



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

2 February 2023

**Joint Report of the Managing Director and the Interim Director of
Finance & ICT**

Budget Consultation Results
(Corporate Services and Budget)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide.

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is not a Key Decision.

3 Purpose of the Report

3.1 To enable Cabinet to consider the outcome of the Council's budget consultation exercises in formulating its budgetary proposals to Full Council regarding the Revenue Budget for 2023-24.

3.2 This report should be read alongside the following reports to this meeting: the Reserves Position and Reserves Policy Report, the Revenue Budget Report 2023-24 and the Capital Programme Approvals, Treasury Management and Capital Strategies for 2023-24 Report.

4 Information and Analysis

- 4.1 The Council has, for a number of years, undertaken a variety of consultation exercises, using a range of methods, in the preparation of its annual revenue budget. For 2023-24 the Council devised a 'Your Council, Your Voice 2022' survey. As in previous years, this was an in-depth survey, combining both budget and residents' consultations. The headline findings from the survey are being used to refresh the Council Plan for 2023-24 and the budget consultation elements are reported on here. Plans are being formulated to undertake further analysis to support wider strategy development across the Council and engagement with residents and local communities.

Online Survey

- 4.2 The online survey combined both budget and residents' consultations and ran for six weeks, from 3 October 2022 to 13 November 2022. Participation in the survey was encouraged using a variety of methods including social media posts on Twitter and Facebook, and a Facebook advertising campaign which reached 231,358 people and resulted in 13,008 clicks through to the survey. The survey was also publicised in the e-version of the Council's residents' magazine Derbyshire Now, featured in the Our Derbyshire employee newsletter, the Councillors' briefing Members' News, Community eNews and via releases sent to the local media. In addition, 6,000 residents who had previously expressed an interest in being involved in further consultation with the Council were e-mailed the survey directly. A total of 2,431 Derbyshire residents completed the survey online. Last year, the Council attracted 2,550 responses to its survey. The survey response remains strong.
- 4.3 To promote participation amongst residents who are less familiar with, or have no internet access, copies of a paper consultation questionnaire, containing the same questions, were made available on request. A freepost address was used to encourage participation. A small number of paper questionnaires were posted out, but none of these were returned.

- 4.4 The average (mean) age of respondents was 57 years. This compares to an average age of 56 for the 2022-23 consultation. Responses from the over 45 and over 65 age groups have increased compared to the 2022-23 consultation response. These age groups are overrepresented compared to their proportion of the Derbyshire population according to the latest 2021 Census data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), with responses in these age groups around nine/ten percentage points above their proportion of the Derbyshire population, respectively. Engagement with the under 25 and under 45 age groups has decreased, with responses in each of these age groups around eight percentage points below their proportion of the Derbyshire population. The strongest response is again from the 45-64 age group. Of those responding, 45% were male and 54% were female, with the proportion of female respondents increasing compared to the 2022-23 consultation, where 49% of respondents were male and 51% were female. Females responding to the 2022-23 consultation are overrepresented compared to ONS 2021 Census data for Derbyshire, which indicated that 51% of the Derbyshire population were female.
- 4.5 A map showing the location of respondents across the county is attached at Appendix Two. If survey response rates were to follow the percentage of population in each district, the Council would expect 9% of respondents to be resident in Derbyshire Dales. The analysis shows that residents from Derbyshire Dales are over-represented in the consultation, with 16% of all respondents living in the district. High Peak residents are also over-represented (5% higher), whilst those in South Derbyshire and Erewash are particularly under-represented (5% and 4% lower, respectively). These findings reflect a pattern of response rates which have been seen in all budget consultations since 2020-21.
- 4.6 A total of 19% of respondents identified themselves as having a disability, which is two percentage points higher than the response rate in the 2022-23 budget consultation. This compares to 20% of the population who said that their day-to-day activities were limited in the latest ONS Census for which this data is currently available (2011).
- 4.7 A total of 94% of respondents identified themselves as white, with 6% identifying themselves as BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic). This is consistent with the percentage of Derbyshire's population who identified themselves as White British/BAME in the latest ONS Census for which this data is available (2011).
- 4.8 Further demographic analysis is attached for consideration at Appendix Three.

- 4.9 Local people were asked six budget consultation questions as part of the budget consultation survey, to establish their views on what the Council's top and bottom three priority services should be. Respondents were also asked for their reasons in choosing priority services and to rank in order of importance nine options the Council could use to save money or raise additional revenue. In addition, respondents were asked whether they had any other suggestions for making savings or raising additional income that the Council should explore.
- 4.10 Of the six budget consultation questions, five required respondents to select their answers from a selection of options provided in the consultation. Respondents were given the option to make further comments on two of the six questions if they had selected 'other' as a reason as to why they had selected their top or bottom three priorities. The option to make further comments in respect of the question on 'how the Council could save money or raise additional revenue' was also provided, allowing respondents to comment freely. Fewer responses were received where respondents were asked to comment freely.
- 4.11 The following views were expressed:
- From a choice of 22 Council services, respondents thought that the top three priorities, with the most popular listed first, should be:
 - 'Highways services including planning and maintenance' (selected by 41% of respondents as being in their top three priority services);
 - 'Supporting public and community transport' (29%); and
 - 'Environmental policy including flooding and climate change' (24%).
 - These are the same first and third-placed priorities as in the 2022-23 budget consultation, with the second-placed priority in 2022-23 being 'waste and recycling centres', which ranked fourth during this year's consultation.
 - In another question, when respondents were asked to select their bottom three priorities from the same list of the Council's services, the least selected services and by implication the most supported in this question, were 'safeguarding and child protection' (2%), followed by 'support for vulnerable children and families' (3%), and 'support for older adults' (4%).
 - The top Council service priority selected by both males and females was 'highways services including planning and maintenance', although 51% of males, compared to 33% of females, chose this service priority.

- The second most popular service priority for males was ‘waste and recycling centres’ (28%) however for females the second most popular service priority was ‘supporting public and community transport’ (31%).
- The third most popular service priority for males was ‘supporting public and community transport’ (27%), and for females it was ‘support for older adults’ (26%). In the 2022-23 budget consultation there was a convergence of male and female views, with the same service priorities selected by both groups in each of the top three positions. The 2023-24 findings show a divergence, similar to 2021-22.
- The most important reason for choosing the top Council service priorities in the survey was ‘important to you or your family’ (45%), followed by ‘need to protect and support vulnerable people’ (35%) and then ‘importance of road and public transport issues’ (32%). These are the same top three reasons, ranked in the same priority order, as in the budget consultation 2022-23.
- Fewer than 1% of respondents chose to comment further on why they had chosen their top three priorities, with there being broadly equal support from individuals leaving comments for most of the services listed.
- From the same choice of 22 Council services, the priorities which respondents thought were least important (with the ones most frequently selected listed first), are as follows:
 - ‘Museums, heritage and arts services’ (selected by 39% of respondents as being in their bottom three priority services);
 - ‘Grants and aid to voluntary groups’ (32%); and
 - ‘Adult community education’ (25%)
 These are the same top three, in the same ranked order, as in the 2022-23 budget consultation.
- The least selected service as a top priority was ‘fostering and adoption services’ (1%), followed by ‘trading standards’ (2%) and ‘adult community education’ (3%). These are the same three least selected services as in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 budget consultations.
- The bottom two Council service priorities highlighted above were selected most by both males and females, as in 2022-23. However, the third most selected bottom Council service priority was ‘adult community education’ overall, but ‘welfare rights advice’ for males and ‘trading standards’ for females. Again this is the same result as in 2022-23.
- The most important reason for choosing the bottom Council service priorities in the survey was ‘other services are more important’ (68%), followed by ‘difficult to choose’ (49%) and then ‘not relevant or important to you or your family’ (39%). These are the same top three reasons, in the same ranked priority order, as in the budget consultation 2022-23.

- Only 1% of respondents chose to comment further on why they had chosen their bottom three priorities, with the main themes being that all services are important, it is difficult to choose or a choice could not be made.
- Respondents identified the most important of nine options the Council could use to save money or raise additional revenue as follows:
 - 'Work with other councils to deliver shared services'
 - 'Use other ways of delivering services such as local trusts or other 'not for profit' partnerships'
 - 'Put more services on-line'.
- Males and females agreed on the top three choices and their ranking. This year's top three responses are identical to responses to this question in all of the budget consultations that have taken place since 2020-21.
- The least important of the nine options to save money or raise additional revenue, as ranked by both male and female respondents, was 'increase Council Tax'. This was followed by 'increase charges for services supplied to the public', again selected by both male and female respondents. The overall third least important selection was 'maintain services but do less frequently or reduce level of service', although females selected 'reduce or stop delivery of less important services'. This overall order is identical to the order in each of the budget consultations since 2020-21.
- Most people (1,716 respondents) did not make any suggestions on alternative ways for saving money or raising additional revenue. An additional 59 people referred to services that were provided by district/borough councils, or other organisations such as Government or Health. The remaining comments were grouped into a range of topics including:
 - Staffing issues (187 respondents) - including reducing the number of staff, pay, sick leave and pensions of managers and staff.
 - Continually reviewing services to improve efficiency, providing value for money whilst maintaining quality of services, and embracing modern ways of working and best practice, such as working from home and holding online meetings.
 - Highways issues with 67 respondents concerned about issues such as the quality of work on potholes, leading to additional spending.
 - The need to stop outsourcing and using consultants, contractors and agencies (66 respondents).
 - Developing Council sites (50 respondents) - including selling or leasing buildings and property or renting out unused rooms. Combining buildings to produce hubs of services. Reviewing the cost of running Council buildings, such as heating costs and the impact of opening hours.

- Increasing funding (49 respondents) with a variety of suggestions outlined including lobbying Government, instigating a local lottery, using the private sector to help raise finance and charging people who can afford it for services.
- Social care (22 respondents).
- Reviewing Council Tax and rates systems for both domestic and business (19 respondents).
- Consulting and listening to local people (17 respondents).
- Use of alternative energy for buildings and transport (17 respondents).
- Combining local authorities or collaboration (13 respondents).

Focus Groups

4.12 It was agreed as part of the “Your Council, Your Voice 2022” consultation approach that a number of online and face to face focus groups would be held. A total of 29 residents took part in four focus groups (three in person and one online). Participants were split 32% female and 68% male.

4.13 The key issues and findings from the groups are as follows:

- 59% of residents attending the focus groups were satisfied with the way the Council runs things, with 14% being dissatisfied.
- Most participants agreed with the top three priorities. However, many participants were surprised that Adult Social Care did not feature in the top three priorities.
- Participants thought local people should get more engaged and have more information to help them understand the reasoning for budget priorities.
- Residents attending would like to see more information on discretionary spend, and a comparison chart for funds for which the Council has control.
- Residents would like to see how much the spend is per person for services, although this is included in the annual Council Tax leaflet
- There were high levels of dissatisfaction with roads in the county, in particular roads needing repair and the high levels of traffic, which makes it difficult to commute around the county.
- Residents would use public transport more if it was reliable and co-ordinated. There was comparison to transport systems in nearby Sheffield, where residents felt there is a more accessible and reliable transport system.
- Participants perceived that the Council is “reactive” rather than proactive, which many participants thought was the wrong approach.
- Participants felt the Council needs to be more transparent and to better explain the reason for decisions to residents/communities.

- Residents were keen that the Council lobbies Government on specific issues and believe that local Members of Parliament (MPs) should be asked to lobby on behalf of the views of local residents more than they do at present.

4.14 A detailed analysis of the consultation results and themes arising from the comments that participants contributed are included at Appendix Four.

Other Consultation

4.15 The Council's Constitution provides that the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee should also be notified of the budget proposals. There has been regular engagement with the Committee throughout the year. At the 1 December 2022 Committee meeting there was particular emphasis on the production of the forthcoming 2023-24 budget, when a report was presented and a discussion was held. There was unanimous agreement of the report recommendations, with the Committee noting:

- The Revenue Budget Forecast Outturn for 2022-23, as at Quarter 1 (30 June 2022).
- That there was likely to be a significant shortfall in the Revenue Budget 2023-24 based on currently known information.
- The ongoing work to identify further savings options, to reduce the 2023-24 Revenue Budget shortfall and therefore mitigate the use of one off-reserves to deliver a balanced budget.
- The key announcements in the Autumn Statement 2022 relevant to Local Government.

4.16 The Committee expressed an understanding at this meeting of the Council's potential financial position but noted that the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement would provide more detail in respect of 2023-24 funding, when the final extent of any 2023-24 Revenue Budget shortfall, requiring additional savings or the use of one-off reserves to deliver a balanced budget, would be known.

4.17 At this meeting there were also several comments, questions and views expressed by members of the Committee in respect of the 2023-24 budget. These were around the following broad issues:

- The difficulties in forecasting inflation as it is not 'an exact science', with a variety of sources being used, including data provided by the Office of National Statistics (ONS); in-house information and expertise, for example in respect of energy pricing; and external financial market advice provided by the Council's Treasury Management Advisors.

- The implications of receiving higher than expected grants in the Local Government Finance Settlement, and how these would be treated if so. These would provide ongoing funding in the budget base if funding were likely to be recurring in nature, or otherwise provide support for one-off expenditure if not.
- The Committee were supportive of challenging Executive Directors on the use of Earmarked Reserves balances.
- There was acknowledgment that whilst the Autumn Statement 2022 has increased Council Tax referendum limits, permitting 2023-24 Council Tax increases up to 5% for the Council, the extent of the Council Tax increase is a matter for the Council and is not to be prescribed by Government.

4.18 The Council sought the views of the trade unions by consulting with them on the Council's budget proposals at the Corporate Joint Committee meeting held on 19 January 2023. At the meeting the trade unions were keen to understand the additional costs of the 2022-23 pay award and estimates for the 2023-24 pay award. A discussion was also held in respect of estimated inflationary increases in the short to medium-term.

4.19 In addition, the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires local authorities to consult representatives of business ratepayers in their area about the budget proposals for each financial year. The Council is seeking the views of business ratepayers by corresponding with representatives of the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire), the CBI East Midlands and the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Federation of Small Businesses on the Council's budget proposals. A verbal update will be provided at this meeting.

5 Consultation

5.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the outcome of the consultation undertaken to support the formulation of the Revenue Budget for 2023-24.

6 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 Do Nothing – this is not an option, as it is a legal requirement for the Council to consult on its Revenue Budget proposals. These requirements are set out below.

- 6.2 Under section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as a major precepting authority, the Council has a statutory duty to consult ratepayer representatives on its annual expenditure proposals, ahead of setting its budget. Certain prescribed information must be sent to the persons the Council proposes to consult as soon as practicable and, in any event, not later than 15 February by virtue of the Non-Domestic Ratepayer (Consultation) Regulations 1992.
- 6.3 The Council also has a statutory duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness and when determining how to discharge this duty has to consult representatives of a wide range of local persons. In performing these statutory duties the Council must have regard to statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- 6.4 Obligations set out in the Budget and Policy Framework included in the Council's Constitution require consultation with stakeholders.
- 6.5 Case law has established minimum requirements of consultation, which are:
- Consultation must be at a time when proposals are at a formative stage.
 - Sufficient information must be given to permit a person to "give an intelligent consideration and response".
 - Adequate time must be given for consideration and response.
 - The results of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising any proposal and provided to the decision maker to inform their decision.
- 6.6 The type and extent of consultation must be proportionate to the potential impact of the proposals. The consultation exercise must be conducted in a timely fashion to enable sufficient time for the budget to be approved by Cabinet and Council in accordance with the timescales set out in the report.
- 6.7 The consultation activities set out in the report meet the necessary legislative and Constitutional requirements.

7 Implications

- 7.1 Appendix One sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8 Background Papers

8.1 Not applicable.

9 Appendices

9.1 Appendix One – Implications.

9.2 Appendix Two – Map - Location of Your Council Your Voice 2022 Survey Respondents.

9.3 Appendix Three – Demographic Profile of Budget Consultation Respondents.

9.4 Appendix Four – Budget Consultation - Analysis of Consultation Responses.

10 Recommendations

That Cabinet:

10.1 Takes into account the views of consultation respondents in formulating its proposals to Full Council regarding the Revenue Budget for 2023-24.

11 Reasons for Recommendation

11.1 When setting the Revenue Budget, the Council must be mindful of the potential impact on service users. The consultation exercises which have been undertaken in the preparation of the Revenue Budget for 2023-24 are relevant in this respect. The responses to these consultation exercises must be conscientiously taken into account when setting the Revenue Budget.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

12.1 No

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The outcomes of these consultations should be used to inform service planning and help determine budget priorities.

Legal

- 2.1 Members are invited to have regard to the advice contained in the Revenue Budget Report 2023-24. In addition:
- 2.2 Under section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as a major precepting authority, the Council has a statutory duty to consult ratepayer representatives on its annual expenditure proposals, ahead of setting its budget. Certain prescribed information must be sent to the persons the Council proposes to consult as soon as practicable and, in any event, not later than 15 February by virtue of the Non-Domestic Ratepayer (Consultation) Regulations 1992.
- 2.3 The Council also has a statutory duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness and when determining how to discharge this duty has to consult representatives of a wide range of local persons.
- 2.4 In performing these statutory duties the Council must have regard to statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- 2.5 The obligations set out in the Budget and Policy Framework included in the Constitution are as outlined in the body of the report.
- 2.6 Case law has established minimum requirements of consultation, which are:
 - Consultation must be at a time when proposals are at a formative stage.
 - Sufficient information must be given to permit a person to “give an intelligent consideration and response”.
 - Adequate time must be given for consideration and response.
 - The results of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising any proposal and provided to the decision maker to inform their decision.

- 2.7 The type and extent of consultation must be proportionate to the potential impact of the proposals. The consultation exercise will be conducted in a timely fashion to enable sufficient time for the budget to be approved by Cabinet and Council in accordance with the timescales set out in the report.
- 2.8 The consultation activities set out in the report meet the necessary legislative and Constitutional requirements.

Human Resources

- 3.1 None

Information Technology

- 4.1 None

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 To promote participation amongst residents who are less familiar with, or have no internet access, copies of a paper consultation questionnaire, containing the same questions, were made available on request. A freepost address was used to encourage participation. To extend participation in the consultation, a number of online and face to face focus groups were held.
- 5.2 This report includes details on the proportion of budget consultation respondents with different protected characteristics. These characteristics include age, gender, disability and ethnicity. Responses from respondents with these characteristics are broadly in line with population data.
- 5.3 A detailed Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out which ensures that the Council's annual Revenue Budget proposals are formulated taking into account the impact that these proposals may have on local people, including those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. The EIA also takes into account views received from people with protected characteristics which have been received as part of the 2023-24 budget consultation exercise. The Equalities Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix Eight of the Revenue Budget Report 2023-24.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

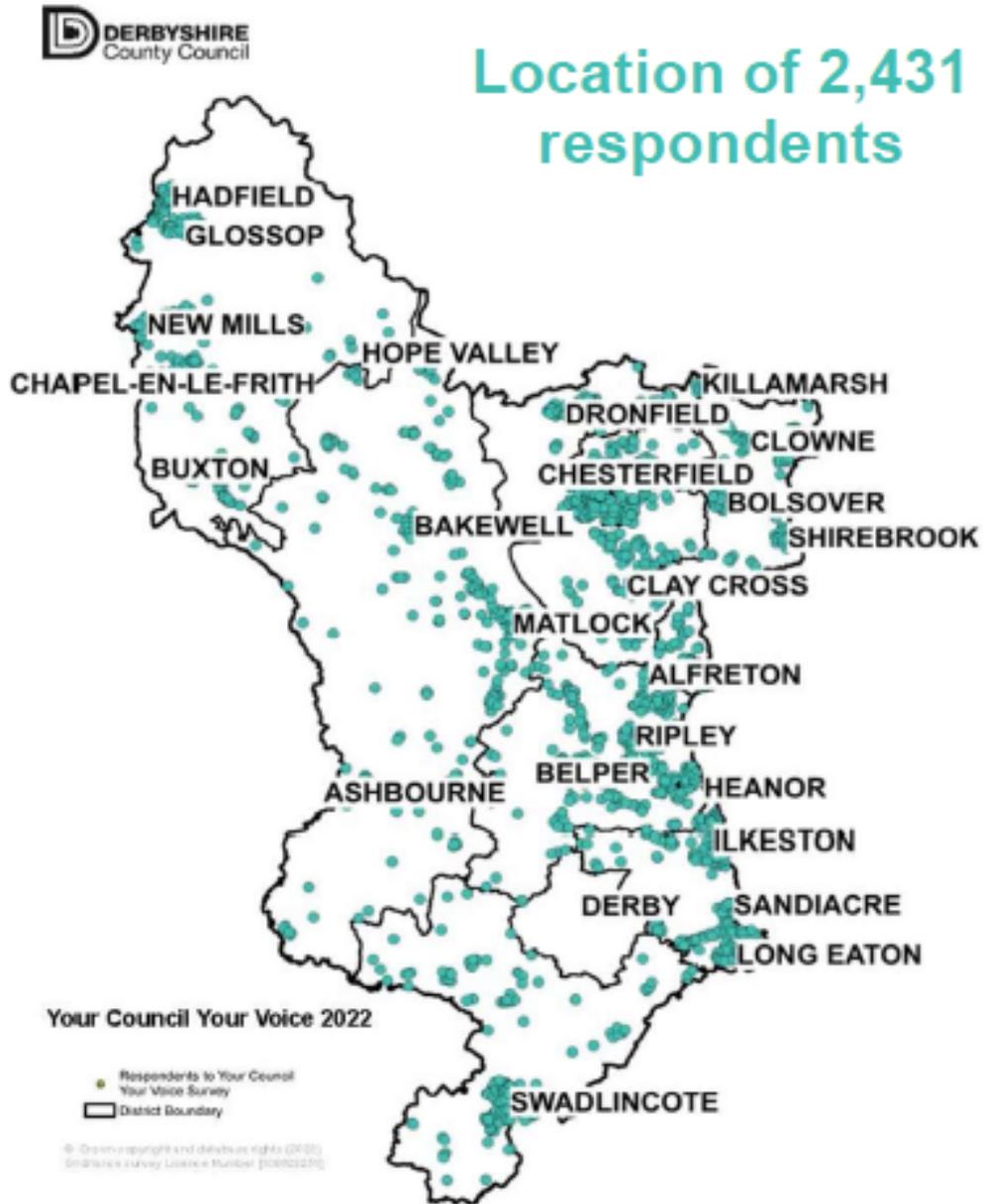
- 6.1 The Council Plan values commit to spending money wisely, making the best use of the resources that the Council has.

6.2 The Council is committed to ensuring good financial management and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The Council is committed to ensuring that it sets a balanced budget over the medium-term, therefore ensuring good financial management and use of reserve balances to meet the costs of any unforeseeable events.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 None

Map - Location of Your Council Your Voice 2022 Survey Respondents



Demographic Profile of Budget Consultation Respondents

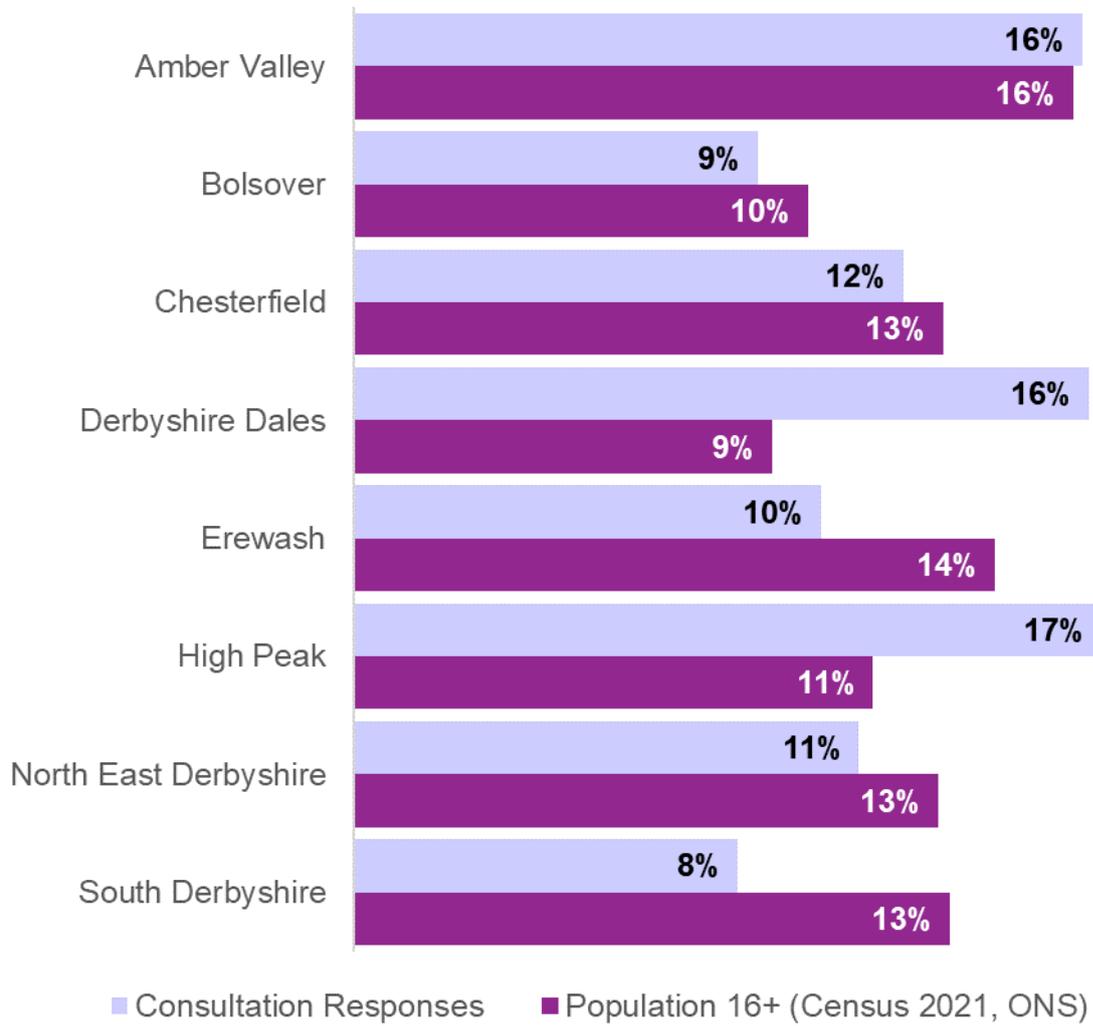
A total of 2,473 people responded to the consultation, but the analysis included in this report looks at the answers of 2,431 respondents. The survey stated that it was only open to residents who live within the administrative county of Derbyshire, so the analysis excludes the responses of 13 people who live outside Derbyshire, and 29 people who submitted multiple entries. The total number of respondents will vary for individual questions as not all respondents answered all of the questions. All responses were completed online. A small number of paper questionnaires were posted out to residents, but none were returned.

Location

The Derbyshire District of consultation respondents supplying a valid postcode has been compared to the distribution of the Derbyshire population aged 16+ according to the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2021 Census Data.

District	Consultation Responses		Population 16+ (Census 2021, ONS)		% point difference (Respondents - Population)	
	Number	%	Number	%		
Amber Valley	357	16%	105,058	16%	0.2%	↑
Bolsover	198	9%	66,282	10%	-1.1%	↓
Chesterfield	269	12%	86,002	13%	-0.9%	↓
Derbyshire Dales	360	16%	61,059	9%	7.0%	↑
Erewash	229	10%	93,523	14%	-3.8%	↓
High Peak	366	17%	75,657	11%	5.1%	↑
North East Derbyshire	247	11%	85,273	13%	-1.8%	↓
South Derbyshire	188	8%	86,949	13%	-4.7%	↓
Total	2,214	100%	659,803	100%		

Comparison of consultation respondents and population aged 16+ by district

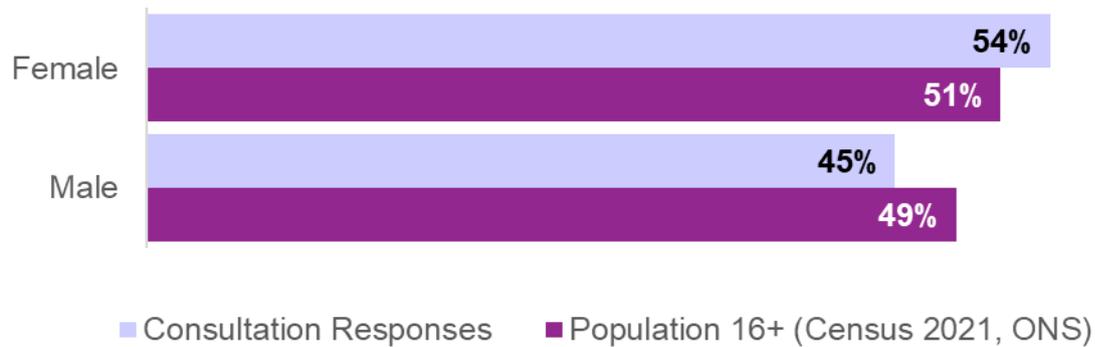


Gender

The gender and age profile of respondents have also been compared to the profile of all residents in the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2021 Census Data.

Sex	Consultation Responses		Population 16+ (Census 2021, ONS)		% point difference (Respondents - Population)	
	Number	%	Number	%		
Female	1,301	54%	338,696	51%	3.0%	↑
Male	1,077	45%	321,143	49%	-3.7%	↓
Total	2,378	99%	659,839	100%		

Comparison of consultation respondents and population aged 16+ by sex



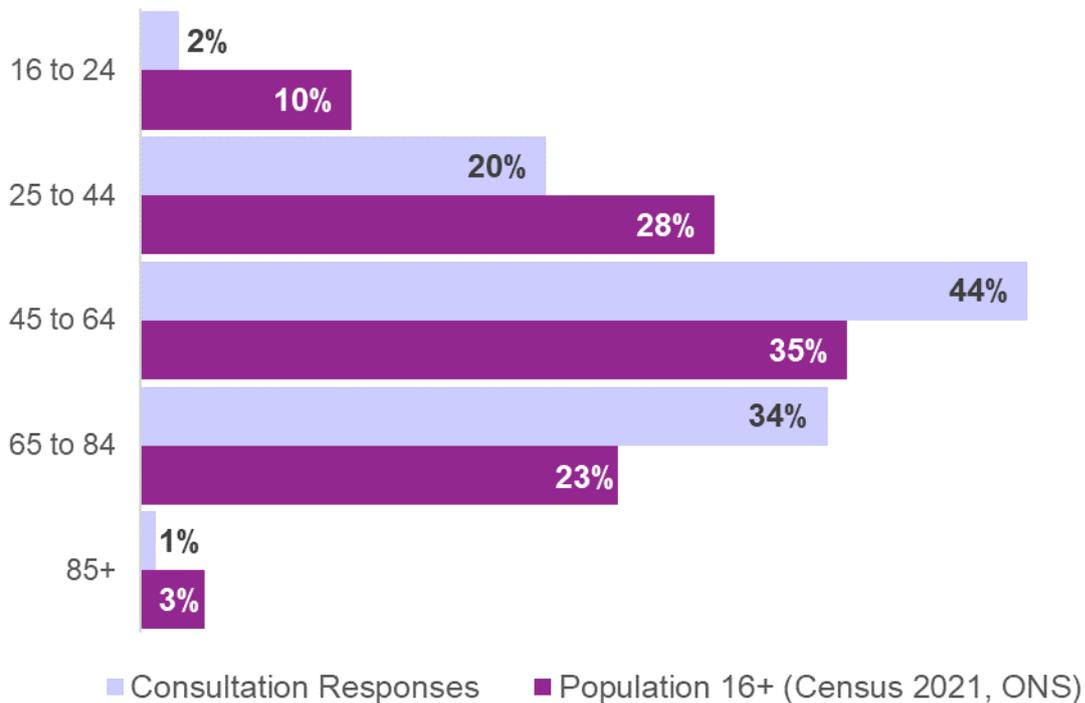
Age

Appendix Three

Age Band	Consultation Responses		Population 16+ (Census 2021, ONS)		% point difference (Respondents - Population)	
	Number	%	Number	%		
16 to 24	44	2%	66,443	10%	-8.2%	↓
25 to 44	466	20%	186,248	28%	-8.3%	↓
45 to 64	1,019	44%	229,455	35%	8.8%	↑
65 to 84	789	34%	154,791	24%	10.3%	↑
85+	15	1%	20,903	3%	-2.5%	↓
Total	2,333	100%	657,840	100%		

The average age of respondents was 57 years.

Comparison of consultation respondents and population aged 16+ by age band



Disability

Do you consider yourself disabled?	Consultation Responses	
	Number	%
Yes	424	19%
No	1,861	81%
Total	2,285	100%



Ethnic Group

What is your ethnic group?	Consultation Responses	
	Number	%
White	2,252	94%
BAME	134	6%
Total	2,386	100%

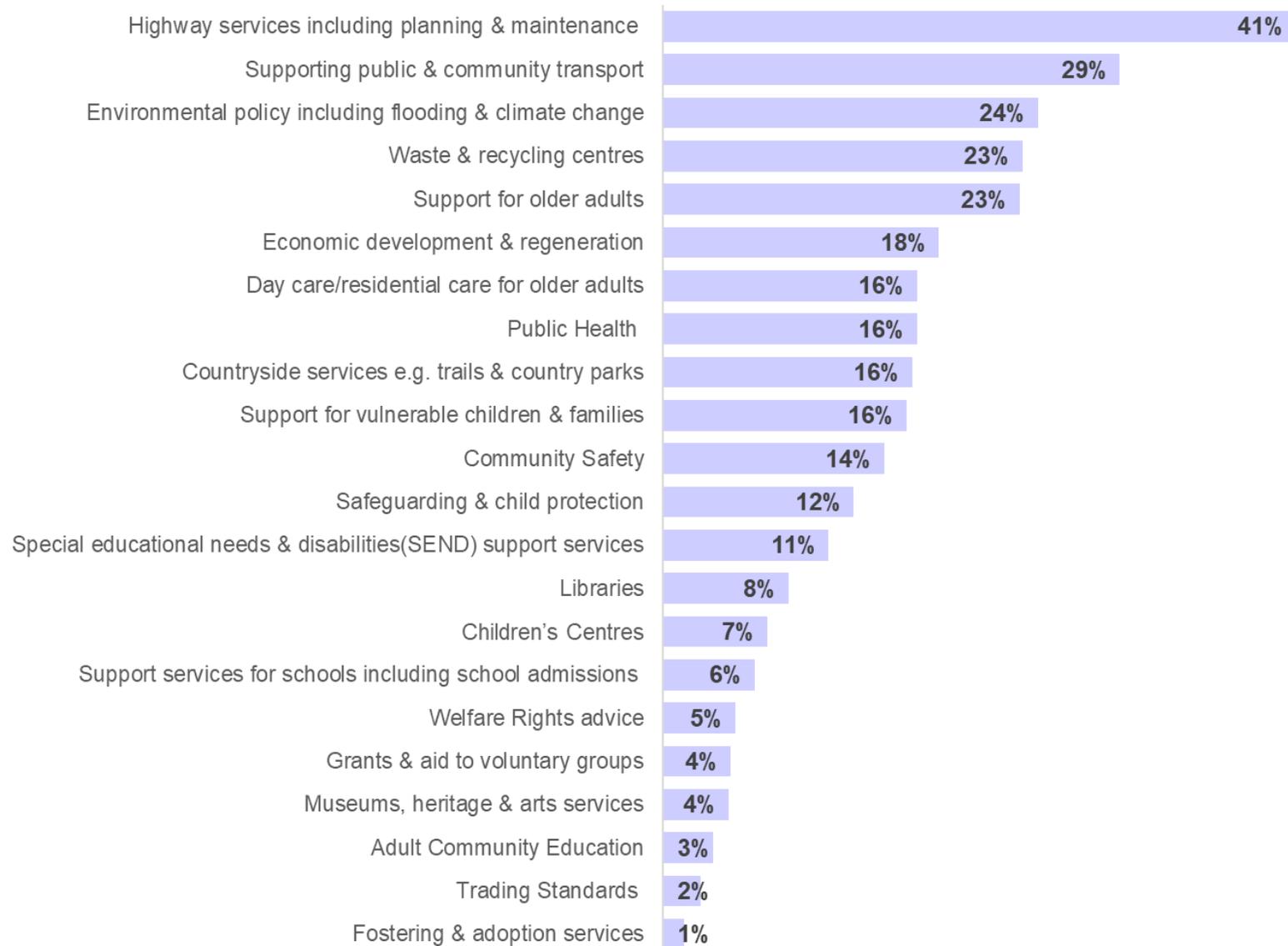


Budget Consultation - Analysis of Consultation Responses

All Derbyshire Respondents

From the list of services below provided by Derbyshire County Council please select your top three priorities:			
Priority	Consultation responses		
	Number	Percentage	Rank
Highway services including planning & maintenance	983	41%	1
Supporting public & community transport	709	29%	2
Environmental policy including flooding & climate change	582	24%	3
Waste & recycling centres	558	23%	4
Support for older adults	554	23%	5
Economic development & regeneration	428	18%	6
Day care/residential care for older adults	394	16%	7
Public Health	394	16%	7
Countryside services e.g. trails & country parks	387	16%	8
Support for vulnerable children & families	378	16%	9
Community Safety	343	14%	10
Safeguarding & child protection	296	12%	11
Special educational needs & disabilities(SEND) support services	256	11%	12
Libraries	194	8%	13
Children's Centres	162	7%	14
Support services for schools including school admissions	142	6%	15
Welfare Rights advice	112	5%	16
Grants & aid to voluntary groups	105	4%	17
Museums, heritage & arts services	102	4%	18
Adult Community Education	78	3%	19
Trading Standards	58	2%	20
Fostering & adoption services	32	1%	21
Total	7,247		

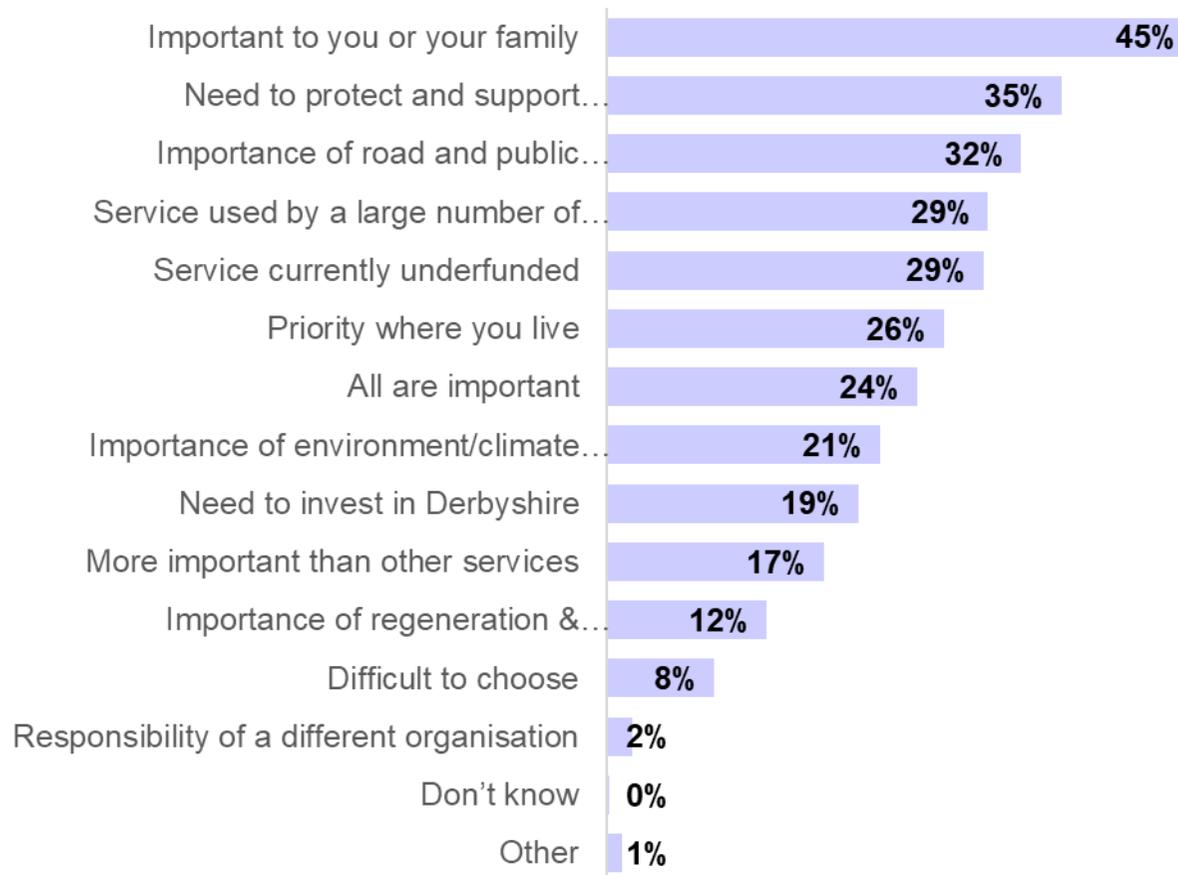
From the list of services below provided by Derbyshire County Council please select your top three priorities:



Why have you chosen these services as your top three priorities?

Reason	Consultation Responses		
	Number	Percentage	Rank
Important to you or your family	1,365	45%	1
Need to protect and support vulnerable people	1,058	35%	2
Importance of road and public transport issues	965	32%	3
Service used by a large number of people	887	29%	4
Service currently underfunded	877	29%	5
Priority where you live	785	26%	6
All are important	722	24%	7
Importance of environment/climate change	636	21%	8
Need to invest in Derbyshire	585	19%	9
More important than other services	504	17%	10
Importance of regeneration & economic development	371	12%	11
Difficult to choose	248	8%	12
Responsibility of a different organisation	60	2%	13
Don't know	5	0%	14
Other	34	1%	15
Total	9,102		

Why have you chosen these services as your top three priorities?



Appendix Four

Fewer than 1% of respondents chose to comment further on why they had chosen their top three priorities, with there being broadly equal support from individuals leaving comments for most of the services listed.

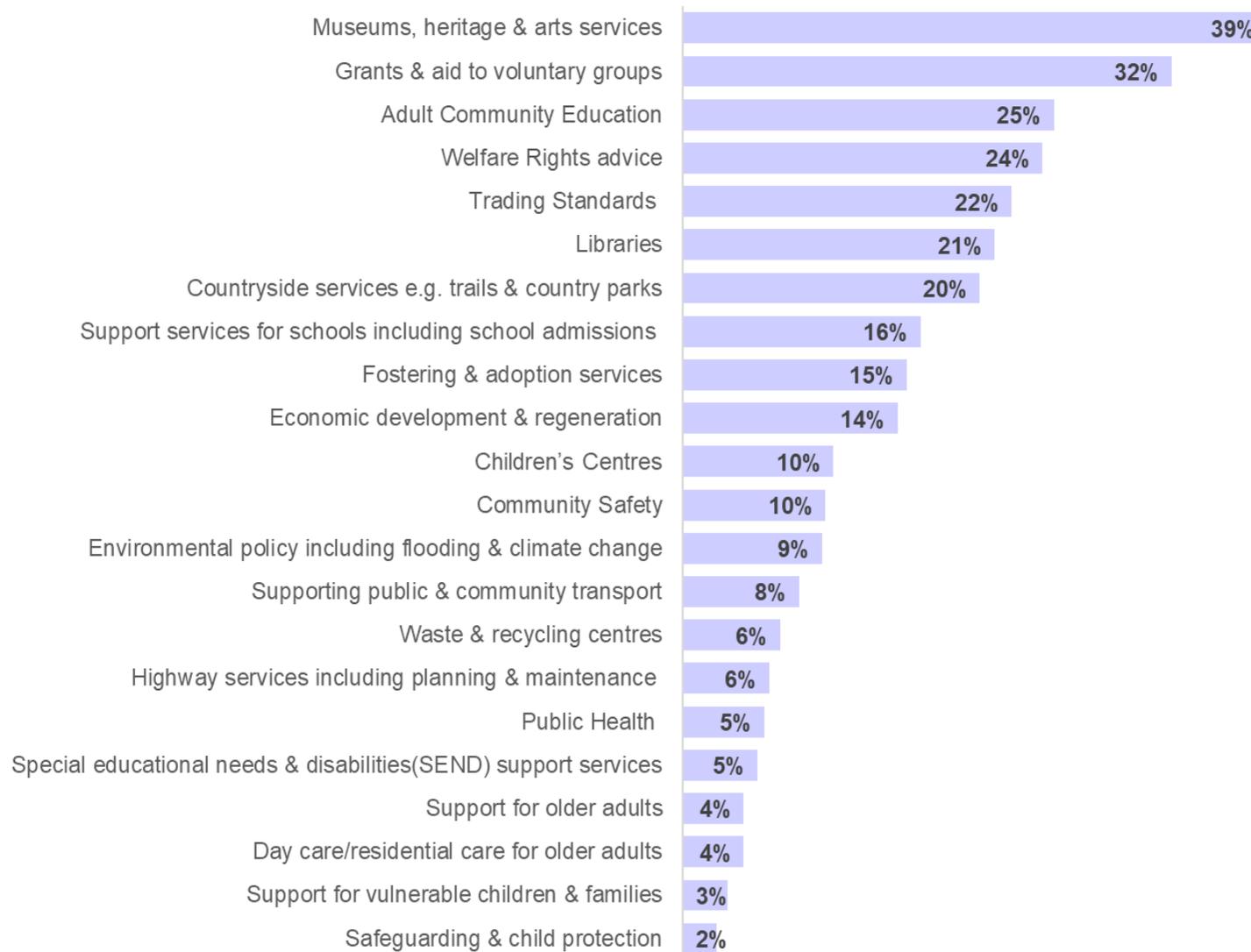
Examples of comments include:

- Particular issues in some areas, others affect big overarching needs for urgent action.
- I could have happily chosen more - far too many conflicting priorities.
- A need to protect the area and make it easier for people to go to work without using private vehicles.
- There are many vital services provided by the Council. Far more than the top three selected.
- Important to maintain the public ownership of beauty spots and local walks - thank you Derbyshire.
- The two ticked are the most relevant to me now. Others were in the past, some will become so.
- Aware you have been cutting these services.
- I work in the charity sector and am aware of the general under funding of services for vulnerable people.
- Voluntary mental health services are desperate for funding.
- All are important. I am ashamed by the Government's inability to properly fund local councils.
- All the options were basic vital things to help communities thrive. Choosing three is impossible.
- Libraries support many vulnerable and poorly paid people to get work, warmth, benefits, literacy.
- Need to invest in the future generations of the area.
- Aware of some of these services, but quite unaware of some others.
- Investing in children is sensible long-term planning.
- Libraries offer a local accessible way of finding out about all other services.
- All are important, but an individual can only prioritise based on personal experience.
- I did not choose. Shouldn't have to choose between necessary services.
- Picking three out of twenty two doesn't even make sense, most are essential services.
- Public Transport is vital for vulnerable people and for helping people get out of poverty.
- Should not have to choose. All are important to quality of life here.

From the list of services below provided by Derbyshire County Council please select your bottom three priorities:

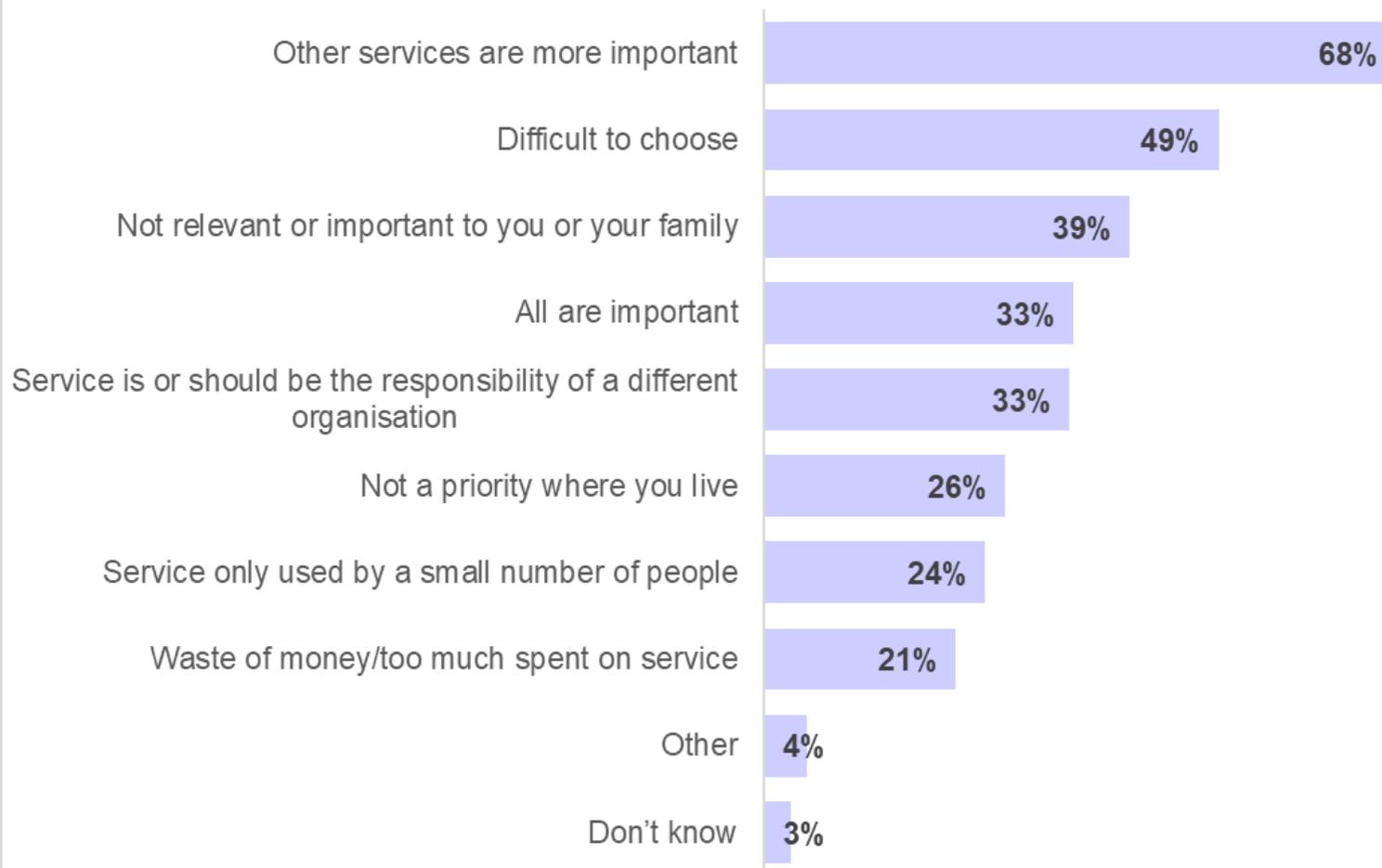
Priority	Consultation Responses		
	Number	Percentage	Rank
Museums, heritage & arts services	846	39%	1
Grants & aid to voluntary groups	707	32%	2
Adult Community Education	537	25%	3
Welfare Rights advice	520	24%	4
Trading Standards	476	22%	5
Libraries	451	21%	6
Countryside services e.g. trails & country parks	430	20%	7
Support services for schools including school admissions	344	16%	8
Fostering & adoption services	324	15%	9
Economic development & regeneration	311	14%	10
Children's Centres	218	10%	11
Community Safety	207	10%	12
Environmental policy including flooding & climate change	202	9%	13
Supporting public & community transport	169	8%	14
Waste & recycling centres	141	6%	15
Highway services including planning & maintenance	126	6%	16
Public Health	119	5%	17
Special educational needs & disabilities(SEND) support	109	5%	18
Support for older adults	89	4%	19
Day care/residential care for older adults	89	4%	20
Support for vulnerable children & families	65	3%	21
Safeguarding & child protection	49	2%	22
Total	6,529		

From the list of services below provided by Derbyshire County Council please select your bottom three priorities:



Why have you chosen these services as your bottom three priorities?			
Reason	Consultation Responses		
	Number	Percentage	Rank
Other services are more important	1,119	68%	1
Difficult to choose	805	49%	2
Not relevant or important to you or your family	647	39%	3
All are important	547	33%	4
Service is or should be the responsibility of a different organisation	540	33%	5
Not a priority where you live	427	26%	6
Service only used by a small number of people	391	24%	7
Waste of money/too much spent on service	339	21%	8
Other	74	4%	9
Don't know	46	3%	10
Total	4,935		

Why have you chosen these services as your bottom three priorities?



Only 1% of respondents chose to comment further on why they had chosen their bottom three priorities, with the main themes being that all services are important, it is difficult to choose or a choice could not be made.

Examples of comments include:

- Believe all are important but had to choose three.
- It is unreasonable to ask which are not a priority - they all need doing.
- When Government makes such huge cuts to funding, hard choices must be made.
- Business will do economic regeneration due to the M1 and rail links.
- Welfare advice is not regional, a national helpline could fulfil, likewise trading standards.
- Can be done by other agencies.
- Rather you supported everything but appreciate your budget constraints and something has to go.
- All are already underfunded. Losing these services does not cause as much loss of lives.
- Welfare Rights could be done by Citizen's Advice.
- All are important in their own right.
- Funding should be given to essential services only. All the desirable [services] need cutting out.
- Those selected seem relatively well served already - though maintaining standards will be an issue.
- All are important - there is no bottom three.
- All are important and some services are more important to some people.
- Children's centres have been cut so far that they are basically useless.
- Incredibly difficult to pick out the least useful services because they are all useful.
- This is an almost impossible choice - the Council is responsible for delivering them all.
- Ignored options as all are important to overall community wellbeing.
- Outdated, old fashioned and not relevant in the twenty first Century.
- All services on offer are important to someone in the community - choices made apply to me.
- There should be less spent on increasing the highway network, more on maintenance.
- Services are lovely to have, and are important but are coming as a priority before welfare of elderly.
- All of these can be managed by third party investors.
- I personally use these the most, their loss would be tragic, but vulnerable people are the priority.
- Cutting waste is better than managing it.
- I just don't feel regeneration is of priority. This would be nice but not as much as young lives.

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- I feel it would be selfish of me to select services that are not important to me.
- I don't have enough knowledge, some services may be valuable, others useless. I don't know.
- So much of adult education and arts funding is already removed, that it is pointless or not near me now.
- This is a false exercise. We need to support all services.
- Impossible to prioritise without far more awareness of impact.
- Community safety is a police matter.
- The wellbeing of the citizens should be the paramount issue of the Council.
- All services are important but these are the areas that do least damage if underfunded.
- They already get good funding and support.
- The remaining actions I feel all hold the same priority.
- There are enough charitable organisations that give grants/funding out there.
- There seems to already be a lot of support for older people.
- Not all of us are able to use the arts or get to them or from them due to public transport.
- Haven't picked any as all services very important Especially to vulnerable people in communities.

Appendix Four

Please rank the following options that the Council could use to save money or raise additional revenue from 1 to 9 in order of importance.

(Please rank the option you consider most important as 1, the second most important as 2 through to the least important option as 9)

Rank		Option
	1	Work with other councils to deliver 'shared services'
	2	Use other ways of delivering services such as local trusts or other 'not for profit' partnerships
	3	Put more services on-line
	4	Reduce the number of properties the Council owns
	5	Use Council assets to win business from the private sector
	6	Reduce or stop delivery of less important services
	7	Maintain services but do less frequently or reduce level of service
	8	Increase charges for services supplied to the public
	9	Increase Council Tax

If you have any other suggestions for how you think the Council could save money or raise additional revenue, please provide details.

Most people (1,716 respondents) did not make any suggestions on alternative ways for saving money or raising additional revenue. An additional 59 people referred to services that were provided by district/borough councils or other organisations such as the Government or health. The remaining comments were grouped into a range of topics including:

- Staffing issues (187 respondents) - including reducing the number of staff, pay, sick leave and pensions of managers and staff. Also, continually reviewing services to improve efficiency, providing value for money whilst maintaining quality of services, and embracing modern ways of working and best practice, such as working from home and holding online meetings.
- Highways issues (67 respondents) - concerned about issues such as the quality of work on potholes, leading to additional spending.
- Stop outsourcing and using consultants, contractors and agencies (66 respondents).
- Developing Council sites (50 respondents) – selling or leasing buildings and property or renting out unused rooms. Combining buildings to produce hubs of services. Reviewing the cost of running Council buildings, such as heating costs and the impact of opening hours.
- Increasing funding (49 respondents) - various ways including lobbying Government, instigating a local lottery, using the private sector to help raise finance and charging people who can afford it for services.
- Social care (22 respondents).
- Reviewing Council Tax and rates systems for both domestic and business (19 respondents).
- Consulting and listening to local people (17 respondents).
- Use of alternative energy for buildings and transport (17 respondents).
- Combining local authorities or collaboration (13 respondents).

Examples of comments include:

- Lobby Government to reinstate funding cuts made since 2010.
- Sell off property that the Council owns that is not in use.
- Actually listen to residents.
- Make people pay for the services they want because of their own personal lifestyle choices.
- Reduce the number of senior administration staff, senior deputies and non-productive personnel
- Do things right first time.
- Work more on saving waste and look at a restructure at County Hall and redeploy staff at a local level.

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- Put more pressure on the Government to properly fund services. Levelling Up?
- You put Council Tax up this year to support social care, yet the level of care has reduced.
- Listen properly to the public on their concerns, take action after asking.
- Let the private sector hire or rent out office rooms in Council buildings, such as County Hall, Matlock.
- Get everybody back in the office and working together.
- Focus on doing the important things really well.
- Improve roads in Derbyshire instead of increasing cycle paths.
- Charge utility companies who have created potholes on Derbyshire roads.
- Stop giving money to businesses, close County Hall, reduce top salaries, increase business rates.
- Lobby the Government for better resources. Invest in wind farms and solar farms.
- Open day centres again, a 1:4 care ratio is cheaper than 1:1.
- Review all priorities and assets more frequently.
- Increase efficiency incentives for getting the job done.
- Stop using external consultants and private sector companies.
- Use more technology to reduce meetings at all levels.
- Invest more in green energy, including promoting local residents' schemes.
- Make the Snake Pass a toll road.
- Solar panel farms on Council property.
- Provide a shared purchasing scheme for businesses to bring the cost down for all including the Council.
- Look at what can be offshored /outsourced.
- Look more into how to make cuts in social care. Maybe encourage families to do more for relatives.
- Joint ventures with private investors.
- Work closely with surrounding councils so as not to duplicate workloads.
- Start a local Lottery.
- Do more to involve the public. Perhaps use more places like social media to get them involved.
- Have a forum in each area, for people to come together to make suggestions that are relevant.
- Train staff to deal with issues on time and right first time to improve efficiency.
- Combine County and Borough/District councillors to reduce numbers. Look at combining services.
- Take the money out of savings and spend on essentials now.
- Involve personnel doing the actual jobs in coming up with cost cutting ideas.
- Open school facilities, for example the sports function.
- Amalgamate management groups to cut management staffing levels.

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- Give a range of costs or payment options. People who can choose to pay higher fees have the choice.
- Better management of in-house services would save money. Too much emphasis on political correctness.
- Use business improvement techniques to review services and reduce waste.
- Consult more on initiatives and ideas. Some things appear great but are not always value.
- Joint working.
- Increase the amount of front line, back-office workers to actually do the work, get rid of managers.
- Extend apprenticeships, sell off spare spaces.
- Ask for local volunteers to help with some tasks. Some retired people would be more than willing.
- Central supplies for schools, workshops and offices based on genuine bulk buy savings.
- Make a small entrance charge to museums.
- Put more services in one place for easy access. For example, a library that is already open.
- Use County Hall more effectively to host events, conferences etc. Do not sell off property, use it.
- Running more things for profit. For example Elvaston Castle, run correctly, could be very profitable.
- Close the small, underused libraries and concentrate services from larger libraries.
- Focus on early intervention for young children which will save money in the long term.
- Independent living facilities to ease care home use.
- Turn off street lighting after 01:00am.
- Employee quality staff who know what they are doing, stop sub-contracting.
- Consider more preventative services.
- Have a regular 'good idea' competition.
- Focus on core services without duplicating the work of others.
- Stop trying to merge with other councils, this will not save money and contact will be lost.
- Reduce fraud - carry out due diligence when allocating funds to people.
- Work smarter. Be less risk adverse.
- Save money by closing public places earlier or open later. Use online services.
- Stop using Joint Venture Partnerships, they cost more, with no control on spending.
- Work in partnership with local businesses to share cost and benefits of local projects and investment.
- Reduce internal red tape.

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- Social care is too role-oriented and has lost the common sense and caring role to paper-filling.
- Close any final salary pension schemes.
- No lighting up of exterior buildings, all office lights in all buildings turned off from 7pm.

Analysis of Consultation Responses – All Derbyshire Respondents By Gender

From the list of services below provided by Derbyshire County Council please select your top three priorities:

Priority	Consultation responses - by sex					
	Male		Female		All respondents	
	Number	%	Number	%	No.	%
Highway services including planning & maintenance	542	51%	423	33%	983	41%
Supporting public & community transport	292	27%	400	31%	709	29%
Environmental policy including flooding & climate change	257	24%	313	24%	582	24%
Waste & recycling centres	304	28%	248	19%	558	23%
Support for older adults	200	19%	337	26%	554	23%
Economic development & regeneration	219	20%	198	15%	428	18%
Public Health	194	18%	192	15%	394	16%
Day care/residential care for older adults	151	14%	235	18%	394	16%
Countryside services e.g., trails & country parks	202	19%	177	14%	387	16%
Support for vulnerable children & families	139	13%	235	18%	378	16%
Community Safety	147	14%	187	14%	343	14%
Safeguarding & child protection	98	9%	196	15%	296	12%
Special educational needs & disabilities (SEND) support services	77	7%	171	13%	256	11%
Libraries	65	6%	124	10%	194	8%
Children's Centres	57	5%	102	8%	162	7%
Support services for schools including school admissions	61	6%	75	6%	142	6%
Welfare Rights advice	38	4%	69	5%	112	5%
Grants & aid to voluntary groups	37	3%	67	5%	105	4%
Museums, heritage & arts services	50	5%	51	4%	102	4%
Adult Community Education	26	2%	52	4%	78	3%
Trading Standards	37	3%	16	1%	58	2%
Fostering & adoption services	16	1%	16	1%	32	1%
Total	3209	300%	3,884	300%	7,247	300%

Appendix Four

From the list of services below provided by Derbyshire County Council please select your bottom three priorities:

Priority	Consultation responses - by sex					
	Male		Female		All respondents	
	Number	%	Number	%	No.	%
Museums, heritage & arts services	355	36%	475	42%	846	39%
Grants & aid to voluntary groups	343	35%	351	31%	707	32%
Adult Community Education	244	25%	278	24%	537	25%
Welfare Rights advice	267	27%	244	21%	520	24%
Libraries	225	23%	217	19%	451	21%
Trading Standards	186	19%	281	25%	476	22%
Countryside services e.g. trails & country parks	165	17%	260	23%	430	20%
Support services for schools including school admissions	153	15%	185	16%	344	16%
Fostering & adoption services	142	14%	174	15%	324	15%
Economic development & regeneration	133	13%	170	15%	311	14%
Children's Centres	102	10%	109	10%	218	10%
Community Safety	100	10%	105	9%	207	10%
Environmental policy including flooding & climate change	99	10%	98	9%	202	9%
Supporting public & community transport	84	8%	80	7%	169	8%
Waste & recycling centres	58	6%	81	7%	141	6%
Highway services including planning & maintenance	51	5%	72	6%	126	6%
Public Health	48	5%	68	6%	119	5%
Special educational needs & disabilities(SEND) support services	53	5%	53	5%	109	5%
Day care/residential care for older adults	47	5%	40	4%	89	4%
Support for older adults	55	6%	33	3%	89	4%
Support for vulnerable children & families	35	4%	28	2%	65	3%
Safeguarding & child protection	30	3%	18	2%	49	2%
Total	2975	300%	3,420	300%	6,529	300%

Appendix Four

Please rank the following options that the Council could use to save money or raise additional revenue in order of importance (Please rank the option you consider most important as 1, the second as 2 through to the least important as 9)			
	Consultation responses by sex		
	Male	Female	All respondents
Work with other councils to deliver 'shared services'	1	1	1
Use other ways of delivering services such as local trusts or other 'not for profit' partnerships	2	2	2
Put more services on-line	3	3	3
Reduce the number of properties the Council owns	5	5	4
Use Council assets to win business from the private sector	6	4	5
Reduce or stop delivery of less important services	4	7	6
Maintain services but do less frequently or reduce level of service	7	6	7
Increase charges for services supplied to the public	8	8	8
Increase Council Tax	9	9	9

Analysis of Consultation Responses – All Derbyshire Respondents By Age Group

From the list of services below provided by Derbyshire County Council please select your top three priorities:

Priority	Consultation responses - by age band											
	16 to 24		25 to 44		45 to 64		65 to 84		85+		All respondents	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Highway services including planning & maintenance	13	31%	157	34%	428	42%	337	43%	5	34%	983	41%
Supporting public & community transport	13	31%	96	21%	283	28%	286	36%	3	20%	709	29%
Environmental policy including flooding & climate change	15	36%	125	27%	249	25%	165	21%	4	27%	582	24%
Waste & recycling centres	10	24%	73	16%	229	23%	219	28%	8	55%	558	23%
Support for older adults	7	17%	68	15%	238	23%	207	26%	8	55%	554	23%
Economic development & regeneration	15	36%	79	17%	197	19%	123	16%	1	7%	428	18%
Public Health	4	10%	93	20%	164	16%	120	15%	1	7%	394	16%
Day care/residential care for older adults	2	5%	43	9%	156	15%	173	22%	4	27%	394	16%
Countryside services e.g., trails & country parks	5	12%	88	19%	162	16%	113	14%	0	0%	387	16%
Support for vulnerable children & families	9	21%	76	16%	176	17%	110	14%	2	14%	378	16%
Community Safety	7	17%	79	17%	140	14%	94	12%	1	7%	343	14%
Safeguarding & child protection	3	7%	73	16%	143	14%	71	9%	2	14%	296	12%
Special educational needs & disabilities (SEND) support services	4	10%	74	16%	107	11%	58	7%	0	0%	256	11%
Libraries	3	7%	39	8%	66	7%	78	10%	2	14%	194	8%
Children's Centres	4	10%	57	12%	58	6%	37	5%	0	0%	162	7%
Support services for schools including school admissions	1	2%	48	10%	58	6%	31	4%	0	0%	142	6%
Welfare Rights advice	2	5%	18	4%	46	5%	38	5%	0	0%	112	5%
Grants & aid to voluntary groups	1	2%	31	7%	36	4%	31	4%	2	14%	105	4%
Museums, heritage & arts services	3	7%	22	5%	43	4%	30	4%	1	7%	102	4%
Adult Community Education	1	2%	29	6%	28	3%	18	2%	0	0%	78	3%
Trading Standards	4	10%	14	3%	16	2%	13	2%	0	0%	58	2%
Fostering & adoption services	0	0%	9	2%	16	2%	6	1%	0	0%	32	1%
Total	126	300%	1,391	300%	3,039	300%	2,358	300%	44	300%	7,247	300%

Appendix Four

From the list of services below provided by Derbyshire County Council please select your bottom three priorities:

Priority	Consultation responses - by age band											
	16 to 24		25 to 44		45 to 64		65 to 84		85+		All respondents	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Museums, heritage & arts services	9	24%	152	36%	380	41%	273	39%	2	18%	846	39%
Grants & aid to voluntary groups	5	13%	100	24%	324	35%	249	36%	6	53%	707	32%
Adult Community Education	8	21%	81	19%	223	24%	202	29%	5	44%	537	25%
Welfare Rights advice	9	24%	106	25%	206	22%	162	23%	4	35%	520	24%
Libraries	3	8%	81	19%	212	23%	132	19%	2	18%	451	21%
Trading Standards	13	35%	158	37%	171	19%	115	16%	1	9%	476	22%
Countryside services e.g. trails & country parks	5	13%	70	17%	178	19%	160	23%	2	18%	430	20%
Support services for schools including school admissions	1	3%	43	10%	157	17%	128	18%	3	26%	344	16%
Fostering & adoption services	8	21%	60	14%	123	65%	122	4%	0	0%	324	15%
Economic development & regeneration	3	8%	73	17%	135	15%	91	13%	1	9%	311	14%
Children's Centres	1	3%	32	8%	97	11%	69	10%	2	18%	218	10%
Community Safety	9	24%	23	5%	88	10%	79	11%	2	18%	207	10%
Environmental policy including flooding & climate change	4	11%	37	9%	80	9%	65	9%	1	9%	202	9%
Supporting public & community transport	4	11%	47	11%	67	7%	43	6%	1	9%	169	8%
Waste & recycling centres	5	13%	44	10%	52	6%	36	5%	1	9%	141	6%
Highway services including planning & maintenance	5	13%	35	8%	50	5%	35	5%	0	0%	126	6%
Public Health	0	0%	28	7%	59	6%	23	3%	1	9%	119	5%
Special educational needs & disabilities(SEND) support services	5	13%	20	5%	45	5%	35	5%	0	0%	109	5%
Day care/residential care for older adults	2	5%	33	8%	33	4%	18	3%	0	0%	89	4%
Support for older adults	4	11%	34	8%	30	3%	18	3%	0	0%	89	4%
Support for vulnerable children & families	2	5%	9	2%	26	3%	24	3%	0	0%	65	3%
Safeguarding & child protection	8	21%	6	1%	14	2%	21	3%	0	0%	49	2%
Total	113	300%	1,272	300%	2,750	300%	2,100	300%	34	300%	6,529	300%

Appendix Four

Please rank the following options that the Council could use to save money or raise additional revenue in order of importance (Please rank the option you consider most important as 1, the second as 2 through to the least important as 9)						
	Consultation responses by age band					All respondents
	16 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 84	85+	
Work with other councils to deliver 'shared services'	3	1	1	1	1	1
Use other ways of delivering services such as local trusts or other 'not for profit' partnerships	2	2	2	2	3	2
Put more services on-line	4	3	3	5	6	3
Reduce the number of properties the Council owns	7	5	4	4	8	4
Use Council assets to win business from the private sector	6	4	5	7	5	5
Reduce or stop delivery of less important services	5	6	6	3	2	6
Maintain services but do less frequently or reduce level of service	1	7	7	6	4	7
Increase charges for services supplied to the public	8	8	8	8	7	8
Increase Council Tax	9	9	9	9	9	9