

Appendix 2

Council Spending Survey 2018 (for 2019-20 Budget) - Literal Responses	
Paper (Uttlesford Life) Responses	
Increase in Council Tax should be moderate	
If the increase in Council Tax means providing essential services for the community I am quite happy provided increase are not excessive. We are on low incomes.	
As with most authorities I this country I expect budgets are always squeezed, so some modest increase in charges would seem to be justified to maintain current levels of service.	
What do we get for the 72% in Elsenham? When are the roads in Elsenham going to be repaired? Why don't developers of new houses pay for extra infrastructure costs, waste, sewage, electricity etc. Why do we have to pay for them?	
Maximum effort to properly resurface roads. Not just tar and grit.	
I UNDERSTAND YOU HAD A LOT TO DO – BUT REALLY I THINK YOU OFTEN DO NOT SEE THE BIG PICTURE – WHEN I DRIVE AROUND I AM OFTEN APPALLED HOW WE TREAT OUR COUNTRYSIDE – PEOPLE NEED TO BE MORE RESPONSIBLE . WE ONLY HAVE THIS LAND - ONCE WE REALLY NEED TO LOOK AFTER – LITTER – RUBBISH. YOU NEED TO FINE PEOPLE MAKE EXAMPLES.	
Bishops Stortford householders are given free garden waste wheelie bins whilst we have access to garden waste collections once a week. There council tax is no more expensive than ours. It is quite onerous, especially if you are a pensioner to take garden waste to collection. Why can't we have FREE Garden waste wheelie bins??	
Reduce top salaries to a ceiling of £100,000	
In my area, over several years, the councillors have £2000.00 each to give to local causes/charities – why? How much does this cost UDC? They give these monies to causes/charities run by friends, not necessarily the neediest or the most worthwhile.!! Why have you also got an outside organisation phoning and asking Sections 1 & 2? How much is this costing UDC?	
I live in Hatfield Broadoak and already see a large % of my council tax goes to the Village Green which as a very contentious issue in the village and causes much argument.	
I know that Essex County Council are responsible for traffic but my biggest concern is the volume of the traffic and the narrow roads that were only designed for light and farm traffic	
Pot holes must be repaired quickly	

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<p>We in this area (Parish) are still waiting for the Highway Rangers to clear path having been requested for the last 1 year or 2. I live in a listed building and did not hear about Advice on work or if grants are available. We did not request to be listed. When people are allowed to enlarge their property I think their Council Tax should be increased so that if you live in the same road and lonely have a small 2 bedroom house, why should you have to pay the same amount because you have the same post code.</p>
<p>The only comment we would make is that when letters/emails are sent concerning trees in car parks damaging our cars due to birds/berries etc because the trees branches overhang our vehicles and are not ever pruned, complaints fall on deaf ears and never responded to – consequently very annoying!!!</p>
<p>STREET SERVICES. WHAT A COMPLETE JOKE, WHERE I LIVE THE STREETS ARE NEVER SWEEP OR CLEANED OF LITTER YOU CAN'T EVEN WALK DOWN THE FOOTPATH FUE TO OVERGROWN VEGETATION. OUR COMMUNITY HAVE TO WALK IN THE ROAD! AND CLEAN OUR OWN LITTER. IT'S A DISGRACE</p>
<p>Many residents of Uttlesford are very rich but for many other who are on low incomes or fixed pensions with little or no %age increase in their incomes, any increase to CT could be the straw that breaks the camel's back</p>
<p>Stop wastage and over paid staff. Stop building on farm land. Think more of us then yourselves. We pay more than enough and with these hundreds of homes the tax you are getting means we should not pay more!</p>
<p>We would like to see a letter box on site at Takeley Park. This would help the old and disabled.</p>
<p>We all know it is the costcutting of austerity that is casuing the funding issues for ALL councils. That is why I have opted for reduced C Tax. Not because I believe it is cheap to run a council But the Tories will simply deep going until privatisation is called for. (Please excuse the handwriting. I was recently injured and the wonderful staff of NHS have put me back together again. Tax well spent!!!)</p>
<p>Council Tax has become an ever increasing burden. I expressed my concerns in writing to Sir Alan Haselhurst MP some years ago, particularly the unfairness of the system. Continued increases just pushes more people into poverty. As a loving son I gave 15 years together with my devoted wife coming doing the best for my father who managed 92 years. We never asked for anything and just did the right thing. Why should we now be asked to endure hardship to pay for others who may have not prepared for old age and some case may never have paid council tax in their lives. An overhaul is required for the benefit of the public.</p>
<p>STREET SERVICES – REPAIR OF POT HOLES OF THIS ESSEX CC RESPONSIBILITY? HOUSING – BRINGING AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEMES (REALLY AFFORDABLE!) TO ENABLE PEOPLE TO ESCAPE THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR ENTRAPMENT.</p>
<p>Better provision of dog waste bins. Repair to roads – i.e. pot holes</p>
<p>PLAN CAREFULLY AND DON'T' LET UTTLESFORD BECOME AN ANNEX OF LONDON</p>

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Reduce the % of council tax paid to our defunct and useless Parish Council this allowing for greater funds to be allocated to UDC and ECC.
The services are getting less visable but the council tax continues to rise. I struggle to see the link.
Money raised should be prioritised on service spending and not on increasing office jobs or apparent new job titles.
We are alarmed at the (alleged) ease that Stansted Airport owners have achieved agreement to their wishes to expand the numbers of passengers allowed to fly from the airport, which means corresponding increases in flights, noise, pollution, traffic etc. This is not in the interests of residents who pay council tax!
I have only lived in Elsenham for a short while, but in that time I have had four missed bin collections. As this is a regular occurence I would say a reduction in CT would be more than fair to appease residents. I know bin collections are a problem in other local town as well.
Council tax is already high
Street Services - it would be nice if the verges were kept tidy. Not an awful lot of verges seem to be cut on a regular basis.
I am a 68-year-old autistic man. I have belonged to the National Autistic Society for many years. They do a lot for young people but very little for older people. Things have been said about this in some of their magazines but nothing much has been done. I am not computer literate. I am a slow learner, and every effort I have made over this last 12 years to get computer literate has failed.
These are the views of only one person in the household! Hence not a true reflection of everyone who pays council tax.
Why take so long before you cut the grass verges. Country lanes first and then main roads.
The emptying of the bins has been missed on several occasions recently. No explanation given when reported.
If an increase were to be implemented it would only be beneficial if UDC could receive a higher percentage than 9%, so the local area receives the attention/support it needs.
The black bins should be emptied every week. Ours are overflowing/swarming with maggots. The dog wardens need more powers. Our neighbour has three pitbulls for over four years. They have killed other dogs (including ours) and injured at least four others. And yet still he has them. They will kill children too and no one does anything.
Increase council tax in line with inflation.
19% for Police, Fire and Crime and parish council does not seem a fair proportion of the rates. We need more policing in evidence - too many stations have been sold off and petty and knife crime is consequently increasing.

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Planning: We've received excellent guidance and support from Uttlesford Planning & Building regs people since moving into the area. We are following and abiding by every rule and law (it's costing us a fortune!) and it's a shame when those neighbours around you don't seem to! Perhaps the website could be simplified? We have found speaking on the phone to be the greatest tool for success in building, and generally avoid the website (we're mid-30s so we aren't the oldies either!)
Additional houses in our area have led to additional pressure on street services. Increased investment in this area is necessary given the additional population e.g. more bin lorries
Poor value for money. Essential services only should be provided.
No more houses please in Elsenham - enough is enough. The roads and infrastructure is now terrible (in places)
The % going to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner should stop and the funds used for this purpose should go to the sharp end that actually performs the role. As soon as you appoint a commissioner, immediately you have the building of an empire which claims funds for those that actually do the work. It is the same as the NHS, there is a blown up administration.
Continue/increase support for voluntary and community organisations - they are essential for many vulnerable people.
In urban areas, it is rare to see a policeman. In non-urban areas, they are unknown, an extinct species.
My main interests - poor and vulnerable people, health and environment. I am a pensioner and used to being on a low income all my life but still willing to pay more council tax to help the above. have never been in debt and know how to be careful with budgeting and still have a wonderful life!
NB Ensure any increases in council tax charges is retained by UDC.
Stop building huge estates, our villages are no longer villages and newcomers are expecting the facilities of a town! Keep large developments in the towns, small developments of 10-15 houses in the villages.
1. A small percentage increase in council tax; 2. More awareness and support of volunteer groups; 3. Back office staff rationalisation (e.g legal dept); 4. More publicity to Keep Britain Tidy and support recycling.
Litter picking on roadside and in hedgerows needs to be improved. When roadside grass is cut it exposes a lot of rubbish which is never picked up. UDC should be more pro-active in getting road repairs and potholes fixed sooner.
More police in area
Ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place and completed when areas of housing development is approved for over 50 new homes. This should include adequate roads, water supply, electricity and gas supplies and most important, health centres and new doctors surgeries!

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Lack of follow up to complaints. Towns seem to receive more services than rural communities, who constantly pick up litter and keep areas tidier whilst still paying for so-called council services. M11 area an ongoing embarrassment, and creates a bad impression for passengers from Stansted Airport. Council should also be fighting to get 'no night flights' so residents get a break from the devastation this blight on the community causes.
Stop trying to be all things to all people and all organisations to a low standard. Spread large new developments over larger area and villages in smaller clusters. It seems that nice villages with nice people are exempt from development with current policy.
Residing in Great Hallingbury (borders Essex and Hertfordshire). We are in an area totally forgotten. The grass verges overgrown, footpaths reducing. Speeding traffic and volume major problem. Never see police - no speeding enforcement. Road condition and surface always poor. Litter is another issue. Apart from refuse collection we get very little.
Council Tax too high for those on low income. It's about time the air ambulance were financed never mind Essex Council and the others so much.
We have not lived here long enough to judge whether there should be an increase in council tax.
Develop a programme that encourages parents and young to take more responsibility for themselves, rather than relying on the state!
Cannot pass an opinion on question 2 without further information
Sort out the dysfunctional Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council!
Make sure cars are not parked on pavements so people with disabilities can use their scooters and mums can push their pushchairs on the pavement instead of the roads. Also stop cars parking outside schools, more yellow lines needed. If people pick rubbish up outside their homes this would save money.
What can be done re dogs barking especially at late night. Do we have a dog warden in the Hatfield Heath area?
Important to build affordable purpose built small houses for those who now elderly with houses they find difficult to upkeep. Not flats!
Only if you consider it necessary
Policing the district and maintaining safety is very important. Keeping areas clean and providing housing that is within the income of young people is now more needed than ever. Trying to help small businesses to succeed and flourish so that our towns and villages have character and individualism.
Why does this council not collect glass containers separately like other councils. Do on a weekly collection day.

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With a mixture of low cost housing and private housing, we always have problems with the low cost especially if the council farm this out to agents such as 'Moat'. Constant drug drops, overcrowding and more cars etc than allocated to each house and yet no policing or check ups. Devalues house prices/ Council rates stay the same or even reduced because of this.
Uttlesford need to be more aware of their duties to the local people.
Takeley - please deal with numerous pot holes, high levels of litter and overgrown verges
Given the amount of council tax we pay all of the items in this survey should be treated as a high priority.
I am concerned that many areas of Uttlesford are being heavily built on and this will spoil the Uttlesford and beautiful countryside that we love. Most people that live in the villages wish them to stay that way, not become mini towns.
Council tax increases as does other bills, rent, gas, electric, every year, but wages gone down. At some point wages will not cover all bills in future and so a breaking point will happen at some point.
Please try and restore the Stansted Library functions fully as quickly as possible.
Put CCTV where dog and owners walked and fine them heavily.
We wish you every success in all your endeavours. Thank you.
Time to re-evaluate the property bandings for council tax charges.
Expensive service for what we get but more so ECC. I expect reduction in rates.
Cut down on councillor's salaries. Keep the roads in a better state of repair - i.e not use surface dressing as already newly laid tarmac is coming up due to recent hot weather.
I can't believe you are asking the public to respond to these questions - you are the local authority and you don't know what's important priority - god save us all!
Stop wasting paper on magazines, stop paying wages above the Prime Minister. Stop circling potholes with red paint (fill them instead), stop filling the area with new builds with no in infrastructure.
Show where council spending is going and the benefit it is bringing to the area.
As I said last year Uttlesford should increase council to cover all these services in the community and increase funding to those in need and care.
The owners in the top bands should pay even more. We are a wealthy District.
Bin collections should be outside hours when people going to work and children to/from school in major communities and along main roads/bus routes i.e 7.15-9am + 2.45-6pm.

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We fail to understand the necessity to acquire the old school building in Takeley when a perfectly good new hall is almost next door at a cost to the local residents. Plus our bin collections have been very poor of late and have necessitated my husband taking our rubbish to the local recycling centre.
We need more police. Internal combustion engine vehicles should be banned from byways as these byways are, or are being, absolutely ruined.
Improve infrastructure ie roads, schools and public services to accommodate the greatly increased building in Essex.
Check that in particular senior salaries are not way out of line for the area - many appear far too high.
We desperately need more council homes, not homes that are out of reach for most young couples. Affordable housing as they call it is a joke - housing is so important to alleviate so many problems!
Provide more tangible evidence of improvement through council spending.
In Thaxted traffic calming measures are urgently needed. HGVs often exceed the 30mph limit. Pedestrians have no safe means of crossing Town Street.
We have no street lights. No public transport. No amenities but have to pay like people in towns. No policing.
Re: Council Tax? Elderly simple people. Reduce planning and building until you arrange more doctors and dentists, schools etc. Drainage and water extended. Parking and improve roads. I have no evidence anyone will read or act upon this!
It is wrong to assume 'garden' communities are needed, look after what we all have. We don't want or need a 'town/garden' built in Gt Chesterford villages. I won't put down that, accept it, neither doesn't anyone else want it. Our village is that, not a town.
Not enough is being done to salve and prevent rural crime - certain members of our community seem to be beyond the law.
Please put pressure on highways to improve the condition of pavements and our roads. Some of the potholes are 6 foot long! And our cars are suffering!
Resurface all our roads around Saffron Walden, no box for roads? Potholes are a disgrace. Patches are useless.
Do better housekeeping with less wastefulness.
The council's attitude towards the roads' condition is a disgrace. We are now worse than a third world country. Stop the glad handling for council members and mend the roads.
Rural areas do not have street lighting, mains, sewerage or gas. Appalling broadband - some reflection on services should be reflected in rural charges.
Simplify the tender system and give work to local companies to keep the money spent in the area.

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1) Push Elsenham builders to fix potholes on main roads between Stansted Mount and Elsenham. 2) Pursue additional entry/exit road to Elsenham Vale development (Franklin Drive becoming 'race track' for vehicles at far end!)
For God's sake - stop covering the countryside with concrete!
1) Parking in Weaverhead Road (on both sides) makes it difficult for the drivers, yellow lines need on one side. 2) Bench/seating needed by bus stop for the elderly whilst waiting for the bus (near phone box by The Guildhall building) High Street, Thaxted. 3) Cars parking on pavements either side Newbiggen Street. Unable to walk down safely now/pushchairs/prams/buggy and elderly people.
Infrastructure of the towns and villages. No mention of this!!!
The cheaper the car parks are the more people will use them and this benefits shops, cafes, restaurants etc. All car parks should have a free period. Dunmow car parks need a 2 hour slot not just one hour or three hours. If you do signposts please them (lettering) large enough to read. The one to Lindsell is useless.
1) An increase is needed to keep services at even their present level - but local council tax support needs to be accessible for those who can't afford the increase. 2) End the scandal of empty homes - use them to re-house those in need. 3) Some properties in this area have been empty for over 30 years. Council tax should be cumulative for empty more than 5-6 years!
The local council is failing on all fronts but especially on the massive increase in crime in the area. There are not enough school places, doctors surgeries, good roads, police presence in this town. Meanwhile its a race to cram every corner and green space with overpriced housing. An increase in C.Tax! If you were a private company you would be in breach of contract. You should be embarrassed. I will be voting against you in the next local election.
I am fed up with the hype about 'superfast broadband'. When we have desperate people needing food banks and emergency housing, it is an insult to spend so much on soon-to-be obsolete technology. Put people first.
Please use the Friends School for educational purposes - it was gifted to our town and it is shameful that it is not used for our young people.
For police, fire and dealing with crime
Saffron Walden has grown so much but there is less free parking (to support shops), more yellow lines and permit parking, no more doctors surgeries, more congested roads. Please ensure the quality of life of those who have lived here for 20 years + does not get worse.
Recycling is nonsense - incinerate. Well done for struggling on in a hopeless system. Counties are redundant, we should have larger regional councils with increased delegated powers to local areas.

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Maintain the level of services.
Please prioritise litter picking, fly tipping and put more speed limits on some of our country roads, particularly those around Littlebury Green, Strethall and Catmere End which are used as rat runs. 30mph on country roads as no pavements.
I am happy to pay more tax if we actually have a local police station!
A high priority must be to ensure infrastructure such as roads, sewage, water and flood plans are in place before agreeing to planning. Infill housing is preferable to large new estates - Uttlesford should not become an urban area.
The higher they go the more people will struggle to pay. People living on their own should only pay 50%!
1) Fly tipping would cost less if there was a clear deterrent to those who stoop to do this. 2) Don't see much Highway Ranger activity here (Barnston) eg speed limit signs obscured. Thinking of doing the job myself...
Remember that Uttlesford is an attractively rural area and not go overboard in permitting excessive house building - have the guts to say 'no' to excessive government housebuilding targets. And keep the lid on Stansted Airport expansion.
No one likes to pay more money but if it is essential (to keep essential services going) then we have to pay for it. However budgeting should come first and ensuring that money is not wasted.
So - local people have a say in emptying bins and stray animals but not about our council spending millions on a 50% share of Chesterford Research Park! Local democracy in action.
Seems all the questions are slanted to keep the councillors happy, not the people. You increased council tax to pay the police more. I have not seen a policeman in S/Walden for years. You haven't asked questions about your lack of anything. I guess this opinion will go in the bin. I think there is a lot more people with stronger views than mine.
We should not have to pay tax for police we don't have. So the tax should be reduced.
1) Potholed roads still need addressing. 2) HQ needs vacating for smaller and cheaper premises with fewer staff.
1) Please make sure planning inspectors are as zealous in their monitoring of housing developments as they are of individual extensions. 2) Introduce 30 minutes free car parking to encourage people to park off road. 3) Clamp down on fly parking.
Increase should be ring-fenced for policing and housing and supporting those in need.
Dispense with the crime commissioner for Essex and put more police officers in the area.
Please can the grass/shrubs be maintained down Walson Way, Forest Hall, Stansted. We pay good money and these have been left to overgrow and look shabby and neglected for months now. I'm assuming you will be obtaining a credit but we want to live in a well kept village. Thank you.

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For private roads there should be a reduction as the council do not adopt our roads and the cost is left to the homeowner.
Aim to keep council tax charge at same level as current, but would agree to rise in charge if services cannot be maintained at similar level also.
We've just moved into the area and it is beautiful but far too many 'for sale' signs or 'to let' signs which spoils the look of the area. Follow same stance as Cornwall who banned these signs - we recently visited Cornwall and it makes a massive difference.
Some parts of Stansted receive more attention than others e.g Forest Hall Park always appears clean and litter free, on the other hand Silver St/Pines Hill, road, footpath are filthy. Parts are quite unwalkable. Pavement too narrow in fact dangerous, particularly for wheelchair and pushchair users. Impossible to walk with a child and buggy in Silver St and users of 510 bus have a very uneven walk along Pines Hill.
Would be nice for the council to support older people first who have gave a lot to the country before seeking to help younger people who are not contributing and people who have only just moved to the United Kingdom.
I'd be willing to pay extra if a noticeable difference was made i.e police presence in the village.
The area around Foresthall Park Stansted is a mess. Since Taylor Wimpey left the site, the landscaping has not been kept properly and grass cut infrequently. As I understand, handover to Uttlesford should have been carried out last year. There has been no communication from builders/Uttlesford DC as to when, if, this has yet taken place. If handover has not yet taken place then Uttlesford should contact builders to make sure estate is properly maintained.
I think a higher amount of the council tax should be given to Uttlesford District Council.
Love Stansted, but would like more green areas around new build - not to let them cram everything into one large area and no green sites. Some places are being ruined because of large housing developments. So sad.
The council needs to look hard at 'wastage' - over-indulgence in overall pay/benefits/pensions of the public sector are too wasteful - 'money for the boys'. Review scales/age levels/general pay etc compared to the private sector where people have to pay own pension and support. Too high benefits/tax arrangements in the public sector generally!
You should make it crystal clear how much of the c/tax we pay goes to the pension schemes of Uttlesford District Council and Essex County Council employees. Websites say it is high. If it is not, smash this urban myth. If it is, be open about it and let taxpayers say if it is right. One rubbish collection per week is utterly woeful and indefensible. It should be minimum once per week. Some countries have it every day. I pay significant council tax and should expect weekly collection of all rubbish.
Use the money more productively and less on higher wages for top councillors.

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<p>I seriously think that the Bishop's Stortford and Stansted areas have had more than their share of new building sites in the last ten years. This is an agricultural area for a start, and secondly it can be foreseen in the near future that the Stansted/Ugley/Elsenham areas will be merged. Enough is enough! We shouldn't be expected to house all these migrant workers that land on our doorstep.</p>
<p>Local council duties are to empty bins, keep streets clean and footpaths in built up areas useable - anything else is vanity projects/making councillors feel important.</p>
<p>Both the Essex Co. Co. and Uttlesford DC obtain a constant from new housing yet they cannot keep the roads in good repair. Residents are fleeced with high rates. Mine are £2440 a year. In 1968 when I moved to Clavering and lived in a larger house they were £68 a year. Why does UDC have a cabinet.</p>
<p>Parking by holding makers going to airport and daily train users parking in Mountfitchet Road and St Marys Drive is a big issue. They should be made to park in the airport car parks and village car park. Many residents have had no place to park after work because of this problem. We need double yellow lines to stop the problem and like the new estates up the road. Elms Farm have them so why can't our estate. The lines that were put down make no difference at all.</p>
<p>On two occasions in the last three months bins have not been emptied and no reason has been given!!</p>
<p>You should give nothing to business. Boss of Amazon is the richest man in the world. If he sets up here will you give him a handout?</p>
<p>Reduce all voted in members fees to zero. Then we will get real people in that are dedicated. This will save money and get in people that want a community and not party politics.</p>
<p>As pointed out by the BBC programme Rip off Britain, it should be your responsibility to remove any recycle garden waste free of charge. I recently moved here from Hertfordshire where they do so. If they can do it, should/can you. There is very little difference in the council tax.</p>
<p>If I could see that in what I pay is used for all of the above I wouldn't mind paying - but on occasion bins are not emptied, the roads are a mess and there is rubbish everywhere.</p>
<p>Build more council houses</p>
<p>Council services - all these services, in my opinion, are essential except dealing in real estate.</p>

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The council is seen by taxpayers as generally inefficient and with odd priorities. Too often issues which need to be resolved quickly seem to be ignored or dealt with inappropriately. A prime example of Uttlesford DC total ineffectiveness is the recent 'health centre' and car park. Most people I have spoken to in the village were fully supportive of the need to have such a facility but were astonished at firstly, the massive building that was permitted, followed closely by overwhelming disaster of the car park, I have no need to elaborate the issue! Notwithstanding the false information given to interested residents, the developer got away with so many deviations from the planning approval that it is a joke. How can we residents of Stansted ever trust the council to do what is right for the community and not to pander to the wishes of developers? We were led to understand a crossing would be provided, when?

Please ensure large and small developments keep within the planning regulations that were approved at the outset.

A small increase in CT to make our roadsides cleaner and tidier must be a good idea. We are becoming a very scruffy place to live which is a pity as it's a beautiful area and could be so much cleaner.

It is difficult to allocate priorities when some items are mandatory and some discretionary.

I would support a modest increase in council tax to support essential services.

These responses are not an endorsement of your current expenditure programme.

We can't expect to get the same service for the same money when costs such as wages have increased. If you don't increase council tax, services will get cut and everyone will complain. Be realistic!

I am not happy about the way Stansted Airport/MAG are apparently encouraging emails to be sent to Uttlesford which suggest there is a massive support for airport expansion permission. I think these planning decisions should be made by central government not local government.

I have indicated that nearly all services have a high priority but of these some are higher than others. Highest, I think, must be housing - for the young not just the old. Make it possible for young people to live in the area and work here.

Planning: feel that UDC should be tougher on developers when they ride roughshod over planning, and ask for more community benefits when offering planning. We are giving them the opportunity to make profits - it always feels like they think they are doing us a favour when there are hundreds of other companies we could choose. They never add to the community; just build more lego houses with few amenities.

Having previously lived in Wandsworth (London) with one of the lowest council tax charges in the country, we find the annual overall charge very high here for the services received and for the general community costs.

This question is over-simplified/unclear. Does it mean 'overall' or 'per household'? Assuming the latter, the economies of scale that should arise through housebuilding should allow the council to reduce the charge per house, all other matters being equal.

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Very sadly this lovely area is being ruined by ugly, badly designed houses and huge, greedy, over-development without adequate infrastructure. Our lives are being ruined. One example is the hideous Magna Carta School - whoever designed it? It will ruin life for residents in St John's Road and Burnells Way.
Council Tax is too high, reduce your office staff and admin and cut bonus for bosses, then you can reduce Council Tax and pay for police to be seen in Essex.
Not enough of so called low cost housing or council rented accommodation for elderly people.
More money should be made available by ECC for local and district hands-on policing.
Uttlesford is a beautiful, friendly place to live. Unfortunately the volume of traffic, the number of building sites, the constant dust, fumes, noise (includes the airport) etc from these things are beginning to impinge on the health and quality of life in this wonderful area. Deal with this and many problems will solve themselves.
Provide free brown bin collections for garden waste
Issues: traffic management, interfaced planning with East Herts, bus subsidies - network improvements, drugs - young people.
Increase (CT) providing this can be full justified
Less should be taken by ECC, less should be given to police seeing as how they are almost extinct!
I think police and emergency should get a larger % of council tax; they are important for life-saving actions. Street services (4) - I have put high priority because, again, it is life-saving. As I walk along pavements e.g Cambridge Road between Ugley and Stansted Mountfitchet (and other roads without pavements) I have to step on main toad to avoid nettles and brambles, and also on minor roads to ask (sign for) cars to slow down so I can tentatively balance on uncut sidings. These sidings narrow the road also. I see mums with pushchairs - accidents waiting to happen.
New developments have strangled Stansted village, damaged the roads. The villagers and local businesses have suffered. No benefit to the village whatsoever – local houses are unsold due to preference of new development. Unadopted roads damaged by Bloor/large trucks are unsupported by the council. Repairs need to be paid for by the council or new developers.
but ensure resources really do their job.
Minimise overlap with services provided by other agencies (schools, NHS, Police, etc) see “Working in the Community” above. We live in an affluent area. It’s ok to increase Council Tax to provide a high standard of services and support vulnerable people.
The quality of the air in this community is of great concern. There should be no increase in the planes flying in our skies and all decisions must be consulted on for any changes.

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Bring in more permit parking for the Stansted area. We are being inundated with airport and station parkers. This could bring an additional fund to the council.
It is essential that all houses can provide 2 parking places. Also all new estates have clear visibility and not have slight bends. Schools should have vehicular drop off points so local roads do not get congested thereby causing road rage.
Perhaps give out small fines for people who let their gardens become an eyesore due to uncut grass, rubbish or dumped unused vehicles visible from the road.
Train the refuse collectors to empty wheelie bins and food caddies correctly to avoid leaving waste on the road behind them which gets blown around the environment. Then you ask for volunteer to give u their free time to pick up litter! You should make the bin mend do it in their free time, or bring back good old fashioned roadsweepers. Employing people to keep all roads clean. Also to enforce parking tickets to vehicles parked on kerbs, pavements and outside takeaways on traffic light area!
I have completed a similar form on at least 2 previous occasions and in my experience like many others my thoughts have been ignored. Too much housing development and no improvements to roads anywhere in the area. Sadly, any number of questionnaires you as a council produce will be totally ignored by the councillors (OUR SO CALLED REPRESENTATIVES)
I have completed a similar form on at least 2 previous occasions and in my experience like many others my thoughts have been ignored. Too much housing development and no improvements to roads anywhere in the area. Sadly, any number of questionnaires you as a council produce will be totally ignored by the councillors (OUR SO CALLED REPRESENTATIVES)
I think the council has let us down keeping all around Dunmow clean. We never see the pavements clean, or doing anything about neighbours loud music, building extensions on property without permission who I know and have reported. They block the view and have no consideration for us elderly. Every Sunday we have the motorbikes. Dunmow I think have gone down, sorry to say: I am a OAP , I do not ask for much but all we get it nothing from the council. First time I've complained.
Re Housing: Why not provide an incentive to encourage owners of empty houses to take in tenants. Find out directly from the owners why they are doing it and see if you can come to an arrangement , e.g. to provide emergency accommodation - e.g. after a housefire.
IN my eighties I pay full rent Council tax, water etc, this is because I worked 35 years and receive a private pension. I am not a complained and ask for very little, but living in Cranham Road council bungalow for the past 4 years, the road and overgrown hedges have been attended to once along with large pot holes, it gives a bad impression.
Population in south and east is unsustainable. Too many houses being build – birth rate and immigration should be controlled. England is being ruined.
Get tougher on illegal traveller encampments.

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Review of services and administration should be on-going to ensure good financial management. Increased working with commercial organisations should be developed with a view for new initiatives often 'cross-party' to encourage wider views and input.
Reduce the amount Planning consents in the Uttlesford area. This is destroying our market towns and villages.
We need to see more tangible improvements and benefits of extra tax revenue.
Planning department should be more sensitive to public opinion on expansion of housing. Council should recognise the vast majority who rejected expansion of Stansted Airport. Charity contributions should be the responsibility of individuals and not paid from Council Tax.
The council should help reduce spending by asking residents to improve the areas that they live in e.g. Painting road name signs, tidying up green areas in front of their houses. Community litter picking days – or failing this getting people on Benefits to do some of these things.
Household waste to be collected every week during summer months. Grass verges to be cut more regularly.
I think that it is most important that places like Little Dunmow who have taken just over 1000 new homes since 1999 to date do not have to have large developments just odd infill.
Promote transport links between Chesterford to London along with cheaper fares. Promote Park and Ride with a better timetable for commuting to London. Promote Schools and better Education.
Why do Essex County Council get so much of the Council Tax. What are they doing to improve the life of people in Uttlesford.
Half council tax for single not 25%,
When you move to a place that quiet you pay for the pleasure, then 230 houses are built next door and opposite and you can't hear yourself think. I think my COUNCIL TAX should be lowered because I'm on a state NOW.
Not all people can keep paying extra Council Tax. We can't keep supporting people who don't pay any, lone occupancy should have more than 25% reduction. Some households have more than 6 people residing in them and more than 2 working adults.
Streets should be kept tidy more frequently, just as grass verges cut regularly, like Woodlands Walk. More free parking (even for one hour) will encourage trade.
I pay over £200 per month and all I see is my bins emptied. Since being widowed I have not reductions because my sons live with me earning very little – NOT FAIR! Less you do or have the more help you get.
It has gone up significantly in the last year or so, so definitely not an increase. Reduce it or keep it the same.

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

Potholes – Broxton roads been marked up since March 2018. Local villages ruined by too many houses – no thought about infrastructure, water, sewers etc and interests of local people. Stansted and Bishops Cleeve are building sites for next five years – too many speeding tipper lorries, nothing provided for children to play at holiday times – you need to sort out Council Tax bands where houses have had extensions and still pay low tax bands.
Uttlesford District Council – disclose the percentage of our council tax that goes towards: A: Pensions B: Salaries C: Salaries – Disclose pay grade amounts, Number of people in each grade.
The amount of Council Tax charged should be the amount you need to maintain or improve your standards. We cannot possibly know what this amount is.
For the Planning Dept – please think about the parking when looking at plans for new housing estates. People will park in the roads because their garages are used for everything but parking. Provide laybys instead of grass verges which need cutting. It is like the dodgems in places like Woodlands Park Drive and the new developments in Little Dunmow.
It would be good if Essex C. council comes down High X Lane East Little Canfield and clears the drains we now have flooding on this narrow lane (Been online complaining of this). Trimming hedges down this lane very dangerous on bends.
Cap pay to executives.
Allocate more percent to Police and Fire Commissioner. People need to be more sensible i.e. not dropping litter then less would need to be spent clearing up. The same with health and overweight issues. Walk more and eat less. Less money spent on 'working with public health bodies to keep people healthy'!!
You pay my rent and council tax as I only have my state pension, but I am willing to pay a small amount towards it.
Relating to 2 above, one can understand that I would say that of course as most residents would...however, one must be fully aware that to keep all the high priority services active and efficient may require a 'modest' increase in the Council Tax; such services are increasingly expensive to provide as any sensible resident should understand. Your question is certainly not easy!
UDC could reduce the council's precept by insisting the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner pays for his own staff rather than charging, essentially, residents twice for policing!! It's disgusting that the Essex Police charge has increased so much yet UDC and S.W.T.C. and others are asked to contribute to PCSOs!!
Reduce the amount of Council Tax for old age pensioners as a majority have limited incomes and the tax is a big chunk to take.
My car parks free, you'd get more people going into small towns . i.e. Great Dunmow.
Uttlesford DC needs to listen to the voice of those who elect them and act in accordance with their wishes!!

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

1Dunmow high Street footpaths need urgent attention - people always falling. 2Car parking needs a free 30 mins or 1 hr to encourage people to shop in Dunmow
NEVER SEEN SWEEPERS UP DUCK STREET ALSO SPEED RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE in place as people speed up and down DUCK STREET. The 30 mile hour signs in some places CAN'T BE SEEN Why can we have speed guns up this Road DUCK STREET including WARWICK CLOSE and TOP ROAD, NEEDS DOING NOW BEFORE BAD ACCIDENT HAPPENS.
I live in Flitch Green and is very nice. However it is about time something was done about Parking, all the houses have Parking facilities but do not use them and Park their cars in the streets. Which is dangerous up Pavements on roundabouts Blocking roads. Double yellow lines should be put at least on roundabouts and corners.
This is to go towards the Police presence which is currently nil in Thaxted and similar villages/towns. Crime Commissioner costs would be better spent on my above comment.
Increase allocation to Police Forces to put more Police on streets and vehicle patrols.
Concentrate on things not being done by other agencies.
Residents have to pay for the services we expect and deserve. If we get the best levels of service then we have to pay a fair amount for them. Most of the problems lie with Essex on the state of the roads and maintenance, lack of police and social support services.
Stop the plan to build 10,000 homes on Easton Park.
YES BUT THIS MAY BE A POLICE MATTER MOBILE SPEED CAMERAS ONCE/TWICE PER YEAR ON HIGH EASTER RD IN BARNSTON!
I think all are high priority and should be costed. Street Services 4 seems to have a low priority currently.
Supporting local services in the area is important to me. Especially children's services such as play groups and support groups. I believe cutting these would create more expense for councils in the long run as issues would not be dealt with when they first arise.
The demands of an aging population need recognising and addressing especially in terms of providing supported housing.
The council own 12 empty properties – now in a derelict state – empty for approx. 18 months. How about the council paying 100% rates when they have been empty for 2 years?? See question 3c!! Just a thought!
Where health and safety is concerned we cannot keep relying on help of volunteers to fill the gap created by govnt imposed cuts. It looks as if there should be fairer division of funds between local and national services.
Increase on the basis the efficiency are found throughout the council services including back office to ensure frontline services are maintained. Maximise retention of domestic and non domestic rates.
Council Tax should not exceed 1% above inflation.

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

I feel that England is becoming a third world country. The roads, cleanliness, crime and society. In general people don't appear to be concerned about where we are going. We've lost pride in our country and austerity hasn't helped. A small increase in tax is well overdue to fund the failing infrastructure.
I was unable to find the online form at the web address given
All the issues you identify are so important to the community. I wanted to tick the High Priority box for everything and can certainly understand how difficult it is for you as an organisation (can't please all the people etc.!) Thinking of cause and effect I know that giving high priority to some , e.g. working in the community will impact on others.
Ensuring affordable housing for the disabled and elderly is always available a.s.a.p. to help safeguard them in good housing at reasonable rents.
You need to charge what is needed to provide the services you cover in an efficient and timely manner. So if current rates are enough, don't charge any more – but if services and efficiency are being compromised by underfunding , increase the tax. We cannot make a sensible answer without access to this information.
You do a marvellous job. But we need more police and a re-opening of the Dunmow Police Station. Bananas to build such a new place then close it.
No more holes in the roads! Improve quality of 'B' roads in the area. It's a bumpy ride from Bran End to Dunmow.
A small increase for improvements that are visible.
Very poor road surfaces in local towns. E.g. Great Dunmow. 2 Trees are not pruned on the entrance to Dunmow, getting out from Normansfield is dangerous as the tree overhangs blocks your view of "speeding" traffic coming down the bridge from Dunmow. 3 Traffic parked on the Bridge mean you have to almost drive on the wrong side of the road. It's only going to be time when there is an accident.
Increase spending on youth council/services.
Would pay more for council tax if local services, e.g. Police , fire were made more locally accessible.
I believe that families with children under 16 should be housed in accommodation with a garden and not in flats and people who have resided in Uttlesford for over five years should have priority over newcomers too the district on social housing.
As long as we see libraries, amenities maintained and continue. Community wants value for money and services continued.
Timely repair of pot holes should be a priority.

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

Most people are willing to pay more if they can be guaranteed to get better services. These services must be 'visible and there must be transparency about how the additional monies are being used. This transparency allows people to be more engaged and willing to fund future increases.
Dunmow needs another Doctors surgery. It was supposed to have been built with Woodlands Park! Along with another major supermarket. Tesco have had the monopoly far too long. With all these homes to be built there needs to be better choice.
Increase spending on social services, esp for elderly people living in their own homes.
More support for local business. Cheaper rates. More parking. Reductions in prices.
I think that our Council Tax should be increased to pay for services provided by Uttlesford District Council – so long as the increase is retained by Uttlesford District Council.
Although I do not wish to see an increase in Council tax, I would support an increase, if it ensured an improvement in services, in particular the elderly and very young.
Happy to pay more so long as it's not wasted and get better services.
Too much money goes to ECC. UDC should receive more of the pot, to police our area, repair our roads properly. Ban dogs from all playing fields and sports areas. Employ a dog warden to patrol these areas and pathways leading into Dunmow. Thoughtless owners who don't pick up should be fined heavily and named. Putting up signs will have a minimal effect. Come down heavy. Don't pussy foot about
I live in High Fields, at Dunmow CM6 1EE. We have a traffic / parking problem. When Mrs Barker was canvassing here a year or so ago, she promised to deal with the problem. Nothing changed so far!
I believe the council tax should be on each individual person residing in house/flat and not per residence. As a single elderly occupant I have to pay 75% of the rates. The scheme the late Mrs Thatcher implemented was the fairest way to pay rates. Sometimes there are several adults living in one house.
You keep building hundreds of houses in Uttlesford. They are all way too expensive that normal people cannot afford and when these houses are built the roads are ?? more congested and still never any more amenities like schools, hospitals, Dr surgeries, dentists, and proper large size food shops or petrol stations.
Why are our Council Tax going up when there are more houses being build and some services are being cut?
Verges/ Hedges very rarely get cut OFTEN in Little Canfield / Priors Green / Stortford roundabout (A120) GD. Council Tax is getting out of hand. What do we get for our money? Little of any of the above.

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

I am really concerned about the condition of the pavements and walk ways they are a danger to people falling and tripping. Your answer at the moment is to fill in gaps with tarmac, I live in a conservation area and you don't look after it.
Road surface in general are awful – Pot holes everywhere. These should be a much higher priority to fix considering the amount of road tax I pay.
Council Tax should be reduced especially for those on J S allowances of only £73 per week.
Stop paying the police share of Council Tax as there are no police in Dunmow? What do they do with the money. Private landlord rents should be capped to the same price as local council house rents.
Street cleaning a priority, having lived in Upper Millfield for 18 years weed in parking area and have never seen a road sweeper down here – but see street cleaner every morning going through the High Street ----WHY
Too many takeaways, hairdressers, estate agents in Dunmow. We need hardware shops, a good shoe shop, and a clothing shop for middle age and older. The whole town needs a good makeover, needs to be like it was in the late sixties. Then it was a good town.
Please look carefully at all budgets – to identify ways to reduce the spending in a fair way, e.g. minimise number of managers but still maintain ??? the staff/services.
Most people would like a reduction but realistically at least not increasing it would be good! Our house currently pays £200 per month (x12) which is sometimes a struggle.
Council Tax is too high for pensioners. Police do not uphold the law regarding most problems. Essex Council do not keep the road free from decay.
Housing for people born in this area.
Grass cutting and weeding pavements /road verges and emptying bins are the only items that affect me. I constantly have to cut council grass and bushes as well as public footpaths.
Voluntary and Community organisations are “voluntary” so should not be given grants. “Advising” on homelessness can be done by CAB. They need actual help not advice. How exactly does the council help to keep us safe and healthy? The council is not involved in education so why drugs and drink?
Ideal option would be to keep at same amount but with the ever increasing costs of everything it will likely increase.
Keep council tax the same but make it more efficient.
Police funding should be performance based. Business rates reviewed annually to fairer levels.
I think you do an excellent job considering the difficulties with which you are faced.

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

Very little evidence of street services .Vital to retain the same Council Tax for 2019-20.
I don't mind paying for a service if I actually get to see the difference it makes. I am constantly frustrated by waste management (lack of collection and therefore a build up) and would like to see more recycling opportunities encouraged.
Reduce litter by razing fines and prosecute every case – fine £5000. Charge companies that put up signs especially new house estate signs which are never taken down – say £20 per week.
Planning: how energy efficient are new builds? I think every effort should be made to build houses for the future, with solar panels fitted as standard. To help with water conservation , New houses should have grey water reuse systems to flush toilets and water the gardens! We cannot continue to be blind to environmental issues.
Maintain current level of Council Tax for a 2year period, during which time seen to make operations across the board more efficient and cost effective, then review.
All workers at Uttlesford Council Offices should have to pay to park their transport to work like everybody else has too.
I would like to see the encouragement of the provision of private sheltered accommodation for older people in small units all over the area. This would help free up other existing properties rather than building new communities. This may also help the operation of carers in the community. "Downsizers" do not want to move away from their area.
Ensure all traveller site occupants pay their portion.
If the council tax is a %age more housing will increase the take without needing to increase council tax.
Page 1: S/Services, verges, roundabouts etc. Strimming not too obvious as yet. Planning. Have you ever seen developers worry about trees etc. Environmental Health. Much more attention needed regarding health care. Development is not taking account of the general lack of surgeries many of which have had to close doors to new patients due largely to lack of GPs.
I think the charge to stay the same but less goes to Essex CC where you are providing more services in the town council.
Long may the council carry on the excellent work it does. 9% of CT is not enough and Essex CC should take less – the Police deserve more.
If I was to put a caravan onto the playing fields in Dunmow, I would be moved on pretty sharpish. Why on earth do we let the traveller community get away with so much, get a low like they have in Harlow. I am sick of my dog eating human crap when they finally leave.
Keep cost down for the small amount of services we receive from the council tax.
To see more Police would be good. To see more Enforcement Officers checking on Planning. To see the Street Sweeper a little more often.

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Pot holes in area need to be sorted out! They are a great danger. Also noise of all sorts needs to be addressed Planes, Noisy garden tools (weekends). Also parking dangerously in small villages (New Schools) etc.
We moved to this area because we love the openness so please do not take good agricultural land to build more towns.
With the huge amount of new homes being built in the district the council tax "pot" will increase significantly. Emphasis should therefore be on providing services and amenities to support the new housing as well as improving on those already provided. Concurrently the council MUST now draw a line under the amount of new housing to prevent what is fast becoming an urban sprawl along the A120 corridor.
Limit or decrease councillors expenses.
The refurb of sign post in the High Roding must have cost a fortune in the length of time it took. Was this really necessary?
Why have we got no garden bins with the council tax. Braintree supplies these in with their tax?
Planning consent for extensions should be looked at more carefully due to the effect on surrounding properties and how it affects privacy.
Every year we have gypsies turning up in the park. They cause damage, noise Walking y dog is a nightmare. The council has to clear up a huge amount of rubbish which is paid for in our rates while they pay nothing. They should have to be made to pay fines on the spot.
I do resent having to pay more Council Tax for a service that is practically non existence in Uttlesford. i.e. Police Force and ECC Highways Dept.
I live in a rural area and pay a significant amount without many benefits. My lane is always overgrown each side by bushes, trees and verges only cut when I complain to Highways. The only service I receive is having the bins emptied and this is sporadic.
I have lived here for 33 years and have never seen the keep left bollards, roundabouts and grass verges just outside the town centre looking so dreadful (and all the litter, it's disgusting)!!! This is not the area I remember.
The pavements along Dunmow High Street are in a poor even dangerous condition, many pedestrian falling. Also the condition of the tarmac service is in need of resurfacing! Also potholes!!
Although the bus stop/shelters in Chelmsford Road look very good, I feel that the money used could have been used to help pay for security gates/fence to stop travellers from using the recreation ground as a temporary home and therefore save money on the clear up.
Rather than charge more, the division of council tax should be reviewed so more goes to Uttlesford and less to Essex CC.
More affordable housing for young people to buy. More rubbish and dog bins

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Please start collecting garden waste or open the recycling centre every day or for longer periods. Working full time makes it very difficult to dispose of garden waste especially with long queues. Please make quicker repairs to pot holes, last winter was awful and I + many other suffered punctures/burst tyres due to the poor state of the roads in our area
To ensure that all monies collected are used to carry our essential works and not used to support 'jolly ups' for councillors.
Verge and hedge cutting should be a priority to ensure good visibility on roads for drivers and pedestrians.
Parking for the bungalows at Waldgrooms
unable to have an opinion without knowing how Essex County Council and other services arrive at their costs.
I emailed as requested after phoning 26.2.18 regarding ditches along my road being significantly higher in water and water not flowing. I had an email back acknowledging but never any other contact or ditches cleaned out.
Why can't you decrease the 72% going to Essex CC and increase the amount to UDC . Alos you could decrease the amount to the Police as I gave lived here for 30 years and never seen a Policeman on the beat. Fire Service are worth every penny. Crime Commissioner?
In order for town high streets to flourish, parking should be free from 11am to 3pm each day. Shops on high streets need the custom to counteract the high rents.
I am deeply concerned about the planned building in the areas it will put extra pressure on an already overstretched infrastructure mand there are not sufficient or satisfactory public transport options in place to handle over flow and encourage shared commuting. More buses are needed and incentives should be in place to reduce private car use and improve traffic flow.
If you follow my advice I am sure Uttlesford Council will have a far better financial outcome for the year, Please don't get involved in investing our money, leave that to the people that know. Leave the advice to young people to parents and family.
This is a mad questionnaire! Many things bundled together aren't comparable. Also most people aren't going to question fair car parking tariffs, working with the police, supporting volunteers etc. It's not what you do but how you do it! Most of your list is motherhood and apple pie – no-one's going to give it low priority.
Although not directly related to spending, Dunmow has to stop growing. If growth keeps at the rate it is, we will look like Harlow, or some other dreadful place. This town is no longer a nice place to live, with roadworks, traffic, building etc. Making life here dreadful.
I feel priority should be given to "updating " bungalows in the "Broadfield Dunmow, High Roding" area, as they are not serving the occupants that live in them at today's standards, "Kitchen need complete updating".
Re 3c over the page. The 100% premium should apply but after a longer timescale. Selling the home of an elderly person (who is in care/died) can take much longer than 2 years as homes often in disrepair due to their incapability. Would suggest 3 years or more.

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

People of retirement age should be given council tax reduction, not to be left to pay full Council Tax. When so many people for whatever reason, and who 'know the system' can get away 'scot free' or get large reductions. It's not fair
Tax is a necessary evil. The test council ask themselves not what they can spend, but rather what can they not spend. It is not their money.
Ensuring life quality remains the same. Protecting our country-side and especially local footpaths. More people fly-tipping!! I strongly object to west of Braintree development!!
There has been an empty property between the Star and the Pond for over a decade. It is about time something happened with it as it is just boarded up at the door. Also the old pub near to the pond. There are not enough public bins. The ones we have are too small. In the southern end of town (Dunmow – Chelmsford Road) one dog poo bin (by the pizza place) and 1 large bin by the bus stop have been removed. Litter is just now left NOT in a bin.
A freeze on council tax for a year or two following this year's increase, then a small increase each year would be preferable.
More Police on actual foot patrol around streets, paths and alleyways at different times of the day. (Not set times) This way they can keep a check and catch the Drug Dealers, who operate on the estates.
Ensure our green spaces are able to keep up with the increased housing so people can walk in the open spaces, and helps keep good mental health. Ensure defences against illegal traveller encampments.
Explore to see if there is any way The Chase can become an adopted road, maybe with support from Essex CC and Barnston Parish Council.
I live alone, so only one income. Council Tax cannot keep increasing as people also have mortgages to pay -NOT EVERYONE ARE ON HIGH SALARIES, and I would assume some DON'T PAY ANYTHING! Be fair! Also 25% off for sole occupancy is not enough when other households have large families. You cannot out price what people can pay on top of their other household bills. Poll tax much fairer!
Airport parking. Benett Canfield road Takeley/Little Canfield. This should be controlled as this road is becoming dangerous.
Planning for new houses should take into roads/schools/hospitals/ doctors. Those items seem to be largely neglected.
I think Uttlesford District Council do an excellent job. P.s. You can't keep everyone happy but you do me.
I am concerned about the increase in crime support of any kind for Police should be high on the list of priorities.
I do not think the Council has the expertise or personnel to run 3 separate community village projects at the same time. The development Plan is over optimistic and ill conceived. It will not work!

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

We are struggling to see the value in this survey other than to produce figures that will inevitably show that what residents want cannot be achieved within the existing budget.
Tax rises should only be made either in line with living costs/inflation or for a specific and legitable area that needs extra financing
Uttlesford is the worst Council be far I have ever lived in. All they are interested in is building houses everywhere collecting rubbish sometimes. Atrocious how much we pay and how little we get.
The police support for this area seems to be non existent. Phoning 101 is useless. When calling personally to the police desk at the council offices the response was totally negative and any actions were refused due to LACK OF RESOURCES (QUOTE) This was to report a banned driver in a car with no MOT or tax.
More council tax needs to fund the Police particularly in Saffron Walden where the population is increasing rapidly and no Police presence is seen and little is done in crime prevention etc.
UDC has been a shambles over the last 10 years. Planning has been given without any thought of whether the roads or services can cope. How much section 106 money has not been collected? Example of shambles – Sainsburys turned down. 2 years later Aldi built!!
Cut back on Essex County Council taxes – such as – High salaries to high level officers who are on career path – only interest in themselves. Not listen – will want to further careers with larger areas.
PLEASE REPAIR OUR POT HOLES. GREAT CHESTERFORD.
Increase road repairs. Stop pavement parking and introduce lower a speed for traffic in residential areas.
Maintain key services, even if increase in CT is required.
1.Traffic is becoming an increasing problem/concern for Saffron Walden - A ring road like Bishops Stortford/ Cambridge would help a great deal to ease air pollution and congestion. 2. Empty/unfurnished properties should be charged 100% after 1 year – not 2 years, unless a county court decides otherwise in individual cases.
Increase by rate of inflation. Overall Uttlesford is a tidy and attractive area, and well looked after. Most residents are proud of the area and wish to keep it that way. Penny - ??? will gradually spoil it.
The district needs more and better maintenance, enforcement and development. If this needs extra funding, Council Tax should rise. E.g.s: Police, roads, council housing, recycling, tourism etc.
Look at changing the way Council Tax is determined. Because of huge rise in value of house some people find themselves with a huge council tax burden even tho' they are not on a high income. They should not feel they have to lose their home. Also re-assess all houses. Re Street Services No 4 . Communities could be encouraged to get involved instead of leaving it all to the council.

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

I feel that the only way to provide better services is for those people who can do so to pay more. Some people are less able to pay and provision should be made for them to pay less.
If we need services, we must pay for them!
Until such time as Central Government raise taxes for the better off (like me) AND revise Council Tax bands local taxes should rise, alas, to keep up reasonable standards.
I am very concerned that will all the new house building we are not increasing the schools, GP surgeries and the road system will not be able to cope! New house yes but with the correct services in place. We seem to be spoiling the lovely town we have and becoming a London suburb!!
Highway Rangers service is a JOKE. I have been trying for years to get the roadside footpath along B184 which is tarmac type surface (under all the grass, weeds and bushes which render it unusable) It runs from Broadoaks Manor drive to Rowneys Corner. But I would use it for my scooter to get to the White Hart Pub or even to go to Church or Tye Green . I have been nagging Tina Knight for ages about it...waste of time. Nothing happens! Disabled Forget it No-one cares or gives a damn!
I would not mind an increase in Council Tax to keep our lovely area safe and well cared for, However, the proposed so called new Garden Village in Great Chesterford is to my mind a ridiculous idea. There is no work in this area so all the inhabitants would travel to London, Cambridge or Stansted Airport and Bishops Stortford and the roads and rail services etc. simply would not cope. The beautiful countryside would be lost forever. Wrong plan, wrong place entirely.
Stop vehicles from obstructing public footpaths, forcing pedestrians out into fast and heavy traffic. With the number of new houses in construction this is essential, the speed limit is ignored. A pedestrian crossing would help.
Can priority be given to Anti social behaviour – more Police and PCOs as we are being seen as a “soft touch” in Saffron Walden and villages throughout Uttlesford.
We have too many empty shops in Saffron Walden mainly because business rates are too high. I am told by shop owners it is not the rent they pay that is too high but it is the business rate. So please consider reducing this for a least shops not part of big chains.
Parking = If Lavenham don't charge to park why does Saffron Walden have such high charges?
Improve local infrastructure before approving housing developments.
ABOUT THE CULVERT – ON FRONT OF WALDEN LOCAL. GOING FROM SLADE UNDER ABBEY LANE SHOPS AND HOUSES ALRMAMRS HOUSES. ON THE FRON OF WALDEN LOCAL ABOUT SWIMMING BATHS SOWN GEORGE STREET SHOULD NEVER HAD BEEN REMOVED.
SPEND THE MONEY WISELY!

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

I think it's really important to inform the public as to why council tax may go up. If it's to invest in the things that are high priority the that's arguably fair enough. However, what annoys people is no seeing where their tax is spent e.g. Police – there's no presence in Saffron Walden at all!!! Crime surely has gone up because of this.
A lot of these services should be provided by charities whom the public can freely donate to. They are not the responsibility of the taxpayer or the Nanny State. The taxpayer should not be responsible for cleaning up fly tippers or Travellers' mess. These costs should be taken from fines supported by cameral evidence. Cameras should be placed in problem areas where these things happen often.
Dogs Environmental Issue: at one entrance only from my window Dogs fouling in the park or near at Parkside. 85 dogs per day, 595 dogs per week, 30940 dogs per year. This is only one entrance? 3 more to go. Dogs should be on lead.
More doctors surgeries required and/ or a main clinic such as Sawston Cambs!!
BRING BACK POLICE! Give us what we are paying for. Friends & Police Station were gifted to town. We need Police Station & more school places!
Increase the percentage of Council tax for Uttlesford to 20% and lower the percentage f or ECC to 61%.
With inflation (however low) and the ever increasing demand on Public Services holding Council Tax at the current level would be equivalent to a reduction.
Schools already educate young people about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.
Reduce the Police Premium rate in the Council tax. No benefit for Saffron Walden residents!
No one wants tax increase but those less fortunate need to be helped.
The roads are shocking. I work in Cambridge and Saffron Walden is awful in comparison. Review the business you use as not sustainable their repairs; they do small sections + then come back 3 months later for another hold which cannot be cost effective.
With respect to dog fouling the worst offenders walk their dog at night when they don't see or care where their dog is and what it is doing.
Council tax should stay the same or be reduced because families with low income and pensioners who have only state pension find it hard to pay extra.
The condition or state of our roads in and around Saffron Walden and Wimbish is so poor. These need to be taken care of.
If the council could streamline and become more efficient then the council tax could be reduced and services offered could be improved. Why post these magazines and other items when they could be emailed for free?

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More resources for existing infrastructure less for 'refugees' and corrupt charities. Very ill mannered men now running the recycle – Tip – Centre – Get rid of them!
Council Tax is too high in Ashdon.
I would like to see UDC taking responsibility for our ROADS & POLICE away from Essex CC. (Reducing the PPN of C/Tax that goes to ECC)
When is something going to be done about the state of the pavements in town as they are very dangerous. There are a lot of loose tiles which are very dangerous.
The Council has a duty to supply the highest service and high – low priority is nonsense.
Uttlesford Planning Dept need to conform to Essex County Council Guidelines.
I am very concerned to learn that UDC is funding PCSO(s) using District Council tax. We already pay for Police Service in our Essex County Council tax. The Police numbers have been sadly depleted over many years, and the Police responsibilities have been devolved to local councils and other organisations e.g. stray dogs, parking and highway/motorway work. Yet – we still pay Police precept at County level. UDC , by funding PCSO(s) is paying twice!! Also – the service delivered by Police is less! Not good!
The District Council should continue to take a fair but imaginative view of the Saffron Walden of the future as well as the present. It should also listen to and as much as possible carry out the wishes of its inhabitants and also of surrounding villages. Adequate infrastructure should accompany any new developments!
Being elderly and living in Sheltered housing I'm in favour of anything that benefits me, but you can't please everyone!
How is this being used? Reducing Council Tax? Asking about priorities is fine, but more importantly it is about how things are done and the quality of services. Do not overlook transport, joining the area up and assisting community cohesion.
Question 3c overleaf: Can you increase to 75% premium as a first step to see if it makes any difference?
With government cut-backs you need more money from us.
This is a low tax, low service Council. An increase wouldn't cost much overall – increasing CTax by 9% would only mean an overall increase of 1%
In small increments rather than one "big hike"
An increase of 2% seems reasonable.
As national government continues to reduce the money it gives to local authorities, the only way to maintain services is to increase council tax.
Rephrase the questionnaire so that residents can give opinion on ALL Council services.

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I would be prepared to pay more Council Tax if I could be sure that the extra money finds its way to the Saffron Walden Area and on the Priority issues listed as high above but especially bins, pollution and Police. Unfortunately, I fear it ends up in a big pot, si spent elsewhere on low priority services. It would be great if UDC could hold ECC to account for the 73% it collects on their behalf. Difficult to see the added value provided by the various councils.
Need to increase Council Tax to support maintenance of key services + especially housing services & support for the most vulnerable in our community. Action also needed to lobby/pressurise on transport services in Uttlesford.
Re-introduce – Bobby's on the Beat!! (Vital)
Bring back Poll TAX. Jail all those that won't pay but charge them fees. Detail how much is needed for increased Police presence and have a local referendum to get local support. You don't get "out for nowt" therefore increase Council Tax (preferably Poll Tax) to a level so we can get a High Class Premium Service to make Uttlesford stand proud.
There is no way the Chesterford Garden Village should be built under any circumstances. It will destroy an already vulnerable area.
Get rid of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner. Complete waste of money!
Traffic - sort the traffic problems in Saffron Walden before building any more houses. Air quality in the town is very bad. Where is the plan to reduce traffic in the town centre?
When new housing is being considered make sure there are Schools, Doctors, Dentist, Roads. Adi for town! We have no Police
Finance and business. 2. Car parking /Fees = Businesses should/could be charged/pay for parking for their staff (to park at Swan Meadow) (keeping them away from domestic areas) this charge should/could be included in the S Walden (Uttlesford) Council/Licence fees for business in our town/area. Each business should have a figure of staff required to operate their business . It's up to the business how they recoup from their staff the value of the parking!
No new housing to be allowed unless a reasonable cash sum is provided in advance to the authority for vital services. Ideally the latter should be a legal requirement!
Saffron Walden is becoming a bad place to live in. Too many new housing developments and not enough new facilities e.g. doctors, sports facilities. Benefits of sport are huge, why do we have to travel to local villages and other towns to find good sports facilities? Traffic is also a problem, Saffron Walden is too congested and the pollution because of it is unbearable. I don't mid housing development if infrastructure and facilities are improved.
Firm believer in higher taxes for those that can afford. But decisions by Uttlesford e.g. Chesterford Park Investment and "Garden" villages reduce confidence in council.

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

Too many unaffordable houses being planned to be built whilst there is insufficient infrastructure to support this in the town - e.g. doctors, schools, roads etc.
Roads!! High Priority. All local roads are in an appalling state!! WATER. Does the rush to build even more houses recognise the problems already evident concerning the provision of water?
Willing to pay more council tax as and when a proper Police Force within the town is reinstated. This needs to be an urgent priority on the Council's agenda!!!
1. Development plans should include road/by pass plans. 2. Increased traffic = increased pollution. Any plans to solve this problem? 3. Are the opinions of people living/working in Uttlesford actually considered?
Charge more for new houses being built. E.g. Planning no. 3 Listed Buildings/Trees. The home owner can pay that bill.
There is a serious drug problem in Saffron Walden and a lot of deals are done right outside our house and also Audley End Park. This really needs to be addressed.
I'm sure this is a ECC issue but we pay enough Council Tax to them to sort out the road network around and in town – it is ridiculous!
1. Of the Finance & Business. Depends on how much will be invested and any guarantee there will be no loss to the local tax payer. Sooner or later the issue of a bypass is going to have to be addressed. The roads in our town cannot cope with the high increase of new build in S/Walden and the surrounding area.
Do not increase the salary of UDC staff, then Council Tax will go further
Reduce number of redundant road signs/lamp posts etc. cluttering the roadsides.
Do the basic services and do them well. Do not try to branch out into a plethora of welfare services. Your bin emptying service is first class. Your housing (roads, schools, healthcare planning agreed not your function) is a farce.
Educating young people - covered with schools. No more building required! No new houses needed as recently many more have been built in district. Focus on services.
The Council should continue to diversify its income by seeking other opportunities (i.e. Chesterford Research Park) to secure future income. In the present climate there can be no expectation that Central Government funding is going to increase.
When flytippers are caught make the court give maximum sentences.
It is difficult to provide a reasoned answer to the above without details of the consequences.
We seem to get a lot less for our money than we did 30 years ago. More checks need to be made on benefit fraud. It is not fair for hard working honest people. This questionnaire is a waste of money too.

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UDC should start taking pride in the appearance of the district – If you want to attract people to the area then at least make it inviting, clean and then people may come. Some of the older buildings which are in fact businesses are a disgrace – the Coach Depot in Bridge Street is a complete eyesore!
MORE INVESTMENT MAINTAIN BANKS – DITCHES CLEAR DITCHES – FREE FLOWING TO RIVERS LESS FLOODING CLEAR DEBRIS FROM RIVERS NEED CLEANING OUT ALSO REDUCE FLOODING.
As a bracket “G” council tax payer and pensioner, I believe my £298 per month is sufficient and expect the Uttlesford District Council to meet its commitments from existing revenue.
It's a priority to maintain the character of Saffron Walden and close villages – it is a fantastic attractive town and we should ensure we do not lose this through over development of the area, and rethink planning that is going to alter a beautiful area. Great Chesterford is being threatened by such development and nothing seems to be able to stop it despite the local reactions – people's feelings are not being heard.
It would be nice to see a greater police presence in Saffron Walden. There are younger people openly smoking cannabis and a greater police presence could help to combat the buying/selling/smoking of drugs in the area.
I think Uttlesford D.C. should consider bringing “parking back in house” instead of using the “Private Parking Partnership”. It would be cost effective and answerable to the local people. Also “long term planning” never seems to come to anything and is often changed anyway!
Council tax is a property tax and people who do not own property should not have to pay it. The reduction of grants from Central Government is making council tax an increasingly contentious issue. 70% of expenditure used to come from Central Government grants. But since 2010 this has been phased out and will end completely by 2020. Central Government needs to alter its policy.
The Council should help schemes for children for things to do in summer holidays and to make sure that children are getting proper meals in summer holidays as parents struggle to feed their children in school holidays as most are on low incomes.
The Council Tax we pay is much above than we expect. Considering there is no garden waste collections no matter how small the waste. Also the roads are unsafe in Tanners Way where we live. Super craters are damaging vehicles and are highly dangerous to older people in the area.
Still waiting for something to be done re the speeding through the village, everyone thinks it's the minimum speed limit 30mph that you must drive, suggestion if a Police speeding officer were to be there around 7.00 am they would be fining the majority of motorists.
More parking at Uttlesford for public to use as visitor

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Compliance with Planning Regulations is a high priority for us. If you live in the countryside as we do, we are unaware of the work of most voluntary and community organisations – excellent as they may be – Council services are largely urban based, and apart from bin collection we see little benefit from them.
Prioritise the improvement of the town's road system – in order to reduce congestion.
Wow a whole 19% goes to actual area in which we live, and work in those services who protect and support. But it's all okay because you see the parking company around all the time checking that cars haven't out-stayed their welcome in SW and heaven forbid be spending money in LOCAL shops in town.
Make sure owners of holiday home / holiday rental businesses are paying Council Tax as appropriate. NB Southwold Scandal!
Where is the pot hole mending services mentioned?
Subject to specifying what the extra income will be used for.
UDC needs to increase its council tax to be able to retain and recruit good staff in the face of the biggest planning disaster this part of Essex has seen in a generation. If the developers of the Garden Settlements are not held to account we are all going to be in trouble and all of UDC's bin collection, health initiatives will be for nothing!
Due to my choosing High Priority to so many questions this will, I consider only be achieved by an increase in residents' contributions.
Most of these questions should actually be considered as duties / responsibilities and not be a matter for prioritisation.
Need extra income from Council Tax to keep our services ???
I would support an increase in the council tax if it was directed to recycling business waste, ensuring that people littering from cars/flytipping were more likely to be caught and prosecuted, ensuring that sustainability appraisals were credible, enforcing terms and conditions of planning approvals, providing council housing, and safeguarding land adjacent to railway lines (e.g. Chesterford, Newport, Stansted) for business development.
The council should not be afraid to increase the council tax provided the council makes it clear the benefits to taxpayers and overheads are kept to a minimum.
Visible Police presence . Cutting verges earlier. No need to cut verges in Oct/Nov. Pot hole repairs / Our roads are appalling.
Abolish spare room tax for the elderly and disabled. If elderly and disable have a spare room this is a good thing as they may need family to stay with them.
Too many new houses but no infrastructure. Too much traffic in the town – not enough parking.

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Invisible Police – next to zero affordable housing for our children – local businesses on the High St closing – only interest seem to be in building more houses in an area already overhabited.
It is more about making the Council more efficient and using technology that raising more in tax – stop outsourcing everything
More visible community policing. Need for transparent planning decisions on Friends School site. Don't forget that many residents have not had real salary increases for a decade or more!
PLEASE CONCENTRATE ON ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE! We are becoming gridlocked!
The state of outer roads is dismal. There is too many houses being built and the roads cannot cope the town has more than doubled in my lifetime and is no longer a nice place to live I will no longer vote in local elections as none address this view.
Digging up of our roads are better planned, holes appear with a set of lights and then are left with no-one working for up to a week at time. There is a 'muppet' ub a van doing nothing! at our cost!!
I am not satisfied that Uttlesford Council is an efficient council. I would agree to an increase purely to ensure a Police deterrent and presence on our streets and towns and villages.
Consider reduced charges on Council Tax for O.A.P.
The houses being built for affordable housing is a good idea, but we desperately need Doctors Surgeries, Schools and the road bought up to date. The amount of families now living here with 2 cars family, larger family and commercial lorries etc passing through this town is far too much. We need to deal with this urgently.
It's high enough, especially for those on quite low incomes , single parents & their children turning 18+ on low incomes or apprenticeships themselves.
As for Planning local knowledge has no say about how many houses are built in one area once our roads are at grid lock and sewers overflowing houses given permission without way of getting rid of surface water. Will the council take blame when other houses in area are flooded.
The roads in Saffron Walden area are a disgrace. You failed to ask a highways question. There are no questions on increased buildings and infrastructure effects on the community. You disrespect citizens for your own political goals conservatives.
I think local Councils should pressure governments to increase its contribution to them via County Council.
Focus on improving one or two things at a time . This has more chance of producing positive outcomes that trying to cover so many things. Fight to reduce contribution to policing, we get a very poor service. Don't' pump money into things that don't provide the services.

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

The Council's services are essential and mostly need a high priority.
Make sure that the Police we are paying twice for are deployed in S/Walden. Listen to the public on issues such as traffic, air pollution, schools surgeries all of what have an input on the quality of life in S/Walden.
NB – F + B item 1: Beware the lifecycle costs of maintain these building with regards to the plant and services. I worked in one building on site for a year and all plant is due replacement. This included pipework that is porous. This could cost the council anywhere up to a million pounds to do! – Does the 'rent' cover this additional costing? Or has it even been considered?
Planning: no 1 Significantly speed up the process. Local Council Tax Support (c) Discretion should be used in exceptional cases. E.g. where a legal process is running it's course or similar situation.
With all these new houses coming on stream you will increase your revenue naturally. Use some of your reserves to increase ??? of local housing.
With the ever increasing local population and a consequent rise in crime, why was our Police Station closed? We now pay for a service that does not exist.
Please ensure developers don't build on ancient wooded areas also beautiful green areas which are disappearing too quickly.
As we have not seen a Policeman in town for the last 18 months no more money to Police.
Police to clamp down on open drug selling in Saffron Walden selling to school children.
Please complete the Local Plan, particularly concerning Planning without delay.
Recycling for business and flats should be made available. My son lives in a flat, but has to recycle himself as there are no options to in the bin area of the flat. Many businesses could recycle more, my own was told we could take home the recycling and put it in our bins at home but that would mean having another bin, with no room for one. Other areas recycle much more that we do and I feel it is very important to be making young people aware.
I would like to see Police resent on our streets. Police speed checks. Street Cleaners.
Higher police presence needed in the town (Saffron Walden) to reduce rubbish /glass left on the common after weekends.
Limit all new housing development to a maximum of 1000 homes per year spread over all of Uttlesford and have in place new roads, schools, medical centres and shops in place before developments start.
I really believe it is imperative that the residents have street lighting at night again. For safety reasons and to reduce anxiety. It's 2018 not 1818.

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

Unfortunately, I believe it's the Council's priority to provide support across the board, especially regarding street services, planning , housing, and environmental health. I think the Recycling/refuse systems are still very behind other European Countries and needed serious consideration.
Cheaper houses for young people so that they stay in the their area where they are living. Too many high prices in villages.
Requests to dig highways and footpaths to be charged by bonds paid prior to action for ongoing maintenance for up to 5 years not be at the taxpayers' expense.
We need more Police on show. Drugs are a problem, if police were making themselves on show, it might deter drug users/pushers. It's a big threat to our young generation.
I would really like to see less unnecessary cutting of verges and hedges. Unless needed for visibility / safety, these could be left to grown and just be cut once a year, providing a better habitat for wildlife and saving the council time and money.
We do not have sufficient information on the state of UDC finances to make an informed judgement on monies required.
The Council Tax should be flexible to meet problems as they arise and any increase should e related directly to meet a problem.
Council Tax should be pro-rata as to which services we receive. The only service we get is bins emptied. We are not on mains sewage! We do not get our street swept , have not street lighting or guttering/curb. Fire and Police service if required urgently would have significant delay before attending! Etc. etc. Etc.
Having lived in the area for over 50 years I hope it will not change too much before I go! I've enjoyed the ups and downs.
Why is the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner not part of the Essex %?
ECC Seem unaware that some areas – Uttlesford exist / have previously questioned whether the area comes under ECC and are often useless when contacted regarding issues ECC are responsible for in this area. Why, when Uttlesford Planning Office rejects an application following a visit to site, can an appeal to the Secretary of State be approved by someone in Bristol, with no knowledge of the situation?
You say about keeping the streets clean (where?) to walk down South Road for instance one has to dodge over hanging shrubs etc. from front gardens where a house is having building done there is sand and stones over the pavement it's a disgrace surely householder should be made to clean rubbish off of the front of their house and cut back trees etc overhanging (where are you).
Housing more 1 / 2 bed builds.
The state of the roads in S.Walden is APPALLING. Patches are a false economy : with heavy frost they lift off having cracked and disintegrated. Pavements are so bad they are dangerous, especially for elderly or disabled people.

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

I think more that 9% of our tax should go to Uttlesford and less to Essex CC. More should go to the town or parish council and to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. Local Police should have more help.
I am disappointed that with the increase in housing in this area that the infrastructure has not been upgraded to support the increase. i.e. roads, doctors and schools.
Council tax should go along with cost of living. Also build up surplus cash for future. Councils are not a bottomless purse.
In view of the increasing crime rate in our area, like most other areas, we must put most of any rate rises towards policing. The number of empty homes in the area is disgraceful. Bring down the time level to one year for unoccupancy.
Inline with inflation which the council incurs on the services it provides (the cost of those services)
Have ticked the first option assuming the extra money will go to improving services.
I think an increase is needed to fund more social care and to increase the police visibility in the area and make them more accessible to the public – what is the use of ringing a number which is usually not answered.
It is futile providing large litter bins e.g. in lay-bys on all if they are not emptied often enough. Litter blows all over the area and the bins are an eyesore and a health hazard. Similarly, drains are no use if they are blocked. Elmdon is particularly affected with plants growing out of some drains. Pavements are a hazard and kerbs degraded or non-existent resulting in flooding and tripping –people walk on the road!
My Priorities. Young People, old people and environment.
Review the high salaries and expense accounts of some council Officials in order to keep the Council Tax at an acceptable level.
More focus on allowing businesses move to saffron Walden. I do not see any major space allocated in the current Plan – it could work with Point 1 in Finance and Business.
% increase to Uttlesford and reduction to Essex CC.
It would be unfair to burden some pensioners with an increase. Very disappointing how much of the old Government grants have been reduced by this Government - scandalous in fact.
To ensure that the district is kept safe, a Police Station with locally based Officers should be made available rather than the current arrangement.
Repair potholes quicker when they are reported. Work towards increasing the number of Police in the district.
We need another petrol station.
Planning seems to be 'a bit of a shambles'

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

We have no street lights, no dog bins, dangerously fast traffic and pay the same council tax as those in the town who have these facilities and more, and far better traffic calming measures.
It is difficult to know without knowledge of the opportunities to increase efficiencies within the Council. This could be both operational and administrative.
Our Police Service should be restored without delay as crime is on the increase. Too much new house building is being allowed. The streets are clogged with traffic. I am totally opposed to the proposed new town/village north of Chesterford which would have disastrous consequences for Saffron Walden and Great Chesterford.
Minimum fine for FLY TIPPING should be £1000 (b) Main road pot holes should be dealt with more quickly.
Increase the Commercial Council Tax to reduce the private.
Reducing until potholes are repaired and more Police on the streets.
We pay nearly £3000 a year in council tax and it really is hard to see what we get for that.
Need to be kept informed of current needs before making a judgement.
With the exception of exploring external commercial opportunities (Finance 1)I think all of the services are important and should be maintained.
Without more knowledge of the budget (e.g. how much income is expected from all the new housing occupants) and expenditure on salaries, replacement vehicles and property repairs, it is impossible to answer the above question. We can only rely on the Councillors to make this decision.
Most importantly take back the control of planning and provision of housing from commercial developers, who ??? to keep house prices high and have no interest providing housing for all levels of income. Gas ??? Finchingfield etc.etc. when will gov/councils realise the private sector is not the answer.
Working in the community is funded by government so should not be funded by UDC . Lots of the events e.g. Keeping Warm Workshops are a waste of money. Council Tax is my second largest bill after mortgage. It is a very large chunk and very expensive. Our income has not gone up so another rise (previous was a rise of £20 per month) is just TOO MUCH !!! we cannot afford another rise.
I think Uttlesford District Council are pretty good at meeting their obligations. Well done!
Increase council tax only if needed for social care costs to improve support.

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From my boxes it can be seen that everything is of equal importance so today not to increase council tax is just not realistic! Being a resident for 25 years + I am sad to see the condition of the town has deteriorated. If the new builds continue to have no architectural merit we are in danger of producing future 'slums'! Do something to correct this please!
The answer depends on any number of variables. This is too simplistic. Increase if you are at least 90% efficient in keeping unnecessary costs down and are going to use the money to help the most vulnerable.
You really don't want my opinion as you won't like it. Uttlesford Council are absolutely useless and not at all interested in people, only money!! In law the land is paid for by the people and only managed and supposed to be cared for by the council! They abuse it. So who gives them the right to do what they want as they (do for profit) and totally ignore what people and residents way. They can't even enforce a parking ticket. That is true.
Stop wasting money doing assessments of works needing to be down and get on and do it. And drawing red lines around damaged bits of road and then doing nothing! Paint gets washed off and you have to start all over again. What a waste of money.
The council tax in the area is high. Even with the single occupant discount, it is hard to see where the money is spent with the closure of the police station and lack of police presence. I would like to see a full breakdown of where my money goes.
Better efforts need to be made to :- Provide infrastructure when needed – not afterwards. Provide adequately / trained police local to the population. Ensure housing is provided for local families. Review the effectiveness (to the local communities) of the may and various housing associations.
Not enough done about alcohol addiction. As alcohol is acceptable, it is easy to get addicted and if they have a secret (or not so secret) addiction go to the Doctor first
'High Priority' to me means 'Essential Services' befitting the original reasons councils were established – for all local people and local events. Therefore more tax but reasonably raised (it's disgraceful there are food banks needed in pour area – but that's a different issue!)
I would agree to pay more council tax if I could see the tangible benefits it brings. I think the needs on the area are very poor – pot holes take too long to repair and are not always done properly, Car parking fees at hospital are ridiculous – may not be a council issue!
Comment relating to Finance/Business (2) + (3). Seriously examine the crippling Business Rates applied to local businesses if UDC genuinely support local communities.! Comment relating to Local Council Tax Support (3) A terribly concocted and misleading question! By "bashing" the vulnerable to save a pittance!

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

Stop building in Saffron Walden and destroying what use to be a lovely market town. You could build a few new towns south of Dunmow where you would not upset anyone. They could be provided with schools and parks, community centres, sports centres etc. instead of destroying Walden with thousands of houses and no infrastructure!
Give us the services we already pay for instead of reducing services, as in the past, i.e. Policing and street lighting through the night.
As UDC pays above the national living wage, the first place to make savings would be to reduce the wage in line with other workers, saving £80 on a forty hour week for a low paid worker, saving thousands of pounds a year.
Housing 3. Private is private. You have no right to interfere in property that does not belong to you. Council tax was raised to provide more policing – this has not happened in our area – crime is getting worse. Free car parking in S Walden would help business. Our bin men are fabulous – really appreciate them. They do a fabulous job. I would like collections every week for both bins though.
The council should introduce again a dog licence for each dog a person may own, to go towards the cost of dog bins. Emptying dog bins should be paid for from a dog licence fee. How much did all those bins cost?
Working in the Community 3. What Police?
Reduce Councillor allowances. Reduce Officer Salaries.
With no Police Station and no “bobbies” on the beat, crime has increased. How does one get immediate response when it is often too late to prevent further damage to life or property when PCs are not in Saffron Walden to investigate. Some reports seem to give a crime number and that is the end of the story. Crime is booming and will continue to do so.
I think our council tax bill should be reduced as we no longer have the police service that we did. Totally disgraceful that the police station was closed and sold for yet more houses, and they no longer bother to do a thing about speeding traffic, especially down Debden Road / Pleasant Valley which is like a race track.
The existing services, while not excellent, must be allowed to continue and improve with time.
Fund Policing properly. It's shocking to read about the lack of policing / responses to burglary and violence.
I think the Government should increase its funding for local government. I think council housing should be a priority. Stop selling council housing.
Public health and environment must be priority to reduce costs in the future on health.
Item. Street services H4 Does this include cleaning and cutting grass in Wood Lane Birchanger??
A discount should be made to encourage council taxes being paid yearly in advance
My biggest bug bear is pot holes – our roads are a disgrace . The other is litter

Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

Reduce by 50% and still not going to be value for money. We are paying more and more for less of all services and are being ripped off by our council and **** government. In Saffron Walden we have no Police and roads are in a **** condition.
1.Items marked High Priority are all part of the job description of the council and so should all be done competently and therefore should be prioritised. – The council should NOY look to be a commercial enterprise – it doesn't have the competence to do so. – Car parking should not be a profit centre. Charges should look to recover costs are allocate use and encourage use. 2.There is not way of judging how much council tax should be allocated to UDC unless one know how the budget is built up
Increase Council Tax by rate of inflation only. This survey is of little use since it has insufficient detail e.g. working in the community 1. - I have identified as medium priority . But which Voluntary organisations should be beneficiaries? and by how much? These are the real Qs which I guess we must leave to your judgement.
Raise awareness of some lesser known groups such as Highway Rangers who undertake vital work but it is difficult to know how they can be contacted.
Hands off Clavering. Disgraceful council would even consider homes being built behind a primary school. Destroying green areas plus what about safeguarding of school children.
Increase, Council Tax same, Reduce Council Tax. What a question. It will be of no concern to the council whatsoever. If they come up with a lame excuse of "There are too many rabbits in the council area and we will have to increase council tax to get rid of them" you will do it without our consent
These forms cost money - better spent elsewhere! Road conditions poor - Tar and chipping roads a disaster I've had to have stones removed twice gone into the workings of the wheels and brakes etc. Conditions for people and children at school times horrendous what are the council doing - nothing! Hedges need cutting very difficult to walk without being scratched and stung by nettles. No evidence of Rangers in Clavering waste of money.
Reported crime is down because nobody reports it because nothing is done: I rang up to report a potential assault and the operator (Police) said where is ...diminished services cut to the bone already. No Police. Station sold for profit ad Police only present with speed guns and xmas for profit: and to issue crime no. if anything. Saffron Walden was a beautiful market town 12 years ago. You have taken the Police out, You have allowed too many immigrants in to the state of the town when it rains is appalling. You are allowing building on/through rabbits dens you can squeeze one. You do not listen to people who raise objections for anything – ears shut – you do your own thing to line your friends pockets. I am moving so is my husband, his sons have already and I shop online and out of town because I loved Walden but you have ruined it.
If the pot holes in the roads get any bigger cars will be replaced with tanks.

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Birchanger Lane has a large number of potholes which need urgent attention. As a Birchanger resident we have to endure horrendous noise from the airport. If the expansion goes ahead, the noise will only worsen. I believe that any resident affected by aircraft noise should be compensated, possibly by paying less council tax.
UDC consistently fail to take any action against those tenants who don't pay their rent, their council tax, who fraudulently obtain benefits and behave in an anti-social manner. UDC only pays 'lip-service' to these people and NEVER take any meaningful action, whilst the rest of us pay our way, honestly and responsibly.
Depends how money is allocated and if needs must then increase - but let council payers know why first to approve.
I live in High Easter (20 years). To my knowledge the High St has not been swept for years. Gravel from resurfacing 2 yrs ago still on pavements.
A lot goes to EEC. They do not spend well. i.e. 'away days' for senior managers. All councils need to look how they buy in goods - look for cheaper options. Don't cut services for young people - they are our future; we need to invest in their upbringing.
Within reason
Roadside hedges on rural roads need urgent cutting. Roads are getting narrower because of it.
The council is failing in providing affordable council housing and needs to supply direct again. Higher rates are required. Staff should have to pay for courses and days on training and conferences. Councillors should have expenditures capped.
Put speed limits on bridal paths.
Disband the Fire and Crime Commissioner and return his (and his aids) income to Essex Police Budgets. This is a Political role and not in keeping with the Public Service both agencies provide.
Urgent road and cleaning cycle. Upkeep of council sewerage mini plants. Housing is not a priority it is being done for revenue reasons to the council . Make council rent houses for all, not just for second homes for people. And fair.
Reduce the amount of tax payers money on over paid council workers. Increase police presence on country roads to stop bad driving.
With the extra housing being built over the district there should be extra income in the coffers. Hopefully this will give opportunities to look at expenditure especially investigating future suitable sites for any further building helping to guarantee wild life issues.
Thank you for keeping Uttlesford a great place to live.
Ensure all services are audited for performance and value for money.
Council Tax should be increased in line with inflation. No where in this survey is any mention of savings which could be made! Some departments overstaffed and others inefficient! but the Waste!

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Educating young people about drugs and alcohol and working with PH bodies on projects to keep people healthy are important but are not a prime activity for the UDC. Parents and schools should do much more on that.
Council should consider investment in towns within Uttlesford - such as Royston - to bring back 'life', revenues and business to them.
Local councils are not business entrepreneurs and should stick to what they should be doing and providing the services and giving good value for money. I see little evidence of this so far and I'm new to the district. Taking our funding of PCSOs is not effective.
Suggest an increase in council tax in line with inflation
Only slight increase. Please keep the paperwork bureaucracy to the minimum.
This questionnaire is a complete waste of time as no matter what we comment on you still increase the amount every year and provide a below average service to your tax payers. Example: My tax £280.00 per month. All we get are our bins emptied so that means that is costing me £70 per week for waste!
Develop a stronger environmental policy which encourages more recycling with divided bins for recycling products in more areas and information regarding levels of recycling achieved in Uttlesford. Also information regarding where ?? materials are recycled.
1.Any potential rise must be in line with inflation. 2. If above this threshold an increase in service provision must be evidenced
Don't let Essex decimate its rural space in favour of fundamentally wrong developments which will be a people and infrastructure disaster.
Litter picking, road sweeping – Non existent in Dunmow streets in and around the town.
UDC – all residents seem to be continuously ripped off by developers' promises – Why can't there be an agreement that the Sections 106 are completed before the development of further housing? Crime – more local bobbies on the beat to reduce crime. Parking – 1st hour free, after that pay as you leave. (The newly suggested Park and Ride at Carver Barracks is a really good idea).
The important survey of bus usage and the recommendations therein indicate possible savings and important considerations regarding housing and environmental issues.
Dread garden cities – With new housing poorly built, “heartless” communities , no allotments or genuine community areas the squares “faux” countryside. No support for growing ??.
Please get more potholes filled and more quickly,. Many streets are / have been a disgrace and a hazard to drive on for an unacceptably long time.
Should not allow building new homes, offices, industrial buildings without ensuring that infrastructure i.e. schools, roads and other items are provided as well.

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The benefit we are getting from the council is not going up but the amount of council tax that the council is receiving is going up because if the many many new houses that have been built. So there is no need to increase the council tax or reduce the services!
It is vital that UDC obtain as much as possible from developers to improve infrastructure. All 106 money should be claimed and used.
Too much building going on. Our area has been ruined. What happens to Green Belt?
Police walking the beat in local villages monitoring people who are constantly parking on double yellow lines, parking 24/7 in laybys. Refuse collection very bad service when reporting that no dustman have come , you can ring 4 different times and get 4 different reasons.
More dog bins please
In Great Sampford, we do not see great value for money. Never seen the streets swept by machine and no bins are located in the village.
Less money should be spent of Essex County Council building and admin staff and more money should be spent on providing services to the community. Too much money is wasted on contracting out services and property wasting thousands which could be better spent elsewhere. However, overall, Uttlesford District Council you do a good job.
Local Government expenditure is under severe pressure owing to the decline in central government support. If we want high quality services we must accept higher rates of council tax.
Keep requesting road repairs from ECC as our roads are in a terrible condition causing thousands of pounds of damage to our cars.
Businesses creating too much rubbish should be advised on reducing their amount of waste. If advice is not followed, they should be fined. Equally businesses should be fitted with motion sensor lighting systems to help reduce energy consumption. Their energy consumption should be capped.
Council Tax is high enough
Uttlesford generally does a good job. Thank you
Do you intend to lower the rateable value of areas that do not get a library service?
Certainly think Uttlesford District Council should receive more than 9% of the tax we pay! But why does the Essex County Council get 72%?
The extra charges should be taken from Essex County Council by re-negotiating for higher intakes percentage of 9%
the 50% premium on council tax where a property has been empty for over two years is iniquitous. Charges should be based on use of services and cost to the council. This is particularly so when the property is not inhabitable.

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<p>I inherited this property about 6 years ago - my parents lived here for around 57 years and with little updating it needed almost a complete renovation. Paid with personal savings I have found the full and then increased council tax. Nothing but a burden: in completing an up to date perfect home. More help is needed. When someone is prepared to make a building into a completely modernised, immaculate dwelling. Also I did not appreciate the regular calls from the council to see how we were progressing!</p>
<p>Why do you keep building 4 bedroom houses. When you are old your children will stick you in a MacCarthy Stone or Churchill Retirement home. We suggest you look now at the future of your old age.</p>
<p>When a property remains empty there is a reason punitive council taxes do not generally remove the problem. I have a property paying 150% because council planning delayed opportunity to sell. The property has been marketed and I can do very little to make it sell faster. An uplift to 100% would be grossly unfair.</p>
<p>Lobby government to obtain a larger proportion of council tax.</p>
<p>Planning of estates houses/flats are without thought for the local community, traffic on roads schools, doctors. The style of properties should be in keeping with the town or village.</p>
<p>As a pensioner I struggle financially and have concerns about my finances. Interesting to see the services provided by UDC and understand the constraints in their finances. However, I have answered the questions as high/medium place priorities.</p>
<p>1.Council tax is a tax on property which is broadly related to the wealth of those who own it. It's not perfect in this regard, but it's easy to collect, hard to dodge and locally related. So provided it can use the money locally, raise it! 2. How can a council pretend that any of the things it is obliged or charged with doing, to do are anything other than High Priority?</p>
<p>Stop playing national party politics and act for the good of the LOCAL Community.</p>
<p>Larger % should go to UDC 45%. Larger 5 should also go to town council 10%. Essex County Council does not know where Saffron Walden is or needs!!</p>
<p>Please don't 'give it away' to schemes that 'look good'. Money is hard to come by and keep. Council tax should be spent wisely and not on this flim flammery. Lobby for extra monies from Government for Police if possible. Doctors surgeries as well. Fed up with Liberal views. Old fashioned value for money.</p>
<p>No Police so why pay more council tax.</p>
<p>The Planning dept is a disgrace. Local people are being ignored and their wishes for smaller housing areas are being overridden in preference to large builders and estates. Keep Uttlesford a rural safe community not Garden cities. Ask Residents to help maintain verges and pick up litter. Use the unemployed to do community work.</p>

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No more houses in Saffron Walden. The roads will not take them. Also bad for health. When I came to live here S W was lovely. Now it is being spoilt with too many. Also we seem to have more crime so need more policemen.
Street Services Q4:- Rarely seen in Saffron Walden
Not at all keen on Uttlesford being a commercial owner /partnership of Chesterford Research Park or similar. It is not its business or its mission to be an investing business enterprise with controversial medical research or risky business return. Please do not do it.
Even though the waste collection services are terrible something needs to be done about it. So many missing pick ups . You just leave the bins out most of the time as you never know when they are getting collected due to only every 2 weeks. You don't want to miss it. Makes the local area look horrible.
All Uttlesford and Essex CC needs to be carefully audited to avoid waste of resources.
I paid over half the council tax I pay now where I lived before and it included bin collections every week including Garden Waste!!
Ringfence adequate funds for home care for the elderly and disabled and meals on wheels. Provision for older people is not seen as priority and this is shameful . We will all need care one day!
Spend what money you do raise wisely.
Maintenance of roadside hedges/plant growth could be improved. Hedges regularly cause visibility issues, especially when pulling onto roads from turnings or driveways.
Safety and Security is the top priority of people. 3. above.
Council Tax no longer pays for Council Services. It pays pensions and funds A Police force that is not visible. It is not popular because it is not transparent.
Uttlesford should be more effective in planning future housing developments on the west of the Saffron Walden boundary. They should also be more effective in pressuring highways to improve the condition of the area roads.
I'm not sure other groups tackle some of areas hence medium priority.
Why does the council give planning permission for big housing developments neglecting roads, infrastructure to cope. Why do we never see Police – Don't even come out for cars being burgled and houses – giving thieves a licence to continue in Stansted.
Just too many cuts in council services.
Roads are in a poor state of repair and over the last few years are worse than ever before. Keeping our roads in a better state of repair is important, due to costs we incur on our cars. This includes hedge trimming and making signs more visible to road users.

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In your next issue of Uttlesford Life could you please publish how much unpaid council tax is outstanding and what efforts are being made to collect this. I am assuming that not everybody has paid, therefore if greater efforts are made to collect this you wouldn't have to increase the council tax.
1. Drugs and alcohol education - the PSHE programme in schools covers this - there is no point 'doubling' up. 2. Reduced police presence in Saffron Walden has led to noticeable increase in crime. 3. Yet again this year thousands of pounds was spent by Uttlesford residents on damage to their cars due to pot holes.
Planning breaches are not being enforced where hedgerows / ponds are destroyed. Bin service is very good. Increase by £52 per household for better rangers service - verges dangerous as uncut at junctions
INCREASE IN LINE WITH INFLATION ONLY
Does not provide value for money for rural areas
Stand up to the Government and stop the excessive building which will overload your services.
Increase but ensure children's services are a priority and support centres and services are not lost. The closing of Fairycroft children's centre has be a real loss to our community and advising Stansted or Great Dunmow as alternatives is not satisfactory particularly with increasingly poor public transport services.
Web (Uttlesford Life) Responses
Living in Stoney Common, Stansted Mountfitchet, where the roads are particularly uneven, broken and filled with potholes it would be nice to see UDC do something about areas like this. Also there has been a noticeable increase in crime, particularly break-ins (both car and homes) and theft in Stansted Mountfitchet. Officers on the beat, security cameras and ASBO's to name a few suggestions, could be more than worthwhile.
Social housing should be available for all who need it, not just elderly.
By rate of inflation
Improve police presence

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<p>The chief executives pay (£106'050) and the director of finance (£93'824) have very high salaries that are very expensive. They should be reduced in my opinion. Over the past 20 years there have only been a few years between 2007-2011 where council tax did not increase. I strongly support the reduction of council tax. We should focus on stopping non-essential programs, such as charity contributions/support, programs aimed at improving people's health. Society should have a sense of responsibility and look after themselves and determine which charities they want to support. The council should not be getting involved in these types of issues and should focus on its core responsibilities. Collecting rubbish, helping the homeless, maintaining our towns, cutting red tape for businesses to develop and supporting house building for the younger generation. I feel we should aim to reduce council tax spending instead of increasing it every year. Tax makes up 49.5% of the income of the 10% of the poorest in our society. Reducing council tax should be the highest priority.</p>
<p>Increase within reason !!</p>
<p>I think UDC does a great job of making the district one to be proud of. Still, our villages are in constant jeopardy of losing their special character through the development of housing which damages the very nature which makes them so special. Protection of our heritage, together with provision of satisfactory accommodation for the elderly and infirm, must be held paramount.</p>
<p>I really wonder if the people's comments will be taken into account. suspicious that the higher end parties in control do what best benefits them. I have seen this in so many clubs, organisations and councils, especially planning. distasteful world,</p>
<p>I think many people would not mind an increase if the council are able to be transparent in their demonstration of how the money is being spent.</p>
<p>Only in line with inflation.</p>
<p>There are categories included in the survey that are best placed being dealt with by other agencies - ie dog and cat issues - RSPB. We need to think smarter, use the agencies in a better way and fund agencies accordingly rather than the Council being a jack of all trades. I am happy to pay more council tax if it is spent sensibly and improves services. I am not happy to pay more council tax if it is not spent wisely, we keep restructuring the Council unnecessarily and Senior Management get a pay rise!</p>
<p>Make sure that there is a commercial rate for car parking. Then police the area well to make sure that everybody pays.</p>
<p>Housing, infrastructure and policing should be priority given the demands on the district and people's needs This authority has made an abysmal mess of its Local Plan because councillors and the MP put their own political interests first</p>
<p>More funding and logistical support to improve HMO compliance</p>
<p>If council Tax is managed and spent with thought and in the correct areas, by appointed and directed requests rather than throwing money in the air and stating we have spent £££££ on this matter, the funds will last. To have people in the know invited to state where funds are required rather than by Political direction will also save valuable funds as Politicians are advised by those with knowledge of the matter.</p>

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As there are so many new houses being built I think we should see a reduction in Council Tax as there is a general huge increase from the new residents. Also whoever is responsible for maintaining the condition of the roads (re: potholes etc) needs to put in a lot more effort as the roads are becoming worse, particularly in respect of the increased traffic due to all the new housing being built and the lack of infrastructure being added to accommodate this.
Newport has an ever increasing problem with dog fouling. There needs to be more poo bins and stricter rules regarding dogs fouling in public areas ie pavements, Recreation Ground. But in all fairness all dog poo should be cleared by the owner regardless of where it is. I'm fed up of picking up other people's dog mess for fear of being accused I have let my dog foul. We need to do more to eradicate this lazy and selfish behaviour by a minority of dog owners. More signage and fines for ignoring the issue. Thank you
Buy some new dustcarts as the ones you own keep breaking down
Interesting opportunity to see what is supposed to be happening. Never seen 'Rangers' doing what you have described. In fact I do not think they do what you suggested??? What have you not included - we can only comment on what you have chosen to put in the survey. Have you included everything? Thank you.
I have been living in Uttlesford for the past 9 years. Every year it becomes more polluted, dirtier, less safe, more litter, more congested. To summarise a unpleasant place to live.
I have ticked 'no opinion' for the questions about the investment in Little Chesterford Park and about Council Tax. I have no information about the progress of what is a very large investment and so am unable to choose any of the other options. I doubt if anyone will be able to make a judgement about council tax levels in the current political situation nationally.
Encourage more local voluntary action in litter-picking, but concentrate council work on fly tipping
With many new houses being built within Uttlesford, this will bring in new revenue, and therefore enable Council Tax to remain the same or even be reduced.
It is not clear that we currently get value for money - verges and common green spaces are rarely mown. If you want more funds, set up a service level agreement with local communities and deliver!
Uniquely amongst the district councils of Essex, Uttlesford has not provided its residents with any publicly accessible country parks or local nature reserves. This should be a high priority in the north of the District (in the south ECC Flitch Way & National Trust Hatfield Forest are available). Removing the right for public parking at the top of the common in Saffron Walden (for the benefit of local residents in big houses with off street parking and provide fines for UDC) will further reduce shopper visits and cause more problems for local shops.
Where possible any increase in Council Tax should be ring fenced for Uttlesford and not distributed to Outer London Essex and beyond.

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If the money is being used transparently & put to good use, then an increase is justified. Key being transparency. Often it feels as though the money is being poorly allocated when in fact it probably is being used per the budgets set.
Planning is being given to development companies without ensuring the necessary infrastructure is in place -this should be a priority. Higher population in the area means the current sporting facilities are poor (particularly swimming pools), the roads are not adequate, pollution is higher than it should be, schools have no space (classroom density) in addition to no places for pupils. The list goes on.....you must ensure the quality of life of residents is improved as it has decreased noticeably in the last few years. You also need to hold developers accountable for delivering what they promise.
1-/-Businesses that are run from a private residence to pay higher rate council Tax. 2-/-Businesses that are run from a private residence to pay extra for recycling their waste. I am aware that Uttlesford encourage waste recycling and these businesses have obtained extra wheelie bins for their waste, but they pay no extra charge? 3-/-Businesses that are run from a private residence should also pay their share towards highway maintenance due to amount of extra traffic their business creates via deliveries be it goods or postal. All this movement of traffic upsets the peace and quiet of the surrounding area so I would expect a reduction in the rate that I pay.
IF THERE WAS A NEED TO PROVIDE A NOTICABLY BETTER SERVICE? WOULD THIS INCREASE TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING ALLOWING THEM TO BE MORE PROACTIVE ON MANY OF THE ABOVE ISSUES
As a council you should be negotiating harder to get a greater share of the central governments revenues for police and fire services
Increase the % of Council taxes to Parish, Police and UDC, get rid of Essex CC and get UDC and Highways England to take over their responsibilities. UDC towns and villages are ignored by Essex CC!
Council tax always increases each year, it should be no more increase than inflation. The bands need re-ordering, many have extended their houses but pay no more.
Uttlesford Voices (UV17) Postal Responses
The bus stop was updated by Lower Millfields and a general bin has not been replaced – this is causing lot of litter by Millfields and Flitch Lane to be dumped on the verges. Please could you get a bin put back – tarmac was laid next to it for the bin to sit on!
Reduce Council Tax allocation to Police as their service have been reduced by 100%!
We have no visible Police Presence! Roads are in an appalling state, Pot holes etc. New Housing developments with no infrastructure - schools, doctors, dentists - all of which come out of Public Funds!!!!
I doubt anyone listens or acts on comments or indeed these surveys, the council are a law unto themselves.

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If only UDC could get its act together and develop local plan which support local people.
Rather than keep inversing Council Tax, car parking rates and fees for services please try and find other ways of becoming more efficient and explore other income sources but safeguarded to protect the council's funds - no more Icelandic Bank scenarios. Dote the Council make money our of Council Housing, if not leave it to Housing Associations.
Please do something to halt the parking and congestion problems at the junction of High Fields with Springfields CM6 1EE. Susan Barker promised a year ago to sort this out!
Only increase Council Tax if you are going to improve services etc.
It is important that services such as Police, education, medical facilities, pest control etc. are provided ahead of more housing development. At least 75% of such development need to be less expensive so that local people can afford the properties.
I would love my Council Tax to be reduced, as a pensioner I do find it difficult to pay all by bills and the tax. However how else would other acitivities in our area be paid for!
How much as the council budgeted to tackle the deadly and now certain influx of Asian Hornets into our environment?
Why is it the buses to the station come within a few minutes of each other. We should be encouraging commuters to use the bus NOT their cars. The idea of Carver Barracks with buses to station and Stansted Airport is the town should be trialled for a year at least.
With the amount of building Going on, and the fact that building control only have 3 people to inspect and clearly can't do their jobs properly with that number of heads - employ 2 more inspections!!! I spoke to them last week about work in my house, and they simply can't cope and are seriously demoralised. It needs SORTING! HELP THEM!
Post of Essex Police Commisioner should be abolished as being ineffective and unnecessary. Use the saving to reintroduce policing in Saffron Walden, where petty crime in on the increase seemingly.
It would be interesting to see how much of the 72% is spent in UDC area!!
I fell most services should remain the remit of the Council. However, I wonder if drink/drug education could be covered by schools.
Systematic approach to reducing pigeon pest in Saffron Walden and surrounding villages as appropriate. It's a growing problem that could get out of control.
If you could see more improvements around S/W area, i.e. roads, dealing with congestion then maybe but otherwise reduce.
Uttlesford Voices (UV17) Online Responses
If you have any other comments you wish to add regarding ...

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<p>if it means we continue with the services we have then increase by all means. If it means we can have additional services, such as more police presence, more police officers etc then increase! Please increase if it means some funds will go to mental health services. please no more cuts to vital services! Vital being Police, NHS, Fire Services, Child services, support for new mothers etc</p>
<p>Pay your CEO MUCH LESS MONEY and make sure he / she doesn't resign just to pick up a termination fee. You have let them do this in the past and you should accept the blame and discontent of residents.</p>
<p>All of my bills are below £50 per month except for £160 Council Tax - and we have NO Street Lights, mains drainage, or gas ! Broadband is variable from poor to diabolical and even electricity supplies can be unreliable. Re-cycling should be done centrally and not by households as my green bin needs emptying weekly but my black bin perhaps once a month ?</p>
<p>I think a higher proportion should be allocated to Uttlesford DC. ECC do not seem to regard this area of Essex as important as other regions within the county. ECC is too detached and prioritises other area. I have noticed that bins are regularly missed, potholes are worse and generally there is not so much care in this area. UDC has allowed too much building and does not have the money to provide the services to all the new housing. I would rather this had not happened - however, now that it has, I would like the roads to run freely and to be able to move around as I used to before all the new people moved here. I recently had a pest problem and had to pay privately as this service was not available as easily as it used to be. Parking is a nightmare in the whole of UDC. The council does not have the resources to offer a proper service. I prefer not to increase my council tax to give it all to ECC.</p>
<p>Take more time looking into tax fraud, charge the highest earners more for council tax than others. Spend more money for the youth and first time buyers to get on the property market. Invest more money into the homeless, including mental health and drug interventions, a lot of these people have slipped through the system, it's awful that they often have nowhere to turn to. Also in the rural part of the county the verges get very over grown in the summer, it makes it dangerous to pull off the drive, and you have to walk in the road at places because it's so over grown.</p>
<p>I do consider more importance is placed on the maintenance of footpaths and roads and on areas of public use. Essex and Uttlesford should agree on these issues and stop all the buck passing that is currently rife. Some of the roads, drains and footpaths around Elsenham are an absolute disgrace.</p>
<p>Why does only 9% go to Uttlesford who do a great job. When Essex County Council are asked to cut small patches of grass we are told they can only afford it twice a year! We find the Council Tax extremely high and have only once applied for reduction when the correspondence from Uttlesford Council left us suicidal. So we struggle on.</p>
<p>Please, please, please repair the road by Audley End House/ mini railway. It is deplorable!!!</p>

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Money should collected from MAG to pay for additional parking attendants to stop airport related short term parking on the clearway around the airport and long term parking on roads near the airport. A rolling parking ban from and a reporting phone line would resolve the majority of these issues. Uttlesford Life is not delivered to every household as Royal Mail treat it as Junk Bulk Mail and don't deliver to people who have opted out.

Business rates need to be lowered. Small independent stores are suffering.

It would be helpful if the Council would purchase a brand new reliable 'hard to reach' vehicle for refuse collection. I have lost count of the number of times our refuse has not been collected or the recycling has been put in with the non recycling because the vehicle is off the road. I e-mailed UDC about this in March 2018 and am still waiting for a reply. I have stood and watched on many occasions when this has happened. All denied by environmental health of course.

Telephone Survey (NWA) did not give option for comments