to £35.14 per week. The annual increase on an average Band D property across the area is £86.84, which is a weekly increase of £1.67p.

Around 57% of properties in North Northamptonshire are in Council Tax Bands A and B. These households would see an annual increase of £57.89 (equating to £1.11 per week) and £67.53 (£1.30 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	£57.89	£1.11
B	£67.53	£1.30
C	£77.20	£1.48
D	£86.84	£1.67
E	£106.15	£2.04
F	£125.43	£2.41
G	£144.73	£2.78
H	£173.68	£3.34

Increasing Council Tax has the advantage of providing stable funding for the future, helping to further protect services, and will provide the Council with a degree of certainty around funding. This is important as there will be a review of how government grants are distributed from 2026/2027.

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

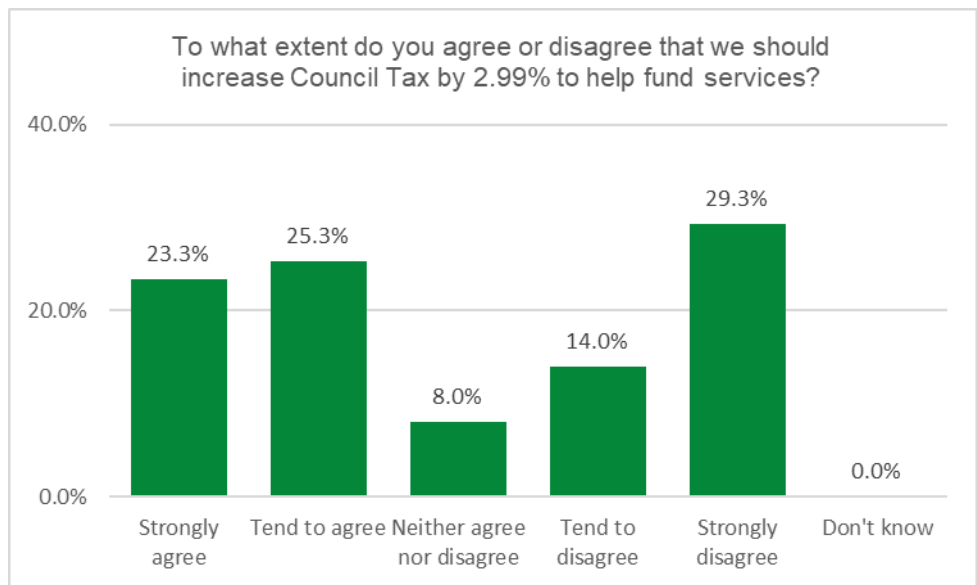
What would a 2.99% increase mean for Council Tax Bands?

As an example, a 2.99% general increase would result in an increase of £52.04 per year (£1.00 per week) for 2025/2026 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	£34.69	£0.67
B	£40.47	£0.78
C	£46.26	£0.89
D	£52.04	£1.00
E	£63.61	£1.22
F	£75.17	£1.45
G	£86.73	£1.67
H	£104.08	£2.00

There were 150 responses to this question.



	Response number	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	35	23.3%
Tend to agree	38	25.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	12	8.0%
Tend to disagree	21	14.0%
Strongly disagree	44	29.3%
Don't know	0	0.0%

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 85 responses to this question.

Strongly agree/ Tend to agree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have to protect and fund local services. Taxation is the only way this can happen. • As a working adult I can currently afford to pay the increase - as a council we need to ensure we are looking after our vulnerable adults and help support and protect services delivered within NNC. • The government always makes a mess of the finances so it's not unusual to see an increase in all aspects of spending for private individuals. We get a poor increase in pension and the council removes it. Sadly, I have not seen for years any improvements - no street cleaning, no drains cleaned. No police. Lower street lightning. Green waste now an additional cost. • Corby has become so unkempt over the past few years & it really is so disappointing & needs addressing. • Services are stretched. Revenue budgets are under pressure. • I tend to agree since it's recognised that employment costs are higher. I would also like to see better management of the costing contracts with suppliers eg waste disposal and road repairs. • I tend to agree but wouldn't it be better to make the Council Tax Support Scheme higher than 25% as it has been this figure for a few years? Reading the scheme, it appears pensioners are all protected so it is only working age people. Surely they should be contributing more of their income to local services. • There is changing and increased needs for services and we all need to do our part in helping the most vulnerable • I tend to agree as everything needs funding, previously not a lot has been done in the town I live in .With this amount extra I would have a lot to need from my extra council tax that I pay. • NNC needs to fund the in-house design (by registered/chartered professionals) and construction (direct labour) of council housing. Which is proven to be more cost effective than outsourcing and the reason why many more councils are building in-house design and construction departments worldwide (including the UK surprisingly enough). • I realise that we need to pterly fund the various programs that are proposed • The need to provide extra funding to support local services is vital and if the council tax isn't increased then services will continue to decline. It's our social responsibility to support the whole community. • Inflation must have eroded NNC budget. • I do not think we should be proud of having a low level of CT when this means we have a low level of service. NNC tax should be in the mid/upper half of unitary authorities : and working towards service excellence. • Important to maintain services , set a balanced budget, investigate appropriate efficiencies in terms of how the Council works • I understand that more money is needed to continue to provide essential services and, in general, the overall increase in individual CTAX doesn't amount to much. However, this will not be the only increase for tenants, leaseholders, businesses etc in April and there is only a limited amount of money available from each individual/business. • Clearly need the extra income and if you don't you will have to make other savings. Council Tax shares the load. • It's about [expletive] time • We need to support wider seervices. • We're in desperate need of improved services.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services are underfunded. A rethink of priorities is required, by central government, to ensure better delivery of locally financed services. • we cannot remain at a zero increase when all service costs are increasing • Taking into consideration today's cost of living this seems fair except for those with a very limited budget • With the rate of inflation last year the council tax increase last year will have not mitigated those cost increases. • Services need to be funded correctly • The noticeable strain and deterioration of standards to the local habitat especially in more urban areas, that seem far more awash with litter, weeds, tatty road signs/markings, verges, street furniture and potholes than in previous decades and I'm afraid in stark comparison to neighbouring counties Leicestershire, Cambridgeshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Warwickshire which I have cause to visit regularly as part of my work. • On a weekly basis this is a small amount • Where has our pride in [redacted] gone? I want to see increased funding to correctly resurface roads. And, bring back the cleaning services I experienced in the 50s & 60s. [redacted] is currently filthy and untidy. • You don't have any other option given how strapped for cash you are. • a small increase to households but can make big difference in how much money we have to spend on services • You need to improve services • Because I consider that there is room for savings by advancing greater efficiency in the workings of the Council • Those who take back handlers want the money • We need the additional money to support adult and Children's social care budgets which have significant problems when it comes to funding.
<p>Neither agree nor disagree</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I understand the increase is necessary, however, wages are not increasing by 4.99%. The people of north Northants are struggling with paying their bills as it is, so an increase to council tax and increase in utilities and water will cripple a lot of people and may push people into the poverty bracket. This maybe unsustainable for some especially if they are in the bracket of not being able to access government benefits as they are just over the income limit but don't receive enough income to pay the extra required thus pushing them into poverty. Council and the government need to address this situation as it is not a person choice to live in poverty and live from hand to mouth. It is not a fair system for some. • Increases are not popular, and I understand why, however unless you see changes locally it is a hard pill to swallow • I appreciate that the council has to generate income from somewhere and that this is one way of doing so but I also see families struggling day to day and wonder how much more strain they can take with everything constantly going up. • I understand that costs of services have increased, but obviously don't really want to have to pay more • There isn't enough done for the council, as it has gone from bad to worse. Eg potholes, rubbish being dumped, too much private owned care - should be done via the council.
<p>Strongly disagree/ Tend to disagree</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are taxing the life out of us, you say its mainly for social care, but [redacted] each average person or child under 18, their weekly rental charge EACH is between £5000-7000 per person, they then get an exemption on the house as they are either under 18 or have a mental impairment so no council tax is paid, It is a total joke !

- household budgets inline with minimum wage are already stretched passed breaking point. You are asking already struggling households to pay even more ?
- Finances, wages etc are not going up to match all the increases, people are struggling with what has to be paid now
- [redacted] I object to any further cost of living increases without seeing any discernible benefits. In my time here I have only seen a decrease in Services. Automatically Council Tax has been increased by the maximum amount allowed without changing working practices; furthermore, no reference is made to the 1000s of new houses in the area that are now paying Council tax and adding to the budget.
- The Council should firstly put its own house in order, with so much waste and overlapping of duties. Often three councillors covering an area that could be manned by just two. Councils need to slim down and not see the general public as a money tree. Cut the in house budget before services.
- Because we wouldn't see an improvement in services, the Council squander the money as it is.
- [redacted] my income does not go up by a percentage as high as this. Consequently I will have to cut back on food light and heat to save going into debt.
- Not seeing any value for what we pay currently.
- The Council is extremely poorly run. The outsourcing of many services increases costs. The most obvious waste of money is outsourcing road maintenance, which I believe is to [redacted]. The roads are in a disgraceful state, yet you will see examples of continually wasting money. Poor patch work which then has to be carried out a second, third or fourth time. Not fixing all the pot holes at a location, requiring numerous visits, at additional expense. There are too "many chiefs" who again bring little to the day to day running and are another needless expense.
- [redacted] and frankly there has been a lack of support for disabled people in the County ...ranging from facilities for the disabled to the abuse of disabled parking in areas such as Rushden Lakes where the policing is quite pathetic , which means that it is difficult for disabled people to go about their business.
- The council tax is already too expensive. Need to raise capital from other sources.
- Penalize people who can't sell their house and down size in later life
- This constant increasing has become a licence of will and greed and squeeze's us that rely on living by our own means and to the point of the poverty of heating or eating. It is shameful and councils should and must be better managed. If they were good managers and able then tax bills should actually reduce.
You have taken this as a yearly right to increase to the maximum you can, its not acceptable and shameful. You want more and more for less and less and feel thats ok, its not and is a reflection upon your mis management and greed.
- Savings could be made with better efficiency & less waste.
- It makes a big difference to single people who only have their state pension.
- We seem to be paying more for less services and certainly less quality services.
- There are numerous areas the Council needs to review to ensure the budget is effective and not profiting private companies i.e private children homes
- [redacted] as increases go, I struggle with payments now, and that doesn't include my mortgage
- Success years of financial mis management and poor decisions by financially illiterate local politicians and officers more concerned with their salary and pension that doing the right thing have led us to a situation where we the council tax payer are being asked to contribute more and more for less and less! It needs to stop.
- Everyone is struggling right now; no one can afford an increase.
- The issue is more that the money is not spent effectively in areas that urgently need it such as road repairs and support services.
- It feels as if the council tax rises but at least in the rural north there is no perceptible improvement in service

- You spend less and less in the town I live it is a becoming a dump! All of the money is spent in Corby. [redacted] so I am sick of paying council tax for their town to be thriving and [redacted] becoming left out
- What's the [expletive] pointing all this you don't [expletive] listen to use any way just a [expletive] waste of [expletive] time
- Your nothing but a load of corrupt bent councilors and stealing the money from our council tax every year it goes up
- There are more people in this county than ever who are also paying council tax yet each year less and less services are actually carried out properly.
- [redacted] and we pay a lot of council tax but receive no useful service any extra money would not be spent in Kettering. Mkt Harborough get more services and the town is much better looked after 3% increase this year.
- I don't feel [redacted] we have seen our council tax increases year on year pay off in the way we would hope; the 2% for adult social care not included as this is not something visible in all walks of life.
Personal view is that not enough is being done with the Rubbish/waste and road maintenance at the top. you walk around the areas in NNC and rubbish is everywhere you raise fly tipping or other issues and takes weeks for someone to get back if they even do get back. Road maintenance is clear the amount of pot holes on all our roads is dangerous.
- Because you never tell us exactly how the increase will be spent and why. Also you never tell us how you have mitigated any increased expenditure. Just quoting global numbers does nothing to tell us how effective job you are doing.
- You are bent as a five pound note and corrupt as hell for pocketing council tax payers money
- [redacted] we are already paying more for less services. There is now an extra charge to have garden waste bins collected which used to be included within waste collection, not to mention the shocking state of our local road network with potholes which are either left ignored or repaired so shoddily the potholes reoccur within weeks. I see no reason why residents should have to pay more in council tax when our views are ignored and issues that matter to residents go unfixed by the council.
- I am worried about the amount council waste people doing really limited or zero value jobs. Spending endless time on comms that are too long, too frequent and do little or nothing to deal with what really worries people, schools, roads social care, transport, housing, and planning that takes flooding issues into consideration, going green, care of the environment and protection of nature for future generations
- Year up year increase with no personal benefit. It is unsafe to walk down the street in my village due to the condition of the paths. Water constantly floods the main road, there is inadequate street lighting. How much of council tax money is used to cover exorbitant employee wages and pensions etc.? How am I expected to keep pace with all the increases when my income does not increase by 4.99%?
- We pay enough now for services that are not great
- Because costs are rising everywhere and yet we don't see any improvements...ie roads, lighting, all sorts.
- Every year the council runs a consultation on the budget and every year the council asks our views on increasing council tax to provide extra funding for services. However, as a local resident and user of several council services, I do not see any noticeable improvements in the services being offered by the council. They still all seem as stretched and threadbare as before. Therefore, I am not totally sure what the extra income is actually being spent on.
- The only reason you need the increase is due to the colossal mismanagement and debt inherited from Northants County and Borough. Instead of forcing the tax payers to pay for fixing it, take the money from the cllrs, execs and directors who created the problem in the first place.
- You are increasing the Council Tax to cover holes in the finances, yet again you the children services are spending money like no tomorrow.

They are using accommodations where the landlord is requesting almost a couple a grand a week to house a child, surely you should be looking at cracking down on these unsuitable contracts with dodgy landlords who are profiting on the vulnerable and the Council are walking straight in to their hands.

The Council could easily stop renting from these landlords and wasting thousands of pounds per week and buy a suitable couple of properties, hire own staff to care for these children and young adults without spending thousands a week to landlords who are profiting.

- There are far too many people not contributing at all and those who do are being asked to pay even more, every person even on benefits should be paying even a small amount in my view.
- .In my views should we have police Commishoner as we managed well be fire we had one we would save some without one.
- My objections to any council tax increase is based on the fact that all council tax payers were cheated somewhere in the 1980s when the water rate was separated from the general rates and we were promised that the rates would be reduced by the price of the water, but it did not happen the rates went up instead plus the price of the water
- NNC services are no longer value for money or delivering the most basic of services in many areas..road network maintenance, planning, infrastructure to name a few. I struggle to see where funds have been spent in the more rural communities, [redacted] having the most expensive council tax already.
- They should budget better!
- council tax is already unafordable for the average personl without any increase of benefits.
- [redacted].I am not happy about the large increase in Council tax we have manage on a small budget and we do not get much increase in our pension to cover the extra council tax plus lots of things in the council [redacted] we will never use so do we have to for these thingsb

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 45 responses to this question.

- You can only tax the people who pay, the people on benefits will not have to scrape around to find as much money as a working person,
- household budgets inline with minimum wage are already stretched passed breaking point. You are asking already struggling households to pay even more ? The government and local authorities need to reassess the reality of what a normal household budget looks like. Rental prices for example are sky high. The supposed household recommended spending and budget guidance is nonsense for people on a low income. The sums don't add up.
- This will have a negative impact on a lot of people and households.
I understand the increase needed to the public services but it is not an easy decision to make for the people who make these decisions but please look at how you can support the people who can no longer live maybe in their current house as they are paying a large mortgage as the house prices are way to high for people who are on average wage and have no surplus money coming in to make the expected rises in council tax and utilities payments.
It just seems an easy option to pass the shortfall from the government budget.
- People are struggling to pay what they have to now an increase would make things even harder
- Preventive maintenance. You allow potholes to become dangerous. You never take care of the infrastructure and leave things until they cost the earth to repair. And when you do, its shoddy work.

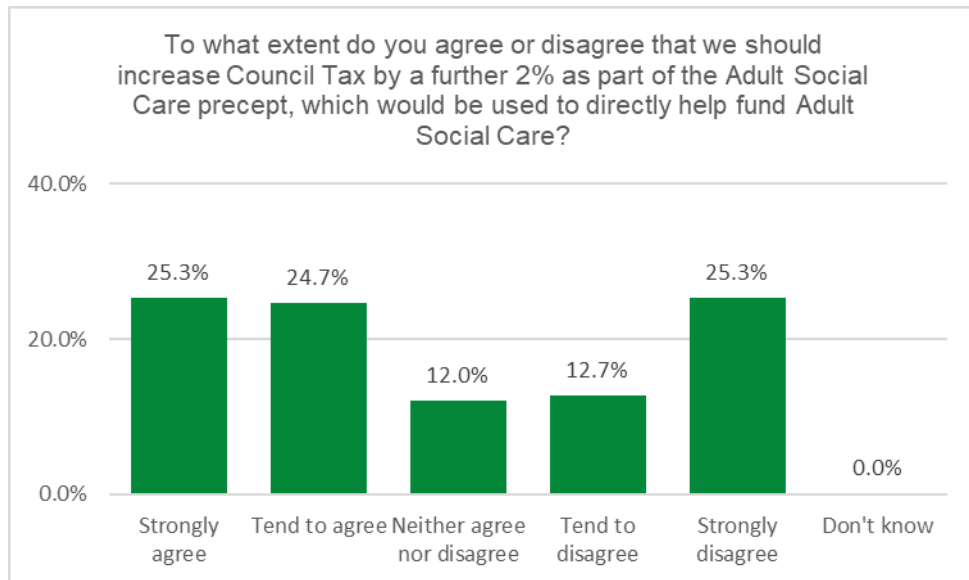
- Of course it would have a negative impact, pensioners have already been hit by a Government that has used them as a cash cow. Further costs will only make their lives harder and they will see little improvement and find it harder to heat their homes and feed themselves.
- See comments above
- negative impact as cost of living is also on the rise, Pensions left without winter cold money and utility bills increasing constantly. the Council are already failing with SEN children/issues/schooling/assessment throwing more money at it wont solve the issues.
- See above.
- Cost of living. Don't see the wages keep up and help pay for this. Perhaps those who don't pay could do some voluntary work to help keep the council costs down.
- Residents are already sick of high Council tax and very little in return. It's not as though all the roads will be perfect, streets litter free, vegetation kept neat, homeless people given a place to sleep and food to eat. It's the same with anything political, promise the earth and fail to deliver even an ounce of those promises.
- Again, increase the Council Tax Support scheme to 30%
- The charges for things like the police should be reviewed ..there is a lack of community Policing and the cry of we will have a Policeman in every community is frankly laughable.Rushden high street is a no go area in the evening , and the increase in drug finds would suggest Rushden is a easy place to set up drug factories .
- A lot more to be done especially in our towns outside of Northampton town, we have been poorly treated
- If my business, [redacted] had more work I could also afford office business rates and employ local staff! I have over 40 years experience.
- Residents are already being squeezed to the maximum with cost of living. Everything is going up except wages.
- No income except state pension and an increased outgoing
- Some people will struggle with this increase and may be pushed into poverty or further into poverty and so support to these people is key. Pressure on landlords not to increase rents, especially for the lower end of the rental market should be applied but the council should also be holding landlords to account to maintain standards in living accommodation. Support for impoverished groups and focus on financial planning and childcare costs, breakfast clubs etc is vita.
- As above, stop screwing people with ineffective business malmanagement. Its embarrassing of you. I have a set income of £500 pm to cover all and pride myself on being frugal and no burden to society costs. Your max increases year on year makes areal difference to me being able to maintain independence and is counter productive as will force me into claiming benefits.
Manage your resources and finances better rather than creaming it.
- large households use far more services yet pay the same as an old couple on state pension
- Everyone is having their day to day life expenses rise at a ridiculous rate. Unfortunately for the general public their wages are not keeping up with the rise. Too many public servants and business shareholders are getting huge bonuses, wage increases and perks at our expense.
- You're expecting the local residents to find extra money, where we already know people are struggling to pay this years and maybe previous years bill, but yet again you feel its suitable to raise the council tax which will leave a burden on the residents
- I think that more people will struggle to make this payment than ever before however I cannot offer an alternative.
- Too many people are living in poverty and paycheck to paycheck.
- Very negative as more of my hard earned money will be wasted!
- You're going to increase stress and impact mental health of residents.
We are facing rising costs everywhere without any increase in salaries to match - we can't keep doing it.

- The increase during severe economic struggles where some people are deciding between heating or food would further place people into difficult positions. I would suggest focusing on spending on the areas that urgently need it before considering an increase.
- Amended rates for the people who struggle to meet rising costs
- Even more financial strain on hard working families
- No [expletive] comment
- NO [expletive] COMMENT CORRUPT TO THE CORE ALL OF YOU ARE
- More austerity is on the way it would be pointless to subject [redacted] to more misery if you want the economy to grow at all
- I understand that "needs must" and there needs to be an increase, but the cost of living crisis that all residents are facing is not going away any time soon. Energy is going up, water is going up, weekly food shop for all households is going up, and now council tax is going up with wages across the country not increasing.
This is going to add further pressures on families that are already struggling or just getting by, people are surviving not living.
Work with the Voluntary sector to have warm spaces more of a year round option, dignity in crisis is become more and more relevant.
- The only impact it will have is more money in your corrupt pockets
- It will make the majority of the local residents poorer with no individual benefit for the majority.
Restructure the council, review wages for the top earners and provide value for money to the end user
- Financial strain to families already struggling with general living costs
- Potentially more skint people, more crime, more food banks. More hatred towards the councils.
- I think the negative impact will be that although it may raise additional income for the council, it will cause financial hardship for lots of local residents and therefore is likely to increase demand for support services as a result. This seems to be a false economy. In order to reduce or avoid any negative impact, the council could choose not to increase the council tax or to provide additional support to those struggling with paying the council tax e.g. longer time to pay, payment plans etc.
- People are already struggling with the demands of the cost of living, the new government have not helped and the winter fuel allowance being scrapped, there will be people who wont be able to afford the increase let
- More people in the squeezed middle will fall into claiming benefits.
- It will impact every rate payer by squeezing the already squeezed finances of working people. I would propose reducing the amount payed to already well payed councillors
- Poor people would be poorer
- Discontinue the policy allowing NNC staff to work condensed working weeks and continual working from home, so that they are actually present and available to deliver the services they have been employed and paid to do.
- Leave as is because they certainly don't improve services
- More and moe people will be drawn into poverty with any more additional taxes, bringing them into the benefits system. It could be balanced by not giving the public sector such huge rises.

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 £34.80 per year (£0.67p per week) for 2025/2026 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	£23.20	£0.45
B	£27.06	£0.52
C	£30.94	£0.60
D	£34.80	£0.67
E	£42.54	£0.82
F	£50.26	£0.97
G	£58.00	£1.12
H	£69.60	£1.34

There were 150 responses to this question.



	Response number	Percentage (%)
Strongly agree	38	25.3%
Tend to agree	37	24.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	18	12.0%
Tend to disagree	19	12.7%
Strongly disagree	38	25.3%
Don't know	0	0.0%

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 63 responses to this question.

Strongly agree/ Tend to agree
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We all know that Adult Social Care is under significant stress but this is an area we should additionally fund • Adult social care need more support and funding. • Adult social care is very important. Again the council cost stream line this to keep costs down. Perhaps a reliable computer system would be a start. • If spent wisely it is money well spent. But.....wisely is the key factor. • [redacted] apart from a six month check in with my local MS nurse , all my treatment is through [redacted] Hospital . I have not been to my GP (apart for Covid injections) for over 4 years ..and so they have no idea of my needs going forward .No wonder the hospitals are over run as Rushden expands through extensive House building and no further infrastrucure being put in place ... • Many many adults who need extra help have not been given it ,if this amount helps -- lets see ? • NNC needs to fund the in-house design (by registered/chartered professionals) and construction (direct labour) of council care homes / hospices etc. Which is proven to be more cost effective than outsourcing and the reason why many more councils are building in-house design and construction departments worldwide (including the UK surprisingly enough). • It represents my thoughts • There's a growing need to support vulnerable people and we have a duty to protect the vulnerable in our community. • Agree that social care requires more funding, but I would also like to see the Council undertake a review of it's policy and delivery structure to make the service more efficient and effective. I perceive that there is inefficiency and a lack of cross team working, which is causing unnecessary costs. • This is a growing pressure on LA finances. It is a prudent measure. Monies raised must be spent on ASC • If it is ringfenced for adult social care then I am in favour • funding demands outstrip current budget so services would be impacted without increase • We need to significantly support Social Care • Council tax has been used to gleen votes for far too lon • Same as above. Need to support essential services. • Funding for social care needs reform. Until a government does this we need to make sure it's funded as best it can be. • Adult social care fees are continuing to increase so we need further funds • For reasons given to the previous question

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This in fairness does not come close to covering the increased costs in this area and more must be done to take services in-house as private companies are seeing councils as a cash cow. • Not enough money is spent on Adult Social care • [redacted] I visit some elderly people in Care Homes. These services are essential but support and improvement. • [redacted] and the specialist support team within are excellent. I went with a private company before, and I left within a year. • You don't have any other option given how strapped for cash you are. • social care needs more money but also needs to make savings. i see too much wasting money where it can be better spent elsewhere. • Increasing demand needs to be catered for • Again, because I consider that there is room for savings by advancing greater efficiency in the working s of the Council • Vitally important to support struggling services
<p>Neither agree nor disagree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone has to pay for it • I simply don't have any direct knowledge or experience as to what this involves or whom it applies to. • See previous answer. • Not everyone can afford this.
<p>Strongly disagree/ Tend to disagree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per my previous note, [redacted] the weekly charge we pay these "private companies " to care for these vulnerable people, £5000-£7000 a week !!!!!!! its disgusting, I do not know how we as a council can support this scandal, and if there are 2 people in the property then that is £10000 a week, I am not exaggerating, [redacted] • People cannot afford to pay the increase without incurring financial difficulties for themselves. People are already using food banks to feed their families and they are working but dont have enough monies coming in to make the extra charges. • What on earth is happening that we need to spend more on adult social care? Do not schools these days teach basic housekeeping? Schools do allow kids to claim mental health and shut down without trying. Or do you mean in adult social care the disabled? Who are they? Why can't they work? • I believe this should be the responsibility of the Government not local councils. • I have difficulty paying the existing figure let alone any increase. • This should be a priority • Any increase is detrimental to my present income • You have and get enough, manage it! • Again better efficiency plus cutting abuse of the system. • These services have been cut and cut over the years. Now when we need them most it's us that have to find the extra money. • As previously advised you are expecting the residents to find extra money to causes which private companies profit from, the Council needs to review its policies especially housing vulnerable children and young adults in private care homes which make a massive profit per week. • I think people have tightened their belts so much already and so many will struggle to find this increase. I feel it may push more people to claim benefits which strikes me as counter-intuitive as budgets elsewhere will be stretched. • Families need to tzke care of their own, the government should be the last resort for ensuring your elderly parents of disabled fzmily are safe! People need to do more themselves rather than ask the state to do it for them and whilst we pander to them they will continue to do it! • as above - we cannot afford this.

- Previously funds intended for a specific purpose have been misspent which has made me concerned whether this increase would be used for that purpose.
- As above
- As above
- No [expletive] comment
- Just means more money in your bent corrupt back pockets
- The adult care budget does seem not to be reaching the people in Kettering who need this help but seems to be lost in transit through NNC no point in allowing more waste
- Makes no difference we won't see any at all as long as you lot keep pocketing our council tax money
- same as above get rid of the waste ; to many " so what " stuff going on
- Same as above.
- You really need to look at their figures and how they are spending
- These functions need to be completely overhauled. It cannot be right that private companies seem to be able to charge whatever they like to provide care. They profit at the expense of the Council Tax payer and the most vulnerable in our society.
- The quality of the care seems lacking, harsh as it sounds.
- Working people have had the tax burden increased on them to unsustainable levels of taxation over the last 20yrs
- See previous answers. Change the performance and culture within NNC and start delivering value for money with the funds already being paid by the community. The previous East Northants Council was efficient, helpful, present and effective.
- They don't use their present funds well
- Why are you taking away life giving money away from the old people and giving for example huge rises to doctors and train drivers who give dreadful services and should get the salaries reduced, that would save a huge amount of money.
- Less heating in my home

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 27 responses to this question.

- We have now become a total joke, [redacted] I go home, I can't afford to have my heating on, I am taxed to death and pay every bill going (I have worked to own my own house) I have just normal bills and with the joke of a payrise I am worse off every month that goes by.
- Please look at other options before making a final decision- council tax must be paid or you will have the bailiffs coming which will put people in more misery as the bailiffs are not people who understands peoples situation and will take their stuff away including their cares which they would need to get to work. Which they need to work and have wages coming into the house.
The council need to have more empathy to individual peoples situations.
- As per my previous answer to this question.
- Don't put this added burden on me.
- Rushden needs more VISABLE Police presence , more GP surgeries , its own health centre , a policy that deals with anti social behaviour especially school kids , and more facilities linked to new housing estates.
- If my business, [redacted] had more work I could also afford office business rates and employ local staff! I have over 40 years experience.
- Adult Social care should be a priority - the old peoples homes run by the council have all but closed down and now only private homes are available. This is ridiculous.
- Cant turn the heating on as it is might as well get the gas removed from the house

- Central government should of put money 8th the old NCC rather than the new unitary councils having to pick up a huge debt
- As above.
- People are struggling now especially with removal of winter fuel and increasing cost of living
- See answer above. Unfortunately I am unable to suggest an alternative for raising the adult social care budget.
- Yes mkore of my money wasted by inet officers and selfish users!
- The increase during severe economic struggles where some people are deciding between heating or food would further place people into difficult positions. I would suggest focusing on spending on the areas that urgently need it before considering an increase.
- People who are borderline level re finances. This group seems to be ignored. Not eligible for financial help but living on the edge of both levels
- As above
- No [expletive] comment
- No [expletive] comment waste of my time saying anything you never listen to the council tax payer
- Our economy needs to grow you already recieve millions in council tax payments that the average resident of Kettering can not afford you cannot keep increasing this tax and provide a less than adequate service to the people of Kettering. You need to increase other revenue streams and tackle corporate waste. Don't expect tax payers to fix mismanagement
- No comment
- People's health will go down without the care team xxxxx
- Same as above.
- The impact would be that more people will be in council tax arrears and will need additional support. This in turn means heavier demand for support services, so is a false economy.
- Not a solution to the national scandal that is the provision of social care.
- By continually increasing the taxation on taxpayers there is less money for people to spend in shops, keeping ourselves fit by going swimming and gyms etc
- See previous responses.
- Old people will incur more price increases and less services

Draft Capital Programme 2025-2029

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 2025-2029](#) report and its appendices, which contain details of each scheme:

- [Appendix A - Capital Programme 2025-2029](#)
- [Appendix B - Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2025-2029](#)
- [Appendix C - Development Pool](#)

If you would like further details about any of the schemes please contact us at 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 19 responses to this question.

Name of scheme(s):	Comment:
Housing revenue	I was quite shocked this year at the disparity between private and council house rent. Is this fair to all? Obviously far more social housing is required but I don't feel those in the private sector should pay so much more. They have no choice but to use the private sector when there is not enough council stock because of the disastrous right to buy scheme. The council should look at a raise in their property rent and invest that in a better standard of up keep and more properties. That is what the private rental sector has had to do for years.
Housing Revenue	I'd like to see brownfield land used for housing rather than green spaces which are at a premium already. Areas should be regenerated before any new housing is approved. There's a glut of warehouses and housing being built on green spaces. Then there's bewilderment from Council as to why there's areas which flood. Because you keep building on the natural drainage provided by green spaces.
Capital programme/ Development Pool	We need this money spent on our sufficiency in schools. What you are proposing is not enough
Highways--Road conditions-- Pothole fund-- Highway maintenance	In my town we have been badly neglected through having our highways being repaired / re surfaced. Corby has been totally forgotten while Northampton has had the majority of taxation spent on it.
Appendix A - Capital Programme 2025-2029	Nowhere near enough on developing new and existing council owned property to resolve the housing crisis and a civic centre to match the population size of the NNC area. Smaller towns in the EU have far larger facilities than any of NNC's towns. Why?
Appendix A - Capital Programme 2025-2029	Further capital expenditure required on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · HIGHWAYS ROAD & STREET CONDITION WORKS · HIGHWAYS POTHOLE FUND · CAR PARKING - further off-street car parking is urgently required in Desborough to reduce on-street car parking impeding the flow of traffic on certain streets, eg Dunkirk Ave, Federation Ave.
Childrens	Its good to see expenditure to bring children's residential placements back in house : think it would be even better if the Trust was also brought back in - unless it can control it's expenditure. It seems to act as a bottomless pit with no real accountability to NNC and me as Tax payer

Isham Bypassm, Wellingborough Multi Storey	<p>Isham Bypass- this has now been going on for over a decade whether it will happen or not, why are we wasting money on a Bypass, the bypass has now been scaled smaller and you will be creating more stress and hassle for the residents of the local area whilst you complete works.</p> <p>The Isham Bypass serves no purpose, the new industrial area by Isham is pointless with one business there, the road to the isham is awful, but yet again this will all approved by the Council.</p> <p>Having a Bypass will cause more problems and won't benefit the local area.</p> <p>You've advised works on the Wellingborough Multi Storey car park, what works are due to be undertaken, you've resurfaced the car park but the smell in the corridors on the stairs well and car park is awful, so what works are you undertaking to ensure the car park is inviting for the residents to use</p>
Leisure	I can't see where a sufficient commitment has been made to addressing ageing stock and new work on the Leisure Centres (as a contribution to health and wellbeing)
All of them	How on earth can you put a Capital programme with £30m of borrowing (nice try calling it discretionary funding tonthrow the public off the scent!)? The borrowing costs for this will cost at least £9m per year in interest costs (@ avg 3%) with a further £1m minimum in MRP charges! Honestly get a grip and start now cutting all none statutory spend across both revenue and capitzi before you need to issue a section 114 notice which we all know is coming! Officers, especially the Section 151 officer should be ashamed and stripped of their professional designations for allowing this to happen!
General	It is concerning that there is little to no consideration for surrounding infrastructure such as access to health support for new houses.
All	Again it feels the rural North has been forgotten
Appendix C development pool	I have looked at this and see a total lack of development in NNC poorest town sadly neglected since the 1980s Kettering is the victim of bungled developments and wasted funds now total neglect poor roads no cycleway looks third rate everywhere
HRA Capital Programme	Please get on and build the council houses that you have been promising in the HRA Capital Programme for years now and which you have failed to build.
N/A	N/A
	I am curious. Household waste is going down from 536 (000) to 232 when we have Stantion Cross up and running? How come? Do you plan on shipping the rubbish to another 3rd world country?
	Not enough social housing is being built ...full stop
	No [expletive] comment waste of my time making one you go ahead and do it any way as long as it's money in your bent corrupt pockets
	No [expletive] comment
	No comment

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 2025/2026 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 2025/2026 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 15 responses to this question.

Name of proposal(s):	Comment:
Discretionary Funding	I would like to see funding for the voluntary sector. So many family and children's services have suffered in re event years when local funding has not been available. East Northamptonshire council stopped the grant for Home Start and subsequently children's centres were lost. No wonder there has been a dramatic increase in family and children's problems. The volunteers in these organisations were worth more than the amount the organisation received and the outcome is now there for all to see. Volunteers need some funding to pay for the organisation of their freely given time. Council praise should be visibly given to organisations who give so much time freely to our communities.
Highways Road Conditions	Surely if our town roads are repaired satisfactorily or re surfaced then more income taxes would be earned therefore saving money,if done properly, which in Corby that has not been the case. Gretton Brook Road-Corby has an enormous amount of heavy traffic on it daily yet is in a terrible state, meaning transport companies have lorries out of action not being on the road because of repairs needed.
In-house architect and building design team departments	Proven to be far more cost effective than 'outsourcing' around the planet (and even the UK). The designs will then meet NNC's requirements and not those of the developer, which is the result of every D&B procured development (see every NHS building procured through D&B procurement in the past 40 years)!
Comparison with current financial year	Difficult to comment when there is no comparative data provided for 2023-2024 and unless you know what's involved in the services you can't really understand the impact
All non statutory spend	No budget proposal for non statutory spend should be rejected before NNC issues a section 114 notice, wake up before its too late!
All	When will you regenerate Wellingborough?
Budget 2025/2026	Nothing in this budget for Kettering as a result a reduction in council tax funded by the removal of leaders of NNC

[Redacted]	<p>This is a lot to red through but I am not finding anything about brown field site developments in general no thoughts on dealing with increasing numbers of empty retail units that make town centers look scruffy and run down. Time turn some in 1st time buyer homes?</p> <p>as every green field papered over is another nail it the environment carbon zero targets loss of green space and habitats as well as increasing flood issues we need to make reusing already use land before we ever approve a green field dev. I am also worried that for too long planning has been given for large estates with little or no flood remediation emphasis been put on the developers and as a result resident son many years have ended up flooded. T His might be 2 subjects</p>
Educational	<p>The outreach services and hugely, positively impacted many educational practitioners and children across the county. It is a service that is greatly needed in schools but could even be extended to support children outside of schools, such as with EBSA. Further support could include nursery's for LAC children or SGO children as a starting point for this age group. There is still a great need to widen the knowledge of nurture based approaches in education, including the psychology and physiology behind SEMH. Please keep this a part of the local strategy!!</p>
"Pressures" aka cuts	<p>I note the Chief Executive's Office appears to suffer no pressures. Why is this cost centre not contributing too?</p> <p>Review council non essential expenditure as well as councillors expenses!</p>
	<p>Manage what you have better. Simples, stop the greed and legal robbery.</p>
	<p>NO [expletive] COMMENT WASTE OF MY TIME MAKING ONE</p>
	<p>No comment</p>
	<p>Reduce the council wage bill</p> <p>I feel there is little point in making in depth analysis and discussion concerning the proposals, as they will not be listened to. This, I suspect, is in the same vein as the invitation to comment on the proposals to charge for garden waste removal whereby 80% plus of respondents were against, but yet the charges went ahaead anyway. This will be the same, the council will, I fear, proceed as it wishes, as self regulation prevails.</p>
	<p>As in lat questions no [expletive] comment</p>
General Comment	<p>Whilst there is some detail on income in the published paperwork, when it comes to how that money is spent, there's almost no detail on that spending, only headline figures. At best the only published detail relates to the changes to the spending in 2024-25. The published paperwork contains long paragraphs detailing many of the services that individual directorates provide, but with no spending amounts attached they are of little use. There's no chance for the public to form a view or to challenge because we just don't know what the detail is. This lack of information cannot possibly facilitate effective scrutiny of how the council spends taxpayers money, whether that money is spent wisely or not and certainly does not allow the opportunity to give a view on the detailed breakdown of council expenditure.</p>
N/A	N/A

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 129 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
As an individual	128	99.2%
On behalf of an organisation/community group	1	0.8%

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:

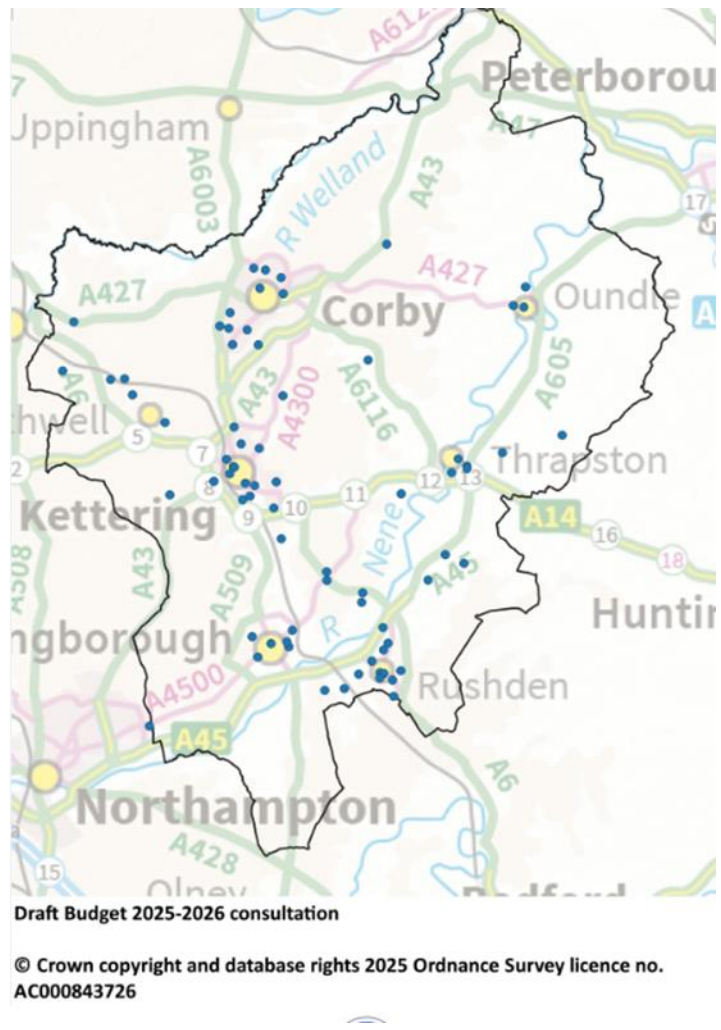
[No comments were made]

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 73 valid postcodes provided within North Northamptonshire, and 16 incomplete.



About this consultation

Q. How did you find out about this consultation? Please tick (✓) all that apply
 There were 116 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
As a member of the North Northamptonshire Residents' Panel	18	15.5%
As a member of the North Northamptonshire Consultation Register	13	11.2%
From an email alert from my local council	15	12.9%
From a Council contact, as I am service user	2	1.7%
From a voluntary sector organisation providing me with support or advice	0	0.0%
From the North Northamptonshire Council website	14	12.1%
On social media	25	21.6%
My local Councillor	1	0.9%
My local MP	0	0.0%
The Leader's update	4	3.4%

From the local media (newspaper or radio)	5	4.3%
Word of mouth through family or friend	1	0.9%
Internal: I am a North Northamptonshire Council employee	24	20.7%
Other	3	2.6%

Other:

- I work for a local government organisation so know where to loom especially when you dont advertise the consultation properly!
- Internal Staff Newsletter
- NNC Councilor briefing note

The next steps

Once the consultation period closes on 24 January 2025, 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 20 February 2025.

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 2025/2026.

This meeting is held in public and anyone wishing to speak at the meeting must contact democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk once the agenda is issued on the Council's **12 February 2025**. 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 99 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Female	5	55.6%
Male	3	33.3%
Non-binary	1	11.1%
Self define (please state below)	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%

Self define (please state):

[No comments were received]

Q. Is the gender you identify with the same as you were assigned at birth? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box

There were 9 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes	8	88.9%
No	1	11.1%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%

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

There were 9 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Single (never married)	1	11.1%
Married	6	66.7%
Civil Partnership	0	0.0%
Divorced	0	0.0%
Widowed	2	22.2%
Co-habiting	0	0.0%
Separated	0	0.0%
Other (please state below)	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%

Other (please state):

[No comments were received]

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

There were 9 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
16 – 24	0	0.0%
25 – 34	2	22.2%
35 – 49	2	22.2%
50 – 64	3	33.3%
65 – 74	1	11.1%
75 – 84	1	11.1%
85+	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%

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

There were 9 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Asian British	0	0.0%
Indian	0	0.0%
Bangladeshi	0	0.0%
Pakistani	0	0.0%
Chinese	0	0.0%
Other Asian background (please state below)	0	0.0%
Black British	0	0.0%
Black African	0	0.0%
Black Caribbean	0	0.0%
Other Black background (please state below)	0	0.0%
White/Black African	0	0.0%
White/Black Caribbean	0	0.0%
White/Asian	0	0.0%
Other Multiple ethnic background (please state below)	0	0.0%
White British	9	100.0%
White Gypsy/Irish Traveller	0	0.0%
White Irish	0	0.0%
Other White (please state below)	0	0.0%
Arab	0	0.0%
Other ethnic group (please state below)	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%

Other (please state):

[No comments were received]

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

There were 9 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes	2	22.2%
No	7	77.8%
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 9 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Yes, limited a little	2	22.2%
Yes, limited a lot	1	11.1%
No	6	66.7%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%

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

There were 9 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Heterosexual (Straight)	7	77.8%
Gay	1	11.1%
Lesbian	0	0.0%
Bisexual	0	0.0%
Not sure	0	0.0%
Self define (please state below)	1	11.1%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%

Self define (please state below)

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asexual |
|---|

Q. How would you define your Religion or Belief? Please tick (✓) the appropriate box
 There were 9 responses to this question.

	Response number	Percentage (%)
Buddhist	0	0.0%
Christian	4	44.4%
Hindu	0	0.0%
Jewish	0	0.0%
Muslim	0	0.0%
Sikh	0	0.0%
No Religion	3	33.3%
Other (please state below)	0	6.3%
Prefer not to say	2	22.2%

Other (please state):

[No comments were received]

Appendix 2: Other responses

Feedback received via letters / emails

There was one written response received.

I don't agree with the council tax rise, pensions and families are being squeezed enough with the cancellation of the heating allowance, rises in heating costs, increases in water rates and the consequent rise in food prices, we do not have unlimited income.

Regards

[redacted]