



Uttlesford District Council

# Council Spending

A report on the survey of businesses about council spending priorities for the year 2018-19

October 2017





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# 1. Executive summary

This is the second year that a dedicated consultation asking for businesses' views on the headline priorities for setting the budget for the approaching financial year has been run. It should be noted that until 2016 only business networking groups had been contacted as distinct from individual businesses. This approach, it is hoped, will provide a better overview of opinion from the business community in the district.

The survey was promoted by email to all enterprises registered on the Uttlesford Business Directory. Consultees were able to respond via an online form using the Snap 11 consultation platform.

The questions in the business consultation followed the same principal lines as the residents' survey which was carried out concurrently. In this businesses were asked for their views on the prerogatives for the future resourcing of specific service areas. They were not, though, asked to comment on the level of Council tax that Uttlesford District Council should be levying in the coming year as this is only applicable to residents within the district. An additional option was provided to permit consultees to leave general comments about the council's spending priorities for 2018-19.

**Council Spending - have your say!**  
**Uttlesford Survey of Businesses 2017**

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**Section 1 - Council Spending - have your say!**

**Council Spending - have your say!**  
**Uttlesford Survey of Businesses**

**September 2017**

Each year the council has to prepare its budget and decide how much should be spent on the services it provides to the community. These decisions cannot be made without the input of the district's residents and businesses.

As a local business this survey gives you the opportunity to have your say on what the Uttlesford District Council's spending priorities should be for the forthcoming financial year. The results of this consultation will help to inform the budget for April 2018 to March 2019.

All the information you provide will be kept confidential. It will only be used by Uttlesford District Council and the main findings from the survey will be published on the council website. However, your own views and opinions will not be passed on to anyone else.

**Please complete this questionnaire by ticking the appropriate box(es) for each question and return your completed questionnaire in the prepaid envelope provided by:**

**Monday 25 September 2017 at 5pm**

If you require this publication in an alternative format and/or language or have any questions or queries about this questionnaire, please contact:  
 Louise Milns or Bruce Tice at Uttlesford District Council on 01799 510381 or 510670.  
 Alternatively you can email: [consultation@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@uttlesford.gov.uk)  
 The survey may also be completed online at [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/budgetforbusinesses](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/budgetforbusinesses)

District Council provides to the public relating to Planning, Housing and the local

ite whether you consider it to be a high priority, a medium priority or a low priority.

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	No opinion
er quality issues and other environmental	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ervice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
sses are charged for this service)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g up fly-tipping and emptying public litter Saffron Walden, Dunmow and Stansted (areas)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
sure new buildings and extensions are ng building regulations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e coming decades, including where new	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
nd work to protected trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
eltered housing for older people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
s or at risk of becoming homeless and in ommodation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Results summary

Together with the residents' survey this 2017 business consultation will inform the setting of the council's budget for the financial year April 2018 – March 2019. The results provide a headline view of the spending priorities for the forthcoming financial year as identified by the majority of those who responded to the survey.

Responses have been analysed using a rating system which weights the options selected by residents. Rating is a system particularly recommended by Snap Surveys following the introduction of Version 11 of their software. This system is used to collate the majority of the council's general survey work throughout the year and was employed on the analysis of the current Council Spending Survey results.

A rating system<sup>1</sup> is an appropriate analysis tool for the Council Spending Survey since the same area of spending might have been chosen by different respondents at a different level of priority; more weight is thus given to that selection if it is selected as the "Highest Priority" than if the same spending area is still chosen as priority, but at a lower level. Consequently, a fair analysis is achieved by allocating 3 points to each vote for the 'High Priority', 2 points to each vote for the 'Medium Priority' and 1 point to each vote for the 'Low Priority'. Those offering a 'No Opinion' has been attributed a zero score value reflecting their neutral response to the question.

Uttlesford District Council administers a wide range of services. Many of these relating to Planning, Housing and the local environment must be provided either by the council itself or by another organisation. These may be considered as being 'key' services. There is also a portfolio of other services that are offered by the council to the benefit of the community. For the purposes of the consultation, businesses were asked to comment on aggregations of 'key' services and 'other'

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<sup>1</sup> See Section 4.3 for an explanation of rating system calculations

## Appendix B

services separately. A final and distinct question sought respondents' general comments on how the district council might apportion its spending in the forthcoming financial year.

The results of the online survey are given below:

### Results priorities

#### Key Services

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

Headline	Spending Area – ranked top three priorities
Ranked priority	<p>Emptying bins and running the recycling service - (90.48%)</p> <p>Emptying bins for some businesses (businesses are charged for this service) - (84.62%)</p> <p>Joint 3<sup>rd</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 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) (83.33%)</li><li>- Deciding planning applications and making sure new buildings and extensions are built according to approved plans and following building regulations (83.33%)</li><li>- Planning how the district will develop in the coming decades, including where new housing and businesses will be located- (83.33%)</li></ul>

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Headline	Spending Area – ranked by the least respondents
Ranked priority	Giving advice on work to listed buildings and work to protected trees - (57.14 %)

### Other Services

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

Headline	Spending Area – ranked top three priorities
Ranked priority	Working with the police and other organisations to keep Uttlesford safe - (88.10%)  Joint 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Collecting Council Tax for Essex County Council, Uttlesford District Council, the police, the fire service, town or parish councils and collecting business rates (83.33%) - Promoting and supporting businesses in the area – (83.33%)

Headline	Spending Area – ranked by the least respondents
Ranked priority	Collecting stray animals, microchipping dogs and cats and dealing with complaints from the public about pet and animal-related issues - (56.41%)

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### Any other comments

Five comments were received and are reported below..

*Q3. Thinking about how you answered the previous questions, [do] you have any other comments you wish to add regarding council spending for the period April 2018 to March 2019?*

Promoting Uttlesford as the key place to come for business is important and vital for future business development. We have Cambridge Business Development Corridor and Stansted Airport with our grasp to bring outstanding businesses, and hence outstanding business opportunity and employment, to our district. I don't see or feel Uttlesford does promote the area for business. It doesn't promote housing for business nor provide low rents for council housing to ensure large-scale businesses feel they have the opportunity to develop and expand into Uttlesford. We have high-net worth housing and opportunities, great. But where is the supporting workers and infrastructure to ensure that the district is just a commuter belt into Cambridge and London. We don't even get the benefits from Stansted Airport, as most employees live in Braintree or Bishop's Stortford. Promote Uttlesford as the best location for business and we could really have benefits for the whole community

Reducing waste and unnecessary spending to control rate increases

To encourage the visitors to beautiful Uttlesford to keep coming back to keep shopping and sight seeing, the towns and villages should be kept clean, inviting and safe.

Providing an acceptable level of broadband - some parts of the district have minimal [less than 1mb] provision

A small issue - more time and attention is needed on the Saffron Walden castle site to help realise the full potential of the site

### Results priority analysis

This is the second year that the council has specifically sought the views of businesses in order to help inform how it will set the budget in the forthcoming year. Whilst not identical, the 2017 consultation in part revisits the majority of the elements of the 2016 survey in order to ascertain if there has been any move in opinion by the Uttlesford business community. It should be noted however, that the 2017 survey had a considerably lower response rate; 21 responses compared with 80 in 2016, despite wide distribution of the questionnaire.

### Key services top three priorities:

Businesses were asked to identify the priority - 'high', 'medium' or 'low' - that they might ascribe to each of a basket of 11 service areas operated by the council. The headline results from the current piece of market research demonstrate that respondents manifested a marked preference for supporting spending on 'Emptying your bins and running the recycling service' and 'Emptying bins for some businesses', which scored 90.48% and 84.62% respectively. Respondents thus considered these to be the top two priorities. As one of the principal universal services provided to residents and some businesses (where businesses are charged for the service) the collection of waste and recycling represents a consistent concern amongst all consultees. The level of approval for spending on waste services has increased since the 2016 survey in which the priorities relating to waste services had occupied the second and third place.

In the current year's survey, taking third place, three priority areas scored equally using the system of rated scores, namely:

- 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)



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- Deciding planning applications and making sure new buildings and extensions are built according to approved plans and following building regulations
- Planning how the district will develop in the coming decades, including where new housing and businesses will be located

However, as in the 2016 survey, at the other end of the scale and across all the key services 'Giving advice on work to listed buildings and work to protected trees' polled the least consistent backing with a ranked score of 57.14%.

### Other services top three priorities:

There are a number of services which are provided by Uttlesford District Council for which there is no statutory requirement. These are offered for the better benefit of the local community.

Many of these 'other' services are delivered by the council in partnership with other bodies such as the police, public health teams and the North Essex Parking Partnership.

From the 12 services identified in this part of the consultation businesses indicated that they considered 'Working with the police and other organisations to keep Uttlesford safe' should be the most worthy of future resourcing. This was supported by an 88.10% majority and was similarly ranked by respondents to the 2016 survey. The second priority "Promoting and supporting businesses in the area" again matched its 2016 ranking but in 2017 was equalled in its rating score by "Collecting Council Tax for Essex County Council, Uttlesford District Council, the police, the fire service, town or parish councils and collecting business rates". Each priority scored an approval rating of 83.33% and thereby shared second place.

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Unchanged in the perception of respondees since the 2016 survey, 'Collecting stray animals, microchipping dogs and cats and dealing with complaints from the public about pet and animal-related issues' was the least popular service, only gaining a 56.41%% support rating in 2017.

### Any other comments

Consultees were also asked to include any appropriate comments to support their choices made in the service prioritisation section.

Feedback here was typically eclectic ranging from support for developing suitable housing within the district:

"I don't see or feel Uttlesford does promote the area for business. It doesn't promote housing for business nor provide low rents for council housing to ensure large-scale businesses feel they have the opportunity to develop and expand into Uttlesford" to encouraging tourism:"...encourage the visitors to beautiful Uttlesford to keep coming back, to keep shopping and sightseeing, the towns and villages should be kept clean, inviting and safe."

### 2. Purpose methodology

The council is obliged to consult with the residents of the district when setting the budget for the forthcoming year. As part of the 2017 consultation local businesses were also encouraged to feedback via a dedicated survey so as to provide a better overview of opinion across all users of the authority's services. The results of this consultation will inform the decisions made by officers and councillors when setting spending for the year April 2018 to March 2019.

This is the second year that a consultation asking for businesses' views on the headline priorities for setting the budget for the approaching financial year has been run, whereas before 2016 only business networking groups had been contacted as distinct from individual businesses. This approach provides a better overview of opinion from the business community in the district.

For 2017 a link to the online survey was sent to the 823 businesses registered on the Uttlesford Business Directory. The 21 returns represent a relatively low level of response compared with 80 submissions in 2016.

The consultation was run over the period 4 to 25 September 2017. Respondents were asked to select their highest, mid-range and lowest spending priorities from a list of 11 key services and 12 other service options covering the full range of the council's activities. They were also offered the opportunity to provide additional comments on how the council might allocate funding during the forthcoming year. For profiling purposes they were also invited to include a postcode.

The following consultative method was employed.

- Open public consultation. The survey was promoted by email to all enterprises registered on the Uttlesford Business Directory and was available from the Uttlesford District Council website. Consultees were able to respond

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via an interactive form using the Snap 11 consultation platform. This resulted in 21 responses.

- The survey was also publicised to all businesses registered to receive the council's dedicated business e-newsletter
- The budget questions were also made available as a printed survey if requested. However, no paper questionnaires were requested by the businesses contacted and therefore no paper submissions have been recorded for the 2017 survey

It should be remembered that not all respondents chose to answer all of the questions. A number of supplementary comments were received and are reported. By the close of the consultation period a total of 21 online responses were received.

### 3. Survey results, detailed findings

#### Survey results

No paper responses were received. Full results from the online submissions are reported below.

#### Key Services

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

Service	Priority Score (percentage)
1. Dealing with noise complaints, air and water quality issues and other environmental health matters	58.33%
2. Emptying bins and running the recycling service	90.48%
3. Emptying bins for businesses (businesses are charged for this service)	84.62%
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)	83.33%
5. Deciding planning applications and making sure new buildings and extensions are built according to approved plans and following building regulations	83.33%
6. Planning how the district will develop in the coming decades, including where new housing and businesses will be located	83.33%
7. Giving advice on work to listed buildings and work to protected trees	57.14%
8. Providing council housing and providing sheltered housing for older people	82.05%
9. Provide advice to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and in some circumstances, provide emergency accommodation	73.81%
10. Bringing privately-owned homes that have been empty for a long time back into use	61.11%
11. Providing the Highway Rangers service which carries out small jobs such as keeping	71.43%

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road verges tidy through hedge cutting, mowing and strimming, repainting and repairing road signs	
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### Other Services

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

<b>Service</b>	<b>Priority Score (percentage)</b>
1. Giving grants to voluntary and community organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Uttlesford Community Travel and the Council for Voluntary Service Uttlesford	71.43%
2. Educating young people about the dangers of drugs and alcohol	78.57%
3. Working with the police and other organisations to keep Uttlesford safe	88.10%
4. Working with public health bodies on projects to keep people in the district healthy	69.23%
5. Supporting the volunteer committees who run day centres in Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Takeley and Thaxted	64.29%
6. Enforcement work including prosecuting people for not paying council tax or council house rent, benefit fraud, fly-tipping	80.95%
7. Running car parks and on-street parking such as residents permit schemes (this is done in partnership with other councils)	69.05%
8. Working out how much people should receive in housing and council tax benefits and paying those benefits	61.54%
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	83.33%
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	80.95%

## Appendix B

11. Collecting stray animals, microchipping dogs and cats and dealing with complaints from the public about pet and animal-related issues	56.41%
12. Promoting and supporting businesses in the area	83.33%

### Comparative data across 2017 residents' and businesses' surveys

*Note: Businesses were not asked to comment on the priority for setting Council Tax.*

\* See Section 4 for an explanation of rating system calculations

Results in **red** indicate top three priorities in the service area. Those in **black** indicate the least popular priority in that service area.

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

Service	Total Rated score* for 2017 residents' survey (2018-19 budget)	Total Rated score* for 2017 businesses' survey (2018-19budget)
1. Dealing with noise complaints, air and water quality issues and other environmental health matters	78.75%	58.33%
2. Emptying bins and running the recycling service	<b>94.44%</b>	<b>90.48%</b>
3. Emptying bins for businesses (businesses are charged for this service)	71.57%	<b>84.62%</b>
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	<b>87.67%</b>	<b>83.33%</b>

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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	83.89%	<b>83.33%</b>
6. Planning how the district will develop in the coming decades, including where new housing and businesses will be located	<b>86.30%</b>	<b>83.33%</b>
7. Giving advice on work to listed buildings and work to protected trees	<b>63.09%</b>	<b>57.14%</b>
8. Providing council housing and providing sheltered housing for older people	86.19%	82.05%
9. Provide advice to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and in some circumstances, provide emergency accommodation	81.52%	73.81%
10. Bringing privately-owned homes that have been empty for a long time back into use	74.12%	61.11%
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	73.69%	71.43%



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### 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	Total Rated score* for 2017 residents' survey (2018-19 budget)	Total Rated score* for 2017 businesses' survey (2018-19 budget)
1. Giving grants to voluntary and community organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Uttlesford Community Travel and the Council for Voluntary Service Uttlesford	69.64%	71.43%
2. Educating young people about the dangers of drugs and alcohol	77.13%	78.57%
3. Working with the police and other organisations to keep Uttlesford safe	<b>90.31%</b>	<b>88.10%</b>
4. Working with public health bodies on projects to keep people in the district healthy	73.32%	69.23%
5. Supporting the volunteer committees who run day centres in Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Takeley and Thaxted	73.03%	64.29%
6. Enforcement work including prosecuting people for not paying council tax or council house rent, benefit fraud, fly-tipping	<b>86.94%</b>	80.95%
7. Running car parks and on-street parking such as residents permit schemes (this is done in partnership with other councils)	61.31%	69.05%
8. Working out how much people should receive in housing and council tax benefits and paying those benefits	72.82%	61.54%
9. Collecting Council tax for Essex County Council, the police, the fire service, town or parish councils and Uttlesford District Council and collecting business	<b>83.07%</b>	<b>83.33%</b>



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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	75.80%	80.95%
11. Collecting stray animals, microchipping dogs and cats and dealing with complaints from the public about pet and animal-related issues	60.75%	56.41%
12. Promoting and supporting businesses in the area	68.55%	<b>83.33%</b>

## 4. Appendices

### 4.1 Questionnaire

Although no paper responses were received, paper questionnaires were prepared and followed an identical format to the online survey.

 <b>Council Spending - have your say!</b> <b>Uttlesford Survey of Businesses 2017</b>																																									
<b>Section 1 - Council Spending - have your say!</b>																																									
Q1	<p><b>Below is a list of key services Uttlesford District Council provides to the public relating to the environment.</b>                      As a business, for each service, please indicate whether you consider it to be a high priority, a medium priority or a low priority. (Please select one option for each service).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>High Priority</th> <th>Medium Priority</th> <th>Low Priority</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Dealing with noise complaints, air and water quality issues and other environmental health matters</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Emptying bins and running the recycling service</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Emptying bins for some businesses (businesses are charged for this service)</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>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)</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Deciding planning applications and making sure new buildings and extensions are built according to approved plans and following building regulations</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Planning how the district will develop in the coming decades, including where new housing and businesses will be located</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. Giving advice on work to listed buildings and work to protected trees</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8. Providing council housing and providing sheltered housing for older people</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>9. Provide advice to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and in some circumstances, provide emergency accommodation</td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> <td><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	1. Dealing with noise complaints, air and water quality issues and other environmental health matters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	2. Emptying bins and running the recycling service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	3. Emptying bins for some businesses (businesses are charged for this service)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	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)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	5. Deciding planning applications and making sure new buildings and extensions are built according to approved plans and following building regulations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	6. Planning how the district will develop in the coming decades, including where new housing and businesses will be located	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	7. Giving advice on work to listed buildings and work to protected trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	8. Providing council housing and providing sheltered housing for older people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	9. Provide advice to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and in some circumstances, provide emergency accommodation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Uttesford Survey of Businesses**

**September 2017**

Each year the council has to prepare its budget and decide how much should be spent on the services it provides to the community. These decisions cannot be made without the input of the district's residents and businesses.

As a local business this survey gives you the opportunity to have your say on what the Uttesford District Council's spending priorities should be for the forthcoming financial year. The results of this consultation will help to inform the budget for April 2018 to March 2019.

All the information you provide will be kept confidential. It will only be used by Uttesford District Council and the main findings from the survey will be published on the council website. However, your own views and opinions will not be passed on to anyone else.

**Please complete this questionnaire by ticking the appropriate box(es) for each question and return your completed questionnaire in the prepaid envelope provided by:**

**Monday 25 September 2017 at 5pm**

If you require this publication in an alternative format and/or language or have any questions or queries about this questionnaire, please contact:  
Louise Milns or Bruce Tice at Uttesford District Council on 01799 510381 or 510670.

Alternatively you can email: [consultation@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@uttlesford.gov.uk)

**The survey may also be completed online at  
[www.uttlesford.gov.uk/budgetforbusinesses](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/budgetforbusinesses)**

**Section 1 - Council Spending - have your say!**

**Q1 Below is a list of key services Uttesford District Council provides to the public relating to Planning, Housing and the local environment.**

For each service, please indicate whether you consider it to be a high priority, a medium priority or a low priority.  
(Please select one option for each service).

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	No opinion
1.Dealing with noise complaints, air and water quality issues and other environmental health matters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.Emptying bins and running the recycling service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.Emptying bins for some businesses (businesses are charged for this service)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.Deciding planning applications and making sure new buildings and extensions are built according to approved plans and following building regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.Planning how the district will develop in the coming decades, including where new housing and businesses will be located	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.Giving advice on work to listed buildings and work to protected trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.Providing council housing and providing sheltered housing for older people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.Provide advice to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and in some circumstances, provide emergency accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.Bringing privately-owned homes that have been empty for a long time back into use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.Providing the Highway Rangers service which carries out small jobs such as keeping road verges tidy through hedge cutting, mowing, strimming, repainting and repairing road signs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q2 Below is a further list of services provided by the Council**

For each service please indicate whether you think it is a high priority, a medium priority or a low priority.  
(Please select one option for each service).

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	No opinion
1. Giving grants to voluntary and community organisations such as Citizens Advice, Uttlesford Community Travel and the Council for Voluntary Service, Uttlesford	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Educating young people about the dangers of drugs and alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Working with the police and other organisations to keep Uttlesford safe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Working with public health bodies on projects to keep people in the district healthy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Supporting the volunteer committees who run day centres in Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Takeley and Thaxted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Enforcement work including prosecuting people for major planning breaches, not paying Council Tax or council house rent, benefit fraud, fly-tipping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Running car parks and on-street parking such as residents permit schemes (this is done in partnership with other councils)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Working out how much people should receive in housing and Council Tax benefits and paying those benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Collecting Council Tax for Essex County Council, Uttlesford District Council, the police, the fire service, town or parish councils and collecting business rates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Collecting stray animals, microchipping dogs and cats and dealing with complaints from the public about pet and animal-related issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Promoting and supporting businesses in the area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q3** Thinking about how you answered the previous questions, if you have any other comments you wish to add regarding council spending for the the period April 2018 to March 2019, please use the box below:

### About you:

It is hoped that a cross-section of Uttlesford businesses will participate in this survey. It would greatly assist us in collating the responses in this questionnaire if you would answer the question below.

**You can choose not to answer this question**, however, all the responses in this section are anonymous and it is not possible for us to identify individuals from their response.

**Q4** Please enter the postcode of your business (using upper case letters e.g. CB11 4ER)

### Next steps

This consultation will close at 5pm on

**Monday 25 September 2017**

The budget for 2018/19 will be agreed by Uttlesford District Council's Full Council on 22 February 2018.

This will be after consideration by the Scrutiny Committee on 21 November and Cabinet on 30 November.

**Thank you for taking part in our survey.**

**If you require this publication in an alternative format and/or language, please contact us on 01799 510670**

### 4.2 Profiling

#### Postcodes of respondees

*Note: Not all respondees chose to enter postcode data*

CB10 1AR
CB10 1EQ
CB10 1HB
CB10 2AB
CB11
CB11 3BQ
CB11 4RT
CM24 8BE
CM6 1AE
CM6 1GR

### 4.3 How rating scores are calculated

Rating is a system recommended by Snap, the company who provide the consultation system used to collate and make the analysis of the 2018-19 Budget Consultation results.

To establish the overall views of all those participating in this survey, priority selections made by respondents are given extra weight if chosen as a 'high priority' compared with those chosen as 'low priority'. This is called 'rating' and is achieved by attributing a weighted score (+3 for 'high priority', +2 for 'medium priority', +1 for 'low priority' and 0 for 'no opinion') to the number of responses received.

## Appendix B

The overall score for each priority is therefore calculated to exclude all respondents who did not express an opinion.

For example:

Regarding priorities for Statutory Services, 'Dealing with noise complaints, air and water quality issues and other environmental health issues':

1 respondent selected this as 'high priority' =  $(+3) \times 1 = 3$

7 selected 'medium priority' =  $(+2) \times 7 = 14$

4 selected 'low priority' =  $(+1) \times 4 = 4$

1 had 'no opinion' =  $0 \times 1 = 0$

So, the overall rating for this priority

$3 + 14 + 4 + 0 = 21$

To achieve a maximum 100%, all respondents with an opinion would need to have selected a priority as 'high priority' resulting in a rating score of  $(+3) \times (\text{number of respondents})$  i.e.  $(+3) \times (1 + 7 + 4)$  or 36

The overall priority score, expressed as a percentage, for "Dealing with noise complaints, air and water quality issues and other environmental health issues" is therefore  $21/36 = 58.33\%$