

Budget and LCTS Consultation methodology Appendix

Budget consultation example

Q1 For each service, please indicate whether you consider it to be a high priority, a medium priority or a low priority.

Service
1. Dealing with noise complaints, air and water quality issues and other environmental health matters
2. Emptying your bins and running the recycling service.
3. Emptying bins for some businesses (businesses are charged for this service)
4. Sweeping the streets, litter picking, clearing up fly-tipping and emptying public litter and dog bins (The town or parish councils in Saffron Walden, Dunmow and Stansted are responsible for public litter bins in their areas)
5. Deciding planning applications and making sure new buildings and extensions are built according to approved plans and following building regulations
6. Planning how the district will develop in the coming decades, including where new housing and businesses will be located
7. Giving advice on work to listed buildings and work to protected trees
8. Providing council housing and providing sheltered housing for older people
9. Provide advice to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and in some circumstances, provide emergency accommodation
10. Bringing privately-owned homes that have been empty for a long time back into use
11. Providing the Highway Rangers service which carries out small jobs such as keeping road verges tidy through hedge cutting,

mowing and strimming, repainting and repairing road signs

Other Services

Q2 For each service, please indicate whether you consider it to be a high priority, a medium priority or a low priority.

Service
1. Giving grants to voluntary and community organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Uttlesford Community Travel and the Council for Voluntary Service Uttlesford
2. Educating young people about the dangers of drugs and alcohol
3. Working with the police and other organisations to keep Uttlesford safe
4. Working with public health bodies on projects to keep people in the district healthy
5. Supporting the volunteer committees who run day centres in Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Takeley and Thaxted
6. Enforcement work including prosecuting people for major planning breaches, not paying council tax or council house rent, benefit fraud, fly-tipping
7. Running car parks and on-street parking such as residents permit schemes (this is done in partnership with other councils)
8. Working out how much people should receive in housing and council tax benefits and paying those benefits
9. Collecting Council tax for Essex County Council, the police, the fire service, town or parish councils and Uttlesford District Council and collecting business rates on behalf of the government
10. Inspecting restaurants, pubs and other businesses which sell food and Issuing various licences such as those needed for pubs, off-licenses, taxis, kennels and tattoo parlours and making sure people do not break the terms of those licences

11. Collecting stray animals, microchipping dogs and cats and dealing with complaints from the public about pet and animal-related issues

12. Promoting and supporting businesses in the area

Council tax

Q3 Thinking about how you answered the previous questions, for next year (April 2017 to March 2018), do you think Uttlesford District Council should (consultees were then invited to select one option only)

Headline
Increase the amount of council tax Uttlesford District Council charges
Keep the amount of council tax the same
Reduce the amount of council tax Uttlesford District Council charges
No opinion

LCTS Consultation questions

Q1 The Government has said pensioners on low income must be given full protection from the implications of this scheme. Uttlesford's current scheme also protects disabled people on a low income and carers on a low income.

Do you agree with this?

Q2 The table below shows how Uttlesford's rate compares to other Essex councils. The lower the percentage, the less Council Tax an LCTS recipient is required to pay.

	The minimum % Council Tax an LCTS recipient paid in 2013/14	The minimum % Council Tax an LCTS recipient paid in 2014/15	The minimum % Council Tax an LCTS recipient paid in 2015/16	The minimum % Council Tax an LCTS recipient paid in 2016/17	The minimum % Council Tax an LCTS recipient is paying in 2017/18 (this year)

Basildon	15	25	25	25	The figures in this column will be collated by Finance
Braintree	20	20	20	20	
Brentwood	20	20	20	20	
Castle Point	30	30	30	30	
Chelmsford	20	23	23	23	
Colchester	20	20	20	20	
Epping Forest	20	20	20	25	
Harlow	24	24	24	26	
Maldon	20	20	20	20	
Rochford	20	20	20	20	
Southend-on-Sea	25	25	25	25	
Tendring	15	15	20	20	
Thurrock	25	25	25	25	
Uttlesford	8.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	

For each 2.5% of increase the LCTS recipient(s) will need to pay, on average, an additional £34 of Council Tax each year.

The cost to the council of keeping the rate at 12.5% would be approximately £261,000. For each 2.5% increase the cost of the scheme for Uttlesford District Council would reduce by approximately £4,061.

Do you agree that the council should keep the rate at 12.5% for a fifth year?

Q3 In simple terms, parish and town councils set their budgets by deciding how much money they need to run their services and then dividing that amount by the number of homes in their area. The LCTS scheme reduces the amount of money the parish will receive as some households will not pay full Council Tax. Uttlesford District Council previously provided grants to parish and town

councils to make up the difference. However, this year (2017/18) the grants were reduced by 50% in light of a reduction in government funding for district councils. It is proposed for next year (2018/19) to withdraw these grants altogether. It would be up to each parish/town council to decide if they wished to cover the shortfall in grant by increasing their part of the Council Tax.

The table below shows how much grant each town/parish council receives this year.

<u>LCTS Parish Grant - 2017/18</u>			
Arkesden	29	Leaden Roding	215
Ashdon	243	Lindsell	0
Aythorpe Roding	21	Little Bardfield	100
Barnston	576	Little Canfield	306
Berden	144	Little Chesterford	18
Birchanger	500	Little Dunmow	279
Broxted	338	Little Easton	359
Chickney	0	Little Hallingbury	639
Chrishall	218	Littlebury	452
Clavering	294	Manuden	114
Debden	229	Margaret Roding	163
Elmdon and Wenden Lofts	191	Newport	1,616
Elsenham	1,444	Quendon and Rickli	514
Farnham	145	Radwinter	293
Felsted	1,690	Saffron Walden	27,803
Flitch Green	301	The Sampfords	195
Great Canfield	12	Sewards End	75
Great Chesterford	1,082	Stansted	5,979
Great Dunmow	18,298	Stebbing	749
Great Easton and Tilty	298	Strethall	0
Great Hallingbury	195	Takeley	3,615
Hadstock	167	Thaxted	3,837
Hatfield broad Oak	769	Ugley	106
Hatfield Heath	737	Wendens Ambo	145
Hempstead	146	White Roding	94
Henham	443	Wicken Bonhunt	43
High Easter	108	Widdington	213
High Roding	0	Wimbish	227
Langley	35		
Total Grant paid			<u>76,802</u>

Do you think Uttlesford District Council should:

Continue to pay the grant

Withdraw the grant