

2023 Budget Consultation Results

344 responses

The Council's on-line consultation, giving residents, businesses and organisation a chance to have their say on our budget proposals for the next financial year, this year attracted 344 responses.

The six-week consultation was promoted via media release, social media activity and the consultation mailing list of 5,000 subscribers, directing respondents to an on-line questionnaire on the budget challenges facing the authority. The survey included sections where residents and businesses could indicate how much they supported specific functions on a scale of 1-10, 1 being least supported and 10 being most supported.

Areas respondents supported:

Those taking part highlighted Adult Social Care as the area they most supported and the least supported area was planning for the fourth year in a row.

The changes in priority areas were minimal. The biggest shifts in the rankings were Libraries and Leisure which dropped down nine in the rankings. Highways, Transport, Street Lighting and Car Parks and Home Options and Housing Related Support both increased by five.

Some areas increase in the public's priority ranking. The emerging issues were Tourism and Visitor Offer that both shifted up three places in the priority rankings. Services ranked from one to 27.

The areas that faded in priority include Flooding and Economy and Regeneration moving down four and three places.

Area	2023 Mean	2023 Rank	2022 Mean	2022 Rank	2021 Mean	2021 Rank	Rise/fall in rank
Adult Social Care	7.9	1	7.3	3	7.9	2	-2
Child Protection	7.8	2	7.8	1	8.1	1	-1
Safeguarding	7.5	3	7.3	4	7.6	4	-1
Bins, Waste and Recycling Service	7.4	4	7.4	2	7.7	3	-2
Street and Grounds Cleaning	7.3	5	7.2	5	7.3	6	0
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) & specialist services	7.1	6	6.8	8	7.1	10	2
Enforcement and Safer Communities	7.0	7	7	6	7.2	7	-1
Through Care and Disability	6.9	8	6.7	9	7.1	11	1
Highways, Transport, Street Lighting and Car Parks	6.8	9	6.3	14	6.6	15	0
Children's health	6.8	10	6.7	10	7.1	8	0
Economy and Regeneration	6.8	11	6.8	7	7.5	5	-4
Young and Safe	6.7	12	6.5	12	6.8	12	0
Home Options and Housing Related Support	6.6	13	6	18	6.5	16	5
Prevention and Wellbeing Services	6.4	14	6.3	13	6.7	14	-1
School improvement services	6.3	15	6.3	15	6.7	13	0
Family Hubs	6.3	16	6.1	17	6.5	17	1
Access and inclusion services	6.2	17	6.1	16	6.5	18	-1
Private Sector Housing	5.8	18	5.6	21	6.2	19	3
Neighbourhood and Countryside Services	5.8	19	5.7	20	6	21	1

Libraries and Leisure	5.8	20	6.6	11	7.1	9	-9
Tourism and Visitor Offer	5.7	21	5.3	24	5.6	23	3
Flooding	5.6	22	6	19	6.1	20	-3
Cemeteries and Crematorium	5.5	23	5.4	22	5.6	24	-1
Drug and Alcohol Recovery	5.3	24	5.3	23	5.7	22	-1
Resources (was Corporate and Democratic services)	5.2	25	5.2	26	5.5	25	1
Sexual Health	5.1	26	5.2	25	5.5	26	-1
Planning	4.4	27	4.4	27	4.7	27	0

Comment theming:

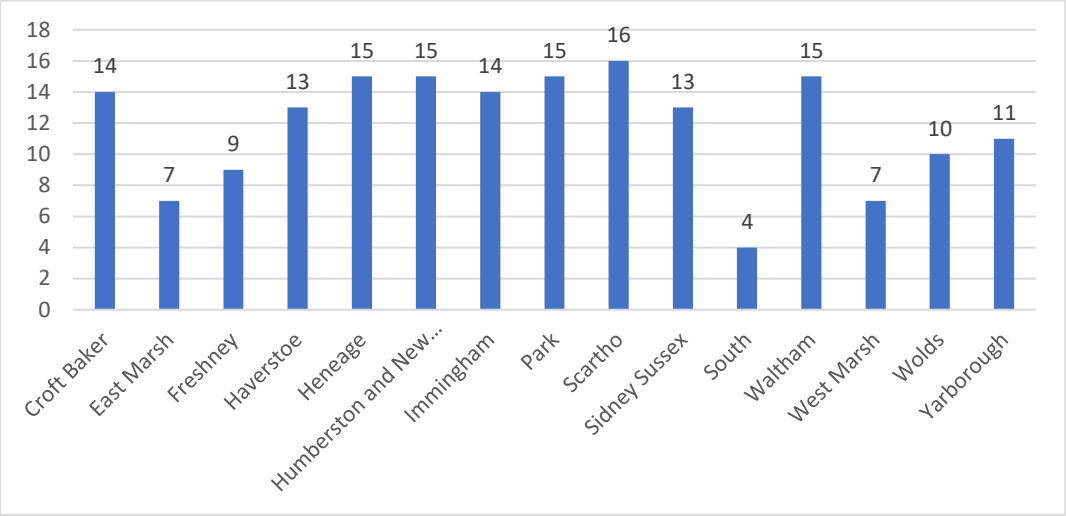
Do you have any further ideas of how the Council can save money while still supporting those residents that need it as well as delivering our statutory obligations?

Themes represent the topics respondents chose to reference

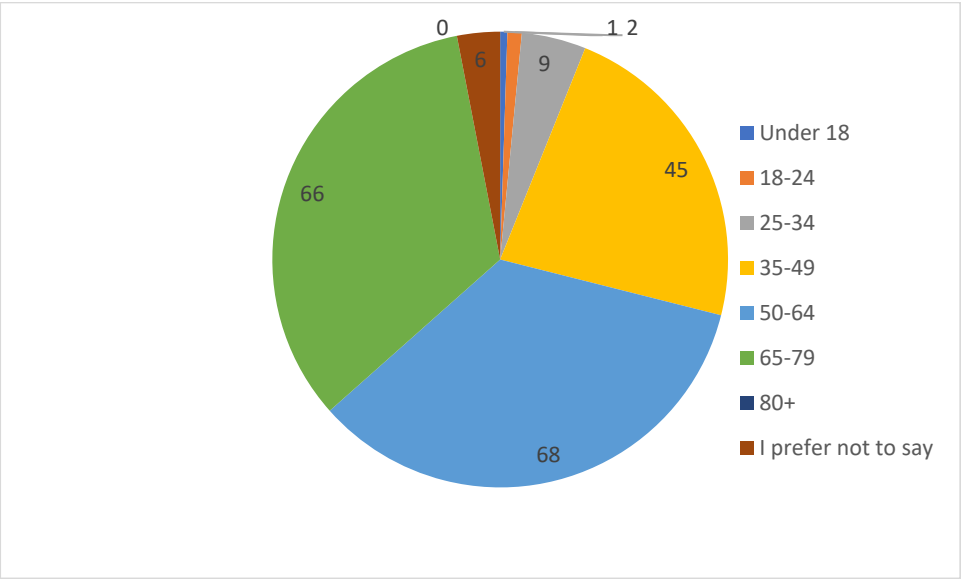
Categories	Count
Improvement in the town (Investment and economy, better coordination, includes where improvements are deemed a waste of money)	54
Partnership working	17
Reduce Management Costs	11
Health and Social Care	8
Corporate privatisation and the use of contractors and consultants (bring in-house, use wider range of suppliers)	6
Improve children services	5
Internal Improvements within NELC	5
Better employment opportunities	4
Reduce antisocial behaviour	4
Fix/Improve Council owned buildings	3
Support Community Projects	3
Improve the communication between the public and the Council	2
Reduce crime, increase enforcement	2

Demographic Breakdown of the results

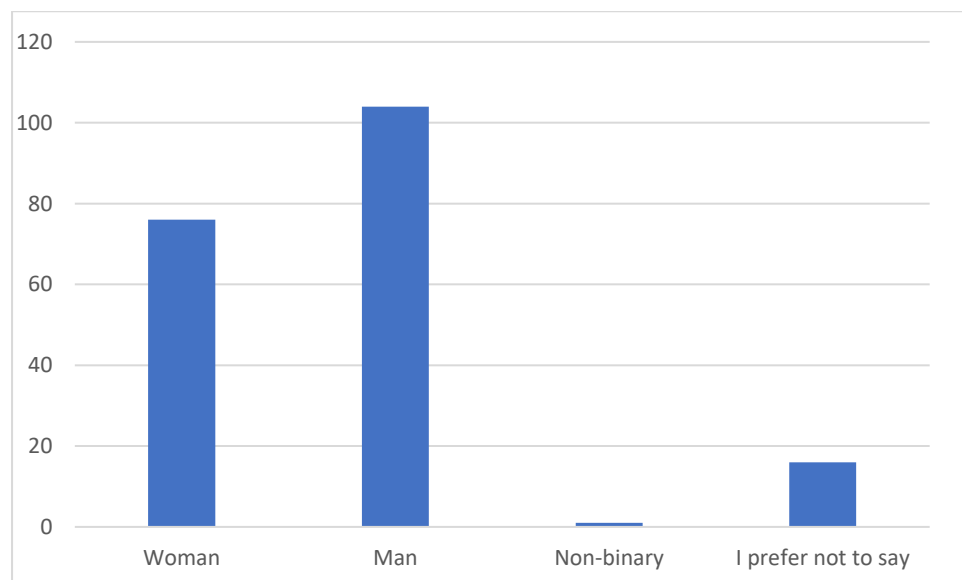
Ward



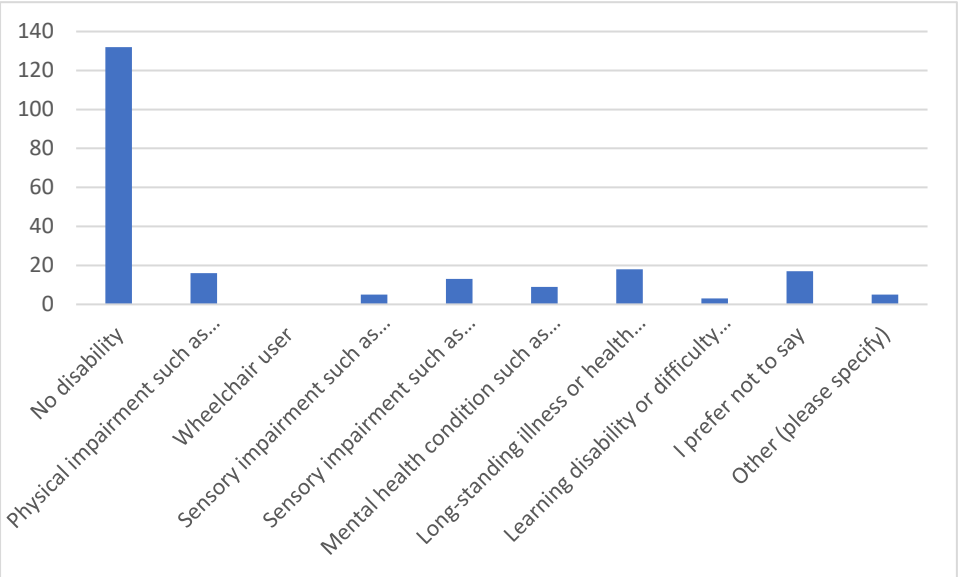
Age



Gender Breakdown



Disability Breakdown



It's important to plan possible improvements so the direction is clear when we get the opportunity to apply for funding.

Thinking about how our area will look in ten years time... What would you like to see improved or changed?

