



Agenda Item

FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

1 February 2024

Joint Report of the Managing Director and 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 2024-25.

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 2024-25 and the Capital Programme Approvals, Treasury Management and Capital Strategies for 2024-25 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 2024-25 the Council devised a 'Your Council, Your Voice 2023' (YCYV) 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 2024-25 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 6 November 2023 to 17 December 2023.
- 4.3 Participation in the survey was encouraged using a variety of methods, including 36 social media posts on X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook between 6 November 2023 and 17 December 2023, eighteen on each platform. X posts had an average of 986 impressions (number of times on screen) and Facebook posts had an average reach of 1,843 (number of people who saw the post at least once). The survey was also publicised in the e-version of the Council's residents' magazine Derbyshire Now, with 40,680 subscribers; highlighted before its launch in the main Derbyshire Now magazine published online, featured in the Our Derbyshire employee newsletter each week that the survey was live, with 9,666 subscribers; the Councillors' briefing Members' News, which is e-mailed to all 64 Councillors and a number of Senior Officers; Community eNews with 4,380 subscribers; and via two media releases sent to local media outlets.
- 4.4 A total of 1,911 Derbyshire residents completed the survey online. Last year, the Council attracted 2,431 responses to its survey. Although survey responses have slightly declined, the survey response remains strong.

- 4.5 The average (mean) age of respondents was 61 years. This compares to an average age of 57 for the 2023-24 consultation. The proportion of responses from the over 65 age group has increased compared to the 2023-24 consultation response. The over 45 and over 65 age groups are overrepresented compared to their proportion of the Derbyshire population according to the latest 2022 Mid-Year Population Estimate data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), with responses in these age groups around nine/nineteen 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 ten/seventeen percentage points below their proportion of the Derbyshire population. The strongest response is again from the 45-64 age group. Of those responding, 50% were male and 50% were female, with the proportion of female respondents decreasing compared to the 2023-24 consultation, where 45% of respondents were male and 54% were female. However, females responding to the 2023-24 consultation are only marginally underrepresented compared to 2022 Mid-Year Population Estimate data from ONS for Derbyshire, which indicated that 51% of the Derbyshire population were female.
- 4.6 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 particularly over-represented in the consultation, with 18% of all respondents living in the district, whilst those in South Derbyshire are particularly under-represented (6% lower). These findings reflect a pattern of response rates which have been seen in all budget consultations since 2020-21.
- 4.7 A total of 20% of respondents identified themselves as having a disability, which is one percentage point higher than the response rate in the 2023-24 budget consultation. This is consistent with the percentage of Derbyshire population who said that their day-to-day activities were limited in the latest ONS Census for which this data is available (2021).
- 4.8 A total of 96% of respondents identified themselves as white, with 4% identifying themselves as BME (Black and Minority Ethnic). BME respondents are marginally underrepresented compared to the percentage of Derbyshire's population who identified themselves as BME in the latest ONS Census (6%) for which this data is available (2021).

- 4.9 Further demographic analysis is attached for consideration at Appendix Three.
- 4.10 Local people were asked six budget consultation questions as part of the budget consultation survey, to establish their views on which services should be prioritised when it comes to spending the budget and which are less of a priority. 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.
- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 The following views were expressed:

Top three priorities

- 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 48% of respondents as being in their top three priority services);
 - 'Environmental policy including flooding and climate change' (32%); and
 - 'Waste and recycling centres' (29%).
- This is the same first-placed priority as in the 2023-24 budget consultation, with the second-placed priority in 2023-24 being 'supporting public and community transport', which ranked fourth during this year's consultation and the third-placed priority in 2023-24 being 'environmental policy including flooding and climate change', which ranked in second place in this year's consultation. The third-placed priority in 2024-25, 'waste and recycling centres', ranked fourth in 2023-24.
- The top Council service priority selected by both males and females was 'highways services including planning and maintenance', although 59% of males, compared to 37% of females, chose this service priority.

- The second most popular service priority for males was 'waste and recycling centres' (33%) however for females the second most popular service priority was 'environmental policy including flooding and climate change' (32%).
- The third most popular service priority for males was 'environmental policy including flooding and climate change' (32%), and for females it was 'supporting public and community transport' (28%).
- The most important reason for choosing the top Council service priorities in the survey was 'important to you or your family' (45%), followed by 'importance of road and public transport issues' (35%) and then 'service used by a large number of people' (31%). This is the same most important reason as in the 2023-24 budget consultation, with the second in 2023-24 being 'need to protect and support vulnerable people', which was fourth in this year's consultation and the third in 2023-24 being 'importance of road and public transport issues', which was second in this year's consultation. The third most important reason in 2024-25, 'service used by a large number of people', was fourth in 2023-24.
- Fewer than 1% of respondents chose to comment further on why they had selected 'other' as a reason for selecting their top three priorities. Most repeated themes from the available choices. However, 'delivering statutory duties' was a common theme referred to as a further reason.
- The least selected service as a top priority was 'fostering and adoption services' (2%), followed by 'adult community education' (2%) and 'trading standards' (3%). These are the same three least-selected services as in all budget consultations from 2021-22, although the order of the second and third least-selected are reversed from last year.

Bottom three priorities

- 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' (35%); and
 - 'Welfare Rights advice' (27%)

These are the same top two, in the same ranked order, as in the 2023-24 budget consultation. In 2023-24 the third-ranked was Adult Community Education. Third-placed Welfare Rights advice this year placed fourth in 2023-24.
- The least selected services and by implication the most supported in this question, were 'safeguarding and child protection' (3%), followed by 'day care/residential care for older adults' (3%) and 'support for vulnerable children and families' (3%).

- The bottom Council service priority selected by males was 'grant and aid to voluntary groups' (37%), which was placed second by females (32%). The bottom Council service priority selected by females was 'museums, heritage and arts services' (41%), which was placed second by males (36%). The third-placed bottom priority was 'welfare rights advice' (30%) for males and 'adult community education' (27%) for females.
- 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' (48%) and then 'not relevant or important to you or your family' (41%). 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 selected 'other' as a reason for selecting their bottom three priorities. Most repeated themes from the available choices. However, 'Public Health should be the responsibility of Health' and 'some services should be pushed to be self-funded, such as charging for use rather than relying on grants', were common themes referred to as further reasons.

Views on saving money and raising revenue

- 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'.
 - 'Reduce the number of properties the Council owns'.
- Males and females agreed on the top three choices and their ranking. This year's top two responses are identical to responses to this question in all of the budget consultations that have taken place since 2020-21. The third most selected response in 2023-24 was 'put more services on-line', which was the fifth most selected overall in this year's consultation. The third most selected overall response this year, 'reduce the number of properties the Council owns', was fourth in 2023-24.
- 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 'put more services on-line'. This overall order is identical to the order in each of the budget consultations since 2020-21.

- Most people (1,251 respondents) did not make any suggestions on alternative ways for saving money or raising additional revenue. An additional 27 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 including reducing the number of staff, pay, sick leave and pensions of managers and staff (150 respondents).
 - 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 and running the Council as a business (107 respondents).
 - Highways issues such as the quality of work on potholes leading to additional spending (69 respondents).
 - Developing Council sites including selling or leasing buildings and property or renting out unused rooms. Combining buildings. Reviewing the cost of running Council buildings, such as heating costs, stationery and the impact of opening hours (69 respondents).
 - Increasing funding, with a variety of suggestions outlined, including lobbying Government, instigating a local lottery and partnering with private companies (45 respondents).
 - Combining local authorities (27 respondents).
 - Stop outsourcing and using consultants, contractors and agencies (26 respondents).
 - Reviewing Council Tax system (20 respondents).

Focus Groups

- 4.13 It was agreed as part of the “Your Council, Your Voice 2023” consultation approach that two focus groups would be held this year. These were a focus group event to begin ongoing dialogue with the BME Forum and a youth event with secondary school pupils. A total of 59 residents and pupils took part in the focus groups.
- 4.14 The key issues and findings from the groups are as follows:

BME Forum

- The engagement event was the start of an ongoing dialogue on Council priorities as opposed to the existing annual approach and was a direct response to feedback gathered in the YCYV consultation last year.

- One of the key issues emerging from the session was that community members found it hard to navigate the system when accessing services, particularly understanding the difference between Derbyshire County Council and district council areas.
- Frustration over long waiting times when accessing 'Call Derbyshire'.
- The need for BME residents who don't have English as their first language to be able to understand information and receive culturally appropriate information and communication.
- Hate crime and discrimination is an increasing concern for BME communities.
- The Council's employment profile is not representative of Derbyshire's BME population.
- Access to affordable housing is a big issue for some sections of the BME community.
- Difficulties for refugees. Including the need to be clearer who is responsible for providing asylum seekers with information.

Young People's event

- Too many things are run by older people without a focus on young people. Young people are not listened to.
- Need more activities and groups for young people.
- Need better public transport links and public transport throughout the county. Including more bike routes.
- For the first time young people also identified road infrastructure and potholes as a concern.
- Mental health support was highlighted as a significant issue with the need for more support for young people.
- Bullying, sexual harassment and age prejudice were also highlighted as concerns for young people.
- Young people are very keen to be more involved and regularly consulted about services and developments.

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

Other Consultation

4.16 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 14 December 2023 Committee meeting there was particular emphasis on the production of the forthcoming 2024-25 budget, when a report was presented and a discussion was held. There was agreement of the report recommendations, with the Committee noting:

- The Revenue Budget Forecast Outturn for 2023-24, as at Quarter 2 (30 September 2023).
- That there was likely to be a significant shortfall in the Revenue Budget 2024-25 based on currently known information.
- The ongoing work to identify further savings options across the organisation to reduce expenditure..
- The key announcements in the Autumn Statement 2023 relevant to Local Government.

4.17 The Committee expressed an understanding at this meeting of the Council's financial position but noted that the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement would provide more detail in respect of 2024-25 funding, when the final extent of any 2024-25 Revenue Budget shortfall, requiring additional savings or the use of one-off reserves to deliver a balanced budget, would be known.

4.18 At this meeting there were also several comments, questions and views expressed by members of the Committee in respect of developing the 2024-25 budget. These were around the following broad issues:

- High interest rates and high inflation were playing a significant role in increasing financial pressures on the Council. These are also inherently difficult to predict to understand the long term impact on the Council's finances.
- Increased demand for services, particular in Children's Services and Adult Social Care are also placing significant financial pressure on the Council.
- Organisations were having to make an assessment of the likely pay award in 2024-25 in their budget assumptions. Also increases in the National Minimum Wage continue to have a significant financial impact on the Council's budget.
- The Council is incurring increased borrowing costs due to higher interest rates. This is off-set by increased investment income from higher interest rates but this needs to be seen in the context of reduced cash balances.

- 4.19 On 22 January 2024 the Improvement and Scrutiny – Resources Committee considered the savings proposals agreed at Cabinet at its meeting on 11 January 2024. The Committee was asked to provide feedback to Cabinet on the budget savings options detailed in the report and that where the Committee did not agree with any of the proposals, then Members needed to suggest alternative proposals. Members did raise a number of specific areas of concern, which are included in the Revenue Budget Report 2024-25, for consideration at this meeting.
- 4.20 The Committee noted the financial context and approach to budget setting for 2024-25. The Committee also noted the possible options in respect of budget savings for the 2024-25 Financial Year.
- 4.21 The Committee resolved to provide the feedback detailed above to Cabinet on the budget savings options detailed in the report. This will enable the feedback to be considered at the Budget Cabinet meeting on 1 February 2024.
- 4.22 The Committee noted, where the proposed savings and efficiencies do not progress, alternative savings will need to be found in order to meet the Council's legal obligations to set a balanced budget. Individual savings proposals will be subject to separate full consultation where required.
- 4.23 The Council sought the views of the trade unions by consulting with them on the Council's budget proposals at the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 25 January 2023. An update will be provided at this meeting.
- 4.24 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. An 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 2024-25.

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 in the legal implications section in Appendix One.

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 2023 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 2024-25.

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 2024-25 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 2024-25. 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 Whilst there are no specific workforce implications arising from the public consultation undertaken, colleagues within the organisation may also be residents of Derbyshire and as such may have taken part in the consultation.

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 2024-25 budget consultation exercise. The Equalities Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix Eight of the Revenue Budget Report 2024-25.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

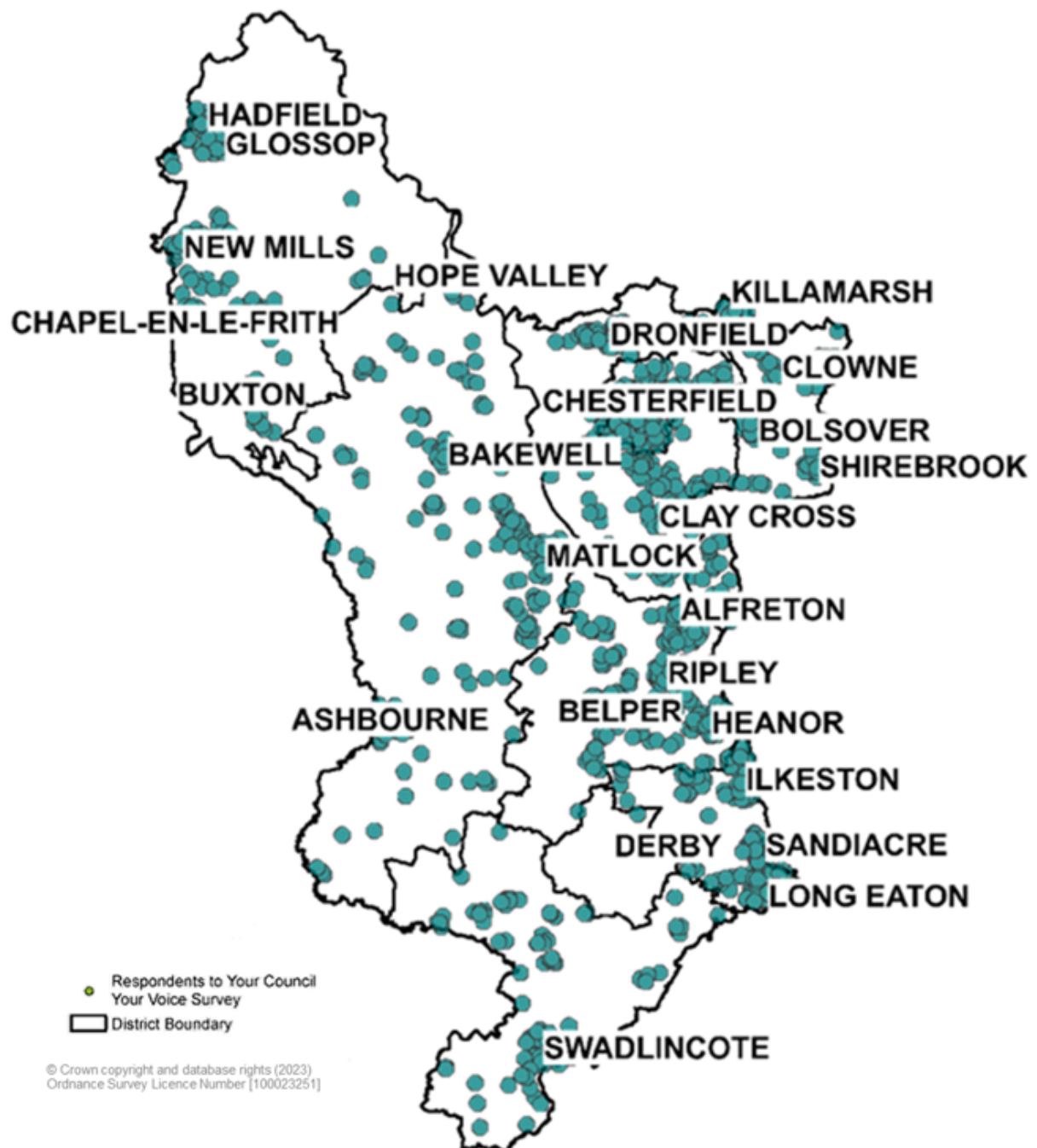
- 6.1 The Council Plan values commit to spending money wisely, making the best use of the resources that the Council has.
- 6.2 The Council is committed to ensuring good financial management and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The Council is committed to ensuring that it sets a balanced 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 2023 Survey Respondents

Respondents to Your Council Your Voice 2023



Demographic Profile of Budget Consultation Respondents

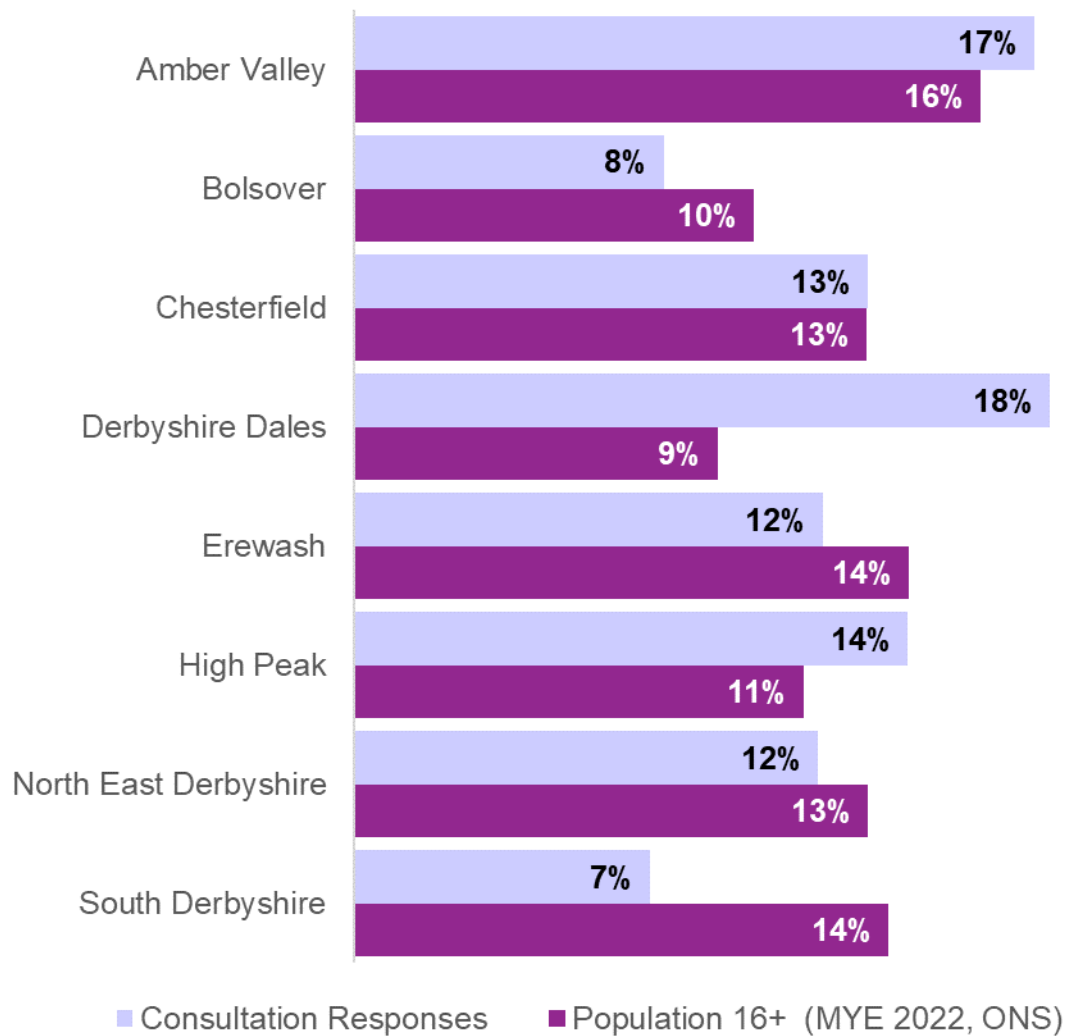
A total of 1,950 people responded to the consultation, but the analysis included in this report looks at the answers of 1,911 respondents. The survey stated that it was only open to residents who live within the administrative county of Derbyshire, so the analysis excludes the responses of 25 people who live outside Derbyshire, and 14 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.

Location

The Derbyshire District of consultation respondents supplying a Derbyshire postcode has been compared to the distribution of the Derbyshire population aged 16+ according to the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2022 Mid-Year Population Estimates (MYE).

District	Consultation Responses		Population 16+ (MYE 2022, ONS)		% point difference (Respondents - Population)	
	Number	%	Number	%		
Amber Valley	299	17%	105,769	16%	1.4%	↑
Bolsover	136	8%	67,487	10%	-2.3%	↓
Chesterfield	218	13%	86,577	13%	-0.4%	↓
Derbyshire Dales	306	18%	61,350	9%	8.4%	↑
Erewash	206	12%	93,740	14%	-2.2%	↓
High Peak	239	14%	75,884	11%	2.4%	↑
North East Derbyshire	204	12%	86,601	13%	-1.2%	↓
South Derbyshire	130	7%	90,173	14%	-6.0%	↓
Total	1,738	100%	667,581	100%		

**Comparison of consultation respondents and population
aged 16+ by district**

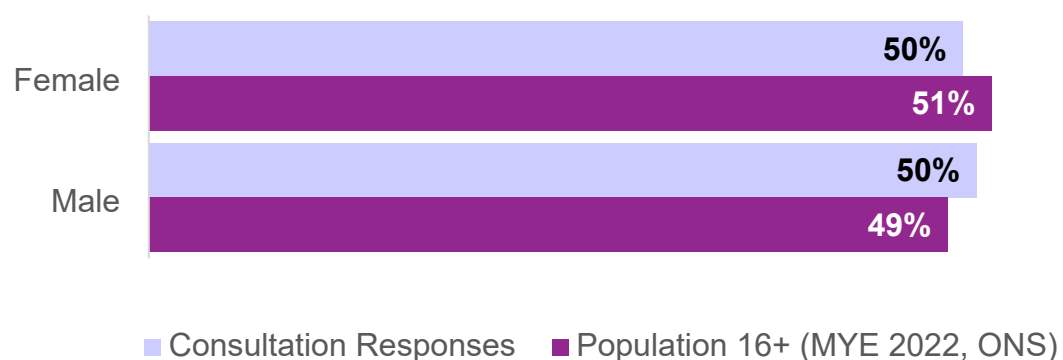


Sex

The sex and age profile of respondents have also been compared to the profile of all residents in the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2022 Mid-Year Population Estimates (MYE).

Sex	Consultation Responses		Population 16+ (MYE 2022, ONS)		% point difference (Respondents - Population)	
	Number	%	Number	%		
Female	922	50%	342,715	51%	-1.7%	↓
Male	937	50%	324,866	49%	1.7%	↑
Total	1,859	100%	667,581	100%		

Comparison of consultation respondents and population aged 16+ by sex

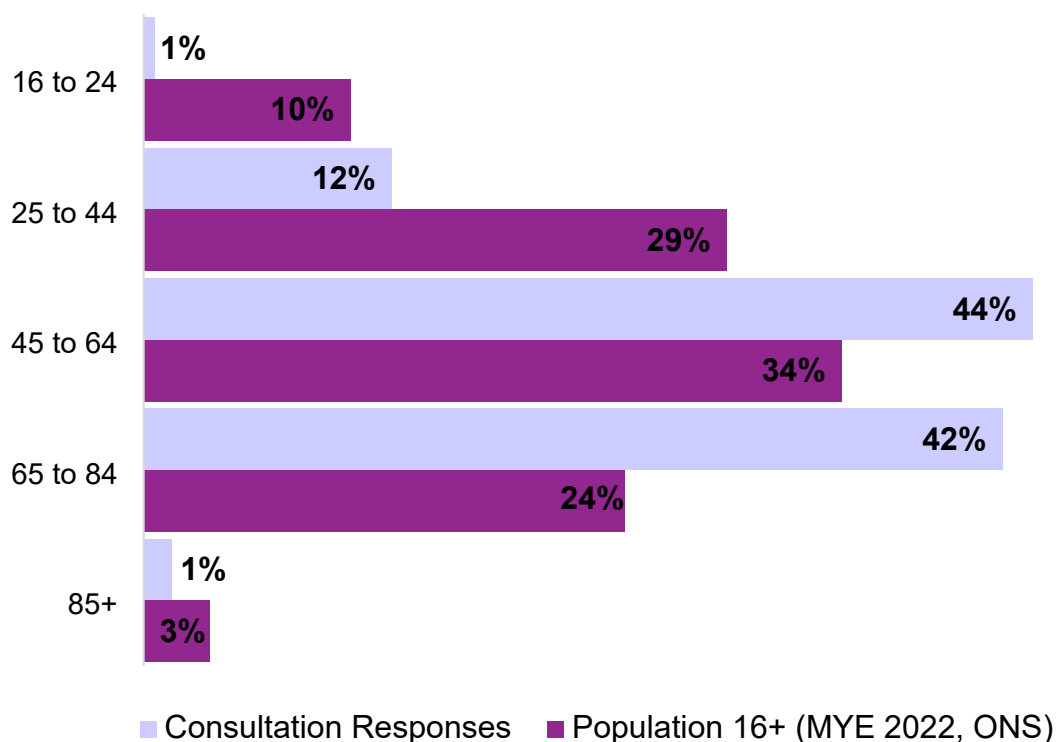


Age

Age Band	Consultation Responses		Population 16+ (MYE 2022, ONS)		% point difference (Respondents - Population)	
	Number	%	Number	%		
16 to 24	10	1%	67,894	10%	-9.6%	↓
25 to 44	221	12%	191,293	29%	-16.5%	↓
45 to 64	791	44%	228,956	34%	9.4%	↑
65 to 84	764	42%	157,877	24%	18.5%	↑
85+	25	1%	21,561	3%	-1.8%	↓
Total	1,811	100%	667,581	100%		

The average age of respondents was 61 years.

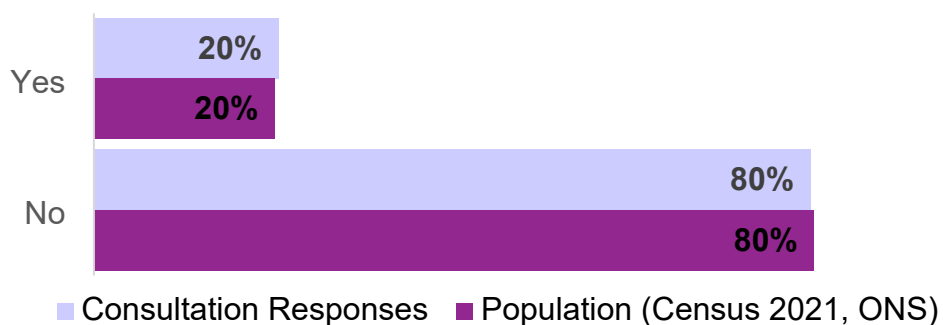
Comparison of consultation respondents and population aged 16+ by age band



Disability

Do you consider yourself disabled?	Consultation Responses		Population (Census 2021, ONS)	
	Number	%	Number	%
Yes	376	20%	159,439	20%
No	1,461	80%	635,197	80%
Total	1,837	100%	794,636	100%

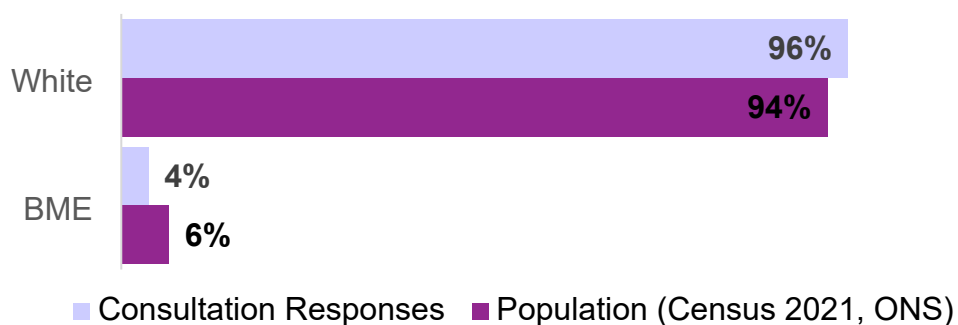
Do you consider yourself disabled?



Ethnic Group

What is your ethnic group?	Consultation Responses		Population (Census 2021, ONS)	
	Number	%	Number	%
White	1,772	96%	744,378	94%
BME	66	4%	50,256	6%
Total	1,838	100%	794,634	100%

What is your ethnic group?

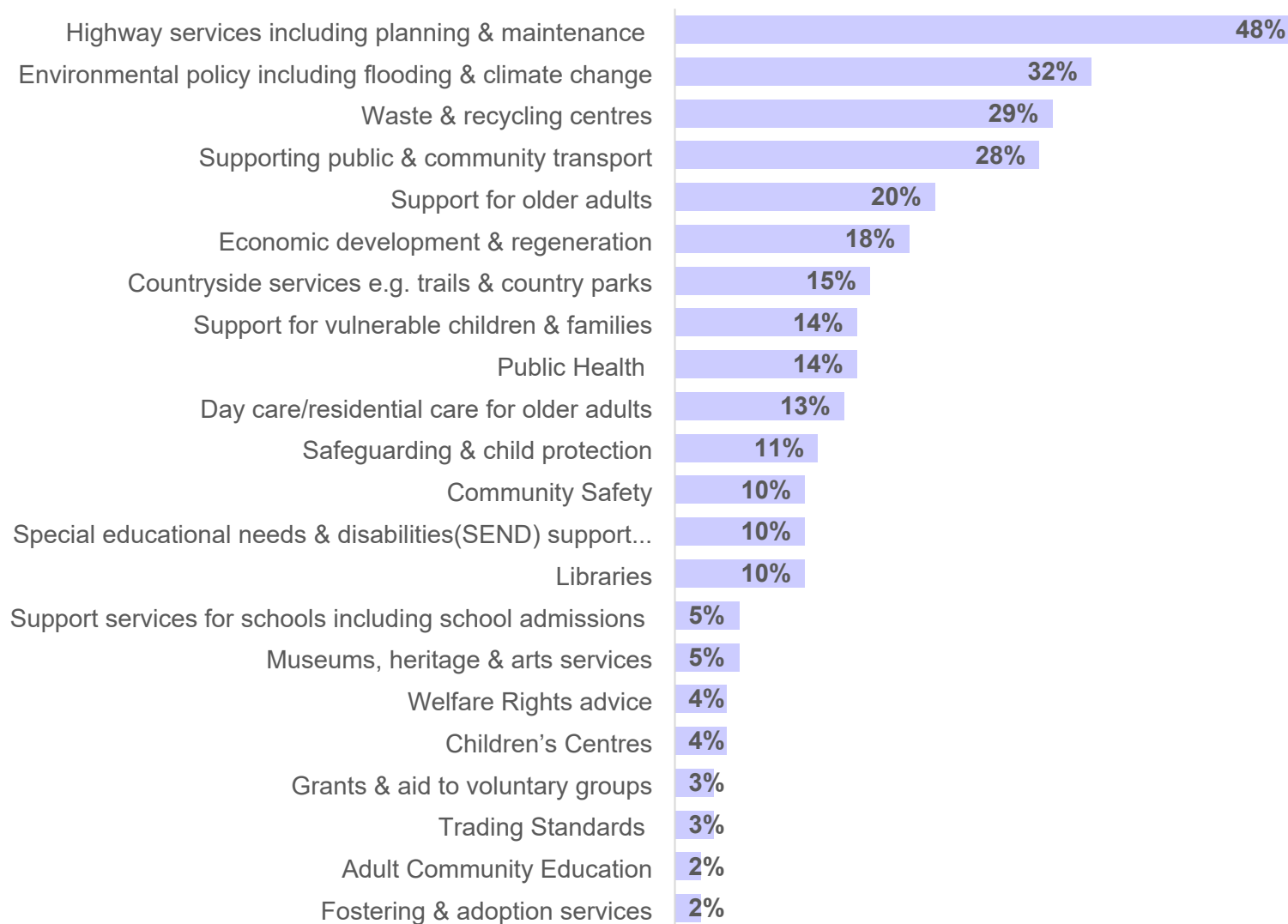


Budget Consultation - Analysis of Consultation Responses

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	908	48%	1
Environmental policy including flooding & climate change	605	32%	2
Waste & recycling centres	545	29%	3
Supporting public & community transport	529	28%	4
Support for older adults	386	20%	5
Economic development & regeneration	331	18%	6
Countryside services e.g. trails & country parks	285	15%	7
Support for vulnerable children & families	270	14%	7
Public Health	270	14%	8
Day care/residential care for older adults	246	13%	9
Safeguarding & child protection	209	11%	10
Community Safety	195	10%	11
Special educational needs & disabilities(SEND) support services	193	10%	12
Libraries	183	10%	13
Support services for schools including school admissions	103	5%	14
Museums, heritage & arts services	72	5%	15
Welfare Rights advice	86	4%	16
Children's Centres	67	4%	17
Grants & aid to voluntary groups	65	3%	18
Trading Standards	49	3%	19
Adult Community Education	45	2%	20
Fostering & adoption services	28	2%	21
Total	5,670		

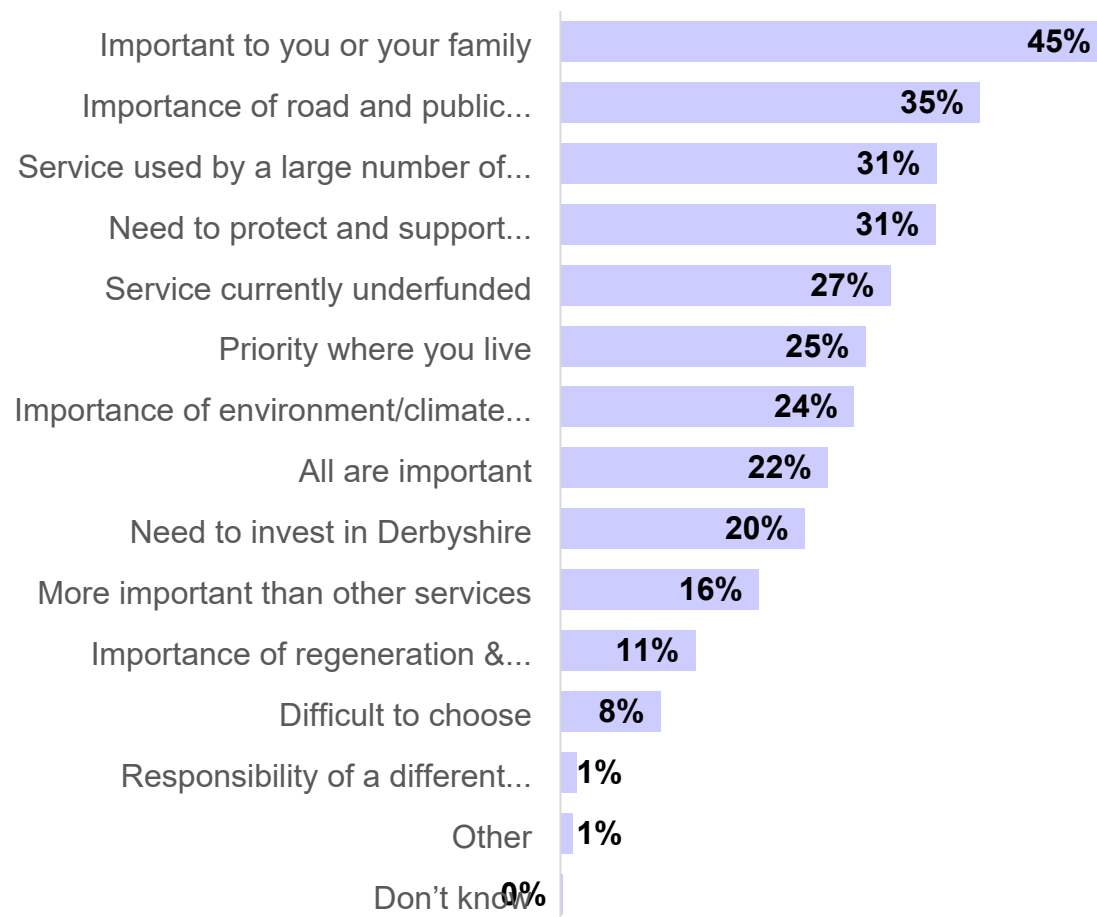
From the list of services below provided by Derbyshire County Council please select your top three priorities:



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

Reason	Consultation Responses		
	Number	Percentage	Rank
Important to you or your family	1,102	45%	1
Importance of road and public transport issues	846	35%	2
Service used by a large number of people	758	31%	3
Need to protect and support vulnerable people	756	31%	4
Service currently underfunded	665	27%	5
Priority where you live	615	25%	6
Importance of environment/climate change	592	24%	7
All are important	539	22%	8
Need to invest in Derbyshire	493	20%	9
More important than other services	400	16%	10
Importance of regeneration & economic development	272	11%	11
Difficult to choose	202	8%	12
Responsibility of a different organisation	34	1%	13
Other	25	1%	14
Don't know	5	0%	15
Total	7,304		

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



Fewer than 1% of respondents chose to comment further on why they had selected 'other' as a reason for selecting their top three priorities. Most repeated themes from the available choices. However, 'delivering statutory duties' was a common theme referred to as a further reason.

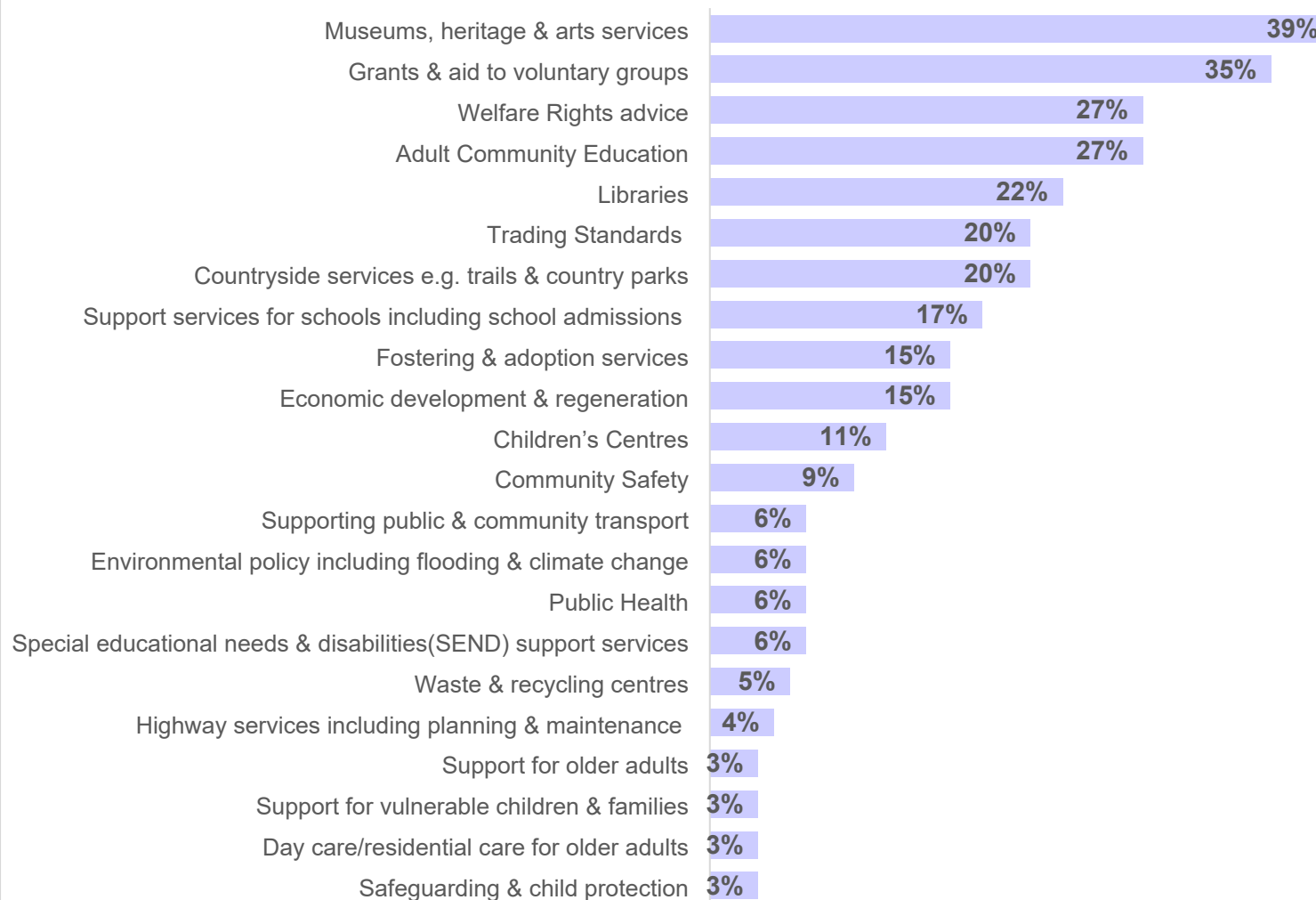
Examples of comments include:

- Our top priority has to be climate change, much better insulation, greener energy nature restoration.
- High unemployment and low basic education amongst those seeking work. Potholes.
- Incorrect focus needs addressing. Also add disabled provision to this questionnaire, on its own.
- They are your statutory duties.
- The incidence of children needing support is growing, currently outstripping provision.
- It is not just about allocating budget, there needs to be far greater efficiency and value for money.
- I believe certain boroughs could and should benefit more from public money.
- Environment must be protected, children are most important to our future we must protect the old.
- If vulnerable people, especially the young, are not supported, all other services are impacted.
- Buses in most of Derbyshire are dreadful. You have cut routes and frequencies. Needs mass investment.
- I would like to have put more than three and put them all down, as they are core functions of the Council.
- Need to reduce dependence on cars. Support vulnerable families early to avoid long term support.
- Infrastructure underpins everything else. I have seen people turn down jobs due to lack of buses.
- All services are equally important.
- Cutting carbon emissions and recycling are top priorities, then meeting the needs of the poorest.
- All are important not just three.
- Difficult to choose but all suffer from mismanagement.
- Libraries are a huge benefit to addressing loneliness, happiness, speech and language development.

**Public
Appendix Four**

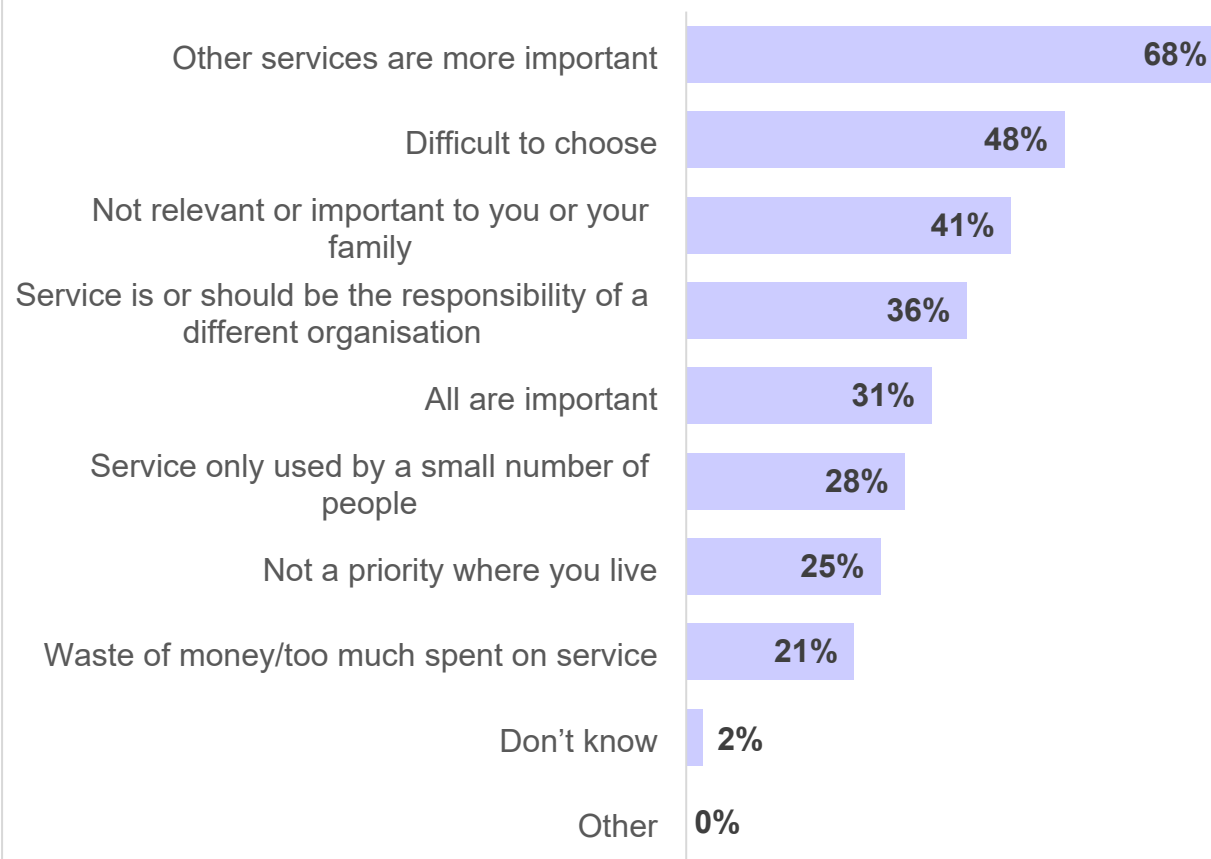
From the list of services below provided by Derbyshire County Council please select your bottom three priorities:			
Priority	Consultation responses		
	Number	Percentage	Rank
Museums, heritage & arts services	658	39%	1
Grants & aid to voluntary groups	588	35%	2
Welfare Rights advice	460	27%	3
Adult Community Education	454	27%	4
Libraries	372	22%	5
Trading Standards	342	20%	6
Countryside services e.g. trails & country parks	336	20%	7
Support services for schools including school admissions	290	17%	8
Fostering & adoption services	256	15%	9
Economic development & regeneration	249	15%	10
Children's Centres	185	11%	11
Community Safety	154	9%	12
Supporting public & community transport	107	6%	13
Environmental policy including flooding & climate change	98	6%	14
Public Health	98	6%	15
Special educational needs & disabilities(SEND) support services	97	6%	16
Waste & recycling centres	85	5%	17
Highway services including planning & maintenance	64	4%	18
Support for older adults	59	3%	19
Support for vulnerable children & families	53	3%	20
Day care/residential care for older adults	49	3%	21
Safeguarding & child protection	45	3%	22
Total	5,099		

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 <u>three</u> priorities?			
Reason	Consultation Responses		
	Number	Percentage	Rank
Other services are more important	918	68%	1
Difficult to choose	646	48%	2
Not relevant or important to you or your family	555	41%	3
Service is or should be the responsibility of a different organisation	479	36%	4
All are important	419	31%	5
Service only used by a small number of people	374	28%	6
Not a priority where you live	332	25%	7
Waste of money/too much spent on service	287	21%	8
Don't know	29	2%	9
Other	0	0%	10
Total	4,039		

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



Only 1% of respondents chose to comment further on why they had selected 'other' as a reason for selecting their bottom three priorities. Most repeated themes from the available choices. However, 'Public Health should be the responsibility of the NHS' and 'some services should be pushed to self-fund such as charging for use rather than relying on grants', were common themes referred to as further reasons.

Examples of comments include:

- Feel these services have been rundown so severely in the past that to revive them is not an option.
- Economic development should be a lower priority than the welfare of citizens.
- I feel libraries are not as important as they once were: focus on universal access to the internet.
- Need to increase tax to pay for quality public service.
- Services I feel are not well used.
- I think all are important and all should be invested in and will lead to regeneration across the county.
- "Luxury" services not as important as necessary provisions and could be provided by others.
- Grants /aid to community groups seems quite random and excessive at times.
- These seem to be okay compared to other areas.
- Too much nanny state and wasting money on things that the Council should not get involved with.
- Set up a special department to acquire more cash from Central Government.
- Impossible choice as many of the services are inter-connected with shared impacts when cuts are made.
- Museums not important to us. Parks/libraries currently in good condition.
- Some should be pushed to self-fund (like charging for use), rather than relying on grants.
- Not selected as all need help.
- I decline to choose bottom priorities because it is a dishonest exercise in the present circumstances.

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	Reduce the number of properties the Council owns	
 4	Reduce or stop delivery of less important services	
 5	Put more services on-line	
 6	Use Council assets to win business from the private sector	
 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 (1,251 respondents) did not make any suggestions on alternative ways for saving money or raising additional revenue. An additional 27 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 including reducing the number of staff, pay, sick leave and pensions of managers and staff (150 respondents).
- 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 and running the Council as a business (107 respondents).
- Highways issues such as the quality of work on potholes leading to additional spending (69 respondents).
- Developing Council sites including selling or leasing buildings and property or renting out unused rooms. Combining buildings. Reviewing the cost of running Council buildings, such as heating costs, stationery and the impact of opening hours (69 respondents).
- Increasing funding, with a variety of suggestions outlined, including lobbying Government, instigating a local lottery and partnering with private companies (45 respondents).
- Combining local authorities (27 respondents).
- Stop outsourcing and using consultants, contractors and agencies (26 respondents).
- Reviewing Council Tax system (20 respondents).

Examples of comments include:

- Stop funding services which are not the Council's responsibility, stop devolution and a separate Mayor. Unnecessary.
- Stop sending out hard copies to all addresses. Give people the option to not to have things posted.
- Make charges for social care attached to ability to pay.
- Reduce costs by training internal staff to cover work usually done by sub-contractors.
- Better management of purchasing/tenders - don't get tied into extortionate agreements.
- Work with local industry/business to deliver appropriate requirements where this would create a saving.
- Persuade Central Government to increase Council grant funding.
- Focus on statutory services and deliver only those services that the authority has a duty to do.

- Public transport - abolish free bus passes and use that money to directly subsidise services.
- Look at what services are outsourced. In my experience outsourcing is very expensive with no control.
- Look after highways properly instead of constantly paying people to tarmac over holes.
- Properly funding the community/voluntary sector so that they can deliver more services.
- Stop vanity projects immediately and concentrate on core services.
- Remove consultants and agency workers. Engage with staff to identify better ways to deliver services.
- We could have our own lottery.
- Rent out spaces to groups and organisations.
- Stop recruitment and promotional opportunities at present.
- Use Council funds more efficiently and have less meetings.
- Invest to save schemes.
- Stop wasting money on agency staff and consultants. Trust the staff you already have.
- Review the Council Tax bands and raise money from people in larger houses.
- Challenge Central Government to properly fund things. Supply utilities for profit.
- Congestion charge to reduce traffic. Community fund raising for green spaces.
- Cut red tape, speed up the decision-making process, work with local councils providing local services.
- Reduce the time streetlights are on. Repair roads properly rather than a quick fix.
- A lot of grants and funding are available from Government but not applied for.
- I know how to spend my money, to give money taken from me via Council Tax in grants is an insult.
- Be aware of the problems reducing or charging for some services can have, with a negative costly effect.
- Review the cost of agency staff and other specialist support arrangements and seek to reduce.
- Become more efficient in how and what is done, avoid duplication of services.
- Rent out buildings and land, charge businesses for using Council tech, create chargeable resources hubs.
- Offer more services. Go to a four-day working week.
- Make use of those who will volunteer their services and provide more information on how to.

- Staff are the single most expensive issue. End the in-house culture. Use contractors in the main.
- Work in partnership with other agencies to deliver support together rather than duplicating services.
- Secure better and longer-term commissioned services.
- Reduce the number of committees and look to reduce management.
- Immediately stop the useless cycle route through Chesterfield. It's costing an obscene amount of money.
- Small charge for gold card users on public transport instead of totally free, maybe 50p a journey.
- More joint ventures are essential. This option seems to be considered as too much trouble.
- Value for money is key, people will pay more for better value and service.
- Don't spend £200,000 on installing anpr cameras in all Derbyshire household waste centres.
- Share resources within the county with other local authorities. Reduce properties not in use.
- Sell Council services to support district and borough councils with maintenance contracts.
- Allow hybrid working for employees, reduce administration costs, eg. utilities, rent, interest.
- By spending less money on getting companies to come out and do consultations.
- Put more services out to competitive tender.
- Stop giving away money to families who already receive benefits.
- Audit of staff roles in different departments - move people around/ redundancies? Lobby Government harder.
- Amalgamate all the borough councils into the County Council to cut out duplicated services.
- Look more closely at how feasible it would be to hand some services over to volunteers.
- Is there a way of charging those that can pay more for certain services?
- Increase business rates, outsource some of your less-used services to other councils/businesses.
- Better ways of checking that the services you already provide are used by genuine claimants.
- Examine the Council structure to ensure relevance to the current needs of residents.
- Make communication between different departments a priority to ensure efficiency without duplication.
- Do not cut services if the result of which is to increase need for other services. Recycling versus dumping.

- A one-off increase in higher bands of Council Tax until deficit is removed.
- Abolish the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund.
- Country parks, trails and libraries should be run by charitable trusts or community interest groups.
- Stop wasting time and money on an East Midlands, mayor; concentrate on Derbyshire.
- Services provided by the Council for free should be charged for, even if it's a low amount.
- Do not continue to raise Council Tax to pay for social care! It isn't fair to ask everyone to pay.
- Services such as road repairs could be delivered by a Council-run company.
- Council needs to be more commercially minded in how it operates at all levels.
- Involve key staff in process mapping services to identify inefficiencies.
- Unite with other councils to provide emergency services and highways maintenance. Take politics out.
- More energy efficient buildings; install solar panels to reduce electricity use.
- Outsource direct care from adult social care and libraries, stop healthy homes and discretionary fund.
- Work with partners who receive large pots of funding from providers such as Public Health England.
- Charge a tourist tax. Housing developers to fund services. Community charge to be per person not per house.
- Optional additional payments (e.g. £10-£250 per year), with option to select where the money goes to.
- Install solar panel banks on rooftops/ ground the Council owns.
- Attract retired people to cover some job roles; either voluntary or under an employment scheme.
- Reduction to community education subsidies for classes based on hobbies.
- Reduce HR and DEI budgets. Spend less in these areas. Release staff from HR obsessed targets.
- Reduce staff, improve efficiency, reduce spend, keep pay levels in line with local private sector.
- Enlist help of trained volunteers from the local community in the same way as Central Government e.g. JPs.
- Use the "earmarked" reserves more carefully and do not hoard them for use as an election gimmick.
- A modest increase in charges would be in line with everywhere else.
- Cut funding to open top tourist bus which comes past every hour with no passengers.
- Make waste recycling a major issue with clear guidance.
- Remove services NHS do...Public Health particularly.

Analysis of Consultation Responses – All Derbyshire Respondents By Sex

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	547	59%	336	37%	908	48%
Supporting public & community transport	257	28%	256	28%	529	28%
Environmental policy including flooding & climate change	293	32%	295	32%	605	32%
Waste & recycling centres	308	33%	223	25%	545	29%
Support for older adults	151	16%	224	25%	386	20%
Economic development & regeneration	184	20%	140	15%	331	18%
Public Health	140	15%	120	13%	270	14%
Day care/residential care for older adults	110	12%	130	14%	246	13%
Countryside services e.g., trails & country parks	167	18%	109	12%	285	15%
Support for vulnerable children & families	105	11%	162	18%	270	14%
Community Safety	94	10%	94	10%	195	10%
Safeguarding & child protection	80	9%	124	14%	209	11%
Special educational needs & disabilities (SEND) support services	67	7%	120	13%	193	10%
Libraries	67	7%	113	12%	183	10%
Children's Centres	32	3%	34	4%	67	4%
Support services for schools including school admissions	42	5%	58	6%	103	5%
Welfare Rights advice	22	2%	49	5%	72	4%
Grants & aid to voluntary groups	27	3%	36	4%	65	3%
Museums, heritage & arts services	41	4%	44	5%	86	5%
Adult Community Education	15	2%	28	3%	45	2%
Trading Standards	29	3%	18	2%	49	3%
Fostering & adoption services	10	1%	17	2%	28	1%
Total	2788	300%	2,730	300%	5,670	300%

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	307	36%	331	41%	658	39%
Grants & aid to voluntary groups	319	37%	257	32%	588	35%
Adult Community Education	227	27%	219	27%	454	27%
Welfare Rights advice	252	30%	193	24%	460	27%
Libraries	194	23%	165	21%	372	22%
Trading Standards	139	16%	194	24%	342	20%
Countryside services e.g. trails & country parks	146	17%	185	23%	336	20%
Support services for schools including school admissions	148	17%	130	16%	290	17%
Fostering & adoption services	137	16%	110	14%	256	15%
Economic development & regeneration	119	14%	124	15%	249	15%
Children's Centres	95	11%	86	11%	185	11%
Community Safety	79	9%	73	9%	154	9%
Environmental policy including flooding & climate change	56	7%	36	4%	98	6%
Supporting public & community transport	56	7%	49	6%	107	6%
Waste & recycling centres	33	4%	51	6%	85	5%
Highway services including planning & maintenance	34	4%	29	4%	64	4%
Public Health	47	6%	50	6%	98	6%
Special educational needs & disabilities(SEND) support services	50	6%	45	6%	97	6%
Day care/residential care for older adults	28	3%	21	3%	49	3%
Support for older adults	28	3%	31	4%	59	3%
Support for vulnerable children & families	28	3%	23	3%	53	3%
Safeguarding & child protection	34	4%	11	1%	45	3%
Total	2556	300%	2,413	300%	5,099	300%

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
Reduce the number of properties the Council owns	3	3	3
Reduce or stop delivery of less important services	4	5	4
Put more services on-line	5	7	5
Use Council assets to win business from the private sector	6	4	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	3	30%	87	40%	379	48%	375	50%	10	42%	908	48%
Supporting public & community transport	2	20%	56	26%	182	23%	258	34%	5	21%	529	28%
Environmental policy including flooding & climate change	3	30%	73	34%	248	32%	246	5%	5	21%	605	32%
Waste & recycling centres	1	10%	36	17%	215	27%	257	34%	11	46%	545	29%
Support for older adults	2	20%	25	12%	153	19%	176	23%	8	33%	386	20%
Economic development & regeneration	5	50%	40	18%	147	19%	121	16%	3	13%	331	18%
Public Health	1	10%	36	17%	113	14%	104	14%	2	8%	270	14%
Day care/residential care for older adults	0	0%	13	6%	102	13%	103	14%	7	29%	246	13%
Countryside services e.g., trails & country parks	6	60%	39	18%	124	16%	101	13%	1	4%	285	15%
Support for vulnerable children & families	3	30%	36	17%	136	17%	82	11%	4	17%	270	14%
Community Safety	0	0%	34	16%	85	11%	62	8%	0	0%	195	10%
Safeguarding & child protection	1	10%	36	17%	107	14%	52	7%	3	13%	209	11%
Special educational needs & disabilities (SEND) support services	1	10%	35	16%	88	11%	58	8%	3	13%	193	10%
Libraries	0	0%	19	9%	70	9%	79	10%	5	21%	183	10%
Children's Centres	0	0%	16	7%	22	3%	25	3%	1	4%	67	4%
Support services for schools including school admissions	1	10%	18	8%	42	5%	40	5%	0	0%	103	5%
Welfare Rights advice	0	0%	13	6%	33	4%	24	3%	0	0%	72	4%
Grants & aid to voluntary groups	0	0%	9	4%	19	2%	34	5%	1	4%	65	3%
Museums, heritage & arts services	0	0%	12	6%	37	5%	31	4%	0	0%	86	5%
Adult Community Education	0	0%	4	2%	27	3%	9	1%	2	8%	45	2%
Trading Standards	1	10%	4	2%	19	2%	20	3%	1	4%	49	3%
Fostering & adoption services	0	0%	9	4%	11	1%	6	1%	0	0%	28	1%
Total	30	300%	650	300%	2,359	300%	2,263	300%	72	300%	5,670	300%

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	4	46%	78	38%	281	39%	248	36%	9	42%	658	39%
Grants & aid to voluntary groups	3	35%	45	22%	253	36%	252	37%	6	28%	588	35%
Adult Community Education	2	23%	43	21%	180	25%	201	29%	9	42%	454	27%
Welfare Rights advice	4	46%	50	25%	182	26%	194	28%	6	28%	460	27%
Libraries	4	46%	50	25%	176	25%	116	17%	4	19%	372	22%
Trading Standards	1	12%	71	35%	134	19%	114	17%	3	14%	342	20%
Countryside services e.g. trails & country parks	1	12%	33	16%	121	17%	161	24%	6	28%	336	20%
Support services for schools including school admissions	0	0%	28	14%	124	17%	116	17%	4	19%	290	17%
Fostering & adoption services	0	0%	36	18%	90	13%	112	4%	3	14%	256	15%
Economic development & regeneration	0	0%	34	17%	89	13%	112	16%	3	14%	249	15%
Children's Centres	0	0%	15	7%	86	12%	74	11%	1	5%	185	11%
Community Safety	0	0%	7	3%	60	8%	81	12%	1	5%	154	9%
Environmental policy including flooding & climate change	1	12%	8	4%	52	7%	29	4%	1	5%	98	6%
Supporting public & community transport	1	12%	21	10%	50	7%	32	5%	0	0%	107	6%
Waste & recycling centres	0	0%	17	8%	33	5%	31	5%	0	0%	85	5%
Highway services including planning & maintenance	1	12%	10	5%	25	4%	23	3%	1	5%	64	4%
Public Health	2	23%	14	7%	42	6%	33	5%	3	14%	98	6%
Special educational needs & disabilities(SEND) support services	2	23%	13	6%	50	7%	30	4%	0	0%	97	6%
Day care/residential care for older adults	0	0%	14	7%	42	6%	33	5%	1	5%	49	3%
Support for older adults	0	0%	15	7%	23	3%	18	3%	1	5%	59	4%
Support for vulnerable children & families	0	0%	5	2%	20	3%	24	4%	1	5%	53	3%
Safeguarding & child protection	0	0%	3	1%	22	3%	19	3%	1	5%	45	3%
Total	26	300%	610	300%	2,135	300%	2,053	300%	64	300%	5,099	300%

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					
	16 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 84	85+	All respondents
Work with other councils to deliver 'shared services'	1	1	1	1	1	1
Use other ways of delivering services such as local trusts or other 'not for profit' partnerships	3	2	2	2	7	2
Reduce the number of properties the Council owns	2	5	3	3	5	3
Reduce or stop delivery of less important services	4	6	6	4	3	4
Put more services on-line	6	3	5	6	4	5
Use Council assets to win business from the private sector	7	4	4	7	6	6
Maintain services but do less frequently or reduce level of service	5	7	7	5	2	7
Increase charges for services supplied to the public	7	8	8	8	8	8
Increase Council Tax	9	9	9	9	9	9