

## Council Spending – have your say!

Budget Consultation for the financial year April 2022- March 2023

### Annexe 7 – Survey data, absolute results

Shown below is the downloaded data from the collated responses to the Autumn 2021, Uttlesford District Council Budget consultation.

Absolute and corresponding percentage data is displayed in the response fields on the survey.

## Council Spending - have your say! Uttlesford District Council Budget Consultation - Autumn 2021

Each year the council has to prepare its budget and decide how much should be spent on the services it provides to the community. This questionnaire gives you the opportunity to have your say on what Uttlesford District Council's spending priorities should be in the financial year from April 2022 to March 2023.

Central government funding used to be the biggest single source of money for many councils, including Uttlesford. For the current financial year 2021/22 the council's total funding requirement is budgeted at £14.4m. Government funding has reduced significantly over the years, a trend that is expected to continue. As a result, the council faced significant challenges in balancing its budget so decided to increase its revenue through a commercial investment programme – buying commercial property and then using the rent it receives to fund council services. In the current year, this portfolio will generate an additional income of about £6.9m to help us run the council. This compares with council tax of £6.1m. The rest of the funding is a mixture of business rates and movements to and from reserves.

This has been successful, but even so there are continued financial pressures and the council needs to ensure it remains efficient while continuing to provide the same high quality services.

The results of this consultation will help to inform the budget for April 2022 to March 2023.

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

Further information about Data Protection rights can be found at [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/privacy)

The budget for 2022/23 will be agreed by Full Council in February 2022 following consideration by the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

**Please complete this questionnaire by ticking the appropriate box(es) for each question, using the "Next" button to proceed to each page. When you have answered the questions to your satisfaction\*, click on the "Submit" button.**

**Please submit your completed survey by:**

**Sunday 17 October 2021**

\* You can start your survey, save the responses you have already entered and return to complete the questionnaire at a later time, provided it is before the closing date.

If you require this publication in an alternative format and/or language or have any queries regarding this questionnaire, please contact the Consultation Team at Uttlesford District Council on 01799 510670 or email: [consultation@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@uttlesford.gov.uk)

## **Priorities**

Our budget is designed to deliver the core services we provide and meet our priorities as set out in the council's Corporate Plan for 2021-25 which was adopted by Full Council at its meeting on 23 February 2021.

With a vision for the council to make 'Uttlesford the best place to live, work and play', the Corporate Plan has four priorities:

- **Putting residents first**
- **Active place-maker for our towns and villages**
- **Progressive custodian of our rural environment**
- **Champion for our district**

### **Putting residents first**

We will:

Be a council that listens to and acts for residents

Deliver local government with outstanding levels of transparency and accountability

Be responsible with your money and mitigate the impact of government cuts

### **Active place-maker for our towns and villages**

We will:

Masterplan our new communities for and with residents

Support our towns and villages to plan their neighbourhoods

Secure greater benefits for our community from new development

Work with the airport on issues of concern to communities

Nurture employment and retail areas to create jobs and retain businesses

Enforce good business standards in our district

Deliver more affordable homes and protect those in need in our district

Promote healthy lifestyles in diverse and inclusive communities

### **Progressive custodian of our rural environment**

We will:

- Take action on Climate Change
- Conserve our natural resources
- Protect and enhance our rural character and heritage
- Take strong action on dealing with pollution

### **Champion for our district**

We will:

- Improve Uttlesford's connectivity
- Support our students, schools and libraries
- Work with partners to keep the district safe
- Work to create a better local Health Service for residents

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**Q1 Do you think these priorities are the right ones for 2022/2023?**

	Yes	No	Don't know
Putting residents first	157 (94.0%)	6 (3.6%)	4 (2.4%)
Active place-maker for our towns and villages	117 (70.1%)	22 (13.2%)	28 (16.8%)
Progressive custodian of our rural environment	137 (82.0%)	24 (14.4%)	6 (3.6%)
Champion for our district	127 (76.0%)	24 (14.4%)	16 (9.6%)

**Q2** If you think there is a different priority that the council should be focusing on, please explain in the box below:

54 responses (See Literal Responses in the Budget Consultation report)

**Value for money**

Only a small part of the Council Tax you pay goes to this council.

Uttlesford District Council currently keeps £162 of the average £1,885 paid in Council Tax by an Uttlesford household based on Band D property Council Tax 2021/22. The rest goes to Essex County Council, Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner and Parish/Town Councils.

This consultation is only about the Uttlesford part, and we have no say in tax levels of the other bodies. The council is also responsible for collection of business rates, but similarly has no say in their level and retains only a small percentage of it.

**Q3 Bearing in mind Uttlesford householders only pay about £162 per year for services provided by the Council (based on average Band D Council Tax 2021/22), to what extent do you agree or disagree that Uttlesford District Council provides value for money? (please tick one box only)**

- 28 (16.8%) Strongly agree
- 55 (32.9%) Tend to agree
- 38 (22.8%) Neither agree nor disagree
- 26 (15.6%) Tend to disagree
- 17 (10.2%) Strongly disagree
- 3 (1.8%) Don't know

**Statutory Services**

**The council delivers a number of statutory services. These are services we have to provide by law.**

We are allowed to, and already do, apply additional fees and charges for some of them. In order to meet the continued financial pressures, we could look to reduce the amount we spend which may reduce the level of service provided, or where allowed, increase or introduce new fees and charges.

Below is a list of statutory services. We have shown the amount of the £162 received in Council Tax from an Uttlesford Council Tax payer spent on each service (based on average Band D Council Tax).

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**For each of these statutory services please tell us how important you think the service is.**

**Q4 Environmental Health and Licensing** costs about £22.60 per household per year and includes:

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Action to develop cleaner neighbourhoods and to tackle environmental crime such as fly tipping.	113 (67.7%)	48 (28.7%)	3 (1.8%)	3 (1.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Food safety	72 (43.1%)	67 (40.1%)	23 (13.8%)	2 (1.2%)	3 (1.8%)
Housing standards	77 (46.1%)	63 (37.7%)	20 (12.0%)	5 (3.0%)	2 (1.2%)
Private water supplies	56 (33.5%)	38 (22.8%)	49 (29.3%)	16 (9.6%)	8 (4.8%)
Pollution control	85 (50.9%)	60 (35.9%)	16 (9.6%)	5 (3.0%)	1 (0.6%)
Taxi licensing, liquor and gambling premises licensing	21 (12.6%)	57 (34.1%)	65 (38.9%)	22 (13.2%)	2 (1.2%)

**Q5 Housing and Homelessness\*** costs about £9.47 per household per year and includes:

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Housing advice	62 (37.1%)	70 (41.9%)	26 (15.6%)	6 (3.6%)	3 (1.8%)
Temporary accommodation	92 (55.1%)	46 (27.5%)	20 (12.0%)	6 (3.6%)	3 (1.8%)

\*Please note: council house provision is entirely self-financing from council house rents. It is not included in this consultation and is the subject of separate annual consultation with tenants.

**Q6 Planning and Building Control** costs about £81.82 per household per year and includes:

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Planning policy including new Local Plan	101 (60.5%)	48 (28.7%)	11 (6.6%)	5 (3.0%)	2 (1.2%)
Determining planning and building control applications	99 (59.3%)	53 (31.7%)	8 (4.8%)	6 (3.6%)	1 (0.6%)
Local land searches (e.g. when buying/selling a home)	53 (31.7%)	64 (38.3%)	32 (19.2%)	15 (9.0%)	3 (1.8%)

		Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
<b>Q7</b>	<b>Refuse and recycling collection</b> costs about £44.35 per household per year	148 (88.6%)	18 (10.8%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)
<b>Q8</b>	<b>Street cleansing</b> costs about £15.17 per household per year	95 (56.9%)	57 (34.1%)	11 (6.6%)	4 (2.4%)	0 (0.0%)
<b>Q9</b>	<b>Revenues and Benefits</b> costs about £41.67 per household per year and includes:					
		Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
	Administering Council Tax and Business Rates collection	66 (39.5%)	63 (37.7%)	30 (18.0%)	7 (4.2%)	1 (0.6%)
	Administering Council Tax and and Housing Benefits	54 (32.3%)	68 (40.7%)	33 (19.8%)	9 (5.4%)	3 (1.8%)

## Discretionary Services

**These are services we choose to provide but do not have a legal responsibility to do so.**

We charge additional fees and charges for some of them. To meet the continued financial pressures we could increase existing fees and charges and introduce new ones. Or we could reduce the level of service.

**For each of these discretionary services please tell how important you think the service is.**

		Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
<b>Q10</b>	<b>Maintaining amenity areas, such as grass cutting and general maintenance of various areas of council-owned land</b> costs about £6.98 per household per year (This does not include council housing or sheltered accommodation).	68 (40.7%)	78 (46.7%)	20 (12.0%)	1 (0.6%)	0 (0.0%)
<b>Q11</b>	<b>Community safety activities to support the work of the Community Safety Partnership with the police and others</b> costs about £11.02 per household per year.	63 (37.7%)	59 (35.3%)	38 (22.8%)	7 (4.2%)	0 (0.0%)

**Q12 Economic development** costs about £33.51 per household per year and includes:

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Support for local businesses	49 (29.3%)	68 (40.7%)	38 (22.8%)	12 (7.2%)	0 (0.0%)
Supporting projects to facilitate economic growth such as rural broadband	56 (33.5%)	62 (37.1%)	36 (21.6%)	13 (7.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Support for tourism	17 (10.2%)	60 (35.9%)	62 (37.1%)	28 (16.8%)	0 (0.0%)

**Q13 Partnerships and communities** costs about £23.70 per household per year and includes:

	Very important	Fairly important	Not so important	Not important at all	Don't know
Communicating with the public	60 (35.9%)	80 (47.9%)	19 (11.4%)	8 (4.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Running Saffron Walden Museum	20 (12.0%)	50 (29.9%)	60 (35.9%)	30 (18.0%)	7 (4.2%)
Supporting community groups to deliver projects	19 (11.4%)	69 (41.3%)	55 (32.9%)	20 (12.0%)	4 (2.4%)
Ward member grants	15 (9.0%)	37 (22.2%)	63 (37.7%)	33 (19.8%)	19 (11.4%)

**Survey respondents**

It is hoped that those taking part in in this survey will represent a broad cross-section of those who live and work in Uttlesford. It would greatly assist us in collating responses in this questionnaire if you would select which of the following statements best describes you.

**Q14 I am responding to this survey as:** (please select one option only):

- 157 (94.0%) An Uttlesford district resident - Council Tax Payer
- 4 (2.4%) An Uttlesford district resident - Non Council Tax Payer
- 0 (0.0%) Local business representative
- 0 (0.0%) Local community organisation representative
- 0 (0.0%) Parish/Town Council or Meeting representative
- 0 (0.0%) Neighbouring Local Authority/Partner Organisation representative
- 0 (0.0%) Local Councillor
- 3 (1.8%) An Uttlesford District Council Member
- 0 (0.0%) An Uttlesford District Council employee
- 1 (0.6%) Visitor to the Uttlesford District
- 1 (0.6%) Person who works in the Uttlesford District
- 1 (0.6%) Other (please state below):

1 response: "Work in Saffron Walden"

**Q15** If you are responding as a local business/community organisation or neighbouring Local Authority/Partner Organisation representative, please tell us which one:  
0 responses

**Q16** If you are responding as a Parish/Town Council or Meeting representative, please tell us which one:  
0 responses

## Your details:

We want to make sure that all our services are delivered fairly. We are therefore asking the following questions about you, so that we can make sure our services consider everyone's needs.

The information you provide will be kept confidential and processed by Uttlesford District Council in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. We will not share this information with third parties. Further information about Data Protection rights can be found at [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/privacy)

**You do not have to answer these questions.**

**Q17 Which age category do you belong to?**

0 (0.0%)	16-19	30 (18.3%)	45-54
0 (0.0%)	20-24	40 (24.4%)	55-64
7 (4.3%)	25-34	44 (26.8%)	65-74
18 (11.0%)	35-44	25 (15.2%)	75+

**Q18 What is your gender?**

89 (54.3%)	Male
70 (42.7%)	Female
5 (3.0%)	Prefer not to say

**Q19 What is your ethnicity?**

159 (97.5%)	White
0 (0.0%)	Black or Black British
1 (0.6%)	Mixed heritage
1 (0.6%)	Asian of Asian British
2 (1.2%)	Other ethnic group:

2 responses:  
"Not relevant"  
"Human"

**Q20 Do you consider yourself to have a disability?**

22 (13.7%)	Yes	139 (86.3%)	No
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**Q21 Please enter your postcode:**

151 responses – See Appendix 6 – profiling data

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

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