

# **2022 Budget Consultation Results**

345 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 345 responses.

The five-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.

It also resulted in 176 pageviews on the 'have your say' webpage and over 1,800 online survey views. In addition, regular messages were circulated via our corporate social media. This reached 9,000 people via Facebook, 1,850 on Twitter and nearly 1000 on Instagram.

## **Areas respondents supported:**

Those taking part highlighted child protection as the area they most supported, for the second year in a row, and the least supported area was planning for the fourth year in a row.

The changes in priority areas were minimal with no big shifts in the public's ranking. In 2021 priority areas shifted up to five places compared to two places in 2022.

Some areas increase in the public's priority ranking. The emerging issues were SEND, Through Care and Disability, Access and inclusion services, and Cemeteries and Crematorium, all shifting up two places in the priority rankings. Services ranked from one to 27.

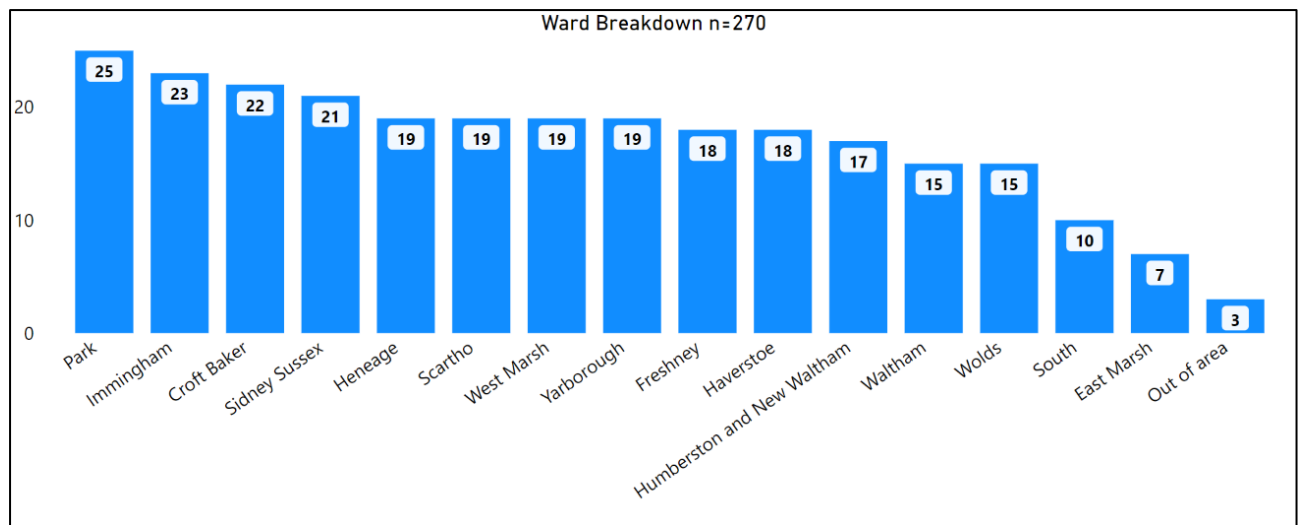
The areas that faded in priority include Economy and Regeneration, Children's Health, Libraries and Leisure, Home Options and Housing Related Support and Private Sector Housing all moving down 2 places.

Area	2022 Mean	2022 Rank	2021 Mean	2021 Rank	2020 Mean	2020 Rank	Rise/fall in rank
Child Protection	7.8	1	8.1	1	8	3	0
Bins, Waste and Recycling Service	7.4	2	7.7	3	8.1	2	1
Adult Social Care	7.3	3	7.9	2	8.4	1	-1
Safeguarding	7.3	4	7.6	4	7.8	5	0
Street and Grounds Cleaning	7.2	5	7.3	6	7.5	7	1

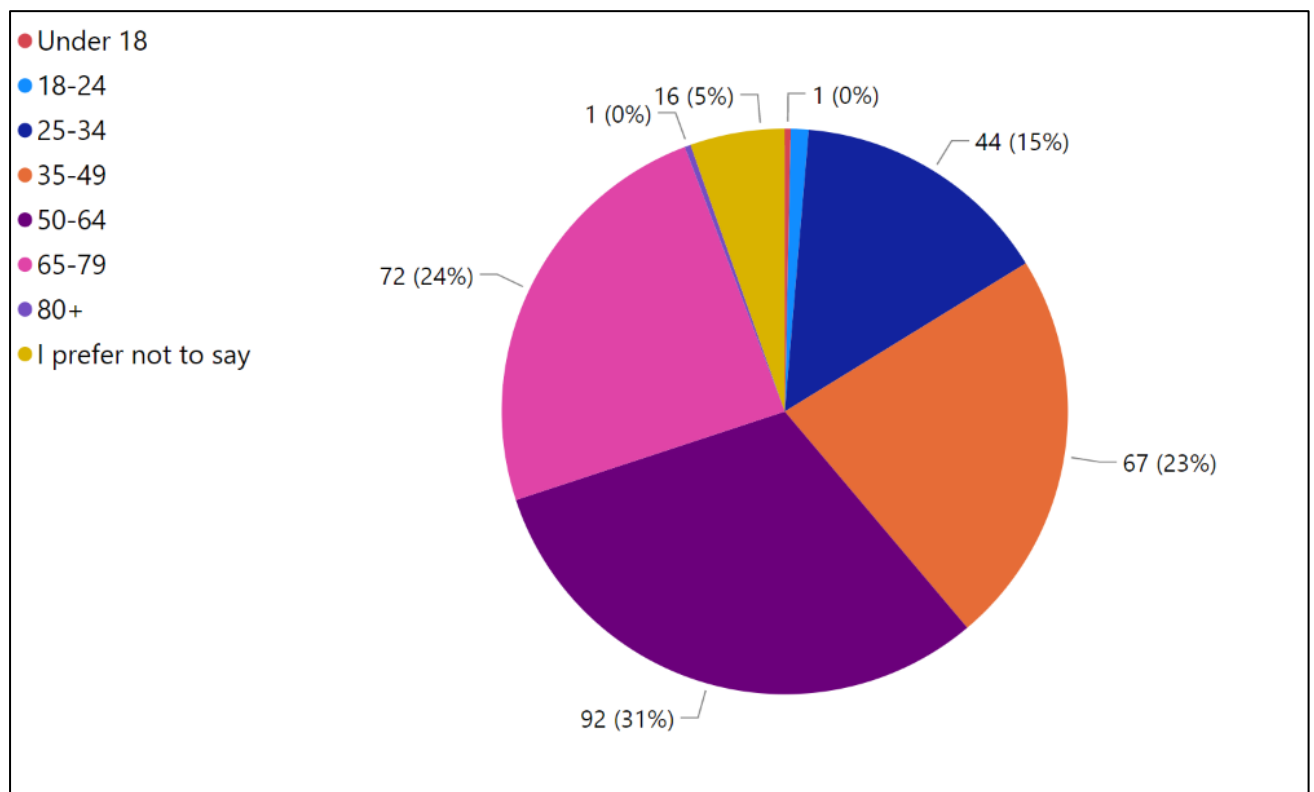
Enforcement and Safer Communities	7.0	6	7.2	7	7.8	6	1
Economy and Regeneration	6.8	7	7.5	5	7.9	4	-2
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) & specialist services	6.8	8	7.1	10	7.3	9	2
Through Care and Disability	6.7	9	7.1	11	7.3	8	2
Children's health	6.7	10	7.1	8	7.1	11	-2
Libraries and Leisure	6.6	11	7.1	9	7	14	-2
Young and Safe	6.5	12	6.8	12	7	13	0
Prevention and Wellbeing Services	6.3	13	6.7	14	7	15	1
Highways, Transport, Street Lighting and Car Parks	6.3	14	6.6	15	7.2	10	1
School improvement services	6.3	15	6.7	13	6.5	18	-2
Access and inclusion services	6.1	16	6.5	18	6.5	19	2
Family Hubs	6.1	17	6.5	17	6.6	17	0
Home Options and Housing Related Support	6.0	18	6.5	16	7.1	12	-2
Flooding	6.0	19	6.1	20	6.7	16	1
Neighbourhood and Countryside Services	5.7	20	6.0	21	6.2	22	1
Private Sector Housing	5.6	21	6.2	19	6.3	20	-2
Cemeteries and Crematorium	5.4	22	5.6	24	5.8	26	2
Drug and Alcohol Recovery	5.3	23	5.7	22	6.3	21	-1
Tourism and Visitor Offer	5.3	24	5.6	23	6.2	23	-1
Sexual Health	5.2	25	5.5	26	6	25	1
Resources (was Corporate and Democratic services)	5.2	26	5.5	25	6.1	24	-1
Planning	4.4	27	4.7	27	5.2	27	0

## Demographic Breakdown of Responses:

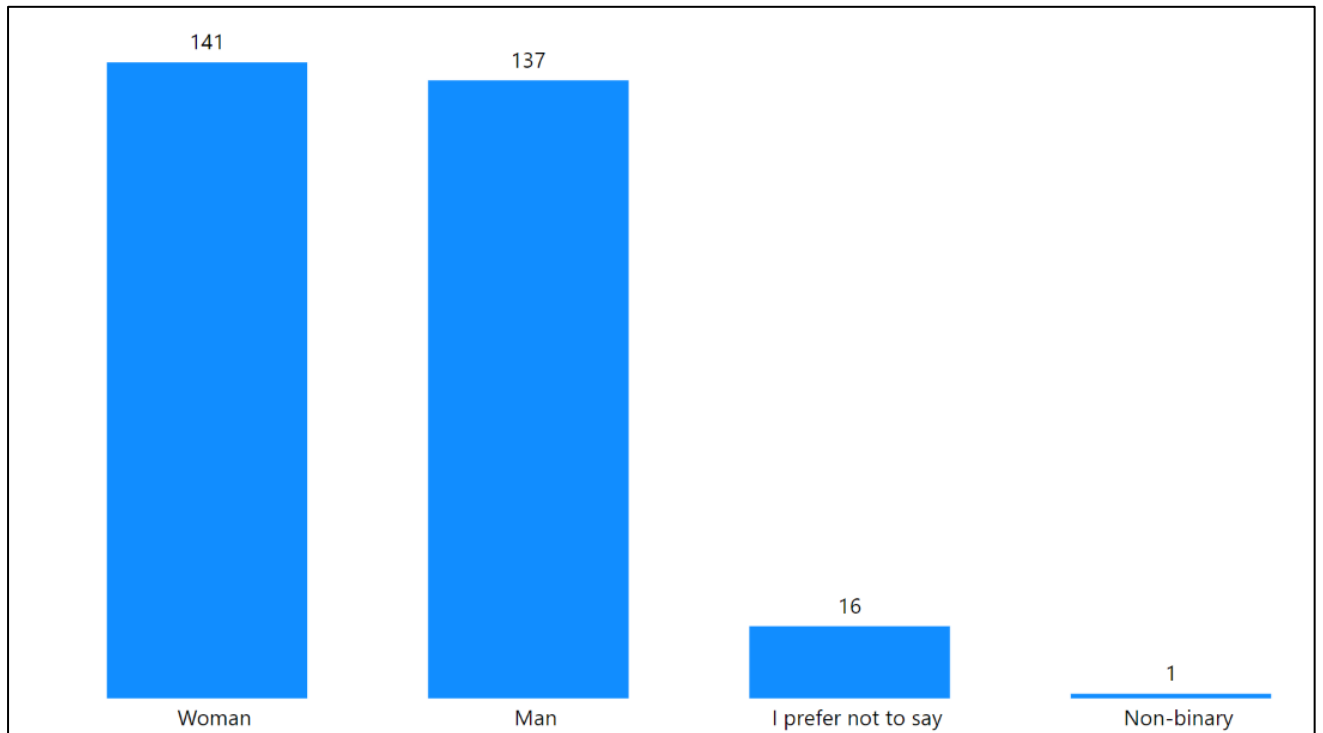
### Ward Breakdown



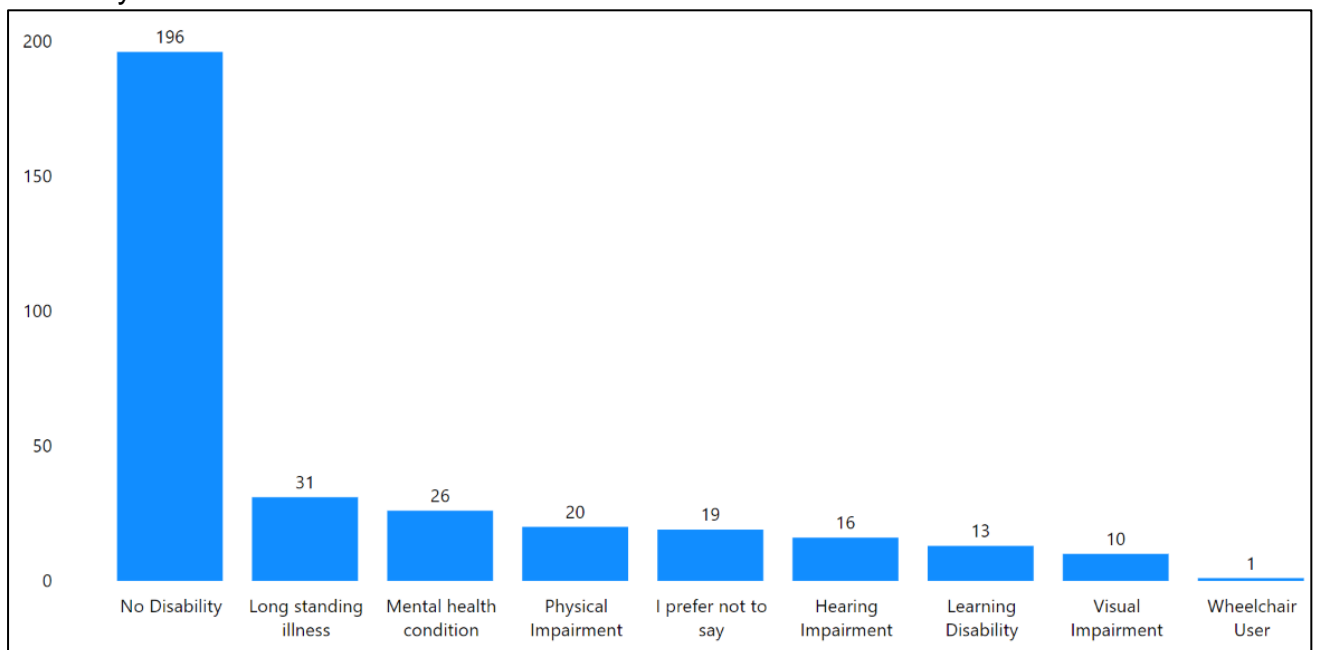
### Age Breakdown:



## Gender Breakdown



## Disability Breakdown



## 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
Improvements within town (Investment and economy, better coordination, includes where improvements are deemed a waste of money)	61
Internal improvements within NELC	34
Reduce pay of high management	21
More/better support services for people	21
Build community capacity	16
Corporate privatisation and the use of contractors and consultants (bring in-house, use wider range of suppliers)	15
Child health	14
Support community projects	11
Fix empty buildings	10
Reduce councillors and expenses	10
Attract investment	8
Partnership working	4
Sell or rent assets	1

**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?**

