

# Council Spending – have your say! Residents' survey 2018

## Appendix 5 - Questionnaire

Questionnaire forms for the telephone, public and Citizens Panel followed an identical format.

Skip Navigation | Home | A to Z of Council Services | Login to UDC website | Search | Apply for it | Report it | MyUttlesford | Pay for it

**Uttlesford District Council**

Resident Business **Your Council** Search Go

About the Council Elections and Voting Finance and Accounts **Consultation and feedback** Emergency Planning Councillors and Committees

You are in: Your Council > Consultation and feedback > Budget consultation >

Your Council  
Consultation and feedback  
Budget consultation

### Council Spending - have your say!

Have your say on what the council spends on

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

**Take part in the Uttlesford Residents' Survey 2018**

Paper copies of the survey can be obtained from the following locations:

If you need an extra copy of the survey, please contact the Dunmow Library and the Thaxted Library on 01286 512345 or email [consultation@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@uttlesford.gov.uk)

The consultation closes at 5pm on Monday 6 August 2018.

#### Telephone survey

The same questions will also be asked by a company called NWA will be conducted on the telephone. The survey will be conducted in accordance with the Code of Conduct and everything will be done to ensure the highest standards of the Research Society to check if you have any queries regarding the survey, please contact the Uttlesford District Council using the details below.

#### Contact us

If you have any queries regarding the survey, please contact the Uttlesford District Council using the details below.

**Council Spending - have your say!**  
**Uttlesford Residents' Survey 2018**

Dear Resident

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

This questionnaire gives you the opportunity to have your say on what Uttlesford District Council's spending priorities should be for 2019/20. It also asks you to consider if there should be changes to the amount the district council receives from your Council Tax.

The results of this consultation will help to inform the budget for April 2019 to March 2020.

All the information you provide will be kept confidential. It will only be used by Uttlesford District Council and the main findings from the survey will be published on the council website. However, your own views and opinions will not be passed on to anyone else. Further information about Data Protection rights can be found at [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/privacy)

The budget for 2019/20 will be agreed by Full Council in February 2019 following consideration by the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

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

**Please submit your completed survey by:**

**Monday 6 August 2018 at 5pm**

## Council spending - have your say

### Introduction

This questionnaire gives you the opportunity to have your say on what Uttlesford District Council's spending priorities should be for 2019/20.

It also asks you to consider if there should be changes to the amount the district council receives from your Council Tax, as well as the proposals for the 2019/20 Local Council Tax Support scheme – this is the level of financial assistance provided to Council Tax payers on low incomes.

The results of this consultation will help to inform the budget for April 2019 to March 2020.

Please complete the questionnaire by ticking the appropriate box for each question and return in the prepaid envelope provided by 5pm on Monday 6 August 2018. If your envelope is missing, please contact the council by phone on 01799 510510 or email [uconnect@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:uconnect@uttlesford.gov.uk).

All the information you provide in this questionnaire will be kept confidential. It will only be used by Uttlesford District Council and the main findings from the survey will be published on the council website; however your own views and opinions will not be passed on to anyone else. Further information about Data Protection rights can be found at [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/privacy).

The survey is also open to every resident online at [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/budgetconsultation](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/budgetconsultation).

The budget for 2019/20 will be agreed by Full Council in February 2019 following consideration by the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.



## 1. Council Services

Below is a list of services Uttlesford District Council provides to the public.

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

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
<b>Street Services</b>			
1. Emptying your bins and running the recycling service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Emptying bins for businesses (businesses are charged for this service)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Sweeping the streets, litter picking, clearing up fly-tipping and emptying public litter and dog bins (the town or parish councils in Saffron Walden, Dunmow and Stansted are responsible for public litter bins in their areas)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Providing the Highway Rangers service which carries out small jobs such as keeping road verges tidy through hedge cutting, mowing and strimming, repainting and repairing road signs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Planning</b>			
1. Deciding planning applications and making sure new buildings and extensions are built according to approved plans and following building regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Planning how the district will develop in the coming decades, including where new housing and businesses should be located	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Advising on work to listed buildings and to protected trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Housing</b>			
1. Providing council housing and sheltered housing for older people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Advising people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and in some circumstances, providing emergency accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Bringing privately-owned homes that have been empty for a long time back into use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Environmental Health</b>			
1. Dealing with noise complaints, air and water quality issues and other environmental health matters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Inspecting restaurants, pubs and other businesses which sell food and issuing various licences such as those needed for pubs, off-licences, taxis, kennels and tattoo parlours and making sure people do not break the terms of those licences	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Collecting stray animals, microchipping dogs and cats and dealing with complaints from the public about pet and animal-related issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Council Spending – have your say! Residents’ survey 2018

## Finance & Business

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
1. Continuing to explore external commercial opportunities, such as the 50% purchase of Chesterford Research Park, to bring in extra income for the council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Ensuring car parking fees are set at a fair level that also aim to support local business communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Promoting and supporting businesses in the area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Working in the community

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
1. Giving grants to voluntary and community organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Educating young people about the dangers of drugs and alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Working with the police and other organisations to keep Uttlesford safe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Working with public health bodies on projects to keep people in the district healthy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Supporting the volunteer committees who run day centres	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 2. Council Tax 2019/20

Just under 9% of the Council Tax you pay goes to Uttlesford District Council. About 72% goes to Essex County Council, with the rest going to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, and to your town or parish council.

For next year (April 2019 to March 2020) do you think Uttlesford District Council should (please select one option):

- Increase the amount of Council Tax it charges
- Keep the amount of Council Tax the same
- Reduce the amount of Council Tax it charges
- No opinion

If you have any other comments you wish to add, please use the box below:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 3. Local Council Tax Support

The Local Council Tax Support scheme (LCTS) scheme was introduced in 2013 to replace the previous national council tax benefit system. The scheme forms part of a wider reform on the welfare system and is designed to help more people into work while supporting the most vulnerable.

The scheme is managed by local councils, who have some discretion over how LCTS is set.

The council is considering making a small number of changes to the LCTS scheme for 2019/20 and wants to hear your views on these proposals.

Please complete the questions below by ticking the appropriate box.

The results will be presented to councillors in the autumn with the final scheme for 2019/20 being agreed in December 2018, to start 1 April 2019.

- a) The government has said pensioners on a low income must be given full protection from the implications of the Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme. Uttlesford's current scheme also protects vulnerable and disabled people on a low income and carers on a low income.

**Do you agree with this?**

Yes  No

- b) In the past few years the level that working age recipients in Uttlesford contribute towards their Council Tax bill has been set at 12.5%. This is the lowest contribution of any council in Essex.

For each 2.5% increase, the LCTS recipient(s) will need to pay, on average, an additional £38 of Council Tax each year. The cost to the council of keeping the rate at 12.5% would be approximately £204,000. For each 2.5% increase recipients have to pay, the cost of the scheme for the council would reduce by approximately £3,958.

**Should the council keep the rate at 12.5%?**

Yes  No

- c) Since 1 April 2013, councils have been allowed to charge a 50% premium on properties that have been empty and unfurnished for two years or more. The purpose of this is to bring empty homes back into use and help address the housing shortfall. Uttlesford District Council already charges the maximum premium allowed.

From 1 April 2019, councils will be allowed to increase the premium to 100% – this means homeowners will be paying double Council Tax on a property if it is left empty for more than two years rather than one and a half times Council Tax as they have to at the moment.

**Should the council increase the premium on properties that have been empty and unfurnished for 2 years or more to 100% of the council tax?**

Yes  No

## 4. About you

It is hoped that residents from across the district will take part in this survey. It would greatly assist us in collating responses in this questionnaire if you would provide your postcode.

You can choose not to provide this, however it is not possible for us to identify individuals from their response.

Please enter your postcode here: